Opinions clash over structure proposed for downtown SLO

John McCullough

John McCullough

Architecture and environmental design senior David Lee sat at his desk in his architecture studio on campus. It was after 11 p.m. and he would be there another two hours before going home.

Lee wasn’t up late so he could finish an assignment for school. He was answering e-mails regarding the Facebook group he started about two weeks ago, “Save our Downtown.” He says he gets about 100 e-mails a day.

Lee started “Save our Downtown” when retired architecture and environmental design professor Allen Cooper approached him about plans for a new 212,000-square-foot building, nearly five years in the works to be built in San Luis Obispo’s downtown area. The building, called Garden Street Terraces, will run along Marsh Street between Garden and Broad streets.

Lee started the Facebook group in response to the project which he and other Cal Poly architecture students are disgusted by, he said.

“We were completely appalled,” Lee said. “It’s too massive for downtown. Plus it’s not a good piece of architecture, anyway.”

In just two weeks, “Save our Downtown” has reached 1,722 supporters.

see Downtown, page 3

Entrepreneurship club to host published alumnus

Erin Hurley

The Cal Poly Entrepreneurship Club is hosting a speech by alumnus and author Brian Schwartz today.

Schwartz graduated in 1994 as an industrial technology major. He worked at IBM and several other national corporations before quitting in 2008 to begin a personal investigation of the success secrets of today’s entrepreneurs.

Schwartz has written several books, the most well known called “50 Interviews: Entrepreneurs Thinking in Uncertain Times” in which he interviewed 50 professionals in a variety of industries to learn their secrets to establishing a successful business.

Schwartz refers to his profession as an “authorpreneur,” because his career combines both author and entrepreneur.

“The people I’ve talked to are so passionate about what they do, and it’s been a really interesting journey,” Schwartz said. “Many of them said that no one had ever interviewed them like this.”

Schwartz’s speech will share some of the insights he has gained through his interviews. Then he will interview two entrepreneurs to show the audience

see Entrepreneur, page 3

Israeli battle with pro-Palestinian activists endangers peace talks

Sheera Frenkel

Egyptians gather outside the foreign ministry in Cairo, Egypt, during a protest against Israel’s raid on ships carrying aid to Gaza, Monday.

ASHDOD, Israel — A flotilla of pro-Palestinians activists bound for the Gaza Strip met deadly resistance from Israeli forces Monday, sparking a diplomatic crisis in the Middle East and endangering the Obama administration’s attempt to revive peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

Nine people were killed and dozens more were wounded when Israeli navy commandos stormed the Marmara, a Turkish ship that was part of a six-boat flotilla aimed at breaking the Israeli-led blockade of the Gaza Strip.

Israel’s allies in Europe and the United Nations demanded an investigation into the violence, and a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced
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Entrepreneur
continued from page 1

Israel.
continued from page 1

that the premier had cancelled a trip to Washington due to news and rumors of a potential war. "It is a
serious situation where signals relating to Isra-
el and the Palestinian Authority. In her letter, she
said that President Barack Obama understood that the
situation in the Middle East was "a matter of im-
portance of knowing all the facts and considering
this situation's momentous implications."

Thousands of people have viewed the video,
as the attack took place on the Israeli navy's largest
ship. "We are saddened and shocked," the Israeli
military spokesman said. In addition to the war,
the Israeli air force was also involved in a conflict
with the Palestinian Authority.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu,
who is on his way to the United States for a
meeting, said he wished he knew more about the
situation.

Israel's military operations have been put on hold
in response to the increased tension in the area.
However, the Israeli military has not changed its
strategy in the ongoing conflict.

President Barack Obama has expressed his con-
servation for the Palestinian people, and has asked
Israel and the Palestinian Authority to resume the
peace process.

Obama has also called for an immediate cease-
fire and the withdrawal of all Israeli forces from
Palestinian territories.

He has also asked the two sides to work towards
a lasting solution to the conflict.

In addition to the military operations, there has
been a rise in the number of Palestinian protests
against Israeli occupation.

The protests have been met with violent re-
turns by Israeli forces, causing many injuries and
some deaths.

The Israeli government has denied the reports
of the violence, saying that the protests are a
response to the Israeli military operations.

However, the Palestinian Authority has called
for an end to the violence and a return to peace talks.

Israel has also denied the reports of the violence,
saying that it is a result of provocation by the
Palestinian Authority.

The United Nations Security Council has called
for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the
violence.

The council has also called for an immediate
end to the occupation of Palestinian territories.

