Governor Brown cuts CSU's green

$500 million dollars to be cut from California State University system budget

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The California State University system could undergo a $500 million budget cut, according to Governor Jerry Brown's 2011-2012 state budget proposal released Monday. In an e-mail statement released soon after the proposal, CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed, University of California President Mark Yudof and California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott voiced their dissent over the cuts.

"Now is not the time to shrink public higher education, but to grow it," they wrote. "The road to recovery from this recession and prosperity far beyond it runs straight through our many campuses. These universities are the economic engines of California."

"Consider what this does' to us," Fallis said. "The $500 million cut puts us at $2.2 billion in funding. That is the same level we were in during the 1999-2000 fiscal year, but we have 70,000 more students."

George, you have had in past years, we are looking at serious impacts on the state economy, on students already at the university."

Event of, Fallis said the projected $500 million is a "best-case scenario." In addition to the budget cut proposal, Brown has also proposed to continue the tax extensions set to expire at the end of the fiscal year. According to the press release from the CSU Chancellor's Office, he plans to hold a special June election for voters but if it does not pass, the actual amount cut from the system could be higher.

The reduction, which will cut the current budget by 18 percent, comes after the budget was partially restored in late 2010, according to the press release. These cuts may sound familiar to some — in 2009 the CSU system underwent a $625 million budget cut, causing increased tuition fees, shrunk enrollment and furloughs.

Accounting students offer free help during taxing time

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Students in the Cal Poly Orfels College of Business will provide free tax help for low-income individuals every Saturday from Jan. 29 through March 12 with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, a program supported by the Internal Revenue Service.

"We've been doing it for 20 years, but this year the program was started in 1992 to help serve low-income individuals. Because this program is not for high-income individuals, it is really geared toward low-income individuals who aren't too savvy with this kind of thing," Pereira said.

Junior Caro, an accounting professor and one of the faculty advisers of the VITA program along with professors Jack Robinson and Michelle Bonneuzza, said the program is a class provided during the winter quarter "for accounting seniors (that) can be either an elective class or it can serve as their senior project."

Carr said the program is sponsored by the IRS and there are many other VITA programs across the country.

"We've been doing it for 20 years, but the whole program has actually been in existence from the mid-1970s, so it's well over 40, 40 years old."

There is also a VITA program in Santa Maria, which is headed by Cal Poly alumna Hilda Zacarias and an appointed basis where 15 to 20 Cal Poly students are "loaned" to help prepare tax returns, Carr said.

Carr additionally said the students who participate in the program must be certified because "the IRS requires it."
VITA program do not have the training gians said. "And not only do we get cer-
requires that anybody who's going to do
as much advanced training.
Carr said. "They have to be trained in
certain things for books and tuition.
Carr said students should make sure "In some cases, students who get
the amount of scholarships they
received because they may have to pay
taxes if the scholarships exceed the cost of
 tuition, books and supplies.
"In some cases, students who get
how the tax return had been previously
handled, though many do not bring back
their past year's return.
"For some reason, people what don't
know taxes don't remember to bring it, or
a lot of people don't keep
a copy, which is absolutely
a really bad mistake," Carr said. "Everybody
should keep a copy of their
tax return for at least
three years. And you'd
be surprised how many
people don't make a copy,
they just mail the one we
give them if we're not e-
 filing. So, it's definitely
something they need to
get educated about."
Higgins said students
should also consult their parents with
tax questions before attending the VITA
program because it can speed up the pro-
des. He also suggested for students to
arrive early because the program is on a
first-come, first-serve basis.
"Even though we open up our doors
at 10 or so in the morning, the tip is get
in line at around nine o'clock because
they're already going to be people from
the community lining up at that time," Higgins said.
For the students preparing tax re-
turns, Carr said the VITA program is
beneficial by providing real world expe-
ience and a more secure sense of their
capabilities.
"They go into this a little intimidated
because they're going to be preparing
real life returns for people, but what
they find out almost immediately is how
much they know; and they realize their
self-confidence," Carr said. "It really
boosts their self-confidence about their
knowledge and their ability. And then
the people who come are generally real
friendly and they look to us for help, so
that's kind of a good feeling."
Higgins said he is more excited than
intimidated to help out the community.
"All of my classmates and I are very
thrilled to be able to work with the
community, especially other accounting
professionals from San Luis Obispo," Higgins said. "We're excited to be helping
out Cal Poly, and hopefully we get
students as much money back as we pos-
sibly can."
Secretary of Defense calls for unity with Chinese military

Tom Lasseter

U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and his Chinese counterpart called for greater cooperation between the two countries' military leaders on Monday, but their talks fell short of any concrete plans to formalize ties that were broken off by Beijing last year.

