Manon Fisher

The University is in excellent shape

A midterm discussion with Interim President Robert Glidden about quality, funding and the search for the new president

Interim President Robert Glidden said he hopes to help Cal Poly gain more revenue from private sources such as alumni.

According to Glidden, the added revenue would help to maintain the quality of the programs offered at the university.

Friends and family gathered in Cal Poly's University Union (UU) Plaza to honor recently deceased Cal Poly alumnus, Andrew Thiel.

As the vigil began, the University Union filled with discussions about Thiel. Another Cal Poly alumna, Thiel's childhood babysitter, Kindra Peterson flew from Chicago to participate in the vigil.

"I've known Drew since birth," Peterson said. "He was a huge Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles fan. When he was little, he used to run around with his backpack and a paint stick sticking out of it. That was his Ninja Turtle weapon."

Thiel would be honored by the attendance but embarrassed about the attention, Peterson said.

"He was a sports stud but he never wanted it to be about him," Peterson said. "He'd probably ask how much we all spent on this."

Thiel's sister Noelle also said that he would be embarrassed about the attention but would appreciate the people that came out to honor him.

"I'm going to miss our inside jokes and laughing with him," Noelle said.

With the help of many of Thiel's other friends, Jad Adaimi arranged the vigil. Adaimi, a first year graduate student like Thiel, knew Thiel for two years.

"I think he appreciates that a lot of people miss him," Adaimi said. "It's more about us showing our appreciation for him."
another way Cal Poly could make the necessary improvements is by designating a fund so faculty could experiment with more innovative teaching practices. Glidden has experience with this from his time at Ohio University, he said.

"If you have some money to try out some things and develop some things, (you can make some innovative changes)," Glidden said. "Maybe everything won't work and you might abandon it, but then if it does work, you want to make that part of the program."

Though Glidden would like to implement a program like this, it would take a large sum of money, and since funding problems are an issue, the money would have to be raised by the foundation through private sources or endowments, he said.

The college should be focused on getting students to graduate on time by providing them the courses they need, Glidden said. By allowing students to over-extend their education, the school is taking away the opportunity for other students wishing to receive an education. Students should be taking enough units in order to graduate on time and should not be spending their time "coasting," he said.

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Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger stood by his commitment to restore the California State University (CSU) budget when he signed the state budget pact on Oct. 8, the first state budget increase since 2007. With 433,000 students in the largest university system in the country, the CSU system will receive one-time federal stimulus funds to help payroll and bring back classes that were cut in recent years.

The budget will bring back $199 million to CSUs, as well as include an additional $60.6 million for new enrollment. This will result in an increase of the year's general fund from $2.35 billion to $2.62 billion.

The general fund in 2009-2010 was the lowest the CSU has had since 1999-2000 ($2.25 billion). Because of this, the 23 campuses in the CSU system had to increase student tuition, cut enrollment, cancel classes and establish furlough days for faculty and students. Now, with a new budget in hand, representatives of the Chancellor's Office will see to it that the funding will go to support students as much as possible at Cal Poly.

"The funding will go to restor­ring some of the courses, services and operations that were impacted by the last two years of state fund­ing reductions," said Erik Fallis, media relations specialist for the Chancellor's Office. "A significant portion of the funding will be used to restore (additional classes) and facilities cut.

Because of budget cuts in the past two years, the CSU system minimized enrollment by approxi­mately 40,000 students since 2008. Now, the CSUs plan to admit 30,000 new students for the winter and spring 2011 terms. While this may seem like a generous amount, some are skeptical about the new admittance, including Cal Poly's Interim President Robert Glidden.

"We wouldn't be willing to ac­cept students who don't meet our academic standards," Glidden said. "For some institutions, they can roll more easily with this than we can. And there is some possibil­ity that if we don't add enough or more students, then we will get penalized and they will not give us that money. It's a very complex situation: they expect us to take more students because of the ad­ditional money, which, in a sense, is not unreasonable. The problem is timing."

With a little less than a month and a half left in the fall quarter and November elections for a new governor approaching, time plays an important role. The California Faculty Association (CFA) com­munications specialist, Brian Fer­gu­son, is eager for the new funding but, like President Glidden, worries about time.

"Depending on who is elected, the process could look very different," said Ferguson. "We have two new people vying (to be governor) who have different views on how to fund higher education. There's a lot of unknowns of how the state budget will look in the future, so faculty members continue to work to show law makers how important it is to fund the CSU.""Agreeing with Ferguson, Presi­dent Glidden also said the election will play a vital role in how the CSU budget will pan out.

"(With the election coming up) after November, we have some fear that if this budget was not totally realistic, they might still make some changes," Glidden said. "Nevertheless, we will plan with what we know now.

Additionally, the CSU system will be receiving $196 million in one-time federal stimulus funds to bring back the classes that were cut in recent years.

"One of our priorities is mak­ing sure that money is being spent where it is (intended), such as class­rooms and educating students for (them) to be successful," Ferguson said. "Class views are the most im­portant things that schools(s) can fund. The only forward way will be an increase in the money available to support course sections for (stu­dents)."