The Israeli government has rejected the calls
for an end to the occupation, saying that it is a
result of the Palestinian Authority's actions.

However, the Palestinian Authority has called
for an end to the violence and a return to peace talks.

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Congressional overhaul of financial regulation is almost done

David Lightman and Kevin G. Hall
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — The fate of the biggest overhaul of the nation’s financial regulatory system in generations now rests with a small group of Capitol Hill lawmakers who are known for their ability to compromise.

In early June, negotiators from the Senate and the House of Representatives are expected to begin work on merging two competing but similar visions for revamping the way the government regulates banks and financial markets.

The Senate passed its version of the legislation on May 26, the House approved its bill last December.

“This is one of the rare occasions when the two bills are really very close to each other. There’s not a great deal of difference,” said Senate Banking Committee Chairman Christopher Dodd, D-Conn.

Even if they’re in the ballpark on the big issues, the two bills have some significant differences.

For example, while both chambers favor the creation of an equivalent of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for consumer credit products such as mortgages, student loans and credit cards, they’d go about it differently.

The House would create a new, standalone agency called the Consumer Financial Protection Agency; the Senate envision’s a Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection within the Federal Reserve.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce hopes to weaken the bill during the negotiations, arguing that the new consumer panel’s leader would have powers beyond those of other government agency heads.

“I don’t know that I’m going to persuade people that my approach to consumer protection is the right way, but we should have a debate about having this much power concentrated in one individual,” said David Hirschman, senior vice president at the chamber.

Assistant Treasury Secretary Michael Barr, an intellectual author of the administration’s proposal, countered that there are numerous checks built into the creation of the new independent agency.

“I think we’re going to have more public rulemaking, more contact (by the new agency) with the public, more opportunities for a public hearing. I don’t know that Tm going to persuade people that my approach is the right way,” Barr said.

The Senate-language came out of the Agriculture Committee, where consumer protection is the right way, but

House and Senate lawmakers agree about raw political power. “I don’t know that Tm going to persuade people that my approach is the right way,” Barr said.

Parties to support from the Pentagon, which thinks that auto lenders have preyed on servicemen and servicewomen, Plunkett added that resolving the dealer exemption “is going to be all about raw political power.”

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House and Senate lawmakers agree about raw political power. 
Tuesday Tunes

What are you listening to?

"Islands" by the XX
Geoff Rockett, architectural engineering sophomore

"Inside Looking Out" by the Grand Funk Railroad
Even Keith, industrial technology freshman

"Paradise Circus" by Massive Attack
Whit Ratcliff, mechanical engineering junior

"Falling Away with You" by Muse
Courtney Eyriek, liberal studies junior

"Reoccuring Dreams" by Huskers
Ali Torbati, graphic communications freshman

Compiled and photographed by Jessica Barba

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State

SAN LUIS OBISPO (MCT) — In an unusual and across-public battle over a county contract, a South County energy firm is appealing the award of a multimillion-dollar contract for electrical and air conditioning work on a competition in it was technically qualified to do the work.

The Board of Supervisors held off making a decision on the contract, which the county's staff had tentatively qualified to do the work.

Major hurricanes, categories 3, 4, and 5, produce sustained winds of at least as much as 185 mph and can generate storm surges more than 20 feet above normal tide levels.

With the 2010 Atlantic hurricane season starting Tuesday, experts say there is a significant chance one or more of these monsters will strike the U.S. coast over the next six months. The reason: It could be an extremely active year with up to 14 hurricanes, seven major, forecasters said.

NEW YORK CITY (MCT) — International arms control inspectors say sensitive equipment that could be used to extract plutonium for a nuclear bomb has gone missing from a Tehran laboratory months after the apparatus was disclosed to a United Nations watchdog agency.

Analysts have strongly believed that Iran has failed to use its full enrichment capacity. Some have suggested that the disagreement over Iran's enrichment program could be used to leverage a return of talks.

San Luis Obispo over Pacific West Energy Solutions of Goleta Beach.

County attorneys will further explore the legalities, and Supervisors will revisit the question June 8.

Los Angeles (MCT) — For the first time, physicists have confirmed that certain subatomic particles have mass and that they could account for a large proportion of matter in the universe, the so-called dark matter that astrophysicists know is there but that cannot be observed by conventional means.

The finding concerns the behavior of neutrinos, ghost-like particles that travel at the speed of light. In the new experiment, physicists captured a muon neutrino in the process of transforming into a tau neutrino in a variety of experiments.

