ASI budget down 10 percent for next year

Alvina Vasquez  Mustang Daily

Associated Students Inc. (ASI) will work under a 10 percent budget reduction next year. ASI President Kelly Griggs said the budget cut is not due to reduced funding, but a projected 10 percent cutback in student enrollment.

"We kind of have to take it as it comes, and I think they're making good decisions as to what is being cut," Griggs said. ASI Director of Business Services Dwayne Brunnett is currently working on the new budget with ASI business staff. The budget committee will review the revised budget. Once approved by the committee and the ASI Board of Directors, the budget will go into effect on July 1, the start of the next fiscal year.

"So at this point, it's a little premature to identify specifically what will be trimmed because the budget's still being developed," Branett said. "But our goal is to not sacrifice the quality stuff.

While providing services for a smaller student population should equate in some ways it does not add up for everything. "If you want to hold the same kinds of concerns, they don't come at a reduced cost," Griggs said.

"Amateur radio is used primarily towards programs, student government and on-campus renovation. For example, the renovation of the University Union Plaza is being paid with ASI reserve money. ASI is also overseeing the expansion of the Recreation Center, which is being paid for by a student-approved grant. ASI also funds recreational classes, community outreach, and other social events. ASI funds are derived predominately from student fees, but in some cases we still have to fund activities."

Local astrophysicist connects astronomy to climate change

Katie Grady Mustang Daily

Retired astrophysicist Dr. Ray Weymann of Atascadero weighed in on some hot and cold topics covering "Astronomy's Role in Climate Science," last Thursday at the Unitarian Universalist of Atascadero Planetarium and fell.

Weymann explained everything from the composition of the earth's atmosphere to ice age cycles and the evolution of the sun in a two-hour presentation as part of the Central Coast Astronomical Society (CCAS) monthly meeting.

He made his way to the front of the room wearing a button-up cuffed shirt, sweat pants and hiking boots. Promising to avoid getting too technical, he joked with the crowd.

"I've got more slides than you can shake a stick at," he said.

Weymann talked about how study of astronomy can inform global climate change on earth.

"We can turn to other stars to see how they behave ... and get a deeper understanding of our processes," Weymann said.

Studies show that Venus has seen an exponential temperature increase from 79 degrees Fahrenheit to 880 degrees Fahrenheit from data estimating back hundreds of years. The current temperature is enough to melt a lead brick. Scientists are now thinking there were once oceans on Venus, and the planet also shows volcanic activity. Acting as a reflection of what does, and usually draws a pretty big crowd." Even at 75 years old, Weymann spoke with the enthusiasm of a little boy with his favorite toy spaceship. "Ever since I was a little lad, I wanted to be an astronomer," Weymann said. "My dad would take us to the mountains, and it was so dark and beautiful. That was around the time I first went to the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles and fell in love.

Weymann went to Cal Tech as an undergraduate, and got his Ph.D in Astrophysics from Princeton University. He then taught astronomy at the University of Arizona from 1966-1986. After that, he moved to Pasadena, Ca. where he acted as Director of the Carnegie Observatories. In 2003, he retired and moved to Atascadero to be closer to his family.

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The Cal Poly Amateur Radio Club hosted a booth on Dexter Lawn Tuesday. Club members brought several portable radio communication devices to show visitors how people communicate during an emergency.

Patrick Leiva Mustang Daily

The Cal Poly Amateur Radio Club held an emergency communications demonstration to showcase the use of portable radio communications in today's modern world, Tuesday on Dexter Lawn.

Club president Marcel Stieber said the demonstration was run completely off battery power to simulate a disaster situation in which normal communication modes would be down.

He said the club routinely practices mock-disaster situations and has provided emergency communications during both the Highway 41 fire and the Loma Prieta earthquake.

"Today's event is to demonstrate the usefulness of amateur radio during emergency situations," Stieber said.

The club used a variety of different communicating devices during its field day. The communications equipment showcased included Automatic Packet Radio System (APRS), Internet Radio Linking Protocol (IRLP), ultra-high frequency/very high frequency repeaters, which transmit locally and high frequency long range communications.

John Cape, the club's former president for the past two years, talked about the importance of these communications in a disaster situation.

"Amateur radio communications are the primary form of communication until the system gets rebuilt," Cape said.

Stieber and Cape both pointed out that high frequency communications is the most effective in disaster situations because it doesn't depend on any infrastructure and can travel far distances.

"With a very small portable system, we can reach anywhere in the world," Cape said.

The club utilizes an 80-foot antenna tower for high-frequency transmissions. It is located outside of the Engineering East building, room 123 and was donated in 1976. Stieber said they received transmissions from the East Coast and a small island called Dominica in the Caribbean during their demonstration.

Another viral communication system the club uses is the Automatic Position Reporting System. This system gives off GPS coordinates which are produced on a map from certain beacons. The club used

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the APRS in events such as the Tri-California Wildflower triathlon, Cal Poly Wheelchair Bike Race and other community events. Stieber said the system is placed on ambulances and other support vehicles to locate them, allowing the closest vehicle to respond.

