New CSU initiative to raise graduation rates

CSU campuses to raise six-year graduation rate 6 percent by 2016

Aimee Vasquez

California State University (CSU) announced a graduation initiative last week that will attempt to raise the six-year graduation rate by at least 6 percent. The initiative strives to cut the CSU's existing gap in degree attainment in half for underrepresented students across all 23 CSU campuses by the year 2016.

The average CSU six-year graduation rate is currently at 46 percent. The board wants to bring it up by 8 percent systemwide, which would put it in the top quartile of national averages for similar institutions. CSU campuses already in the top quartile will attempt to raise their averages by 6 percent.

Erik Fallis, spokesperson for the CSU Chancellor's Office, said the initiative would also attempt to determine why the gaps exist.

"Graduation is important, and the fact is that too many students do not graduate," Fallis said. "There are several reasons for this, and the initiative is going to look into those reasons."

Fallis said one of the primary reasons students don't finish college is that they do not have a clear roadmap to their degree.

"The longer it takes to graduate, the more likely something in a student's life will get in the way," he said.

The goal is nothing new for Cal Poly. Provost Robert Koob said Cal Poly responded to CSU pressures to raise graduation and retention rates a year ago.

"The CSU system is a bit behind us," Koob said. "But we can always get better."

Cal Poly currently has the highest CSU graduation rate, with 73.8 percent of its students graduating within six years. The six-year rate is the most traditional standard to base graduation success, according to Cal Poly Director of Institutional Planning and Director Brent Goodman.

CSU, however, has agreed to improve its six-year graduation rate by 8 percent by 2016, and to raise underrepresented students' graduation rates by 13 percent. Each CSU will have the opportunity to develop its own method of raising graduation and retention rates, based on size, demographics, academic programs and available resources. Graduation data for all 23 campuses is posted on the California State University Web site.

The CSU method for increasing graduation and retention rates include summer bridge programs, guides to graduation, degree audits and earlier advising. Some of Cal Poly's methods have included block-scheduling, early registration and prioritizing seniors in registration.

Ian Mair, a biological sciences senior and material engineering senior, said the initiative has been a double-edged sword.

"Cal Poly is a business; it's very much about a turn-over," Mair said. "They are all about making you successful and getting you out of here as quickly as possible."

Mair said as a double major, it was particularly difficult.

"You're sort of pushed out the door," he said.

Students host teach-in on campus

Patrick Leiva

Three Cal Poly students left a teach-in Friday to draw attention to budget cuts that they say are hindering education for students. Architectural engineering junior Erik Fernandez, social science sophomore Jose Montenegro and ethnic studies junior Vanessa Soto discussed education concerns with a group of about 35 students and faculty members surrounding furloughs, budget cuts and privatization.

The three students decided over winter break that they wanted to do something to fight the budget cuts. Their first step involved creating a Facebook group to help inform the public called "Cal Poly, Battle the Budget Cuts!"

They said the premise of the presentation was to unify students, faculty and union workers at Cal Poly around a common goal: Put an end to the budget cuts on higher education and eliminate the transparency which exists between the administration and students.

Soto said they wanted to get people informed since many in the Cal Poly community did not know much regarding the impacts of the cuts. But their struggle to end the cuts in higher education would take many more voices other than their own, she said.

"We want to see as many people uniting together behind a common goal," Montenegro said. "It's outrageous to no end that we have to take out more money to fund our resources."

Team places sixth at home-building contest

Megan Hasler

Cal Poly's National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) team should have bet the barn when they went to Las Vegas last week. The team won sixth place out of 39 schools at an annual construction management competition in Sin City. But it wasn't beginner's luck.

The team, which competed for the ninth year, was given a theoretical plot of land to build a housing complex proposal. The proposal had to include a budget, construction plan, and marketing and risk analysis, showing an emphasis on sustainable practices.

The site students built on was a 26-acre parcel of land, equal to almost 20 full football fields. Participants were given background on the land and told that zoning and preliminary plans were approved by the city.

After completing all of the tasks according to the prompt, students went to the competition last week and presented their package of plans to a panel of judges from the industry.

The team had to demonstrate sustainable practices that coincide with Green Building Initiatives, a set of guidelines that the judges critiqued based on factors such as low water usage and implementing recyclable materials. Teams are awarded bronze, silver or gold certifications if sustainable needs are met. Cal Poly's student chapter's work merited a silver certification.

Some of the comments from the judges said the financials were very detailed and also that the team's proposal was innovative and had creative floor plans. One judge commented that the team lacked prefrooing, or describing how the profits would be shared with investors.

"The written proposal with its design, management plans and 6...

see Initiative, page 5

see Competition, page 2
Students win big on game show

Leticia Rodriguez The Daily News

Vanna White and Pat Sajak won't be the only people worth watching on Wheel of Fortune soon.

Recent Cal Poly graduate Jason Neubauer and microbiology senior Mike Toole were invited to compete in the game show after auditioning during spring break last year when the Wheel Mobile came to the Golden Hills Auto Center in Paso Robles.

The two said they got the idea to compete on the show after seeing a commercial on television that said the show was looking for new contestants in the area.

“We were like ‘Dude, we have to at least try,’” Toole said. “And just the fact that they were giving money away for free, that was pretty motivational right there.”