Researchers had strongly believed that such a transformation was impossible because they have been able to observe the disappearance of muon neutrinos in a variety of experiments.

Briefs

National

FLORIDA (MCT) — They are nature's most powerful storms, able to wrench doors off roofs, blow out windows, rip down trees and otherwise unleash a huge metropolitan area.

Major hurricanes, categories 3, 4, and 5, produce sustained winds of at least as much as 185 mph and can generate storm surges more than 20 feet above normal tide levels.

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International

VATICAN (MCT) — The Vatican says Monday that Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the resignation of a central Catholic cleric who has been accused of sexually assaulting a teenage girl in Nigeria.

Archbishop Richard Anthony Cardinal Dinner, 68, resigned from the pastoral care of the archdiocese of Benin City, Nigeria, the Vatican said, with outstanding a compelling reason for the clergy's departure from office.

This year's Atlantic hurricane season will revisit the question June 8.

French (MCT) — After four years, the European Independent Nuclear Safety Institute (EINIS) has concluded that the conclusion at the European Nuclear Safety Institute in Vienna carrying the word "no" was the right one.

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Regulation

continued from page 4

Arkansas Democrat-Globe Lincoln, the chairman, faced a primary challenge and wanted to see voters on the South Senate returns from its Memorial Day recess — freeing her, and Democrats, from having to keep up the appeal to Arkansans liberals.

Congressional leaders, with the help of the White House, have chosen a bipartisan team of negotiators, called conferees, whose work is likely to find common ground on these issues quickly.

"It sounds obvious, but you look at everything and try to find the best approach," said Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., part of the Democrats' negotiating team.

While Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., said there are a lot of places where we can make progress, but he wasn't overly optimistic that his or other Republican views would be heard.

"If the same party controls the Senate and presidency, they don't need anybody in that room except the two chairmen and administration officials . . . to make all the decisions," he said. "This is very much a vehicle of the majority." The conferees are expected to write the final bill in coming weeks, with final votes in each house likely by late June.

"I understand the urgency for the financial stability of the country ... it's hard for me to think it's going to make us more than a month," Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., the chairman of the House Financial Services Committee; and Dodd's negotiating counterpart, told reporters on May 21.

The White House isn't expecting a bumpy road.

"Any single provision I think is easy to discuss as a veto threat," Sanford of the National Economic Council told reporters on May 26, adding that there's nothing on the horizon that would warrant a veto threat.

Among the reasons for the unusually conciliatory mood surrounding the talks:

- Bipartisanship: Dodd and Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, the top committee Republican, made sure during this month's debate that the two parties alternated offering amendments.

As a result, some major GOP changes were accepted, such as Florida Sen. George LeMieux's plan to instruct government agencies to stop relying solely on credit ratings when measuring creditworthiness.

- The Players: Dodd and Frank will lead the committee, and both have a long history of working with Republicans on major legislation. Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., will participate, even though it's unusual for a junior member of the Senate to be included in such talks. Corker was involved earlier this year in compromise efforts, complaining that his views were largely ignored.
California voters back pot legalization, but support is shaky

John Hoeffel

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES — California, a by-9 percent margin, think they should be allowed to grow and consume mari­juana, according to a new poll that also found more than 1 in 3 voters had tried pot and more than 1 in 10 had il­legalized it in the past year.

The Los Angeles Times/USC poll found that voters back the marijuana legalization measure on the November ballot, 49 percent to 41 percent, with about 10 percent uncertain about it. But support for the initiative is unsta­ble, with one-third of the supporters saying they favor it only "somewhat."

"The good news for proponents is that they are starting off with a decent lead. The good news for the oppo­sition is that initiatives that start off at less than 50 percent in the polls usually have a hard time," said Dan Schnur, director of USC's Jesse M. Unruh Insti­tute of Politics.

The poll also points to a demo­graphic group that is likely to play a key role — women, particularly those who are married. Men favor legaliza­tion, but women are split. Among married women, 49 percent reject the measure while 40 percent are in favor of the initiative.

Denise Silva, a 57-year-old court clerk from Placentia, in Alameda County, said she is struggling with the issue. "I used to smoke," she said. "A mother of two grown children, she opposes drug use for moral reasons but knows people who have smoked for four decades with no apparent harm.

"It's still going to continue to be sold, so since it is, my way will be the government get their piece of the pie," she said.

Both sides are likely to target moth­ers, Schnur said. The measure's backers, for example, could argue that legaliza­tion would bring more tax money for schools, while opponents insist it would put children at risk.

