Students get FIREd up for free speech at lecture

Amanda Sedo
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The President of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), Greg Lukianoff, spoke at Cal Poly yesterday about the importance of free speech and students' first amendment rights while enrolled at a university.

FIRE is a non-profit group which was founded in 1999 to help defend the rights of students in universities across the nation. It utilizes a ranking system for universities from red to green, based on five different topics relating to student rights on campus.

Cal Poly was once a "red light" school but recently moved up to a "yellow light" ranking, said Sean Pringle, a civil engineering freshman and member of the Cal Poly College Republicans club who organized the event.

"We (wanted) to get as many people as possible to come to this event as well as motivate the administration to help the campus achieve "green light" status," Pringle said.

Laura Freberg, a psychology professor and adviser to the Cal Poly College Republicans, said it is only a matter of time before Cal Poly becomes a "green light" school.

Sixty-seven percent of the top colleges in the United States have "red-light" speech codes, according to Lukianoff.

"Speech codes can be incredibly arrogant and widely unconstitutional," he said. "Who on earth thinks they can regulate attitudes? A little bit of pressure from students can beat speech codes."

Freberg said she hopes Cal Poly will continue to improve in its speech codes.

"My understanding is that to become a 'green light' school there needs to be no consequences for students utilizing their free speech, but the school is reluctant to do that," Freberg said.

Freberg said it is important to note that this event was not about political parties.

"There's a misconception that because Republicans are sponsoring the speech that FIRE is a right wing organization," Freberg said. "But they are all neutral ACLU-type people."

Lukianoff shares a message that because Republicans are sponsoring the speech, the school is going to look good because Republicans are sponsoring the speech.

"I think that the diversity series that has been going on is the

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The Cal Poly chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) participated for its first time in the NECA Green Energy Challenge (GEC) in October 2010, and won first place in the poster competition.

The GEC is a competition that urges participating chapters to conduct an "energy audit" by deciding on a local building, evaluating what sources of energy the building primarily uses, then attempting to find ways for sources to "operate more efficiently and use less power," according to the NECA website.

Once a team conducts their audit, the next phase of the competition requires the compilation and submission of a plan to update the building and use more alternative energy sources. The Cal Poly team chose Corbett Canyon Vineyards in Arroyo Grande.

The team included students Adam Fischbach, Alex Emerson, Justin Lekos, Conrad Chin, Sean Melcher and Tara Bonifacio. Construction management professors Lonny Simonian and Thomas Korman advised the club.

Fischbach, a mechanical engineering senior and NECA club president, helped organize involvement in the Green Energy Challenge. He said the local NECA representative contacted Simonian and Korman to ask if Cal Poly would be interested in putting a NECA club together to participate in the event.

The professors presented the idea to their classes, and interested students got involved to make the club and the competition participation a reality.

"I don't think our club charter came through until last spring (2010), and we started the process for participating in the competition around March (2010)," Fischbach said. "The NECA representative in the area helped us to connect with Corbett Canyon Vineyards, and the team splits the work up and moved from there."

Bonifacio, an architecture senior and NECA club member, said the team conducted an energy audit of

NECA members are poster children for green energy

Club president Adam Fischbach collaborated with construction management professors, Lonny Simonian and Thomas Korman to start the first chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) at Cal Poly.
Mustang Daily) really complements this presentation,” Pringle said. “The first amendment takes no sides; it’s not a conservative or liberal thing.”

Lukianoff, who attended American University and Stanford Law School, has an extensive background in the legal system. Before joining FIRE in 2001, he was involved with the ACLU of northern California, and was a manager of the Environmentors Project in Washington, D.C.

Freberg said she has known Lukianoff for a long time and always enjoys listening to him speak.

“An interesting part of the college experience is grappling with ideas that are often offensive,” Freberg said. “One of the things that (Lukianoff) stresses is if someone offends you, use your own free speech to have a dialogue.”