The last time the CSUs wit­nessed an increase in money was in 2007 when Gov. Schwarzenegger proposed a $299.5 million boost for the 23 campuses. The 2006-07 Budget Act included a $122 million from the general fund to support 8,496 additional students at the CSUs at $7,225 per student. The new funding being put into the CSU budget is a reinstatement of the past.

"2007 was a very different time. The current budget is begin­ning to provide some restoration, but we haven't gotten back to the level of funding (that will keep us stable)," said vice president for ad­ministration and finance Larry Kel­ley.

"Students, however, may not see a decrease in their student fees. The governor's budget pro­posal, which made it through the legislature and is now in state, (ant­icipates) a 10 percent increase (in student fees)," Kelley said. "The student board approved five per­cent and would consider a second increase mid-year, depending on the level of funding in the bud­get."

"Nevertheless, the increase in funding has left administrators both pleased and doubtful of the future. For some, it has been a long-awaited gift. "We're happy about (the budget increase); we think it's long over­due," Ferguson said. "CFA has been advocating many years to fight for proper funding for the CSU sys­tem. We've done a lot (to advocate) for students and staff; supports (have been behind us) to show (the state) why it's good and necessary to fund the CSU."

Some students, too, are eager about the budget proposal, as well as the new admissions for the follow­ing quarters.

"I was worried about (this situa­tion) for my siblings and cousins and other people who haven't got­ten in to college yet, said biological sciences junior Nenc Ugbah. The competition is still high, but now, they'll have more of an opportu­nity to get into college during this time."

For others, it remains question­able as to what the future holds.

"(Gov. Schwarzenegger) was absolutely positive to restore the budget, but there (are) still a lot of questions," Glidden said. "We're proceeding with some caution."
NASA announces shuttle launch is scheduled for next Monday

Robert Block
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

NASA made it official today: Shuttle Discovery will launch on an 11-day mission to the International Space Station next Monday, at 4:40 p.m. EDT. It will be Discovery’s last flight before becoming a museum piece.

Discovery’s launch date was announced at the end of a flight readiness review at Kennedy Space Center. During the meeting, senior NASA and contractor managers assessed the risks associated with the mission and determined the shuttle and the necessary equipment, support systems and personnel are ready.

Over the weekend, engineers successfully replaced suspect seals in the orbital maneuvering system — the twin engines in the shuttle’s tail that are used to steer the ship on orbit.

Discovery and its crew of astronauts are scheduled to blast off from launch pad 39A in the middle of a 10-minute window to carry its six-member crew on a two-day trip to the space station. The flight will include two spacewalks. Mission commander Steven Lindsey and his crew were to enter quarantine today and fly to Kennedy Space Center on Thursday. The crew also includes pilot Eric Boe and mission specialists Michael Barratt, Al Drew, Tim Kopra and Nicole Stott.

Discovery will deliver a cylindrical module, named Leonardo, that will help create more storage on the station. Built by the Italian Space Agency, the module was originally designed to fly up and back to the station in the shuttle’s cargo bay and has already made several trips delivering cargo to the orbiting lab. Now, it has been upgraded to remain on orbit for an extended stay.

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Discovery was the first shuttle to finish its working life. Named after the vessel used by Henry Hudson in the early 1600s to explore the Hudson Bay and search for a northwest passage to the Pacific. Discovery was the first shuttle to fly after both the Challenger and Columbia accidents.

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Briefs

National

Pennsylvania (MCT) — A Pennsylvania woman who allegedly showed the remains of four children in her closet and threw the bodies of another into a landfill was charged with five counts of murder Monday.

michelle Kalina, 44, had previously been charged with abuse of a corpse on Aug. 9 after her husband and daughter discovered containers with the tiny bodies inside a closet of their Reading apartment.

The children were born alive and then killed, the Berks County coroner ruled. According to District Attorney John T. Adams, a pathologist concluded Oct. 14 that the deaths were due to non-natural causes "consistent with asphyxia, poisoning or neglect."

She has been jailed without bail since the discovery of the remains.

Washington (MCT) — Regulators should have foreseen a wave of suspect foreclosure paperwork coming, a federal official admitted Monday.

"In retrospect, there were warning signs that servicing standards were eroding," Sheila Bair, chairwoman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., told a housing conference in Virginia.

The latest attack occurred in the town of Pakpakan in Punjab province, about 120 miles southwest of the eastern city of Lahore.

A crowd had gathered at the Baha Faddir shrine about 6:30 a.m. for early prayers when the bomb exploded, said Shafiq Dogar, a Pakpakan senior police officer.

Police said the people who left the motorcycle by the shrine were pretending to sell milk. At least 18 people were injured in the blast.

International

Portugal (MCT) — Portuguese police have seized nearly 130 paintings apparently falsely attributed to masters such as Leonardo da Vinci, Wassily Kandinsky, Pablo Picasso, Amedeo Modigliani, Joan Miro, Marc Chagall, Henri Matisse or Claude Monet.

The Iatc.st attack occurred in the home of a foreign citizen on the outskirts of Lisbon. They were attributed to masters such as Leonardo da Vinci, Wassily Kandinsky, Pablo Picasso, Amedeo Modigliani, Joan Miro, Marc Chagall, Henri Matisse or Claude Monet.