The poll found voters closely di­vided on those arguments.

The measure's supporters say mari­juana taxes could raise more than a bil­lion dollars in revenue; opponents dis­pute that. Among voters, 42 percent believe that estimate and 38 percent think it is wildly exaggerated. The Na­tion­al Institute of Health's institutes cities and countries, but not the state, to legalize and tax sales. In Los Angeles County, the epicen­
dore, 12 percent had used marijuana in the last year, as had 7 percent of Re­publicans. About a quarter of the vot­ers in each slice of the state's electorate said they experimented with the drug in the past, but not in the last year.

One of the biggest differences is be­tween men and women. Among male vot­ers, 45 percent said they had used mari­juana, 14 percent in the past year. Among female voters, 29 percent said they had tried it, but just 8 percent in the past year.

The heaviest use of marijuana skipped a generation. The youngest voters, between 18 and 29, reported the highest percentage of marijuana use in the past year, followed by vot­ers between 50 and 64, who could be their parents or even grandparents.

Those voters came of age in the mari­juana-based Vietnam War era.

The chance that a California voter has used marijuana is higher for college graduates than high school graduates and men with income. Use is highest among single voters and lowest among married ones.

Voters north of the Bay Area, home to the weed-raising Em­erald Triangle, are most likely to have used marijuana, while voters in the Central Valley are least likely.

..."I don't think (marijuana) any more harmful than alcohol..."

Chris Donnelly

Independent voter

Though certain types of voters are more likely to light up, marijuana use can cross all demographic slices, reaching beyond the circles of skate­boarders and aging hippies.

A matchup in the governor's race between Democrat Jerry Brown, who governed the state in the 1970s, and Republican Meg Whitman, the for­mer eBay executive, clearly illustrates this. Voters who have tried marijuana make up 45 percent of Brown's sup­porters, and 35 percent of Whitman's. But both candidates oppose legaliza­tion.

Among Democrats and Indepen­dents, 12 percent had used marijuana in the last year, as had 7 percent of Re­publicans. About a quarter of the vot­ers in each slice of the state's electorate said they experimented with the drug in the past, but not in the last year.

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Electro-dance-pop group MGMT packs Avila Beach concert

John McCullough

MGMT played for a nearly sold-out crowd at Avila Beach Resort Friday night. The concert followed criticism from fans and music critics alike in regards to MGMT’s lack of stage presence and reputation for leaving out certain fan favorites from its performances.

The electro-pop band’s most recent release, “Congratulations,” has had a hard time gaining approval. Some critics have said the band is actively trying to alienate some of its audience with the artistic direction the band has taken.

If the crowd’s reception of the band’s set on Friday was any indication, MGMT may finally be winning over skeptics of their sophomore release. Regardless of whether “Congratulations” will produce the amount of success of the band’s previous album, “Oracular Spectacular,” at least a portion of Friday’s crowd seemed to have gotten what it wanted. Fans near the stage danced for most of the night singing lyrics to the songs they knew. For some, this was the first time they had heard the songs from their most recent release, which came out earlier this year.

Matt Kuhat, a 26-year-old San Luis Obispo resident, waited to hear the band’s new songs until Friday’s concert. He said he wanted to be able to make up his mind about the new material a lot of his friends had been denouncing. “It’s a lot easier to make a good sound if it isn’t live,” Kuhat said. “I didn’t think they were going to be that good live based on what I’ve heard. I’m probably going to get the CD now. There’s a lot of throwback sounds in that ‘60s, ‘70s, ‘80s style feel to it.”

Kuhat said he has been listening to MGMT for a while and that he finds the band’s new sound hard to articulate. “When people ask what kind of music they are, it’s really hard to say,” he said. “I kind of like that.”

While it may be difficult to describe, MGMT’s music can be described as something fans can dance to. And for almost the entire duration of the show, that’s what more than half of the roughly 5,000 people in the crowd did.

MGMT had almost everyone near the stage dancing and screaming, whether it was for-wood with more popular hits or to the songs some had never heard before. During parts of the show, people were hoisted up on their friends’ shoulders to get a better view of the band.

Despite the occasional utterance from the crowd for MGMT to play “Kids” or any of the other songs from its 2008 release “Oracular Spectacular,” the crowd didn’t shout out anything at the band besides backing vocals to the songs they knew.

