Major accreditation not a major concern in most cases

Raquel Redding
MUSTANG DAILY

To future students and parents, the accreditation of a school and its programs can represent the quality of education. To other schools, it shows the accreditation of a school and its major concern in most cases.

Poly bookstoe to rent textbooks

Leticia Rodriguez
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly students will be able to rent a small number of textbooks through El Corral Bookstore this fall, a potentially cheaper and faster option than using online services or regular purchase prices.

Swine flu vaccines offered again in SLO

Will Taylor
MUSTANG DAILY

Free H1N1 vaccinations are being offered with no appointment at seven locations in the San Luis Obispo area this week. Health officials said students and citizens should still get vaccinated because knowledge of H1N1 and its characteristics is incomplete, so a vaccination is a precautionary measure.

Healthy Minds, a survey designed to determine the mental health needs across campus is being distributed among Cal Poly students starting this week. Nearly 25 percent of students are being asked to serve as a representation; after the first week, 26 percent of the students have completed the survey.

Elie Axelroth, head of counseling at the Health Center, said there has been a recent concern about the mental health of college students. Cal Poly will compare the results to other schools around the country. The survey allows each student to add 10 questions specific to the school. Those questions will not stand out on the survey due to the potential of compromising the results.

It would be great to get a picture of what is really going on," Axelroth said.

The survey is conducted annually by the University of Michigan and a Michigan survey group. Participants will be entered to win a number of prizes donated by the community including an iPod, gift certificates from New Frontiers and dining facilities on campus as well as a gift basket from Trader Joe's. The Michigan entities have also contributed a combined $4,000 in cash prizes.

As human beings we tend to be scared of what we don't know, in this case mental health.

—Elie Axelroth
Head of counseling services, Health Center

see Accreditation, page 3

see Textbooks, page 2

see Survey, page 2
It’s like an arms race: We try to get around the problems posed by the book market and of course the book markets are matching us step for step.

—Laura Freberg
psychology professor

Vaccine
continued from page 4

Any vaccinations that were given to more vulnerable people, such as pregnant women and seniors, now there is a surplus of vaccinations. "There is enough vaccine for anyone who wants it," Shoreman said.

Dr. Marty Bragg, director of Health and Counseling Services at Cal Poly said about 2,200 H1N1 vaccinations were given by the health center in the four-day clinic, but not all the doses were used. About 200 are still left for interested students. Students can walk in between 8 and 11 a.m. and 2 and 4 p.m. or make an appointment.

"College students feel like they’re bullet-proof from a vaccine standpoint," Bragg said. The Health Center only administers about 500 normal flu shots to students annually.

"College students are very healthy; but there is something about this flu that seems to attack a younger portion of the population particularly, it's still worrisome," he said.

But some students are still ambivalent. Bragg said. "I think it's a busy lifestyle and rumors about the vaccination causing complications are a reason why some students didn't get the shot.

Material engineering senior Andrew Waller said a depressed vaccine is a good idea but because he didn't personally hear about any cases, he didn't worry about it.

"It's hard to justify why I wouldn't do it," Waller said. "I guess I was just preoccupied with my life and didn't get it. I didn't have a concern, but unlike where H1N1 affected my day-to-day life. You hear about it, but you hear about a lot of things that don't affect you.

In San Luis Obispo, there have been two deaths and 44 hospitalizations attributed to H1N1, according to a Jan. 26 public health information update released by the San Luis Obispo health agency. For more information, go to www.douplehealth.org or call the public health agency at 805-788-2903.

Thursday, February 11, 2010

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Accreditation (continued from page 1)

For the majors that are unaccredited, the university has created certain standards in order to create a quality education is offered to all students. There are three reasons why 40 of the majors at Cal Poly are not accredited. The first is that the department is in the process of applying for accreditation. The second is that the department or program lost accreditation and is currently in the process of re-obtaining it. The third and most common reason that a department is not accredited is that no accrediting agency exists for that program.

Dean of Liberal Arts Linda Halisky said often the accrediting programs are for more professionally-oriented majors, such as engineering, but as of right now the departments under the college are accredited or are soon to begin the process for re-accreditation.

"The general view of upper-level administration is if a program can be accredited, if there is an accrediting agency affiliate, they need to be accredited," Halisky said.

Currently, the journalism department is the only major in the process of re-obtaining a accreditation. Halisky lost accreditation in 2001-2002 due to three reasons: lack of diversity within minority and female representation for both students and faculty, governance and administration not meeting academic goals set by the department or engaging in proper leadership and a lack of appropriate equipment facilities and funds, such as a darkroom in the age of digital media.

Since there is not an agency for every major, there are many unaccredited departments at Cal Poly, ranging from mathematics to English. Dean of Science and Math, Philip S. Bailey said in an e-mail that the only accredited department in his college is the College of Education. The other departments in the College of Math and Science have currently no agencies to accredit them.

Halisky also said all of the College of Liberal Arts undergoes program reviews for both the non-accredited and the accredited departments. The reviewers consist of two or three external professors from other CSUs and one internal person from Cal Poly from a different college.

