The mid-term election at us and turned around. By that great white shark was literally four and paddled as fast as we could and was within arms' reach of the 6 to and foreboding sign so my friend a dead seal with its head chopped feet away from me. It was looking later we were sitting out there and a kept our eye on the horizon tended their leashes and headed for the waves. As we were paddling out we saw a dead seal with its head chopped off," Lansi said. "That was an eerie and foreboding sign so my friend and I kept our eye on the horizon for signs of fins. About a half hour later we were sitting out there and a great white shark was literally four feet away from me. It was looking at us and turned around. By that moment both of us turned around and paddled as fast as we could and headed to the beach. It was intense. I've been close to sharks before, but never a shark that could actually really hurt me. It was pretty scary. Lansi isn't the only beachgoer that has seen a white shark recently. According to The Laguna Beach Independent, there was an unusual amount of adult white shark sightings, sized about 16 to 18 feet in length, 1,000 yards off of Sunset Beach in Santa Monica in August.

Even more recently, Lucas Ran­som, a University of California, Santa Barbara student, died from an alleged white shark attack while surfing at Surf Beach near Lompoc. His death was the 12th fatal shark attack in California since 1950, according to California Department of Fish and Game records.

Despite only 12 shark attack deaths in California over the past 60 years, encounters with white sharks around Central Coast waters have recently increased. Scientists and experts have different reactions from Cal Poly students.

Some were hoping Proposition 19 would pass, others stood firmly against it. Some voters were relieved Proposition 23 fell through; others wished it would have stood. Some were apathetic with the results; many were not surprised.

The Republicans did not gain a majority in the Sen­ate. Democrats retained 51 seats to save their majority. Republicans have 47 seats.

The GOP does have control of the House of Represen­tatives though. Civil engineering senior Bill Steen said he thinks it will be interesting to see how the Republicans and the Democrats work together.

"We have a Republican House while the Senate — which makes the final decision — is held by the Democrats," Steen said. "I'm curious how they'll work together." Steen is not alone; others are wondering the same. According to CNN, Democratic Party chair­man Tim Kaine said, "Maybe it is a message from the American public. We've got a Democrat in the White House. We'll have a majority Republican governors. We'll have a Democratic Senate (and) Republican House. Everybody's got to work together."

Other results of the elections weren't surprising for some vot­ers.

"As far as Proposition 19 goes, I'm not that surprised," Steen said. "It was the first time it was proposed so I didn't really think it would pass."

Electrical engineering senior Lee Tolentino agrees.

"I'm not surprised on Prop 19 because more people are against legalizing marijuana," Tolentino said. "I think a big reason why is because it would involve more taxes."
Shark
continued from page 1

tent theories about why there is a perceived increase of white shark activity. However, there is one fac-
tor that experts, surfers and water enthusiasts alike seem to agree on — if choosing to go in the water, it is important to be aware of the surroundings.
California Department of Fish and Game environmental scientist Michael Harris said there has been an increase in white shark activity. Harris has been working with sea otters, including those killed by sharks, for 19 years. There was a rise in dead shark-bitten otters from July to September, he said.
For the past 10 years, the average number of otter-bitten carcasses washed up on shore in the Morro Bay-Pismo Beach area was seven. This August it was 19.
"White sharks do not usually eat sea otters," Harris said. "They prefer seals and sea lions. This is why most of those otters only had a single bite mark. These bites are more investiga-
tive — like a taste test."
Harris said he thinks the in-
crease of bitten otters might have increased because there are more white sharks in the area, 1 could see one shark hanging around in that area biting otters as it cruised up and down the kelp beds looking for a suitable harbor seal to bite.
Van Sommeran said. "I'm speculating, but since it was a relatively confined area, I could see one shark hanging out in that area biting otters as it cruised up and down the kelp beds looking for a suitable harbor seal to bite."
Van Sommeran and his team started to tag white sharks in 1992, and around 170 white sharks have been tagged. It is almost impossible to generalize the behaviors of white sharks because so much is unknown about the species, he said. Scient-
ists still do not know where white sharks mate or where they have their pups.
It wasn't until a decade ago that scientists and researchers were able to observe the migration routes of white sharks and much is still un-
known about their population. "I think people have a hard time accurately describing white sharks and their so-called methods of predator strategies because so much about the sharks isn't well known," Van Sommeran said. "Just 10 years ago, conventional theories of their migration routes and movements usually were wrong so I'm not com-
pletely convinced that there aren't a lot of other mysteries about them.

"Come to terms with the fact that they're there, that they've always been there and don't be shocked if you see one or hear about one."
— Sean Van Sommeran
Founder of the Pelagic Shark Research Foundation

COURTESY PHOTO OF JEAN VAN SOMMERAN

The Pelagic Shark Research Foundation crew observe one of the tagged white sharks at Año Nuevo Island, Calif.

temperatures which are ideal for white sharks, Harris said.
Other experts have different theo-
ries about the spike in shark-bitten otters.
Sean Van Sommeran, the found-
er of the Pelagic Shark Research Foundation (PSRF), has been working with white sharks for 20 years. The PSRF has gathered data and observed open water sharks since 1990.
One white shark could have been responsible for the 19 bitten otters, Van Sommeran said. "The random increase of dead otters was relatively centralized; it wasn't up and down the coast," Van Sommeran said. "I'm speculating, but since it was a relatively confined area, I could see one shark hanging out in that area biting otters as it cruised up and down the kelp beds looking for a suitable harbor seal to bite."
Van Sommeran and his team started to tag white sharks in 1992, and around 170 white sharks have been tagged. It is almost impossible to generalize the behaviors of white sharks because so much is unknown about the species, he said. Sci-
ents still do not know where white sharks mate or where they have their pups.
It wasn't until a decade ago that scientists and researchers were able to observe the migration routes of white sharks and much is still un-
known about their population. "I think people have a hard time accurately describing white sharks and their so-called methods of predator strategies because so much about the sharks isn't well known," Van Sommeran said. "Just 10 years ago, conventional theories of their migration routes and movements usually were wrong so I'm not com-
pletely convinced that there aren't a lot of other mysteries about them.

"Come to terms with the fact that they're there, that they've always been there and don't be shocked if you see one or hear about one."
— Sean Van Sommeran
Founder of the Pelagic Shark Research Foundation

The Pelagic Shark Research Foundation crew observe one of the tagged white sharks at Año Nuevo Island, Calif.