China agreed to set up working groups with the U.S. on key issues such as nuclear policy and missile defense without any definite schedule.

But those groups would be limited only to exploring the possibility of a future "strategic dialogue" and wouldn't actually discuss the issues themselves.

A meeting between Gates and Vice President Xi Jinping, next in line to be China's president, produced a wooden statement by Xi that noted that the U.S.-China military is a "sensitive field."

The ambiguity of Beijing's position suggested that military relations with China remain estranged at least, I think, two to three decades.

In comments to reporters during the flight to Beijing, Gates acknowledged that the Chinese "clearly have the potential to put some of our capabilities at risk," but he added that he hopes the strategic dialogue he planned to push for in Beijing would reduce the need for some of these capabilities.

The place is inhospitable, with molten temperatures and po­"sibly clouds of melted silicon. But a discovery ac­ross the galaxy is giving hope to scientists of intelligent life.

A team led by NASA Ames researchers has confirmed the existence of the first rocky planet outside our solar system. Kepler-10b is closest in size to Earth of 519 extra-solar planets discovered so far. It is about one times the Earth's diameter and speed around a star similar to our sun in the constellation Cygnus, about 560 light years away.

"It unquestionably a rocky world orbiting a star outside our solar sys­"tem," said Natalie Batalha, deputy science team leader for the Kepler Mis­sion at NASA Ames.

Unlike the majority of the so-called exoplanets detected so far, Kepler-10b is solid and not gaseous. "It's something you can stand on," she said.

In size and composition are signific­"ant because an Earth-sized, solid planet is more likely to have water, the region, she said.

The planet's day side is signifi­"cantly hotter than molten lava, Batalha said. Its night side is cooler, but probably still has hostile tempera­tures and perhaps toxic gas.

The planet circles the star Kepler-10, which is 20 times closer to its star than Mer­cury is to the sun. "It's a life-threatening planet," Batalha said.

One reason controversies arise over physics and astronomy at San Jose State University.

They gathered evidence of star neart­urmoil, such as earthquakes, reveal­"ing the star's structure and properties.

"Start kind of vibe and ring like a bell," said Edna DeVore, co-investiga­tor for the Kepler mission.

By September they knew that their planet was rocky.

"Do you want me to tell you how high I was jumping?" Batalha said.

"This is one step in that direction."

Astronomical Society in Seattle, is a mi­"nor dividend paid by NASA Ames' Kepler spacecraft, launched in March 2009.

From its lonely orbit around the sun and with its view undistorted by the Earth's atmosphere, Kepler fixes its meter-wide lens on 150,000 stars, measuring light every 30 minutes. Scientists pore over the data, searching for signs of planet transit.

In July 2009, Batalha's team mem­"bers noticed those signs and stepped up observations. They ordered the spacecraft to gather data once a minute, to better assess the star Kepler-10 because they needed more information.

Other astrophysical signals in nature can masquerade as a planet transit," said Batalha. "It's something you can stand on," she said.

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Vice President Biden to assess U.S. troop withdrawal from Afghanistan

Peter Nicholas
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

Vice President Joe Biden arrived in Afghanistan Monday for a series of meetings meant to gauge the progress toward a drawdown of U.S. forces later this year and an eventual handoff of security responsibilities to the Afghans.

Biden will meet with Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Tuesday and also will tour an Afghan national army training center, according to Obama administration officials.

The trip, unannounced for safety reasons, is Biden's first visit to the war zone since becoming vice president. He was greeted by U.S. Ambassador Karl Eikenberry and Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of the war effort. They later spoke privately for nearly two hours at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul.

The visit comes at a time administration officials described as a "pivot point" in U.S. policy in Afghanistan.

