They work hard for their money: student loan rate lowest of CSUs

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Cal Poly boasts the lowest student loan default rate of the 23 California State University (CSU) campuses, according to the most recent data, and the Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships Lois Kelly thinks she knows why.

"Our students understand the responsibilities they have taken on, and are responsible in paying back their loans," Kelly said.

At Cal Poly, the student loan default rate is 1.2 percent — the national average is 7 percent. The next closest CSU is California Maritime Academy with 1.5 percent, and the CSU with the highest default rate is California State University Stanislaus with 5.2 percent.

Student loan default rates are determined by dividing the amount of students who default, or don't pay a portion of their loan back, by the total number of students repaying loans.

There are multiple factors that influence default rates and they all depend on the student.

Noelia Gonzalez, director of financial aid at CSU Stanislaus, said a student's family background as well as demographic and socioeconomic factors are important when comparing her university's default rate to Cal Poly's. Gonzalez said she felt her students came from lower income areas in comparison to Cal Poly students, who generally have stronger family support systems.

"You have to look at where (students) come from and their backgrounds," Gonzalez said. "A lot of our students are supporting their families. More of our students use loans because their families are not helping them out."

Program Coordinator of Career Services at Cal Poly, Carole Moore, said she agreed Cal Poly students tend to come from more financially stable families, which helps with their ability to handle repaying loans. She also said this, paired with post-college career possibilities, is a main factor in the low student loan default rate.

"If students have families that will support them and (have) an opportunity to seek higher paying jobs, it will be easier to pay the loans back," Moore said.

The ability for Cal Poly students to use their hands-on education when entering career industries is something Cal Poly prides itself upon, Moore said.

"Cal Poly pushes internships, lab experiences, co-op and field work," Moore said. "All of those opportunities provide industry exposure, networking and what it is to an industry professional before graduating. That makes our students financially responsible and able to pay back loans."

"Student loan default rate ultimately depends on the student and their motivation to use the loan like Cal Maritime have default rates close to Cal Poly's and far below the national average. Not only do Cal Poly and Cal Maritime have the two lowest student loan default rates, but they also have two of the highest graduation employment rates.

Cal Poly has a graduation employment rate of 67 percent, and Cal Maritime's "official number is 97 percent," said James Dalke, director of career development at Cal Maritime. Both universities have students working toward specialized careers, which result in jobs out of college. This allows students to start paying back loans right away, Director of Financial Aid at Cal Maritime, Ken Welch, said.

"(The low default rate is) mainly since we have great career services here, and the fact that (maritime) is a limited industry," Welch said. "The students are going toward their goal, and when they get out of here they get the jobs they want."

The student loan default rate ultimately depends on the student and their motivation to use the loan.
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Chinese president's visit to Washington begins with human rights protestors

Margaret Teale
Warren P. Strobel
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Even before Chinese President Hu Jintao's plane landed outside Washing­ton on Tuesday for his state visit, the human rights protestors were gearing up.

China's jailing of political dissidents and media censorship have long been a concern for civil rights advocates and the U.S. govern­ment.

When Hu last visited the White House, in 2006 to meet with Presi­dent George W. Bush, a woman who represented the Falun Gong movement — which is banned in China — interrupted their re­marks. That was during an "offi­cial" visit, less prestigious than a "state" visit.

Now, as President Barack Obama welcomes Hu for China's first state visit to the United States since 1997, complete with an ar­ival ceremony and a posh state White House dinner Wednesday, a convergence of forces is giving new energy to the critics' push.

— The awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize in absentia last fall to jailed democracy activist Liu Xiaobo.

— China's rise as a world busi­ness and military power, and a con­comitant rise in expectations that it should conduct itself as a civi­lized society.

— The explosive potential of the Internet and social networking in recent years to give voice to the suppressed.

— China's scheduled transition of power in 2012 to a new set of leaders.

Obama, who met last week with human rights activists in prepara­tion for his discussions with Hu, is likely to speak of his concerns on two fronts: individual cases such as Liu's and broader issues such as building free legal and governance systems. Obama said last year that Liu "should be released as soon as possible."

However, with China holding so much sway over major issues such as U.S. debt, the global econ­omy and North Korea's nuclear threat, the United States has little leverage to enforce its demands on the Asian power.

