Furloughs frustrate faculty, CFA

Instructors adjust furlough schedules as new quarter begins

Patrick Leiva

In the past, when furloughs were a reality, many instructors were dealing with the negative effects of unpaid workdays on class sizes and fewer available lecturers. According to Calf Poly provost Richard Koob, there were 02 fewer lecturers this fall quarter from the previous year when there were 427 total lecturers. Across the entire CSU system there were 2,000 fewer lecturers from about 12,000 total lecturers. Across the entire CSU system there were 2,000 fewer lecturers from about 12,000 total lecturers. Instead, non-tenured faculty are feeling the changes brought along by furloughs and cuts.

While lecturers and courses are in shorter supply, faculty and students continue to adjust to the changes brought along by furloughs and cuts.

After one quarter of furloughs, many instructors are dealing with the negative effects of unpaid workdays on Cal Poly education. Many faculty are concerned that furloughs have resulted in a pay reduction while their workload has increased due to larger class sizes and fewer available lecturers.

At Cal Poly alone, there were 41 fewer lecturers this fall quarter from the previous year when there were 427 total lecturers. Across the entire CSU system there were 2,000 fewer lecturers from about 12,000 total lecturers. According to Cal Poly provost Richard Koob, there were 32 fewer courses offered this fall. The result of the reduction means that many introductory courses enrolled larger sections than in previous years.

Engineers refurbish medical devices for use overseas.

Legalizing and taxing marijuana passes through California Assembly.

Sophomore forward Jordan Lewis is "poetic" on the court.

Chapter 13

TOMORROW: Sunny High 67°Low 40

MUSTANG DAILY
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

Volume LXXIV, Number 59

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

www.mustangdaily.net

Sewage spill reaches Avila Beach

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

Sewage spewed out of a manhole behind California Highway Patrol office, overflowing between the railroad and California Blvd. along the beach. The spill was removed from the storm drain system and an additional 100 gallons was removed from Steamer Creek near the U.S. Highway 101 on-ramp on Olive Street, according to the San Luis Obispo County Health Department.

A blocked sewer main caused waste to build up, spill over and leak into a storm drain eventually traveling into Steamer Creek. Cal Trans workers working on 101 reported the leak to the Office of Emergency Services who in turn notified Environmental Health Services, said Peter Hague, the on-call health officer who was paged around 1 a.m.

A pump truck was stationed between the railroad and California Blvd. overpass vacuuming sewage, and another on Olive Street near the 101 on-ramp, intercepting sewage before it reached Steamer Creek, according to Hague.

"We responded to the sewage spill like any other," he said. "We ensure there isn't a threat to human health."

Steenmer Creek connects with San Luis Obispo Creek, which remained unaffected, but flowed to Avila Beach. Samples of ocean water will be tested for harmful bacteria levels. Warning signs have been placed along the beach by Environmental Health Services and will remain until the health risks of elevated bacteria are determined.

"We would continue to sample it daily until bacteria levels return to normal," Hague said.

Until results assess the danger of the water, the Health Officer of San Luis Obispo County recommends avoiding ingestion or contact with Steamer Creek and all surrounding waters near the contaminated ocean water.

The filtering process of sewage removes most harmful bacteria before it reaches the ocean and creeks. When it moves into a storm drain before the filtering process is over, however, it's a more exposed condition that can impact human health, Hague said.

"It is not necessarily harmful, but it could be," he said. "There's no question that there's a human health concern. Fortunately with this spill, where it occurred, there's likely minimal contact until it reaches the ocean."

A sewage spill two years ago released 20,000 gallons of waste near the California Men's Colony that caused medical evacuation for 30 people. The colony's water was found contaminated.

"It is difficult to imagine staying here because of the economic pinch," she said. "I enjoy teaching here and Cal Poly students but don't know if I can afford it."

Many non-tenured faculty are feeling the economic bind along with Leib in.

"Furloughs are preferable to massive layoffs and pay cuts, while another potential option could be to increase class sizes," Saenz said.

Whatever decision comes down next year, faculty and administration encourage students to become more involved in the decision making process with regards to their education.

"All student government and all students should demand more accountability from the administration and understand more about how the university works," Koob said.

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WASHINGTON — The government has promised more and better security at airports following the near-disaster on Christmas Day, but privacy advocates are not prepared to accept the use of full-body scanners as the routine screening system.

"We don't need to look at naked South Oild and grandparents to secure airplanes," Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, said last week. "I think it's a false argument to say we have to give up all of our personal privacy in order to have security."

After each major terrorist incident, the balance between privacy and security tilts in favor of greater security. In the last decade, privacy advocates have been surprisingly successful in blocking or stalling government plans to search in more ways and in more places.

