Recent crimes don’t reflect statistics

Despite a recent rise in criminal activity, authorities say San Luis Obispo residents should not worry

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Justin Hirsch, a 21-year-old San Luis Obispo resident, was walking downtown at approximately 2:40 a.m. Feb. 6 when a man attacked him, stabbing him multiple times. He doesn't remember exactly where he was stabbed downtown — he was too busy fighting and hanging on for his life. He and his coworkers managed to get to a nearby house. "I was trying to get a hold of 911," Hirsch said. "I felt like I was dying. I wanted help."

Hirsch said he considers himself pretty "strong-hearted" and was able to survive the attack after seeking immediate medical attention. He said his attempted murder was a once-in-a-million thing and he still feels pretty safe downtown.

Hirsch wasn’t the only person calling 911 that week. In a span of 28 hours, the normally quiet town of San Luis Obispo suddenly became a hot spot for crime. There were three assaults with deadly weapons, the attempted murder of Hirsch and an armed robbery. Then there was a brief lull in violent crimes until the following weekend, when there was a drive-by shooting at a local restaurant.

Despite this flare up of violent crime, statistics and residents say it isn’t a trend and students can learn basic steps to prevent them from occurring.

Recent crime reports show that between 2004 and 2009, aggravated assaults in San Luis Obispo have decreased, but there has been a rise in forcible rape and robberies. Still, reported violent crime overall — aggravated assaults, forcible rape, murder, manslaughter or robbery — has shown a decrease since 2004, going from a crime every 2.1 days to every 2.6 days in 2009.

According to the same FBI reports, Cal Poly reported five violent crimes in 2004 and two in 2009. The Cal Poly Clery Report, issued by University Police Department (UPD), doesn’t currently report violent crimes for 2009. The FBI

I never have any fear. This town is the best in the world.

— Fredy Graciano
San Luis Obispo resident

Luis County is fairly safe, when you look at statistics statewide — campus is very safe if you look at statistics," Watson said. "However, things can happen. We do get people going up and down the stairs. We see it now in the last few years. I’d say San Luis Obispo residents shouldn’t worry too much about it."

“I don’t remember exactly where I was when it happened. I was walking downtown and I encountered a friend of mine who saw a man attacking a person in the street. He picked up as much water as he could and sprinkled it on the fire,” Oh said, “He’s trying, he’s doing his best, he’s doing as much as he can and sprinkles it on the fire.”

Oh told this story, and several others, about trying to solve race relation problems to students and faculty Feb. 17 as part of the Provocative Perspectives series.

During the series, Oh shared personal experiences which gave her stories color and detail to make it seem more like a relaxed conversation between two people rather than a lecture. She spoke about being a child of first generation Korean-Americans.

She spoke about her experiences during the Los Angeles riots of 1992, when she acted as a spokesperson for the Korean community.

Later she spoke about what it was like defending juvenile offenders as a lawyer, and about serving on President Bill Clinton’s One America Initiative, a committee that focused on encouraging open talk about diversity throughout the country.

The interest in the room piqued to American’s racial tensions.

Change in racial tension is like a proverb Oh said she heard from a friend about a swarm of flies that saw a forest fire and knew that if he didn’t do something, his friends would perish. "He picks up as much water as he can and sprinkles it on the fire, “Stupid — He dies from exhaustion. Well that’s not the happy ending I wanted to hear. So that’s how it is.”

Oh told this story, and several others, about trying to solve race
CSUs pushed to admit local students

Amanda Sedo
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The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) encourages California State University (CSU) campuses to give priority admission to local prospective students. But not every campus is complying.

San Diego State University (SDSU) recently began turning away local applicants in favor of more qualified students from other regions. SDSU is not alone. Cal Poly has been turning away local students that would normally qualify at other CSU campuses for years.

Jim Maraviglia, the associate vice provost for marketing and enrollment development at Cal Poly, said the university looks at more than just a student's address.

"We have a comprehensive evaluation here at Cal Poly," Maraviglia said. "The variables are not only academic, but leadership and extracurricular activities are considered as well, especially if it is a major related."

Maraviglia also said while looking at academics, Cal Poly admissions looks at the academic achievement in all four years of high school whereas most other CSUs only look at two.