But simply attending the audition in Paso Robles didn’t mean they would get their chance to compete. The two were randomly selected to compete in a rack game of Wheel of Fortune with life-sized cut-outs of Sajak and White and answer questions about themselves.

After a successful first round, the casting directors invited Neubauer and Toole back for a second round audition held at The Cliff Resort a week later.

The second round was the last chance for contestants to show off their personalities and knowledge to a group of directing directors and producers.

In addition to more questioning, the competitors also had to complete a free questionnaire written test.

Neubauer said the two men had no real strategy going into the second round of auditions except to be themselves.

“Basically, we were just hoping to get picked,” Neubauer said. “We heard them ask a couple questions like where you’re from, so we just kind of thought of witty and funny answers so that we could stand out but something to set yourself apart from the rest of the field; it’s like a job interview.”

The crew of directing directors must have liked what they saw in Neubauer and Toole, because a week and a half later, both men received phone calls inviting them to compete in the area.

“We were like ‘Wow, it’s a call and you’re actually going to the show!’” Neubauer said.

The two weren’t the only ones experiencing butterflies in their stomachs that day.

Neubauer’s roommates, Shane, said she and her husband were “very nervous” for their son prior to the show.

Their biggest piece of advice to their son: “Don’t choke.”

“Kind of does choke (during the show) so when he does, we looked at each other like ‘Oh no, this is not going to happen.’ But he did fine,” she said. “We thought he was doing really well and then one of the opponents, she was doing better and we thought she was going to beat him but the girl just hit bankruptcy!”

Although both men were eager to meet Sajak and White, Toole said that Sajak was good at making the contestants feel comfortable and that White was “tremendous” and “beautiful.”

It was Sajak’s wit that had Neubauer so anxious to meet him.

“When I talked to (White), she was talking about how she knitted backstraps during puzzles,” Neubauer said. “I was more excited to meet Pat than I was to meet Vanna because I think Pat’s more witty and I wanted to be witty with him. I was actually in the first position so I was next to Pat the whole time.”

Both men were nervous but still walked away with a considerable amount of winnings totaling $47,000 between them in cash and prizes. Free money or not, participating on the game show was an adventure worthwhile for Toole.

“It’s pretty surreal you know? The whole week of working with them thinking ‘Wow, it’s Pat Sajak. I just shook hands with Vanna White.’ It was very cool. It was such an experience. I’m going to remember for the rest of my life,” Toole said.

The Wheel of Fortune episode with Neubauer aired on Jan. 27 and the episode with Toole aired on Feb. 4 on KSBY.

Microbiology senior Mike Toole (right) auditioned with graduate Jason Neubauer for Wheel of Fortune during spring break last year.

Teach-in continues from page 1

Some things they wanted to address were how Cal Poly plans on cutting enrollment. In a speech earlier this month at an Associated Students Inc. Board of Directors meeting, President Richard Koob said nearly 2,000 students will be cut in the upcoming year, bringing enrollment down to 15,700 students. Also, the students were concerned about the fee increases that are making education harder for people to obtain. Finally, the group wanted students to understand education and the financial impact on faculty as well.

They said one of the major hopes in holding the discussion was to allow a group of people to come together and stand behind a cause of action. Those in attendance were able to voice their own opinions regarding the group’s direction.

The students plan on holding another teach-in within the next two weeks. Following the next meeting, the students want to form committees to organize an event for Mar. 4, which has been delegated as the Statewide Day of Action. The day of action is a call for everyone involved in public education to stand up against the cuts to education.

The students hope that the event will portray the displeasure of the students and faculty at Cal Poly in order to make change within the system.

“We are going to put the issue out there and see if anything can get changed,” Montenegro said.

The students also said they realize that their efforts will need to continue following the day of action.

Fernandez said he wants to see a shift in priorities toward emphasizing a quality education over fundamental costs.

The efforts from recent demand for around the state seem to be paying dividends as the governor proposed to place money into funding higher education earlier this month.

In a recent New York Times article, Susan Kehoe, professor, said Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, said the tipping point for choosing to fund higher education over the prison system was the protests on the University of California campuses.

Students who attended the teach-in said they thought it was beneficial.

“I really wanted to see what other people thought and if they were as sick as we are about our education,” Sauther said.

Throughout the past couple months, the groups have been working hard in order to get their message across. Individually thought solely about their own benefits from making higher education possible or tolerable or by abolishing the cuts, Fernandez said their own individual views were what caused education restriction, through fewer classes and furloughs, are compelling.

“We never thought about all,” Fernandez said. “Instead, we thought what we did was enough to gain back our education.”
Pedal-defect theory comes under fire from manufacturer

Ralph Vartabedian and Ken Thomas

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES — Toyota Motor Corp.'s decision to blame its widening sudden acceleration problem on a gas pedal defect came under attack Friday, with the pedal manufacturer flatly denying that its products were at fault.

Federal vehicle safety records reviewed by the Los Angeles Times also cast doubt on Toyota's claims that it had been skeptical of Toyota's explanation for the defect. The analysis found that in the last decade, just 5 percent blamed a pedal in the growing reports of runaway vehicles. Of more than 7,000 motorists complaining of sudden acceleration, only 4 percent had identified a sticking pedal as a potential cause.