“After this presentation, I realized that all of this stuff is a lot more pertinent to us than I originally thought,” Dewitt said. “It is absolutely relevant to every single student. I feel like every student should have to listen to a presentation like this and realize more our energy evaluation of the site and building was useful,” Bonifacio said. “We were providing real-life ideas for improvements that the owner could make to be more green.”

Fischbach said schools wishing to participate in the GEC submit a written report from their initial energy audit, and the top three schools are chosen to participate in the main competition. Schools that do not make it as far are invited to submit a poster for the Poster Competition — Cal Poly was one of these schools.

“Being able to submit to an additional competition was cool because it was a way to still get Cal Poly’s name out there and get some recognition for our program … it was even better than we won,” Fischbach said. “Next year, though, I hope we can compete in the main competition.”

Bonifacio said she too hopes the Cal Poly team will advance to the final competition in 2011. Her advice for next year’s team: “Start sooner when communicating as a team and with industry professionals.”

The Milwaukee School of Engineering took first place in the main competition. It was led by faculty adviser Dudley Ouscal, assistant professor of architectural engineering and building construction. Ouscal congratulated Cal Poly on its poster win and urged the chapter to get involved in 2011’s competition.

“It’s a really impressive competition, and it takes a team of committed students to make it happen,” Ouscal said. “It’s worth all of the time and resources it takes, though, because it gives students a chance to see the products and services they will be working with in the future.”

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Green

continued from page 1

the winery’s power and lighting systems and provided a retrofit for power and lighting systems as well as a new solar photovoltaic (light voltage) system.

Bonifacio said the best part of the project was that it went beyond the constraints of the competition.

“We were able to interact with the owner of a local winery where our energy evaluation of the site and building was useful,” Bonifacio said. “We were providing real-life ideas for improvements that the owner could make to be more green.”

Fischbach agreed with Bonifacio. He said the competition was a unique way for participants to explore sustainable opportunities.

“We are all definitely interested in doing things more ‘green’ — the industry needs to make green technology more affordable and needs to focus more on marketing (green technology),” Fischbach said. “This was a great way to get more involved in that movement.”

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California House representative to resign

Richard Simon
LOS ANGELES TIMES

U.S. Rep. Jane Harman, a leading congressional voice on anti-terrorism issues, plans to resign from Congress to head up the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, a senior congressional source confirmed Monday.

The California Democrat is expected to leave her seat soon to succeed former Rep. Lee Hamilton as head of the Washington-based think tank, though no date was immediately announced.

Her departure comes after her party lost control of the House, and it creates a rare open congressional seat in the Los Angeles area, setting up a special election to choose her successor.

Harman’s departure was first reported by NBC News. Harman sent an e-mail to constituents Monday notifying them of her decision.

“I have always believed that the best solutions to tough problems require a bipartisan approach, and bipartisanship is the center’s brand,” she said in the e-mail. “Serving at its helm provides unique opportunities to involve the House and Senate, top experts, and world leaders in great debates about the most pressing foreign and domestic policy matters.

“This is an excruciating decision because the distinction of representing the smartest constituents on earth will never be surpassed — nor will my relationships with my exceptional staff and colleagues in Congress. But shaping and leading the Wilson Center is a thrilling new challenge.”

Harman said she would remain in Congress for “some weeks and do everything possible to ensure an orderly transition to whomever is elected to succeed me.”

She said she and husband Sidney Harman “will always retain our residence in Venice, be home frequently, and stay engaged at USC and active in the community. You have elected me to nine terms in Congress — an honor without equal. I hope you understand how truly grateful I am for your friendship and support.”

Send us a letter to the editor!

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GOP efforts to extend Patriot Act halted

Lisa Mascaro
Tribune Washington Bureau

A House GOP push to permanently extend expiring provisions of the Patriot Act is running into opposition from conservative and tea party-inspired lawmakers who are wary of the post-Sept. 11 law's reach into private affairs.

Civil libertarians have long fought the George W. Bush-era law that makes it easier for federal authorities to conduct surveillance on suspected terrorists, often drawing support from Democratic allies in Congress.