A conservative freshman in the House, Chaffetz won a large bipartisan majority last year for an amendment to oppose the government's use of body-image scanners as the primary screening system for air travelers. Currently, 19 airports have at least one scanner in use. Now, however, the specter of a man authorities say is a young al-Qaida combatant walking onto a transatlantic flight with a plastic explosive in his underwear has spurred the drive to put the full-body scanners in all the major airports. The Transportation Security Administration had already announced plans to buy 300 devices, and is likely to purchase more.

The Senate did not adopt the Chaffetz amendment, so the TSA is free to press ahead with installing the body scanners.

"They significantly enhance security because they can detect metallic and nonmetallic items hidden under clothing," said Greg Soule, a TSA spokesman. "And on average, it takes 12 to 15 seconds." He also suggested that privacy concerns were exaggerated. "It is 100 percent optional for all passengers," he said. "They can choose to be screened with a full-body pat-down."

Moreover, the screener who observes the passenger's body image is "in a remote location" and "can only see the individual's face," he said. And the body image "looks like a stalk of apatar." Chaffetz disputes that point. He said the body scanners give an explicit view of a naked person. "It is a whole-body image, and they can spin it 360 degrees. And they can zoom in and see something as small as a nickel or dime," he said. "But they can't spot something hidden in a body cavity."

"A good old-fashioned pat down is more effective," he said. If the scanners become standard, "the terrorists will adapt to it," he added. "What will we do the next time if someone inserts an explosive in a body cavity and takes it out in the bathroom of the airplane? At some point, we need to draw the line on how much privacy we are willing to give up."

Despite their disagreements, the defenders of privacy and advocates of increased security agree that a better use of information should permit the government to focus its screening on the individuals who pose a threat.

"We clearly need to move faster to develop a secondary screening, do it. But do it faster," said Baker. "We already have to move faster to a point where we're looking for terrorists, not just weapons," said Baker, a Washington lawyer and formerly general counsel to the National Security Agency. "And the key to that is having more data and using it with more discretion in screening passengers."

The current system condemns children and grandparents to intrusive screening without any assurance it will catch sophisticated terrorists.

He blames Congress, business travel and privacy advocates for stalling computerized data systems that could alert airport officials to passengers who pose some risk, so they could be given additional screening. Because of past rebuffs in Congress, the Department of Homeland Security "has been quite gun-shy about programs that could be called profiling or data-mining," he said.

Shortly after the Christmas Day incident, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., called for making it easier to add travelers to a government watch list so they will get extra screening or be denied the right to fly.

President Barack Obama and his top aides also said the government needed to focus more on "high-priority threats" and add names quickly to the "no-fly" list. Chaffetz said he strongly supported extra screening, including the use of a full-body scanner, if a passenger's name appears on any of the government watch lists.

Give secondary screening for all 300,000 persons in the government database. They should be required to go through a mandatory secondary screening," he said. "If there is some basis for doing a secondary screening, do it. But don't do for every person. You don't have to screen the grandmother from Boise."
MusTANCi

Julian E. Barnes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon announced that additional troop deployment for Afghanistan Tuesday, ensuring that the bulk of the additional forces requested by President Obama will be in place this summer.

The Defense Department announced 3,100 troops, mostly from the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade of the 4th Infantry Division, based at Fort Hood, Texas, would deploy to Afghanistan sometime this summer.

With Tuesday’s announcement, the Pentagon has issued deployments in exchange for more than 30,000 additional troops approved by the Obama administration.

The orders come amid reports of White House concern over the pace of the troop build-up. However, both White House and Pentagon officials have downplayed reports of tension, although Defense Department officials are pushing to quickly move troops into the country.

“It is January, and we have 25,000 of the 30,000 identified and with deployment orders to go,” said Bryan G. Whitman, the Pentagon spokesman. “We are on the schedule we set out. These forces are moving in rapidly.

Tuesday’s announcement included 2,600 soldiers assigned to the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade at Fort Hood as well as 500 support troops.

They will join more than 7,500 Marines from Camp Lejeune, N.C., 3,400 Army soldiers from Fort Drum, N.Y., 3,400 Army troops from Fort Campbell, Ky., and nearly 7,000 support troops.

The additional troops will increase the size of the U.S. force in Afghanistan to nearly 100,000.

Citing security concerns, Whitman would not release the precise date that the aviation brigade would deploy to Afghanistan.

Where the new Afghanistan war strategy was announced in December, White House officials said they wanted the surge forces to be in place within six months. During congressional testimony last week, Pentagon officials said the buildup would be completed by the fall.

“Moving off the issue of tension, officials have insisted that both the White House and Pentagon want the troops in place in order to have maximum impact. One official, speaking about the internal planning process on conditions of assymetry, said that nearly all of the forces would be in place by August.

The logistics of moving extra forces into Afghanistan pose formidable challenges. Not only must extra equipment for the forces be shipped or flown into the country, but facilities to feed and shelter the troops must be constructed.

Although some bases in Afghanistan are built up, with regular barracks and expansive chow halls, military leaders are pushing for troops to move more lightly and live in austere conditions.