In order to transmit, Stieber said people must obtain a license since the Federal Communications Commission designated the set frequencies for use by licensed people only. There are three types of license classes: technician, general and extra.

"The technician class gives you basic operating ability," Stieber said. "The general and subsequently the extra license allow you to transmit on more frequencies with more power."

The technician exam is a 35 question pass/fail test, all questions and answers are available through the FCC Web site. Stieber said every person who passes is assigned a call sign through the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Stieber said it is one of the few clubs with many available resources at its disposal. Edward Adams, a computer engineering senior, said the club presents an opportunity to use the equipment for his senior project.

The club allows you to transmit on their frequencies from any power," Adams said. "It gives people a way to educate themselves on the use of radio communication."

Despite both being radio communications, amateur radio differs from normal AM/FM radio. Stieber said amateur radio is allocated by the FCC for citizens to use for public service and as a hobby. Normal radio is typically used for the broadcasting of music and news.

The Cal Poly Amateur Radio Club was founded in 1947 and is currently the second-oldest club on campus. Today, the club consists of five officers and about 20 contributing members.

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continued from page 1

nately from fees all Cal Poly students pay as part of enrollment tuition, but some of the craft and exercise classes change a supplementary fee.

The ASI budget cut is not an isolated event, but rather a part of the CSU budget crisis that includes professor furlough days and faculty lay-off. Assistant accounting professor Rodney P. Mock said while it seems like you could enroll more students to offset the school deficit, that's not the way the CSU system works.

"Maybe the public doesn't realize that, because we're a state university, it actually costs money to send a student to school," Mock said. "I hate the reduced enrollment."

Business administration senior Sarah Feeley compared the current economic situation to being stuck between a rock and a hard place.

"It's unsustainable this is happening but we've seen how bad the budget is," Feeley said. "We've cut the fat, there's no good solution. This isn't anyone's first choice, but this is what the college has to do to survive."

As the budget tightens across every facet, Cal Poly economics Chair Steve Hamilton suggested that programs like ASI look into other, more entrepreneurial methods of funding. Other options include raising fees for remaining students or cutting back on projects.

"Would a student prefer to have 10 percent less programs or 10 percent more fees?" Hamilton said. "It's a little hard to answer that question because it's not a market-driven process."

While the cutbacks will take some planning to adjust to, the corporation is not entirely unprepared. Gregg said ASI staff have kept a reserve fund, "kind of for a rainy day, which we're having now. So I don't think the students will notice any difference."

ASI currently employs more than 250 Cal Poly students at a variety of on-campus jobs and has a full-time staff of approximately 60 members.

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continued from page 1

The Poly Canyon project received LEED's gold certification for building green.

The certification means that the complex was built with the strict standards of sustainability and energy efficiency in mind. Joel Neel, project manager, said it's a process that started with the design team and was followed by the building contractor.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a program run by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The council is a non-profit organization that works with designers and builders to lower the impact of development.

"We're excited because Poly Canyon makes 25 percent of (the buildings on campus) sustainable," Neel said.

He added it makes Cal Poly the highest in the CSU system.

Mike Monroy, a construction management professor, said it was a challenge because of the massive size of the project. But the benefits far outweigh any perceived inconveniences.

"LEED is built on a point system that weighs not only what materials are used, but the impact of getting those materials to the site. In addition LEED coordinators consider the air quality during and after construction, as well as the health benefits to those living in the buildings. Monroy said residents of these buildings will get sick far less, score better on tests and have reduced risks of asthma and cardiovascular issues.

Points are assigned based not only on the building projects but the community as a whole said Dao Duan, senior principle at the local USGBC office. Duan said if the community caters to biking, walking and cutting down on individual vehicle trips points are added to the certification.

"We want to encourage developing communities to go green," Duan said.

He said the certification is based on 100 total available points for each site. Poly Canyon received 42 points, which landed the complex in the gold rating.

Monroy said buildings that meet LEED certification provide many benefits to the community. They use less energy, are made from recycled materials and people who live in these buildings tend to have less health problems than those who live in older buildings that do not meet the qualifications.

The certification is not handed over without serious considerations and review, which is why it took time from the completion of the project before it was received. Monroy said everything has to be documented, not only on paper but with photographs before it is submitted to the USGBC for review.

Monroy said the certification keeps builders from claiming they have built something green when they haven't. "It cuts down on green-washing; keeps people honest," Monroy said.

During the building of Poly Canyon, 90 percent of the waste was diverted from the landfill through various recycling programs. Neel said the buildings in Poly Canyon are 42 percent more efficient than national standards in part because of the natural ventilation system. There are no air conditioners in Poly Canyon. And water flow has been reduced by 32 percent compared to older buildings on campus.