"(The reviewers) come and look at the program and assess it according to their understanding of nation prevailing standards," Halisky said. "We take the recommendations of those program reviewers very seriously and where they suggest there might be improvements.

Another department that does not have an accrediting agency is agriculture business, which according to the Department of Agribusiness website, is the largest agriculture business program in the United States. The agriculture department overall does not have an accrediting body, but there are some majors within the college that are specifically accredited such as agriculture education and communication. Dean of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences David Wehner said all the programs in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences are accredited, except they be by, "No one has had it and lost it," Wehner said. "All programs that can be accredited are.

Wehner said the importance of accreditation depends on the major. For example, if forestry wasn't an accredited major there would be fewer job opportunities for graduates. According to the Web site for the Society of American Foresters, self-certification of the state licensure boards require that applicants have graduated from an accredited program. In other industries, accreditation does not impact the employment potential of graduates.

Journalism Chair Bill Loving has worked for both non-accredited and accredited journalism departments and deals with questions regarding accreditation frequently from prospective students and parents.

"Accreditation status of a department doesn't affect careers. (It) won't hurt students from a job," Loving said. "(People) get jobs from what they have learned and how they demonstrate what they have learned." Loving said non-accreditation may hurt a major's status and influence the determination of future students and parents more than it hurts current and past students.

"A lack of accreditation means the journal major department) cannot apply for certain federal grants," he said. "Because meeting some standards often requires spending money (to improve printing facilities for graphic design, for instance), a department can apply for certain federal funds to help keep up accreditation standards. Other departments such as the Orfalea College of Business pays to remain accredited, since they cannot acquire money from being accredited.

"(Accreditation) costs us money," said Dave Christy, dean of the Orfalea College of Business. "These organizations don't have money per se. We have to keep earning this (accreditation). We spend money as a school to keep being accredited."

Maintaining accreditation can be expensive. For example, Christy said Orfalea pays for proper resources such as conferences for staff since "it is better to be accredited than not."

"(Accreditation) is a signal of quality; it attracts good students; it attracts better students," Christy said. "Your alumni, they are more likely to support the school."

Cal Poly child development graduate Jenisa Segura said nobody asked her about accreditation when she looked for work.

"I attended Cal Poly for both my undergraduate and master's degree, but I didn't even know about being accredited," she said. "My job never said anything about it. I was hired without any problem."

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Mustang Daily News
Thursday, February 11, 2010

MUSTANG DAILY
CORRECTIONS
The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring community. We appreciate your readership and are thankful for your careful reading. Please send your correction suggestions to mustangdaily@gmail.com.

- On Monday, the Mustang Daily incorrectly printed that the WASC Open Forum would take place in University Union, Room 218. The correct room number is 206.
Jim Puzanghera  

WASHINGTON — A snowstorm Wednesday didn’t keep Federal Reserve Chairman Ben S. Bernanke from outlining how the central bank might pull back its unprecedented intervention in the U.S. economy. But how exactly the long-vaunted exit strategy would be deployed was obscured in a blaze of ambiguities.

“Although at present the U.S. economy continues to require the support of highly accommodative monetary policies, at some point the Federal Reserve will need to tighten financial conditions by raising short-term interest rates and reducing the quantity of bank reserves outstanding,” Bernanke wrote in prepared testimony for a hearing Wednesday by the House Financial Services Committee.

The hearing to address the Fed’s exit strategy was postponed because of a major snowstorm in Washington, but the Fed released Bernanke’s testimony anyway. He provided new details of how the Fed might scale back the steps it had taken to keep credit flowing in the wake of the financial crisis without pushing the U.S. economy back into recession.

But although Bernanke talked a lot about what the Fed could do, he said little about when it might do it, sprinkling his remarks with vague terms, such as “in due course” and “at some point.”

“We have spent considerable effort in developing the tools we will need to remove policy accommodation, and we are fully confident that at the appropriate time we will be able to do so effectively,” he said.

Bernanke said one area the Fed was focusing on was the money banks were holding as reserves. At the height of the crisis in the fall of 2008, Congress gave the central bank the authority to pay interest on such funds as a way of stabilizing the banking system. By increasing the interest rate on those reserves, the Fed would push up all short-term interest rates from their historic lows.

Although that could increase borrowing costs to consumers and businesses, it would allow the Fed to tighten the money supply to prevent inflation as the economy recovers.

The Fed also is intent on reducing the reserves held by banks, which would free up more money for lending. The Fed is looking at expanding so-called reverse re-purchase agreements, which allow banks to drain some of their reserves, and allowing banks to convert reserves into something “roughly analogous to certificates of deposit” that could be used to meet short-term liquidity needs, Bernanke said.

But Bernanke was vague on when it might use those tools, and in what order, suggesting the Fed might start slowly. Lawmakers likely will press him for details when the hearing takes place.

“The sequencing of steps and the combination of tools that the Federal Reserve uses as it exits from its currently very accommodative policy stance will depend on economic and financial developments,” Bernanke said. “One possible sequence would involve the Federal Reserve continuing to test its tools for draining reserves on a limited basis, in order to further ensure preparedness and to give market participants a period of time to become familiar with their operation. As the time for the removal of policy accommodation draws near, those operations could be phased down at a slower pace.”