New facilities will be bare-bones compared with existing large bases at Bagram Airfield or those located near Kabul, officials have said. However, they cautioned, even spare facilities take time to build.
Powerful earthquake jolts Haiti

Tracy Wilkinson
JANUARY 10, 2010

MEXICO CITY — A mighty earthquake jolted the tiny, impoverished island nation of Haiti Tuesday, collapsing a hospital, the presidential palace and other buildings and triggering what one diplomat called a "catastrophe." The shock fell on the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prïncé and other towns, reports of extensive destruction were trickling out. Tsunami sirens were issued for Cuba, the Bahamas and much of the Caribbean.

The quake, one of the most powerful ever in the region — measuring a preliminary magnitude of 7.0 and centered about 10 miles west of Port-au-Prïncé, a city of 2 million — had a shallow depth of just 8 miles. It struck at 4:33 p.m., followed by several strong aftershocks.

All of that served to damage and overwhelming casualties. Electricity was out Tuesday night through the darkened capital, phone lines were down, and the streets were littered with debris:

"I can hear very dis­turbed people, a lot of noise, people walking, crying, "I feel loved ones trapped under the rubble," Ian Kod LIAM by telephone.

Secretary of State Hil­lary Rodham Clinton, in remarks before a speech in Washington, President Obama pledged to "provide both civilian and military disaster relief and humanitarian assistance," Clinton said. "And our prayers are with the people who have suffered, their families and their loved ones."

A spokesman for the U.S. Southern Command, which oversees American military operations in the Caribbean and South America, said officials are assessing what assistance or aid might be needed.

"We are monitoring the situation and staying in close contact with the State Department," said Joe Ranta, a spokesman for the command.

The Associated Press said its re­porters saw a hospital collapse in the wealthy suburb of Petionville that overlooks the capital.

Google

continued from page 3

search engine Baidu Inc. maintains a large presence.

In 2006, Google agreed to present Internet search results in China that excluded politically sensitive topics, such as the pro-democracy Tiananmen Square demonstrations in 1989. However, Drummond wrote on Tuesday: "We have decided we are no longer willing to continue censoring our results on Google.cn, and so over the next few weeks we will be discussing with the Chinese government the basis on which we could operate an unfettered search engine within the law of all.

"We recognize that this may well mean having to shut down Google.cn, and potentially our offices in China," Drummond wrote. He noted that the decision "will have potentially far-reaching consequences."

New group’s mission is to stop cell phone use while driving

Nathan Olivarez-Giles
Los Angeles Times

A new non-profit dedicated to discouraging people from using cell phones while driving says it will model itself on Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the organization that has done so much to raise awareness of operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

Called FocusDriven and sponsored in part by the U.S. Department of Transportation, the organization has several members who have lost loved ones in traffic collisions involving drivers who were distracted by their cellular phones.

"Their stories are not just heart­breaking; they’re also a clear and obvious example of why we need to redefine the way we operate our cars," Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said Tuesday in a statement introducing the group. "Just as groups like MADDD changed attitudes about drunk driving, I believe FocusDriven can help raise awareness and change the way people think about distracted driving.

The organization’s president, Jennifer Smith, lost her mother in 2008 in a wreck where a driver was talking on his cell phone. "We want to stop all cell phone use while driving," Smith said. "Driving distracted is just as dangerous as drunk driving and people can and have heard the statistics, but until you see an actual human face that lost a mother, that lost a child, the statistics go unheard."

While the Transportation Department and FocusDriven are independent entities, the federal agency has helped the non-profit get started by lending legal and policy guidance to the group, Smith said.

FocusDriven’s next step will be to set up chapters in the states where its five founding board members live: California, Florida, Michigan, Nebraska and Texas, she said.

Nineteen states and Washington, D.C., have banned texting while driving. Some states restrict text messaging, e-mail or other cell phone use while driving, but thus far no state has completely banned cell phone use by drivers.

Drivers can be distracted by any number of activities, including talking on the phone, texting or eating, among others. In 2008, distracted driving contributed to 5,870 deaths in the U.S., according to the Department of Transportation.

WORD ON THE STREET

"Who is the most famous Cal Poly alumnus that you know of?"

"Weed Al (Yanovich)."

Jacinta Guingus, music fresh­man

"John Madden. I like the way he comments."

-Ben Trim, construction man­agement junior

"Weed Al; he’s pretty funny."

-Amy Crook, food science fresh­man

"John Madden. I feel like he got us on the map for football."

-Bianca Reyes, landscape archi­tecture senior

"Weed Al; I like him."

-Katherine Batti, liberal studies sophmore

"John Madden."