Police confiscated some fake authenticity certificates.

The operation showed that Portugal had become one of the transit countries for art traffickers, police said, warning collectors to check the authenticity of works purchased in Portugal.

Pakistan (MCT) — A bomb planted on a motorcycle killed five people at a famed Sufi shrine in central Pakistan on Monday, the third terror strike against one of the country's Sufi shrines in four months.

The latest attack occurred in the town of Pakpakan in Punjab province, about 120 miles southwest of the eastern city of Lahore.

A crowd had gathered at the Baha Faddir shrine about 6:30 a.m. for early prayers when the bomb exploded, said Shafiq Dogar, a Pakpakan senior police officer.

Police said the people who left the motorcycle by the shrine were pretending to sell milk. At least 18 people were injured in the blast.

Obama Proposes Fuel Standards for Trucks, Buses

Renée Schoofs

McClatchy Newspapers

The Obama Administration on Monday proposed the first fuel-efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction standards for trucks and buses and said the new program would replace the nation's use of oil, cut emissions of heat-trapping gases and save money.

The new standards would apply to semi trucks, heavy-duty pickups and vans, and other vehicles such as school buses and fire engines. The standards would phase in for model years 2014 to 2018.

The new standards are what Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson called "one step" in the administration's efforts to decrease oil use and cut the nation's share of carbon pollution that remains in the atmosphere for thousands of years. The step was planned to follow an earlier program that provides national standards for cars and light-duty trucks.

Obama called for the development of the standards for trucks and buses in May. Since then, a broad bill to reduce carbon pollution and spur alternative energy to a halt in the Senate. Obama recently said that reducing dependence on fossil fuels may have to be done in "chunks," instead of with a long and complex bill.

Jackson said truck standards could be considered one of those chunks — something that "constantly moves us toward measured reductions in greenhouse gases and does so in a very cost-effective way."

The improvements that would allow for fuel savings would use technologies that are commercially available. Jackson said the improvements would be made to engines, tires and aerodynamic design. The standards also involve programs to reduce truck idling and leakage from air conditioning systems.

Most vehicles would have a payback of one to two years, but others that travel fewer miles would have a payback period of up to five years. The EPA and the Department of Transportation said in a news release.

The news release said that a semi truck operator would have a payback of less than a year and save as much as $74,000 in fuel costs over the truck's life. The standards are expected to make the medium- and heavy-duty vehicles 7 percent to 20 percent more fuel efficient.

Jackson said that much of the saved money would stay in the economy instead of going to pay for oil bought overseas. In addition, air pollution would be reduced everywhere, she said.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood called it "win-win-win."

Jackson said the improvements would be good for consumers and businesses and that the new standards would add jobs in the clean-energy sector.

The officials said the new standards had strong support from the trucking industry. The American Trucking Association has vocally supported fuel economy standards and recently formalized that position in a written policy, said spokesman Brandon Borgna. The ATA said last week that it preferred emissions standards as a way to control carbon emissions rather than greenhouse gas fords to increase fuel prices or require alternative fuels.

Jackson said that semi trucks, the standards would apply only to the tractor part of the tractor-trailer rig.

Jackson said the standards were developed with the industry. They could still be revised after a 60-day period.

Efforts in the Senate to take away EPA authority to set such standards for clean cars and trucks, Jackson said. The result could be a return to efforts by California and other states to set stricter standards.

Sen. John Rockefeller (D-W.Va.) has proposed a research that would block EPA from moving forward with greenhouse gas reduction programs. The measure could come to a vote after the Senate returns after the Nov. 2 election.

News
A child soldier from Canada was convicted of war crimes Monday, the fifth prisoner brought to justice by military commissions since the controversial Guantanamo Bay tribunal was created nearly nine years ago — the others being a cook, a propagandist, a driver and a one-time kangaroo skinner.

Omar Khadr, now a tall and burly 24-year-old, pleaded guilty to five charges, including the murder of U.S. special forces soldier Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Speer while fighting at age 15 with hardened al-Qaida militants with whom his father had apprenticed him in 2002.

The conviction, for which Khadr is expected to serve little additional time, "puts a lie to the long-standing argument by some that Omar Khadr is a victim. He's not. He's a murderer," the tribunal's chief prosecutor, Navy Capt. John Murphy, insisted.

Human rights lawyers countered that the plea deal, under which Khadr would likely return to Canada in a year, does little to improve the tarnished image of the Guantanamo Bay war crimes tribunal.

Neither has the Obama administration succeeded in distancing itself from the controversial tribunal with what it hoped would "look like it gave a break to a child soldier who should never have been brought here at all," said Daphne Eviatar of Human Rights First.

Despite an agreed-upon sentence, which was not publicly disclosed Monday but is rumored to be eight years in prison, seven senior military officers will assemble Tuesday for a sentencing hearing.

The jurors, or commissioners as they are known in this process, don't know the terms of Khadr's plea deal and will come to their own decision on the time he should serve. Khadr will be sentenced to the shorter of the two terms.

Army Col. Patrick Parrish, the military judge, observed that Khadr had committed all of the crimes detailed in a 50-point "stipulation."

