Students, faculty protest budget cuts
Public education advocates turn out for March 4 events nationwide

Katie Grady
MUSTANG DAILY

"Fire the politicians, not the teachers" read one woman's sign at a rally outside Sen. Abel Maldonado's office in San Luis Obispo, one of hundreds of events that took place all over California and the rest of the nation on March 4, "a day of action for public education."

Nationwide reports cited protest arrests, shutdown freeways, and police using pepper spray to disperse crowds and car windows were broken throughout the 17 states that held protests.

For Cal Poly, the day began with a walk-out at 10:30 a.m. where a brigade of roughly 120 students, faculty and staff met at Dexter Lawn to march to the Administration building. In front of the building, Jane Lehr, assistant ethnic studies professor, and Jose Montelongo, of the office of education, spoke out against budget cuts. Students also spoke, including social science sophomore Jose Montenegro, an organizer for the day's events and member of the group "United to Save Public Education" at Cal Poly.

Their demands included admission for all eligible CSU students, democratization of the university and ending furloughs, pay-cuts, tuition hikes and lack of class availability.

The group then went to the third floor of the administration building to talk to Provost Robert Koob. Montenegro said Koob was reluctant to answer questions at first, but ended up marching with the group.

"It shows what organized students can do," Montenegro said. "I think they were energized that something was finally being done."

Montenegro's advice for student involvement beyond March 4 is to read up and stay educated on budget cuts.

Following the rally, the group traveled back to Dexter Lawn where anyone was invited to discuss concerns about budget cuts and how to improve the situation.

At 2 p.m. there was a teach-in at the University Union on how to protest, page 2

Former Israeli soldier speaks on hope for peace in Middle East

Zach Lantz
MUSTANG DAILY

Nobel Peace Prize nominee Jeff Halper spoke to Cal Poly students about his ideas for peace between Israel and Palestine Wednesday. Nominated for his peace activism in 2006, Halper talked about his experiences in Israel and what he thinks needs to be done to achieve stability in the region.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been one of the most intensely-covered world events in recent history. People on both sides of the conflict claim rights to the land between the east side of the Mediterranean Sea and Jordan River. During the Six-Day War in 1967, Israel captured multiple territories in the region including the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Since then, Israel has periodically moved settlers into those territories.

According to Halper, this transportation of settlers creates a situation where a conflict exists between Arab and Jewish people, making it difficult to find a solution.

Local residents raise $13,000 by bowling

Sean Hanrahan
MUSTANG DAILY

The third annual Bowl for Kids' Sake event, organized by Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Luis Obispo County, attracted more than 300 children of all ages — from 3 to 76 — Sunday at Mustang Lanes to celebrate an annual fundraising campaign.

An estimated $13,000 has been donated but final numbers have yet to be released.

Fifty-four six-member teams signed up for two-hour windows to bowl between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.
Protest
continued from page 1

budget cuts affect students.
Not everyone was on-board with the walk-out or missing class for the day's events. Jason Iijima, a biomedical engineering senior, said: "Walking out of class was not the most effective solution to make a statement about our education system. "If the problem is that we're not getting a good education with budget cuts and what not, to walk out on class is to further deprive ourselves of education," Iijima said. "When you're taking out thousands of dollars for loans, your classes seem a little more valuable."

Iijima said he found out about the day of action from a flyer he was handed while standing in a line of roughly 300 students and faculty who waited for hours to get free burritos at the restaurant Chipotle's mock grand opening. Most of the students were throwing the flyers on the ground, Iijima said.

On March 4, the crowd waiting for free burritos was larger than the one that stood in front of Sen. Maldonado's office to fight for education just a few blocks away. About 200 individuals, including Cuesta students, Cal Poly students, K-12 students, community members, teachers and academic professionals marched outside the building for two hours. They chanted phrases like "Education is a human right, and teachers are here to fight" before listening to speeches from students to public educators to Sen. Maldonado himself.

The first to approach the senator's steps was Glen Thorncraft, vice president for the California Faculty Association. He said the size of the crowd was way more than they anticipated. Some points made in Thorncraft's speech included the CSU system cutting 40,000 students from enrollment and students paying 182% more for their education since 2000.

"It's a scary prospect if we don't invest in education," Thorncraft said. "We may be the canary in a coal mine."

Senator Maldonado then spoke briefly.

"I support and I agree with what you're doing here," Maldonado said. "I hope Sacramento is hearing you right now."

Eric Fernandez, architectural engineering junior at Cal Poly and member of the "United to Save Public Education" group spoke as well. "Our leaders have forced me to miss class in order to demand my education back," Fernandez said. He also talked about furloughs creating an incomplete education and the effects of classes being cut.

"They deny us classes of liberal arts ... further throwing us into a factory, making drones out of us."

"We're not robots," a protestor yelled from the crowd.

Maldonado then spoke briefly.

"I don't want them to cut my classes. I'm pissed," she said.

The group trickled off the sidewalk around 5 p.m. as the lone police car parked across the street drove away.

News editor: Kate McIntyre
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Monday, March 8, 2010

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Bowling
continued from page 1
at Cal Poly's bowling alley.

Frankie helps keep me young.

...Volunteering here gets me involved with a young person.

—Susan Howe
Orchesist, Big Sister

on behalf of Founders Community Bank in San Luis Obispo, an event sponsor, to support her friend Dav-

id Aakberg, who works with her and Big Brothers Big Sisters. We all support one another," Mulinsky said. "That's what this is all about."