Neel said Cal Poly will continue to strive for certification of new buildings which qualify for the program. He said Faculty Office East is LEED certified and the new Recreation Center will be when it's built. Monroy thinks every building on campus should be certified.

"It's a no-brainer and it doesn't cost any more," Monroy said of building to LEED specifications and the benefits that come with it.

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Airport security is a tech-firm gold rush

Hugo Martin
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES — For airline passengers, the attempted Christmas Day terror attack and a directive by President Obama to pursue advanced screening technology will certainly mean added security protocols at airports.

So for high-tech companies, the focus on airport security means new opportunities to land hefty government contracts.

"Even though it is a layered approach, it is fairly predictable," said John S. Verrico, a vice president at Unisys Corp., one of the many larger companies also involved in the rush to buy 300 new full-body scanners. "The TSA is aware of this technology," said Mark Laustra, vice president of homeland security for Smiths Detection, which has been making X-ray machines and other security devices for airports since the 1980s. "The indications we have are that it is something they want to look at more closely."

"At the end of the day, there is no computer system that is going to replace that," he said.

Still, small and large technology companies see the heightened concern about airline security as a chance to turn a profit.

"Everybody has started to talk about new technology at the airports," he said.

Other firms, including a small New York company that makes a shoe-scanning device and a Torrance, Calif., venture that builds screening efforts, and $300 million for the TSA. About $700 million of that will be spent to improve baggage screening efforts, and $300 million is allocated for technology to detect explosives carried by passengers.

In response to a presidential order this month to "aggressively pursue advanced screening technology" at airports, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said her agency would move quickly to deploy new machinery and would work with other government agencies to develop cutting-edge security equipment.

Some of the new technology may also come from government scientists. The Homeland Security Department's science and technology directorate operates a laboratory in New Jersey where technology is developed and tested.

"There are a lot of things we are looking at that are not ready for prime time," said John S. Verrico, a spokesman for the directorate. "A lot of it may not even work."

Such devices will be added to what analysts call a "layered approach" to airport security. This means that before passengers board an airplane, they must clear a series of security measures and devices such as watch lists, X-ray scanners, metal detectors and full-body image scanners.

Despite the advanced wizardry of today's security devices, some terrorists might already be devising ways to skirt them.

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Suzanne McHenry is no feather in the wind.
Every day, she rises with the sun to run with the homeless.
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Top military officer calls for 'don't ask, don't tell' repeal

By Julian E. Barnes

WASHINGTON — The nation's top military officer said Tuesday that he supports allowing gays to openly serve, adding a powerful voice to the deeply controversial issue as the Pentagon announced steps to prepare for possibly ending its 17-year ban on homosexuality.

Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in an appearance before the Senate Armed Services Committee that the military would follow the 1993 law, known as "don't ask, don't tell." Nonetheless, he said, his personal views were firm.

"Speaking for myself and myself only, it is my personal belief that allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly would be the right thing to do," Mullen said.

His views are particularly important in the debate. It was one of his predecessors, Gen. Colin Powell, who played a major role in derailing his predecessors, Gen. Colin Powell, and Gen. Merrianne Stock, the policy a "healthy compromise." But in December 2008, he said the ban should be reviewed.

Mullen on Tuesday announced a yearlong Defense Department review that he said would examine the effects of repealing "don't ask, don't tell," as well as gauge changes in the military enforces the law. But in December 2008, he said the ban should be reviewed.

According to the bill, he said. Gates and other officials believe that it is critical to move slowly so that the changes are understood and accepted by service members.

Gates said he understood gays and their supporters might be frustrated with the length of the reviews, but said the Pentagon needed time to minimize disruption and to talk to service members about the change. "The question before us is not whether the military prepares to make this change, but how we best prepare for it," Gates said. "However, we also can only take this process so far as the ultimate decision rests with you, the Congress."

By relaxing enforcement of the laws, Gates said, military officials could prevent the policy from being used vindictively. Gates said the department could require that more senior officers initiate and conduct investigations of sexual orientation. He also said the military could "raise the bar" on what counts as reliable evidence in such inquiries.

"Overall we can reduce the instances where a service member, who is trying to serve the country honorably, is ousted by a third person with a motive to harm the service member," Gates said.

Democrats at the hearing were supportive of Gates and Mullen. Sen. Carl M. Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the Armed Services Committee, supports ending the ban. After the hearing, he said he has not decided how to approach the issue legislatively. One possibility is including a moratorium on discharges of gay service members in this year's defense authorization bill, he said.

Republicans, however, voiced support for the "don't ask, don't tell" law. Sen. John McCain of Arizona, the senior Republican on the committee, said while imperfect, the Pentagon review. Advocates for gay service members said they were disappointed with the timeline the Pentagon outlined.

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said during the hearing that in addition to the yearlong review, a change in the law should be implemented over the course of another year. Gates and other officials believe that it is critical to move slowly so that the changes are understood and accepted by service members.

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President Barack Obama arrives at the South Lawn of the White House from Marine One in Washington DC Tuesday.