"The way the sudden acceleration problems are occurring in reported incidents doesn't comport with how the sticky gas pedal is described," said Sean Kane, president of Safety Research & Strategies, a Refsholm, Mass., auto safety consulting company. "We know this recall is a red herring."

Sudden acceleration events in Toyota and Lexus vehicles have been linked to the company's floor mats and sticky gas pedals, and Toyota has stopped sales or covering some of its popular models of the most recent years over problematic gas pedals.

As of Friday when the manufacturer of the suspect pedals insisted its products had been unfairly blamed. CTS Corp. of Elkhart, Ind., said in a statement that it "had deep concern that there was widespread confusion and incorrect information about its products linked to the sudden acceleration issue."

"The problem of sudden unintended acceleration has been reported to have existed in some Lexus vehicles and Toyota vehicles going back to 1999, when CTS did not even make the products," the company said.

Toyota began using CTS-made pedals in the 2005 model year. On Jan. 21, Toyota told federal regulators that CTS pedals were susceptible to moisture and could stick, forcing the recall of 2.5 million cars and trucks. CTS acknowledged that a tiny number of pedals had a rare condition that could cause a slow return to idle position, but denied that this condition could cause unintended acceleration and knew of no accidents or injuries caused by the issue.

Toyota spokesman Brian Lyons said the company had no comment on CTS's statement. Another Toyota spokesman, Mike Michels, said in an e-mail that the company had identified the pedal problem as "abnormal friction in the floor mats and floor pans, with an accumulation of debris creating the abnormal condition."

"The problem that CTS identified is not a concern in our products," Michels said.

Ralph Vartabedian and Ken Thomas

LA TIMES

Faulty pedals

Toyota has stopped sales or recalled these vehicles/model years over problem gas pedals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Problem Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camry</td>
<td>(2007-10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corolla/Matrix</td>
<td>(2009-10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAV4</td>
<td>(2009-10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highlander</td>
<td>(2008-10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tundra</td>
<td>(2007-10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Venza</td>
<td>(2009-10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avalon</td>
<td>(2005-10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sequoia</td>
<td>(2008-10)</td>
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</tbody>
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2010 MCT

Source: Toyota Motor Corp., Automotive News; Graphic: Los Angeles Times
Recall
continued from page 3

pedal pivot mechanism" and that the
automaker hoped to announce a reme-
cdy soon.

Toyota has honored CTS three
times since 2005 for the quality and
efficiency of its work, citing the fac-
that the supplier "exceeded quality
expectations" and achieved "99 per-
cent on-time delivery and for ship-
ing accelerator pedal modules with
zero defects."

The automaker also uses ped-
als supplied by Denso Corp., a Japa-
nese company with North American
headquarters in suburban Detroit, but
has said those do not appear to be de-
tective.

However, the Times review of fed-
eral safety reports shows several
instances of complaints of stuck ped-
als on vehicles built in Japan, which
Toyota has said are not subject to the
recall. For example, one complaint,
filed two years ago, told of a 2007 Jap-
nese-built Camry in Maryland with
a pedal that "stuck to the floor."

A wide group of national automo-
tive experts say there is strong evi-
dence that a hidden electronic prob-
lem has to account for at least some,
if not most, of the large number of
Toyota sudden acceleration events.

The sudden acceleration deaths
involving Toyota vehicles is more than
those that have occurred in vehicles
from all other automakers combined,
according to figures provided to the
Times by NHTSA.

The Times has previously report-
ed that consumer complaints of un-
intended acceleration surged in the
years after the automaker introduced
electronic throttles, by fivefold in
some cases.

The electronic throttle system uses
sensors, microprocessors and electric
motors, rather than a traditional link
such as a steel cable, to connect the
driver's foot to the engine.

Of the complaints about sticking
pedals examined by The Times, only
one resulted in a fatality. But that ve-
hicle was a 2003 Camry, which con-
tained a pedal assembly that was not
manufactured by CTS. In fact, of the
11 injuries reported to NHTSA in
complaints that alleged stuck ped-
als, only one — a 2008 Camry Hybrid
that ran into a tree in Minnesota last
October — was in a vehicle includ-
ed in the current recall, The Times
found.

So far, NHTSA officials, as well as
officials at the U.S. Department of
Transportation, have said they have
exhaustively investigated Toyota's
problems and found no evidence that
any electronic defect exists in the
company's electronic throttle system.

Deficit
continued from page 3
tion to the total size of the economy.
That would make a "smooth land-
ing" more likely and avoid what he
called the mistake of 1937, when he
said the government moved back to-
ward a balanced budget in the midst
of the Great Depression and trig-
gered a recession.

Obama's budget also calls for an
independent "Fiscal Commission" that
would find ways to further re-
duce the deficit, with the goal of bal-
ancing the budget outside of interest
costs by 2015.

Axelrod did not provide details of
when Obama would name the com-
mision, how it would work, or who
might serve on it.
China upset over U.S. arms sale to Taiwan

Barbara Demick
LOS ANGELES TIMES

BEIJING — The Chinese govern­
ment Saturday announced a se­
rge of harsh retaliatory measures in
protest of the Pentagon's 6 bil­
ion arms sale to Taiwan, including a
suspension of security exchanges
and threatened sanctions on U.S.
companies selling to Taiwan.