Fallon Evenson, a sophomore at Cuesta College and Avila Beach resident, said she was hoping to catch a glimpse of the band. “I’ve heard it was it was so much better because they played what they wanted and it translated to us. What made them happy, made us happy. That’s pretty much what music is about. Shaping thoughts and feelings and experiences.”

But after opening the show with “TAKING LEARN BY DOING TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL” 8

Injuries below the belt: What to do on the way to the ER

Like any other part of the body, our naughty bits are prone to injury. However, unlike more run-of-the mill cuts and scrapes, we are less likely to seek medical attention for these afflictions, let alone ask our mothers to kiss it and make it better.

While it can be embarrassing to have such intimate injuries treated, swelling one’s pride is the best way to avoid any injury. If you have been stabbed or impaled, direct pressure should be your top priority. No reattachment can take place until you and the severed part reach the hospital, so don’t delay the trip to look for it.

If you have been impaled or impaled, direct pressure can still be used, but the object itself shouldn’t be removed. Even the sharpest knife, if kept from moving, will not do any more damage, and removing it could cause more bleeding and higher odds of infection.

Almost anything that can happen to the rest of the body can happen to the genitals. They can even break. The human penis contains no bones (nicknames notwithstanding), but it does contain three tubes of sponge tissue and when they break, it is known as a penile fracture. These tubes fill up with blood until they are almost as rigid as an actual bone. Like bones, and other rigid objects, when enough pressure is applied to them in the right direction, the tubes can snap and a loud ‘pop’ is usually heard.

Cleveland Clinic urologist Dr. Drogomontague said the most common way to break your penis is during sex when a man thrusts too hard and hits his partner’s pubic bone, or when a woman is too wild on top. The break releases the blood from the tissue and leaves the penis quite dramatically bent, but not broken entirely off. Instead, the penis begins swollen and black and blue like a bruise but is much more painful. The tubes can be repaired surgically, but it left untreated could lead so that the penis is permanently bent, or even nonfunctional.

When you have an injury, getting it treated should be your top priority, no matter how embarrassing it might be. Please, value your body (and quite possibly your future happiness) more than your pride.

Anthony Bres is a biological sciences junior and Mustang Daily sex columnist.
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MGMT

continued from page 8

mainly new material, it started to happen. "Play 'Kids,'" someone yelled from the crowd. The band received some heat for not playing its best-known song at its performance at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival this year, a move that some reviews have criticized as being detrimental to the band members' career. As some of the crowd walked away from MGMT's Coachella performance, a band member responded with "At least we know who our real fans are now."

The question of whether MGMT should have played more from Oracular Spectacular will remain up for debate. But perhaps more pressing is the question of whether die-hard fans and casual listeners are able to embrace MGMT's newest material.

BJ, a local radio disc jockey for San Luis Obispo's New Rock 107.3 calls himself a "casual listener" of MGMT and said he was not too impressed with the band's new material. Like many, he had heard the poor reviews about the band's stage performances. As a DJ at a station that still gives two of the hits from Oracular Spectacular regular rotation, he said he felt an obligation to see the band.

"I don't think their concert is for the casual listener," BJ said. "I would rather just listen to it on the CD, to be honest."

BJ recalled that as soon as they opened the gates to the concert, fans ran to be the ones nearest the stage.

"That was pretty cool," he said.

For those fans who stayed until the end of MGMT's encore, there wasn't any song left unplayed — old or new. MGMT went through all three of its releases, playing nearly every song it's ever written and culminating the show with its dance sensation, "Kids."

At that point, frontman Andrew VanWyngarden and keyboardist Ben Goldwasser ditched their instruments, grabbed microphones and danced along with the crowd to their biggest hit, immediately turning Avila Beach Resort into one giant dance party.

Eerson was in the middle of the crowd for the entire show. Even though she enjoyed the entire show, "Kids" was the highlight, she said.

"Everyone there shared something. Everyone shared the appreciation for their music," she said. "You could look a stranger in the face and smile and it was accepted. It felt natural. We were all on the same page for once."

Whether or not MGMT came to Avila thinking it had something to prove after its recent reviews, the fans' appreciation of the concert didn't go unnoticed by the band.

VanWyngarden took multiple opportunities to thank the audience for coming out and for the applause after each song. Unlike the band's performance at Coachella, he didn't tell everybody to "please go out and buy our album."

While the last song of the show may have been the highlights, there were other moments that stuck out as well.