Bowl for Kids' Sake started three years ago with 17 teams, grew to 27 teams last year and now hit 84. Each team member was asked to raise $75, a minimum of $875 per team.

"The money goes mainly to matches," said development di-

rector Ken Keho, referring to the process of finding Big Brother, Big Sister pairs like Frankie and Susan. "A lot of it helps afford background screenings, support for volunteers, and ensuring child safety."

With little government funding, Big Brothers Big Sisters, a non-

profit organization, is supported by its donors and volunteers. All men-

ters act as volunteers.

Beginning at 10, the morning included a competition between local media KZOZ and KCOY team members.

"We got to see a picture with Armen," said Brody 9, relying on his face time with KCOY news anchor, Armen Santiago.

Mike Hall, resident of Arroyo Grande, is Brody's Big Brother and sits on the board of directors.

"I knew getting involved would give me an opportunity to meet and interact with a young person," said Hall.

"Having been in a 'dark place in the past,' said Hall, he is now able to mentor someone like Brody which is encouraging. "I put my mind to doing something valuable and meeting Brody has been wond-

erful," he said.

The two, 40 years apart in age, enjoy sports and outdoor activi-

ties, especially hunting and fish-

ing, both of which they did recently together. Bowling was right down their alley.
States weigh in on sales tax on services

Paula M. Prah  MCT CLAIRE KHERNOPOULOS
WASHINGTON — Paula Prah, a licensed cosmetologist for 44 years, says Michigan’s proposed tax on hair salon services could stifle an already-élusive industry and push more stylists to foreign countries.

States currently don’t tax.

“I don’t have a good answer,” she said. “There has to be a better way, what I don’t know, but what do we pay these government people for if they can’t figure it out?”

Hardpressed like Hahn are funeral home directors and other businesses that are waging in Pennsylvania against sweeping proposals to add sales taxes to an array of services that are currently don’t tax.

With tax revenues at a historic low and federal stimulus dollars drying up, states like Michigan and Pennsylvania are eyeing adding a sales tax to some of the 180 services that states could be taxing, ranging from pet grooming and dogboarding services to dental and legal services.

“The change would be a fundamental shift in state tax systems, but the proposals are already running into stiff opposition from the business community,” Kendell said.

“There is little rhyme or reason why we tax some items or services and wholly exempt others, except that in years past someone lobbied to secure favored treatment for themselves at the expense of others,” Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell said when he unveiled a sweeping proposal that would provide the basic sales tax rate to 6 percent to 4 percent, but would apply it to 74 goods and services currently exempted. The package from the term-limited former mayor of Philadelphia encompasses personal and business services, including funeral homes, advertising, accounting and plumbing services.

“First, if you do your own laundry, the laundry detergent is subject to the sales tax. But if you have your laundry done, it’s sales-tax free,” Kendell said.

“States have long taxed goods, like cars and appliances, since the 1930s, bringing in nearly 35 percent of the general revenue for the 45 states that have a sales tax. (Alaska, Delaware, Montana, New Hampshire and Oregon don’t have one.)”

But the shift in the US economy from producing goods to services has meant fewer tax dollars flowing into states that have been slow to revenue each year, a 3 percent increase in sales tax receipts.

Some two-thirds of the country’s $1.5 trillion economy is services-related, most of which states don’t tax, says Sujit Canagarajah, a senior fiscal analyst at the Council of State Governments. He said taxing services “invades state tax systems into the 21st century” and away from the outdated system that states have used for the last 70 years.

California, Illinois, Massachusetts and Virginia probably could increase their sales tax revenue by more than a third if they broadly

There is little rhyme or reason why we tax some items or services and wholly exempt others, except that in years past someone lobbied to secure favored treatment for themselves at the expense of others.

—Michael Scrippa Pennsylvania Gov. Gov. Jennifer Granholm, who is once again trying to levy a sales tax on certain services — even though her 2007 tax on some services lasted just six hours before it was dumped.

Granholm, a Democrat who is in her last year in office because of term limits, says her new plan will hopefully have a better shot, because it’s “modeled after something the business leaders of Michigan have said is something they would like to see happen.” But she admits, “it’s going to be a tough sell.”

On the other hand, the Business Leaders for Michigan, a group of top executives from the state’s largest businesses, says Granholm’s proposal doesn’t go far enough, fast enough to make it more competitive.

Likewise, State Rep. Tonya Schuitmaker, a Republican, says the governor’s proposal is better than her earlier attempt, but the latest version still “places a target on the back of everyday taxpayers, the people who are struggling most in our economy. People who can least afford a tax hike.”

Kentucky and North Carolina are among other states where taxing services is on the agenda.

Gail Pedretti, an economist with the Tax Foundation, says that, in theory, most economists support a broader tax base and lower rates. “But it’s very political how it is done,” which brings up the issue of fairness.

A sales tax, he says, should tax final sale, not a good or service in a business’s supply chain. For example, a sales tax on a financial service that a business pays would get added to the price of that business’s product, which essentially then would result in a tax on a tax, he says.

He calls another tax measure that Maine voters will take up this June “imperfect.” While lowering the state income tax rate, it would expand sales taxes to an array of services — but specifically exempt some. It excludes hairdressers, for example, a lucrative business in the state that is clearly a “final sale and service” that Maine voters will weigh in on the new tax because of intense opposition from businesses and Republicans. As soon as the Democratic legislature approved and Democratic Governor John Baldacci signed the sweeping tax changes in law last June, the GOP started gathering signatures to repeal it.