No major human rights concessions are expected to be announced during Hu's visit. White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said Tuesday that "we will continue to have difficult conversations, but necessary conversations" with Chi­na about human rights, adding, "This is a long road."

Still, protestors, who represented Chinese, Taiwanese, Tibetans and Uighurs made final arrangements Tuesday to fill Lafayette park, just across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White House, while Hu held­dis Wednesday with Obama.

Clothilde Le Coz, the Wash­ington director of the organiza­tion Reporters Without Borders, who will speak at the rally, said freeing Liu would be its focus and that organizers hoped that word of the campaign would filter through China's wall of censorship.

Chinese citizens have ways of getting around Internet censors, she said, adding, "We have great hopes that it will reach students, and maybe others, in China."

Obama himself is expected to raise human rights concerns with Hu in private meetings. The issue also is likely to come up at a joint news conference Wednesday.

Secretary of State Hillary Clin­ton signaled a more robust stance on the issue in a speech last Fri­day, declaring that "America will continue to speak out and on the campaign would filter through China's wall of censorship.

Chinese citizens have ways of getting around Internet censors, she said, adding, "We have great hopes that it will reach students, and maybe others, in China."

Obama himself is expected to raise human rights concerns with Hu in private meetings. The issue also is likely to come up at a joint news conference Wednesday.

Clinton also foreshadowed what Obama is expected to tell Hu that while dissent can be de­stabilizing, it also can improve economic innovation and the health and well-being of China's population.

Those arguments, however, are unlikely to carry much weight with Hu and his delegation.

China's leaders must manage a country of 1.3 billion people, and "it's a little hard to tell them what to do," said China scholar Kenneth Lieberthal, who served on the Na­tional Security Council staff under President Bill Clinton. The United States "has the greatest influence on this by being an example, by practicing what we preach," he said.

The human rights issue none­theless could embarrass Hu, who by all accounts is eager to improve China's image in the United States.

The Obama administration hasn't always seemed to make hu­man rights dialogue with Beijing a priority. On a trip to Asia soon after she took office, Clinton said she'd raise the issue with the Chi­nese, "but we pretty much know what they're going to say."

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Announcing a push to scrap onerous regulations on business, President Barack Obama is not only trying to patch a strained relationship with corporate leaders but also displaying a new strategy to bypass a hostile Congress and protect his political interests.

Obama signed an executive order Tuesday that aims to wean out regulations that stifle job creation and make our economy less competitive.

Regulations are a favorite target of business. Chamber executives have complained that the Obama administration unleashed a "regulatory tsunami" that is the biggest challenge to job creation and U.S. competitiveness abroad.

"We cannot allow this nation to move from a government of the people to a government of the regulators," Chamber President Thomas Donohue said last week.

One part of the order requires federal agencies to write regulations with a view toward boosting the economy and creating jobs. Another calls upon agencies to go back and pore over existing regulations to make sure they are up to date.

One former Obama administration official, asked not to be named, said in an interview, "If this signals a more restrictive posture at the agencies, greenhouse gas regulation could be affected."

But an official with the Environmental Protection Agency countered that "EPA is confident that our recent and upcoming steps to address (greenhouse gas) emissions under the Clean Air Act comfortably pass muster under the enforceable standards the president has laid out."

It seems doubtful Obama will tack back too far in the near term.

Many business leaders remain bothered by aggressive rhetoric from the White House over the two greatest threats: Wall Street behavior and climate change.

Yet old foes also credit Obama for his latest moves.

"It has been a long time coming for small business owners to hear this from the administration, and we will be watching closely to see if today's directive leads to real regulatory reform," said Dan Danner, head of the National Federation of Independent Business, which represents small businesses.

Yet it's part of this new White House staff's defense with business," said Rafael Stenzor, president of the Center for Progressive Reform, a think tank. "He's looking ahead to 2012. He has to hope that no more disasters happen."

For months, even before the midterm elections, White House aides have said that Obama would press his agenda in the second half of his term through direct executive action, sidestepping Congress.

Unhappy with marathon fights in Congress, White House advisors were looking for better ways to showcase Obama as a leader, said in an interview, "He's looking ahead to 2012. He has to hope that no more disasters happen."

For months, even before the midterm elections, White House aides have said that Obama would press his agenda in the second half of his term through direct executive action, sidestepping Congress.