"We moved from a (troop) surge last year to the transition to Afghan lead that we’ll be starting this year and concluding in 2014," a senior Obama administration official told reporters aboard Air Force 2, en route to Afghanistan.

Biden will assess the progress of that effort, said the official, who was not authorized to speak publicly. The vice president has been skeptical of an expanded war effort, and last year favored a scaled-back U.S. presence combined with tough military strikes.

The centerpiece of Biden's visit will be his meeting and lunch with Karzai. U.S. officials worry that corruption in Karzai's government is an obstacle to a stable, self-governing country that is not reliant on outside forces.

Karzai has his own complaints about his uneasy partnership with the U.S. Last week, he warned "our foreign friends" not to interfere in the internal affairs of his government, saying the Afghans don't want any "meddling."

The senior official said of Karzai's remarks: "No one wants foreigners in their country. And the whole point of what we're doing is transitioning to Afghan lead and Afghan responsibility."

Biden last traveled to Afghanistan at President Barack Obama's behest in January 2009, before the two were sworn in. In that visit, he came away concerned that there was confusion on the ground about the core mission. The White House hopes there is more clarity these days. In December 2009, Obama announced that as part of the 30,000-troop surge, the U.S. would begin withdrawing forces from Afghanistan in July of this year.

The more meaningful deadline is 2014, when the U.S. has vowed to end its combat mission and complete the transition to an Afghan government that is in control of its own security. The U.S. military may continue to deploy soldiers in Afghanistan after that date, however.

In a review of the war effort completed last month, the White House said that its war strategy has paid dividends, blunting the momentum of the insurgent Taliban. Still, the White House review conceded that "these gains remain fragile and reversible."

Biden's trip coincides with mounting public opposition to the war, which was undertaken after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The goal was to rout al-Qaida, oust the ruling Taliban and prevent terrorists from using Afghanistan as a base of operations.

Nearly 10 years later, Americans are wondering if the fight was worth it. An ABC News-Washington Post poll last month showed that 60 percent believed the war was not worth fighting.
Budget
continued from page 1

With the most recent cuts barely a year in the past, students can't forget how they were previously impacted.
Karla Lazalde, a studies sophomore, said although furloughs seemed nice, students weren't able to get the information or time needed in class. As a result, she said, students suffer. Amid the recent proposal, Lazalde said she worries about other ways in which the school will attempt to combat the restricted budget.

"It's already getting harder for people to pay tuition because it keeps getting higher, and it's probably just going to get higher," Lazalde said. "And I know some people don't get financial aid like I do, so they won't be able to pay."

Although previous budget cuts have been partially remedied by furloughs and tuition increases, Fallis said the CSU system has not yet decided how it will combat the reduced budget.

"It is a very large cut," Fallis said. "There are a lot of options to consider, so there are no options that are off the table at this point. We can't project which options we will implement at this time."

But no matter what route the CSU system decides to take, not all students are going to be happy. Theatre arts sophomore Cadence Mitchell said with the rising cost of tuition, in addition to the next generation of students, the next generation of college hopefuls are going to be left out."

"I think it sucks," Mitchell said. "Yes, the economy is bad, but we're the next generation and if we can't pay the rising cost of education, we're not going to be able to get one."

In addition to state universities, Brown has also proposed a $500 million cut from the University of California system and a $400 million cut from the California Community Colleges. The proposed budget cut from the state's community colleges will be even worse for them, Mitchell said, because many students who attend community colleges do so because they cannot afford a state university.

"It's just as rigid for them as it is for community college funding," Mitchell said. "While it's not a four-year university, it is still people trying to get an education, and a lot of the time, community colleges have students who can't afford the high tuition at a four-year, but deserve the same education just as much."

Total, Brown's proposed budget will reduce support for state-funded higher education institutions by an estimated $1.4 billion. The chancellor's press release said combined, the University of California system, the California State University system and the California Community Colleges educate 3.5 million students across the state.

There are a lot of options to consider, so there are no options that are off the table at this point.

— Erik Fallis
CSU media specialist

State

SANTA ROSA (MCT) — Sonoma county officials are set to unveil a cutting-edge power plant Tuesday in the effort to slash the county's greenhouse gas emissions and energy costs.