-Brittany France, recreation, parks and tourism senior

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY JENNIFER TTCOMB

WHAT’S YOUR RANT?
YOU WRITE IN. WE INVESTIGATE.
mustangdailywire@gmail.com
California Assembly panel OKs plan to legalize, tax marijuana

Patrick McGreevy
Los Angeles Times

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — A proposal to legalize and tax marijuana in California was approved by a key committee of the Assembly on Tuesday, but it is not expected to get further consideration by the Legislature until next year.

Despite a procedural glitch, backers hailed the committee's action as historic because it represented the first legislative approval of the proposal.

"This vote marks the formal beginning of the end of marijuana prohibition in the United States," predicted Stephen Gartrell, California state director of the Drug Policy Alliance, a marijuana legalization group.

The legislation would allow those who are at least 21 years old to possess up to an ounce of marijuana for recreational use. Democratic Assemblyman Tom Ammiano, author of the measure, said it would provide needed drug education and treatment.

The anticipated revenue would not be worth the grief the bill would cause, said Republican Assemblyman Dan Hughes, a former California Highway Patrol commander.

"We're going to legalize marijuana, we're going to tax it and then we're going to educate our kids about the harms of drugs. You've got to be kidding me," Gilmore said. "What's next? Are we going to legalize methamphetamine, cocaine?"

The Assembly Public Safety Committee approved Ammiano's bill, AB 398, on a 4-3 vote.

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Always in color

THIS WEEK IN CAL POLY ATHLETICS

**Women's Basketball**

**Cal Poly vs. F**

Thursday, Jan. 14th at 7 p.m.

**Women's Tennis**

**Cal Poly vs. Concordia**

Saturday, Jan. 16th at 6 a.m.

**Cal Poly vs. CSU-Bakersfield**

Saturday, Jan. 16th at 2 p.m.

**Women's Basketball**

"Pack the House Game"

**Cal Poly vs. F**

Saturday, Jan. 16th at 4 p.m.

**Men's Tennis**

**Cal Poly vs. Concordia**

Mustang Courts

Sunday, Jan. 17th at 12 p.m.

*Attention Cal Poly Students*

Enter for your chance to win FREE books for next quarter at the Women's Basketball Pack The House Game. One lucky student will go home with books for the quarter courtesy of El Corral Bookstore. Admission for all Cal Poly Athletic Events is FREE for Cal Poly Students.

WE ARE THE MUSTANGS

**Briefs**

**State**

**San Luis Obispo (MCT)** — Police say California Highway Patrol Officer R. De la Cruz was the officer who witnessed a homeless man grabbing a 16-year-old girl and then throwing her to the ground Monday afternoon.

SLO police spokesman Capt. Lisa Peterson said De la Cruz went to the girl, who told him that she did not know her alleged assailant. The man had reportedly grabbed her arm and walked her backward 12 to 13 feet before throwing her down.

The CHP officer then detained Fritz Arthur Holmer 60, until he could be arraigned by city police on charges of false imprisonment. He remains in county jail on that charge and on the additional charge of failing to provide DNA, which was on a 4-3 vote.

**Los Angeles (MCT)** — One of Mexico's most wanted drug cartel bosses was captured early Tuesday morning in the Baja California port city of Los Palos according to Mexican and US law enforcement officials.

Tayuro Garcia Simetul, believed to be behind a campaign of massacres, beheadings and kidnappings in Tijuana, was arrested by Mexican federal authorities without firing a shot and flown to Mexico City.

**National**

**Philadelphia (MCT)** — A personal-injury lawsuit has been filed against the owners of a Camden, N.J., chocolate plant where a worker died last year falling into a melting vat as he was mixing cocoa, a lawyer said Tuesday.

The announcement came a day after federal authorities said they had fined the plant $32,000 for violating the OSHA standard for loading raw cocoa into an eight-foot mixing and melting tank and himself a former Camden police officer.

**International**

**Baghdad (MCT)** — When Baghdadis awoke Tuesday to find their streets sealed off and the Iraqi capital under virtual lockdown, the rumors began to flow. Army officers had staged a coup in the Green Zone, one version said. No, members of the Baath Party loyal to the former regime had taken over, according to another.

At midday, officials appeared on television to try to calm the city. "The security forces can't stage a coup. Our security forces are professional," military spokesman Mohammed Askari told a news conference. "The era of coups is gone."

Rather, he said, the government had ordered the lockdown to foil a major plot involving car bombings and suicide attacks against civilians and government targets.

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**Wednesday, January 13, 2010**

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**MUSTANG DAILY**

**NEWS**

**California Assembly panel OKs plan to legalize, tax marijuana**
In the case of Sarah Lassez, "Psychic Junkie" is less a cautionary tale than a cautionary memoir. Lassez describes the untold stories of the price one pays for following the advice of the unscrupulous, the devious and the outright frauds. Lassez avoids the pitfalls of making her story irritating in its absurdity as she is simply so endearing that it is impossible not to root for her. She writes of her misadventures in a way that anyone who has ever been unlucky in love or their career path can empathize with.

