Facebook page recognizes national gay suicide issue

Alicia Freeman
AliciaFreeman.MD.MAIL.COM

A recent Facebook group — R.I.P.; In memory of the recent suicides due to gay abuse, wear purple — was created to recognize the growing national problem of gay suicide across the nation. Today is a day of honor to remember the gay teens who have taken their own lives within the last few months.

The event, which was initially started to honor the six gay boys who recently committed suicide as explained in the event description, involves wearing purple today. With more than 1,276,945 Facebook members attending the event as of Oct. 18, many gays, allies and students see this as a positive way to raise awareness about gay suicide.

Food science junior Katie Abraham said the group is a good idea because it brings awareness to the issue.

"People need to stop turning a blind eye because that doesn't help anybody," she said.

Although there has been a lot of media coverage about gay suicide on a national level, some are unaware of the suicides occurring in San Luis Obispo.

"I know of a couple suicides that weren't talked about," said Barbara Adams, the president of the Central Coast chapter of Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). "I think that they should have been; the families didn't want to let it out."

Despite a lack of awareness throughout the general population, many residents of San Luis Obispo are concerned — concerned enough to recognize the recent suicides at a vigil last week.

"It is absolutely necessary for the community to conceptualize these suicides as a vital issue," said Kris Gottlieb, a member of the AmeriCorps and assistant coordinator of the Pride Center on campus, said the problem needs acknowledgment.

"(Prop. 23 is) definitely going to sidestep California's environmental progress," said Lyon.

Opponents of Prop. 23, however, claim the proposition is more focused on allowing Texas oil companies Valero and Tesoro a way to sidestep California's environmental regulations.

"It was never a time when we talked that Andrew didn't say 'I love you' before saying goodbye."

— Mark Thiel
Andrew Thiel's father

There was never a time when we talked that Andrew didn't say 'I love you' before saying goodbye.
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Andrew had a soft spot for kids,” Mark said. “He wanted to go into plastic surgery so he could help kids with deformities like cleft palates.”

Mark said his son graduated from Cal Poly with honors in June and had already taken the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT).

Andrew’s older brother Garrett said Andrew was just finishing his secondary applications to medical schools and already had interviews set up with hopes of discussing his trip to San Quintín in interviews. Garrett and Andrew were both biological sciences majors living and studying together at Cal Poly. Garrett also graduated in June — he went on a mission trip to North Carolina after his freshman year; when he returned to Cal Poly two years later as a sophomore, he was in Andrew’s class.

“It was rare to see us apart — people thought we were twins,” Garrett said. “Andrew was selfless; he always thought about others first. He was the best brother and the best friend I could ever ask for.”

Andrew attended Linden High School in Linden, Calif, where he was the valedictorian of his class in addition to playing basketball, baseball and football. School personnel said he was a peer tutor and made presentations at local elementary schools on drug and alcohol prevention.

According to Linden High School personnel, Andrew’s death left the school community reeling and continues to be incredibly difficult.

Biological sciences senior Tyler Simpson, a close friend of Andrew’s during his time at Cal Poly, said he studied with him for the MCAT.

see Thiel, page 3
Energy

more air pollution and stifles the clean energy economy"

Steven Maviglio, the official spokesman for the "No on 23" campaign, said the oil companies were misrepres­enting the issue and they have no interest in California's economy.

"It's misappropriating as something (it's not)," Maviglio said. "It's really about two Texas oil companies who do not want to clean up their pollu­tion, and ... 98 percent of the money for it comes from the oil industry and almost 90 percent comes from out of state, so I think Texas companies care very little for California's econo­my."

Dunn, on the other hand, said the oil companies backing the proposition are beside the issue. Dunn said the opposing side was funded by "Wall Street" types that do not represent the whole California population.

"Green jobs are only 3 percent of all the jobs in the nation," Dunn said. "That's the problem with AB 32: it's trying to kill (the) 97 percent of jobs for what 3 percent?"

Bill Day, the executive director of media relations for Valero Energy Corporation, also called AB 32 "cost­ly," and said Valero really does have an interest in California's economy.

"With two refineries in California, 1,600 employees, an annual payroll in California of $122 million, 83 com­pany-owned stores and another 800 privately-owned stores that we supply with fuel, Valero has an interest in California's economy being strong," Dunn said. "But right now, California’s economy is in deep trouble."

Though Dunn said they do not want to abolish AB 32, but rather "suspend" it until unemployment gets better, opponents, according to the "No on 23" website, said Califor­nia has rarely had an unemployment rate of 5.5 percent for a full year. Maviglio said the oil com­panies were using fear as a tactic for the proposition.

"They're preying on fears about the economy, which is just an ex­cuse for them to (pollute)," Maviglio said.

Dunn said focusing on who was backing the proposition instead of the fairness of it was not an excuse to be against it. However, the in­volvement of the oil companies drive people to volunteer. Maviglio said more than 1,000 people had volunteered to fight the bill.

Tessa Salzman, a volunteer for "No on 23," said finding out Texas oil companies funded the bill drove her to volunteer her time.

"When I learned how ridiculous this proposition is and saw how ob­vious it was that the oil companies are just in it for the money, I got super pumped up about politics for the first time," Salzman said. "I am passionate about the environ­ment and for all the damage the oil industry is already responsible for, this is too much."

Still, Dunn said it was time to focus on the youth, who she claimed went to college and then "could not find jobs," and on others that cannot sustain themselves.

"(These) people who can't pay their rent, can't feed their family, the environment comes in third place," Dunn said.

For voters caught in the middle of this battle, they must decide if suspending "costly" AB 32 will help the struggling economy or if the proposition is "preying" on the desperate in order to rise above set environmental standards.

Thief

continued from page 2

Simpson was invited by Andrew to join the Baja trip last week, but wasn't able to go.

"I didn't believe it when I heard — he had been sitting in my kitch­en two days before," Simpson said. "Andrew was just a great person to be around, with such a promising future."

