President Baker attends Israel seminar

Alexandria Scott
ALEXANDRIASCOTT.MGAEMAIL.COM

On his trip, President Baker met with several Israeli and Palestinian leaders, as well as other university presidents, to discuss how to create and encourage opportunities for United States and Israeli students to collaborate academically in the future.

Teen killed by train near California Boulevard

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Oscar Gonzalez, 17, was struck and killed by an Amtrak passenger train near the corner of California Boulevard and Foothill Boulevard last Thursday around 3:50 p.m.

"His friends called his name and he couldn't hear them and when he saw the train it was too late," he said. "His friends were the only ones who actually saw what happened.

"A primary goal of the university presidents seminar in particular is to encourage bilateral academic collaboration and exchange at the undergraduate, graduate and faculty levels," he said.

The delegates learned about an intense week-long educational seminar called Project Interchange. An educational institution focused on complex issues facing Israel and the region.

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Over the course of the week, the 13-member delegation met with Israeli President Shimon Peres, Palestinian National Authority Prime Minister Salam Fayyad and U.S. Ambassador to Israel James B. Cunningham. The seminar was sponsored and overseen by Project Interchange, an educational institution focused on complex issues facing Israel and the region.

The mission of Project Interchange is to foster a community of highly influential global leaders informed about the various dimensions of Israel, including the work of their professional counterparts, said Project Interchange spokesman Amit Katzir.

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Baker continued from page 1

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"A lot of people think informal approaches at a grass roots level help the process," Baker said. "We are very interested in the role that the United States can play in developing fruitful bilateral partnerships."

Baker said it opens channels for communication and helps the visiting presidents determine how universities stand to benefit most from the collaboration and exchange.

"The idea is to lay ground work for exchanges of students to occur," Baker said. "How quickly this happens depends on perceptions and reality of security."

Peaceful coexistence is probably easier than resolving all the issues, he said. Everyone is in favor of academic collaboration; it's just a matter of how it gets done. The Middle East's role is important to the world and non-Jewish students could benefit from more exposure and historical perspectives, he said.

"It's important for Cal Poly to open doors internationally," Baker said. "It's a part of the globalization that's occurring and it's important to ensure that we don't isolate ourselves."

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Florida Republican blocks offshore drilling ban

Criti called a special session of the legislature this week to consider a ballot measure that would amend the constitution to ban offshore drilling in state waters, a practice that is already prohibited under Florida law.

Republicans, who control the statehouse, groused they were being used as a political prop. "This is about making something that's illegal more illegal," said state Sen. Mike Haridopolos, the incoming Senate president, in an interview.

Florida is a state that has long resisted bashing its economy on oil, preferring to rely on tourism.

Just a year ago, however, the Florida House voted to overturn the drilling ban, which has been cited by BP and Repsol, a Spanish company, as a reason why constitutional amendment is necessary. The idea is to lay ground work for exchanges of students to occur and increase the opportunities for U.S. higher education, Baker said. The seminar focused primarily on efforts to ensure a more peaceful world by people getting to know each other better and collaborating.

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New bill that could extend jobless-benefits passes Senate vote

Lisa Mascaro  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Democrats on Tuesday broke Republican-led opposition to a bill that would extend unemployment benefits to 2.5 million jobless Americans, but the vote only hardened the political divide and almost assured any further domestic aid before November will be all but impossible.

Though the Senate reached the 60 votes needed to end a GOP filibuster and force a final vote on the legislation, prospects for the next spending bill enabling states to avert teacher layoffs appeared doomed.

A vote that would send the unemployment benefits legislation to the House could come as soon as Wednesday. The House is expected to pass the bill and send it to President Barack Obama's desk for swift approval.

Obama's high-profile push for the unemployment extension has inspired further intrasignificance from Republicans, who say voters are more concerned about the nearly $1.5 trillion federal deficit than government attempts to spur the economy with more spending.

But Democrats intend to press forward this week with new initiatives to promote job growth, further testing the parties' approach to economic issues heading into the midterm elections.