Even as Sarah spirals deeper and deeper into psychic debt and heart-wrenching loneliness, she never ceases to make me laugh. She writes of her "natural state" as being "on the verge of tears and afflicted with constant worry." For someone who describes a realization that she is truly content as a sensation of "feeling strange" before feeling happy, she writes with an astoundingly upbeat and winning style.

Her road to a normal lifestyle devoid of psychic readings is written with equal humor. As she heads to her parents' ranch in New Mexico for self-imposed psychic rehab, she joins an online psychic addicts support group and takes on an undercover mission as a psychic to discourage callers. Sarah's humble and self-deprecating humor never ceases. "Psychic Junkie" is a truly unexpected, quirky memoir that draws the reader into the little-known world of psychic addiction in such a captivating and hilarious way that you may never want to leave.

Virginia Fay is an English sophomore and Mustang Daily book columnist.

"Psychic Junkie" is habit-forming.
New engineering club aids in medical practices overseas

Jessica Barba
Mustang Daily

Like most students trying to find an internship, Tim O’Neill and Jen Van Donk were searching through Web pages when they stumbled upon Engineering World Health (EWH), a non-profit organization that assembles medical devices and sends them to hospitals in developing countries.

Van Donk, a mechanical engineering senior, and O’Neill, a biomedical engineering senior, had never met until the national group put them in contact. They then realized they shared the goal of impacting the lives of those living in impoverished areas.

O’Neill, who hopes to use his experience in the club to develop a career in the medical field, said, “I have seen so much awareness for others who are in need. It came to a point where I wanted to leave Cal Poly feeling like I made a difference. While studying to become a biomedical engineer, it occurred to me that I can really help others who are less fortunate.”

EWH sells kits for defibrillators and electro-surgical tools to chapters who purchase them for about $18. Engineering Department Chair and club coordinator Dr. Andrew David made a personal donation to help sponsor the first group of kits the club assembled, but now members are reaching out for contributions of their own.

Members of Cal Poly’s chapter of Engineering World Health hold their assembled medical devices on Build-It-Day.

Everybody knows somebody like the Michael Cera we see on the big screen. He’s the awkward, laid back, funny, quiet guy who’s filled with more passion and desire than one would initially expect. While this may not be who Michael Cera is in reality, it is a pretty fair description of the character he has perfected in movies like “Superbad” and “Juno.”

Nick Twisp (Michael Cera) has recently been laid off, but finds solace in his much younger and attractive girlfriend Lacey. A couple makes Nick that much more angry about being alone.

Nick is determined to be reunited with Sheeni. In the hopes of being sent to live with his father, he begins to commit crimes with the help of a self-created alter ego, Francois. Nick’s crimes include driving a car into a restaurant in downtown Berkeley, causing a $500 million fire, and forcing Sheeni’s parents to send her to a French prep school to get her away from her crazy boyfriend. Although this kind of story has been done numerous times before, there are some fun elements throughout, namely the character of Francois as a sort of devil on Nick’s shoulder.

One of the film’s main strengths is that it provides Cera with a character he is obviously used to playing, while at the same time offering the audience a side of the young actor they probably have never seen before. One of the secrets of “Youth in Revolt” is that Nick seems confused by his own desires and plans. He knows what he wants to achieve, but he needs guidance to accomplish his goals.

“Youth in Revolt” is at first glance, may seem like more of the same in terms of a performance from Michael Cera and a familiar plot. I did not laugh as much as I initially expected to, which left me feeling slightly disappointed. However, the story’s unique melding of Cera’s portrayal of Twisp successfully produces a film that falls somewhere in between a Superbad-style teen sex adventure and eccentric art house dramedy. Michael Cera plays Nick Twisp, the quiet and awkward protagonist, in newly released “Youth in Revolt.”

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Opening food dialogue promotes inclusiveness

Russ Parsons

One of the more pleasing developments of the last decade has been the long-overdue beginning of a major conversation about food—not just the arcane techniques used to prepare it and the luxurious restaurants in which it is served, but much more important, how it is grown and produced.

The only problem is that so far it hasn’t been much of a conversation. Instead, what we have are two armed camps deeply suspicious of one another shouting past each other (sound familiar?).

On the one side, the hard-line agges seem convinced that a bunch of know-nothing urbanites want to send their kids to New Age farming techniques. On the other side, there’s a tendency by agricultural reformers to lump together all farms (or at least those that aren’t purely organic, hemp-clad moms-and-pop operations) as thoughtlessly rapacious of the environment.

Well, at least we’re thinking about it, so I will assume that’s a start. But the issues we’re facing are not going to go away, and they are too important to be left to the ideologues. What I’d like to see happen in the next decade is a more constructive give-and-take, the start of a true conversation.

With that goal in mind, I’d like to propose a ten ground rules that might help move us into the next phase—fundamental principles that both sides should be able to agree on.