Hayley Luker, a Paso Robles res­ident, met Andrew a few years ago through his brother Garrett. Luker said Andrew would have done any­thing for anybody if needed.

"He didn't want to be a doctor for the money; he genuinely wanted to help people and save lives," Luker said. "All of his family and friends have to go through the process of dealing with this. He'll be missed by so many people."

Jones said the Gold Coast Chapter of the Flying Samaritans, which covers San Luis Obispo County, will hold a meeting today to plan a memorial for the crash victims; it is tentatively scheduled for next week.

A memorial for Andrew will be held in the University Union (UU) Plaza Monday October, 25 at 5 p.m.

"Andrew had so much prom­ise, but he was still so humble and grounded," Mark said. "There was never a time when we talked that Andrew didn't say 'I love you' be­fore saying goodbye."

Suicide

continued from page 1

people to understand what is going on," Gottlieb said.

While the Facebook group has obviously attracted the attention of more than a million members, the question remains whether those who accepted the invitation will actually wear purple this week.

"I hope people come out and wear purple," Ahamed said. "I prob­ably will. I want to wear purple."

Adams said that although the vigil and Facebook event are steps in the right direction, there is still more San Luis Obispo residents can do.

"Education (about sexuality) needs to start early and continue through elementary school, that way the bullying won't be as bad," Adams said.

Also, there are programs available to help parents and young adults communicate about issues. In PFLAG training programs, volun­teers visit schools to educate children about bullying. Gottlieb stressed ed­ucation like this as a means to allevi­ating some of the problems.

"We need to teach not just toler­ance, but the idea that we are more alike than we are different," Gottlieb said.

Gottlieb also shared some shock­ing figures about gay suicides — for every 100 suicides, there are at least 100 unsuccessful attempts. In order to decrease this number, Steve Click, president of the gay-straight alliance at the school, said children and teens should be aware of support systems that are out there.

"Things are certainly better here for gay youth," Belmonte said. "With organizations like PFLAG and Parents, Gay Rights California, there is some support in schools."

Despite the increase in support, there are still suicides in the gay community.

"We have become complacent because it's not happening (as much) here, but it could," Click said.

The overwhelming support of the Facebook group comes with a word of caution from Click.

"More information is getting out there, but I fear it will fall into the back of the closet after it's over and (improvements) won't happen," he said.

However, those concerned remain hopeful bullying will someday cease and acceptance will prevail, allowing the gay suicide rate to drop.

"I want nothing more than the suffering of these kids to be lifted," Gottlieb said.

Those interested in becoming an ally can attend training on Nov. 4 from 10 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m. in the University Union (UU) Plaza.


"Five to eight years ago kids were struggling," Click said. "Now with the youth Gay Straight Alliance, there is some support in schools."

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Texas federal judge sentences Jordanian national for attempted bomb attack

JASON TRAHAN
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

A federal judge Tuesday sentenced a Jordanian national who tried to blow up a downtown Dallas skyscraper to 24 years in prison, mostly rejecting defense claims that he was mentally ill and unduly influenced by law enforcement agents.

Hosam "Sam" Smadi faced up to 30 years in prison under a plea agreement accepted by U.S. District Judge Barbara Lynn. He will be deported to Jordan once he serves his time.

"I can't for the life of me figure out what moved you in this direction," the judge said in delivering the sentence.

"You got some encouragement along the way," she added, referring to FBI agents' interactions with Smadi, "but your actions were yours."

Before the sentence was delivered, Smadi was apologetic, addressing the judge in halting English.

"I'm very sorry for my actions," said Smadi, dressed in an orange prison jumpsuit with his hair grown out to shoulder length. "I could not live with myself if I hurt anybody."

The ruling came on the second day of Smadi's sentencing hearing in federal district court. He was arrested on Sept. 24, 2009, by FBI agents who said he dialed a cell phone that he bought to trigger a bomb in a parking garage under the 60-story Fountain Place.

Pentagon announces plan for flying Humvee

W.J. HENNIGAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

"There has never been an engine like this before," Claffin said.

The hybrid craft is being spearheaded by the Pentagon's famed Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA. The agency has been behind projects that have either turned out to be revolutionary, such as the Internet and stealth technology, or just bone-headed, like developing telepathic spies and jungle-trotting robotic elephants.

The research agency said that the flying Humvee should be capable of hauling around 1,000 pounds while traveling a distance of 287 miles on a single tankful of fuel.

"It's a tall task, considering that the ground-only version of the Humvee gets 14 miles per gallon at best, said Scott Claffin, director of Power Innovations at Pratt & Whitney's Rocketdyne, which is a subsidiary of United Technologies Corp.

In addition to Claffin's company, the agency has selected five other companies to work on the Transformer project.

"We're excited to work on the program," said Claffin, who will lead a team of about a dozen engineers who previously worked on rocket engines that lifted men into space.

"There has never been an engine built like this before," Claffin said.

The Transformer would have folding wings that pop out from the side of the vehicle and helicopter-like rotor blades attached to either the roof or the wings, depending on which design the Pentagon picks.

"Also, it would be robotic, so there would be no pilot or driver behind the wheel."

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Military officials said Tuesday they have begun accepting applications from openly gay and lesbian recruits, creating a dilemma for many homosexuals who long have wanted to join the Armed Forces but worry their status will be jeopardized if the controversial “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy is reimposed.

A federal judge in California indicated Monday she would refuse to set aside enforcement of her ruling overturning the don’t ask, don’t tell policy.

Obama administration lawyers are expected to file a formal appeal with the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco to stop her worldwide ban and allow the Pentagon to continue its internal review of the policy.

With the policy at this point legally no longer in force, the Pentagon announced that military recruiters have begun taking applications from men and women who openly admit they are gay or lesbian.

“Recruiters have been given guidance, and they will process applications from men and women that the court injunction was quickly reversed,” said Cynthia O. Smith, a Pentagon spokeswoman.

Yet Smith noted that military recruiters have been told to remind all applicants that the court injunction could quickly be reversed.