"The U.S. decision seriously endangers China's national secu­

The United States has admon­
ished Beijing over its reluctance to
join in a fresh round of inter­

tional sanctions against Iran for
its nuclear program. And the Dalai
Lama, Tibet's spiritual leader, plans to
visit the United States next month and is expected to seek a
meeting with President Obama —

The biggest immediate casu­
ality of the Taiwan arms sale may
probably be Obama's nuclear se­
curity summit planned for April.

It had been hoped that Chinese
President Hu Jintao would attend;
now China is more likely to send
a lower-ranking official. In addi­
tion, an expected visit to Beijing
by Defense Secretary Robert M.
Gates this year could be put off.

The San Luis Obispo County
hunt is one of a series of pro­
posed changes in big game hunt­
ing rules in the state. The State Fish
and Game Commission will make the
final decision on April 21. The
commission postponed authoriz­
ing that hunt for a year in order
to address concerns raised by the
public.

LOS ANGELES (MCT) —
A new study from the Highway
Loss Data Institute released Friday
found that the rate of crashes before
and after the landmark hands-free

cell phone law took effect in 2008
has not significantly changed.

The research also found that
California's auto accident trends
before and after mirror those of
neighboring states such as Arizo­
a and Nevada, which don't have
hand-held phone bans.

State

SAN LUIS OBISPO (MCT) —
State wildlife officials have re­
newed a proposal to open San Luis
Obispo County to trophy hunting
of black bears.

A large swath of the center of
the county would be opened to
bear hunting for the first time
according to an environmental
report released last week. State bi­
ochologists estimate that 1,067 bears
live in the county, and as many as
50 of them a year could be taken if
the hunt is authorized.

The United States has admon­
ished Beijing over its reluctance to
join in a fresh round of inter­

tional sanctions against Iran for
its nuclear program. And the Dalai
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MEXICO CITY (MCT) —
Gazans stormed a party packed
with teenage revelers in Ciudad
Juarez early Sunday, killing at least
15 people in the latest spasm of
violence to slam the border city,
authorities said.

Officials in the northern state
of Chihuahua said high school stu­
dents and others were at a private
home celebrating a school soccer
victory when armed men rolled
up in seven vehicles and opened
fire.

Eleven of the dead were under
20, officials said. At least 10 people
were reported wounded.

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA (MCT) —
A Hamas military commander
died in a suicide bombing in a Dali­
bai hotel room played a key
role in smuggling antiaircraft mis­
siles and other weapons into the
Gaza Strip, Israeli and Hamas of­
ficials said Sunday.

But they disagreed on whether
Mahmoud Mahbub's death would
deliver a blow to Palestinian armed
groups in the seaside enclave or in­
spire them to redouble their arms
campaign.

"This guy was a middleman for
smuggling weapons from Iran, not
only to Gaza but to Hezbollah" in
Lebanon, said an Israeli military of­
ficial speaking on the condition of
anonymity because of the sensitive
nature of the issues involved.

HASSAN AMMAR / ASSOCIATED PRESS

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THAT STORMWATER RUNOFF AFFECTS THE WATER QUALITY IN OUR CREEKS AND FLOWS UNTREATED TO THE OCEAN?

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• Pick up after pets. Pet waste can harm aquatic life as it decomposes in our waterways. Properly dispose of pet waste in the trash.

• Properly dispose of household hazardous wastes, such as automobile fluids, paints and fertilizers by taking them to the household collection center at Cold Canyon Landfill.

• Maintain vehicles to prevent fluids from dripping onto the streets and driveways.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2010

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Organizations honor Black History Month with various events

Raquel Redding

Cal Poly will be hosting several events on campus in observance of Black History Month this month ranging from a poetry slam to a discussion on the difference between dark skin and light skin.

The first event is a Soup and Substance presentation on the history of step dance tomorrow at 11 a.m., hosted by Student Community Services in University Union (UU) room 220. Step has been influential in the African American community as a way to create and tell a story through the music made by bodies instead of instruments. Student Community Services said there will be a step show in the Performing Arts Center in April.

Soup and Substance is a 30-minute presentation on a topic facing the world today discussed over soup.

The Cal Poly Performing Arts Center is hosting a tour group called “The Spirit of Uganda,” Wednesday, at the Colton Center. According to “The Spirit of Uganda” Web site, called Empower African Children, the performance will be benefiting Uganda’s 2.4 million AIDS orphans. The performance includes music and dance from performers ranging from 8 to 18 years old who are all AIDS orphans themselves.

Also on Wednesday, the Multi-Media Months, page 8

HELP US TO BETTER UNDERSTAND YOUR NEEDS!

CAL POLY COUNSELING SERVICES
Have you been selected to participate in the Healthy Minds Study?

4,000 randomly selected Cal Poly students will receive an email requesting participation in a national survey on college student mental health.