Located on the county government's administrative campus in Santa Rosa, the fuel cell plant takes hydrogen from natural gas to create a electrochemical reaction that produces electricity.

The non-doescript 900-square-foot combination of pipes and metal boxes cost about $9.8 million. It is expected to result in about $20 million in energy savings over its 25-year lifespan.

The new power source is expected to help reduce the county's annual greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent, or 6,000 tons annually, officials said.

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UNIVERSAL CITY (MCT) — In the shadows of a major studio that has never made a movie of the event, a small band of history buffs on Sunday commemorated the birthplace of California.

At the Campo de Cahuenga Historical Memorial, several dozen volunteers re-enacted the 1847 signing of the agreement that ended the 19th century Mexican-American War in California.

About 150 people watched the costumed re-enactment that commemorated Jan. 13, 1847, when Gen. Andres Pico and Lt. Col. John C. Fremont signed a treaty that ended hostilities between the American forces and Californians who lived under Mexican rule.

Briefs

MICHIGAN (MCT) — Ford unveiled three new hybrid and electric vehicles on Monday as part of its plan to provide more choices for fuel efficient transportation than any other manufacturer, as well as a seven-passenger small minivan called the Ford C-Max.

The company introduced the cars by having its top leadership team drive them down three large ramps onto the floor of Cobo Center in Detroit.

By 2012, Ford said its family of electric vehicles will include a battery-powered Focus Electric and a plug-in hybrid and gasoline hybrid version of the C-Max, as well as a battery-powered Focus Electric compact car.

...

MARYLAND (MCT) — An underground explosion beneath a street housing government agencies in Baltimore injured two workers Monday afternoon.

The workers suffered first- and second-degree burns to their faces, arms and hands, said Chief Kevin Cartwright, a Fire Department spokesman.

Workers were underground in the 200 block of West Preston Street performing unspecified repairs when a "large explosion" occurred, followed by heavy smoke and fire from a manhole. Fire crews arrived on the scene at about 12:30 p.m. EST, officials said.

Cartwright said the cause of the explosion were still being looked into, and Baltimore Gas and Electric would likely handle any future investigation of the explosion's cause.

International

SPAIN (MCT) — The Basque separatist group ETA declared a permanent cease-fire with Spain on Monday, saying it was committed to abandoning its armed struggle for an independent homeland in favor of "dialogue and negotiation."

But the announcement was greeted coolly by the Spanish government, which repeated its demand that the militant organization surrender its weapons and disolve itself instead.

The group's latest move appears to be an offer to extend a truce it first announced in September, which came in the face of ebbing public support for its decades-long campaign of violence and the arrest of many of its key members.

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SUDAN (MCT) — Clashes in recent days between Arab nomads and tribesmen have left at least 30 people dead and raised fears Monday that the independence referendum in southern Sudan could lead to widespread violence in the disputed, oil-rich region of Abyei.

Abyei is a dangerous mix of herdsman and Arab cattle herders loyal to the government of President Omar Hassan Ahmad Bashir and Dinka Ngok tribesmen aligned with southern leadership.

The clashes erupted in the days leading to the referendum that began Sunday to determine if the mostly Christian and animist south chooses independence or remains part of Sudan. The south is expected to vote to split Africa's largest country in two.

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The University Art Gallery welcomed famed photographer Santi Visalli on display in the University Art Gallery until Feb. 19. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Kelly Cooper  
KELLYCOOPER.MS@GMAIL.COM

The University Art Gallery welcomed 79-year-old photographer Santi Visalli on Friday evening to display select photos — from a striking portrait of a young Jack Nicholson to a view from the top of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Prior to the opening of the exhibition, Visalli gave a lecture to a packed classroom of students, faculty and photography connoisseurs. However, the lecture wasn’t really a lecture at all; Visalli essentially just told stories of pictures passed. All the while, weaving in advice about what he’d learned in his time as a front-page photographer.

A native of Sicily, Italy, Visalli immigrated to the United States in 1959, and before long, got his foot in the door of newspapers and magazines such as Newsweek, The New York Times and Time Magazine.

In an interview prior to his lecture, Visalli attributed his success to something common in any line of work — a good portfolio, reliability and social connections.

“‘When an editor goes home at night, he wants to know that the next day he’ll have a picture,’” Visalli said. “And I did that all my life and never missed a job.”