“It’s a giant tax shift,” said Jay Finegan, a spokesman for the House Republican leadership. He says the new tax would place a burden on thousands of businesses that never had to collect sales tax before. Plus, Maine’s neighbor, New Hampshire, doesn’t have a sales tax, which will encourage people to cross the state border to get work done cheaper. “It’s a sham,” he says.

Pennsylvania state Rep. Stan Saylor, a Republican, agreed that expanding the sales tax to more services needs to be considered as the US enters more of a service economy. “However, such a proposal should not be debated on the grounds of generating more tax revenue for government spending,” Saylor said. “It should be debated on the principles of good tax policy. Unfortunately, that is not what is happening in Pennsylvania.”

Saylor, a member of the General Director Association, which represents 1,100 of the 1,600 licensed cosmetologists in the state, opposes the proposed tax on its business, which it calls a tax on families in mourning. “In a tight economy, grieving families don’t need to face the added charge of sales taxes on funeral services and merchandise at the time of death of a loved one,” the group said.

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JERUSALEM — Vice President Joe Biden is scheduled to arrive in Jerusalem Monday, topping off a string of high-profile visitors who appear to have succeeded in pushing reluctant Israeli and Palestinian leaders back to the negotiating table — or at least to separate tables.

Palestinian leaders announced over the weekend they had approved a proposal for indirect negotiations with Israel through U.S. mediators. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu voiced his support last week in a statement to the Knesset, Israel's parliament, saying the "time was ripe for peace."

The two parties are expected to issue a declaration within days announcing their participation in four months of peace talks, a deadline the Arab League set last week. "We've been working hard in the region for several months to create the kind of political support that the parties will need if they make the decision to enter into discussions," state Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said after the Arab League voted to back negotiations last week.

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Although they'll end a 14-month hiatus in negotiations, there's a biblical flood of skepticism about the talks, in large part because this is the first time in 16 years that Israeli and Palestinian leaders won't talk to one another directly, but instead rely on the Americans to carry messages between them.

Both sides face serious internal divisions, as well. Netanyahu leads a largely right-wing coalition that has resisted the concessions that would be required to move down the internationally recognized road map for creating an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas is bunting the political schism that was created when the militant Islamic group Hamas took over the Gaza Strip in June 2007, effectively different Palestinian governments in Gaza and the West Bank.

In an article called "Talks to Nowhere" in the newspaper Yehomat Ahronot, veteran commentator Shimon Shiffer wrote that the proximity talks "only demonstrate just how high runs the wall of alienation between them. It is difficult to believe that the mediator is going to succeed in bridging the deep chasms that separate them in the four months that have been allocated."

"We think it's unlikely that these indirect negotiations with the Netanyahu government will succeed, but we want to give an opportunity to the U.S. administration to continue its efforts," said Azzam al-Abdul, a senior Fatah official.

Writing in the Egyptian newspaper Al Ahram, Dina Elzatt said in the Arab world "the most optimistic and moderate peace process diplomat in the region — when approached off the record — gave indirect talks close to zero chance of producing a peace deal."

"There has been fantastic pressure placed on us by the Americans," said a Foreign Ministry official, who spoke anonymously because he wasn't free to discuss the talks before they've been announced. "This is clearly something that the Obama administration feels needs to happen, and they are frustrated that they have not yet gotten everyone smiling around a table."

Netanyahu, the official said, had accepted the principle of two states, but he opposes many of the concessions to a future Palestinian state that previous Israeli administrations had tabled.

While former prime minister Ehud Olmert said at the end of his term that Israel would need to recognize a Palestinian state "around the 1967 borders," Netanyahu has resisted discussing any Israeli withdrawal from Jewish settlement blocs on land earmarked for a future Palestinian state.

U.S. Middle East envoy George Mitchell, a former Democratic senator from Maine, was in Jerusalem this weekend to prepare for Biden's visit, which will be the highest-level visit to the area by an Obama administration official.

Walking into a meeting with Netanyahu Sunday, Mitchell said the goal of the talks is a "credible, serious, constructive process that will accomplish the objective which we all share: a comprehensive peace in the Middle East."
State
SAN LUIS OBISPO (MCT) — Officials in two South County cities want to use redevelopment money to help build a shelter to serve the homeless population in the region.

But first, those in organizations working toward helping the hundreds of homeless people living in the South County have to determine what should be built, where it should be constructed and how it will be funded and maintained.

Another need is to win state support to take funds set aside for low- and moderate-income housing and allow the money to be used instead to fund emergency shelters.

Los Angeles (MCT) — Federal officials said Sunday that they have shut down the Los Angeles bus company involved in a crash that killed six people in Arizona as records revealed that the company had skirted government regulation, ignored a poor safety record and was operating off the books.

Tiera Santa Inc. President Cayetano Martinez signed a consent decree Friday acknowledging that his company never had federal authorization required to transport passengers over state lines, according to court documents released Sunday.

National
NEW YORK (MCT) — Cablevision said Sunday afternoon it is willing to enter into binding arbitration with Disney, to help end an impasse that has left 3 million viewers in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut without access to WABC on the eve of the Oscars.

"Senator Kerry and other public officials have suggested that arbitration is appropriate in this highly unusual situation," Cablevision said in a statement.