When it comes to locals-only treatment, Cal Poly only gives a bonus consideration. San Luis Obispo residents still must fit the eligibility requirements of the university, which go beyond those at other CSUs.

Although Cal Poly claims to not give local priority, 70 percent of the San Luis Obispo High School students who applied to Cal Poly were offered admission, compared to 32 percent of the overall freshman applicant pool last year, according to Maraviglia.

"The place where (students) went to school plays a role in admission to Cal Poly, but it is just not as big as it is at other CSUs," Maraviglia said.

Erik Fallis, media relations specialist for the California State University, said the reason CSUs like Cal Poly and SDSU started turning away local students was because of impaction.

"There has been system wide impaction at (SDSU and Cal Poly)," Fallis said. "There are more people applying as a whole than there are seats available."

The number of first time freshman applying to Cal Poly for example, has increased by 6.8 percent, according to the Cal Poly Fact Book. Out of 33,627 applicants, only 3,524 students were admitted to the university this fall.

"That being said, Cal Poly and SDSU have become stricter on who is admitted — meaning local qualified students are turned away and those who fit enhanced criteria are accepted instead," Fallis said. "The place where (students) went to school plays a role in admission to Cal Poly, but it is just not as big as it is at other CSUs," Maraviglia said.

Food science junior Kathleen Phi said it is a good thing that Cal Poly uses a more complex system of evaluation when admitting students.

"It shouldn't depend on whether or not a student lives close to campus if they should get in," Phi said. "It should be based on their academic success."

Phi said by having enhanced requirements, Cal Poly benefits from having more qualified students on campus.

"When the CSUs were created, the goal was to give local students an advantage because some are place bound by family obligations and existing jobs," Fallis said.

Twenty-one other CSU campuses are still giving priority to locals, but only if they are the above the basic admission requirements.

Eligible California residents are also having to compete with out-of-state candidates as well. The amount of non-residents enrolled at Cal Poly has increased from 7 percent of the student population in Fall 2006, to the current 11 percent.

Fallis said the bottom line is that all of these changes occurred because of the budget cuts.

"You cannot look at this situation separate from the budget issues," Fallis said. "Impaction exists because the state does not provide the CSUs with enough funds to give all qualified students access."
Race

continued from page 1

any answers on how to solve race relations in America. The night before coming to Cal Poly, she met with a friend and explained her anxiety about talking the following morning, she said.

"I feel like such a failure and those people are coming tomorrow at 7:30 in the morning to listen to me talk about huge issues that I don't know the answers to," Oh said. "But I know what all the problems are because I stay engaged."

While she considered herself a "failure" for not having the answers, she said she excels at public speaking because she can talk to an entire room as if she were just talking to one person.

When Oh said, in a humorous way, that she did not have any answers, the audience of mostly faculty and some students laughed. One student listening to Oh's liberal studies senior Kaielin McCormick, who is also president of the Women's Leadership Council and Educational Events Coordinator, said she found her honesty refreshing and understandable.

"I think a topic like race relations is so complex that there are no real answers, so I thought it was nice that she acknowledged that she didn't have one way to solve everything," McCormick said. "I feel the same way as the speaker. I don't have solid answers either."

One thing McCormick especially liked about Oh's lecture were the stories she told. After sharing some background on growing up with first-generation Korean American parents, Oh shared stories about her experience serving as a lawyer who represented juvenile offenders.

"Race relations in prisons spill over into our communities," Oh said. "They spill over into governments. This creates a kind of division that can lead to the way that we see the other and you don't see and the other."

Engaging in "broader thinking," Oh said, can help people come up with solutions to racial tensions in America. Oh then told a story about a group of college students she met that were trying to get the Dream Act passed — a piece of legislation that would allow students with an immigration status to enroll in higher education.

"These kids are performing well at the university level and some of them have in-hand admissions to graduate programs that they cannot go to because of their immigration status," Oh said. "Those kids, when I met them, I was so impressed because they literally have no options at this point in their lives, and yet, they're still trying because they believe in our system."

Cal Poly alumsa Joy Harkins said McCormick provides many opportunities for students to involve themselves in "broader thinking" in terms of race relations on campus.

"Students have great opportunities available to them and I hope that they'll take advantage of speakers like Angela Oh and the events going on through the MultiCultural Center for Black History Month," Harkins said.