Visalli also emphasized another key to succeeding in photography — taking good pictures.

“It seems like a very simplistic thing to do or say, but the main thing is you have to have the material,” Visalli said. “You can talk your way through editors and people, but at the end, if you don’t have the material to present — if your work is not strong enough — people may listen to you once but not twice.”

Visalli’s ambition has built him a portfolio comparable to a history book of pop and political culture in the ’60s, ’70s and ’80s. His slideshow of iconic figures, such as Timothy Leary, Martin Luther King Jr., The Beatles, Mia Farrow, Leonard Bernstein and Muhammad Ali, proved his simple advice really can take a photographer far — with a little determination, of course.

Visalli had other important pieces of advice for aspiring photographers, such as trust. He recalled one night when he spent the evening with his childhood crush Doris Day. And the next day, she allowed him to take a very special picture of her and her mother.

“‘When you photograph people, trust is very important,’” Visalli said. “One funny story was the time when Visalli got his in with Newsweek, after, well, ‘blackmailing’ the editor.

“I was covering the Truman Capote Ball in 1968,” Visalli said. “I was able to take great pictures — it was a mask ball. Capote drew people from all over the world.”

So, when the Newsweek editor needed those pictures, Visalli made him a little deal.

“I said, ‘Look, I’m going to give you the pictures, but you have to look at my portfolio.’ So he says, ‘OK, come in next Wednesday.’ He looked at my pictures later and says, ‘How come I don’t know you?’” Visalli said.

Visalli also emphasized the importance of never relinquishing the rights to your own photos. He even refused some jobs that required him to give up his rights to the photos.

“You’ll make less money now, but you’ll see in the long run,” Visalli said.

The exhibit itself includes mainly black-and-white photos, beginning with photojournalistic pictures, then going into more celebrity photos and ending with a few architectural shots. The University Art Gallery coordinator Jeff Van Kleeck said they chose a combination of pictures they

KRISHA AGATIP MUSTANG DAILY

Photographer Santi Visalli will have his work, which has appeared in Newsweek, The New York Times and Time Magazine, on display in the University Art Gallery until Feb. 19. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

If your work is not strong enough — people may listen to you once but not twice. — Santi Visalli, Photographer

WANT SOME ATTENTION!?  
ADVERTISE IN THE MUSTANG DAILY!
Visalli said he secured his job as a photographer for Newsweek after the then editor asked for the pictures Visalli took at the Truman Capote Ball in 1968. The exhibit will continue until Feb. 19 and is free and open to the public. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Heather Backwood is a food science junior and Mustang Daily food columnist.

As a way to help visualize my diet, I started a food diary and throughout each day I jot down everything I eat. Then, at the end of the week I take a look at what I’ve consumed and see which food groups I’m excelling at consuming, and which food groups I tend to neglect. The consistent pattern I saw occurring was a plethora of fruits and cheeses — you would think I was French or something — and very few vegetables.

I sat down to brainstorm why it was so easy to feast on fruits but so difficult to venture out and eat my veggies. First, I realized fruits are an easy grab-and-go snack. For example, bananas come in their very own Mother Nature packaging.

Next, I evaluated flavor. Although veggies have natural sugar, fruits undeniably tempt our taste buds with an alluring sweetness many veggies can’t compete with. Now if you aren’t a sweet tooth, this is not a compelling argument against veggies, but as I’ve mentioned before, I am the owner of one rather large sweet tooth. I often feel compelled to satisfy it — whether it be with wine or coffee, acquiring a taste for vegetables is a process that takes time, and for now, I enjoy the complementing addition veggies provide to all my other favorite foods.

Exploring vegetables with mild flavors, excellent for mingling and complementing addition veggies provide

**Scalloped Rutabaga and Apple Recipe**

**Ingredients**
- 2 cups thinly sliced peeled rutabaga
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. dry mustard
- 1 tsp. paprika
- 2 tsp. brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/8 tsp. nutmeg
- 1 tsp. ground ginger
- 1/2 tsp. allspice
- 1/2 tsp. cloves
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup milk

**Directions**
2. Mix therutabaga, sour cream, and milk.
3. In a large mixing bowl, combine the flour, butter, brown sugar, and seasonings. Mix well. Add the creamy mix and the sour cream mixture. Mix well.
4. Grease a 1-qt. baking dish. Pour in the creamy mixture. Sprinkle with the chopped walnuts. Bake for 30 minutes or until bubbly on the top. Serve hot.