Under binding arbitration, both parties would agree to whatever a government-appointed overseer determines is a fair retransmission agreement.

WASHINGTON (MCT) — When Joe Jacobazzi got a flat tire about 20 years ago on a cold night, he didn't hesitate to call Jeffrey Kramer at 2 a.m. and ask for help.

Kramer, who owned an auto repair shop, immediately sent someone out to fix Jacobazzi's flat.

Since the deaths on Tuesday of Kramer, 50, his wife, Lori, 48, and their son Michael, 20, Jacobazzi said the crime has been "eating me. There's no rhyme or reason."

That sentiment resonated with the hundreds of people who paid their respects Sunday for the Kramers, who were shot to death in their west suburban Darien, Ill., home.

International
AFGHANISTAN (MCT) — Simmering divisions between rival Islamist groups erupted into open warfare in northern Afghanistan this weekend as Taliban forces battled fighters from one of their main allies, Afghan officials said Sunday.

With their leader pursing tentative peace talks with the Afghan government, more than 300 Hezbollahili militants fighting the Taliban put down their weapons and surrendered to Afghan government forces, said officials in Baghlan province, where the battles broke out. The battle in northeastern Afghanistan came as President Hamid Karzai had his first visit to Marjah, the former Taliban town in southern Afghanistan where U.S. Marines have led a major offensive.
Sandra Bullock wins Oscar for best actress

Jeffrey Fleishman
Los Angeles Times

ROME — The governor made off to a monastery after having affairs with transsexuals, but not before the cops videotaped a try in, all flesh and white powder, and offered to sell copies to a magazine owned by the prime minister, who, at the time, was rumored to be entertained with an underage Neapolitan model.

Then one of the transsexuals, a Brazilian named Brenda, turned up naked and dead, her laptop computer submerged under a running tap. The drug dealer who supplied cocain to the governor and Brenda would meet his own demise. It's an odd coincidence.

Piero Marrazzo, a married governor and one-time crowning TV reporter, was having a dalliance with Natalie on a July afternoon when four cops burst into her apartment and began recording with a cell phone camera. Marrazzo, blushing in his skivvies, found himself the victim of blackmail, while Natalie, a transsexual with an artistic flair for makeup, hit YouTube and the news-show circuit.

Marrazzo resigned his government post and reportedly sought refuge in a Benedictine monastery. The police officers who supplied cocaine to the governor and Brenda would meet his own demise. It's an odd coincidence.

Prosecutor Giancarlo Capaldo doesn't think so. Investigators found no incriminating tales on the hard drive, but Capaldo, a circumspect man, believes Brenda was slain and was the drug dealer. Giangiovanni Ciafasso, who overdosed in September on heroin and cocaine.

People here mention of a byzantine, puppet-master political conspiracy to set up Marrazzo, an opponent center-left politician, and rub out anyone connected with the case. This means, there's no proof of that. It appears to be more a blackmail scheme run by sleazy cops, but in Italy.

“We don't know if anyone outside of the four officers was involved,” Capaldo said, predicting that the killings would be solved within weeks, but not disclosing the identities of the suspects. “The crime has potential political value. It speaks to the kind of political battle that's fashionable these days in which one reaches to destroy his enemy not on the political stage but on a personal level.”

Enter billionaire Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, who owns the magazine, Chi, was offered the videotape of Marrazzo and Natalie; the cops were arrested before negotiations got very far.

Berlusconi, 73, has denied allegations of an affair with the teenage model, saying that nothing “spicy” happened. He has also suggested he was unaware that women at his villas, some rapping naked, others dressed as Santa Claus, were escort girls.

His wife wants a divorce.

In a speech last month, the prime minister said, “When I see women, you know, I lose the thread of the conversation. But do you prefer people like me or the other ones, Marrazzo, for example?”

Brazilian transsexual prostitutes peeked from doorways. It was afternoon and they had yet to put on their working faces. Chiara, as she calls herself, said, “Brenda could have been murdered. There's lots of fear. It's a big mess. Oh, and by the way, I only grant interviews if I get paid.”

“But then she started seeing Marrazzo,” she said. “He came here many afternoons, and Brenda told me, 'Alessia, we have no problems anymore. So we went shopping.'

Alessia glanced down at her ripped coat and unpainted nails. “I become more beautiful at night.”

China signaled from upstairs for her coat and turned away. “Enter billionaire Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, who owns the magazine, Chi, was offered the videotape of Marrazzo and Natalie; the cops were arrested before negotiations got very far.”

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Chipotle opens to large crowds

The line for free Chipotle burritos spanned multiple streets Wednesday. Restaurant-goers waited on Chorro Street and wrapped around the block from the new restaurant.

Chipotle Mexican Grill hosted its grand opening last Friday in downtown San Luis Obispo. On Wednesday the restaurant offered a free burrito to anyone who came with a Cal Poly ID. The line spanned three blocks and it took some restaurant-goers hours before they reached the entrance to claim their burrito.

More than 5,000 free burritos were given away Wednesday night. The restaurant, located on the ground floor of the Wieman Building on the corner of Higuera and Chorro Streets, opened after a planning process began last summer.

The opening occurred after more than 1,500 people in the city signed an online petition via Facebook.com that was aimed at bringing Chipotle to the Central Coast.