He muttered "yes" to each, with his head hung and a hand nervously flitting between his forehead and the microphone.

Three of the five convictions here — from among nearly 800 prisoners incarcerated since January 2002 — have been achieved through plea bargains.

Australian David Hicks, the former kangaroo skinner and ninth-grade dropout, was freed in his homeland in less than nine months under a 2007 plea deal.

Hicks admitted providing material support to al-Qaida and Sudanese captive Ibrahim al-Asiri, an al-Qaida cook, is serving a reported two-year sentence.

Salim Hamdan, a driver for Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan until the Sept. 1, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, was the first Guantanamo prisoner placed on trial in 2008.

He was sentenced to just six months more than the time he had already served.

The only trial resulting in lengthy punishment was that of Sudanese militant Ali Hamza al-Bahlul, a committed warrior who made propaganda videos for al-Qaida.

Hamza al-Bahlul declined to defend himself in his 2008 trial and is serving a life sentence.

Critics of the Guantanamo operations, which President Barack Obama had vowed to close within a year of taking office, said the Khadr case demonstrated anew the failure of the military commissions process.

"We've waited for two years for President Obama to make good on the promises he made," said Jennifer Turner, an attorney and researcher for the American Civil Liberties Union.

Noting that U.S. federal courts have tried more than 400 terrorism suspects compared with the commissions' handful, Turner said the tribunal is "an unmitigated disaster and it's time to end it."

Some, though, saw Khadr's conviction as an important victory for the war crimes court, as he was the first captured in the act of anti-U.S. hostilities.

"Omar Khadr has finally stood up and admitted the truth," said Layne Morris, a sergeant with the Delta Force team who was wounded in firefight that led to Khadr's capture.
Word on the Street

How does this quarter compare to last year in terms of your schedule or class difficulty?

“‘My major classes get harder each year and I’m taking more units than usual, so it’s definitely time-consuming.’”
— Kelly Lowry, aerospace engineering sophomore

“It’s way crazier this quarter, especially at the beginning of the week.”
— Sarah Danley, graphic communication junior

“This quarter is more intense. I’m taking more units and I’m working on my senior project.”
— Anthony Bonilla, environmental engineering senior

“It’s more hectic this quarter because I’m taking all major courses and more units.”
— Sherly Arteaga, kinesiology sophomore

“It’s some of my classes are harder and I do spend more time studying.”
— Kateri Artiaga, kinesiology sophomore

Green card fees to rise at end of November

Alfonso Chardy
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Manuel Guadamuz, a Nicaraguan immigrant who arrived in 1981, couldn’t find his green card the other day and finally concluded that he had lost it.

While loosing his green card was an inconvenience, Guadamuz in a way was lucky he lost it now — rather than later.

The prices of most federal immigration documents, including green-card replacements, are scheduled to increase next month, the second fee increase in three years.

Immigrants across the nation are bracing for the increases first announced in early June by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Alejandro Mayorkas.

It’s unclear whether the number of people filing for documents is increasing in anticipation of the new fee schedule beginning on Nov. 23.

After that date the fee for a new green-card petition will increase from $930 to $985.

But figures released Friday by Citizenship and Immigration Services, the agency that oversees immigration benefits, show an increase.

Immigration authorities would not speculate why the 41,187 new green-card petitions filed nationwide in September 2010 was the highest monthly number in the last 12 months, but it was also the month USCIS said the fee increase was first on track to start on Nov. 23.

Immigration officials have said the higher fees are necessary because of a drop in agency revenue that was caused by the filing of fewer applications.

Mayorkas said in June that members of immigrant communities across the nation told him the decline was likely due to the economic downturn.

Work permits will rise from $340 to $380.

Work permits are widely sought by immigrants who have Temporary Protected Status or who are awaiting a decision on an immigration case.

Fees for filing applications to replace a green card are going up from $290 to $365.

However, the final cost will likely be higher because in many instances, USCIS also requires additional payment for “biometrics” — fingerprints and photographs.

Fees for filing applications to replace a green card are going up from $290 to $365.

However, the final cost will likely be higher because in many instances, USCIS also requires additional payment for “biometrics” — fingerprints and photographs.

The biometric fee is going up from $80 to $85.

In some cases seeking to replace a green card will pay $450 under the new fee schedule in November, instead of $370 previously.
Switchfoot to rock out at Avila Beach Golf Resort

Marisa Bloch

Switchfoot, known for hit songs such as "Dare You to Move" released in the 2002 movie "A Walk to Remember," will perform at Avila Beach for the first time on Friday.

Switchfoot is a rock/alternative Christian band from San Diego which formed in 1996, according to Switchfoot.com. The band name means switching one's stance on a surfboard and was chosen because the members all enjoy surfing.

The band's first album sold more than 2.6 million copies and since then the band has released nine albums, including their latest, "Hello Hurricane."

Despite all of the band's success in the past, it decided to split from its record label in 2007. In August 2007, the band announced it was no longer going to be working with Columbia Records. In October, Switchfoot released news that it was starting a new record label of its own called Lowercase People Records.

Until this past summer when Switchfoot toured with the Goo Goo Dolls, the last big tour for the band was in 2007, when it toured to raise money for Habitat for Humanity and it mainly used older material.