"The other side stood in the way for too long," said Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., the majority leader, after Tuesday's procedural vote. "It shouldn't take the diminution of margins to do what's right."

Unemployment aid had stalled since June as most Republicans in the Senate repeatedly blocked bills they believed would add unnecessarily to the national debt.

Most Republicans want to pay for the jobless benefits by using unspent funds from the economic recovery bill, but Senate Democrats blocked that effort.

The measure passed Tuesday was a scaled back $33.9 billion unemployment package, almost of earlier domestic spending proposals. The bill would extend benefits through November.

Senate Democrats overcame the Republican-backed filibuster on a vote of 60-40, joined by two Republicans, Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe of Maine. One Democrat, Sen. Ben Nelson of Nebraska, voted no.

The newest senator, Carrie Goodman, cast her vote minutes after being sworn in. The vice president, Joe Biden, who was sworn in as Arthur D. Whitehouse, said he was able to appoint the late Democrat, Sen. Frank Lautenberg, to the Senate floor. "And in doing so, he cheapens public discourse and does a disservice to the people this bill is meant to help."

Republicans have insisted that off-setting the costs from industry peers and local vineyards.

"We're really fortunate to have such a large, very productive, high-quality wine region," Ferrara said. "We have a lot of support from industry peers and local vineyards."

Currently there are 80 students involved in the program. "It's a great place to be," Ferrara said about her place in the program. "It's a great time in the industry. We're really fortunate to have such intelligent students."

The wine and viticulture program is a joint effort between the school and the local wine industry.

"We're doing our best to harness this place in every bottle," Ferrara said. "We're doing our best to make this place in every bottle."

Ferrara also focuses on the business aspect of it, from marketing to selling the final wine product.

"The wines are also available at the Cal Poly Wine website, which is located at the back of the store."

The money made from the wines goes back to the wine program, Ferrara said.

Among the next priorities for Congress is approving legislation to fund the $37 billion troop surge in Afghanistan, a bill that has stalled after the House added $10 billion to protect 140,000 teachers nationwide from layoffs this fall.

That bill appears unlikely to have the 60 votes needed to advance in the Senate.

Rep. John Boehner of Ohio, the House minority leader, took aim at the agenda and the president's foray into election-year politics.

"The American people continue asking, where are the jobs?" Boehner said Tuesday. "All they continue to get are attacks on Republicans."
Reggae-punk band Pepper visits Mid-State Fair on Friday

Sarah Parr
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Hawaiian-bred, reggae-punk trio Pepper will be playing at the Cali­fornia Mid-State Fair in Paso Rob­les Friday. The band is on tour with alternative rock group 311 and punk rock band The Offspring as part of The Unity Tour 2010.

The band will play on the Grand­stand as a special guest. This marks the third time Pepper has toured with 311.

The Unity Tour package was booked for the Mid-State Fair be­cause there is “clearly an audience for great rock bands like 311 and Pepper. Unlike Aerosmith (who is also playing at the Mid-StateFair), they have a harder-edged, but still solid rock-n-roll sound,” concert promoter Ron Pateras of Jam Pro­ductions said.

Jam Productions, an indepen­dent concert and special events pro­ducer which operates in Chicago, was chosen to book the Mid State Fair acts.

“We needed to book a diverse mix of genres. It’s a state-run fair so we needed to address the area’s tastes,” Pateras said.

Pateras said 311 and Pepper fit the mold of the laid-back rock-n­roll many people of the Central Coast admire.

“We didn’t have other bands that fit that style,” Pateras said.

Pepper, hailing from “The Big Island of Hawaii, has been work­ing on new material which is be­ing released from their own label, LAW Records. The label, which the band started in 2007, also man­ages popular Santa Barbara-based band Iratron, who also hail from Hawaii. The band hopes to finish up building a studio for all of the bands to use once Pepper is done taking time off from touring. The label also wants to tour Hawaii in mid­December with Pepper as the headliner.