But as the Republican-led House prepares to vote Tuesday for a short-term extension of provisions that expire at the end of this month, rank-and-file Republicans are signaling they will resist efforts later this year to make the law permanent.

"There need to be sunsets on the bill after that in order to have adequate accountability and oversight," said Rep. Louie Gohmert, Republican in tea party-strong Utah, whose放进 will vote Tuesday.

"Tea party adherents prefer a smaller federal government, creating common cause on this issue with civil libertarians who object to expanded government surveillance powers for federal authorities in the aftermath of the 2001 terrorist attacks.

The three most contested provisions of the Patriot Act expire on Feb. 28, and the White House has worked with congressional leaders to secure an extension through December 2013. The Democratic-led Senate is considering legislation to do so.

The House GOP, though, is seeking to pass a shorter extension, to Dec. 8, 2011, to give lawmakers in that chamber time to assess making the provisions permanent.

Sensenbrenner, the chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, said Sen. Chuck Grassley, a Republican in Iowa, had reached a "grand bargain" to forge a 10-year extension.

"We are confident this compromise will pass both chambers," said Sen. Mark Kirk, a Republican in Illinois.

Another expiring provision allows the government to conduct court-approved roving wiretaps of suspected terrorists as they change phones or locations.

A third is the "lone-wolf" provision that enables authorities to conduct surveillance on foreign terrorism suspects who do not appear to be affiliated with known groups.

The Obama administration supports the 2013 extension of the expiring provisions, but has disappointed civil libertarians who have pushed for a greater overhaul of the law.

"Our goal for 10 years has been to rein in these authorities and limit their use to suspected terrorists and spies," said Michelle Richardson, legislative counsel for the ACLU. "It's very unlikely if these provisions are made permanent they'll never get the review necessary to maintain privacy."

Jessica Guynn
Los Angeles Times

In a bid to make itself relevant again, struggling Internet pioneer AOL Inc. announced late Sunday that it would buy the Huffington Post, the well-known news and opinion site, for $315 million in cash and stock.

As part of the deal, Huffington Post co-founder Arianna Huffington will oversee a new group responsible for bringing together all editorial content from both companies including news, technology, music and local media websites.

The deal, which was signed Sunday with approval from the boards of both companies, is something of a gamble for AOL, which could also give the Internet company an image makeover.

"Perhaps more important, it will give AOL a much-needed boost in talent, traffic and ad inventory," said Michel de Broin, a senior editor at online news site TechCrunch.

The Huffington Post could give AOL a much-needed boost in talent, traffic and ad inventory.

The deal comes after a series of setbacks for AOL, which has not performed as well as its competitors in terms of traffic and advertising.

The deal is expected to close within the next few months, with the Huffington Post moving its headquarters to New York City.

AOL has been looking to reinvent itself in the past few years as it continues to adjust to a world where the dominant search engine of the past is no longer the dominant source of information.

One of the reasons for the deal is to give AOL a larger footprint in the online world, which is becoming increasingly important as more and more people turn to the Internet for their news and information needs.

It is expected that the Huffington Post will continue to operate under its current leadership and will maintain its editorial independence.

The Huffington Post has been a leader in the field of online news, particularly in terms of its focus on issues and opinions, and its acquisition by AOL is likely to give it an even greater reach and influence.

It is also expected that the acquisition will help AOL to expand its online advertising business, which has been struggling in recent years.

AOL has been looking to diversify its revenue streams, with a particular focus on mobile advertising, and the acquisition of the Huffington Post is likely to be an important part of that strategy.

As for the Huffington Post, it is expected that the move to AOL will provide it with greater resources and opportunities to continue its work in covering important issues and providing in-depth analysis of the news.

The deal is expected to be completed within the next few weeks, and it is likely to be a significant milestone for both AOL and the Huffington Post.
SACRAMENTO (MCT) — Sacramento job markets struggled mightily in 2010, losing more than 18,000 private-sector jobs, one of the highest totals in the nation, according to federal data.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics released last week looks at private-sector employment in the 100 largest U.S. labor markets and paints a grim picture recognizable to many Sacramentoians.