Switchfoot will perform at Avila Beach Golf Resort on Oct. 29 at 5 p.m.

COURTESY PHOTO

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Gynecologist to address taboo topics at Cal Poly

Alyson Facha
SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG DAILY

Lisa Rankin used to tell her patients to just look in the mirror—between their legs.

Rankin, an obstetrician and gynecologist, will come to Cal Poly today to let women know that it is OK to love their bodies. Rankin will also discuss her upcoming book, "What's Up Down There? Questions You'd Only Ask Your Gynecologist If She Was Your Best Friend."

The presentation will open conversation about women and their bodies, Rankin said.

"It's honestly more about our communal experience as women and how we can—and must—talk about all of the stuff that we've been told not to talk about: vaginas, sex, self-pleasure, periods," Rankin said.

Rankin's presentation gives women, and even men, an opportunity to learn more about women's sexual side and how it's OK to discuss the topic. For most girls, their first experience discovering their body can either be good or bad, Rankin said. "I never really have a serious conversation with anyone about it unless I'm super close to them and even then it's still kind of a joke," she said. At any rate, Rankin will present the topic in a humorous fashion when she comes to campus as a part of her book tour, sponsored by BAC-CHUS — Boosting Alcohol Consciousness Concerning the Health of University Students and Monistat (a prescription drug for vaginal yeast infections). The presentation will include a book reading and a question and answer session.

"I want to help women not be ashamed of their girly parts by having an open conversation,'" Rankin said. "The focus of my talk is on bringing the vagina out of the closet, not just to shamefully hide," Rankin said.

"I want to help women not be ashamed of their girly parts by having an open conversation," Rankin said. "The focus of my talk is on bringing the vagina out of the closet, not just to shamefully hide," Rankin said.

Rojean York Dominguez, director of Piers Understanding Listening Speaking Educating (PULSE) said the last book about female sexuality was written in the 1960s. "She's coming from a humanistic and humorous perspective, whereas the other one is more like a user's manual," York Dominguez said. "She talks about 'your girly parts' because it's in a lot of cultures' taboos.

Theatre arts freshman Kathleen O'Brien said she is not completely comfortable with the topic. "I never really have a serious conversation with anyone about it unless I'm super close to them and even then it's still kind of a joke," she said. At any rate, Rankin will present the topic in a humorous fashion when she comes to campus as a part of her book tour, sponsored by BAC-CHUS — Boosting Alcohol Consciousness Concerning the Health of University Students and Monistat (a prescription drug for vaginal yeast infections). The presentation will include a book reading and a question and answer session.

"I don't know a lot of guys who don't want to talk about that, but this conversation is focused on women learning about what makes us, the uniquely female, rock'in' feminine goddesses that we are," she said.

Rankin will discuss her book at the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center from 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Don't just carve a pumpkin this Halloween — make yourself something delicious

Pumpkin Gingerbread

Ingredients

- 3 cups sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 4 eggs
- 2 1/4 cups water
- 1 1/2 cups canned pumpkin puree
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 °F (175 °C). Lightly grease two 9 x 5 inch loaf pans.
2. In a large mixing bowl, combine sugar, oil and eggs beat until smooth. Add water and beat until well blended. Stir in pumpkin, spices, allspice cinnamon and clove.
3. In medium bowl, combine flour, soda, salt and baking powder. Add dry ingredients to pumpkin mixture and blend just until all ingredients are mixed. Divide batter between prepared pans.
4. Bake in preheated oven until toothpick comes out clean, about 1 hour.

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OCTOBER 28-29-30-31 - ALL IN PISMO BEACH

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Taylor Swift's new album hits stores

Randy Lewis
Los Angeles Times

Studio A at Capitol Records in Hollywood is the fabled place where the magic of music is created. On a recent Monday morning, the studio was abuzz with activity as Taylor Swift, the multi-platinum-selling country-pop sensation, recorded a new album. The sound of the instrumentals, the hum of the air conditioning, and the buzz of creativity filled the air.

Swift, who turns 20 this month, has been a music industry sensation since she was a teenager. Her debut album, "Taylor Swift," was released in 2006 and quickly became a hit, selling over 11 million copies. Her follow-up, "Fearless," sold over 12 million copies and was her first album to top the U.S. charts. Swift's third album, "Speak Now," is set to be released on October 25, 2010.

Swift's new album, "Speak Now," was recorded in just 11 days at Capitol Records' Studio A, with producer Nathan Chapman. The album features 12 tracks, including the lead single, "Mean," which has already charted at number one on the Billboard Hot 100. The album also includes songs about love, heartbreak, and the struggles of growing up.

Swift's new album is her most ambitious project yet. "Speak Now" is a mature album that explores themes of relationships, heartbreak, and personal成长. The album features collaborations with artists like Elton John, who co-wrote the track "Better Man." The album also features an orchestra, which is something that Swift has never done before.

"I'm really excited about this album," Swift said. "It's the first time I've really been able to express myself in a way that's true to who I am."

The album's first single, "Mean," was released in August and has been a huge success. The song has been praised for its honesty and vulnerability. "Mean" has been on the Billboard Hot 100 for over 12 weeks and has sold over 1 million copies.