If that does not happen, said statements by a recruit that he or she is homosexual could be used to reject them immediately, or discharge them if they had been accepted into the service.

Under the so-called don’t ask, don’t tell law, enacted in 1993 during the Clinton administration, recruits have not been asked about their sexual orientation when they seek to enlist — a policy that the Pentagon said would remain in effect while the litigation continues, she said.

But also under the law, anyone who freely admits he or she is a homosexual is removed from the ranks of the military.

Last week, Undersecretary for Personnel and Readiness Clifford W. Stanley reminded recruiters in a memo not to ask service members or applicants about their sexual orientation.

Many advocates, including Aubrey Sarvis, the executive director of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, urged would-be recruits to proceed carefully in signing up.

“During this interim period of uncertainty,” Sarvis said, “service members must not come out and new recruits should use caution if choosing to sign up. The bottom line: If you come out now, it can be used against you in the future by the Pentagon.”

One of the first to take the opportunity to enlist was former Army Lt. Dan Choi, a Tuscaloosa, Ala., native and Iraq war veteran who came out on the “Rachel Maddow Show” on cable TV in March 2009. The West Point graduate was discharged earlier this year for being gay.

Choi, 29, made an event of his re-enlistment, tweeting his move to the Times Square recruiting station.

“There, he rapped on the glass door, entered and asked to enlist in the Marines.

They said he was too old, so Choi filled out papers to re-enlist in the Army.

“We’re still in a war, and soldiers are needed,” said Choi, adding: “I have a newfound faith in our government that at least one branch is on the side of the Constitution, is on the side of the people.”

In Los Angeles, army recruiters were abiding by the Pentagon’s new directive, but they did not report a noteworthy groundswell of new recruits. “Right now we can’t ask, but they can tell,” said Fernando Sanjurjo, who is the spokesman for the army’s Los Angeles Recruiting Battalion.

“We’re going to do whatever we’re told to do and drive on. But no influx yet.”

Sanjurjo added that potential recruits are being told that the “don’t ask don’t tell” policy could be reinstalled at any time by the appellate courts.

Aaron Belkin, director of Palm Trees, a think tank on gays and the military at the University of California, Santa Barbara, called the military’s announcement on accepting gay recruits a “stunt.”

He added that many legal experts expect the appellate court to reinstate the ban while they review the case.

“For the first time in 65 years we’ve had a week where gays and lesbians can serve openly in the military, and so far we haven’t seen any negative reports of any consequences,” Belkin said.

Meanwhile supporters of the don’t ask, don’t tell policy, like the conservative Family Research Council, said “homosexuals are desperate” to get into the military, but the government should continue to fight in the courts and on Capitol Hill to keep the ban in place.

“With Democrats likely to lose control of Congress in the upcoming election,” the council said, “they see the window for imposing their radical social agenda on the Armed Forces closing fast. But that is no reason for toasting our legislative debate, administrative review, and judicial restraint.”

They added that the law should remain in force until at least next year, when the new Congress will receive the Pentagon’s internal review and can hold hearings into the issue.

**Experience SLO.**

Learn about great activities to do around the central coast with the Laughs and Leisure Directory on Thursday!
State

MERCEDE (MCT) — “We’d have no civilization,” said world-famous fashion designer Christian Dior.

Helen Knobls wasn’t so much worried about civilization as health when she kicked off a special proj­ect three years ago: she started to make hats for cancer patients.

The 86-year-old Mariposa resi­dent sorted though a box full of colorful hats Monday afternoon at the Mercy Cancer Center, where she’d made a stop to drop off 34.

She has made a total of 137 hats from September 2009 to September this year. Knobls said community members donate fab­ric and pieces of jewelry that she adds to the hats for decoration.

***

STOCKTON (MCT) — By mistake, end, some 1,600 San Joaquín County children will be without state-subsidized child­care services under a last-minute reduction made by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in signing Cali­fornia’s budget.

Local advocates are calling the cuts “catastrophic,” saying they jeopardize the employment of hundreds of San Joaquín County parents, further threatening an al­ready vulnerable economy.

The governor used his line­item veto power, in part, to cut a $256 million program that pays the child care costs of former wel­fare recipients who have been off of cash aid for two years.

Schwarzenegger said it was necessary to reduce spending, and that the savings would contribute to a “prudent reserve.”

Briefs

NEW YORK (MCT) — A New York man whose memo­rable visit from his flight attendant job made him a working-class hero pleased guilty Tuesday to criminal mischief and agreed to undergo counseling.

Slater, 38, pleaded guilty to two counts of criminal mischief, one count a felony. A prison sentence of one to three years will be sus­pended while he completes a men­tal health program in Queens.

On Aug. 9, Slater cursed out a passenger on a JetBlue flight that had landed at Kennedy Airport before sliding down the emergency exit chute he deployed.

After his dramatic exit, po­lice arrested Slater at his Queens home. Slater became a symbol for stressed-out workers.

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MINNESOTA (MCT) — A pastor in Hastings, Minn., who taunted the government to come after him if he didn’t sculpt the statue of a Sunday­day man just get what he wanted.

A nonprofit group that advo­cates church-state separation filed a complaint Monday with the In­ternal Revenue Service over the Rev. Brad Brandon’s endorsement of 11 candidates, mostly Republicans.

The endorsement by Brandon, who heads the Berean Bible Bap­tist Church amount to a “blatant violation of federal law,” according to Americans United for Separa­tion of Church and State.

For more than a half-century, the federal tax code has prohib­ited clergy from endorsing politi­cal candidates. Doing so can lead to the loss of a church’s tax-exempt status.

International

ENGLAND (MCT) — After an hour and a half of delib­eration, a British jury on Tuesday found a Saudi prince guilty of murdering a man on a疏er who died of head injuries early this year.

Saudi Abdulaziz bin Nasser al Saud, the grandson of Saudi Ar­abia’s King Abdullah, was convic­ted of murder and grievous bodily harm in the death of Bandar Ab­dulaziz, who was found dead in bed at London’s elegant Landmark Hotel on Feb. 15.