As an ordained Zen-Buddhist priest, Oh greeted the audience by pulling her hands together in a prayer-like motion to bring everyone in the room together.

"We're coming from many different places," Oh said. By the end of the talk, the room seemed to have come to a similar understanding of Oh's overall message. Everyone engaged in broader thinking. And she ended with a bow.

Crime

continued from page 1

normally do, and that includes fighting, it includes sexual assaults."

Kristy McCray, the Sexual Assault Recovery and Prevention (SARP) Center executive director, said the statistics released by law enforcement are not accurate. While forcible rape and aggravated assault are included in the Clery Act and FBI reports, it does not reflect the statistic that one in four college women are sexually assaulted before they graduate.

"About 60 percent of the people we see (have) reported to law enforcement, and 40 percent haven't," McCray said.

The SARP Center offers self-defense courses to better prepare people in case of an attack. They pass out whistles to attendees because calling attention to your situation is the best way to deter attackers. McCray keeps her whistle by her keychain.

"Personally, I fear carrying a weapon because it can be used against me," she said. "I'm not familiar with how to use a knife, or how to use pepper spray. I would rather be alert, be assertive, be aware, and have those minimal techniques and use the whistle if I need to."

The Sexual Assault Free Environment Resource (SAFER) Program is located on campus and offers a lot of the same services as the SARP Center with easy access to students. Kara Barbieri, a SAFER volunteer and psychology senior, suggests being alert and assertive in speech and manner, not appearing vulnerable.

"A lot of that can be correlated with people taking away their focus from the environment that they are in," Barbieri said.

Chad Reiley, the UPD officer in charge of campus crime prevention, said he cannot stress enough the importance of students being aware of their surroundings.

"They hear us say it, and I don't know if they don't take it to heart or they just feel safe here, so they don't feel it necessary," Reiley said. "But if you just go outside and look at all the students walking around on campus, a lot of them have earphones on, they have their iPads going, they have their ears plugged, they're texting … all these things in my opinion are a distraction to what's around you."

He recommends students stay aware, use services like the campus escort van, take a route that goes by the Blue Light emergency towers and go out in pairs. He also advises for students to always have a sober friend when attending parties or bars, one who can not only look out for friends and make sound judgments for them but also drive them home. Taking a self-defense class also helps.

"I do understand why everyone is so complacent; we do live in a relatively safe place," Reiley said. "Just be aware, it does go on and it does happen every once in awhile."

Even with the recent streak of violent crime, some city residents still feel safe.

San Luis Obispo resident Fredy Graciano was working at Tostón's Mexican Restaurant in downtown when the drive-by shooting between customers occurred. Graciano heard the gunshot, but originally thought it was a customer's balloon popping. It wasn't until the men came in, urging him to call the police that he realized what had happened. He has worked nights for four years and has always felt safe. He still does, and considers the crime just a random occurrence, not a trend.

"I never have any fear," Graciano said. "I still love this place. This town is the best in the world."
Budget conflict deepens in Washington

Lisa Mascaro
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

Battle lines over steep federal spending reductions hardened Sunday even as congressional leaders maintained that both Democrats and Republicans want to avoid a political impasse that could lead to a government shutdown within weeks.

Lawmakers fanned out to their home states after the Republican-led House approved more than $60 billion in reductions for fiscal year 2011, the deepest spending cuts in generations. Virtually no domestic program would be spared.

Democrats have rejected the legislation as too severe, warning that as many as 800,000 jobs could be lost by making such reductions in the remaining seven months of the fiscal year, harming the nation's fragile economic recovery. Instead, the Democrats propose a spending freeze, which Republicans reject.

With political leaders deadlocked, each side is tiring as position the other for blame in the event the stalemate cannot be broken. After the predawn showdown vote Saturday in the House, lawmakers left Washington for a week-long recess. When they return, they'll have only a few days to resolve the issue before the current funding mechanism expires March 4.

"We know we need to cut spending," said Sen. Richard J. Durbin, D-Ill., a Senate Democratic leader, on NBC's show "Meet the Press." "Now, the question is: How much further should we go? You can't reach a budget balance with 15 million Americans out of work."

Rep. Paul D. Ryan, R-Wis., the chairman of the House Budget Committee, acknowledged the package engineered by the conservative flank in the House would not be approved by the Democratic-controlled Senate.