Recipe courtesy of The Daily Meal

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WHERE DO YOU TAKE THE MUSTANG DAILY?

Food columnist Heather Backwood. Send a picture showing where you take the Mustang Daily to receive free Mustang Daily gear!

Food columnist Heather Backwood. Send a picture showing where you take the Mustang Daily to receive free Mustang Daily gear!

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**Graduate Column**

**Pay off your student loan versus having a career pay them off**

When I was a Mustang...

Erik Hansen is a graduate student pursuing a Master of Public Policy and the "When I Was a Mustang..." column.

Hey kids! Does the thought of repaying all your student debt already scare you? Good, it should.

Imagine for a moment you are a dependent — undergraduate student, set to graduate from our fine institution paying all your student debt already to graduate from our fine institution. Erik Hansen is a graduate student pursuing the PLUS and/or private loans federal Direct Loans over your four, the "When I Was a Mustang..." column.

Paying off your student loan versus having a career pay them off

Imagine for a moment you are a dependent — undergraduate student, set to graduate from our fine institution paying all your student debt already to graduate from our fine institution. Erik Hansen is a graduate student pursuing the PLUS and/or private loans federal Direct Loans over your four, the "When I Was a Mustang..." column.

While it is highly unlikely you'll ever be able to default on — a.k.a. weasel out of — your student loans, even through bankruptcy, there are several ways to have someone else pay off your loans for you, at least partially. No, I'm not talking about your parents, and there will be some sacrifice involved. Think about it, is there anything in life that is free?

The following are some of the most common methods for having one's student loans paid off for them.

Become a teacher: If you like having your summers off — and can deal with little shirts — then sign up to teach full-time. While under certain conditions your loan will be completely forgiven, most teachers are able to get up to $77,500 of their federal student loans forgiven. Some special conditions, including subject matter (math, science and foreign language) and teaching location (low income and/or "disadvantaged" area), will net you a larger benefit to the teacher. The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) maintains a database of forgiveness options in various locations.

While there are several different loan repayment schemes, including Standard Payment, Graduated Payment, Income-Based Payment and Long-Term Payment, the best payment scheme is the "no payment" scheme. Unfortunately, the Marine Corps. Coast Guard and Air Force Reserves do not offer a student loan repayment program. The military repays 33.3 percent of the outstanding principle balance of the loan annually, for each year of active service. The Army and Navy Reserves will repay 15 percent of the outstanding principle balance of the loan annually, for each year of service. The Air National Guard will also pay 15 percent annually against the outstanding principle balance.

Volunteers: Volunteering gives you the chance to give back to the world. Eh, whatever. If you spend your time volunteering with AmeriCorps or Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), you can get your student loans repaid. If you're willing to devote a year of your life to volunteering for AmeriCorps, you'll be rewarded with $4,725 to spend on your college debts and a stipend of up to $7,400. VISTA, which is all about community development and ending poverty, homelessness and illiteracy in the United States, will pay off $4,725 of your loans if you join in on their cause for at least 1,700 hours.

So the next time student loans seem like a debt you're not willing to take on, weigh your options. Consider giving back through a career after college that will pay back an inevitable loan.
California Governor Jerry Brown released his 2011-2012 budget cut proposal today, and, to the surprise of no one I’m sure, the institutions of higher learning in this state are on the chopping block in a big way. In a press release sent out by the Chancellor’s Office and on the governor’s official website, it was reported that he is proposing a $500 million cut from both the California State University (CSU) and University of California systems and $400 million from California Community Colleges. Combined, these three institutions educate more than 3.5 million students across the state.

And to Brown, I would just like to say “Thank you.” Thank you for creating an even deeper financial strain on parents who just want the best for their children.

Thank you for saying that these are “tough economic times” as if the college students and parents in California had no idea.

And thank you for increasing the divide between races and economic classes in this state.