Shortly before the trial the prince admitted to beating Ab­dulaziz, whom he described as a friend, but denied the murder charge.

During the trial, prosecutor Jonathan Laidlaw maintained that the two men had a sexual relation­ship, which Saud denied.

***

IRAQ (MCT) — A roadside bomb targeted the convoy of the U.N. special en­voy to Iraq on Tuesday in the usu­ally placid southern city of Najaf following his meeting with Shiraz Island’s top religious leader, Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani.

U.N. special representative Ad­m. Mullen was unhurt in the attack, which struck an Iraqi police vehicle escorting him to the airport, U.N. spokesperson Randa Jamal said.

The blast killed an Iraqi policeman and injured three others, none of them U.N. employers, according to U.N. and Iraqi officials.

Though convoys are attacked on a nearly daily basis in other parts of Iraq, this incident was un­usual because it occurred in a city considered almost completely safe, and because it targeted the U.N.

Obama signs order to improve Hispanic education

Margaret Talev
Lesley Clark
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Two weeks before elections in which Democrats in several states are nervous that depressed turnout by Latino voters could cost them their jobs, President Barack Obama on Tuesday signed an executive or­der to improve Hispanic children’s ed­ucational opportunities.

Obama’s order is supposed to be, at least in part, a bid to rally La­tinos behind Democrats and him this election season.

If Latino voters sit out the elec­tion, "that’ll hurt Democrats the most, because most Latinos tradi­tionally back Democrats.

This could be of particular con­sequence in close contests this year in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Texas and Washington state.

A survey that the nonpartisan Pew Hispanic Center released this month found that education, jobs and health care rank as the top is­sues for registered Latino voters.

Immigration came in fifth, behind American education and health care reforms.

Nearly two years after Obama was elected, legislation that would give millions of illegal immigrants a path to citizenship is going no­where in Congress.

The newer DREAM Act, which would allow young illegal immigrants who serve in the mili­tary or attend college to seek citi­zenship, also is stalled.

Further, the gximity is frustrating Latino voters just as it’s frustrated all Americans. Latinos make up roughly 15 percent of the U.S. population and 9 percent of the eligible voters. However, White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs said the elections had nothing to do with the executive order, noting La­tino dropout rates.

―The right thing to do, not because of the political calendar,” Gibbs said.

A mariachi band played in the White House Grand Foyer as Obama entered the East Room be­fore an audience of Hispanic-Americ­an advocates. There he signed the order renewing the White House Initiative on Educational Excel­lence for Hispanics.

The program, an effort to deter­mine the causes of the achievement gap between Hispanic students and their peers and to work to ad­dress them, began under Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

Despite two decades of focused efforts, only 50 percent of Hispanic children graduate from high school within four years, compared with three-fourths of all incoming fresh­men.

Obama said that Latinos ac­counted for more than one in five U.S. students and were more likely to attend low-performing schools, be in larger classes, drop out or ar­rive at college underprepared.

―This is not just a Latino prob­lem, this is an American problem... we will all fall behind together,” he said, adding that there isn’t just a moral aspect but also “an economic imperative” to improve Latino stu­dents’ performances.

The president didn’t mention voter turnout. He called on Con­gress to pass the DREAM Act and told the Hispanic advocates that his approach is about “giving you more say in the policies that affect your lives.”

"Immigration reform is high on our list,” said Rudy Lopez, the national field director and politi­cal director of the advocacy group Center for Community Change, "but we also want good schools for our kids and jobs.”

Lopez said the executive order was “a gesture,” and “a good thing.” Nevertheless, he doesn’t expect La­tino turnout this year to approach 2008 or 2006 levels.

The Pew survey found that 65 percent of Latino registered voters plan to support Democrats in their congressional elections, and 22 per­cent Republicans.

The survey of 1,375 Latino adults, including 618 registered voters, was conducted Aug. 17-­Sept. 19. It has a margin of error of 4.9 percentage points for registered voter responses.

Jorge Murnuli, the president of Democrats USA, a nonpartisan civic engagement and voter registration group, said few campaign focused sufficiently on Hispanic outreach this year and that some Democrats ran away from the issue of immigration because it was so polarizing.

―Without the investment from his party, what most Hispanics are going to know is he made a promise he didn’t keep,” said of Obama. “I think Latinos are unlikely to sig­nificantly participate as much be­cause of this lack of investment.”

In the open Senate race in Flor­ida, Murnuli said, Democratic U.S. Rep. Kendrick Meek and indepen­dent Gov. Charlie Crist haven’t connected well with Hispanic vot­ers.

Republican Marco Rubio, a Cu­ban American, opposes liberalizing immigration policy and may take a conservatve stance on government programs and spending than many Hispanic voters would want. However, Murnuli said, “In the absence of information, people who are determined to vote are going to go ‘easy, meiny, meiny, moe’ and go with a Hispanic name.”

Avoid Burnout

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We are going to detox now.
Word on the Street
What would you change about Campus Dining?

"I'd like it if the salads at The Avenue were on the meal plan instead of Plus Dollars."— Erica Wong, business administration freshman

"I don't think they should charge extra for the plasma TVs at VG and Metro."— Daniel Debruler, soil sciences senior

"I miss the $1 corn dogs at The Avenue."— Morgan Roth, social sciences senior

"I think there should be more parking on campus early in the morning."— Jared Werner, business administration senior

"I think we should get more quality for price."— Patrick Weisbrod, mechanical engineering senior

"I think the prices are high, but overall I think the dining services are good."— Heidi Van Campen, anthropology and geography senior

"I'd like it if the pizzas were on the meal plan instead of Plus Dollars."— Morgan Roth, social sciences senior

U.S. soldier in custody after publicly accused of shooting Taliban leader

Maura Dolan
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The U.S. military detained an American soldier and launched a criminal investigation Tuesday after Afghan President Hamid Karzai publicly accused U.S. forces of killing a Taliban leader in his southern Afghanistan jail cell.