Wednesday’s free burrito offer caused a line that wrapped around see Chipotle, page 11
Music fans upset over Coachella ticket policy

Todd Martens
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — The decision on the part of Coachella organizers to no longer sell single-day tickets for the three-day 2010 event has provoked the ire of many a fan.

"Make it fair for all us people who obviously want to attend but cannot afford $269," reads a note on the Facebook group created by 22-year-old San Diego resident Brian Lozano.

In a shift from prior years, AEG/Goldenvoice opted to forgo the single-day ticket option for the 2010 edition of the Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival. Only a three-day pass re-tailing for $383.68 once various service fees have been added, is being offered for this year’s festival.

In an earlier interview, Goldenvoice leader and festival architect Paul Tollett said his primary goal was bettering the experience for those who opt to buy three-day passes, pointing to a lack of hotel rooms in the Indio area as well as increased festival traffic for those coming down for just one day.

"We're really trying to make it great for the fan," Tollett said. "We understand it will affect some people who want to go for one day, but we have to protect the three-day people. It was a complex decision. We put some thought into it, and we're trying our best to make it a good experience."

Lozano started his "Coachella 2010 Single-Day Paws / Writeband Petition Group" after reading the Jan. 27 Los Angeles Times item, as he had intended originally to go to the event only on Sunday. When alt-rockers Pavement will reunite and Damon Albarn's ad-venturous Gorillaz project will headline. Within the first two days of launching the group, thepetition leader and festival archi-tect is already receiving a flood of support, as do the Coachella fans upset over ticket policy. Only a three-day pass re-tailing for $383.68 once various service fees have been added, is being offered for this year’s festival.

As of this posting, the number has risen to 500 members.

Lozano said of when he read that single-day tickets would not be available, "I saw that, and I thought, 'Well, I guess we're not going to go.' I'm not really able to make it Friday or Saturday, and I was only looking forward to going on Sunday. So what can I do?"

Lozano's Facebook page con-tinues to provoke discussion on the topic, as do the Coachella forums. An earlier Los Angeles Times post has generated close to 30 comments on the matter. For his part, Lozano has been putting his energies into exploring other possible options for attending the festival. It was a complex decision. We put some thought into it, and we're trying our best to make it a good experience.

— Paul Tollett
Coachella festival architect

Having spent the past two months working a soul-crushing dead-end job, listening to most-ly the same ten corporate pop songs for seven continuous hours because, according to my boss, KPFR is weird and messes with your vibes (I'm not kidding — KPFR actually threatens my boss and his poor, perverted vibes). My body and brain have been slowly dying. It takes a lot more effort than I could have imagined to not take a huge bite out of my wrists.

I am no longer continuously surrounded by like-minded individuals who are seeking and chal-lenging universal truths of art and the soul. And so, it is scary to think that I might be succumbing to fall-ing for the deadly, yuppie, homogen-ized trap of bastardized yogis. But apparently Gonjasufi, a San Diego-born, Las Vegas-based yoga instructor, is producing music to "scratch the resin of all the bullshit that's been out lately."

Gonjasufi isn't your run-of-the-mill, happy-dippy yoga in-structor that is just regurgitating stale clichés that are typi-cal of the niche. Though his music does contain the sometimes (usually) off-putting elements of pan-globalism that bombards and muddies my senses, he takes it in a more twisted, dark, and sexy direc-tion.

The album, entitled "A Suit and a Killer" off of Warp Records, is sort of an acid folk hip-hop album that is pri-marily concerned with evoking the state of soul and expressing the mind, body and soul with "a few microchips as possible." Though it isn't the type of music I'm typically into, and the fact that it is fairly challenging to review due to my shallow dullness, the album is surpris-ingly refreshing and good.

Having just spent a weekend in Vegas myself, it's not hard to see this album as a paradox soundtrack to the city, which operates on a morbid mentality that is sustained by individual sacrifice to every one of the seven deadly sins. This album, too, somehow sustains the sexiness of Las Vegas by the giving of Gonjasufi's analog soul to the sinful complexity of the synthetic.

As a final note, apparently this is a man who has been called many weird, yet oddly descriptive things. He has, according to Malik Meer from The Guardian, been known as "hip-hop mystic," "nomad soul," even "Method Man aged 95." I guess Gonjasufi has, however, de-cided that he is more of an "elec-tro Hendrix." And throughout the smoky drizzle of this album, you can hear and feel the influence of his idol, which has inspired a more en-lightened approach to music. Now, I am fully aware how silly some (or all) of this may sound to you. Sounds just as silly to me, I assure you. But be-fore you dismiss all this as some sort of cracked-out rant for the case of universal con-sciousness or some other bullshit, give the album a quick listen and you'll hear what sexiness mixed w i t h s i n c e r i t y sounds like.

Jack LaPorte
is a KPFR DJ and "Hipster Bullshit" contrib-uting columnist.

find out what our reporters & editors are thinking.

Music fans upset over Coachella ticket policy

Todd Martens
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — The decision on the part of Coachella organizers to no longer sell single-day tickets for the three-day 2010 event has provoked the ire of many a fan.

"Make it fair for all us people who obviously want to attend but cannot afford $269," reads a note on the Facebook group created by 22-year-old San Diego resident Brian Lozano.

In a shift from prior years, AEG/Goldenvoice opted to forgo the single-day ticket option for the 2010 edition of the Coachella Valley Music & Arts Festival. Only a three-day pass re-tailing for $383.68 once various service fees have been added, is being offered for this year’s festival.