It tends to make generalities dif-
cult," Van Sommeran said. The frequent shark sightings do not prove an in-
crease in the white shark population in California. The research findings done by some pelagic experts shows that the population of white sharks has been relatively stable in California be-
cause of the wealth of marine mam-
mals, Van Sommeran said. Some suggest the rising num-
ber of shark sightings is less about the shark population but rather an increase of people in the ocean. Increased use of digital media and camera phones might also contribu-
to the documentation of white sharks.
Others argue that the increased numbers of juvenile white sharks accidentally caught in fishing nets is indicative to an increased num-
ber of white sharks. According to the Committee on the Status of En-
dangered Wildlife, more than 400 white sharks a year have fallen vic-
tim to "bycatch" — when sharks are accidentally caught with other fish in commercial nets.
However, Van Sommeran said the increased number of caught white sharks is not evidence of a rise in the white shark population, but rather that fishing pressures have increased.
"More juvenile white sharks are being caught because there are more nets," Van Sommeran said. "There are actually some aquariaums that offer rewards for fishermen to catch white sharks. There's another inter-
est group that keeps talking about white shark increase and that's the game fisherman. If they could get people to be scared of the sharks and convince people that there's too many of them and get them de-
listed, then they'd be able to go and capture the big sharks and make the big money."
Despite speculation, experts and water enthusiasts alike advise to take caution when going in the ocean.
"We go up to seal colonies and float lures in order to tag sharks and sometimes can't find any," Van Som-
meran said. "You could go to shark central and not find any sharks but then go to a lone surf spot and run into one by accident. It's just one of those random types of things. With that in mind, I always say be pre-
pared. Come to terms with the fact that they're there, that they're always there and don't be shocked if you see one or hear about one."
Harris also encourages people to remain aware of the marine envi-
ronment.
"Every time you get in the wa-
ter, you are entering part of the food chain, it just depends if you are going to feel the effects of it," Harris said. "I see the dead otters and I know the data, but I still surf and dive. There are times I am more hesitant. At the peak, in August, I stayed out of the water for two weeks, which is a really long time for me."
Architectural engineering senior David Martin has been surfing for four years and for the most part, will choose to go in the water any-
time of the year.
"I like to think the statistics are on my side," Martin said. "It's a hundred times more likely to be hit by a car than attacked by a shark. That being said, they (sharks) are still out there. I just don't think about it. The more you surf, the less you care. You see dolphins and seals all the time."
It is more likely to get struck by lightning than mauled by a shark, according to the Florida Museum of Natural History's International Shark Attack File. From 1958-2009 almost 2,000 people were killed by lightning in U.S. coastal states ver-
sus 23 shark attack deaths.
Lanci, who has been surfing for 12 years, will continue to do so de-
spite surfing four feet away from a white shark last week.
"I'm still going to surf, I didn't surf this weekend because I was a little spooked but other than that I will definitely go surfing again," Lanci said. "Maybe I'll think twice when there's nobody else out there, for the most part I'm not too wor-
rried about it. It's just the nature of the beast. If you want to go surfing, you're going to have to take those really, really small chances and I'm willing to do that for sure."
Study groups help students succeed

Russell Peterson
SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG DAILY

The College of Science and Mathematics put $200,000 into Student Academic Services to increase the number of study session opportunities available for Cal Poly students. The study sessions help new students get their bearings in early college courses and reach them to study successfully.

"The College of Science and Math is the foundation of a poly-technic institution," said Philip Bailey, dean of the College of Science and Mathematics. "It is my particular responsibility to get new students off to a good start and that means helping them learn how to study.

The push to expand the number of study groups has created 118 groups that are coordinated by Student Academic Services. At the same time last year, there were 81, an increase of 45 percent, said study sessions coordinator William Sydnor.

In the study sessions, students study material from a class in the company of peers. A facilitator hired by Student Academic Services helps guide the group and answers questions they have, Sydnor said.

"When I need further help on homework or when I'm studying for a test, it's really nice to be able to go to my study session and ask fellow students," said Raana Radfar, a Math 141 study group member and architectural engineering freshman.

The facilitators are upper division students from the College of Science and Mathematics or the College of Engineering. They must have a grade point average of 3.0 and need to have demonstrated proficiency in the area of study to be recruited, Sydnor said.

The leaders also need to possess the ability to work well with people, said mathematics senior Ryan Milhouse, a Math 141 group leader.

"I try to make it so that it's an environment that they want to come to and ask each other questions about math," Milhouse said. "It's also good for me to see someone like me having a positive attitude about math and enjoying it.

The math and science classes that are supplemented by study groups are chosen based on student performance, Sydnor said. "We did some studies and found there are some classes people tend to struggle with," Sydnor said. "We look for courses that have 20 percent of students receiving D's or F's grades annually. We make study sessions available for those classes.

But study groups are not exclusively for students who are struggling to earn good grades. Study groups are for any student who feels they could use some additional help in adjusting to the demands of college courses, Bailey said.

"We want to cut down on 'D' and 'F' rates, but supplemental instruction is not just for students who are not doing well," Bailey said. "These study groups help students adjust to college and reach their potential in any class.

If the expansion of supplemental instruction has a positive effect on students, Bailey said the College would make it a permanent part of the College of Science and Mathematics' budget.

"We have to remember our priorities and one of our priorities is to give every Cal Poly student the math and science classes they need," Bailey said. "Another is to need to guide them to be successful in those classes so they can graduate and supplementary instruction can help us achieve this.

The reports and accreditation are an ongoing process of monitoring students, DePiero said. They show that the programs are making continuous improvements in their respective departments.

But DePiero made it clear that these accreditations do not just affect the College of Engineering.

"It speaks not only of our engineering programs but of the institution as a whole," DePiero said.

\[ \text{Responses continued from page 1} \]

Alcohol is much more dangerous than marijuana and yet alcohol is still legal.

— Mary Eanes, Nurse practitioner at the Compassionate Care Clinic

Enforcement

nationswide conference and we had a total of six shown," DePiero said. "Only a couple of other universities had multiple reports shown and there were 20 total."

These reports are vital to the re-accreditation of the engineering programs.

"The reports are basically a six-year summary of everything," DePiero said. "Some programs put questions on exams to be used for the report, others make a special exam or even use senior projects and surveys as means of assessing student success.

Once the reports have been assembled, SBE decides whether or not to recognize the programs with its stamp of approval as stated in the press release.

This year with the approval of the software engineering program, many students are pleased to be a part of an accredited program.

"A lot of people don't see the difference between computer science and software engineering," Arai said. "But now this major will get more recognition.

For many students in the engineering fields, accreditation of their programs could make the difference in whether or not they receive jobs after graduation.

"It definitely gives students better opportunity for jobs," DePiero said. "In order to get a professional license in some fields, it is required to have a degree from an accredited school."

"Employers prefer it and it is absolutely required for some of the civil engineers and others like that," DePiero said.

Engineering majors who become professional engineers will find it useful to have a degree from an accredited program under their belt.

"Being in an accredited program definitely gives us a leg up," Bonilla said. "I definitely believe that employers might hold back on a degree that wasn't from an accredited program."

Not only are accredited programs useful to students and their professional futures, but they are also meaningful for recent graduates and alumni.

"It is important to graduates for their resumes and also important to alumni for maintaining the importance of their degree, as well as industry contacts and relations," DePiero said. "If all of a sudden we lost our accreditation (everyone) would be upset that we dropped the ball."

The reports and accreditation are an ongoing process of monitoring students, DePiero said. They show that the programs are making continuous improvements in their respective departments.

But DePiero made it clear that these accreditations do not just affect the College of Engineering.

"It speaks not only of our engineering programs but of the institution as a whole," DePiero said.

Reactions

In contrast, business administration freshmen Madison Gilliland was surprised that Proposition 19 did not pass. "It makes me wonder how much of the younger population actually turned out to vote," she said.

"The fight over Proposition 23 sparked a variety of reactions as well. Earth sciences senior Emmet Woods lobbied against Proposition 23. He campaigned for more than 60 hours to get students to vote no on Proposition 23 and is relieved his hard work paid off.

"It's good to feel like I made an impact," Woods said. "It seemed so many things in the election overall went the way I did not want them to go, but with Prop 23, it did go the way I campaigned." Gilliland felt differently about the opposition of Proposition 23. "As a business major, I wanted Prop 23 to pass because business owners need to comply with more and more restrictions and California needs the jobs they offer. I'm not against clean air but we should be a place to be able to afford it."