American officials said a U.S. soldier was in custody after a "senior leader of the (local) Taliban" had been found shot to death in his cell in Kandahar province's rural Arghandab district.

Earlier, Karzai had issued a blunt statement launching his own probe of the allegations emanating from Arghandab, a district that's now the focus of intensified military efforts to oust Taliban forces from the fertile valley.

"Based on reports from Arghandab, coalition troops entered the Arghandab district prison at 9:30 p.m. Sunday and killed a detainee named Mullah Muhibullah," Karzai's office said.

The incident comes as American officials are trying to make a case that coalition forces and the pro-Western government in Kabul are gaining the upper hand in the fight against Taliban-led insurgents.

Even if the soldier is cleared, the allegations could create more friction between Karzai and the Obama Administration as the two allies try to regain the initiative in the fight against the Taliban.

The shooting is the second major military controversy to emerge from Kandahar province. Five other American soldiers who served in a neighboring Taliban stronghold have been accused of killing Afghan civilians for sport and keeping fingers as battlefield trophies.

"The U.S. takes very seriously any mistreatment of detainees," said Rear Adm. Greg Smith, the chief spokesman for the U.S.-led military in Afghanistan. "Our forces are trained to uphold the rights of persons in custody," and any violations of those rights are investigated, he said.

Even before the latest allegations emerged, the U.S. military has been buffeted by criticism of the unsuccessful rescue attempt earlier this month of kidnapped British aid worker Linda Norgrove.

After initially saying that Norgrove had been killed when one of her captors detonated a suicide vest next to her, the U.S. military retracted the claim when it discovered that one of her would-be rescuers might have killed her.

On Tuesday, several British newspapers reported that a U.S. Navy SEAL was facing disciplinary action for apparently throwing a fragmentation grenade into the room where the 36-year-old Norgrove was being held.
Meet
MORGAN WEBB
Leading Technology

Morgan Webb, co-host of the G4 X-Play and creator of G4 Underground, will be speaking to students about life, careers, and current trends in technology and gaming. Following her talk, Morgan Webb will be conducting a Q & A, meet & greet, and photo op with the students.

November 9, 2016
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Sex Column

Raise it to the power of three

Whoever said two is a pair, three is a crowd and four is a group was obviously not well versed in this neck of the bedroom. It is true that two makes a pair and four makes a group (or orgy), but three, well three makes a threesome.

What is the deal with threesomes? I might be gender-biased, but it appears as though every guy wants one while most girls cringe at the thought.

But I say if the cast of "Gossip Girl" can do it, then why can't you? The following is merely informational content and should only be attempted if you feel qualified to take on such a crowded task.

If so, take all possible outcomes into consideration beforehand because relationships and friendships can falter under the weight of three people.

Ford's No. 1 rule: "Establish the rules." This guarantees that everyone is comfortable and aware of limitations. Agreeing on a safety-word to use in case the comfort zone gets violated is advisable at this time.

Ford's No. 2 rule: "Be as giving as you can." He suggests ignoring personal desires and focusing on what's in everyone else's best interest.

Other possible names for the party include: three-way, double team, ménage à trois, devil's threesome and group sex.

— Karlee Prazak
Sex Columnist

A sexual triad can easily leave one party hanging out to dry. On the other hand, a severe case of TMI (too much information, duh) can be another side effect. So choose partners wisely, because once you hit the sack there is no looking back!

Before going more in depth, let's get some input from an intellectual perspective:

Merriam-Webster defines a threesome as a "group of three people or things" — followed by an example involving golf. But who depends on the "real" dictionary for these terms? UrbanDictionary.com defines a threesome as: "Three people having sex together. One person may be in the middle, or everyone can have sex with everyone else." It is followed by a better example than Merriam-Webster too.

UrbanDictionary.com said "some include: skiing (a person uses their hands to stimulate two others simultaneously), the triangle position (one woman sits on a man's face and the other sits on his penis facing each other — can be either open or closed) and the wobbly-H or Eiffel Tower (where a person receives anal sex from one end and gives a blow job at the other)."

If these terms still escape you, I suggest either utilizing your imagination or referring to everyone's smartest friend these days, Google.

It would be irresponsible to talk about threesomes without laying out some guidelines recommended by a more qualified source.

Chris Ford, a sexual education correspondent for AskMen.com, recommends proper threesome etiquette in his article "Threesome Rules."

Other possible names for the pants party include: three-way, double team, ménage à trois, devil's threesome and group sex.
The Cal Poly Music Department is starting the season off with a twist — the department is collaborating Friday evening for the first Parents’ Weekend Ensemble Showcase, which will feature all of the major performing arts ensembles in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center (PAC).

Traditionally, this weekend is reserved specifically for a choir concert. However, the department said it made sense to start this year off with a “sampler” showcase, displaying all of the major performance groups in the department — the Cal Poly Symphony, Choirs, University Jazz Band I, Arab Music Ensemble and the Wind Ensemble.

Director of Choirs Thomas Davies said it’s a nice way for students to get comfortable performing early in the quarter and also serves as a new department event.

“This is now a representation of our department, where it’s just not all on my program to pull off this concert,” Davies said. “Which was fine — we could still do that — depending on weekend, it could be that again in the future. But I like this idea that we’re all kind of collectively doing this concert together. It makes it a department event.”

Symphony Director David Arrivée agrees and said it’s nice to take the pressure off the choir to put on a concert so early in the quarter.

“The choir have to prepare a whole concert in five weeks, which is really hard,” Arrivée said. “Then they turn around and do their fall concert.”

Arrivée said he likes the idea of a showcase of the department.

“We don’t have something in the beginning of the year to say, ‘Here is the music department.’” Arrivée said. “It’s such a no-brainer. It’s weird that we haven’t tried this before.”

Most groups will perform pieces that will also be played later in the quarter. The concert will begin with the symphony performing Bach’s “Toccata and Fugue in D minor,” which was made popular by the movie “Fantasia.” However, the symphony will not perform Bach’s original music but an arrangement by Leopold Sokolowski.