The tone of House debate was non-partisan and demonstrated a willingness to work together.

Democrats held their own hearing on the repeal, and witnesses included a breast cancer survivor, a hemophiliac, a pediatrician and the mother of a college student with pre-existing conditions.

Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., introduced them as "the real faces of reform."

The Department of Health and Human Services released a report that as many as 129 million people have a pre-existing condition that could jeopardize their ability to get insurance.

The 2010 law makes it illegal for insurers to deny coverage because of pre-existing conditions, but the terms won't be fully phased in until 2014.

Republicans fired back, denouncing the law's "individual mandate," which requires every U.S. citizen to buy health insurance or face a penalty.

They also charged that the law will cost the nation jobs and increase federal deficits, despite reports from the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office and Congressional Research Service that suggest otherwise.

Obama's executive order is an example of the new strategy in action.

Obama could have made the executive order even stronger, experts said.

Executive orders are a means by which presidents act unilaterally, without congressional approval.

The orders don't carry the full weight of legislation because they can be changed by future presidents. They can also be legally challenged if they infringe on the powers of other branches of government.
**State**

**SANTA CRUZ (MCT) —** On Jan. 11, UCSC administration announced in an e-mail to the campus that graffiti found in a men’s bathroom in a social sciences building contained a threat of violence to be carried out on Jan. 18.

The graffiti was initially discovered by a student and reported to campus authorities on Dec. 8. It has since been removed.

Campus was closed Monday for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, and it appears as though things were slower than normal Tuesday as at least a few professors canceled classes and some students vowed to stay off the campus.

**LOS ANGELES (MCT) —** Two Gardena High School students were injured when a gun in a student’s backpack accidentally dis­charged Tuesday.

One girl was shot in the head, and is in grave condition at a hospital.

The other victim, a boy, was wounded in the shoulder.

According to Robert Alaniz, a Los Angeles Unified School District spokesman, the gun discharged when a 10th grade boy either dropped or bumped the backpack containing the weapon.

Sources told the Los Angeles Times that after the gun went off, the student who brought it to school apologized to his classmates before running out of the classroom.

He surrendered to police in a dramatic end to a standoff after two fellow students were shot.

**National**

**WASHINGTON D.C. (MCT) —** The Supreme Court agreed Tuesday to hear an appeal from California officials and decide whether states are free to rely on how much they pay to doctors, hospitals and other providers under the Medicaid program for poor people.

Medicaid is jointly funded by the federal government and the states, but it is unclear how far states that are facing huge health care costs can go to reduce their spending on their own.

This appeal touched a chord in the high court. The justices agreed to hear three separate appeals from the states, all of which raise the same issue. The lead case is Maxwell-Jolley vs. Independent Living Center of Southern California.

**ARIZONA (MCT) —** Federal law enforcement officials have recovered "reams of videotape" recorded from surveillance cameras at the Safeway shopping mall in Tucson, Ariz., where Rep. Gabrielle Giffords was shot. The FBI, which has been investigating the shooting, has recovered thousands of photos and video images from the Safeway shopping mall in Tucson, Ariz., where Rep. Gabrielle Giffords was shot.

The video, which has been described as "clever," by Bucaramanga police command­er Jose Mendota, shows the pigeon being released from a jail in northern Colombia. The video was shot by Mendota and his colleagues.

"The video shows that it was a planned operation," Mendota said.

"We have seen this happen before," he added.

**COLOMBIA (MCT) —** A pigeon that carried 45 grams of drugs into a prison was found by police Tuesday, a few meters away from a jail in northern Colombia.

"We found the pigeon on Monday evening," Mendota said.

"It was a planned operation," he added.

The pigeon was carrying 40 grams of marijuana and 5 grams of "escobar" (a cheap mix of freebase cocaine and other substances) toward the prison.

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The video was shot by Mendota and his colleagues.

"The video shows that it was a planned operation," Mendota said.

"We have seen this happen before," he added.

**International**

**MEXICO (MCT) —** Mexican authorities said they had arrested a founding member of the notorious Zetas gang on Tues­day who oversaw the smuggling of drugs and migrants in southern Mexico.

Flavio Mendez Santiago, 35, and a bodyguard were captured Monday in the southern state of Oaxaca, from which he allegedly relayed drug shipments and moved migrants from Central and South America north to the U.S. border.