The hearing Wednesday is expected to be the central bank’s most important since the financial crisis. As the world’s biggest economy, the United States is the Fed’s main focus, and its economic performance will have a significant impact on the rest of the world.

The central bank has been using a wide range of tools to support the U.S. economy, from extending emergency loans to financial institutions to purchasing trillions of dollars in mortgage-backed securities and Treasuries. The Fed has been signaling since last August that it will begin to withdraw support, but it is not clear how or when it will do so.

Bernanke and other Fed officials have said the central bank will start by reducing the amount of emergency funding it provides to financial institutions.

The central bank’s ultimate goal is to tighten monetary policy, which involves raising short-term interest rates and reducing the amount of money in circulation. It is not yet clear how quickly the Fed will begin to raise short-term interest rates or how high they will eventually rise.

But Bernanke said the central bank will need to start reducing the amount of money in circulation because the economy is growing faster than expected, and there are signs that inflation pressures are mounting.

The Federal Reserve Chairman Ben S. Bernanke spoke of changes he suggests to the central bank to improve the U.S. economy on Wednesday.

Washingotn Post

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Toyota may redesign keyless ignition

Ken Benninger and Ralph Vartabedian

LOS ANGELES — Amid widening recall crisis, Toyota Motor Corp. said it has moved closer to adopting changes to its push-button ignition system to give drivers an added margin of safety if their vehicles accelerate out of control.

High-level officials at the company's headquarters in Japan are considering redesigning Toyota's keyless ignition system, known as Smart Key, to allow drivers to shut off the engine in an emergency by holding the button three times in a row.

Company spokesman Brian Lyons said: "It would not be part of a recall at this time, and would create jobs in the U.S. currently offer keyless ignition systems, compared to 41 five years ago, yet there are essentially no federal or industry standards regulating the technology.

As part of that report, the Times noted that Toyota was considering changing the operation of the push-button system. News that those discussions had advanced to a specific potential remedy was first reported Wednesday by Consumer Reports.

Paul Green, a human factors expert at the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute, said Toyota and other manufacturers have designed push-button start systems with very little, if any, published research about how consumers naturally expect such systems should operate.

Green said if Toyota now rushes a redesign into production without any new research, "it is really risky."

Last month NHTSA told the Times that it was studying whether to impose federal rules on keyless ignition systems, and a committee of the Society of Automotive Engineers has been meeting every month since July to weigh industry standards that would make their operation uniform across all vehicles.

In his discussions with the industry, Green said engineers have built in delays to engine shut down of concern that a child may push a power button and turn off the engine. Another concern of automakers is that the driver may accidentally shut down the engine if power buttons can be activated by a single momentary touch.

But those concerns force the in­dustry to balance the risk of two rare events, Green said, a driver who has

Google to build high-speed broadband network

Jessica Guynn and Tiffany Hsu

SAN FRANCISCO — In an ambitious bid to revolutionize how consumers use the Internet, technology giant Google Inc. said it will build a network that would be 100 times faster than what is available for many users today.

Entering territory tightly controlled by telecommunications carriers, Google announced Wednesday that it will build and test an experimental high-speed fiber-optic network that could be available in several communities and reach as many as 500,000 people. The service could be available as early as next year, an analyst said.

Consumers in those communities will be able to sign up for the service, which would offer connection speeds of 1 gigabit per second, the company said.

Many high-speed home Internet connections operate at less than 10 megabits per second.

The possibility of becoming Google's test case immediately set off a flurry of interest among consumers and businesses frustrated with the high cost and low speed of current services. West Sacra­mento, Calif., Portland, Ore., and Houston, among other cities, have already set up "Bring Google Fi­ber" groups on Facebook.

"Google is trying to create a broadband utopia," Forrester Research analyst Doug Williams said. "It wants to show regulators, government officials and other service providers what's possible if you follow this model."

Analysts say Google is using

Complimentary copies of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL will be available to all Cal Poly SLO students, faculty and staff on Saturdays only.

The papers will be available at the front entrance doors to the Cal Poly Library. Papers will begin on Saturday, January 23rd and will continue through the winter and spring terms.

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DOWJONES
Where did you attend school?

"I got my undergraduate degree from Purdue University, M.A., and Ph.D. from University of Michigan."

What is the greatest satisfaction you get from teaching?

"The intellectual interaction with bright students, usually in the form of arguing about whatever."

What is your favorite thing about Cal Poly?

"Location, but I was also attracted by the scientific and technological orientation—similar to Purdue, and as philosophy of science has been a methodological theme in my published research."

A fine former student of mine, a CE major, recently went to Purdue for grad school. I thought that was quite cool. Many of my best philosophy students for years here have been either ME, CS or pre-med.

What would you like your students to learn from you?

"My students should learn, not only important elements in the history of philosophy—including its contemporary developments and applications—but much more importantly themselves, and their own worldviews, and values, in reaction to all of that."

Where are you when you aren’t teaching?

"In the philosophy of science has been a technological orientation—both can be sure that I would figure out something to do with it."

What kind of music do you listen to?