Help us to better understand your needs!
New campus club celebrates the Chinese New Year

Katie Grady  
MUSIANC.DAILY

The Chinese Cultural Club (CCC) hosted its second meeting of the quarter Wednesday night with a calligraphy workshop on lucky phrases in preparation for the Chinese New Year. The ASI-sponsored CCC club is new to Cal Poly with its initiation beginning this school year. They hold meetings every other Thursday. The club formerly existed and died out, and the new club keeps the same name with a different mission, Maggie Lau, club president and biochemistry junior, said.

"To promote diversity at Cal Poly and teach the Chinese language as well as Mandarin and Cantonese," Lau said. "We are trying to promote the Chinese culture, but anyone is welcome." The club is affiliated with the modern languages and literatures department at Cal Poly, as well as the Multicultural Center (MCC). Lau grew up in Hong Kong and came to the United States in 2001 when she was 13 years old. When Lau first came to Cal Poly she felt out of place.

"I'm so used to speaking in Cantonese or Mandarin that I felt very lonely and shy," Lau said. "I decided to gather everyone and promote the culture." The theme of the quarter is the Chinese New Year Scroll. The club practiced writing calligraphy in the form of a Chinese New Year Scroll. Club leaders directed attendees to hold the brush as you would hold chopsticks. The idea is to write lucky phrases about topics like happiness or longevity on red paper to hang outside of

KATIE GRADY  MUSTANG DAILY

Members of the Chinese Cultural Club work on lucky phrases with calligraphy ink at Wednesday's meeting. The CCC club began this year.
Beach House once again comforts our souls

Sometimes, in post-coital embrace, we live outside of time. Our bodies cuddle close to the warm nucleus, letting the world outside of our beds hazily disintegrate. And in the hours we live in the "real" world, our minds occasionally look back, remembering the glow, the freedom from triviality.

In attempting to document this spiritual moment, Mazzy Star's 1994 song "Fade into You" opened up a very specific musical inlet, breathing the embrace into reality through a mixture of warm shoe-gaze and delicate female vocals. Ten years later, Baltimore duo Beach House entered this inlet, following it into a personal expanse of tenderness, intimacy and sexuality.

Since beginning their voyage, the band has never altered its course, but instead found itself in an ever-deepening ocean, painting their intimate pop with increasing amounts of wonder and orchestration. If their 2006 debut was merely a lit glimmer of sexual connection and 2008's "Devotion" was a richer commitment to the religion of sexuality, this year's "Teen Dream" is the encompassing memory of transcendent intercourse alive even in the wake of its current low.

Musically, Beach House lounges in the world of comfortable correspondence: the tones of clapped hands, open mouths and budding bodies. But, on "Teen Dream," lead singer Victoria Legrand sings about separation, valleys without columns. "Walk in the Park" mediates on the experience of forgetting the body, the blood and the language.

Legrand croons over a lonely drum beat and evocative guitar, slowly blending together with keyboard melodies into a climax: "The face that you saw in the door isn't looking at you anymore/The name that you call in its place isn't waiting for your embrace/The word that you learned to behold cannot hold you anymore/In a matter of time, it would slip from my mind."

It's all lost on this album, separation from those rare moments of human connection that so frequently come in long-term sexual correspondence. "Used to Be" is the anthem of human beings growing apart, but at the same time the soul of the moments they cling to. Legrand calls out, "Don't forget the nights when it all felt right/Are you not the same as you used to be" and we feel it, the music acting as comfort so difficult to tear away from.

Closer "Take Care" is the defining statement of the album. "You can hide the way you make us glow/It's no good unless it grows/Feelings burning/Lover while/Deep inside the ever spinning/"Tell me does it feel/It's no good unless it's real."

They walk around the nucleus. We can only make it to the blissful center together, the true original sin is our denial of the blood. Language, modernity and triviality pull us away from the core. Legrand calls out, "I'll take care of you/If you ask me to" and from that moment the band shows us nothing but the beauty of two bodies carrying the message.

This album is nothing but reassurance. We speak of Southern cuisine as comfort food because it's worry and filling. It descends into our bellies and makes us feel whole. Much the same way, Beach House is comfort music — music that descends into our souls and fills us, reassures us.

Graham Cullerton is an English graduate student, KCPR music director and "Hipster Bullshit" contributing columnist.

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**Club**

Continued from page 7

doors and windows, a tradition that has long been celebrated by the culture. Other traditions for the New Year include the Lion Dance, where the dancer mimics the lion's movements in a costume made of paper-mache and reciting myths such as the story of the Zodiac.

The officers also covered current events including the world's smallest tiger sculpture at 1 mm tall. So small it can pass through a needle, the sculpture is trying to enter the Guinness Book of World Records. Ruwanam Liim, vice president of the CCC and biomedical engineering junior, explains why the club covered this current event.

"We do the current events to keep people updated with not only Asia, but internationally (as well) to keep people informed," Liim said.

Lau explains how the club is a place for people to share and learn from one another. For those that don't know much about their history, students of similar backgrounds can share a different point of view, she said. The club has academic-based activities as well as social activities.

"You get to learn a language for free," Lau said. "We are a fun club. There are a lot of stereotypes about our culture, but most of them aren't true and aren't reflective of how we actually live."

The club has set up fundraising events and plans to do a lot more community service throughout the year.