The Sacramento region had 504,200 jobs in December 2010, compared with 582,400 in December 2009 — a drop of 18,200 jobs total. The latest December total also was below the 517,400 jobs in December 2000.

The losses meant the region ranked near the bottom — 98th — of 100 markets.

On a percentage basis, the region finished last among the largest 50 markets, dropping more than 3 percent year over year.

The Sacramento region’s December jobless rate was 12.5 percent, according to state employment data.

LOS ANGELES (MCT) — More than $10 million in counterfeit iPods, iPhones and other items were seized Monday from a downtown Los Angeles warehouse operation in a theft case begun by the Los Angeles Port Police.

“This was a well-funded operation, and the counterfeiters looked very authentic,” said Ron Boyd, chief of the approximately 200-member Los Angeles Port Police force.

Investigators said they thought the shipment was designed to get Apple Inc. lookalike products into the market during the recent buzz surrounding the shipment was designed to get Apple Inc. lookalike products into the market during the recent buzz surrounding Apple products.

Over the Consumer Electronics Show.
For those of you who got your license when you turned 16, one of three things probably happened: your parents bought you a car, you got a hand-me-down or, for the hardworking, you saved up your paper route/lawn mowing/window washing money and bought one.

Now, at 22 and about to graduate, that car is on its last legs. As you do graduate and get a job, even if work takes you to a parking structure every day, you are going to have to park in a parking lot. You may have to worry about things like dings and dents with a used car. While a strong argument can be made for buying a new car, these are just a few advantages to consider when buying a used car. Of course the No. 1 risk of buying a used car, especially from an independent party, is the quality of the used car. While such reports, like those provided by Carfax, and a test drive can help, buying from a dealership is always the safest bet. Especially since most used cars that come from dealerships are certified used cars. They have passed some form of inspection and could even be covered under a manufacturer warranty. That said, you'll most likely pay more when buying from a dealer than from an independent party. You can weigh the risks for yourself.

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

**Shopping for a car: when old beats new**

Here are just a few of those advantages to consider when you finally trade-in or junk your current set of wheels.

### Avoid the years of highest depreciation:

Cars are not an investment, unless you are buying and fixing up antique cars. That 0 percent financing you can get today on a new car will soon be negated. When a new car leaves the dealership, it instantly depreciates in value. How much it depreciates depends on the make and model, but it will almost certainly mean the loss of thousands of dollars... in seconds. You'll end up upside down on your new car for years to come.

Why not let someone else saddle that load and pick it up after two or three years? If the average driver travels roughly 12,000 to 15,000 miles a year, buying a two to three-year-old car with 25,000 to 40,000 miles on it still gives you another 100,000 miles before any major overhauls should (hopefully) be needed.

### Lower insurance costs:

Unless you decide to buy a used sports car or 4x4, insurance costs for a used car are significantly lower than for a new car. Of course, this is in part due to the fact that your used car will most likely be worth less than a new car.

Maybe you think about insurance now because you already pay it or maybe your parents have been picking it up, but, depending on your driving record, your monthly insurance premiums are another bill you're going to have to worry about into the future.

### Lower cumulative monthly payments:

After you have graduated and secured the job you've always wanted, every other week your paycheck is going to disappear, quick — before you can get your hands on the remnants.

Student loan payments, 401(k) contributions, flexible spending account and 125 deferments, your 329 plan (for graduate school) and car insurance are all going to whittle away at your once hefty paycheck. Not to mention rent, utilities, cell phone bill, savings — you get the point. Do you really want to add another $500 a month for the next five years for a new truck that's not even fully loaded?

There is less worry about dings and dents with a used car than with worrying about a new car: That pristine coat of paint on a new car calls out to shopping carts and baby strollers.

While no car goes through life without its share of war wounds, adopting a car that has already seen a few door dings and errant baseballs can provide a certain sense of ease and freedom. Especially if you are going to have to park in a parking garage for work, which can be just as bad as any one of the parking lots here at Cal Poly.