"Soft rock makes me puke. Perhaps you’re aspired as much just from topophobia, the subtle little dormant retro-hippie in me that’s jumped out after all these years."

What was the last book you read? Or favorite book?

"The last was a book in German on history, in relation to political philosophy. My ‘favorite’ is always the one I’m reading at the moment."

What is the funniest thing you have experienced?

"Just about any of my encounters with Cal Poly administrators and/or department heads."

Do you have a funny, inspiring, crazy or interesting teacher you want to know more about? Send teacher suggestions to: mustangdailywire@gmail.com
Network continued from page 5

its political clout and deep pockets to show regulators and lawmakers the promise of speed and access in an industry historically in the tight grip of telecommunications carriers.

Google, which operates the world’s most popular search engine, has grown into a technology powerhouse with territories spreading into a wide variety of devices and services, but has no plans to invest tens of billions into rolling out a nationwide network, the company said. Instead Google is hoping that its experimental network would prod cable and phone companies to offer cheaper, speedier access on a broader scale, said Mike Jude, an analyst at research firm Frost & Sullivan.

Google would not say how much it would spend on the project, but Broadband Access Tech analyst Ben Schachter estimated it could cost anywhere from $60 million to $1.6 billion, which would put only a slight dent in Google’s cash reserves of about $25 billion. Google plans to pay for the network without government subsidies.

“We are putting our money where our mouth is,” Google product manager Minnie Ingersoll said.

Google has urged the Federal Communications Commission to encourage such experiments. FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski applauded Google’s “Big broadband creates big opportunities,” he said in a statement.

The FCC set up a task force to propose a national broadband plan, which is due out next month. The task force has estimated that it could cost up to $350 billion to upgrade networks. The plan is expected to call for releasing more wireless spectrum for broadband use.

Google has a track record of flexing its muscle to overturn obstacles to open, unfettered Internet access. In 2008, Google bid more than $4 billion in a government auction for wireless spectrum. More recently it has lobbied in Washington for greater availability of wireless spectrum and for net neutrality.

Google is making big moves elsewhere in the telecommunications industry. Last month, it debuted a touch-screen mobile phone called Nexus One and opened an online store to sell it. In 2008, Google invested in Clearwire, which provides Internet access using a technology called WiMax.

The National Cable & Telecommunications Association said Wednesday that it would “look forward to learning more” about Google’s test program. The trade group, whose members include Time Warner Cable and Comcast Corp., said the cable industry plans to spend billions of dollars on top of the $161 billion it has already invested over 13 years in a national broadband infrastructure, which is currently available to 92 percent of homes. Verizon said it alone was investing $23 billion in its fiber-optic network.

Industry watchers said they hoped Google’s entry into the marketplace would spur competition and innovation but tempered their enthusiasm. In most places across the country, consumers have one or two options for high-speed Internet, usually from their cable or telephone provider. Service providers have been pouring tens of billions of dollars into upgrading their networks, but the speeds they are aiming for are not nearly as fast as what Google is proposing. Until now there has been little competitive pressure to force providers to take more aggressive action.

“The promise it represents is exciting,” said Ed Black, chief executive of the non-profit Computer & Communications Industry Association. “But people shouldn’t assume that this means we’ll suddenly have an amazing new player.”
V-Day celebrates global movement to end violence against women

V-Day event hosted by Women's Programs and Services Wednesday.

Buttons like the one pictured above were passed out to attendees of the event to highlight the global movement to end violence against women and present scenes from the upcoming Vagina Monologues.

"V-Day was founded in 1998 by playwright and activist Eve Ensler, the creator and star of the original Vagina Monologues. It occurs near Valentine’s Day annually.

“The ‘V’ in V-Day stands for vagina, victory over violence and Valentine’s Day,” said Katie McCorrime, a student assistant at the Women’s Programs office. “A lot of beautiful words begin with ‘V’ – voluptuous, vulva, vulnerability, volcanic.”

V-Day usually spotlights a different country each year, but for the second year the campaign has continued to focus its attention on the Democratic Republic of Congo, where some of the most vicious examples of violence against women occur.

Rape is used as a weapon of war in the Congo to torture and humiliate women and girls, according to the V-day.org Web site. Survivors often suffer in silence, fearing stigmas and ostracism. In addition to the severe psychological impact, many survivors are left with genital lesions and other physical wounds, as well as unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections.

“There is a moment. We are creating a template for advocacy of beautiful words begin with ‘V’ and using it to make a difference.”

St. Peter’s brewery sticks to tradition

Hey! Hey you, scanning the pages of the newspaper between classes. Yeah, I’m talking to you. Why don’t you stay and hang out here a while. Let’s talk beer. Or rather, I’ll talk beer and if nobody is around, I suppose you can talk back. Weirdo. Anyway, this week’s topic is going to be interesting beers. Different kinds. Special kinds.

Today’s beers hail all the way from Suffolk, England! That’s right, I’m studying abroad this week. Well not really, but just go with it.

The brewery I took my selections from is St. Peter’s. As such, I have to assume that this beer is blessed by some holy entity. I mean, he may not be one of the patron saints of beer, but even if the beer itself isn’t blessed, its creators must have been blessed with a desire to be different and have some creativity.