Mendez, a former soldier, al­legedly joined the Zetas when the gang was formed in the 1990s by ex-members of elite military units.

He was among Mexico's 57 most­wanted drug suspects.

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For your viewing pleasure: a closer look at porn

Caitlyn Harkins is an English sophomore and copy editor for the Mustang Daily.

I watch porn. A lot.

I've watched porn alone, with significant others and even in a group setting. Given the opportunity, I can recommend a multitude of sites that would cater to your kink, fetish or vanilla interest.

It's probably a mixture of my intense curiosity and higher-than-average sex drive, but I've been clicking 'I'm over 18' button for at least four or five years now. And yet, when I open Cosmopolitan or visit a XXX site, the porn-viewing community still seems to be dominated by men.

According to the Internet Filter Report, 72 percent of men watch porn in comparison to women viewership of 28 percent. The disparity is pretty shocking, especially in 2011. Shouldn't we have movie theaters for the word "porn" in 2006 alone — a majority of sites cater to male interests. Facials, anal and blowjobs are some of the most common hits on porn sites, yet would be hard-pressed to find a sizeable number of chicks who dig that kind of thing.

Feminist author Robin Morgan said "Pornography is the theory, and rape the practice," while anti-porn lobbyists cite porn as the cause of moral degradation and exploitation.

In the face of this, women are often made to feel like porn is always supposed to offend them, and to feel guilty when it doesn't.

However, there is a growing sex-positive and pro-porn population that seeks to acknowledge women rather than objectify them as merely things to be realed on screen.

A new genre has emerged to address women in porn. It's written and shot with gals in mind, and often directed by women too. PornMoviesForWomen.com is a site made specifically for hetero women — it's got the tenderness of a Lifetime movie with just the right amount of soft-core action.

A study from Australian researcher Jade Sheen said women between the ages of 18 and 45 become more aroused when the porn they watch has a developed plot and direction with an emphasis on the erotic and sensual. It's a far cry from the up close P-in-V shots frequently found elsewhere, but if it gets me hot, then it's all good to me.

One alternative I suggest to female friends is to check out gay sites: the guys' bodies are pretty rocking while the lesbian ladies seem more genuine than the girls moaning and mewling in straight videos. This advice extends to guys too — two chicks means two of everything, and

"Two chicks means two of everything, and more is wetter, right?"

— Caitlyn Harkins
Sex columnist

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Cauliflower: cabbage with a college education

MUSTARD DAILY

[Image: An article discussing the benefits of cauliflower as a food science student.]

Mark Twain once said, "Cauliflower is nothing but a cabbage with a college education." But to Heather Rockwood, a food science student at the Mustang Daily, cauliflower is anything but one-dimensional. Here's why:

1. Nutritional Profile:
   - Cauliflower is a powerhouse of fiber and vitamins. It’s rich in folate and vitamin C, which are essential for maintaining a healthy digestive system. The white variety is also an excellent source of vitamin K.
   - The purple variety boasts a vitamin A content 25-folds higher than the white variety due to their colors.

2. Cooking Benefits:
   - Cauliflower has a head brimming with vitamin C, folate, and fiber. It is completely fat free, making it a great choice for those watching their cholesterol intake.
   - Cauliflower is a versatile ingredient. It can be steamed, roasted, or even used as a natural mushroom substitute in recipes.

3. Development:
   - Through selective breeding, scientists have enabled cooks all over the country to create healthy vegetable dishes that offer a taste of the rainbow. Cauliflower hair, for instance, has been bred to contain more vitamins and nutrients.

4. Chemicals:
   - Cauliflower contains thiocyanates, which are powerful antioxidants. The orange variety, in particular, is brimming with vitamin A, which is crucial for maintaining good vision.

5. Sourcing:
   - Purchasing cauliflower is fairly straightforward. There are just a few key points to keep in mind while selecting.
     - First, look for a compact, creamy white head — the flowering part of the vegetable most commonly eaten — free from spots. Next, look for heads that are enveloped in thick leafy greens — these heads have been better protected and will have a fresher taste. Finally, size doesn’t matter. The size of a cauliflower head does not affect quality, so choose the one you prefer most.
     - Storing cauliflower in the fridge will yield a fresher taste for a longer period of time. To avoid moisture development amongst the florets, place the stem side down during storage. Cauliflower will keep for approximately one week in the fridge, but with their easy cooking versatility they normally make it to my stomach within just days.