1. Agriculture is a business. Farming should be an at-home gardening. I use that line a lot when I’m giving talks, and it always gets a laugh, which I take as a sign of success. Not only do farmers have expenses to meet just like any other business, they also have to compete with those who do good work. Any plan that places further demands on farmers without an offsetting profit incentive is doomed to fail.

2. What’s past is past. Over the last 50 years, American farmers performed an agricultural miracle, all but eliminating hunger as a serious health issue in this country. But that battle has been won, and though those gains must be maintained, the demands of today—developing a system that delivers flavor as well as quantity and does it in an environmentally friendly way—are different.

3. Food is not just a culinary abstraction. No matter how much you and I might appreciate the amazing beauty produced by talented, quality-driven farmers, we also have to acknowledge that sometimes food is, well, just food. So when we start dreaming about how to make our epicurean utopia, we also have to sit down and make sure our first obligation is to make sure that healthy, fresh food remains plentiful and inexpensive enough that anyone can afford it.

4. There’s no free pan on progress just because you’re always farming a certain way does not mean that you are owed the right to continue farming that way in the future. The days of a small or medium-sized farm making a decent profit growing one or two crops and marketing it through the traditional commodity route are long past. The world is changing, and those who can adapt are the ones who will be successful.

5. The world is not black and white. The issues facing agriculture today are much more complicated than lining up behind labels such as “local” and “organic,” no matter how praiseworthy they might seem in the abstract.

6. No farm is an island. That’s not literally true, of course; there are several island farms in the Sacramento, Calif., Delta, for example. But even there, farmers have to remember that they’re living in an ever-more crowded state where their actions affect others. Assuming that what happens on your land is nobody’s business but your own just doesn’t work anymore.

7. Don’t let the perfect be the enemy of the good. Holding out for an unsustainable dream may mean losing a chance at a more easily realized goal. At the same time, just because an idea may not be the perfect answer, it doesn’t mean that there aren’t benefits to it. A completely pesticide-free diet is, well, look, but buying as much locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables as you can is just good sense.

8. Quality is more than quantity. Farming fruits and vegetables that are not just healthful but also have great flavor takes a lot of time and work and usually means not growing as much as a neighbor ended up doing something similar when you’re shopping, don’t begrudge a good farmer a little higher price when it takes him to keep him in business.

You don’t climb a ladder starting at the top rung in a system as complex as our food supply, change is evolutionary. Remember long-term goals, but focus on what’s immediately achievable. Any argument that begins, “All we have to do is reverse the Farm Bill,” is probably decades or centuries too late, outnumbered by the reality that there are plenty of small things we can do now to start them down that road.

Don’t assume that those who disagree with you are evil, stupid or greedy. And even when they are, don’t relieve your of the responsibility for making a constructive and convincing argument.

What’s political is also personal. If you believe in something, you should be willing to make sacrifices to support it, even if it’s expensive or inconvenient. Warning about farmers who use pesticides and then balking at paying extra for organic produce is hypocritical because the yields in organic farming are almost always lower. On the other hand, there’s nothing wrong with doing the best you can whenever you can—as long as you’re willing to accept compromises from the other side.

Finally, and most important: Be aware of the unintended consequences. Developing tasteless fruits and vegetables was not the goal of the last Green Revolution; it was a side effect of a system designed to eliminate hunger by providing plentiful, inexpensive food, but that also ended up creating demand over quality. We should always keep in mind that when we’re dreaming of a system that focuses on the reverse, we run the risk of creating something far worse than strawberry that bounces.
When in crisis, mother knows best

If Congress won't listen, ask your mom.

The helpmustang.com campaign's goal is to start discussion and prompt action to address climate change in lieu of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in December.

Thousands gathered in Copenhagen for the conference where more than 120 world leaders discussed the planet's ecological future. Yet, it seemed to be all talk and no action. Leaders refused to commit to any deadline.

The New York Times reported that the clean energy and climate change information system New Energy Finance graded the Copenhagen agreement a two out of a possible 10. The chairman of the negotiating bloc of developing nations said the agreement was "the worst in history."

Some Cal Poly alumni and fellow students were so frustrated they conceived of the Confront Project, which the Daily reported on Jan. 13.

Concerned citizens can visit helpmustang.com and write to their mother via e-mail. Mothers are then directed to the Web site to follow four steps: Call your child and tell them that you love them and share your child's concern and passion about the climate with your friends and family. Learn more at Web sites like 350.org and ticketckick.org and take action by signing theisky petition, calling the president and Congress and writing a letter to your editor.

This campaign demonstrates it's easy to act on anything you feel passionately about. For this group of Californians, they simply had written block and turned into it a campaign that gives many a voice and a course of action. Rather than idly wondering what difference one person can make, they realized their steps are intact to facilitate the process.