Reactions varied about election outcomes among Cal Poly alumni as well. Alumnus David Cooper said being a "young" voter can be a challenge. "I think it's hard to get a good understanding about the issues," Slomovich said. "You only hear the popular beliefs, not both sides."

"Business administration sophomore Suzanne Chong was disappointed to hear the proposition had been defeated. "Legalizing marijuana would bring in money for Californians and help with the deficit," Chong said. "I also think police attention should be on larger crimes than using marijuana."

The Compassionate Care Clinic in San Luis Obispo is a local medical marijuana dispensary. Mary Eanes is a nurse practitioner and physician's assistant at the clinic. She said the government needs to find a way to legalize and regulate marijuana.

"Alcohol is much more dangerous than marijuana and yet alcohol is still legal," Eanes said.

Environmental management and protection junior Jason Slomovich said being a "young" voter can be a challenge. "I think it's hard to get a good understanding about the issues," Slomovich said. "You only hear the popular beliefs, not both sides."

"Business administration sophomore Suzanne Chong was disappointed to hear the proposition had been defeated. "Legalizing marijuana would bring in money for Californians and help with the deficit," Chong said. "I also think police attention should be on larger crimes than using marijuana."

The Compassionate Care Clinic in San Luis Obispo is a local medical marijuana dispensary. Mary Eanes is a nurse practitioner and physician's assistant at the clinic. She said the government needs to find a way to legalize and regulate marijuana.

"Alcohol is much more dangerous than marijuana and yet alcohol is still legal," Eanes said.

Environmental management and protection junior Jason Slomovich said being a "young" voter can be a challenge. "I think it's hard to get a good understanding about the issues," Slomovich said. "You only hear the popular beliefs, not both sides."

"Business administration sophomore Suzanne Chong was disappointed to hear the proposition had been defeated. "Legalizing marijuana would bring in money for Californians and help with the deficit," Chong said. "I also think police attention should be on larger crimes than using marijuana."

The Compassionate Care Clinic in San Luis Obispo is a local medical marijuana dispensary. Mary Eanes is a nurse practitioner and physician's assistant at the clinic. She said the government needs to find a way to legalize and regulate marijuana.

"Alcohol is much more dangerous than marijuana and yet alcohol is still legal," Eanes said.
Changes in national environmental policy expected in near future

Renee Schoof
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

With Republicans in control of the House of Representatives next year, Obama administration officials are likely to be grilled often on environmental decisions — from the deepwater drilling moratorium to restrictions on protected Western lands. A special House panel on global warming probably will be axed. Efforts to block the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from reducing air and carbon pollution are likely.

For example, there’s some Republican support for ideas like a renewable electricity standard, which would require a percentage of electricity to be generated from renewable sources such as solar and wind. There also could be support for electric vehicles as a way to boost energy independence, or for efficiency measures that reduce costly energy waste.

There’s no chance for a grand scheme to require cuts in emissions of heat-trapping gases, something President Barack Obama acknowledged in a press conference on Wednesday.

Still, polls have shown that Americans by a large majority favor clean energy over produce jobs and reduce pollution. While the likely new chairmen haven’t given many specifics yet about their plans, Obama and others see possibilities for some action on clean energy.

For example, there’s some Republican support for ideas like a renewable electricity standard, which would require a percentage of electricity to be generated from renewable sources such as solar and wind. There also could be support for electric vehicles as a way to boost energy independence, or for efficiency measures that reduce costly energy waste.

Republicans in their energy plan supported making tax credits permanent for solar, wind and other renewable energy, something that renewable energy developers say is crucial for building up these energy sources.

Anna Aurelio of Environment America, an advocacy group, said Congress is likely to protect federal subsidies for fossil fuels and nuclear energy. At a news conference, she brought out a pair of green plastic scissors and said that’s where the budget cuts should be.

Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash., is expected to become the new chairman of the Natural Resources Committee. The League of Conservation Voters gives him a lifetime score of 2 percent.


Barton has said he wants the EPA to reconsider its plans to reduce mercury, smog and other pollution from power plants and other sources. Congress could also see bipartisan efforts to block the EPA, at least temporarily, from reducing carbon emissions from large sources.

Obama would be able to veto such legislation, and it is not expected that there would be enough votes to override him. On Wednesday Obama indicated he continued to support EPA climate action.

"The EPA is under a court order that says greenhouse gases are a pollutant that fall under their jurisdiction," he said. "And I think one of the things that's very important for me is not to have us ignore the science, but rather to find ways that we can solve these problems that don't hurt the economy (and) that encourage the development of clean energy" in a way that creates jobs.
Tuesday's elections.

"don't ask, don't tell" during its vote. House members were at least 10 members of the 10 search group.

on Nov. 15.

spending largely intact. Previously, committee chairman. Wednesday, MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

"don't ask, don't tell," also amendment to the defense appropriation bill that would have repealed "don't ask, don't tell," also.

Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon, R-Calif., 72, a nine-term veteran, sharply increased his campaign spending last year, M cKeon called a proposed... of the administration's Afghan and terrorism policies.

"We must place a renewed emphasis on oversight," he said. "Our efforts will be relevant and directly tied to the front-line war fighter in Iraq and Afghan­ ish, and the protection of the U.S. homeland."

The Senate refused to take up the defense spending bill for fiscal year 2011, which began on Oct. 1, over Murphy's amendment to repeal "don't ask, don't tell." Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., who survived a bruising re-election campaign, said Wednesday that he hopes to bring the legislation up for a vote during the lame-duck session.

However, he warned that such bills will take a lot of time and that it may not be ready before the new Congress convenes next year.

McKeon promised Wednesday to sustain the defense budget and said he intended tougher questioning of the administration's Afghan and terrorism policies. "We must place a renewed emphasis on oversight," he said. "Our efforts will be relevant and directly tied to the front-line war fighter in Iraq and Afghan­ ish, and the protection of the U.S. homeland."

The Senate refused to take up the defense spending bill for fiscal year 2011, which began on Oct. 1, over Murphy's amendment to repeal "don't ask, don't tell." Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., who survived a bruising re-election campaign, said Wednesday that he hopes to bring the legislation up for a vote during the lame-duck session.

However, he warned that such bills will take a lot of time and that it may not be ready before the new Congress convenes next year.

McKeon promised Wednesday to sustain the defense budget and said he intended tougher questioning of the administration's Afghan and terrorism policies. "We must place a renewed emphasis on oversight," he said. "Our efforts will be relevant and directly tied to the front-line war fighter in Iraq and Afghan­ ish, and the protection of the U.S. homeland."

The Senate refused to take up the defense spending bill for fiscal year 2011, which began on Oct. 1, over Murphy's amendment to repeal "don't ask, don't tell." Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., who survived a bruising re-election campaign, said Wednesday that he hopes to bring the legislation up for a vote during the lame-duck session.

However, he warned that such bills will take a lot of time and that it may not be ready before the new Congress convenes next year.

McKeon promised Wednesday to sustain the defense budget and said he intended tougher questioning of the administration's Afghan and terrorism policies. "We must place a renewed emphasis on oversight," he said. "Our efforts will be relevant and directly tied to the front-line war fighter in Iraq and Afghan­ ish, and the protection of the U.S. homeland."