In an earlier interview, Goldenvoice leader and festival architect Paul Tollett said his primary goal was bettering the experience for those who opt to buy three-day passes, pointing to a lack of hotel rooms in the Indio area as well as increased festival traffic for those coming down for just one day.

"We're really trying to make it great for the fan," Tollett said. "We understand it will affect some people who want to go for one day, but we have to protect the three-day people. It was a complex decision. We put some thought into it, and we're trying our best to make it a good experience."

Lozano started his "Coachella 2010 Single-Day Paws / Writeband Petition Group" after reading the Jan. 27 Los Angeles Times item, as he had intended originally to go to the event only on Sunday. When alt-rockers Pavement will reunite and Damon Albarn's adventurous Gorillaz project will headline. Within the first two days of launching the group, the petition leader and festival architect is already receiving a flood of support, as do the Coachella fans upset over ticket policy. Only a three-day pass re-tailing for $383.68 once various service fees have been added, is being offered for this year’s festival.

As of this posting, the number has risen to 500 members.

Lozano said of when he read that single-day tickets would not be available, "I saw that, and I thought, 'Well, I guess we're not going to go.' I'm not really able to make it Friday or Saturday, and I was only looking forward to going on Sunday. So what can I do?"

Lozano's Facebook page continues to provoke discussion on the topic, as do the Coachella forums. An earlier Los Angeles Times post has generated close to 30 comments on the matter. For his part, Lozano has been putting his energies into exploring other possible options for attending the festival.

It was a complex decision. We put some thought into it, and we're trying our best to make it a good experience.

— Paul Tollett
Coachella festival architect

Having spent the past two months working a soul-crushing dead-end job, listening to mostly the same ten corporate pop songs for seven continuous hours because, according to my boss, KPFR is weird and messes with your vibes (I'm not kidding — KPFR actually threatens my boss and his poor, perverted vibes). My body and brain have been slowly dying. It takes a lot more effort than I could have imagined to not take a huge bite out of my wrists.

I am no longer continuously surrounded by like-minded individuals who are seeking and challenging universal truths of art and the soul. And so, it is scary to think that I might be succumbing to falling for the deadly, yuppie, homogenized trap of bastardized yogis. But apparently Gonjasufi, a San Diego-born, Las Vegas-based yoga instructor, is producing music to "scratch the resin of all the bullshit that's been out lately."

Gonjasufi isn't your run-of-the-mill, happy-dippy yoga instructor that is just regurgitating stale clichés that are typical of the niche. Though his music does contain the sometimes (usually) off-putting elements of pan-globalism that bombards and muddies my senses, he takes it in a more twisted, dark, and sexy direction.

The album, entitled "A Suit and a Killer" off of Warp Records, is sort of an acid folk hip-hop album that is primarily concerned with evoking the state of soul and expressing the mind, body and soul with "a few microchips as possible." Though it isn't the type of music I'm typically into, and the fact that it is fairly challenging to review due to my shallow dullness, the album is surprisingly refreshing and good.

Having just spent a weekend in Vegas myself, it's not hard to see this album as a paradox soundtrack to the city, which operates on a morbid mentality that is sustained by individual sacrifice to every one of the seven deadly sins. This album, too, somehow sustains the sexiness of Las Vegas by the giving of Gonjasufi's analog soul to the sinful complexity of the synthetic.

As a final note, apparently this is a man who has been called many weird, yet oddly descriptive things. He has, according to Malik Meer from The Guardian, been known as "hip-hop mystic," "nomad soul," even "Method Man aged 95." I guess Gonjasufi has, however, decided that he is more of an "electro Hendrix." And throughout the smoky drizzle of this album, you can hear and feel the influence of his idol, which has inspired a more enlightened approach to music. Now, I am fully aware how silly some (or all) of this may sound to you. Sounds just as silly to me, I assure you. But before you dismiss all this as some sort of cracked-out rant for the case of universal consciousness or some other bullshit, give the album a quick listen and you'll hear what sexiness mixed with sincerity sounds like.

Jack LaPorte is a KPFR DJ and "Hipster Bullshit" contributing columnist.
New book gives "Alice" a darker side

Jane Henderson
S. L. O. U. B. POST-OHMIH

Alice looks gaunt and goth in her latest print incarnation.

In a cheerful voice, Garcia talked by telephone about how her art is known for its pale-and-depressed, "Edgar Allan Poe-type" mood.

Garcia says with a laugh.

Chipotle
continued from page 9

the Wiseman building onto the next block. Many waiting for food were Cal Poly students.

Kirk Wagner, a civil engineering senior, said he had been in line for about two and a half hours.

"I was driving downtown around 4:30 p.m. and saw a friend of mine in line," Wagner said. "In the time it took me to go park and come back the line was another half a block long.

Vincent Lachinger, a mechanical engineering junior, said he doesn't like the Chipotle menu very much because of the restaurant's cafeteria-style of serving and limited food options.

Wagner said he was really only there for the free food.

"I'm not a huge Chipotle fan myself," Wagner said. "But I'm from Santa Barbara and I know people who will come and say I'm still 'I'm coming into town, we're getting Chipotle!'

Santa Barbara was home to the closest Chipotle location before this franchise opened. Since the company's start in 1993, it has opened locations in more than 120 U.S. cities.

According to their Web site, Chipotle's corporate initiative is to serve organic, sustainable and naturally-raised products.