### Then there is garage storage:

Do you know where you're going to be living next year? Or even two or three years from now? Are you always going to have a garage to store your car in? Similar to reducing your worry about dings and dents, you'll probably feel much more at ease parking your used car outside (if need be), than parking your new car outside. Until you have saved up enough for a down-payment on a new home, with a four-car garage and all settled down, you'll probably feel much more comfortable parking your used car in the rain or snow every night that you would with a shiny new car.

While a strong argument can be made for buying a new car, there are just a few advantages to consider when buying a used car. Of course the No. 1 risk of buying a used car, especially from an independent party, is the quality of the used car. While such reports, like those provided by Carfax, and a test drive can help, buying from a dealership is always the safest bet. Especially since most used cars that come from dealerships are certified used cars. They have passed some form of inspection and could even be covered under a manufacturer warranty. That said, you'll most likely pay more when buying from a dealer than from an independent party. You can weigh the risks for yourself.

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**You really want to add another $500 a month for the next five years for a new truck that's not even fully loaded?**

— Erik Hansen

Graduate columnist
Beets make a comeback for Valentine's Day

Heather Rockwood is a good science junior and Mustang Daily food columnist.

"Showin how funky and strong is your %hc/ It doesn' t matter who' s wrong or right/ Just beetit beet
"Back in 1982 the King of Pop was definitely onto something, and once again in today's ongoing search for healthier living, beets are beginning to receive some well-deserved attention.

Beets are part of the chenopod family and are relatives of chard, spinach and quinoa. Coming from well-respected bloodlines, the beet has many health benefits to boast of including high levels of folic acid, potassium, calcium and the power child of preventative health: antioxidants.

However, unlike pomegranates and wines (which contain anthocyanins as antioxidant compounds), beets possess betaxanthins. These compounds are responsible for beets' cancer and heart disease fighting qualities. Betaxanthins are the same pigments that give the beet its vibrant red hues and are often used in the food industry as food colorants for college favorites such as ice cream, breakfast cereals, jams, jellies and many desserts.

Yes, you read that right — all sorts of sweets can be enriched by this ruby red jewel.

Not many of us grew up appreciating the sweetness this vegetable tried to offer our taste buds. Thus, we have deemed the beet an undervalued vegetable even now late in our college years. With the holiday of love coming up right around the corner, I do believe it is time to give the beet another chance to capture the heart's affections.

This year you could really show that special someone just how much you care (without spending a fortune) by making them a delicious meal inspired by how they make your heart "beet." Cherry — I know — but what girl doesn't love a cherry line at least once a year? And with the options of raw, steamed and baked beets, your cooking level can't deter you from using this festive food as a tool to help declare your undying love — or just-fee earrings — for that special someone.

Many European countries have already jumped on the beet bandwagon with a traditional vegetable soup and hold this vegetable near and dear to their hearts — even beyond Valentine's Day. Borscht is a soup that has passionately been consumed by cultures including Russians, Polish, Germans and other Eastern Europeans throughout history. Some like it hot, some like it cold, but everyone loves it with beets bright, brilliant and bold.

Whatever your plans for this upcoming Valentine's Day, be sure to take a quick break to get in the kitchen, turn up the radio to the sappy songs that plague the airwaves and fall in love as you sway to the beet!

Hint: I am the state fruit of Texas.

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**My Home Beets for You salad**

- 1 orange peeled and cut into wedges
- 1 tbsp. roughly chopped ginger
- 1 1/4 cups concentrated orange juice
- 1 tsp. cornstarch
- 2 tbsp. sliced almonds (lightly toasted)
- 1 tbsp. honey
- 1 tbsp. dark chocolate

**Directs**

1. Wash and cut the orange into wedges. No peeling necessary. Seeds with salt, pepper and oil for 25 minutes at 400 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Add orange, cornstarch, honey and caramelized. Set aside to cool.
3. Peel and segment the oranges with a sharp paring knife.
4. Peel and cut beets in a segment just larger than the orange and arrange on a plate with the oranges.
5. In a small bowl, combine corn oil, chili sauce and orange juice. Whisk and season with salt and pepper. This is a simple yet flavorful vinaigrette.
6. Toss the beets and vinaigrette together until the vinaigrette has coated the beets. Garnish with almonds, honey and chocolate for decor. What's Valentine's Day without a little chocolate?!
Ben Wener
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Good thing the game was interesting, because the halftime show featuring the Black Eyed Peas, much like the big-money commercials that debuted during the first two quarters, was positively underwhelming.