I understand that no matter what Brown proposed in his budget, there were going to be people who were angry. When you run a state of more than 36 million people, you’re bound to piss off a person or two. But what gets me is the same programs that are continuously being cut in a drastic way are the social programs such as funding for higher education, Medi-Cal (a half billion) and CalWORKS ($1.5 billion) are proposals and there will undoubtedly be a large amount of compromise and give and take, the point of the matter is, in the end, those of you who have a few years left in college or who are just starting out in their freshman year have a long and (even more) expensive future ahead. The Chancellor said in a statement that the CSU system must reduce tuition and finally start offering all others the classes students need to graduate on time and with minimal debt, as impact will always be felt. So as students, what should we do? Is there anything we can do? Certainly taking a page out of the book of British students who, last November, smashed and destroyed a government building over a 6 per cent tuition increase isn’t the best idea. But students should be up in arms about it all. Whether your parents can afford more than $2,000 a quarter or you’re working your three jobs going to school full-time and have more than $25,000 in student loans, achieving a higher education is America shouldn’t be this hard. The reality of the world is nothing I say and nothing is free, but when politicians are using state taxpayers’ money to pay for their vacations or expensive luncheons, damn right I’m pissed.

The inherent right to freedom of speech isn’t being utilized as it should be. Write letters, send e-mails, make phone calls, sit outside the governor’s office — make your voice heard and let these big egos who live in their political bubbles know that we won’t take anymore and that, financially, many families can’t take anymore.

Every college student bums their ass to get into a university is the first place, they shouldn’t have to bust their ass financially to be able to stay in it:

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"My dad has never missed a game my entire life," Shawn said. "Him being there all the time eases my mind during the game, just knowing I have that support. He was sitting right behind the bench that game, and it was a great feeling to turn to him after we won."

Kermit said it was his proudest moment as a father to watch Shawn play that day.

"It was the highlight of my life," Kermit said. "To see your child actually excel like that. You watch, you hope and you pray to actually be there and experience that. To have him come and give me a big hug after the game, and having everyone excited for him, it was a wonderful feeling."

That game would not only propel Shawn into the State Championship but into the eyes of Cal Poly's coaching staff.

Cal Poly had not even seen Shawn play in person. What drew Cal Poly to Shawn was the videotape of his explosive game against Acalanes-Lafayette. Shawn has averaged 10.3 points per game while shooting 37 percent from the 3-point line during his four years at Cal Poly.

He was selected to the Big West All-Freshman team, was third on the team in scoring his sophomore year with 11.7 points per game and was second on the team in scoring his junior year with 11.8 points per game. Shawn, the only senior on the team, said crossing the 1,000 point barrier was one of his best individual accomplishments, but he still has his eyes set on a Big West Championship or the NCAA tournament.

"It feels really good to know I reached that mark... I hope to get past that and be the first team to make it to the NCAA Tournament."

— Shawn Lewis
Men's basketball guard

It feels really good to know I reached that mark... I hope to get past that and be the first team to make it to the NCAA Tournament.

Jay Cutler (right) may have his hands full this weekend with a Seahawks team that beat the defending champion Saints.
Guard Shawn Lewis led his team in scoring in both of Cal Poly’s games last weekend with 11-point performances. Lewis, the lone senior on the Mustangs, is averaging 13.3 points and 5.5 rebounds per game this season.

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It seemed like any other gift from father to son, but this one was a bit different. The Fisher-Price basketball hoop given by Kermit Lewis to his son Shawn Lewis would change Shawn’s life forever.

Shawn said, “Ever since then I’ve been attracted to basketball and wanted to make that my career.”

The rest is Cal Poly history. In the Mustangs’ 43-39 victory over Pacific this season, Shawn scored 11 points to establish himself as one of the program’s elite scorers by coming the 16th player in Cal Poly’s 85-year basketball history to surpass the 1,000-point mark.

“Shawn is able to make plays that nobody else on the team can make,” head coach Joe Callero said. “He has the quickness, strength, athleticism and experience that has been critical.”

His success with his team stems from his parents. Shawn’s parents were his biggest inspiration growing up and he said their work ethic is what drove him to work hard in basketball.

“They were very goal-oriented,” Shawn said. “They work hard at what they do. That’s what you have to do in basketball and that’s what they’ve instilled in me since I was little.”