In a world of super technology and “new and improved,” St. Peter’s brewery chose to return to the simpler times of beer. Their Web site, though poorly made (perhaps it’s just showing how unmodern they are), communicates their desire to make more traditional beers. Even their really cool-looking bottle is a replica of one that was made in 1770.

That being said, the two beers may not be what you think of when you think traditional. Today’s tastes are for the niches. The first is St. Peter’s Organic English Ale and the second is St. Peter’s Sorgham Beer. Read on to figure out what this actually means.

I’ll begin organically. This one is an odd beer to see poured. With very little carbonation, there is nearly no head on the beer. It is also dark amber in appearance and slightly cloudy.

Upon getting a whiff of this unique beer, one finds it to have a very citrusy aroma. Its taste is along the same lines with a citrus hop flavor. It really reminds me of that half lemon soda, half beer that I tasted from Stiegl. Remember, the Radler Lemon? It’s not quite as weak in alcohol content, but it’s still refreshing. Oh, and this one doesn’t have any soda in it. Anywho, both citrusy and refreshing, enjoy this beer when we finally get some warm weather again. It’s freakin’ cold.

Next up is another special beer out of St. Peter’s brewery. This beer is called Sorgham Beer and it is made from sorghum. What does that mean? I have absolutely no idea. Rather, I didn’t have any idea before I met with my old friend, Google. Turns out it’s a genus of some grass species, some of which can be raised for beer.

see Beer, page 10
Happy Valentine's Day from the Mustang Daily!

Dear Roomies, You guys are my lobsters! Happy V-Day! Love, Amanda

Michelle and Courtney, Hope you find your bird with shorts. Love, Megan

Let's hear it for the ladies.

Dear Claudia Abrishami, I <3 you. You are my gurl. Love Dante

Vaiorie, Be my valentine? <3, "G"

You're the Mario to my Luigi! I love you Jess! Love, Jenelle

Dante: isn't he N/O/S/T/A/L/G/I/C? — Keiko

Laurel! You are awesome! Thanks for being the Daily's biggest fan! —Parah

Pippi, You always have the handsomest pigtails. —Your sweetie

Yellow House Ladles, Love you all! Good luck next year! —"G"

Chris, Thank you for letting me borrow these lovely birds for this page.

MD AEs: Happy Valentine's Day! You guys are the best staff ever! Thanks for all you do! XOXO —Stephanie

The ladies of Alpha Phi Omega. We would be nothing without you. —The Boys

Dear Keiko, You are my cb-ch-ch pasta salad, my best pork friend, my soulmate.

Dear Aniza Imran I infinite I love you. You are my sister. Love Dante

To Nao and Markko: Kondo ha Ekonomiyaki Syou! —Keiko

Joy, Happy Valentine's Day! We love you! —SCS

Travis, Two years and you're still my best friend. Love you, Kate

Ken, Ellen Rachell; Welcome & Happy Valentine's Day! —Stephanie

David Hernandez, I love you. We are lovers & we are homosexuals. Love Dante

Firefly, you're the best valentine a girl could ask for. Love, Jennifer

Dear Sarah and Bethany, your mitten love warms my heart. Love you!

Dear Jenna, You are the best roomie ever! Love, Mr. Flintstone

Mustang Daily: Thanks for being so welcoming and "loving," you all make me love my job! :) —Stephanie

"Nothing takes the taste out of peanut butter quite like unrequited love." —Charlie Brown

Dear Quyen Trieu, I <3 many of your sweaters. We are coworkers. Love Dante

Rick Salomon, Thank you, thank you, thank you for everything. Love, bldg 34

"Gravitation can not be held responsible for people falling in love." —Einstein

Daniel Park You're sweet like honey I love you lots

To my favorite girls: you both are the best! I love you!

Dear Katie, You are wonderful. Love, ASIA

Giana, You are my sunshine, my only sunshine, you make me happy when skies are grey.
V-Day
continued from page 8
and movement building that we can apply worldwide. If we can end violence against women and girls in the DRC, we can end it everywhere," Euler said in V-Day's 2009 annual report.
A lack of resources deterred a local response to support survivors, the report read.
But another, less visible issue prevails against women — society's expectation for women to say
"Yes," said Christina Kiviant, assistant coordinator of Women's Programs and Services.
Cal Poly's event included speakers who touched on the importance of dealing with "compassion
fatigue," a common result of helping others and forgetting to care for herself, Kiviant said.
Performers of the upcoming production of Vagina Monologues spoke to the group about what it
means to be in the show.
The Vagina Monologues is a set of women's stories — including "Because he liked to look at it," "The
Flood" and "My Angry Vagina" — that relate to the vagina through sex, love, rape, menstruation,
birth and orgasm. The play has been translated into more than 45 languages and performed in
more than 30 countries.
Ten percent of the proceeds from every production of the monologues is donated to a cause of
the host's choice. Cal Poly Women's Programs selected the North County Women's Shelter
this year.
The Cal Poly production of The Vagina Monologues will be held on Feb. 19, 20 and 21 in the
Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center.
“Valentine’s Day” is nothing new

Christopher Kelly

“Valentine’s Day” certainly goes down easy — provided you’re willing to accept that the people who looks like Anna Hathaway would be employed as an overbooked phone sex operator who conducts her business on a cell phone in public.