“He took it, orchestrated it for our symphony and, where the orchestra can expand, he makes it really big,” Arrivée said. “For example, instead of two clarinets, we have three clarinets and a bass clarinet. It’s a really fun piece. It’s very difficult because it was totally not written for their instruments. So they’ve got these things to play that are kind of unnatural, but at least it’s a cool piece.”

The choirs will follow with six pieces, performed both by the University Singers and PolyPhonics. PolyPhonics will sing “Hymne au Soleil,” or “Hymn of the Sun” by Lil Boulanger as well as “Camp­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­…
CRAVE wine tasting event to take place Friday

Marisa Bloch
MBLOCH@MUSTANGMAIL.COM

The Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance (PRWCA) will host the CRAVE wine tasting event which includes unlimited tastings from 38 Paso Robles wineries, music from the rock band TROPO and food from several local restaurants and cafés.

Communications coordinator for PRWCA Megan Callahan said this is its 3rd year putting on the CRAVE event. "We expect to have anywhere from 400 to 500 guests attend this years event," Callahan said.

Based on previous years, the event is popular with the public, Callahan said they expect to have approximately 50 volunteers, eight bars focused on industry trends, new and unique people, and 40 wineyard employees to conduct the wine tastings.

Each year PRWCA tries to make the event even better than the year before.

We have many enhancements this year including four new wine bars focused on industry trends, new design and layout, live band TROPO and a few other surprises," Callahan said.

Agricultural business senior and Cal Poly Vines to Wines president Kelly Driggs said she has been looking forward to this event since she heard about it last year. She said she would have attended, but she was still undergraduate. "I heard the event is a lot of fun, classy and a nice opportunity to dress up," Driggs said.

According to Driggs, the Paso Wine Association is in close contact with Vines to Wines and she has heard nothing but great things for this event.

"I am excited" to try a lot of new wines from wineries I haven't had the chance to visit yet," Driggs said.

Emily Birninger is a wine and viticulture junior and volunteer this year at the CRAVE event. She said she heard about the wine tasting event through Vines to Wines and through staff from Cass Winery where she works.

"I hope to meet a lot of people in the industry and talk to them about the local wines," Birninger said. "The reps from the wineries want to teach people about their wines and I love working events where the guests get involved."

However, Birninger is not 21 yet, so she said her participation in CRAVE will most likely consist of activities such as setting up tables, serving food, talking with guests and meeting new people and fellow wine enthusiasts.

"It is so frustrating trying to break into the wine industry when I am not allowed anywhere near the wine," Birninger said. "So until then, I try to get as involved as I can so that when I do turn 21 I will have established a foundation." Birninger encourages everyone to come and check out the wineries this area has to offer. She said there is a lot to learn and the makings for a great time.

In order to ensure a safe environment for consuming alcohol, Grapevine Wine Country Shuttle Company will provide sober rides throughout the evening.

CRAVE's website presents viewers with the slogan "CRAVE Wine. CRAVE Food. CRAVE Music. CRAVE Paso (And Remember to Swirl, Smell, Sip — Please taste responsibly)."

Unlimited wine tasting is scheduled for Friday from 7:30 to 10 pm at the Veterans Hall in San Luis Obispo.

CRAVE wine tasting is an event for attendees 21 and over and a photo ID will be required for entrance, no exceptions.

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Just for the greater good. Ford Motor Company's "Be Safe." Ford recommends going into the situation fully equipped with plenty of contraception. This avoids any fluid exchange capable of causing repercussions in the proceeding nine months.

But as Ford mentions in his article, threesome usually occur by chance and are a "right place at the right time" kind of happening. Be spontaneous and open to the fun; don't approach a significant other and their best friend, expect clothes to magically drop and see bodies instantly take on contorted positions. If this is the plan of attack, take some advice from Ford because "it (will be) just you and your hand tonight."

Karlee Przak is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily copy editor.

CultureFest brings diversity to SLO

Jessica Tam
JESSICATAM.MD@MUSTANGMAIL.COM

The 13th annual CultureFest, hosted by the MultiCultural Center (MCC), took place last Sunday at Mitchell Park. The free event was sponsored by MCC and different members of the community, aimed to promote cultural awareness and diversity to day of San Luis Obispo.

Victor Kim of Queen Crew from MTV's "America's Best Dance Crew" made an appearance and performed the closing act.

CultureFest Committee Chair James Rymel said the event is a great opportunity to see diversity.

"A lot of times student organizations don't have the same outlet so they get really enthusiastic about CultureFest, which is the one time a year they can showcase their different backgrounds, their cultures and really have that opening and welcoming atmosphere," Rymel said.

Clubs featured at the festival included the Filipino Cultural Exchange (FCE), the Japanese Cultural Exchange (JCE), the Chinese Student Association and Movimiento Estudiantil Xicano de Aztlán (M.E.X.A.). CultureFest member and mechanical engineering junior Adam Eberwein said the event is about more than simply bringing different people together.

"It's about experiencing what's important to them as well as understanding what's important to them," Eberwein said.

Throughout the afternoon, students and community members got to witness how diverse San Luis Obispo can be through food, booth design and performances. CultureFest also featured a contest to award the club with the best of those three categories.

CultureFest hope to continue promoting awareness throughout the community.

"Culture exists here because there is a lot of these students are passionate about who they are and where they're from and just want to share it," Rymel said.

Monday might be the day you find your new favorite restaurant. Check out the Pub and Grub Directory!
Obama faces tough journey toward re-election

One of the oddities of American politics is that midterm congressional elections don’t tell us what’s likely to happen to a first-term president in the re-election campaign that follows. Bill Clinton’s Democrats suffered a cata­
strophic defeat in 1994, but Clinton cruised to easy re-election in 1996. George H.W. Bush’s Republicans did well in 1990 by losing only a handful of seats, but Bush lost the presidency two years later.