6. Cooking Techniques:
   - Whether just cutting the flowers up and dipping them in ranch, or steaming these beauties and topping them with a little cheddar cheese, cauliflower curds make for a scrumptious snack anytime of the day. Be sure to take your new college-educated friend out for a bite to eat this week — just don’t let him know that he’s the one on the menu!

Roasted cauliflower with blue cheese and arugula

Ingredients:
   - 1 large head cauliflower, leaves trimmed
   - 2 teaspoons plus 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil, divided
   - 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoon plus 1/4 teaspoon salt, divided
   - 2 tablespoons crumbled blue cheese
   - 3 tablespoons white wine vinegar
   - 1 tablespoon water
   - 1 tablespoon mustard, jalapeno greens
   - 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

Preparation:
   - Position rack in lower third of oven, preheat to 450°F. Coat a large rimmed baking sheet with cooking spray. Cut cauliflower into quarters. Remove any extra Woodward from the ends, but keep the stem intact. Brush with 2 teaspoons oil and sprinkle with 1/8 teaspoon salt. Place cut-side-down on baking sheet. Roast the cauliflower for 15 minutes. Stir and turn the opposite side if necessary. Place cabe side-down on baking sheet. Roast until golden brown, 15 to 20 minutes more.

Ingredients:
   - 2 tablespoons olive oil
   - 1 large head cauliflower, separated into florets
   - 1 small shallot, minced
   - 1 teaspoon mustard, jalapeno greens
   - 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

Preparation:
   - To make sauce, combine mustard, jalapeno greens, and pepper in a small bowl. Serve with the cauliflower drizzled with the sauce.

Hint: This winter fruit is often used as a vegetable in cooking, and is played as a sport by more than 20 million people.
Last night, Cal Poly students gathered in Chumash Auditorium to watch a free screening of “The Social Network,” a film that revolves around the best kind of drama: Facebook drama. The controversy concerning this documentary is highlighted by extensive media coverage. News outlets cover various topics relating to the film, from the validity of the events portrayed, to the speculation that Facebook is creating a society that lacks real motivation.

“The Social Network” tells the story of how Facebook creator Mark Zuckerberg invented (or not) the idea from his peers. Zuckerberg is also accused of subtly removing his business partner, Eduardo Saverin, from the Facebook profits after the website started to take off and show signs of success. Saverin was the initial financial backer of the Facebook idea and without him, Zuckerberg would not have been able to launch the site.

Associated Students Inc. Program Coordinator Missy Bullock said they picked the movie because they knew it would be appealing to students. It turned out that Cal Poly students’ viewpoints, like the critics and the media, were split.

“I’d say Mark Zuckerberg is a good guy,” agricultural business senior Tony Racanelli said. “His partner didn’t invest as much, he wasn’t on the same route.”

Zuckerberg himself said, plain and simple, the movie is fiction. The young entrepreneur told The New York Times that he wished when people tried to write about Facebook, they would at least try to get it right. But not all students took Zuckerberg’s side.

“I liked the movie because it showed how you can be corrupted by money,” said environmental management senior Scott Hellesen. “But Mark chose money over friendship.”

Nonetheless, for better or for worse, Facebook has changed the world. According to Facebook’s fact sheet, there are now more than 500 million active users on the website worldwide. New York Times columnist Frank Rich wrote a column commenting on the effect Facebook has had on politics, saying we have entered “a brave new political world where candidates need only exist in virtual reality.”

Others speculate “The Social Network” may have opened the door for more films to fall into a new, internet-based genre. According to The New York Daily News, plans have been announced to make a Google movie.

And the result of the lawsuits? In 2008, Facebook ended up paying $65 million to the Winklevoss twins for their lawsuit which claims Zuckerberg stole their idea. According to The Washington Post, they are now attempting to void the earlier settlement because Facebook did not provide an accurate evaluation of its shares.
Looking back at the Tucson tragedy

The poverty of speaking in such hyperbole is the violent and ballistic rhetoric that gets people excited for politics rather than a thorough understanding of the issues. It inflames passions for those intoxicated with the conservative populism that has gripped much of the nation, reminding them of revolutionary times and giving importance to their cause rather than being instilled with a simple civic spirit and desire to find common ground. Asking for civility is not calling for censorship; it is aspiring to higher political discourse to come to an understanding with the opposing side, not just to believe it in an effort to undermine it.