They plan to be a part of the 30 hour famine, an international youth movement to fight hunger. The idea is to starve for 30 hours to feed children in Third World countries. They are also planning a Recycle for Haiti Challenge where members compete to raise as much money from recycling bottles through My Coke Rewards, a lid and point system for donating to the Red Cross Haiti Relief sponsored by Coke.

The CCC will be hosting a Chinese New Year party on Feb. 18 to celebrate the year of the tiger. The party will be held in Engineering West room 105 at 6:30 with a $5 entrance fee. They will have calligraphy, paper-cutting, food from a local Chinese restaurant, a Lion Dance, Martial Arts, skin performed by members and a surprise performance by one of their board members.

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**Month**

Continued from page 6

A movie night is scheduled for Feb. 8 in room 221. The movies are undecided, but will be "race films," which is a film genre existing for 1913-1950. Multicultural Center program assistant Melody Sharan said two films will be shown from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

"The films were made especially for African-Americans, since they weren't allowed in white movie theaters," Sharan said. "The films feature all African-American casts."

"The featured poet is Shihati, who is a National Poetry Slam Grand Champion and a frequent contributor to Russel Simmons' HBO Def Poetry." A movie night is scheduled for Feb. 8 in room 221. The discussion will focus on whether or not there is a difference in perception of the media that defines the lighter and darker skinned African-Americans.

"Were bringing to attention the way media has portrayed light skin and dark skin — showing if the issue is as prevalent in black culture," student coordinator for Black History Month Shanta Kimball said.

The discussion, which takes place at 7 p.m., will be accompanied by media clips and documentaries that have been shown in various ethnic studies classes.

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Always in color

(Hey, it'll give you something to talk to Mom about.)
I made an effort to watch the State of the Union in its entirety this past week. To say the least, I was not impressed. The more I learn about what’s going on, the harder it is for me to stomach what the President says. I find some of what he said to be full of flawed logic, some of it just wasn’t true, and some of it seemed downright tyrannical to me.

As for flawed logic, the President said they’re “working to lift the value of a family’s single largest investment, their home.” My first issue with this statement is that homes aren’t investments. The President has a way of overselling the word “investment,” and this is a good example. You can invest in a company that you think will grow, but you really don’t no more invest in a house than you invest in food you buy to eat. Buying a house is simply a consumer good that you buy or rent. The main issue with this statement though, is that keeping home prices high shouldn’t be a goal (nor should keeping them low be a goal; the market should set prices). In case you missed the whole housing crisis, people were unable to afford their homes, and we’ve seen foreclosures at record rates. Housing prices should be allowed to fall so that they are more affordable. Trying to lift the values of homes unreasonably favors existing owners while making things more difficult on people that are looking to buy homes in the future (college students for example).

Another piece of flawed logic is that we are not imposing a tax on big banks to recoup TARP money. TARP money should never have been handed out in the first place, even though it was, taxing big banks is not the way to get it back. Under the current proposal, banks that never received TARP funds will be taxed, and some banks that did receive it won’t be. The Constitution outlaws what it calls “ex post facto” laws, meaning laws that are passed after the fact, on prior actions. Imagines: if income taxes went up and they were retroactive for the past year, so that you needed to pay up the difference on what you earned last year. That’s unconstitutional, much like a tax to get back at the banks that received TARP money and never remain a lobbyist while holding a position on the White House’s staff. If that’s what the President means and it isn’t wordplay, then it’s a lie. Eric Holder, the Attorney General, was registered as a lobbyist until 2004. Mark Peterson, who is the chief of staff to Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner, was registered as a lobbyist for Goldman Sachs up until last year. The list goes on and on. While the President welcomed suggestions for healthcare reform, he has routinely disregarded valid suggestion, such as eliminating mandates for coverage that people don’t want, tort reform and allowing interstate competition for health insurance. I’m baffled why he hasn’t accepted or at least addressed those points more.

As for what seemed a bit tyrannical to me, the President said “with all due deference to separation of powers, last week, the Supreme Court reversed a century of law that I believe will open the floodgates for special interests, including foreign corporations, to spend without limit in our elections.” He then directed Congress to pass another bill that “helps correct some of these problems.” I don’t know what he doesn’t understand about our three branch form of government, but when the Supreme Court strikes a law down, it usually means that law is unconstitutional and that’s the end of it. You don’t just try to circumvent the system by throwing more laws at the Supreme Court until they give up. Calling the Supreme Court out like that during the State of the Union was rather disrespectful and unprofessional too. File this one under tyrannical: when the President said in regards to bipartisan fiscal commission: “the Senate blocked a bill that would have created this commission. So I’ll issue an executive order that will allow us to go forward, because I refuse to pass this problem on to another generation of Americans.” Hello! Mr. President, but you have no legal authority to force Congress to create a commission. There are after all, rules on the Presidency that make it an executive branch rather than a monarchy. But to hell with those silly rules I guess.

I thought there was too much managing of and providing vision for our economy, which came across as dictatorial. I hate it when any President goes up in front of the country and essentially tells us how he wants to run it. This is not the President’s job, nor do I want it to be!