The Senate refused to take up the defense spending bill for fiscal year 2011, which began on Oct. 1, over Murphy's amendment to repeal "don't ask, don't tell." Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., who survived a bruising re-election campaign, said Wednesday that he hopes to bring the legislation up for a vote during the lame-duck session.

However, he warned that such bills will take a lot of time and that it may not be ready before the new Congress convenes next year.

McKeon promised Wednesday to sustain the defense budget and said he intended tougher questioning of the administration's Afghan and terrorism policies. "We must place a renewed emphasis on oversight," he said. "Our efforts will be relevant and directly tied to the front-line war fighter in Iraq and Afghan­ ish, and the protection of the U.S. homeland."

The Senate refused to take up the defense spending bill for fiscal year 2011, which began on Oct. 1, over Murphy's amendment to repeal "don't ask, don't tell." Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., who survived a bruising re-election campaign, said Wednesday that he hopes to bring the legislation up for a vote during the lame-duck session.

However, he warned that such bills will take a lot of time and that it may not be ready before the new Congress convenes next year.

McKeon promised Wednesday to sustain the defense budget and said he intended tougher questioning of the administration's Afghan and terrorism policies. "We must place a renewed emphasis on oversight," he said. "Our efforts will be relevant and directly tied to the front-line war fighter in Iraq and Afghan­ ish, and the protection of the U.S. homeland."

The Senate refused to take up the defense spending bill for fiscal year 2011, which began on Oct. 1, over Murphy's amendment to repeal "don't ask, don't tell." Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., who survived a bruising re-election campaign, said Wednesday that he hopes to bring the legislation up for a vote during the lame-duck session.

However, he warned that such bills will take a lot of time and that it may not be ready before the new Congress convenes next year.

McKeon promised Wednesday to sustain the defense budget and said he intended tougher questioning of the administration's Afghan and terrorism policies. "We must place a renewed emphasis on oversight," he said. "Our efforts will be relevant and directly tied to the front-line war fighter in Iraq and Afghan­ ish, and the protection of the U.S. homeland."

The Senate refused to take up the defense spending bill for fiscal year 2011, which began on Oct. 1, over Murphy's amendment to repeal "don't ask, don't tell." Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., who survived a bruising re-election campaign, said Wednesday that he hopes to bring the legislation up for a vote during the lame-duck session.

However, he warned that such bills will take a lot of time and that it may not be ready before the new Congress convenes next year.
Democrats plan to imitate the Republican fundraising strategy for future elections

Tom Hamburger  
Matea Gold  
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

Shaken by Tuesday's Republican landslide, Democratic fundraisers who felt hobbled by President Barack Obama's hard-line opposition and third-party campaign spending are now planning to do what outside groups did for the GOP — funnel millions of dollars into independent political-advertising and voter-mobilization campaigns.

Republican-aligned groups — including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and American Crossroads, the group Karl Rove helped create — raised tens of millions of dollars to support GOP congressional candidates, outspending their Democratic counterparts by more than 2-to-1.

The effort contributed to Democratic losses in several key Senate and House races, tipping the balance in such states as Illinois, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Florida.

"We were caught flat-footed," said David Rosen, a Democratic fund-raiser based in Chicago. "There was a terrible naivete about this within the Democratic Party — and we have to address it now."

Some of the U.S. Senate's past Democratic fund-raising campaigns were even blunter, laying part of the blame on the White House. "I think a lot of people engaged in '04 and '08 got real signals from the White House that we don't need your big money," said Harold Ickes, who in 2004 helped raise nearly $200 million for independent organizations. "That was a mistake." He added, "We need to change that approach later this month in Washington during a meeting of Democracy Alliance, an organization of more than 100 liberal donors set up several years ago to help the left build a long-term campaign and policy infrastructure."

"We should certainly learn from what the right wing has done," said Steve Phillips, who leads a California-based political action group, PACPac.org, and plans to attend the gathering.

"We've been a little overly purist in our approach in a way that we're maybe paying a political price for."

George Stephanopoulos, a political commentator on CNN, said on Tuesday that Republicans "have this incredible ability to motivate their base — and that's what's going to make the difference in this election."

And this election, he said, "is the difference between whether Barack Obama is president or not."

Republicans won more than 600 races in 2010 election

Nicholas Riccardi  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The massive gains by the GOP this election season limited congressional and gubernatorial campaigns. Republicans won more than 600 state legislative races, taking control of at least 18 chambers across the country and positioning themselves for years of electoral advantage through control of redistricting.

The GOP now holds more state legislative seats than it has since 1928, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Coupled with the strong showing by the GOP in governor's races — the party claimed 11 new seats, while losing two to Democrats — Republicans hold an edge in the once-decade battle for power that involves redrawing congressional and state legislative districts.

This year will "go down as a defining political election that will shape the national political landscape for at least the next 10 years," said Tim Storey, elections specialist with the state legislatures conference, said in a news release. "The GOP... finds itself now in the strongest position for both congressional and state legislative seats, having foreclosed the path to an independent commission as an alternative, as well as the ability to do a brutal first fight that it has enjoyed in the modern era of redistricting."

Even the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee, charged with helping get Democrats elected to statehouses, could not put much of a positive spin on the results. "There's not a ton of good there," spokeswoman Carolyn Fiddler said. "It does generally give us a leg up on the redistricting process."

Ed Gillespie, chairman of the DCC, the Republican counterpart, said he was "pleased" that before Tuesday night, Democrats had controlled 60 state chambers and Republicans 36. Now, he said, Democrats are left with 40.

Gillespie said that 18 states will gain or lose seats because of population shifts recorded in the 2010 census, and that "Republicans now have majorities in 10 of those 18 states."

"Their resources will always be too great because the funds come from those who are acting in their own economic self-interest. The way to re-frame is to change the way campaigns are funded and to require public disclosure of funders."
Obama reflects on midterm elections, admits disconnect from American people

Steven Thomma  
McClatchy Newspapers

After leading his party to the worst midterm drubbing in 72 years, President Barack Obama all but conceded Wednesday that he's lost touch with the American people.

"There is an inherent danger in being in the White House and being in the bubble," Obama said at a White House news conference.

"The responsibilities of this office are so enormous, and so many people are depending on what we do," he added. "In the rush of activity sometimes we lose track of the ways that we connected with folks that got us here in the first place."

The president appeared subdued and at times reflective but not outwardly chastened by his Democratic Party's loss of at least 60 seats in the House of Representatives, the worst loss for a president's party since Franklin D. Roosevelt's Democrats lost 71 seats in 1938.

"It feels bad," Obama said. He vowed to work with the Republicans. But he suggested no change of any significance, of course, saying the American people signaled their frustration Tuesday over the economy but brushing aside suggestions that they rejected his policies.

"Over the last two years, we've made progress. But clearly too many Americans haven't felt that progress yet, and they told us that yesterday. And, as president, I take responsibility for that," he said. "It underscores for me that I've got to do a better job, just like everybody else in Washington does."

On Capitol Hill, Republicans questioned whether the Democrats learned any lesson from Tuesday's results.

Presumptive House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said the "reason-able way forward" was to cut spending to 2008 levels, something the president signaled he'll resist.

"The group that should hopefully get the message out of yesterday's elections is our friends on the other side of the aisle," said Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., his party's leader in the Senate, where Republicans gained an additional seat in the minority. "We hope that they will pivot in a different direction."

Known for his steady, even detached — demeanor, Obama said he was the same man with the same agenda and same leadership style he always had, but Americans saw him differently from the way they did before.