Don Lee and Peter Nicholas

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama, continuing his pivot to small businesses and the economy, went on the road Tuesday to promote a new proposal that would take $30 billion repaid by bailout-bailed-out Wall Street institutions and use it to fund community bank loans to small firms.

The proposal seeks to ease the unusually tight credit that many small businesses have experienced since the recession — an obstacle seen as a major barrier to hiring. It comes on the heels of an Obama administration plan last week to give up to $50 billion in tax credits to companies for every new worker they employ this year. Both proposals would reverse the trend toward far tighter credit in the wake of the deep financial crisis.

The credit constraint was underscored in a Federal Reserve survey confirming that business debt-guarantee programs available to small businesses and the economy, went on the road Tuesday to promote a new proposal that would take $30 billion repaid by bailout-bailed-out Wall Street institutions and use it to fund community bank loans to small firms.

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Small businesses traditionally have led the economy in job creation coming out of recessions, but many of them have been reluctant to add new workers in the face of weak sales, uncertainties about the economic recovery and future legislation, and the difficulties of obtaining financing in the wake of the deep economic downturn.

The credit constraint was underscored in a Federal Reserve survey released Monday showing that, although banks have largely stopped tightening lending standards, those institutions raising hurdles for borrows were more apt to do so for small businesses than for large ones.

What’s more, the Fed’s quarterly survey of senior loan officers found that smaller banks — which lend mostly to small companies — were more likely to tighten lending standards than stronger banks.

Small businesses have been particularly acute in part because many of them own property, and in the aftermath of the real estate bust, they lost key collateral for loans. Moreover, many self-employed people rely on home equity lines and personal credit cards to support their businesses — and those credit lines have been slashed in the last year.

Small-business experts said a greater flow of credit, like payroll tax credits, will certainly help, but in themselves won’t be enough for many firms that are struggling mostly with scarce cash. William Dunkelberg, an economist for the National Federation of Independent Business, a small-business lobbying group, says his surveys of employers suggest that poor sales are far and above the top reason most are not hiring. The Fed survey confirmed that business demand for credit remained weak, particularly from small companies.

“It’s purely the lack of sales,” said Phil Kenny, an owner of Trucks Unique Inc., a 13-employee firm in Albuquerque, N.M., that modifies commercial trucks. Kenny sees some faint signs that business conditions are improving, but he says he won’t begin to add workers until the outlook becomes certain and “there’s a lot of anxiety among customers and business owners,” he added. In addition to the economy, “the uncertainty with respect to what’s going to be happening with taxes, health care and everything else, that’s caused anxiety. So you stand still and wait to see what happens.”

But other business owners say easier access to credit will help them expand — and hire. And with Obama, lawmakers and many others in Washington championing the call for job-creation programs, small businesses can expect more support.

In his State of the Union address, Obama said he would help small firms boost exports, and he is also pushing Congress to adopt a jobs-creation package.

The House of Representatives last fall passed a $44 billion bill that would boost the cap on federal loan guaranteed programs available through the Small Business Administration.

With funds from the $787 billion Recovery Act passed last February, the SBA has helped more than 42,000 small companies with loans — about 13,600 of them new businesses, said Jonathan Swain, an SBA assistant administrator.

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In no mood to reverse his opposition, instead, he accused Gates and Mullen of trying to force through a change in the law through a backdoor. "I’m happy to say that we still have a Congress of the United States that would have to pass a law to repeal ‘don’t ask, don’t tell,’ despite your efforts to repeal it in many respects by fiat,” McCain said.
A passion for dance:
Cal Poly student opens hip-hop dance studio

Leticia Rodriguez
MUSKAN D. MIY

As a dance teacher, the one thing that really upsets Cal Poly business administration junior Heidi Asefvaziri are students who have to quit her class because they can’t afford the payments. So she came up with her own solution: open her own street hip-hop studio.

Last month, that idea became reality. Asetvaziri, a former hip-hop teacher for the Academy of Dance, opened up the Street HEAT Dance Company in San Luis Obispo so she could charge less for students who love hip-hop but can’t afford the fees at other studios.

“When someone leaves my studio because they can’t afford it, that affects the teacher,” Asefvaziri said. “I saw this as an opportunity to make hip-hop more affordable for students.”

Student coordinator of Black History Month Shauna Kimball has been a fan of Shihan’s for five years ever since she saw him on Def Jam Poetry.

“Shihan’s poetry is really relatable, everyone can grasp some type of emotion from it,” Kimball said.

With poems that often talk about his wife and children, he also writes poetry that serves a purpose. From poverty and capitalism to institutional racism, Shihan brings to light the injustices in the world as well as the little things that can easily be taken for granted.

Openings

Opening "This Type Love," with lyrics, “I want a love that makes me wait until she falls asleep then wonder if she is dreaming about us being in love, type love,” the poem, which takes three minutes to perform, goes on to explain the rest of the types of love he wants. Shihan ends the poem talking about his wife and the love he has found with her.