The most powerful point in Obama's speech was when he invoked the childhood optimism of 9-year-old Christina Taylor Green participating in politics for the first time. "Imagine — imagine for a moment, here was a young girl who was just becoming aware of our democracy, just beginning to understand the obligations of citizenship; just starting to glimpse the fact that some day she, too, might play a part in shaping her nation's future. She had been elected to her student council. She saw public service as something exciting and hopeful. She was off to daydream about the possibilities as if they belong to their generation."

The politically correct and politically incorrect.

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corrections

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Rethinking the Tucson tragedy

Jeremy Cutscher is a political science senior and Mustang Daily editorial columnist.

I decided not to write about Tucson last week because I felt a week's time would shape the fabricated narratives and rumor-mongering that often run rampant in the media following any national tragedy and thus have a more accurate idea of what actually occurred and why. But a week and a half since the shooting has left only more questions and fewer answers.

I do know six people died and 13 were injured. I know the accused killer in his mug shot looks like absolutely psychotic, chillingly proud of the massacre he had just committed. I know my heart goes out to the families and friends of the victims of such a senseless crime. That's about all I know.

That's why President Obama's speech was perfect. Even his most strident opponents, from Glenn Beck to Pat Buchanan, praised him for the speech. As president during a national tragedy, Obama was supposed to rise above the politics and unite the nation — and that's exactly what he did.

Obama talked at length about the inflamed political rhetoric used to attack the opposing side that has dominated political discourse over the last decade or so, picking up on one of the common themes from his presidential campaign. There is a fine line between impassioned politics and impassioned bloggers and bloggers now talk of opposing viewpoints as if they belong to their enemies, not to fellow citizens doing their best for their country. The polarized nature of politics today breeds this vitriol between the political rhetoric and the political rhetoric.

Talks of "reloading" and using "Second Amendment remedies" should have no place in politics. And though there is no direct connection between the political rhetoric and the shooting, that does not mean the tragedy should not represent a wake-up call to see that, as the president said, "The forces that divide us are not as strong as those that unite us."

As Americans, we actually agree on a lot. We don't debate to see who is right, we debate to see what we think is best for them and ourselves. We never discuss them (consider the political rhetoric in this column). We never discuss them (consider the political rhetoric in this column). We never discuss them (consider the political rhetoric in this column). We never discuss them (consider the political rhetoric in this column).

No one wants the blame, but we must all accept some of it. And if we all make a conscious effort to work towards that ideal of our country we all hold as children, we will be making good progress toward making a more perfect union.

Jeremy Cutscher
Liberal columnist
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THE NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD
Edited by Will Shortz
No. 1215

Across
1. "Girls" (German "How are you")
2. "pro ratio"
3. Chief heckler?
4. "Do the Dumbel"?
5. "Lavender", for one
6. "Peeky Archd" (Skyline's
amended plans?)
7. "Rhapsody in blue"
8. "Look, a Turkey!" (Italian
term of endearment)
9. "Performing" (yelping)
10. "French from afar"
11. "Tickled"
12. "Indy letters"
13. "Invasion from across the
sea"
14. "Radio ride"
15. "Answer to previous puzzle"

Down
16. "On the Beach"
17. "Hard-boiled"
18. "In order to"
19. "One of the 25 Explosive"
20. "Who's one of the 25"
21. "Perm" (page 28)
22. "Special treatment, for
one"
23. "Take one"
24. "Brief moment"
25. "Old Apple laptop"
26. "Boo-hoo"
27. "Back into a corner"
28. "Adventurer's offering"
29. "Friend from afar"
30. "_ _ _ pro nobis"
31. "_ _ _ a propos"
32. "_ _ _ the Jingle"
33. "Rocket Man"
34. "Canary" (brand once
used by ATST users)
35. "_ _ _ as a fluffball"
36. "T. Rex"
37. "Place for a short
treatment, for one"
38. "Sword for a short
treatment, for one"
39. "Lavender's mascot"
40. "Aesir ruler"
41. "Lease high and
dry"
42. "Say "Hey, better
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43. "-tolling"
44. "Mr. Mix" for one
45. "Spanish poet"
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100. "Spanish poet"

The answers can be found at 1-800-295-5566, $1.90 a minute or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

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Andy Cappy: Not the Hero Role Model of Public Assistance

ONE PACK OF COORS,
AND MAKE IT SNAPPY, BUCK! I WANT TO BE ON MY WAY TO THE TRACKS.
Al Davis still has his rule over the Oakland Raiders

Monte Poole
FOR THE OAKLAND TRIBUNE

His physical presence has lost its vibrancy, but his mind still races and his mouth still roars. His words drift and ramble and wander and sometimes fall off the face of the Earth.