Aaron Berk is a computer engineer, junior and Mustang Daily political columnist.
Help Wanted

Graphic Designer Needed

Creative Graphic Designer with Photoshop capability a plus. Needed for new book project. 544-6007

Part-Time Writing Assistant

Disabled Marine Corps Vet in his 80's, active, fun and creative. Referenee Call Bob Dixon 595-7070 & 1 will day- Friday from 2:30-6:30 pm in designing & printing work we will years. Responsibilities include the coordination and management of car & computer/ printer, to work 2 hrs day 5 wks. Interested? Call Bob Dixon 595-7070 & I will show you the research, writing, designing & printing work we will be doing to reach our goals.

Help Wanted

Nancy/Tutor Needed

We're looking for a Nancy/Tutor for Mon- Day- Friday from 2:00-6:00 pm in Arroyo Grande home. Experience a must in childcare and be highly active, fun and creative. References needed. Call Andrea 712-5679

Graphic Designer Needed

Creative Graphic Designer with Photoshop capability a plus. Needed for new book project. 544-6007

The Mustang Daily is looking for a Business Manager for 2010-2011 school years. Responsibilities include the coordination and management of National Advertising Agencies, maintaining runsheets, billing, newspaper filing and office organization. If interested, please email resume and cover letter to Advertising Coordinator, Stephanie Murawski at smuraw@calpoly.edu

Events

“See ham radio in action! On Feb. 2 the Cal Poly Amateur Radio Club will host a series of demos on Dexter Lawn. See www.w6bhz.org for more info.”

“Get your ham radio licenses. The Cal Poly Amateur Radio Club will hold a testing session on February 6th @ 9:30 AM in 20-129. RSVP’s to calpolyradio@n6b@gmail.com are appreciated. See www.w6bhz.org for more info”

For Rent

WANT TO LIVE DOWNTOWN? 1 bedroom in a 2 bedroom apartment is available this upcoming Spring Quarter located on Santa Barbara St. near Gus’ Deli and Buchon Park. Reasonable price and amenities. Includes utilities. Contact Ken at karan27@gmail.com

Apartment For Rent: Awesome 1 Bedroom Unit Near Pismo Beach Area. Available Feb 1st. (805) 674-3164.

Announcements

For Sale

Free List of Houses and Condos For Sale in SLO. Call for info on Federal Credits & Buying at Bottom of Market. Nelson Real Estate (805) 546-1990

To book flights, cruises, hotel and car rentals at competitive prices; please visit: theticketpavilion.com

Roommate

Male roommate looking for roommate in downtown condo. All utilities included. Call: 399-6973

Complated Applications and resumes due by 3/17/10 Call (805) 756-7600 for detailed job description to be emailed to you.

Crossword

Across

1 A North American city where a former president of the republic of Ecuador was assassinated (6)
7 Got your goat? (4)
11 Start of a word for a symbol with a horizontal line over it (3)
27 One word that precedes "Pay" (2)
33 By eyesight (4)
40 One word that precedes "Pay" (2)
46 One word that precedes "Pay" (2)
56 One word that precedes "Pay" (2)
61 One word that precedes "Pay" (2)
69 A city in Japan (6)
15 A disease transmitted to people by ticks (6)
22 A type of redwood (10)
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Down

1 Chopped into small cubes (9)
2 Food poisoning bacteria (9)
3 Ringo’s drummers in the Beatles (9)
4 The Beatles’ production company (9)
5 A type of redwood (10)
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Sacramento Kings are on the cusp of becoming boring

Allen Vosins
MCCALMATHSTUDENTNEWSWEEKLY

Sacramento Calif. — Jason Thompson is one of those people who laugh at the people who consume packs of coffee for energy. He can't sit still long enough to experiment with relaxation techniques. He is all awther about social networking.

His life is a chronic race between mind and body, and when his size 20 sneakers slap across the finish line ahead of his brains, when he gets ahead of himself, that usually means trouble.

He commits too many fouls. He drops too many passes. He muscles inside against double-teams, launches jumpers out of his range, becomes so discombobulated that he forgets about defending his man. And so discombobulated that he for­

ergets to the rebuilding process. The issue is raised: Is he a legitimate starter or better-suited for a back­up role? And if he's not a starter on a team that desperately needs some easy ones, and it was opening.weixin the locker room.

“Once we get the re­

bounds and shooting .S 2  percent

After averaging 16.6 points, 8.9 rebounds and shooting 52 percent throughout December, he contrib­

uted 8.9 points, 6.8 rebounds and shot 35 percent this month before erupting for 16 rebounds (and 12 points) against the Bobcats. He also continues to lead the league in personal fouls, a distinction he earned last year, and one that con­tinues to iritate his coaches and bosses.

In general, these young Kings are an emotional bunch, and about as transparent as toddlers. But Thompson, 23, who is a ma­
ture, delightful figure off the floor, is the ringleader of the on-court outbursts, and it's no coincidence that the slump coincides with his recent pattern of self-destruction.

Paul Westphal reminds him all the time. It's not the refs. It's not a conspiracy. It's him. Stop grab­

The Kings basketball president then maneuver for the pieces that form a team, but who knows? The Kings basketball president strikes when least expected.

We haven't been getting enough stops and running,” said Thompson. “Once we get the re­

bouncing offensive overdose has few fans in the locker room.

“We haven't been getting enough stops and running,” said Thompson. “Once we get the re­

No kidding.