Shihan grew up in New York’s Lower East Side and began his writing career in 1989, which he used to get a scholarship to William North Hampton School for Creative Writing. After signing with MCA Records in 1993, Shihan wrote for the video game NBA Jam Session series and the theme for Reebok’s “Blacktop” campaign. The first poet to be named iTunes “Download of the week,” Shihan was also a part of the writing and performing for MTV’s Rock the Vote campaign and Schoolhouse Rocks videos.

Assistant Coordinator of the Multi-Cultural Center Bryn Smith said she was happy to get Shihan for Black History Month since he is such a powerful speaker.

“We are really looking forward to hearing him perform here. His reputation as an outstanding, captivating performer precedes him, we’re really excited about having him on stage because he is very much in demand,” Smith said.

Being in demand as a

see Shihan, page 8
Gibson makes a comeback with "Edge of Darkness"

Mel Gibson has not had a major film role since he played the lead in M. Night Shyamalan's 2002 ingenious thriller "Signs." Since then, he has kept busy directing two impressive and successful films: 2004's blockbuster "The Passion of the Christ" and 2006's "Apocalypto." He was also under the spotlight a few years ago for some less than flattering remarks made while being arrested for driving under the influence — an event that almost completely tarnished his reputation as a respected Hollywood heavyweight.

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Despite the difficulties of starting a new life in a new country, Ella is optimistic that her situation will improve. Until that is, she begins having unsettling dreams about French palais and distant relatives. Her nights are haunted with the most vivid blue color she has ever seen — something that would be beautiful and intriguing if it weren't for the unknown and haunting origins.

Her dreams excite until she can no longer ignore the mysterious scenes and she resolves to find out more about her French ancestors — a journey which will lead her to Jean-Paul, a man who is unlike her husband. Rick, after his career requires them to relocate. Rick, an easygoing Californian, complete with blond ponytail and bronzy tan, fits in surprisingly well in their new quaint life in the smaller village of Lisle-sur-Tarn. Ella, however, does not have as much success.

Still struggling to learn the language and trying to pass the necessary exams to continue her vocation of being a midwife in France, Ella feels lost and alone in their new home. It doesn't help matters that she is still viewed as an outsider amid the townspeople — being shunned by the local women and business people because of her American idiosyncrasies and habits.

While Chevalier may be most well known for her novel turned film, "Girl with a Pearl Earring," her debut work, "The Virgin Blue," is actually far superior to her more popular works. Set in 16th century Switzerland and present day France, Chevalier creates a story that weaves together intriguing characters and suspenseful plotlines, which result in a compelling and emotional novel that will have you hooked from the start.

Modern day Ella Turner moves to Toulouse, France with her husband, Rick, after his career requires them to relocate. Rick, an easygoing Californian, complete with blond ponytail and bronzy tan, fits in surprisingly well in their new quaint life in the smaller village of Lisle-sur-Tarn. Ella, however, does not have as much success.

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While Chevalier may be most well known for her novel turned film, "Girl with a Pearl Earring," her debut work, "The Virgin Blue," is actually far superior to her more popular works. Set in 16th century Switzerland and present day France, Chevalier creates a story that weaves together intriguing characters and suspenseful plotlines, which result in a compelling and emotional novel that will have you hooked from the start.

Modern day Ella Turner moves to Toulouse, France with her husband, Rick, after his career requires them to relocate. Rick, an easygoing Californian, complete with blond ponytail and bronzy tan, fits in surprisingly well in their new quaint life in the smaller village of Lisle-sur-Tarn. Ella, however, does not have as much success.

Still struggling to learn the language and trying to pass the necessary exams to continue her vocation of being a midwife in France, Ella feels lost and alone in their new home. It doesn't help matters that she is still viewed as an outsider amid the townspeople — being shunned by the local women and business people because of her American idiosyncrasies and habits.

Despite the difficulties of starting a new life in a new country, Ella is optimistic that her situation will improve. Until that is, she begins having unsettling dreams about French palais and distant relatives. Her nights are haunted with the most vivid blue color she has ever seen — something that would be beautiful and intriguing if it weren't for the unknown and haunting origins.

Her dreams excite until she can no longer ignore the mysterious scenes and she resolves to find out more about her French ancestors — a journey which will lead her to Jean-Paul, a man who is unlike her husband in every way. Soon she begins questioning everything about her life in France, her relationship with her husband, and especially herself. Falling deeper and deeper into the search for her ancestors, Ella is ultimately led into a search for herself, discovering more than she ever expected.

Interviewed with the present day story of Ella is the tumultuous history of her ancestor Isabelle du Moulin, who flees France to escape...
“Virgin Blue” continued from page 7

Catholic persecution for a safer home in Switzerland. She endures a cruel mother-in-law, insensitive

Asefvaziri said. “No one wants to see money be an issue for anyone’s passion and I’m the first person to step up and say I’m not going to let money be a restriction to keep someone from doing what they love.”