"This is a growth process and an evolution," he said. "And the relationship that I've had with the American people is one that built slowly, peaked at this incredible high and then during the course of the last two years, as we've together gone through some very difficult times, has gotten rockier and tougher."

He said voters liked him when he was first campaigning and they got to see him "up close and personal."

But once in the White House, he said, he's been cut off just as other presidents have. With an eye to history, he likened his predicament to midterm losses suffered by Ronald Reagan in 1982 and Bill Clinton in 1994, both of whom went on to win re-election.

Mindful of the complaint that he doesn't connect with ordinary people, Obama said he reads letters from Americans every evening but people didn't know about that.

"Those letters that I read every night, some of them just break my heart... But nobody's filing me reading those letters," he said.

He said he felt energized and encouraged about the country every time he met people outside the White House, and that he'd get out more.

"There are more things that we can do to make sure that I'm getting out of here," he said. "Getting out of here is good for me, too."

He also said he'd talk more with Republicans.

"What the American people want is for us to mix and match ideas; figure out those areas where we can agree on; move forward on those; disagree without being disagreeable on those areas that we can't agree on," he said.

He said there were a "whole bunch" of areas where he could work with the Republicans, including energy, federal aid to education and a ban on spending "earmarks."

He also said he was willing to negotiate with Republicans on whether to extend the Bush-era tax cuts that expire Dec. 31. He's proposed making them permanent for individuals who make less than $200,000 annually and for couples who earn less than $250,000, and letting them expire for those who make more. Republicans want to make them permanent for everyone.

Obama acknowledged that he hasn't changed the way Washington does business as he promised in 2008.

He noted that he engaged in closed-door, backroom deal-making to get his health care bill through Congress, but said it was necessary and that the end justified the means.

"It's an ugly mess when it comes to process," he said. "That is something that really affected how people viewed the outcome. That is something that I regret, but I think the outcome was a good one."

He said he'd talk about repealing one small section of the new law that requires small businesses to report to the Internal Revenue Service. But he dismissed suggestions that he accept repeal of the bill.

"We'd be misunderstanding the election if we thought that the American people want to see us for the next two years re-litigate arguments that we had over the last two years," he said.

He countered a question about half the voters saying their vote was a protest without being disagreeable on those areas that we can't agree on," he said.

He resisted calls to cut spending back to 2008, pre-stimulus levels, saying he'll oppose cuts in federal spending on education, energy research to produce "green jobs" and infrastructure improvements.

"In these budget discussions, the key is to be able to distinguish between those cuts that are necessary for our growth, isn't an investment in our future and those things that are absolutely necessary for us to be able to increase job growth in the future," he said.
Theatre and dance department puts modern twist on classic play

Despite a king's demands for her to disgrace her deceased brother by denying him a proper burial, Antigone acts out against her country's tyrannical leader by burying and mourning her brother. In Greek, the word "antigone" means unbending. In the Greek tragedy "Antigone" by Sophocles — which will be performed in the Spanos Theatre Nov. 18 to Nov. 20 — that's just what the main character Antigone had to be to honor her brother.

Sophocles' play has been adapted many times over the years. It has been slightly altered for language and its characters have sometimes been replaced with more modern versions of their Greek predecessors. In Cal Poly's adaptation — written by Al Schnupp, professor of theatre and dance and Cal Poly's Theatre and Dance Department will perform a never-before-seen version of the play complete with a new twist.

Sophocles' play was about conflicting ideas without a black and white depiction of "good versus evil." What remains constant in both stories is the devastating effects of war. Sometimes it places brother against brother. Schnupp said, is with the aftermath of war.

"In both stories questions of honor or arise," Schnupp said. "Both stories share the idea of the state versus the individual, civil disobedience, following one's conscience, maturity, lessons learned... these are ideas explored in both interWar stories." Schnupp first read the letters used at the Vietnam Memorial years ago, he said.

"They were so powerful, moving and heartfelt that I knew years ago, if the opportunity presented itself, I would like to use them in a performance version," Schnupp said. "Later, I make the connection of those letters to the dilemma around which 'Antigone' is built. The challenge became this: How does one poetically, elegantly, visually give life to the ideas and pain expressed in the letters?"

One of the biggest similarities between the two is the idea of opposing viewpoints. Walter Kaufman wrote in the book "Tragedy and Philosophy" that the German philosopher Hegel said all of Sophocles' plays have one thing in common: a conflict of opposing viewpoints. In Antigone, the main character is conflicted by her desire to honor her brother and King Creon's lack of empathy.

Similarly, at the time Vietnam was happening, there was no clear "good" side or "bad" side. There were more than two opinions about the war on the American side alone. It was about conflicting ideas without a black and white depiction of "good versus evil."

What remains constant in both stories is the devastating effects of war. Sometimes it places brother against brother. Schnupp said, is with the aftermath of war.

A Cal Poly student who will help narrate the story as well as perform some of the letters to soldiers is theatre arts senior Anna Clauson.

"The letters are the heart-wrenching words of real people paying homage to their fallen brothers, sons, husbands and fathers and they complement the story of 'Antigone' beautifully," Clauson said.

see Play, page 10
American Indian photography exhibit comes to campus

Kelly Cooper
KELLYCOOPER.MH@GMAIL.COM

In lieu of Native American Heritage Month, the Cal Poly Multicultural Center will bring award-winning photographer Peggy Fontenot to the University Union (UU) on Monday, Nov. 8 to present her exhibit "Surviving Assimilation: The Contemporary American Indian." The wide range of work is under the theme of how American Indians survived as a culture despite governmental attempts at assimilation, which was essentially the "Americanization" of Indians, Fontenot said.

"They wanted to do away with the American Indian," Fontenot said. "They wanted everybody to fit into the Anglo-European culture. They cut our hair, they took away the languages, the freedom of religion. Quo fons, we were savages." A Native American herself (part Potawatomi, Patawomeck and Cherokee), Fontenot has been photographing for decades and showing her photography since 1991. She has won numerous awards from museums around the country, such as the Eiteljorg Museum in Indiana and Heard Museum in Arizona. All of Fontenot's work is photographed with a film camera. She believes that film properly represents history — without the Adobe Photoshop effects and editing that seem to be the mainstream methods nowadays, Fontenot said.

"You can go back to my negatives and you can see that what was in my picture was there," Fontenot said.

"To me, if you're documenting history, the way to do it is with film so you know that what was in the image was actually reality." One image that particularly stands out to Fontenot is a photograph she took of a family.

"It looks like an ordinary photo — a snapshot of a family," she said. "But this particular family had never been photographed before. When I brought them the photo, their response was so overwhelming. They didn't touch the image — they took their hand and ran it on top of the image and they were just in awe seeing themselves for the first time. Aesthetically it's not my favorite, but it was an incredible feeling." Another unique property of her photography is the color — or lack thereof.

"I think that black and white lends a more seriousness to an image, where color is more distracting to me," Fontenot said.

Multicultural Center Diversity Advocate representing the Native American Heritage Series Elizabeth Graham, a political science junior, said she's looking forward to seeing Fontenot's exhibit would be a neat way to represent the different aspects of American Indian culture.

"I thought she had a really interesting take on it," she said. "Just surviving assimilation in general sends a strong message. Even though the government has tried to assimilate them, their culture is still strong." Fontenot said she's received feedback on her perspective on the struggles of American Indians.