And then Al Davis gathers himself and returns to the matter at hand, upon which he exudes equal parts charm and intellect.

Even at age 81, deeply in the autumn of his life, the owner of the Oakland Raiders can sit before a room filled with reporters and cameras and spend nearly two hours reminding one and all that he's still the boss, still in charge of one of the NFL's most intriguing franchises.

And no matter the challenge he faces, whether in regard to his team or his personal health or pending legal issues, he remains in his soul a proud and defiant warrior. Making his first public speaking appearance in 16 months, Davis on Tuesday announced the promotion of Hue Jackson from offensive coordinator to head coach. Jackson, 45, becomes the 17th coach in Raiders history.

Jackson, who joined the organization in January 2010 to manage what had been an anemic offense, faces a daunting task. He seeks to maintain the momentum for a team coming off its first non-losing season since 2002 and, moreover, he must try to satisfy perhaps the most demanding owner in sports.

"I plan on being here a long time," Jackson said, an obvious nod to the fact that Davis has dismissed five coaches in seven years.

As much as the day was designed to introduce Jackson in his new role, though, it was Davis who towered over the proceedings at the team's facility in Alameda's Harbor Bay Parkway business park.

It was Davis who did most of the talking. He explained his Jan. 4 dismissal of head coach Tom Cable, saying he was a limited coach whose personal life brought undue stress upon the franchise. Furthermore, according to Davis, Cable was dishonest.

"I just didn't think he could do it," Davis said of Cable, "especially when I saw the contrast with (Jackson)."

Seated next to Jackson at a table on the stage in the team's largest meeting room, Davis alternately needled and toyed with reporters. Wearing a black leather pullover and a bandage above his left eye, he spoke with conviction though not always with clarity.

What was clear was Davis' vanity. He made pointed efforts to point out the depth of his contributions to Oakland's most successful season on the field since reaching the Super Bowl eight years ago.

"I made the trade for (defensive lineman Richard) Seymour," Davis added. "I drafted (cornerback Nnamdi) Asomugha" in 2003. The owner also reminded everyone that he was the first to take note of the coaching potential of Jim Harbaugh, recently named to lead the 49ers, and David Shaw, who was promoted to head coach at Stanford.

Davis, to his credit, also shoudered some of the blame for the team's declining fortunes, conceding that he has made some questionable decisions regarding coaches and playing personnel.

Though he declined to address specifics about the Raiders' future in Oakland, or whether he would collaborate with the 49ers on a football facility, Davis reiterated his desire for a new stadium and said it should be on the current site in Oakland.

The one thing that doesn't change with Davis is his ability to provide a show. He is good theater and a marvelous public speaker. It's as if he enters a private dressing room, opens a box, pulls out a happy face and puts it on.

It was no different Tuesday, when Davis emerged to issue a reminder that he is firmly atop the Raiders' organizational chart.

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Armstrong looks to leave his mark on Cal Poly athletics

Nikol Schiller
nikol.schiller.mend@gmail.com

Cal Poly's new president, Jeffrey Armstrong, has been a St. Louis Cardinals fan since he was a young baseball player growing up in western Kentucky. And when he found out Hall of Fame Cardinals shortstop Ozzie Smith was a Cal Poly grad, Armstrong was even more excited to become a Mustang.

Coming to Cal Poly from Big Ten powerhouse Michigan State, Armstrong knows a thing or two about how a strong athletic program can give a positive face to a university. Part of his long-term plan for Cal Poly includes finding a new athletic director and improving the athletics department, which will generate more money for the school.

Cal Poly, as well as the rest of the California State University system, could use as much financial help as possible. Though it's uncertain how the recent proposed $500 million budget cut to the CSU will affect the university as a whole, it certainly will have a "trickling down affect" on sports, Cal Poly interim athletic director Phil Webb said.