Asefvaziri didn’t discover her own love for dance until she took a class in April 2009. She said even though during her first class she “unbelievably sucked,” she went home feeling that this was something she was meant to do.

Over the next couple of months, she took as many classes as she could before being asked to take over as an instructor for the advanced hip-hop class in June. After choreographing and performing in a dance routine for the academy in September, Asefvaziri said she realized her true passion lay in teaching students.

Asefvaziri recognized not only an open market for hip-hop in San Luis Obispo, but for street hip-hop, a different form of the popular dance. “Asefvaziri said, has more to do with general choreography than technical moves. The choreography includes popping and locking, both of which rely on the performer to move their body in sometimes fast and strict movements.

As the sole choreographer at Street HEAT Dance Company, Asefvaziri teaches classes for intermediate to experienced dancers who already have a background in hip-hop but Asefvaziri encourages people of all experience levels to attend a class.

“As my class, you come already knowing the steps,” Asefvaziri said. “So when I lock or pop, I don’t have to break it down for you; people are already going to know what it is. I don’t slow down the pace of

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Wednesday, February 3, 2010

“Virgin Blue” continued from page 7

Catholic persecution for a safer home in Switzerland. She endures a cruel mother-in-law, insensitive

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much more alarming. Craven’s world is soon after turned inside out, down with the murder of Emma on his front door step — an attack that is initially believed to be a failed assassination attempt on Thomas himself.

Craven later becomes more and more suspicious of the circumstances surrounding his daughter’s ‘unnecessary’ death. His investigation eventually leads him to Northern Exposure, a sophisticated structure that, in comparison to the rest of the film, seems a bit over the top. Northern Exposure’s chairman, Jack Bennett, is played by skilled actor Danny Huston (“X-Me Origami: Wolverine,” “The Constant Gardener”), son of legendary director John Huston. In terms of an audience member’s point of view, the movie does a great job of making Bennett seem almost too nice and too courteous, characteristics that Craven does not ignore.

As mentioned earlier, the main problem, and possibly the only significant problem, with “Edge of Darkness” is the unrealistic feel of its antagonist, Northmoor. If the corporation had been more realistic, so would the film. Unfortunately, it

“Darkness” continued from page 7

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As mentioned earlier, the main problem, and possibly the only significant problem, with “Edge of Darkness” is the unrealistic feel of its antagonist, Northmoor. If the corporation had been more realistic, so would the film. Unfortunately, it

instead unfurls into another typical “one cop saves the world” political thriller, albeit better than most other films that share this same plot.

The flow and intriguing nature of the story are without a doubt carried by Gibson’s outstanding performance and Campbell’s impressive direction of a number of intense action sequences. Mel Gibson’s portrayal of a man with nothing to lose resembles the actor’s “Mad Max” days. He does a magnificent job of making his character of Thomas Craven seem like a sincere man on a mission that any viewer would support. He’s aided in this by the great British actor Ray Winstone (“The Departed,” “Sexy Beast”), as an deceptive free agent who turns up near Craven’s home one night and whose interaction with Craven provides the movie with much of its attraction.

The reason why this film does have a James Bond type feel to it is because of Campbell, who is responsible for arguably the two best Bond films of our generation, “Goldfinger” (1995) and “Casino Royale” (2006). His ability to make his characters look so different while being close-up fights are all expertly choreographed and do not seem extraneous or unnecessary for a very cap of the protagonist’s age.

While this is by no means a perfect film, it is excellent not only because it was entertaining and successfully reminiscent of espionage films of the ’70s, but mainly as a result of the lead performance. Mel Gibson has been recently cast in a number of interesting films that will be released in the next couple of years, and “Edge of Darkness” makes me that much more excited to see them.
Obama’s new $3.8 trillion budget asks too much of an already-strained economy

On Monday, President Obama introduced the administration’s new $3.8 trillion budget. The behemoth figure becomes even more daunting when you take a closer look at the budget plan. This year, it’s projected to be a record $1.267 trillion. Even if math isn’t your thing, it is easy to see a figure this large in our struggling economy is just plans for dangers. If this budget plan passes without alteration, we are on another road to financial meltdown.

Obama has once again succeeded in using his rhetoric to advance a seemingly bipartisan solution to the economic problems of our day. Yet, words can be deceiving, and there is no covering up the monstrous size in using his rhetoric to advance a solution that their scholarship is guaranteed. As a hardworking employee in a small family business, I have personally seen the affects of government regulation, and the laws of real taxes. Harmful federal and state regulations have triggered a squeezing economy mainly because it is impossible for employers to afford employees. His budget plan would tax, by about $1 trillion for 3.2 million small businesses and the upper-income families that create our jobs. This additional burden will only do further harm to the job market, and make the search for a job after graduation even more difficult. Placing the tax burden on our potential employers will only hinder employment.