"I have had so many people come and I think they should open up to how I can integrate my culture more so into my writing." Cowherd said she feels Native Americans have little recognition on campus and hopes others will attend to attain some knowledge on the culture.

"I believe that Native Americans are very underrepresented on this campus," Cowherd said. "I think that people shouldn't be ethnocentric and I think they should open up to different cultures.

Although her exhibit will only be held for one night at Cal Poly, Fontenot's exhibit will feature unedited photographs of American Indians.
Aaron Barnhart

Remember when Conan O'Brien was merely the funniest redhead on the planet? Now, through some weird twists of fate you couldn't have made up, he's also the creator and producer of a reality series called "Extreme Makeover: Talk Show Edition." You remember the first makeover, the one known as "The Tonight Show With Conan O'Brien." That took place at Universal Studios and lasted all of seven months on NBC. The new makeover, known as "Conan," is being put together three miles away, at Stage 15 on the Warner Bros. lot.

It's a smaller stage, which is just as well since O'Brien is working with a smaller budget. And yet, thanks to the relentlessness of the TBS publicity machine (those blimp ads) and the whirr of publicity that accompanied his exit from NBC earlier this year, O'Brien may actually exceed his "Tonight Show" hype when the Conan comedy cavalcade. If the new set recalibrates the relationship between host and audience, there are far fewer seats here than the one known as "The Tonight Show" grandstand held. About 260 guests will watch in a cozy, theater-in-the-round setting. Blue is out and orange in — not a garish Halloween hue, either, but something warm and mellow, like the embers of a late-night fire. It's fan-friendlier, and that makes sense. After all, O'Brien left NBC for TBS not to have an audience that was devoted to splurge is the legal department. But, he added, he knew where to do emotionally moving shows, especially one as powerful as this one.

Even in an environment surrounded by themes of loss and sadness and less than eight weeks of rehearsing, the actors are having fun with the play, Clausson said. "There's 10 of us in the ensemble, and we've always finding things to laugh about together," Clausson said. "Above all, there's a really great energy behind stage as we work to tell this story well." Clausson said seeing the play is a way to give thanks to the men and women who died fighting. "I view coming to see this show as an expression of gratitude," Clausson said. "Coming and being a part of the audience is a small way of acknowledging that the men and women who died were real people who made real sacrifices. I think we could all use a moment outside the day-to-day to contemplate what it is to give your life for something." Tickets for the show can be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office or online for $15 for general admissions and $12 for student and senior tickets. Doors open at 8 p.m.
Cirque de Soleil teams up with late king of pop

Chris Lee

LOS ANGELES TIMES

So, maybe "Michael Jackson's This Is It" wasn't quite it after all.

The performer's estate and Cirque du Soleil announced plans Wednesday for a Jackson-themed touring production, "Michael Jackson: The Immortal World Tour," that is set to open in Montreal next October.

The arena tour, which combines the performer's choreography and music with the Quebecois circus troupe's signature acrobatics, otherworldly staging and aerial dancing, will travel to 27 countries, starting in Las Vegas and visiting 10 other American cities.

The writer-director of "The Immortal World Tour," Jamie King, served as Madonna's creative director for the last dozen years, overseeing such projects as her 2008 "Sticky & Sweet" tour. King previously worked with the King of Pop as a backup dancer for Jackson for two years on his 1992-93 Dangerous world tour.

According to King, the new show references every stage of Jackson's career, combining pop spectacles with the esoteric, theatrical qualities associated with such Cirque du Soleil shows as "O," "Ka" and "Zumanity."

"From the moonwalk to the iconic choreography we've seen in 'Thriller' and 'Beat It' and 'Bad' — all his mini-movies and music videos — it's like that with the world of Cirque," King said in an interview. "You shake it and can literally turn it on its head. Imagine taking the moonwalk to new levels, to new heights. Being able to do the moonwalk literally as if you're on the moon, all the way around the arena."

Unlike such Las Vegas-based Cirque du Soleil productions as "Love" (a successful joint venture between the troupe and the Beatles Apple Corps that re-imagines the Fab Four's music within circus-based artistry) and "Viva Elvis" (a Cirque show developed in conjunction with Elvis Presley Enterprises that launched this year), co-executor of the Jackson estate John Branca pointed out that the initial idea with "The Immortal World Tour" was to "bring Michael to the fans" and create the feeling of his concerts in an arena setting.

"Cirque has not done a show with Elvis or the Beatles or any other historic rock 'n' roll icon that has gone into arenas and toured North America or the world," Branca said. "Ultimately, there will be a spectacular show residing permanently in Las Vegas. That show is a couple of years off." The announcement for "The Immortal World Tour" arrives just days after Forbes magazine named Jackson No. 1 on its Top-Earning Dead Celebrities list, after the singer posthumously raked in $275 million in 2010.

"So far, we are the biggest, the best, and the newest," — Jamie King Writer-director of "The Immortal World Tour"

Cirque du Soleil announced plans Wednesday for a Jackson-themed touring production, "Michael Jackson: The Immortal World Tour," that is set to open in Montreal next October.

The arena tour, which combines the performer's choreography and music with the Quebecois circus troupe's signature acrobatics, otherworldly staging and aerial dancing, will travel to 27 countries, starting in Las Vegas and visiting 10 other American cities.

The writer-director of "The Immortal World Tour," Jamie King, served as Madonna's creative director for the last dozen years, overseeing such projects as her 2008 "Sticky & Sweet" tour. King previously worked with the King of Pop as a backup dancer for Jackson for two years on his 1992-93 Dangerous world tour.

According to King, the new show references every stage of Jackson's career, combining pop spectacles with the esoteric, theatrical qualities associated with such Cirque du Soleil shows as "O," "Ka" and "Zumanity."

"From the moonwalk to the iconic choreography we've seen in 'Thriller' and 'Beat It' and 'Bad' — all his mini-movies and music videos — it's like that with the world of Cirque," King said in an interview. "You shake it and can literally turn it on its head. Imagine taking the moonwalk to new levels, to new heights. Being able to do the moonwalk literally as if you're on the moon, all the way around the arena."

Unlike such Las Vegas-based Cirque du Soleil productions as "Love" (a successful joint venture between the troupe and the Beatles Apple Corps that re-imagines the Fab Four's music within circus-based artistry) and "Viva Elvis" (a Cirque show developed in conjunction with Elvis Presley Enterprises that launched this year), co-executor of the Jackson estate John Branca pointed out that the initial idea with "The Immortal World Tour" was to "bring Michael to the fans" and create the feeling of his concerts in an arena setting.

"Cirque has not done a show with Elvis or the Beatles or any other historic rock 'n' roll icon that has gone into arenas and toured North America or the world," Branca said. "Ultimately, there will be a spectacular show residing permanently in Las Vegas. That show is a couple of years off." The announcement for "The Immortal World Tour" arrives just days after Forbes magazine named Jackson No. 1 on its Top-Earning Dead Celebrities list, after the singer posthumously raked in $275 million in 2010.

"So far, we are the biggest, the best, and the newest." — Jamie King Writer-director of "The Immortal World Tour"
Lessons about the Electoral College

Eric Baldwin is an electrical engineering senior and Mustang Daily libertarian columnist.

Every four years we have a presidential election, and every presidential election at least one person complains bitterly about that barbaric anachronism, the Electoral College. And they're always wrong. Since I wasn't around to enlighten anyone in 2012, I'm going to do so now, when nobody cares.