Samuel Tseng, a biomedical engineering junior, and Jessica Hernandez, a political science junior, said they braved the rain on Wednesday night to try the restaurant.

"I didn't know that (Chipotle) sourced some of their products around here until the other day, I like that. It means my food is going to be a lot fresher than any other fast food I'm going to get in San Luis Obispo," Tseng said.

Hernandez joked about her affinity towards the Mexican food chain.

"Chipotle is definitely not real home-style Mexican food but they make a damn good burrito," Hernandez said.

"I consider this a fairly conservative, classic version," she says.
We must get back to basics after incremental changes in the wrong direction

As a human being, I can't think of anything more important than having rights and having them respected in the difference between tyranny and liberty — and in some cases, between life and death. I was going to write about the differences between rights and privileges, as I believe there has been a blurring of the line between the two lately, but I was having a hard time describing and defining rights so many of our rights are trampled in one form or another in this country. It's amazing that people want to expand the pool of "rights" when so many of our fundamental (and easily agreed upon) rights aren't currently respected.

The dream our founders had for this country and in creating the Constitution was to "establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity," as is written in the preamble. In some respects, it's positively amazing how far we've come since declaring independence back in 1776, but in other ways, it's downright frightening. As an example of this, we can juxtapose current economic conditions, and I believe, the differences between life and death.

One of the planks is "abolition of property in land and application of all rents of land to public purposes," which perhaps, upon a first glance, we don't have in the United States, but upon further inspection we do have to pay in perpetuity for the land we supposedly own in the form of property taxes. We are renters of what is supposedly our own land.

A heavy progressive or graduated income tax is another plank which is alive and well. As a bit of history, the marginal income tax rate in the United States has been as high as 94 percent from 1944-1945. I know income taxes aren't as high nowadays, but consider the fact we used to have zero income taxes. A similar plank of "abolition of all rights of inheritance," is not completely implemented, but we do have estate taxes which restrict inheritances.

A plank whose concept seems to be getting a lot of attention lately is "contrabution of credit in the hands of the State, by means of a national bank and State capital and an exclusive monopoly." Our implementation of this plank is the Federal Reserve which has been pointed to as an accomplice for some of our current economic conditions, and I believe rightfully so. "Permit me to raise and control the money of a nation, and I care not who makes its laws," Amschel Mayer Rothschild said.

There are more planks of the Communist Manifesto than what I have mentioned thus far but hopefully by now you get the point! We have strayed from our Constitutional Republic and we have done so in some significant ways, I would not go so far as to call us a communist country, but I think calling us capitlistic is also a bit of a stretch.

I'm not sure people are aware of how much this country has changed since the revolutionary spirit was still alive and well when we effectively "stuck it to the man" (if you will) during our Revolutionary War. Members of our country fought and died for freedom and we seem to be slowly eroding it with time. We need to wake up and reclaim our freedoms before we lose them and it gets harder to get back the ones we've already lost.

It's time for the government to get back to the basics, for the federal government that means providing national security (in a manner that doesn't infringe on our rights or lead to our bankruptcy) and that's about it. There are 18 enumerated powers of Congress (Article I, Section 8) and they should stick to those; the more the federal government dabbles in peoples affairs, the more freedoms we lose and we've seen that so far for it.

Aaron Berk is a computer repairinng junior and Mustang Daily political columnist.

Write a letter to the editor!

Send your letter, in 250 words or less, to mustangdaily@opinions@gmail.com. Or submit it at mustangdaily.com
The "right" of education is not what is at stake here. The problem lies with school systems that are unsustainable, due to the fact that they operate on the same grounds as our government. There are too many people at the school that don't do any work... The solution isn't to raise taxes on the wealthy. The solution is to cut costs from within. There are too many corrupt people in our government, school and legal systems that manipulate the system for their own benefit. Imagine, we raise taxes, and what does the state do? Increase spending. It's a never ending cycle.

—Jason
In response to "Join the statewide protests today on Dexter Lawn and Marsh St.

Good point.
Many of the student protests on other campuses focused on 'cutting from the top'.

If you look at Cal Poly in the 1980's you will have found that Warren Baker's predecessor left a lean mean fighting machine that is now clogged with redundancy and irrelevance.
How many proswot do we need! (Once we had none.)
How many vice presidents do we need?
The person(s) who save public education in California will do so by bringing back administrative services to 1980 levels. We may not be able to go back to the days when the faculty would vote one of their own as 'President,' but would that really be so bad?

—Roger
In response to "Join the statewide protests today on Dexter Lawn and Marsh St.

Mr. Pringle argues that "now is not the time to be focusing on achieving diverse environments." We disagree. So do our alumni and the companies they work for.

Alumni tell us that their Cal Poly experience provided them with a sense of purpose and a need to make a difference in the world. Employers tell us they value our distinct learning community and Cal Poly's ability to produce resourceful professionals capable of working in diverse environments.

Mr. Pringle also argues that Cal Poly's approach might lead to a retreat from a merit system and unfairly discriminate against applicants, faculty or staff who are not from minority groups. This has never been and never will be our intent, nor is it legal.

Rather, we seek to ensure that anyone can apply to Cal Poly; that applicants are judged solely on merit, that every Cal Poly student is treated with dignity and respect, and with the expectation that they can and will succeed; and that the university will strive to do all it can to provide students with the help they need to achieve their goals.