"Speak Now" is set to be Swift's biggest album yet. The album is expected to sell over 3 million copies in its first week of release. The album is also expected to debut at number one on the Billboard 200 chart.

Swift's new album is a testament to her talent and growth as an artist. "Speak Now" is a must-listen for any fan of Swift's music. The album's release will be a major event in the music industry, and Swift is poised to continue her reign as one of the biggest stars in the world.
Mistrusting the government is mistrusting ourselves

OK, here's a fun game: raise your hand if you trust the government.

Yeah, one guy raised his hand, but he was just stretching. No biggie—we all do that.

What happened to us? Politics was a fine profession 250 years ago. Sure, everyone hand politicians back then too, but there were some amazing people in public office. Ever heard of William Wilberforce? John Jay? How about Patrick Henry? Scratch that last one—everyone has heard of Patrick Henry.

The point is that we've lost something over the last 100 or so years. It wasn't our trust for any government in particular—we've never really had any—but I think we've lost our trust in the idea of government. It used to be something that, in theory, we could totally rock at (if we could just figure out how), but now it's just something we do, because we have to, like babysitting a bratty 5-year-old kid sister who just discovered knock-knock jokes. It really sucks, but we've been doing it for a long time and we'd get in a lot of trouble if we stopped now.

Furthermore, if we hate it so much, why have we spent such huge amounts of money on recent elections? Each election cycle becomes increasingly expensive, and in inverse proportion to our joy. Even if you exclude the buckets of cash spent by the unquestionably-evil corporations and unquestionably-virtuous unions, there have been several kajillion dollars donated to various campaigns by suckers like you and me. If money is time, we've spent an inordinate amount of time on things we don't believe in. Why? Why are we losing our trust for government, and why are we responding the way we do?

Possibility No. 1: Government is an out-of-control weapon. First we had a government. Then we realized that we could use it to make people do what we want, so a few years of careful research and adjustment we have perfected a machine that kneecaps the "other side." Every two years we get to vote on who controls it.

Possibility No. 2: We don't know what we have. There were lots of amazing political leaders in the past. There are some in the present (don't ask me to substantiate this statement). Where are the heroes? We can't see the heroes because we know they're too well. Let's face it; everyone has wars—lots of them. Our high-definition, wart-oriented media are eager to feed us as much wart-themed coverage as we will pay for. It takes 20 years for people to forget your faults, less if you get assassinated. The only reason we love Kennedy is because he got killed before we realized that he hated him. We know too much about the faults and flaws of today's leaders and what we don't know we're happy to make up. History, on the other hand, is like a box of cereal; you only shake it until the toy comes up top. Everything's already happened, so when you find a nice pretty hero you make sure not to look too closely at the rest of the junk.

Everyone hated the heroes back then, we just don't remember it.

Possibility No. 3: We don't know what we have, so we're losing it. Here's another fun question: Who's enthusiastic about the gastrointestinal race? Not me! In a state of about 37 million, how did we end up with such boring candidates? I can't vote for Brown, because I'm a Republican, and I can't vote for Whitman, because I'm an American. So I am forced to become that reviled political creature, the Prudent Voter. I didn't become an idealist for this.

If we stop rewarding what we want, it tends to go away. Sure, there'll be a lot of back-scratching and generic corruption, but in the end our votes and political involvement does matter. When we give politics a minimum of input we invite a race to the bottom. I never bothered to discover and support candidates I admired, so now I have the privilege of vacillating between two blanks. I got fantastic dysfunction. Just saying.

Possibility No. 5: The educational system has betrayed us. This is an easy one. I finished reading "The Anti-Federalist Papers" (edited by Ralph Ketcham) over the summer. I read the "Federalist Papers" last summer. Both books opened my eyes to questions and concepts that no political science professor had ever hinted to me. Everything I had learned before was trivial in comparison. Why didn't anyone ever tell me this stuff? Oh you stupid educational system.

In fact, this is just another instance of losing what we don't reward. It's not like our instructors get together 50 years ago and formed a secret cabal of lamsnis. They're too busy for that. We did this as a culture by electing not to participate in our own continuation. Neither education nor politics is a machine that can be turned on and then left to do its thing at top performance. Everything spins down and we need to keep cranking it.

These are all compelling and well-written justifications for why we distrust government, but they are all merely symptoms of the problem. If we don't trust government, it's because we don't trust ourselves. But who's going to do the heavy lifting for us? Hey, politics stinks. We can't choose so like it, but we can choose to do it. Maybe it would become more palatable. How can that be worse than not trying at all?

Eric Baldwin
Liberarian columnist

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Hey, we've got a real news feed too.
Since I've angled just about every overly sensitive special interest group lately, I might as well go hog-wild and provoke the most sensitive of them all: Crazed fans of skinny female celebrity chefs.

You know the kind of skinny chef I'm talking about. They wear size 00 designer clothes. They never get a speck of oil on them. Their hair is perfect. They never sweat on TV. Sure, their food looks fine, but the chefs themselves look like little pinpoints of light...or have I never dared to dip a crust of bread in their own sauce.

Giada De Laurentiis is in town, promoting a new line of affordable cookware to her legion of adoring Giadaphiles.