The Electoral College is a group of people selected by the states that decide who becomes the next president. There is a little more that goes on, especially when no candidate has a majority, but that's basically it. Each state produces a number of electors equal to its number of senators and representatives (Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution, modified by the 12th Amendment). Every state legislature has chosen appointees to reflect a statewide vote, but they didn't have to do so. If a state doesn't do so, it can't reap the rewards of the Electoral College.

In the Federalist Paper No. 68, Alexander Hamilton wrote that "The choice of several (the Electoral College) to form an intermediate body of electors will be much less apt to convulse the community with any extraordinary or violent movements than the choice of one (the president) who was himself to be the final object of the public wishes." We all know how well and blood-thirsty we become during the presidential election. National campaigns focus on manipulating our emotions and misleading the facts. The system is set up to encourage shallow, hyper-emotional decisions in a one-day period that directly affects the next four years, and indirectly affects the rest of human history.

The political process would be strengthened, not weakened by a renewed focus on the Electoral College. Instead of pretend to be involved in a direct national election for two candidates, we should involve ourselves in the state-by-state selection of many hundreds of individuals. This would have the advantages of reducing the influence of political parties since they will have to conduct local campaigns for many individuals instead of national campaigns for a few, increasing our familiarity with the candidates since there will be far more opportunity for local and community contact, and place the decision-making power in the hands of people who will be able to dedicate far more time and deeper commitment on the job of selecting a presidential candidate than the average American.

One last advantage is the most important: by recognizing that the president is chosen by others we will become more appropriately suspicious of the office and thus less inclined to throw demands at it for every sort of political and economic relief — demands which can only be fulfilled, if at all, by an inappropriate and unbounded increase in presidential power.

The Electoral College is only an anachronism if the government has fundamentally changed. If we believe that the national government should operate broadly on individuals, then the college is inappropriate — because power is not matched with representation. If, however, the national government should operate primarily upon the states, then the college is appropriate. It all traces back to the debates at the birth of the Constitution — what is the proper form of government? That question has not yet been decided, and we should not dismiss the Electoral College without understanding its significance.

You've been poked by The Mustang Daily
Poke them back at www.mustangdaily.net

Hey, we've got a real news feed too.
Voters want to see commitment toward progress, peace

The following editorial appeared in the Los Angeles Times on Wednesday, Nov. 3.

Presidential elections express voters' candidate preferences, of course, but they also capture the national mood—a yearning for change, say, or for stability or peace. Midterm elections tend to be more fragmented, and the sentiments that animate them often are more diffuse. On Tuesday, the fates of two candidates who excited "an party" activists illustrated that phenomenon: Rand Paul's libertarianism won over Kentucky voters, who voted him into office and kept that Senate seat in Republican hands; Christine O'Donnell's formidable negatives sank her in Delaware, and that seat stayed Democratic.

Still, there are certain generalizations that apply to most modern midterm elections. They have tended, in recent decades, to reflect voter second thoughts, to signal a retrenchment after the election of a popular president. Thus, in 1992, voters ended a generation of Democratic control in Washington by electing Dwight D. Eisenhower and a Republican Congress; two years later, Democrats regained control of Congress. In 1994, Eisenhower shocked Achilles Stevi son in their rematch; two years after that, Democrats picked up 48 seats in the House and 13 in the Senate.

Those patterns have repeated more recently: Bill Clinton was elected in 1992, only to have Democrats lose 53 House and seven Senate seats in 1994; George W. Bush was reelected in 2004 and lost control of Congress two years later.

Given that history, Tuesday's results are hardly astonishing; indeed, they are more a part of a trend than an aberration. Nevertheless, they do reveal powerful forces at work in our politics today. Specifically, they reflect the electorate's reaction to an image of a political establishment that has become toxic.

The anxieties spurred by the recession have given way to a broader unease, an inchoate sense that government is too big, too intrusive, too demanding. Federal deficits, enlarged first by the long and ill-advised war in Iraq and then by the efforts to stimulate the economy, symbolize to many a government detached from the consequences of its policies. The federal deficit for the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30 was $1.3 trillion. Voter anger is rising and are sending a sharp rebuke to Democratic incumbents and to the Obama Administration, one that may not be cause for panic but that they would be foolish to ignore.

Yet it is not entirely true that this campaign has been overwhelmed by a new, angry and cohesive right-wing. Some incumbents Democrats, including California Sen. Barbara Boxer, appear to have escaped the electorate's wrath, while Jerry Brown was on course to beat both money and national trends in his race for governor. The truth is that the Republican Party has become a messy place. Tea party candidates are generating excitement but also discomfort within the party, the energy unleashed in this fall's state and local contests may be destructive in 2012. When the presidential campaign will require Republicans to rally around a single candidate. There's at least as big a philosophical divide between Wall Street Republicans and Ken tucky tea partyers as there is between, for example, Maine's moderate Republican Sen. Olympia J. Snowe and California's moderate Democrat Sen. Dianne Feinstein. Indeed, for every conservative who imagines Obama as a socialist, there is a liberal who complains that the president is a closet moderate.

Moreover, though Democrats paid the heaviest price for the nation's anti-incumbent sentiment in this election, Republicans hardly enjoy unqualified support. In a September Gallup poll, Americans were equally unimpressed with the two parties, with only 44 percent approving of the parties' work.

Time and economic growth will heal some of the disillusion expressed in this campaign. But if the midterm does not signal cause for Democratic panic, it does reflect a significant shift in federal power, as well as a new set of responsibilities for the resurgent Republican Party. For two years, the party defined itself almost entirely in opposition to Obama; Republicans in Congress opposed immigration reform, opposed climate change legislation, opposed healthcare reform. Now that they take control of the House, however, the GOP assumes responsibility to govern, not just resist.

If the issue is the size of government, then Republicans have a fresh opportunity to propose new restrictions on that government. Some candidates this year have suggested eliminating Social Security or Medicare. Others have railed against illegal immigration and argued for tougher border security. With their victories in the midterm, Republicans have the chance to transform those issues into substantive proposals and then to negotiate with their Democratic counterparts to turn them into law.

Will they? On Sunday, Republican Chairman Michael Steele blamed the "frustration and anger" expressed in this campaign on the gap between the promise and reality of change since Obama's election. Fair enough, but Steele's response was to hint that one of the GOP's first acts will be to refuse to compromise on raising the federal debt ceiling, a ministerial function of Congress that allows the government to continue functioning. As Steele well knows, rejecting the debt-ceiling measure is an act of pure destruction: It shuts down federal expenditure. Medicare payments would end, as would unemployment benefits. Poor people would not get paid, which presumably does not much concern Steele, but that's who would suffer, which might. Moreover, the notion of using the debt ceiling as a vehicle to protect the size of government is ludicrous from a party devoted to tax cuts, which deepen the federal debt.

Threats and bombast created much of the wound to the nation's politics. Hard work and a genuine commitment to solving problems—rather than ephemeral political advantage—could begin to heal it.

Karee Prazak is a journalism junior. Mustang Daily copy editor and sex columnist.

There is an epidemic sweeping the Cal Poly campus. It isn't going to get you sick and it isn't life changing, but it is contagious.

The trend to walk barefoot is growing.

Personally, I don't understand why people are not wearing shoes around campus these days. It used to be an occasional occurrence to see someone recent from 2008's flip-flop- wearing crowd. A phenomenon which would be dismissed with a shake of the head and change, even to a random event most likely spread on Facebook. However, today students-sans-shoes can be seen stomping around campus.