Pepper started playing its first shows in Santa Barbara while hang­ing out in Isla Vista with friends who lived there.

Now, whenever the members are in the area, they “hang out with their peers.” Their good friends include guys from the reggae-rock bands Robocat and the Mid Cadillacs, Williams said.

In addition to other past shows on the Central Coast, Pepper also played at the end of Week of Wel­come in September 2008.

Wine and viticulture junior and mar­riana Monarrez attended the show.

“People were crowd-surfing. It was pretty intense. It was packed, it was super hot and people were really into it so they were standing up and moshing,” Monarrez said.

“Pepper was so full of energy. They had good crowd interaction.”

The fans give Pepper its constant on­stage energy. Pepper drummer Ye­ndon Williams said.

“If it wasn’t for them giving us the energy, we wouldn’t have that energy. It’s an exchange,” Williams said.

Monarrez said the popularity of this genre with Cal Poly students is a part of the Californian coastal lifestyle.

“I think being close to the beach and that kind of scene helps a lot. It’s so laidback,” Monarrez said.

“* Pepper is promoting two new singles just recently released on iTunes, called “Wake Up” and “Mirrors.” The two songs are avail­able in a one-package deal for 99 cents. The band is planning on re­leasing more songs in a month or so, Williams said.

Pepper will also release a new full-length album sometime next year, Williams said. This will mark a follow-up to 2008’s “Pink Crusta­ceans and Good Vibrations.”

“Our sound is more unified. It’s more collaborative,” Williams said.

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Pepper will also release a new pop singer Justin Bieber, comedian and ventriloquist Jeff Dunham, al­ternative rock band Weezer, country artist Kenny Loggins, Keith Urban and Toby Keith, rocker Sammy Hagar, Aerosmith and more.

The Mid-State Fair ends Aug. 1. Tickets for the concert range from $25 to $70. The show begins at 7:30 p.m.

The Mustang Daily

The Pepper trio, comprised of guitarist and vocalist Kaleo Wassman, bassist and vocalist Bret Bollinger and drummer Ye­ndon Williams, started in Kailua-Kona on the Big Island of Hawaii in 1997. The band has become close with other Central Coast favorites Robocat and Iratron.

COURTESY PHOTO

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Barry Koltnow
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Orange County, Calif., suffered a terrible blow to its growing reputation as a bad joke this week when "The Hills" aired its final episode after six seasons.

Yes, we still have "The Real Housewives of Orange County" to diminish our image in the eyes of the world, but "The Hills" was a classic piece of trash that will be hard to replace, although I assume some enterprising TV producer is already trying to come up with another concept to denigrate the county.

I would like to say that I was saddened at hearing the news that "The Hills" was going off the air, but that would presume that I watched it. Frankly, I couldn't tell you what it was about or why it aired if my life depended on it. In fact, I never even watched the show upon which it was based - "Laguna Beach: The Real Orange County.

Not watching a bad television program usually spares you from feeling its impact, but it was difficult to avoid "The Hills" and all the gifts it bestowed upon our celebrity-obsessed society.

For instance, many of you might not know that Heidi Montag and her ever-expanding breasts are associated with the reality show. What a delightful addition to our society she has been.

And, of course, where there's Heidi, there's Spencer. Yes, Spencer Pratt was on "The Hills" as well, and even though the show has ended, he is doggedly determined to stretch his 15 minutes of fame into at least 16 minutes. A day doesn't go by that the name "Spencer" does not appear in some writer's column. Guilty as charged.

Here's a personal confession: When I was forced to cover an appearance by Heidi and Spencer at a local bowling alley last year, I spoke to them without knowing that they had anything to do with "The Hills." I certainly knew all about them as a couple, but I thought they were a materialized out of thin air as tabloid celebrities. I was genuinely surprised to discover that they actually were connected to a TV show.

The same goes for Lauren Conrad, Kristin Cavallari and Audrina Patridge. I thought they were concocted by the tabloids simply because they were attractive and wore bikinis for no apparent reason.