So let’s ignore for a moment the noise of the coming midterm elections and look ahead to 2012 and the presidential cam­
paign that’s already un­
derway. The news of the last few weeks has raised early warning signals about President Obama’s prospects for re-election.

Start with the economy. Until recently, Democrats were fairly confi­
dent that Obama could count on the economic recovery to gather steam next year in plenty of time to lift vot­
ers’ spirits and make his re-election easier. Their historical model is Ron­
ald Reagan, who suffered a big set­
back in the midterm elections of 1982, when unemployment was about as high as it is now, only to win

re-election by a landslide in 1984 after

the economy rebounded.

But the last few weeks have brought a spate of forecasts that unemployment will actually rise in 2011 — perhaps over the 10 percent mark — and re­

remain stubbornly high well into 2012.

Goldman Sachs’ chief U.S. econ­
omician, Jan Hatzius, sees only two sce­
narios for next year: “fairly bad and very bad.” In the likely (“fairly bad”) scenario, he said at a recent confer­
ce, unemployment peaks “some­
where around 10 percent, maybe a little above” in mid-2011, and falls only slowly in 2012. In the “very bad” scenario, the economy nose-dives into another rece­

ession and unemployment rises even higher.

Hatzius is a pessimist, but he isn’t alone. Mark Zandi of Economy.com, who normally more optimistic,

agrees that unemployment is likely to rise above 10 percent next year, although he says he

still hopes a recovery will take hold by late 2011. The International Mon­
etary Fund also forecasts a slowdown next year, which means unemploy­

ment will “remain stubbornly high.”

And those forecasts were made be­

fore the most recent sour turn of the foreclosure crisis — the discovery that banks had been playing fast and loose with mortgage paperwork in their zeal to foreclose, which could mean more bank failures and a slower recovery of the real-estate market.

High unemployment is bad news for any president seeking reelection, of course. But it worked. The economic fireworks that year turned what had been a close election campaign into a rout.

But this year, when Obama tried to blame Bush again, the message fell flat. So did his argument that the economy has improved under his watch (even though it has). “When you try to convince people that the Obama will be on his own.

And there’s another danger sign for the president: Voters have fallen out of love with him.

In 2008, Obama won the presiden­

cy, in part, by “expanding the elector­

to include non-traditional fon­
time voters, mostly young people.

This year, though, some young vot­
ers aren’t sticking with him. An AP­

MTV poll released last week found

that Obama’s approval rating among 18- to 29-year-olds, but even that is a big drop from earlier figures.

The morning-after skep­
tics were visible in a town hall meeting Obama held with

young voters Thursday on three cable networks. It wasn’t a lovefest.

“If the economy does not improve over the next few years, when do you think we were back in?” asked a questioner who identified himself as Adam Hunter of Washington.

Campaign manager David Plouffe says these young voters again will be a key part of Obama’s strategy in 2012. But judging from the polls, it may not play out as last time.

It’s far too early, of course, to hand­
ticp a 2012 election against a Republi­
can candidate who would be only four years old at that time. Obama will still have the advantage of incumbency. He appears likely to cruise to renomination with­
out a serious challenge from within his own party, a major factor in the defeat of incumbents Ford, Jimmy Carter and George H.W. Bush. He will lead the country through two years of real-world events that could elevate his stature, includ­
ing continuing confrontations with congressional Republicans. And by 2012, even the pessimists think the job picture will begin to improve.

But no one how this year’s con­
gen­

gessional election turns out. Obama faces a steeper road to re-election than many Democrats expect.

Dole McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times.
**Miners inspire patriotism around the world**

The entire world owes a debt to Chile. The small South American country gave the world a much-needed break from seemingly endless wars, natural disasters, man-made calamities, moral dilemmas and a sense of pessimism that have been taking root in many parts of the globe.

Chileans, with good reason, are bursting with patriotic pride. They have detailed with the historic rescue of 33 miners trapped deep inside the Earth.

The drama in the Atacama Desert gave us all a chance to root for the same team. What everyone, everywhere, wanted was an old-fashioned happy ending. And Chile provided it in high-tech, nail-biting, heart-warming living color — all that, in an irony-free production reminiscent of a different era.

But at least one conservative leader remembers when cynicism took over? Back then, technology could conquer any challenge, provided that the ivory-towered agenda of putting ideals above self-interest. Back then, the big, powerful countries sent rockets into space and men to the moon.

It looked as if they could achieve anything their vast wealth and know-how would permit. Smaller nations captured global attention only with messy wars, tin-pot dictatorships and assorted disasters.

The world, to state the obvious, has changed.

The old superpowers now look tired and, frankly, incompetent. Sure, the Chilean rescue benefited from the latest and equipment of key players from the United States and from pivotal technology from Europe.

But the Chileans wisely welcomed international help without giving up control of the operation.

Hope-filled patriotism played a powerful role in this gripping drama long before a happy ending seemed the likely outcome. Soon after we heard that the miners had survived, on Aug. 26, the government released the first grany video from inside the mine.

The bearded, grumpy, shirtless miners pronounced themselves absolutely certain they would come out. Then they shouted a chant that would later rework from Pittsburgh to Pyongyang — "Chi! Chi! Le! Le! Le! — and solemnly sing their national anthem.

It's hard to conceive of American or European miners spontaneously bursting into patriotic anthems under similar circumstances. It's even more difficult to imagine countries coming together with this kind of unalloyed, cancer-free, idealistic fervor anywhere in the developed world.

National pride will return to the United States and other big countries not from speeches or stirring political commercials, but from a return to competence and meaningful, life-enhancing achievements.

Eventually, we will hear the less heart-warming details of this saga. It won't take long before Chile's media and a number of businesses, including a television network.

The government made sure Chile's name and flag were visible in every shot. But there was little resistance to the patriotic appeal from the rest of a nation that already had much to be proud of. For many reasons, Chile is one of Latin America's best success stories.