Shawn took his first shots on a real hoop just a couple years later when he went to watch his dad play in an adult basketball league. At every timeout and half-time, Shawn would run out on court, with a basketball almost as big as he was, and take a few shots before the team took the court again.

Kermit said Shawn became more focused with basketball watching him play, even though he tried other sports.

“He really got interested in the game watching me play,” Kermit said. “I introduced him to other sports but basketball was all he wanted to play. He pretty much fell in love with it.”

Kermit said it was the love that drove Shawn to make himself better and always excel on his basketball teams.

“He loved the game to the point where he really wanted to do it,” Kermit said. “There wasn’t any pushing from me, he just enjoyed playing the game. It was his drive that got him involved and to the point where he is now. As far as motivating himself, he wanted to get better at the game. He wanted to play college and he wanted to go beyond college and play.”

Shawn’s aspirations eventually led him to Bishop O’Dowd High School. But in his senior year, just a few months away from graduation, Shawn hadn’t landed a scholarship and was still looking for a college to play for.

A pivotal moment in Shawn’s basketball career came when Bishop O’Dowd advanced to the North California Division III Championships versus Acalanes-Lafayette, a team that blew them out, 60-43, a few weeks prior.

Shawn seized the opportunity, in what could have been his last game of the season or even his career, and emerged scoring 27 points to lead Bishop O’Dowd to a 54-33 victory.

Shawn, who embraced his father on court after the victory, said it was the highlight of his career.

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From Fisher-Price Hoops to Cal Poly’s history book

Shawn Lewis’ childhood passion leads him to eclipse Cal Poly milestone

Seahawks take on Bears, again

Brad Biggs
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO — The Chicago Bears are a much different team than they were three months ago and they’ll get to see how much has changed when they review tape of their first meeting with the Seahawks.

In a season full of breaks — most of which the Bears have capitalized on — they drew the NFC West champion Seahawks (8-9) in the divisional round of the playoffs at noon Sunday at Soldier Field. The Seahawks upset the heavily favored Super Bowl champion Saints 41-36 Saturday, and the Bears have been installed as a 9-point favorite.

The Seahawks were the only home team to win in the wild-card round and all four games in the divisional round are matchups of teams that have faced each other at least once this season. The Seahawks defeated the Bears 23-20 on Oct. 17 at Soldier Field in a game that wasn’t that close as Devin Hester scored on a punt return with 1 minute, 54 seconds remaining.

The loss came at the low point of the season for the Bears, who fell the following week at home to the Redskins. That was when offensive coordinator Mike Martz was ignoring the running game. Jay Cutler dropped back 47 times and handed the ball off only 12 times in the loss to the Seahawks, one-sided play-calling that contributed to six sacks and 0-for-12 conversions on third down.

It took the loss to the Redskins, when Martz called the run only 16 times, to bring about sweeping change in the form of a cosmic intervention. Since, the Bears have averaged 28.8 runs over a span of nine games. Balanced play-calling has been central to the Bears’ success.

But the Seahawks’ effort in their first playoff game under Pete Carroll makes it evident they are an improved team as well. Matt Hasselbeck, who has had a rocky season, threw for four touchdowns and looked like he did in his prime.

Carroll called the 35-year-old quarterback “ridiculously good” after he guided his team back from a 10-0 deficit.

Running back Marshawn Lynch, who scored on a highlight-reel 67-yard run against the Saints, was in his first game with the Seahawks at Soldier Field after being traded from the Bills on Oct. 5. He has a better handle on the offense.

Wide receiver Mike Williams made 10 receptions for 123 yards against the Bears, who had no sacks.

“They pose a great threat,” Bears head coach Lovie Smith said. “They’ve got a lot of weapons.”

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Auburn wins championship on final-minute drive

So much for an offensive shootout. In what actually turned out to be a defensive struggle, the Auburn Tigers were the ones to come out on top in the BCS National Championship, beating the Oregon Ducks 22-19 with a last-second field goal.

Mondray Oregon had tied the game 19-19 with a shovel pass to running back Kenjon Barner with 2:33 left on the clock. But it was too much time for Auburn quarterback Cam Newton.

The Heisman Trophy winner and running back Michael Dyer engineered the final drive, which set up a 19-yard field goal to win the game.