"One of the biggest single contributions to our revenue (are) student fees, the IRA (Instructationally Related Activities) and ASI (Associated Students Inc.) fees," Webb said. "A consequence of reduced budgeting is a reduction in enrollment, and a reduction in enrollment has a significant impact on our revenue stream.

"The budget cut will force the athletic program to rely more heavily on fundraising than they already do. Both Armstrong and Webb believe maintaining and expanding Cal Poly's athletic program is vital to the university's image. Armstrong said the athletics program is the front door for a university. Sometimes the sports program is what outsiders first see when touring Cal Poly, he said.

Though Michigan State and Cal Poly have very different athletic images, Webb said Armstrong's experience at a Big Ten school can help Cal Poly sports.

"I don't think we quite have such a profile that Michigan State does, but I think certainly he comes from a school where he's had the opportunity to see what athletics can do for a university in terms of being the front porch and really exposing the university in a very positive way," Webb said.

Preserving a strong athletic program and improving it can draw in alumni and potential donors. While Armstrong served as Michigan State's dean for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, he raised more than $200 million for his college.

"My wife and I, we were quite involved with development and alumni and stakeholders relations," Armstrong said. "Athletics was one part of how we developed relationships and maintained relationships with donors and alumni. Our college currently is the only college at Michigan State that has a football suite."

Webb said this is exactly the type of strategic advancement plan Cal Poly athletics needs. Every year the department receives the same amount of funding from the university and every year the cost of maintaining the sports program goes up. Scholarship tuition raises and travel cost increases cause the department to depend more heavily on team fundraising.

"The piece of it that we really need to work on and develop is the long-range, strategic major gifts," Webb said. "We've had some success in that area, but it needs to be more strategic.

"More money from strong alumni relations could mean enhancing sports facilities for players. Better facilities attract top athletes. Top athletes mean more Cal Poly wins, which in turn translates into more money for the school.

One obvious facility enhancement needed on campus is Mort Gym because of its small size, said Brett Henninger, a biological sciences senior. Mort Gym, not to be confused with the Recreation Center that is currently undergoing renovations, houses basketball and volleyball events. Improving Mort Gym would help athletic programs recruit better players.

"I think when you look at major, major programs they all have big additions," Henninger said. "Mort Gym can only hold (around) 3,000 people. When you bring recruits to Cal Poly the recruits won't be as impressed as the gym they saw at other campuses."

Not only would we get better players, but more people would want to go to the games, he said.

As long as Cal Poly can come up with the donor base from Armstrong's alumni relations plan, he can see better sporting facilities, such as a new gym built on campus.

"I do believe there's the need to enhance facilities for athletics as well as enhancing other facilities for other activities and pursuits on campus," Armstrong said. "Part of development and moving the program forward is working with the athletic director and coaches and determining what facilities are needed and then we have to take a step back and say, 'Well, what's feasible? Do we have the donor base? Do we believe it's the right thing for Cal Poly? Then we'll move forward.'"

Before any of these improvements can take place, a new athletic director must be appointed. Allison Cone, Cal Poly's former athletic director, retired in December after six years as athletic director and 16 years at the university. The search for a new director began before Cone retired.

Armstrong and Webb are part of the search committee that is headed by Larry Kelley, vice president for administration and finance. They are whittling the list of well-qualified applicants down to finalists and will have a director named by the end of March, Webb said.

The new director will be able to work with Armstrong to create an advancement plan to increase funds for the athletic department. The major gifts position in the athletic department is currently vacant and will be up to the new director and Armstrong as to how that position is filled. "We'll say he is interested to see how our advancement plan is developed once that position is filled," Webb said.

Despite a glut welcoming to the under-budgeted California education system, Armstrong is looking forward to being part of the Mustang family and the athletic department is looking forward to working with Armstrong as well.

"I love it or not, athletics is one of the things people talk about on the university and it can be the entry to talking about all of the other positive things at Cal Poly," Webb said.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY BRIAN DE LOS SANTOS

If the Mustangs can become anything like Michigan State athletics, Cal Poly will replicate a program that just sent a top-10 ranked football team to the Capital One Bowl and a basketball team that went to the Final Four last season.