Here at the office, some people are excited about the pixie chef's visit. They're almost as wiggly as the time Barack Obama came by to say hello on his way to the White House.

"Are you going to see Giada?" asked one eager Giadaphile. "I'm so excited about the pixie chef's visit. She's so petite! Isn't she just adorable?"

"Giadaphile coming! Giadaphile coming!" said her fellow Giadaphile. "You're going to see her, aren't you?"

"No. But isn't she adorable?" they said, teasing me.

To you she may be adorable, but for me there's only my wife and my sons.

Besides, she's much too skinny to be a proper cook. Cooks require heft, proportion to their own creations. Isn't she just adorable? And I'm as suspicious as the next Fat Guy about this skinny chef trend. Giada and her skinny black jeans and tight T-shirts clearly are no strangers to the knife cuts and dressings that her skinny black jeans and tight T-shirts and ample hair product.

When I think of a chef I can trust, I think of cooks with gravitas, some weight on their bones, women who clearly are no strangers to the knife and fork. Cooks like the late Julia Child.

"You don't want to go there," she warned.

"I'm compelled to charge forward into the jaws of hell. I just can't seem to stop angering people. The other day, I compared a Chicago politician to a wolf, and a wolf-loving woman from Highland Park chewed my ear off for an hour for demeaning the noble yet cunning predators. (The wolves, not the politicians.)"

Then I foolishly poked a stick at the bloggers. Now they're fiercely swatting at my ankles like a pack of bloodthirsty, feral Chihuahuas, just because I said they tend to blog from their mommy's basement.

For days they've been Twittering and tweeting and viciously "smack-downing me" and whatever other torments they visit upon their sworn enemies in the magical universe called the blogosphere.

Egad! Imagine I'd left in the part about how they pick lint from their navels while waiting for Mom to fix them a nice lunch of cream of tomato soup and grilled cheese sandwiches. Which offers this fat guy a rather smooth and subtle segue back to food and the skinny-chef thing. It's not just the skinny women chefs. I don't trust skinny male chefs either, especially if they're dressed like teenage vampires in "Twilight" with their skinny black jeans and tight T-shirts. I don't trust skinny vampire jeans. And Gina Neely of "Down Home with the Neely's," who keeps telling her husband, Pat, "give me some bab-, baby," before she adds a dollop or two of butter and a couple pinches of cayenne pepper to the bacon. So you won't see me down there with the Giadaphiles.

"They make skinny jeans in XXL?"

"John Kau is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune.

"And what about Lidia Bastianich, host of "Lidia's Italy"? She's obviously no size 00. She grew up in a refugee camp in Trieste after World War II, when skinny was not stylish. "Lidia's hair may not be perfect...""

Joel Bellone is a writer for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues, it is affiliated with The Progressive magazine.

CHRIS VAIN © NEWSWEEK

"You are what you eat" takes new meaning with chefs

PROP. 19 about more than the United States

Passage of California's Proposition 19, which aims to legalize recreational marijuana could help ease the spiraling violence of Mexico's drug war.

Approval of the statewide ballot initiative on Nov. 2 would allow local governments to tax and regulate the limited possession and limited sale of marijuana in California. It's also the main destination for marijuana.

Last year, former presidents from Brazil, Colombia and Mexico issued a joint report, calling for a "paradigm shift" that includes the decriminalization of marijuana. "We need to break the taboo..." they said.

The main destination for marijuana — 28,800 lives since Mexican President Felipe Calderon took office in 2006. And his government has spent more than $10 billion in fighting the $4.6 billion in U.S. taxpay for the past decade. But most of that money went to fund a joint report, calling for a "paradigm shift" that includes the decriminalization of marijuana. "We need to break the taboo..." they said.

The main destination for marijuana remains the United States. The White House estimates that the Mexican cartels make 60 percent of their profits from marijuana. While the analysts say the number is inflated, the dollar value of the cross-border marijuana trade is undoubtedly worth billions.

Recently, a single marijuana shipment busted by Mexican authorities was alone valued at $340 million. This kind of money buys a lot of influence in Mexico. As in the boone-running days of Al Capone, drug prohibition similarly drove the trade further underground, swelling the coffers of the violent narco-syndicates. Investigations by Mexican authorities have linked this financial close to increasing vast corruption networks in which police and local politicians are on the cartels' payroll.

Passage of Proposition 19 — and the possibility that other U.S. states might follow suit — would sap an important source of revenue for the drug traffickers, driving down both violence and corruption.

So, Proposition 19 is not just about allowing the recreational use of marijuana in California. It's also about the survival of México.
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Sisler

continued from page 16

the competition took four hours but I was able to stick through it and jump a personal best at the end of it," Sisler said.

Sisler cleared 5 feet, 11.25 inches at the West Regional, besting her previous mark of 5 feet 10.75 inches and finishing ahead of Doolittle.

But a downpour during the NCAA Track and Field Championships dampened Sisler's chances of winning. Sisler wasn't able to clear the first mark of 5 feet 7.75 inches on the wet field.

Sisler's 2010 success continued into the women's soccer season in the fall where she entered in the first three weeks, scoring six goals in the first six games.