When I saw them on the covers of magazines, I always assumed that they were models. Who knew that they were actors? To be fair, the cast members of "The Hills" are not the first to be chased down the street by celebrity photographers or featured repeatedly on gossipy magazine covers. In the early 1990s, the casts of "Friends," "Beverly Hills 90210" and "Melrose Place" became instant celebrities when those shows started.

But it seemed to me that everybody knew they were actors. The same can't be said of the new tabloid celebrities, and this shift in the celebrity game can be traced to the introduction of reality television. Previously unknown "celebrities" pop up almost every day, and many of them come from the world of reality television, where acting skills are not as important as the ability to be noticed.

A show will replace "The Hills," and a new group of tabloid bimbos (I'm not limiting that to one gender) will replace Spencer, Heidi, Lauren, Kristin and Audrina. It's the nature of the beast. Tabloids and paparazzi need them in order to survive, and I hate to say it, but the public apparently needs it as well to get through another day.

I hear a lot of people complain about our superficial celebrity culture (including me), but a lot of people continue to watch the train wrecks (including me).

There are any number of reasonable explanations for this phenomenon, not the least of which is that it is good escapist fun that helps to momentarily forget about the war, the economy, the oil spill, the government and gas prices. We read about these tabloid people and think better about our own lives. We used to envy stars and wish that we were actors. So, they were actors?

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There are any number of reasonable explanations for this phenomenon, not the least of which is that it is good escapist fun that helps to momentarily forget about the war, the economy, the oil spill, the government and gas prices. We read about these tabloid people and think better about our own lives. We used to envy stars and wish that we could live like them. Now, when we read about Heidi Monag, we think: "Things could be worse. I could be her."

As I said, some bright television executive is trying to come up with the next generation of useless plastic celebrities. They will no doubt be young, attractive and full of themselves. Their on-screen work will not impress us, but their off-screen foibles will fascinate us. They will be photographed in awkward situations, and their legal troubles will keep us entertained.

But is it too much to ask that their shows be based somewhere else? Is it too much to ask that their show not have the words "Orange County," "Laguna Beach" or "The O.C." in it? Is it too much to ask that the show make fun of some other county?

"The Real Housewives of Orange County" has a nice ring to it.
Kindness in death for Yankees owner; Steinbrenner remembered as baseball saint

The New York media's most reviled major league bully, is now remembered and other forest creatures from the palms of his outstretched hands. Any day now, I figure we'll learn that literature, in its many forms, honors and they benn. He still bothers them. The Yankees were forced to de- 1990s. What's wrong with you? Don't you care about Steinbrenner's kindness to the little boy and the grands and the French horns.

...said, "You play shortstop. Jeter hit three home runs, just for him," Wings said. "His vision, passion and commit- All that was missing was lightning hit three home runs, just for him," Wings said. "His vision, passion and commit- All that was missing was lightning hit three home runs, just for him," Wings said. "His vision, passion and commit-

"It makes me think of Aug. 15, 1991," Wings said. "The day the Yan-kees hit neck bottom." That was the day that Steinbrenner's vague policy against long hair on his players led to a most shameful Yankee incident. "Manag'ztrump Merrill ordered Marving to cut his hair or he was out of the lineup. It wasn't even that long. And Marving re- fused. He kept his

to the life experi-
ence.

Rest in peace.

With the funeral scheduled for the weekend, Wings' dad consid- ered the seven World Series rings and the 11 American League pennants that came under Stein- brenner's rule of just under four decades. Suddenly, Wings' dad began to sound more like a guy who never stopped loving the Yan-kees, Steinbrenner or no Stein- brenner...But the New York papers say he But the New York papers say he But the New York papers say he

Wings' dad had been a lifelong Wings' dad had been a lifelong Wings' dad had been a lifelong

It's good that he was nice to the boy," Wings said, "but that doesn't change the fact that he was a psychotic (bleper)." But the New York papers say he was a gruff old guy who had to lose. He was an egomaniac who ruined the Yankees," Wings said. "I heard him," Wings said. "He raised one eyebrow in dis-

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Moving? Extra stuff!