OK, sure, it sounded better than the Who did last year, and it was overwhelming.

Officials that debuted during the first show featuring the Black Eyed Peas, Good thing the game was interesting, because the ballyhooed halftime extravaganza since the Janet Jackson-Led Nipplegate debacle that overshadowed Super Bowl XXXVIII in 2004 — and the first non-legend in 2004 — and the first non-legend in 2004 (Bruce Springsteen seemed routine and predictable."

Going into it I was inclined to cut them plenty of slack. As the center-piece of the first pop/soul/hip-hop extravaganza since the Janet Jackson-led Nipplegate debacle that overshadowed Super Bowl XXXVIII in 2004 — and the first non-legend in this particular spotlight in as many years — the quartet faced grumbling from the get-go and mounting expectations as kickoff neared.

Even as their performance began with (what else?) "I Gotta Feeling," I was hopeful: the descent from the top of Cowboys Stadium's dome, enticingly conveyed by overhead camera work, had me hoping that we'd see something truly spectacular, even unexpected.

But then they assumed their usual positions, glittering in black and white outfits, and set about going through the same motions you'd find at any BEP show in any arena while on tour. Worse, their get-ups were distracting: I spent more time trying to figure out what will.i.am's clear skullcap was supposed to be — a space-age bicycle helmet? a new-Astro Boy electronic chest plate that changed images depending on the song (for instance, a bright red heart during "O M G" (his hit, not the Peas'), and though he can be a mesmerizing dancer almost worthy of comparison to Michael Jackson, the only move he surfaced."

Five seconds of wow out of a dozen minutes? Give me Prince blazing his famous riff without moving or showing the slightest expression, even less Black Eyed Pea (note his half-tone chestnut "Sweet Child o' Mine" in concert for years now, and she's sung it much better before, with less Astrowear effectuation.

For his part, Slash might as well have been a robot — he served up his famous riff without moving or showing the slightest expression, then indulged a bit of standard-issue soloing before disappearing as fast as he surfaced.

No better was Usher, who I thought was a singer, no? Here he barely opened his mouth during "OMG" (this hit, not the Peas'), and though he can be a mesmerizing dancer almost worthy of comparison to Michael Jackson, the only move that impressed was when he leapt over will.i.am and landed in a James Brown split.

Limbaugh twisting that to mean the president's support base has eroded? But again, at least we saw some political pundits with nothing better to discuss may natter on about: will.i.am's lyrical change-up for the first verse of "Where is the Love?"; "In America we need to get things straight / Obama, let's get these kids educated / Create jobs so the country stays stimulated.""

Why can I already hear Rush Limbaugh saying that to mean the president's support base has eroded? But again, at least we saw some political pundits with nothing better to discuss may natter on about: will.i.am's lyrical change-up for the first verse of "Where is the Love?"; "In America we need to get things straight / Obama, let's get these kids educated / Create jobs so the country stays stimulated.""

"In America we need to get things straight / Obama, let's get these kids educated / Create jobs so the country stays stimulated.""

"Glee" star Lea Michele's histrionic version of The National Anthem (it's "O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming," Xtina, not a rehash of the second line) ... and not one but two lame commercials featuring Eminem, who I thought was better than that.

The Black Eyed Peas were joined by Slash of Guns 'n' Roses and Usher in their halftime show performance at Super Bowl XLV on Sunday.

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

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

I like the Spider-Man films (well, not the third one, but who doesn’t) and have liked them since they came out. Blew my little heart, I liked the catch-phrase too: “With great power comes great responsibility.” It was inspiring to know that, at least in fiction, some right-handed mutant was always on hand to fix problems. It certainly better than the alternative.