Other campaigns like freebet.org use similar techniques to notify followers of new cases in Tibet. This allows people to write to their leaders to hopefully inspire change so they can speak up wherever they are and write to people to urge action in Tibet.

Another campaign similar to helpmustang.com was Canada's Moms Against Climate Change. This group made a YouTube video asking parents to upload photos of their children to remand Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper the consequences of climate change and who and it will affect as he went to COP 15 to represent Canada, one of the top 10 worst global polluters in the world.

Rather than just being aware, act. Lead by example. You can’t change the world with what you do. You can bring in well-respected scholars to initiate the conversation and bring in well-respected leaders to show that we are capable of Things like voting with your dollar, moving your money to banks and being conscious of your waste are a few ways to make changes in your everyday life. If we want to do things on an individual level we can make large-scale changes.

—Andrew Musselman

In response to "Democrats need to readjust their strategy if they want to win"

"The (Republican) solution to national security gave America 9/11/01. Bush and Cheney letting Obama bin Laden get away when they had him cornered at Tora Bora was deliberate. The total disregard regarding the Bush and Cheney handling of the Afghani war. What about the shoe thrown at the president? What about the ambush attack or the devastating Iraq War and the blatant lies that led up to it? What about Katrina and that total Bush and Cheney screw-up? And please name one positive alternative besides the blatant lies and half-truths regarding any of the Democratic proposals? I’ll be waiting for any of your positive alternatives."

—Jason

In response to "Democrats need to readjust their strategy if they want to win"

"Ideological opposition" of "bald legislation" and representing the best interests of the nation are not inherently contradictory. Just because the Republicans don’t like the proposed solutions doesn’t mean they don’t care about the problems that our nation currently faces.

—Andrew Musselman

In response to "Cal Poly grad flies high"

As members of the Veritas Forum club at Cal Poly, we would like to address Veritas student editor’s guest commentary beforepotentially well-intentioned students could misinterpret our views.

On the Veritas Forum Cal Poly Facebook page, the mission statement reads as follows: "The Veritas Forum is a place where students of every worldview can come and engage in a safe, intelligent conversation about life’s hardest questions. Our goal is to introduce the relevance of Jesus Christ to these discussions and all of life."

So yes, Jesus will be mentioned at events like “Finding God Beyond Harvard: The Quest for Veritas” or “Why a Good God Allows Suffering.” Christianity will also be mentioned at the “Origins of Life Panel Discussion.”

That panel will also include a speaker who professes to be a Christian and believes that the theory of evolution is valid, a view shared by a large portion of the Christian community. Another speaker (Dr. Rainbow) who is a Thomist and Evolutionist, convinced through the discovery of a new species of Vermont that vertebrate evolution has happened as described, including human evolution, but harboring serious questions — and also believes that the theory of evolution is valid.

All three events are formatted so that the Cal Poly community can directly influence the conversation. As a place where we bring in well-respected scholars to initiate the conversation and give it direction, the end result of the conversation is dependent on the students who attend and voice their opinions.

Perhaps in the past four years the Veritas Forum has not been open to anyone interpreting it as an open dialogue. The fact is, for every Veritas Forum at Cal Poly, dating back to January of 2001, the format of every speaking engagement has been 45-minute lecture and a 45-minute question and answer session. This Q&A time is designed specifically for any and all students to ask whatever they want about the topic at hand.

For the Forum to be an open dialogue, we depend greatly on students who have world views that are not fundamentally Christian to attend and ask questions during the Q&A times of these events.

We hope you will join us because people like Nick Ask excellent questions that force us all to contemplate what our faith is and how to live a true life.

Josh Cavaliere is an aerospace engineering junior and Veritas Club president. Chad Norris is a bio-medical engineering senior and Veritas Club vice president. They are Mustang Daily guest columnists.

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Good points. Of course, when it comes to helping students understand "concerning the Constitution, it is certainly not accidental. Rather, their ignorance is intentional, and their disregard for the "chains of the Constitution" is intentional, and their ignorance is.

Managing Editor: Alex Kacik

Wednesday, January 13, 2010

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NOTE: The Mustang Daily features student-opinion columns in response to articles posted online. Though not all the responses are favorable, the Mustang Daily print comments are coherent and foster intelligent discussion on a given subject. No overcapitalization, please.

MUSTANG DAILY

The voice of Cal Poly since 1916

www.mustangdaily.net

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by mail: Letters to the Editor, Building 26, Room 226, Cal Poly, SLO, CA 93407

Online: mustangdaily.net/letters

corrections

The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring community.

We appreciate your readership and are always looking for ways to improve. Please send your correction suggestions to mustangdaily@gmail.com.

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LXIV

No. 58 ©2009 Mustang Daily
"That ain’t no quail, Ron."

Edited by Will Shortz  No. 1209

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Matt Jensen recorded a .375 batting average last season with 15 doubles, nine home runs and 53 RBIs in his first season as a Mustang.