Sisler is second in the Big West in goals scored (8), despite an ankle injury that kept her out of three games and has greatly reduced her play time.

"Right now when she gets on the field she's always a threat," Crozier said. "She's very assertive. She's got some pace and doesn't hold back. So it's all the things as an opponent you look at thinking 'Uh oh.'"

Despite the ups and downs injuries have brought for Sisler, one constant remains — the support of her family.

"If it's a home game they're up to watch me every single time." Sisler said. "It makes me feel great. It's a lot of support and it really helps."

Sisler's mother and father even flew out to Hawaii to watch her play in two matches, including a win against Long Island where Sisler scored two goals to lead Cal Poly to a 2-1 win.

But playing in two NCAA sports

RAiders

continued from page 16

that. It's the kind of lopsided outcome that sends historians scrambling for the record books and seeking to put into context what transpired.

In short, the Raiders' victory over the Broncos was one for the ages in a franchise in its 51st season. Consider:

— The 59 points scored is the most in franchise history. The previous record was 52, accomplished in 1963, 2000 and '02.

— The 38 first-half points tied for the second-most in franchise history; the Raiders scored 42 against the Buffalo Bills on Oct. 19, 1969, and 38 against the Houston Oilers on Nov. 14, 1971.

— The 24 first-quarter points were the most in the opening quarter by a Raiders team — the old mark was 21.

— It's the first time the Raiders scored more than 40 points and won a game by more than 21 points in the past eight seasons.

— The Raiders tied a franchise record with five rushing touchdowns, with Michael Bush and Marcel Reece accounting for the two others.

— The Raiders tied the record for most points scored against the Broncos in Denver.

— Before Sunday, 22 of Oakland's 31 victories since the 2002 season were by fewer than 10 points. Cable-coached teams had won by more than eight points only twice before Sunday.

— This game scored blowout from the outset. The first over sign came when the Broncos left tight end Zach Miller uncovered on a play that resulted in a 43-yard touchdown nine plays into the game.

— The Raiders extended the lead to 21-0 a few minutes later on the strength of an interception return for a touchdown by cornerback Chris Johnson and a 4-yard touchdown run by McFadden.

— The Raiders scored three touchdowns within a six-play span before the Broncos offense ran its third play. By that point, the final score seemed certain.

— "We whipped them physically, mentally," Raiders defensive tackle Tony Kelly said. "In the first quarter, they didn't want no more. For real.

— The offensive linemen, their eyes were on the only thing in question.

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Whitney Sisler takes soccer and high jump to new heights

Jerome Goyhenetch
JEROME.GOYHENETCH@MJJS.MCGUS.COM

Whitney Sisler, a Cal Poly high jumper and star soccer forward, began her journey as a dual sport athlete when her dad signed her up for the America Youth Soccer Organization at the age of five.

Growing up in Encinitas, Calif. and playing soccer through grammar school, Sisler's father was her biggest support and her biggest role model.

"My dad was a big deal when I was young," Sisler said. "He spent so much time getting me to where I needed to be so I could excel at my sport... he's just willing to do anything to help me succeed, pushing me to be better and getting me to every practice, every game, every extra clinic and taking me out for extra practice by myself."

Sisler's father even set up a reward system when she was younger, where he would go out and buy Sisler a Beanie Baby every time she scored a goal.

Soccer quickly became one of Sisler's favorite sports, especially since she excelled at it at a young age.

It wasn't until sixth grade, when she went out for the track team, that Sisler found a second sport she could apply her athleticism to. Though initially she thought she would pursue a second sport, she was dedicated to her high jump training after being recruited and learning track and field.

From that point on, Sisler would dedicate her school years to both track and soccer.

When it came time to apply to college, Cal Poly attracted Sisler because of the coaching staff and how she would be allowed to pursue her love of both sports.

"Being able to do both sports was a huge deal to me," Sisler said. "I really liked his coaching style. He's not a yeller and he's patient. He's really patient."

But her first year of sports with Cal Poly was met with injury. Before the start of her first season with the track team, while participating in the high jump, the 90-pound standard, which holds up the high jump bar, fell on her foot and broke her toe.

"Every successful team at some point has a watershed moment," Hoyt said. "That was Whitney's. She was jump-limited the year before."

Her injury took her out of her first year of track.

Assistant coach Jack Hoyt, who coaches Sisler on the high jump, said he noticed a significant difference after her first full season following her injury.

"She was kind of a different athlete right at the get go of the indoor season," Hoyt said. "She was jumping near her personal best again. She applied her athleticism to. Though initially she thought she would pursue a second sport, she was dedicated to her high jump training after being recruited and learning track and field.

"I don't want to come in here after the game and have a woulda, shoulda, coulda conversation," Cable said. "We were 2-4 going into this game. I feel like this team was good enough to be 4-2 or 5-1, but we're not. You have to deal in reality."

Cable was tired of hearing how they lost to the Arizona Cardinals because of a missed field-goal attempt, or how they came close to beating the Houston Texans and 49ers, he said.

"It's just enough of that... " Cable said. "We learned a lot Sunday. We've been learning a lot and we're moving forward. We're not going to let down. We're going to go after this."