This recent influx baffles me. It sounds utterly disgusting to walk around campus without proper shoes. College students aren't known to be the most sanitary people at it understand, but it is, so to walk around a campus barefoot is an interesting choice—although it is probably cleaner than a fraternity house. Even the students living in the dorms wear shoes to the bathrooms and showers. There are more diseases manifesting on the grounds around a college campus than in a scientific research laboratory. This might be an exaggeration, but you get my point.

The result we get medi cal sheets, wear dusting and barrettes to prevent contracting diseases. The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

Karee Prazak

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

Moreover, though Democrats paid the heaviest price for the nation's anti-incumbent sentiment in this election, Republicans hardly enjoy unqualified support. In a September Gallup poll, Americans were equally unimpressed with the two parties, with only 44 percent approving of the parties' work.

Time and economic growth will heal some of the disillusion expressed in this campaign. But if the midterm does not signal cause for Democratic panic, it does reflect a significant shift in federal power, as well as a new set of responsibilities for the resurgent Republican Party. For two years, the party defined itself almost entirely in opposition to Obama; Republicans in Congress opposed immigration reform, opposed climate change legislation, opposed healthcare reform. Now that they take control of the House, however, the GOP assumes responsibility to govern, not just resist.

The GOP is growing. De- means "green," the trash littering around campus can't be safe. I don't see these people carrying around barefoot trend should eliminate barefoot trend

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.

The no-shoe-wearing "free souls" are just setting themselves up to expose their bodies to unsanitary situations.
HELP WANTED

Student Accounting Assistant,
Office of Conference and Event Planning:

Great opportunity to be involved with daily accounting and business operations in the Office of Conference and Event Planning. Looking for student interested in a long-term position; the position is part time during academic year, full-time (40 hours/week) in summer.

Experience in the accounting field and/or accounting classes preferred, but not required.

The student Accounting Assistant position is available now, open until filled. $8.75-$9.50 an hour, depending on experience. Paid training is provided.

To be considered for this position, a completed application and resume must be submitted to the Office of Conference and Event Planning at 756-7600 or stop by the CEP office, located in the Cerro Vista Community Center (Building 170).

ANNOUNCEMENT

Come join the brand new Diabetes Club on campus!
Our goals are to gain knowledge and support, raise awareness, educate our community about diabetes, and HAVE FUN!
Our next meeting will be held this Thursday, November 4, 2010 at 6pm in the Library, Room 216 K. Hope to see you there!
Volleyball
continued from page 16

feeling of beating a team when they are playing at home and have all of their fans there to watch and heckle," she said.

To counter the blue wave of Gaucho fans, Stevenson said he expects to see a fair amount of green in the stands as well.

"I hope a lot of people from Cal Poly can make it down the coast," Stevenson said. "If we could have a nice showing, it would mean a lot." Mort said playing at UC Santa Barbara has a different feel than other games, but she expects her team to handle the pressure.

Another dimension to the game is the fact Stevenson was an athlete at UC Santa Barbara when Kathy Gregory, his counterpart this weekend, was a coach.

"It will be a cat-and-mouse game between me and coach Gregory," he said. "It's always fun to go into a battle of wits."

Overall, the team is eager to face UC Santa Barbara again.

"I'm really excited to play them," Graven said. "I think we have a really good chance to win. It will be exciting. It will be a fun match."

A win against UCSB, which may be the roughest opponent left on Cal Poly's schedule, would keep the Mustangs in the running for a Big West title and increase their chances for a bid in the NCAA Tournament. Stevenson said he is cautiously optimistic about both possibilities.

"If we can win the next four (matches), we can get into (the tournament) as an at-large, but it still gives us a chance to win the conference if other teams stumble," Stevenson said.

Molly Peo and the rest of the Mustangs have won three of their last four matches.

Frias named Big West Freshman of the Year

Mustang Daily Staff Report

Cal Poly's success in men's cross country doesn't just extend to Big West championships. Cross country runner Chris Frias was named the Big West Conference Men's Freshman of the Year, marking the third time in six seasons a Cal Poly runner has won the award.

The redshirt freshman finished in 12th place at the Big West Cross Country Championships at the UC Riverside Agriculture Course on Saturday. He was the second Mustang to finish — second to senior Carl Dargitz. He ran a time of 24:42 on the eight-kilometer course. Frias also finished 96th at the Pre-National Invitational on Oct. 16. He helped the Mustangs finish 16th with a time of 24:59. At the Stanford Invitational on Sept. 25, he helped the Mustangs finish eighth with a time of 25:15.

UC Davis and UC Santa Barbara racked up the most awards. UC Davis' Jon Peterson won the Men's Athlete of the Year award and his coach Drew Wartenburg won the Men's Coach of the Year award.

UC Santa Barbara's Amanda Moreno won the Women's Athlete of the Year award and her coach Pete Dolan won the Women's Coach of the Year award.

The only other award went to UC Irvine freshmen Colleen Lillig. She was named the Women's Freshman of the Year.

SHARING IS CARING!

e-mail this story @

www.mustangdaily.net

(Handy, it'll give you something to talk to Mom about.)

THIS WEEK IN CAL POLY ATHLETICS

SATURDAY
2:00 P.M.
Green and Gold Match

CAL POLY WRESTLING
Cal Poly Wrestling
7:00 P.M.
Home Opener

WE ARE THE MUSTANGS
Women's volleyball travels to UC Santa Barbara this weekend

J.J. Jenkins
JJJE N K IN S .M D i^ G M A n ..C O M

The Cal Poly women's volleyball team's (18-7, 8-4 Big West) quest for a Big West Conference championship became more difficult over the weekend, but the Mustangs are still in the title hunt as they head to Santa Barbara to play UC Santa Barbara (14-11, 8-4) on Saturday night.

After a four-set win at Long Beach State last Friday, the team was within striking distance of the top spot in the conference. The next night, Cal Poly won the first set in its match against Big West-leader Cal State Fullerton, getting the team off to a fast start. However, the Titans responded by winning the next three games and, consequently, the match.

"Nothing was really connecting," said Kristina Graven, a freshman middle blocker who leads the team in kills. "Serve, receive wasn't there. Connections between the hitters and setters weren't there. Everything was off."

Cal Poly only plays one game this weekend, but head coach Jon Stevens said this one is a "must win," as Cal Poly looks to avenge a loss to UC Santa Barbara from earlier this season. In that match, the Mustangs rallied from 0-2, forcing the match to a deciding fifth set. However, the Gauchos pulled through in the final set, winning 15-10.

"It was a very tough loss to lose to Santa Barbara, especially at home in front of a big crowd," libero Alison Mort said. "We are definitely motivated to prove to our school and other teams that we are the better team in the rivalry." This time around the Mustangs will look to turn the tables on UC Santa Barbara.

"I think we need to come out to a fast start and win the first set, then just play our game," Graven said. "Staying on their game will certainly involve shutting down Dana Vargas, the main UC Santa Barbara setter. "She's the best setter in the conference," said Stevenson, who also mentioned that scouting reports in the past have simply said, "Stop Vargas."

By manipulating drills to put more emphasis on locating the direction of a set, Stevenson said he expects to have his team prepared by Saturday.

Mort has beaten the Gauchos on their home court before and said she relishes the opportunity to do it one more time.

"There is nothing better than the Volleyball page 15"