It wasn’t until recently, geologically speaking, that it occurred to me to question that idea. It seems fairly obvious on its face; if great power doesn’t come with great responsibility, then what does it come with? Great irresponsibility? No one wants that. Still, I wasn’t comfortable; it was time for me to obsess.

What is responsibility anyway? According to Merriam-Webster, it is “the quality or state of being responsible; legal or mental accountability.” Responsibility, simply stated, is when an entity’s interaction with an object or action is a matter of duty — as opposed to power, where the relationship is simply a question of capability.

Responsibility may be viewed as a flipside of authority. The authority to create effects implies responsibility. Responsibility may be viewed as a flipside of authority. The authority to create effects implies responsibility. Responsibility holds the individual to be an actor. The newer holds the individu­al to be an echo.

To be an actor is to inject something new into the world, to truly affect the flow of events. The central fact of the actor is the capacity to choose, to meaningfully decide, however small the area of effect. Certainly, no individual exists in isolation; the beliefs, the values, the methods held by each of us are handed down and reinforced by the social and environmental structures in which we live. But the actor adds something else, a decision-making capacity that is external to and interprets these other influences.

If the actor is a creator, the echo is a recording. The echo is formed by those external beliefs and serves as a vehicle for their perpetuation. The echo is the sum of the forces applied. Both concepts are true in some measure, but which is properly dominant?

The consequences of these ideas are very broad. If people are actors then they possess some form of responsibility; their capacity for decision-making means that they originate something that did not before exist. If people are instead largely uncritical echoes, then their actions are merely the expression of forces beyond their understanding. We are then not the authors of the world — it’s called politics. The main thrust of modern politics is to take responsibility for society, to truly make decisions for ourselves. The echo is the sum of the forces applied. Both concepts are true in some measure, but which is properly dominant?

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Abel

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turning home after wrestling season. In mid-June, Abel settled on Cal Poly only to find more problems. Due to a credit-transfer issue, Abel sifted through more paperwork for an NCAA waiver allowing him to compete.

"I was sure something was going to work out, but it was a lot of stress," Abel said. "There were a lot of questions. You know what, what's gonna happen is gonna happen."

Finally, in August, the day of Abel arrived. Abel was admitted to Cal Poly, the Aggie became a Mustang. The journey that Abel, to say the least, had don a different uniform and face leaders already established and tested, Barrett is the youngest grandpa I've ever met," heavyweight Atticus Disney said.

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Emerging from five months of uncertainty, Abel found himself entering an unfamiliar wrestling room. With leaders already established and tested, Abel became, in some ways, a philosopher wrestler. On trips, Abel buries himself in books and is leading his way through Sun Tzu's "The Art of War" to better himself on a mental level, he said.

"It's not directly applicable to wrestling or sports, but there is a lot of good stuff in there," Abel said. "It's a lot more like strategizing and focusing on the task at hand. I think wrestling is a sport that's more introspective than people realize."

Becoming the ultimate objective, an NCAA title, combined with a freshman season in college, led Abel to the 20-win mark this season, less than a month away from a return to the Pac-19 championships. Only this time he will do so a different uniform and face stiffer competition, including No. 2 Adam Hall of Boise State and No. 4 Bubble Jenkins of Arizona State.

Whenever happens, Abel knows spring break will bring much needed rest from a year of hectic scrambling on and off the mat. At that time, his family will make a trip south to the small fishing village of La Paz, Mexico, and he's the first to admit it won't be your typical Mexican spring break.

"I want to be close to family for a little bit and reassessing what I want and where I want to be," Abel said.

From there, Abel will take his truck, which now sports dueling Cal Poly and UC Davis stickers, north and complete his degree in economics as was the plan from the beginning.

"I don't exactly know what is next," Abel said. "I'm trying to leave my options open and be as prepared as I can."

Packers

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swagger for public consumption and became defeat when things looked bleakest, boldly declaring "we're nobody's underdog."