Vast government handouts have never helped our nation rebound from fiscal crisis. Obama needs to realize the potential of employers to save our economy. America wants, not short-term, government-sponsored jobs. The reckless spending implied by this budget will only make the situation worse.

Obama’s proposal is not a new solution at all. It is the stimulus package all over again. And this one will be worse than the last.

Bruce Pinogle is an English sophomore and Mustang Daily political column

When is a promise not a promise?

When it’s a lie.

In a recent talk for a second non-
football fans. The beginning of Feb-
erary is the most likely month of the year to attend a Super Bowl, which everyone and their mother will be watching. But for college football fans, February also brings national signing day. National signing day is the first day in which high school recruits can officially sign letters of intent to play for the school they choose.

Players may redshirt for a year or warm the bench but these young student athletes pledge their ama-
teur careers to the school of their choice, and in return the schools pledge to house them for the next four or more years.

Ah, but therein lies the lie.

Ask any athlete about their scholarship and more likely they will be under the impres-
sion that their scholarship is guaranteed for the time they are on campus, passing grades and playing their sport. Yet, at the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) rule-
book states, athletic scholarships are limited to the academic year like most academic scholarships. A player can be cut from the team for discipline, including academic performance. So then how quickly can an athlete walk away from their dream school turn into a night-
mare?

Quickly.

A lot of student athletes can run into this problem when facing a coaching change at their school. The notorious and recently well-
documented example of this is John Calipari’s takeover of the Kentucky basketball program. So drastic was the turnabout that it prompted a report from ESPN. Outside the game, those on scholarship were forced off the team. Some were told there may not be a scholarship available for them next year, others were told they would not play and some were told they were not needed. This essentially forced President of the University of Kentucky had to say, “Sounds like a difficult situa-
tion, it’s one that probably happens as you choose to get into the inter-
collegiate athletics.”

Just so we are sure where Todd’s priorities lie, here is a quote from his universities mission statement: “The University of Kentucky is a public, research-intensive, land grant university dedicated to improving people’s lives.”

I bet that Todd and Calipari were thinking of their university’s mission statement and not their basketball team’s future ranking when dealing with Stewart and his son.

Enter California Democrat As-
ssemblyman Tom Amaklof, the au-
thor of AB 95, which is currently making its rounds through the state senate. This bill would not fix everything that’s wrong with col-
lege sports and it would only affect amateur athletes from California, it is a step in the right direction.

If his bill were to pass the follow-
ing important changes would take affect for any coach or university representative recruiting in the state of California. Within a week of contacting the athlete, a university representative would have to pro-
vide the athlete with among other things:

Each athletic team’s policy concerning the criteria for the re-
newal of an athlete’s scholarship, including circumstances in which a student athlete suffers a tempo-
rary or permanent related injury, there is a coaching change, or a student athlete’s ath-
letic eligibility.

That’s what probably happens as you choose to get into the inter-
collegiate athletics.

One of the NCAA’s core values is to maintain “the highest levels of integrity and sportsmanship.” How often do you think Pete Carroll went into a kid’s house and told him about how many scholarship ath-
letes he hasn’t renewed because the athlete got injured? Hopefully this bill will pass soon, forcing coaches in California at least, to reveal their dirty secret.


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- Be available to work during my hours

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Sincerely,

[Your Name]
Jets' Mark Sanchez to have knee surgery

Roderick Boone

Mark Sanchez's decision is in. The New York Jets quarterback has opted to have surgery on his left knee. Sanchez is expected to undergo an elective procedure to strengthen and stabilize the ligaments around his patella tendon.

Team orthopedist Dr. Kenneth Montgomery will perform the surgery, probably within the next few weeks, given Sanchez will need about eight weeks of recovery time.

General manager Mike Tannenbaum said last week he was confident Sanchez's knees.

Andrews recommended surgery on the left knee, not the right one. Sanchez injured diving headfirst during a 19-13 win over Buffalo in Toronto Dec. 3.

The surgery isn't necessarily a must for Sanchez, but by strengthen ing the area around the patella tendon, the Jets are hopeful it will help prevent further damage to the knee he originally injured before his junior season at USC and tweaked again in the Jets' 17-6 win over Carolina on Nov. 29.

Sanchez dislocated his left knee-cap in August 2008 and played that season with a brace.

He also wore a brace on the knee for protection this season, and played with braces on both knees Dec. 20 against the Falcons. That was his first game after sitting out a 26-3 win over the Bucs during the Jets' postseason run, compiling a 92.7 rating.

Sanchez moved around well during the Jets' postseason run, completing 41 of 68 passes for 539 yards, threw for four touchdowns and two interceptions in becoming only the fourth rookie quarterback since the NFL-AFL merger in 1970 to start a conference championship game.

Former USC quarterback Mark Sanchez passed for 2,444 yards and 12 touchdowns in his rookie season with the New York Jets.
Junior guard Shawn Lewis’ hard work pays off

Patrick Leiva
MUSTANG DAILY

Throughout his entire life, Shawn Lewis has known one thing: basketball.