When bassist Matt Auer started playing the few opening notes to "Electric Feel," the crowd went nuts. There wasn't a single person in front of the stage whose body wasn't moving. The crowd didn't stop moving until the last beat of the last song of the night, and the smirk on VanWyngarden's face seemed to show MGMT was happy for the approval. MGMT's performance might not have sold everyone on "Congratulations." It did, however, give an opportunity for fans and critics to see a band whose popularity is growing and make up their own minds about whether the band can do more than put out a successful album full of catchy songs.
Sheen, Quaid star in movie on US, Britain relationship

Gail Pennington

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair doesn't star as himself in the fascinating new HBO movie "The Special Relationship," but viewers — American viewers, at least — might be forgiven for thinking he does.

Michael Sheen plays Blair for the third time in screenwriter Peter Morgan's Blair trilogy, which began with "The Deal," made for British TV and seen on HBO, and continued on the big screen with the Oscar-nominated "The Queen." That movie examined Blair's dealings with Queen Elizabeth II, played royally by Helen Mirren, who took home the Academy Award for the role. In "The Special Relationship," Blair is again a bit overshadowed by a larger-than-life figure, in this case President Bill Clinton.

Sheen built his Blair monoply on a strong resemblance to the British politician, who led the Labour Party into power and served as prime minister from 1997 to 2007. To play Clinton, producers turned to someone who didn't much resemble the former president, at least not superficially. But after packing on 35 pounds, supposed By eating at McDonald's a lot, and having his hair shorn and grayed, Dennis Quaid Becomes an entirely Believable Bill.

"The special relationship" of the movie's title doesn't refer specifically to Blair and Clinton, but to the traditionally close ties and mutual support between the United States and Great Britain. But when the comic Colen Porter song "Friendship" plays over the opening titles, featuring photos of U.S. presidents with British prime ministers, we know this won't be a stodgy historical reflection.

Instead, we meet a young, deer-in-the-headlights Tony Blair in 1992, so much a nobody that the driver who picks him up at the airport in Washington won't even help him put his bag in the trunk. He's in town to get advice on how to return the Labour Party to power. Four years later, he's back, this time embraced by Clinton as the future prime minister.

The scene in which Blair visits the Clinton White House is delicious, and Sheen looks like a little boy about to see Santa as he approaches the Oval Office. It's easy to see him being swept away by Clinton's powerful charisma.

Quaid has perfected Clinton's voice, smile and body language. Hope Davis, as the future secretary of state, doesn't look much like Hillary, But her performance is nuanced and touching, especially when her marriage is shattered by the thunderbolt of her husband's affair.

"The Special Relationship" is most enjoyable when it contrasts the lives and style of the Clintons and the Blairs. As Tony heads off to Washington to meet with Clinton, Cherie is hanging up wet laundry, and his good shirt needs laundering. She marvels to learn the size of Hillary's staff and of her powerful position in the administration.

The Clintons, especially Bill, are dubious about the Blairs.

"You know, she's from Liverpool," Bill tells Hillary while eating tortilla chips. "It's the Arkansas of England."

The Clinton-Blair relationship

see Movie, page 10
Laws should be simple and all encompassing to be fair

We are a country of laws and many would say those laws are what keeps our society civilized and allow us to go about our business in an orderly and structured society. Much of what political debates consist of is arguments as to what the laws should or should not be. I’d like to take a step back for a minute though and look at the big picture of laws. This is a subject we all should agree on, but not all laws are how we want them to be.

The laws should be all encompassing, meaning that they apply to everyone and in all circumstances. There are some special cases where extraordinary actions are generally permitted (perhaps an emergency responder on a call) but these special cases should be considered when laws are drafted and enacted. The law should be explicit in what it means, and there should be no exceptions that are just generally understood to exist but that aren’t actually enumerated in the law itself. The reasoning for this is that laws should be respected. If it’s just generally understood that in certain circumstances it’s okay to violate the law, then all laws lose some of their weight and respect.

Additionally, laws should be clear and concise. The whole point of having laws revolve around the expectation for people to follow them, and in order for people to follow laws they first have to understand them. It’s amazing how many laws we have now that are difficult to understand. Not only are some laws difficult to understand, but the sheer number of laws we have makes it impossible for any one person to actually know all the laws. Having an inordinate number of laws has a similar effect as having unclear laws: people won’t know and understand them and thus are likely not to follow them.

It would seem to me that having laws that are all encompassing, clear, and concise would be in everyone’s best interest. After all, we want to establish a playing field with clear rules as well as clear consequences for what happens when you break those rules. Unfortunately, I don’t believe our laws possess any of those three qualities, which begs the question — why don’t they?