He brought that attitude to Texas, saying in a news conference that he respected the Steelers but that "it's our time." Then he had the nerve to get his players measured for Super Bowl rings on Saturday night, a play that surely would have been criticized had the Packers lost.

"We felt we were a better team than Pittsburgh," McCarthy said. "No disrespect to them. We really respect the way they play. We knew they were going to be a physical, tough football team, but we felt we were a better team coming in here, and we needed to go out and prove it. That's why we were so confident."

McCarthy crafted an aggressive game plan for the Super Bowl, putting the ball in Rodgers' hands and giving him the freedom to check out of plays.

"He did a great job at the line of scrimmage," the coach said. "A majority of our plays were run and pass options. We were really feeding off of how they were going to play our personnel groups. ... And Aaron's discipline and his ability to throw the ball away when it wasn't there ... just gave me the ability to be aggressive as a play-caller."

"But it was a game plan that we were going to put the ball in Aaron's hands, put it on his shoulders and we knew he would produce."

McCarthy hinted that he didn't get much sleep Sunday night, joking that it was "hard to answer the bell" for his 8:30 a.m. news conference.

"It was a fun night," he said. "I can't put into words the experience postgame in the locker room. But we had a party back at the hotel. We're a community-owned football team, so you can see all the fingerprints on our trophy. It was passed around. Everybody had a lot of fun with it."

He was asked if he envisioned finishing his career in Green Bay.

"I'm a builder and we have built something special," he said. "This program was built the right way. It has quality people in Aaron Rodgers and all the way through that are going to lead this football team for a long time."

"So I would definitely hope this is my last job."

McCarthy sounded as if he was ready to get to work on the 2011 season, barring a lockout by the owners.

"It's going to be exciting," he said. "On paper, it's a lot like this year. Coming out of training camp, it was the best football team that I'd stood in front of. I knew we had an excellent opportunity to win the Super Bowl, and definitely, you look at our returning roster next year, it's going to be the same type of situation."

"I'll be very excited to coach these guys."
Just 11 months ago, UC Davis' Barrett Abel wrestled his way past Cal Poly to be crowned champion of the Pac-10 conference at 149 pounds. He received his trophy to the cheers of a home crowd, while wearing Davis' signature blue and gold singlet, and remained blissfully unaware of what was to come.

Then, on April 16, Abel's world turned on its head.

"Last year at this point, I had the five, 10, 20 years of my life planned out," Abel said. "I knew what I wanted, what was next, then my world got rocked.

UC Davis, pressured by budget issues, cut the wrestling program.

UC Davis Athletic Director Greg Warzechka notified head coach Len Grippen of what was to come.

"We had a promise from the athletic director that wrestling wasn't going to be cut," Abel said, his voice wavering. "We knew there were sports cuts coming, but we had been told not to worry about them, that we were fine."

While the decision tested Abel's low-key style, he took the consequence in stride with the appropriateness, but tough, steps to find a new home.

The day following the announcement, about 25 coaches contacted Abel, one of which was Cal Poly.

Co-head coach Mark Perry recognized that Abel could be an asset even if it was only for a year.

"We're just getting warmed up. Barely 11 hours after their 31-25 victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl XLV, the Packers are positioned for a multiyear playoff run with one of the deepest rosters in the NFL, the prospect of several key players returning from injury and a 25-year-old quarterback who's not just a placeholder. The Packers are reeling after an ugly 7-3 loss for motivation and whose winning record."

"When it happened, I said, 'We want him here, let's bring him down on a visit,'" Perry said. "At any time there's a big transfer out there, we're looking for him. Barrett is a good student; his head's on straight. We're trying to become a championship program, and those guys help."

But it was hardly a done deal. In the final month of spring quarter, Abel was whisked away on a whirlwind tour of the country, visiting colleges from Oregon to New York, while still taking 19 units of coursework.

The journey hardened Abel, who bears his load stoically, but an undertone of institutional distrust resonates through his voice when he speaks about the betrayal of the UC Davis athletic department.

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