Every since he received a Fisher Price basketball hoop when he was 2 years old, Lewis has been hooked.

Lewis began his basketball career in elementary school and always had his eye on being able to dunk. He said it started out as just being able to touch the run, but grew into a goal of his. Lewis went straight to his dad to ask how to accomplish his goal, and his dad started him on a training program right away.

“I would run or hop up 100 or 200 steps everyday after school,” Lewis said. “Those steps were real steep and tough on my legs.”

When seventh grade rolled around, Lewis was able to jam for the first time. He said it was a great experience to accomplish his goal and something he will always remember.

Lewis did not start his high school career with the best of beginnings. He attended Berkeley High School and played on the varsity team as a freshman. Unfortunately, Lewis said he continually clashed with his head coach since the coach did not like Lewis’ dad being so involved in the game. In the middle of his sophomore year, Lewis transferred to Bishop O’Dowd High School in Oakland.

At Bishop O'Dowell, his struggles continued with his new head coach.

Following his junior year, his coach was fired. With a new coach, Lewis led his team to the state championship game where they lose to Antioch High School, but Lewis said he learned a great deal about himself as a player.

“With everything that happened in high school, it made me appreciate the struggle more and made me stronger as a player,” Lewis said.

At Cal Poly, Lewis has been a consistent contributor ever since gaining a starting spot midway through his freshman season. He said his strong work ethic is a major reason for his success at this level. Lewis said when he sees someone in the gym working on their game he wants to go to work immediately to improve his own.

“I don’t want to be the same person that anyone is getting better than me,” Lewis said.

His teammates have noticed the extra work Lewis has put in to improve himself. Senior forward Ryan Darling said Lewis is always working after practice and is one of the last people to leave every night.

“He will constantly be in the gym getting extra shots in and working on his ball handling,” Darling said.

“He sets a great example for the rest of the team through his play.”

Lewis’ dedication to the game has impressed head coach Joe Callero this year. Callero said Lewis is the most exciting player on the team who can do it all and is improving every day.

“Shawn is improving himself as a complete player instead of just being a stereotypical athlete,” Callero said.

Callero is also impressed with his ability to remain focused on his goals both on and off the court.

Lewis’ competitive nature remains one of the strongest aspects of his game along with his athletic ability.

“He brings strength and power to our team,” Darling said. “He hops are out of control.”

Lewis has used these aspects of his game to average 11.1 points per game and dish out 2.4 assists per game through 20 games this season.

One of the biggest moments for him this season was during a recent home game against UC Riverside. Lewis was fouled with 1.9 seconds remaining in the game and the game tied at 65. He stepped to the line for two shots with the game in balance.

Junior guard Shawn Lewis is averaging 12 points per game this season. Lewis recorded a season high 22 points against Pepperdine earlier this year.

“I had to make those shots,” Lewis said. “I got a chance to get the win for my team and I’m grateful for that opportunity.”

see Lewis, page 11

Asomugha could help the Raiders by leaving them

Cam Inman
SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

I love New York ... as the next home of Nnamdi Asomugha, the Raiders’ Pro Bowl corner who

apparently has his eye on joining the

Jen.

Get rid of Nnamdi? The sanest voice in the NFL’s horniest locker room? The Raiders’ best player, at least among those who don’t kick a

football for a living?

Yes, yes and yes. Do the deal, as long as Al Davis nabs a franchise-saving package of draft picks and players in return.

Asomugha’s value is sky high. The Raiders’ cornerback is in his prime. At 29, he is in the middle of his seven-year career with Oakland.

Asomugha’s value is sky high. The Raiders’ cornerback is in his prime. At 29, he is in the middle of his seven-year career with Oakland.

He is a magnificent bargain-chip who used to have a ton of trade options. He is a player the Raiders can’t replace, and he is only one of thefuture stars. The Raiders could get multiple prospects (see: A’s, Billy Beane) for the Asomugha prize.

And what could the Raiders even get in return? A franchise-saving package of draft picks and players that could turn the Raiders into an NFC title contender.

The “something else will happen” scenario makes a ton more sense. Asomugha pleased his boss. He didn’t rip the Raiders, saving him from Al’s
eye patch. He simply opened a door to an inviting idea.

“This is a team where the players, we can speak up as much as we want. But there are people in charge and that’s how the show is going to be run,” Asomugha told theNFL Network.

“We definitely have talent. It goes to us being a little more disciplined when we’re out on the field.”

What could the Jen give up in return? They’ve got draft picks (29th overall this year, a first-rounder next year to replace the one Oakland gave up for Seymour in 2009). Other than an expendable quarterback in Kellen Clemens, a restricted free agent in wide receiver Braylon Edwards and a draft bust in defensive end Vernon Gholston, whom Davis might eye as a trademark reclamation project (along with the current JMaKcChess Russell Project).

One team’s trash (and a slew of Asomugha who paid for that opportunity)