I think we can attribute much of our poor legislation to the games of politics. It has become in Congress’ best interest to have long and complicated laws. Accountability goes out the window when people can’t make sense of 1,000-page bills. It’s hard to track down what gets slipped in and has absolutely nothing to do with the title of the bill. Furthermore, it’s unfortunate that the bills are so lengthy as it makes it difficult for a representative to vote on the bill. Just about any bill is bound to have some good provisions and bad provisions by any individual’s standards, so it leaves representatives in a quandary of whether or not the good outweighs the bad. It’s practically the norm these days that representatives vote for bad laws just because they are attached to ones they approve of. Undoubtedly though over time the more questionable laws pile up and their effects become more and more apparent.

I think this process inevitably alienates all of the population. Different enforcement agents will undoubtedly make you face these laws at one point or another, whether it be an agency, a police officer, an IRS agent, etc. The law has become a force against even those who wish to abide by it. The law has become not about protecting us, but it has started to enslave us. This concept is not new but perhaps its significance and importance has been forgotten.

People routinely hire accountants to do their taxes for them, as taxes are ridiculously complex. People also routinely hire attorneys and often times people’s guilt depends not on how well their attorney can argue their case, but because of their attorney’s knowledge of the laws and relevant judicial cases. When laws become so numerous, so complex, and so impossible to grasp, they stop serving the purpose of laws.
Thinness does not equal perfection

On a late Saturday night, I flipped through the guide on my television, excited about finding one of my favorite shows from the '90s. Luckily, I managed to click on Nickelodeon just as a diet pill commercial started. Having seen the 30-second segment countless times and a thin body numerous times, I zoned out and merely laughed to myself, wondering how proud the parents of the young man and woman must be as the actors flaunted their sexuality by holding each other topless.

As the commercial started to end, the company flashed its name a few more times, promising "rapid weight loss" and a 100 percent guarantee. Even though I had seen the ad a countless number of times, nothing could prepare me for the final line I had never noticed before: "It's great to be thin!"

Normally, this blatant stab at the self-esteem of young girls everywhere wouldn't have bothered me. I'm used to seeing ridiculous diet commercials that encourage people to take unknown pills to lose weight, throwing any side effects to the wind. But this one hit me deep.

Zantrex isn't just stuffing its products down viewers' throats — it is perpetuating an idea that kills thousands a year.

The slogan and commercial displaying the sexualized and glittering bodies of a man and woman aren't telling us that being skinny is healthy. Instead the message is that taking Zantrex makes us thin and only when we are thin, are we sexually appealing and worthy of any sexual gratification.

By the third diet pill advertisement by the same company 10 minutes later, I was nauseated. I have to wonder — do people really buy into this commercial and the crap this company is hawking? When did we make the decision that being thin is the "great way to be?"

I'm all for being healthy, working out and eating right if that is what a person is into. Not stuffing yourself daily with fatty foods, candy and alcohol is important to keep your mind and body in top shape. But where is the line?

Elementary school girls are dieting, size six models are considered "plus-sized," and men can now purchase slimming shirts that crisscross in the back, support their love handles and reduce their pants size by two.

Scientists and nutritionists report that America has an eating and weight epidemic and every year a new state is named the fattest in America. I agree there is a problem, but maybe it's about time these knowledgeable scientists and nutritionists take a look around and notice a whole new epidemic that is starving for our attention.

Until then, thank you, Zantrex, for making me feel unattractive and not worthy. I'll be in my room. Eating my feelings.

Leticia Rodriguez is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily arts editor.

SEE IT.
WATCH IT.
CLICK IT.

LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Advertisement is offensive

I am deeply upset with the advertising submitted in the Daily. In the Thursday, May 27 newspaper, on page 5, the Daily ran a pro-life ad. I am offended because the advertisement submitted in the Daily is not the Daily's opinion, it is the advertisement's opinion. As a student of journalism, I am aware that the Daily should remain unbiased. The Daily has been infamous in the past for running sexist ads, but now this. How could you let this one slip? Don't you think the female body will be disgraced by this? Cal Poly already has a reputation for matter like this and this is just worsening it. The advertisements in the Daily represent us as well because they are choices Cal Poly students have made. I am a journalism junior and have been through a good amount of my Journalism courses and know that advertisements like this should not be in a newspaper. Realize that this offends your public.

Tania Meredith journalism junior

WHAT'S YOUR PANT LINE?