Hathaway is the struggling actress who, on the morning of Valentine’s Day, falls out of the bed of a talented agent assistant (Topher Grace), a conventional guy learning to settle down. Meanwhile, at his workplace, one of the agents (Queen Latifah) is dealing with an important client (Eric Dane), an athlete who’s just been cut from his team.

The athlete’s publicist (Jessica Biel) is a neurotic mess who holds an annual Valentine’s Day party for bitter singles, including her school-teacher friend (Jennifer Garner), who this year won’t be able to attend. She has to be dating a doctor (Patrick Dempsey) who’s so perfect, so charming that her best friend (Annie Mumolo) wonders if he’s too good to be true.

Round and round it goes, with new characters popping up every few minutes. Blink and you’ll miss Jamie Foxx, as an ambitious sports-caster, Kaley Cuoco as a hand-nursed producer, and George Lopez as Kutcher’s co-worker. Some of the romantic stories here are barely stories at all, just excuses to reach another demographic. Anyone hoping to discover a pair of brave and original new acting talents in Taylor Swift and Taylor Lautner, playing dopy teen heads over heels in love, will likely be disappointed.

Other plotlines seem intended to place cute young actors in various states of PG-13 rated distress. Witness Carter Jenkins and Emma Roberts both as high school seniors deciding whether or not to have sex for the first time.

But there are also moments of surprising warmth, courtesy of actors lending the material far more credibility than it deserves. Shirley MacLaine and Hector Elizondo play a long-married couple with a secret that threatens to drive them apart. Kutcher is surprisingly palatable as a gay who pops the question to his girlfriend (Jessica Alba) only to have his heart broken.

The storyline that looks like it’s going to be the most annoying — Julia Roberts playing an army captain who meets a handsome, lonely guy, played by Bradley Cooper, on an airplane — takes a pleasantly mysterious turn.

“Valentine’s Day” is directed by Garry Marshall (“Pretty Women,” “Happy Days”), an old Hollywood pro whose size of knee-slapping hilarity tends to be having secondary Hispanic and Indian players do goofy things.

The plot generally restricts itself to the notion of love as it’s experienced by well-educated, mostly white, mostly heterosexual people, an awfully narrow sample set. For all the talk of sex and hooking up, no one gets much play in this movie, least of all the horny teenagers. As in many a Marshall pictures (including even the S&M comedy “Exit to Eden”), this is finally a deeply conservative vision that stresses the importance of monogamy and the sanctity of marriage.

Then again, if it’s a romantic film making you’re after, you’re probably not going to see a movie that periodical resorts to shorn of 3-year-olds kissing to make the audience agh with happiness. And, credit where credit is due, in the bundling of the film’s two gay characters, whose identity is revealed late, in the proceedings, Marshall and screenplay writer Katherine Fugate prove exceedingly shy. They at once exploit the “he-or-she-he-guy” speculation that fuels so much of our collective conversation — and then turn around and say, “Who really cares?” In “Valentine’s Day,” being gay doesn’t make you different at all. It merely earns you an invitation to participate in an over-populated Hollywood rom-com.
The Liberal Lens

by Stephanie England

Created as part of the abolitionist movement, the Republican Party was formed to end slavery. It was the party of Lincoln. It was the party of freedom and equality for all, and it was the party of a progressive social movement on behalf of the voiceless and the powerless.

Charles Sumner led the Republican Party in the Senate from 1863-1875, the first time that Republicans had political power. He was so adamantly opposed to slavery that his words provoked a fellow Senator named Preston Brooks to beat him with a cane until the cane broke and Brooks was beaten unconscious. It took three years for Sumner to recover from the attack and regain his Senate seat.

Had I lived during the 1860s, I’m sure that I would have been a Republican. But when I see today’s Republican Party, I can’t help but notice how far they’ve fallen. Consider, for example, Tom Tancredo, a Tea Party senator who proposes to deport undocumented immigrants. I wonder what Sumner would say to Tancredo, after Sumner nearly lost his life for the abolitionist cause and fought so hard against inequality and for equal voting rights. I also wonder what Sumner would think of the viable movement supporting Tancredo, and the roaring applause he received because of his “civics literacy test” idea.

What used to be the progressive Republican Party is now the regressive Republican Party. I’m not as offended by the idea itself as I am by the support it garnered from the audience and Tancredo’s credo for the historical implications of his statements. If I were a Republican, my understanding of history and my social awareness alone would alienate me from the Tea Party movement — and because of the Republican Party support for the Tea Partiers, it would probably push me to become an independent.

But instead of conservatives feeling alienated from such a regressive, anti-Republican movement as the Tea Party group, conservative leaders seem to be pulled into the fold. On Chris Wallace’s Fox News Sunday (after Tancredo’s speech), Palin said she believed that the Tea Party movement and the Republicans should merge even more than they have, “because the Tea Party movement is quite reflective of what the GOP, the planks in the platforms, are supposed to be about — limited government and more freedom, more respect for equality. That’s what the tea party movement is about. So I think that the two are much entwined.”