It wasn't always that way for Jensen. He was still being felt, but Woodson said he was an honor as great as the 51-45 overtime loss hurt so much. Woodson...
Sophomore Jordan Lewis makes "poetry" on the court

Leticia Rodriguez

There are many ways to describe Jordan Lewis and his strong athletic skills on the basketball court.

Head coach Joe Callero calls Lewis a serious athlete with a "very good basketball IQ." Teammate David Hanson said Lewis is the "ultimate teammate" who always gives 100 percent. His childhood friend Ethan Andrianos, however, said the best way to describe Lewis on the court is to quote their 11th grade English teacher Ms. O'Brien.

"A teammate named Cory came in to deliver a message," Andrianos said. "As Cory was leaving the room, the teacher said, 'Oh, that's Cory. He's really good at basketball. But, Jordan. Jordan is poetry.'"

Fast forward five years and Lewis's "poetry" skills are still making an impression. The sophomore forward is quickly becoming one of the go-to players on the Cal Poly men's basketball team this season thanks in part to his drive and work ethic.

"Jordan does a very good job of hearing what we say in the practice, understanding the philosophy and does a great, great job applying what we've been teaching him on to the floor, during the game, under pressure with referees and being a lights and fans," Callero said. "He rebounds well, he defends very well, he takes care of the ball, he passes it well ... he's been a tremendous asset."

Although last season Lewis averaged only four minutes per game, Callello and the rest of the coaching staff have seen major improvements over time. They now consider him a strong leader on the court, with Lewis averaging 27 minutes per game.

"When I got the job last spring, the first week of April, we said that this is a new opportunity for everybody. So as we went into the spring, Jordan demonstrated real good strength and conditioning and he had an outstanding summer," Callero said. "He basically earned a starting spot because of all the intangibles that he brings to the game. He's not our leading scorer but he is one of our leaders on the floor when it comes to knowledge of the game and versatility to what he can do."

It's not just his athletic abilities on the court that has Callero singling out his praises. Callero describes Lewis's personality as approachable and warm and said that those characteristics shine through in his playing.

"His game is really similar to his personality. He's very comfortable with himself and he's very confident with himself and that parrots to being a good teammate off the floor too because he knows all the returners and he's gotten to know all the new guys so he's a very comfortable person to be around," Callero said. "Lewis's character off the court is just as noteworthy as his role on the Cal Poly team. While attending Terra Linda High School in San Rafael, Calif., the 6'8" player was known for being a great friend, athlete and student."

"Basically all the girls loved Jordan, but he was nice to everyone, and good friends to everyone," Andrianos said. "He was definitely really serious about basketball and school but at the same time he made sure to have time for fun."

Andrianos, who's been friends with Lewis since kindergarten, laughs when recalling a different side of Lewis than the focused competitor that fans see on the court. The way Andrianos sees him, Lewis is the type of guy who was "obessed" with orange shirts in elementary school, used to do drive-by water balloon fights on unsuspecting friends, and would sport our Harry Potter facts in high school.

"He just likes goofing around, hanging out. He would play countless hours of Halo," Andrianos said. "There's actually a sunken spot on his couch because that's where he sits everyday. The couch is perfectly fine except for this one spot where he alwayssat."

Lewis simply sees himself as a friendly person who looks up to his teammates. He gets excited about the competitiveness of his favorite sport and smiles wide when mentioning that he shares a birthday with Michael Jordan, his favorite basketball player.

see Lewis, page 11

Woodson named NFL Defensive Player of the Year

Tom Silverstein

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Four years ago if you had suggested to Charles Woodson that he would someday be a beacon of the Green Bay Packers organization, a product of a marriage between football excellence and personal redemption, he would have dismissed the notion.

There would be a better chance of him cheering for Ohio State.

But on Tuesday, there was Woodson, wearing a University of Michigan sweatshirt, a smile on his face, describing how far he had come since the day in April 2006 he agreed to a seven-year, $39 million free-agent contract with the Packers. It was a long and trying journey from reluctant Packer to the NFL's top defensive player, but the 12-year veteran made it to the finish line.

"I got here, and it was rough because I just couldn't get over that fact mentally, of only having one option leaving from out of Oakland," Woodson said of his first year in Green Bay. "It took some time. It just took me playing football, having good football, and we were able to get past a lot of things early."

"Just the way that this organization, the way they take care of you, the community is great. The way Mike (Carthy) has taken care of me; our relationship has gotten a lot better, just the people who pass the ball it well ... he's been a tremendous asset."

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see Lewis, page 11

Jensen invited to USA team trials

Cal Poly second baseman Matt Jensen was named to the 2009 All-Big West Conference team as a Freshman.

Jensen became the first Mustang baseball player to be invited to National Team Trials in his first season at Cal Poly.

"Matt is one of the better ball players in the country," Cal Poly head coach Larry Lee said. "He should be able to follow up on a tremendous