WANT TO INVESTIGATE?

send your opinions, rants and raves
or submit your letter through

mustangdaily.net

all letters should be 250 words and are subject to editing for grammar, spelling and style.
Baseball
continued from page 16

ept the first. The Mustangs more than doubled Cal State Bakersfield totals in runs and hits. The Mus­
tangs had every starter in the line­
up hit safely multiple times and six
players who boasted multiple RBI

tere to rebound from it.”

Blalock, the first Mustang in pro­
gram history to earn four All-Big
West first team singles selections,
retired as Cal Poly’s all-time singles
victories leader with an 84-55 col­
legiate mark. The 2007 Big West
Freshman of the Year selection, Blal­
cock also captured all-conference first
team doubles praise during each of her
three years. Marzec, a 2008 transfer from Northwestern,
earned both All-Big West first team
singles and doubles recognition dur­
ing each of her seasons at Cal Poly.

I told Coach Lee it has been the best
experience I have had in my entire
life and I thanked him for the oppor­
tunity he gave me four years ago.
— Adam Melker
Senior corner fielder

games. Third baseman Evan Busby
led the team, finishing 5-for-6 with
six RBIs. Designated hitter Mitch
Haniger also finished 5-for-6 with
three RBIs.

But, even with all the broken re­
cords, the offensive showcase came
at a handicap.

“We had two position players
(catcher Ross Brayton and second
baseman Matt Jensen) who were on
the bench and we had a few eligibil­
ity, who were available today,” Lee
said. “When your starter gets four
outs, it sucks the life out of you as
players who were available today,” Fee­

sand third baseman Evan Busby
at a handicap.

an offensive and defensive team.

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Baseball ends season with record-breaking win

Blalock and Matzenauer fall short of a championship

Senior outfielder Luke Yoder (above) went 4-for-6 with four RBIs in the Mustangs 25-8 win against State Bakersfield.

Mustang Daily Staff Report

The Cal Poly women's tennis senior tandem of Brittany Blalock and Suzie Matzenauer were ultimately eliminated from postseason contention after suffering a defeat at the Dan Magill Tennis Complex Thursday in the opening doubles round of the 32-team NCAA Individual Championships.

After falling during a first set that featured just one service break, Blalock and Matzenauer matched Baylor'sCalla Borsanyi and Lenka Broosova point-for-point during the second set before surging ahead late. The Mustangs led 5-3 during the third set, but failed to press their advantage against the 11th-ranked doubles pairing in Division I.

"Perhaps we weren't quite as focused and relaxed during the first set as we should have been, but I thought that Brittany and Suzie were aggressive at the right times during the second set and took a lot of balls down the line to neutralize Baylor," Cal Poly head coach Hugh Bream said in a release. "We played solid tennis in the third set, but maybe backed off a little. Brittany and Suzie played well, but Baylor slowly inched back." With their victory, Borsanyi and Broosova advanced to face Josipa Bek and Ina Hadziselimovic of Clemson during Friday's round of 16. The Tigers defeated Marshall's Michaela Kissell and Dominica Zaprazna later Thursday.

"Obviously I’m proud of our performance and the performance throughout the year. (Blalock) and (Matzenauer) tied it up versus some of the best teams all season long and people who follow collegiate tennis know the caliber of programs such as Baylor," Bream said.

The defeat, just Blalock and Matzenauer's fourth loss in 21 spring attempts, kept the Cal Poly program winless in NCAA Championships action at the Division-I level. During Cal Poly's lone other showing at the NCAA Individual Championships in 2008, Blalock and then partner Steffi Wong also suffered an opening-round exit. As a team, Cal Poly made its first and only postseason showing at the 2003 championships, but the Mustangs were swept in the first round by Georgia Tech. Competing exclusively at the No. 1 doubles position during the spring season, Blalock and Matzenauer navigated Big West play with a perfect record en route to all-conference first team doubles recognition. Blalock and Matzenauer, who ascended as high as No. 26 in the March 30 edition of the Campbell's ITA Rankings, helped Cal Poly capture the doubles point during a conference-best 78 percent of 23 spring matches.

"I have been here for four years, I have had ups and downs, but overall I have absolutely loved it. I told Coach Lee it has been the best experience I have had in my entire life and I thanked him for the opportunity he gave me four years ago," Blalock said. "It's the end of something great." The senior highlights one of the most impressive recruitment classes Lee has had in years, he said.

"If you (look at) the statically history, they were all big contributors, and that's a rarity," Lee said.

The senior, along with the rest of the Mustangs, scored in every inning except the third inning — going 2-for-6 in his final game.

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