I don’t see the Tea Party movement reflecting “more respect for equality,” “more freedom,” or the original values of the Republican Party. As this Tea Party movement continues, it continues unattractive anger, it inspires absurd and fake political discussion, and maybe, worse of all, it is deconstructing and shaming the abolitionist legacy of the Republican Party.

If Summer were alive today, I would ask whether she would still lead the Republican Party in the Senate if she knew what it would become. I don’t double that answer would be yes if she knew that future Republicans would dismantle his life’s work and shame his party’s name.

Stephanie England is a English senior and a Mustang Daily columnist.

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR

Boston Tea Party doesn’t represent Republican Party

People in the White House. Name is Barack Hussein Obama.”

He fought so hard against inequality and for equal voting rights. I also wonder what Sumner would think of the viable movement supporting Tancredo, and the roaring applause he received because of his “civics literacy test” idea.

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LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR

Boston Tea Party doesn’t represent Republican Party
Leaders should defend Internet freedom

Carlos M. Gutierrez

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton deserves a loud and pro-longed round of applause for her staunch defense of Internet freedom at this city's Newsweek ear-lier this month.

Her observations were right on target and particularly timely, coming as they did a few days after Google threatened to withdraw from the booming Chinese mar-ket after discovering that hackers there had launched computer attacks on human rights activists across the globe.

Of course, China is not the only country where the conver-gence of human rights and the Internet results in conflict. For too-many governments are seeking to restrict and even shut down the Internet, deeming it a threat to their own power and survival.

Award-winning Cuban blogger Yoani Sanchez — named one of the world's 100 most influ-en-tial people in 2008, by Time magazine — has had to sneak into Internet cafes in hotels reserved for foreigners in order to post her entries or send them to friends abroad, who post on her behalf. Facing constant harassment by of-ficials, Sanchez has been detained and her husband has been brutally beaten.

American Alan P. Gross, a con-sultant for Development Alter-na-tives Inc., was detained in Cuba last month and accused of threat-en-ing Cuban national security af-ter traveling to the country to as-sist Jewish nonprofit in setting up Internet access for the country's Jewish community. The Ameri-can government should speak out against Gross's continued imprison-ment and defend the rights of this U.S. citizen.

In the last year alone, Tunisia and Uzbekistan have stepped up their censorship of the Internet. Vietnam recently denied its cit-izens access to a popular social net-working site. Only a few weeks ago, Egypt arrested and detained 30 activists and bloggers who shared opinions that dissented from official state policy.

The latest development in China prompted Google to an-nounce it would shut down its Chinese search engine if Beijing tried to impose its own filters. It is increasingly clear that over the long term, economies will only flourish in coun-tries open to ideas from thought-leaders in all nations — and where investors are protected from hackers.

It is critical that investors feel their information is secure. The uncovering of the e-mail accounts of those Chinese activists was only one part of a coordinated hacking campaign that targeted more than 30 other companies, including Adobe, Northrop Grumman and Dow Chemical.

Internet hacking is also an economic issue. If companies feel their proprietary information is not safe, they will not invest. If companies are fearful that they are unable to protect their new ideas, they may be hesitant to innovate at all. Intellectual property, cor-porate strategies and trade secrets must remain secure. Governments, working together, must develop and implement solutions that reduce the risk of increasingly sophisticated abuses and attacks.

As Secretary Clinton pointed out in her speech, the spread of the Internet has created "a new nervous system" for our planet. An unfettered Internet can be the world's highway to freedom, but we must also ensure the Internet does not put private in-formation at undue risk.

A tricky balance, indeed, but, when achieved, could help lead the world from these troubled times into a new age of peace and pros-perity.
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Happy Valentine’s Day
The Mustang Daily

Across
1. Hasbro products
2. They may have titles
9. Sibling rivalry
14. Landing
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32. Shut up
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Basketball

continued from page 16

played against Pacific. Definitely would have liked to come out with a victory of course, but we learned a lot from that game. We learned that we can still compete in the conference, first and foremost to the upcoming six games in conference. And that we can take what we learned from that game and carry it over to the upcoming six games in conference. And it's an opportunity for them to come back and redeem themselves and for us; it's an opportunity to stay in the top half of the conference. And it's a can't-miss proposition.

The NBA is in town, sweating every last detail, and there just isn't any way that this All-Star extravaganza will be anything but an unqualified success. It's a chamber of commerce dream, the biggest party weekend in sports (with thousands of visitors, celebrities, athletes, exotic dancers and hangers-on bringing their dollars into North Texas).

So naturally, All-Star Weekend will be coming back to Dallas and Arlington again soon, right?

David Stern sees this visit to the world's newest, grandest sports playground as a one-shot deal.

"I think it's possible," the commissioner said of a quick return. "But right now, we're viewing it as a place where we're going to set and retire the record for the most people ever to have attended not just an NBA game but a basketball game."