The Kings are on the cusp of becoming boring, and in the NBA, there is no worse coupling than losing and boring.
Men's basketball falls short to Bakersfield again

Alex Kasik

The Cal Poly men's basketball team is off to one of its best starts in conference and home play, but apparently UC Santa Barbara didn't get the memo. Two of the Roadrunners' four wins have come against the Mustangs, notching a 57-53 victory at Mott Gym Saturday night.

The Mustangs trailed for nearly the entire game, but rode a 21-6 run to capture a brief 43-42 lead near the 11:44 mark. Cal Poly hit 7-8 from the free-throw line from that point on to edge Cal Poly.

"We exercised so much energy to get that comeback, never seemed like we hit that big shot to put us ahead by three or five, to get that total momentum to get the crowd (in it)," head coach Joe Callero said.

Since a loss to Montana State Dec. 21, Cal Poly (8-12) had defied preseason expectations with a 5-2 record in conference and home play, but suffered a 61-59 road loss at UC Santa Barbara Saturday.

"The first five minutes of the game were flat-footed, we felt like we were still looking in the rear view mirror of what happened to us in Santa Barbara," Callero said.

Despite suffering from a lack of depth and shooting, the Mustangs didn't have enough to edge out the Roadrunners.

"The last minutes are crunch time, you gotta know what to do, when to step up on the ball," forward David Hanson said. "We had to play catch up."

The Mustangs out-rebounded the Roadrunners 46-40 in the end; now that's happened, it just kind of adds up after a while," Santiago said. "We missed a lot of easy shots, some nights you just have a bad shooting night."

The crowd at Mott Gym was uncharacteristic, looking for some way to rally the Mustangs. A chant of "defensive" persisted throughout the first half, but the Mustangs didn't give their fans much to cheer about.

"The crowd was on the edge of their seats to try to bring enthusiasm and make that shot and it just never got over the hump," Callero said.

Bakersfield kept the crowd quiet by converting 19-23 free throws and shooting 38.3 percent from the field.

A sneaky backcourt didn't bolster the Mustang Maniacs' enthusiasm either. The Big West's second leading scorer Lorenzo Keeler, who put up 20 against Santa Barbara, was limited to five points on two of 11 shooting. Keeler and Justin Brown were three of 18 from the field combined.

Big man Will Taylor put up career highs with 12 points and 15 rebounds. Hansen led the team with 17 points and 15 rebounds, but uncharacteristically missed 10 shots, as did forward Shawn Lewis.

Cal Poly faces a critical stretch, 11 of its next 20 games are on the road, with UC Davis and conference-leading Pacific next week.

"We've got to get to the free throw line," Hansen said. "Thankfully tonight wasn't a conference game ... we gotta compete more."

Women's basketball lose last-second thriller to Bakersfield

Brian De Los Santos

Junior forward Kristina Santia­go finished with 20 and 22 points, finishing with a career-best 24. Kristina Santiago scored 22.

Sophomore forward David Hanson finished with a team-high 17 points and 15 rebounds. Hanson was one of two Mustangs who recorded double-doubles — Will Taylor was the other. He finished with 12 points and 12 rebounds.

Sophomore point guard Phynique Allen scored a layup to put the Roadrunners in front by three, 57-54, with just under six minutes to go.

Allen was able to use her quickness to penetrate lanes and create open looks.

"They pretty much had wide-open threes whenever they wanted them," Kristina Santiago said.

Later in the game, Cal Poly and Bakersfield shot a quiet 35 percent from the three-point line. Allen was able to use her quickness to penetrate driving lanes and create open looks.

"They pretty much had wide-open threes whenever they wanted them," Santiago said. "We were playing them as a penetrating team, which they were because we were so quick, but once they penetrated they would kick out ... They were just killing us from the three-point line."

During the first half, Cal State Bakersfield shot a quiet 35 percent from the three-point line, but in the second half they shot near 60 percent from long range. Even though the Mustangs erased a 10-point lead with four minutes left by shooting 50 percent from the field, the three-point showcase was just too much for the Mustangs to overcome.

"We're going down scoring two pointers and they're coming back shooting three pointers, it just kind of adds up after a while," Santiago said.

Cal State Bakersfield held five scorers who tallied double-figures. Allen and guard Amber Williams finished with 20 and 23 points respectively. Allen added 10 assists as well.

"She pretty much did what she wanted on the court," Santiago said.

Despite the loss, Santiago looked at it as a game her team could benefit from.

"It was a good learning experience — I think we can definitely take a lot away from it," Santiago said. "I'm glad it wasn't a conference game."

Foul trouble forced Santiago to see the floor for only three minutes in the first half but Santiago responded with 18 points in the second. Santiago racked up a total of 22 points and seven rebounds.

"I came out in the second half and played really hard ... my mind-set was to attack," Santiago said.

Sophomore guard Rachel Clancy, who was one of two Mustangs who scored more than 20 points, finished with a career-best 24. Kristina Santiago scored 22.

Rachel Clancy, who was one of two Mustangs who scored more than 20 points, finished with a career-best 24. Kristina Santiago scored 22.

Cal Poly is still off to its second-best start in program history. It will face off against conference-leading UC Davis at home Thursday night.

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