We urge all students, faculty and staff to learn more about Inclusive Excellence. For more information, please see http://www.acu.org/inclusive_excellence/index.cfm.

—Robert
In response to "Students, faculty protest budget cuts"

These children are acting, well, like children. A state-supported education is not a right. Rather, it is a luxury that taxpayers provide for society to the extent that it can be paid for. If these students are unhappy with the level of funding the taxpayers put forth for their educations, I welcome them to get jobs of their own to make up the difference.

Simply put, the state does not owe anyone a free or subsidized education. Most students in California have no idea just how much the state already pays for their schooling. I attended graduate school in New England at a private university, where one semester of tuition was more expensive than my entire undergraduate Cal Poly education. California public education is still extraordinarily inexpensive; to deny this is to deny reality.

—Stephen
In response to "Students, faculty protest budget cuts"

In his March 2 opinion piece, "Inclusive Excellence" is a flawed solution to a growing issue. We believe Brendan Pringle mischaracterizes the university's commitment to inclusive excellence and does a disservice to campus community members who support and encourage mutual respect, academic integrity and a diverse learning community.

The cornerstone of the Inclusive Excellence program is the belief that student success is best achieved in an academic and social environment where all members of the university community are treated with dignity and respect.

Inclusive Excellence and Director of Ombuds Services
Cornel N. Morton
Vice President for Student Affairs

www.mustangdaily.com
Always in color

NOTE: The Mustang Daily features select comments that are written in response to articles posted online. Though not all the responses are printed, the Mustang Daily prints comments that are coherent and foster intelligent discussion on a given subject. No overcapitalization, please and watch the exclamation marks!

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W. David Conn
President for Inclusive Excellence and Director of Ombuds Services

Cornel N. Morton
Vice President for Student Affairs

www.mustangdaily.net
Always in color
Monte Poole
ONCE UPON A TIME

From the 22-9 overall record to the various calculations and formulas that determine the overall quality of a team, the numbers speak well of Cal. The Golden Bears own the Pac-10 championship outright with a 71-61 dumping of Stanford on Saturday. The 19-12 Cardinal team that spent most of the season buried a plucky Arizona State, was cancelled due to weather issues. The Bears will return to the Pac-10 and try to keep the momentum. Cal Poly finished to narrow the gap, but the Mustangs produced a 15-4 run during an ensuing four-minute span to pull away. Senior guard Brittany Lange also scored 30 points as the Bears improved to 20-10, 11-5, which earned the program's first automatic bye to the Big West Tournament.

Cal has momentum, but can the Bears keep it?
For 39 minutes, the Cal Poly men's basketball team controlled its last home game of the season. But the last minute belonged to UC Irvine.

It appeared all but certain that the Mustangs (11-18, 7-9 Big West) would win. Until, UC Irvine staged a furious 36-second, 12-point rally in the final minute of regulation to force overtime. The Anteaters rode their momentum to secure a 91-84 victory on senior night in front of 2,876 fans in Mott Gym.

Trailing by eight points with 48 seconds left to play, Irvine (14-17, 6-10 Big West) cut the deficit to three with a series of three pointers. Irvine's Darren Moore capped the comeback with a three from the left wing with 0.9 seconds remaining to send the game into overtime. It marked the fourth three-point shot the Anteaters converted in the final minute of play.

Head coach Joe Callero said his team could not recover from what occurred during the final minute of regulation. He also said the last four shots were some of the most spectacular shots that he has seen in his 23 years of coaching.

"Obviously we didn't recover," Callero said. "I thought when we got to overtime that we were hanging our heads a bit. It looked like our energy was down and didn't look like we had much confidence."}

I've met some of the greatest people in my life here these last three years ... It's been a blessing, man. I wouldn't take it back for the world.

—Lorenzo Keeler
Men's basketball senior guard

Callero said he wants his team to learn from the mistakes made in the game and move on to the next play following heartbreaking sequences.

"We can't control what they did because they did a great job," Callero said. "We've got to focus on what we can do in response to that. We didn't do a good job of that tonight."

Callero said he is confident that his team will bounce back since they have experience dealing with tough situations.

Both teams had four players score in double figures on the night. Junior guard Shawn Lewis led all scorers with 21 points in his final home game, while sophomore David Hanson added 11 points and 10 rebounds. Freshman Kyle Odlum contributed 16 points off the bench.

The Anteaters were led by Moore and junior Patrick Bemben who scored 24 and 20 points, respectively. The Anteaters needed the victory to move to No. 7 in conference and advance to the upcoming Big West tournament while Cal Poly sits at No. 6.

Cal Poly built a 13-point lead with 7:15 remaining in the half following a fast-break layup from Keeler that energized crowd. The Mustangs held Irvine to 1-18 shooting to begin the half, but the Anteaters closed the half on an 11-3 run to narrow the gap 35-28 at the half.

The back-and-forth second half was marked by physical play. There were 52 total fouls in the game with 26 fouls committed by Irvine that gave Irvine a 17-8 rebounding edge. Irvine was 5-11 from the free-throw line, while the Mustangs converted 11-13. The pokey Anteaters continually fought back as the Mustangs went 2-3 from the tree-throw.

Senior guard Lorenzo Keeler finished with 21 points in a 91-84 loss against UC Irvine. Keeler, along with forward Ryan Darling and guard Charles Anderson, played their final regular season game as a Mustang.