Small house? Extra stuff!

Classifieds - comics & games

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Small house? Extra stuff!

Summer is BBQ time and personalized chef aprons are cool.

As are custom diner, meat type, Waldorf salad, salad bar, cheese, green beans, lasagna, bread and reefs, Tiburon's top, pique, calendar online Tiburon's.
Baseball players continue playing in the offseason

**Former football player dies**

**MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT**

Ernie Cooper, who played on the Cal Poly football team from 2003-08, died Thursday at his home in Hunterdon County, NJ. He was 25.

Cooper, who turned 25 on June 17, was found unresponsive by a friend and could not be revived. The cause is still to be determined. A 2004 Serra High School graduate, Cooper was recruited as a quarterback and moved to wide receiver and linebacker in 2008. He then transferred to the San Luis Obispo Rattlers to play in the offseason.

After a redshirt season in 2004, Cooper played in nine games as a freshman in 2005, mostly on special teams. He did not attempt a pass, but in the 2005 Spring Game he connected on a pair of passes for 11 yards, including a 33-yard touchdown strike to Sean Kenneth. As a sophomore he moved to wide receiver and linebacker in 2006, Cooper rushed 11 times for 58 yards, scoring three touchdowns, and caught three passes for 60 yards, including a 44-yarder against Montana. He also registered one pass for 35 yards against Ramses Redemption against South Dakota State.

In his junior season, Cooper rushed six times for 22 yards and three passes for 31 more yards. He scored his first collegiate rushing touchdown against North- ern Colorado on an 11-yard run and a 10-yard reception.

Cooper did not play in any of the six games he had been a part of due to engineering and, more recently, personal reasons.

The official announcement of Har­ den’s hiring also is expected to include the announcement of a beefed-up compliance department for athletics, something Harden said he welcomed.

Haden also said one of his first moves would be to create the position of associate athletic director for foot­ ball, a liaison to Coach Lane Kiffin, and fill it with J.K. McKay, an L.A. area prep star and son of USC Coach John McKay, as the former star quarterback at USC jarred up the prestigious school.

Haden, a former star quarterback and head of that board’s academic affairs committee, would like it to be occupied by the smartest, most ethical people he knows and I think it will be.

But the recent penalties, cost­ ing USC scholarships, vacations and championships, as well as crucial TV exposure and revenue, obviously had Garrett in trouble and triggered a push for USC’s athletic director, who is also the university’s director of athletics.

Garrett came under fire recently when USC was put on four years of probation by the NCAA for a series of violations, primarily involving its football program, that included a lack of institutional control. That kind of NCAA action almost always results in fingers being pointed at the athletic director, and the school’s president-elect Max Nikias’ action appears to be in response to those NCAA penalties.

Haden is a pedestrian car­ rier of football and gold.

The 57-year-old current partner in the prime investment firm of Rordan, Lewis & Haden is a former star quarterback at USC, where he was twice academic All-American. He was USC’s starting quarterback in the John McKay years of 1973-74.

Haden, a member of the USC board of trustees for 19 years and the head of that board’s academic affairs committee, said he was approached by Nikias recently about becoming athletic director and said the idea piqued him.

"This is not something I thought about, doing nothing even on my radar," Haden said. "But I began to see it as a challenge, as something new. And when my wife agreed — and she really doesn’t follow sports, although I took a closer look.

"So Max Nikias’ role in this was crucial, if you will. One of the reasons I was interested," Haden said. "Over the years, we’ve lived up to our standards last year and as always our main goal is definitely going to Omaha," Wright said.

**Amanda Sedo**

**Haden to replace Garrett as USC athletic director**

**Los Angeles Times**

**Bil Dayre**

LOUIS ANGELES — Pat Haden will replace Mike Garrett as athletic director, beginning Aug. 3.

Garrett, the school’s former Heisman Trophy-winning running back for the last 17 years, is expected to take the school’s retirement package.

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