Patriotism served everyone well. The miners' appeal to national pride helped turn the project of saving their lives into a national imperative. It raised the profile of their plight, and it made success a yardstick by which the government and its top officials would be measured. In the end, this paid off for everyone.

The government quickly took charge and made it clear it would spare no expense to save the 33 lives.

Notice this: A country that values nationalism, a notion dismissed by psychiatrists and psychologists.

In time, the idea that schools shouldn't take sides when it comes to the dignity of gays and lesbians will seem as quaint as the idea that teaching children about racial equality is furthering an "integrationist agenda."

Meanwhile, schools should treat gay and lesbian students with respect and welcome efforts by students to oppose anti-gay bullying, such as the Gay-Straight Alliance groups that have been formed at thousands of U.S. schools. Preventing the harassment of gay students will require careful attention to the law (which gives students who want to criticize homosexuality the right to express their opinion in a nondiscriminatory way).

But schools should recognize that fighting gay students involves more than protecting them from bullying.

The following editorial appeared in the Los Angeles Times on Monday, Oct. 18.

**Gay and lesbian students require protection and respect from schools**

A spate of suicides by gay teenagers has produced what looks like a unitary response: zero tolerance for bullying. But at least one conservative leader sees a sinister homosexual agenda in efforts to combat such bullying by acknowledging and affirming gay students.

As The Los Angeles Times recently observed, harassment of gay and lesbian students is part of a larger problem, and therefore, schools should pursue comprehensive anti-bullying efforts. That doesn't mean teachers and administrators shouldn't recognize anti-gay bullying as a distinct issue rooted not only in adolescent cruelty but in cultural condemnations of homosexuality.

When they do so, however, they are accused by some conservatives of taking sides in a culture war.

An extreme example was a recent article by Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council. Perkins accused the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network and similar organizations of exploiting the suicides of gay teenagers "to push their agenda of demanding not only tolerance of homosexual individuals but active affirmation of homosexual conduct and their efforts to redefine the family." For good measure, he endorsed the theory that gays and lesbians can be converted to heterosexuality, a notion dismissed by psychiatrists and psychologists.

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Frida Ghitis writes about global affairs for The Miami Herald.

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Giants
continued from page 16

to put runners on first and second with one out. But he induced a weak flyout from Jimmy Rollins and struck out Raul Ibanez. "He had command of four pitches and was able to move the ball to both sides of the plate with all four of them," catcher Buster Posey said.

After Cain glanced a fastball off the arm of Carlos Ruiz and walked pinch-hitter Ross Gload with two out in the seventh, manager Bruce Bochy went to the mound for a chat. "He was just asking how I was feeling, just of instilling that he had confidence in me," Cain said. "It was like, make your pitches, and we can get this guy out."

Cain made his pitches and put away Victorino on a grounder to second to end his day. The Giants pitchers limited the Phillies to a .194 average through the first three games. They've held them to 18 hits and struck out 29.

"It was by far Cain's best performance against the Phillies. He was 0-3 with a 6.23 ERA before Tuesday. He said the difference this time was simple: he put the Phillies on their heels by getting ahead early in the count.

"I was ... trying to make them a little more defensive," he said. "That's what we kept trying to do from the start to the end."

Cain had help from a couple of former Phillies — Aaron Rowand and Pat Burrell. Benched the first two games, Rowand led off the fifth inning with a double and scored the third run. Burrell drew a critical two-out walk in the fourth, saving an at bat for the torrid Cody Ross, who drove in the game's first run with a single.

"This has got to be the top one, really," Cain said when asked where the victory ranked in his career. "To be able to go out there and throw the ball well and help your team win is a great feeling."

Philadelphia's Jason Werth was one of six batters who couldn't get a hit against the Giants on Tuesday. As a team, the Phillies racked up three total hits.

Women's golf finishes second in invitational

Mustang Daily Staff Report

The Mustangs shot a final round of 297 — third best in school his­ tory — to lift the Cal Poly women's golf team to a second-place finish in the Shocker Invitational Tuesday at the Sand Creek Sta­tion Golf Course. The Mustangs finished with a 35-over-par 611 total.

Freshman Asia Adell opened with an 80 on Monday and rallied for a 70 on Tuesday. She jumped from 17th place into a tie for fifth place in just her third collegiate tour­ nament. Along with Adell, junior Caitlin Farley shot a 74 on Tuesday — she shot 78 in the first round — and climbed four positions into a tie for eighth place. Sophomore Alicia We­ ber tied for 10th place with a 76. Freshman Alex Phillips, who shot a 77 to tie for 16th place, and sopho­ more Kirsten Locke, who had a final-round 86, also scored for Cal Poly.

Cal Poly will host the Lamkin Grip Cal Poly Invitational on Nov. 1-2 at Cypress Ridge Golf Course in Arroyo Grande.
Volleyball’s hot start hasn’t translated to huge crowds

The Cal Poly women’s volleyball team boasts a 15-5, 5-3 Big West record this year, but it seems the word hasn’t spread.

Biological sciences sophomore Jamie Martin has never attended a women’s volleyball game.

“Not only do some think Cal Poly women’s volleyball is entertaining to watch, others said the game belongs the San Luis Obispo community together,” Director of Athletics Allison Cone has been with Cal Poly for 16 years. During her time, she has witnessed fluctuations in attendance.

“She’s always exciting when there’s a turnout,” Cone said. “It’s nice to have the support of fans, and I hope it’s entertaining for them to watch.”

Middle blocker Jennifer Keddy is the team’s top blocker with 1.07 blocks per set. She has been with Cal Poly for 16 years. Cone said.

“Those who have attended games usually have the support of fans, and I hope it’s entertaining for them to watch,” Cone said.

Outside hitter Kristina Graven averages 3.79 kills and 2.83 digs per set this season. She earned Women’s Volleyball Player of the Week for the first time since Kyle Asherstone on Sept. 22, 2008.

“It was everything she expected,” Cone said. “It’s nice to have the support of fans, and I hope it’s entertaining for them to watch.”

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