During an exclusive interview with the NBA's midtown Manhattan offices, Stern touched on a variety of subjects but was particularly focused on the Mavericks, their history and this year's marquee event, the 30th All-Star Game and its accompanying events.

It's overwhelming to think about how much has happened since the last All-Star Game was here. Reunion Arena was a still-new, sparkling addition to the city's landscape. The Mavericks were a model franchise for how to build from scratch. The Dow Jones was losing 453 points that year and gas was a whopping 93 cents a gallon.

Since then, the economy has boomed and busted. Gas rose, fell, rose again and fell again. And the last vestiges of Reunion Arena were demolished in November 2009.

Through it all, Stern said, the Mavericks never wobbled, even though they were universally declared the worst sports franchise in the '90s. The Mavericks were never in danger of leaving Dallas.

"Never, never, no chance," Stern said. "Donald (Carter) would never have heard of it. He was devoted to Dallas and Arlington again soon, right?"

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During an exclusive interview

men's basketball

**CAL POLY vs. The Black Birds**

**TODAY,** Feb. 11th at 7 p.m.

**Wrestling**

**CAL POLY vs. The Black Birds**

**F R E E G I V E A W A Y S**

Friday, Feb. 12th at 6:30 p.m.

women's basketball

**CAL POLY vs. The Mustangs**

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Saturday, Feb. 13th at p.m.

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Admission for all Cal Poly Athletic Events is FREE for Cal Poly Students.
**MUSTANG DAILY**

**Men’s basketball tries to regain momentum**

For the Mustangs, it’s time to get down to the basics.

“Our message is really trying to get (the team) back to that point of stop playing the score, stop playing the records, stop looking at the standings, play the game in front of you,” head coach Joe Callero said.

More than halfway into their conference schedule, the Mustangs (8-14, 5-5 Big West) have rolled off four consecutive losses heading into tonight’s match-up against Long Beach State (11-12, 5-5). With five games left in the season, Callero is emphasizing fundamentals.

“What we are looking for is energy, enthusiasm,” Callero said. “We are going to do whatever we need to try and just get some energy into the team.”

In their previous contest against Pacific, Callero referred to the Mustangs starting lineup to try and add a spark to the team. Senior guard Lonness Keeler was moved to point guard, sophomore forward David Hanson saw playing time at center and senior guard Charles Anderson started. Although the Mustangs suffered a 67-61 loss with a new set of starters, Callero saw the game as a step in the right direction.

“I told the players, ‘Your playing time is earned every day on the practice floor,’” Callero said. “‘Whatever we need you to do, you need to do it.’”

Sophomore forward Jordan Lewis scored 16 points off the bench in the Mustangs match-up against Long Beach State earlier this season. Sophomore forward David Hanson scored a game-high 22 points.

“Last time we played them they really fired up to play us at their place,” head coach Faith Mimnaugh said. “They are one of the teams that have struggled through losing streaks before, but he said this team is really fired up to play us at their place.”

Junior guard Rachel Clancy was awarded Big West Player of the Week honors last week. Clancy had the hot hand, scoring nine of 12 three-point attempts in the past two games.

“I think (our team) realizes that they’re playing really good basketball and everyone is going be trying to knock them off the top perch,” Mimnaugh said. “They are one of the better teams in the league.”

Mimnaugh admits a Big West title will depend on maintaining the same level of play the team has brought to the court the past two games.

“I think our (team) realizes that they’re playing really good basketball and everyone is going be trying to knock them off the top perch,” Mimnaugh said. “They have been struggling on the inside with some of our personnel. For our three-point shooters to kind of take over and pick up some of the slack we have missed on some of our inside scoring, I think this has been instrumental to our success this far.”

Junior forward Kristina Santiago, who tallied a career-high 15 rebounds against Long Beach in Jan.,-knowns that the team won’t be handed any wins in upcoming weeks.

“Just because we beat them by a lot last time, that doesn’t mean its going to turn out the same way,” Santiago said. “I know they are going to come out playing hard. It is going to be a dogfight.”

“Last time we played them they showed us this really funky defense that caught us off guard at the start, but we we’re able to turn it against them and had a great team win,” Clancy said.

Continually recognized as a team player, Santiago emphasized how being on the 49ers radar has helped her teammates fill some important roles. In that game, 14 players recorded at least two points for Cal Poly.

“Overall that game they thought me and Rachel were pretty much the biggest threat on the court, but they opened up so many options of our offense,” Santiago said. “I highly doubt that they will do that again.”

Following tonight’s game, Cal Poly plays Saturday at home against UC Riverside (7-3) at home Saturday.

“Winning on the road this weekend is an important part of our season,” Santiago said.

“Winning on the road is very important for us.”

**Women’s basketball looks to stay atop the Big West**

Continuedly recognized as a team player, Santiago emphasized how being on the 49ers radar has helped her teammates fill some important roles. In that game, 14 players recorded at least two points for Cal Poly.

“How we played them they showed us this really funky defense that caught us off guard at the start, but we we’re able to turn it against them and had a great team win,” Clancy said.

Senior guard Brittany Lange (above) ranks fourth in the Big West in three-point field goal percentage with a .514 average.
The Graduate

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