"We will have to negotiate," Ryan said. "Look, we're not looking for a government shutdown but, at the same time, we're also not looking at rubber-stamping these really high, elevated spending levels" enacted two years ago.

The showdown is the beginning of a long spring of budget battles at a time when the nation's $1.5 trillion deficit remains a heavy lift in Washington.

"We will have to negotiate," Ryan said. "Look, we're not looking for a government shutdown but, at the same time, we're also not looking at rubber-stamping these really high, elevated spending levels" enacted two years ago.

President Barack Obama prefers to freeze spending for the next five years and begin discussions on adjusting corporate tax policies to bring in revenue.

But Obama's proposed 2012 budget was widely criticized by veteran budget hawks, including members of his bipartisan fiscal commission, for excluding reforms of the big-ticket mandatory spending programs. Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, they insist, must be part of a debate.

House GOP leaders initially sent an ambiguous signal, stating they would not be approved by the Democratic-controlled Senate, for constituent rejections to the Republican-pushed budget package.

Although conservative "tea party" groups who fueled the GOP's ascent have been wary to embrace, advocacy organizations characterized the reductions as draconian attacks on long-running government programs -- from water pollution monitoring to food aid for poor women and children.

The Service Employees International Union said 5 million meals now being delivered to elderly shut-ins would be eliminated.

Yet as Congress is being asked to again raise the federal debt limit, in a vote that could come in a matter of months, even Democrats acknowledged that their proposal to freeze current accounts would likely be inadequate in the current political climate.

Many Democrats would like to see compromise extended to the other side of the government ledger by trimming in tax breaks for wealthy Americans and corporations, including the oil industry, as part of any budget deal that cuts spending.

Crafting such a compromise remains a heavy lift in Washington.
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China says no chance of a revolution like Egypt's

Tom Lasseter
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Chinese authoritarian government pushed back Monday against the specter of political unrest, warning citizens that any transition to a modern democratic system is still decades away.

The government's reaction came on the heels of activist gatherings Sunday inspired by the "Jasmine Revolution" in Tunisia, a public meeting in Beijing and Shanghai that were very small and very quietly disbanded by police.

Although it isn't possible to know exactly what's happening in the corridors of power of the notoriously opaque Chinese Communist Party, there have been several indications that China's leadership is trying to manage lingering domestic social problems while avoiding the sort of turmoil that's plagued hard-line Arab governments.

Comments by senior Chinese leadership that were made public, combined with opinions aired Monday in state media, seemed to reflect a two-pronged approach of getting to handle all the issues such as corruption and income inequality while dealing harshly with any emerging challenges to the Communist Party.

An editorial in Monday's state Global Times newspaper urged Chinese leaders to be more patient with the government's goal of becoming "a modern country governed by laws, rather than people." It said it's not possible to manage any crisis in just one or two decades.

For now, the easily said, everyone should tone the official line because "in theory, it is not totally feasible that the nation could fall into social turmoil should it push forward public governance." A second piece, carried only in the English-language edition of the Global Times, compared participants in Tunisia's protests to "beggars in the streets." The fear that the incidents happened in the first place was censored by the government before it reached mainstream media.

Several lawmakers and activists reportedly have been detained in China in the past weeks.

President Hu Jintao and a top Communist Party official, Zhou Yongkang, spoke to senior leadership at a "seminar" over the weekend, telling the audience to pay attention to public concerns and make certain that they don't get out of hand.

The Xinhua state news wire paraphrased Zhou, who oversees legal institutions, as emphasizing the need to "safeguard people's fundamental interests" and at the same time "consolidate the ruling status of the Communist Party of China." There've been recent reports that several members of China's ruling Politburo held a meeting Feb. 12, a day after Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak resigned, to discuss what was happening in the Middle East and how to strengthen Chinese propaganda efforts. Among the measures reportedly on the table were stopping independent coverage from spreading, overscoring websites more closely and preparing for "the possibility that part of the Internet will shut down."

"The government here has been fairly consistent... They tighten when they believe that public opinion has to be guided," said Russell Leigh Moses, a Beijing-based analyst who closely tracks official publications and reports. "The tightening is a reminder that they are in charge; it's not a product of anxiety on their part."

Bo Zhiyue, an expert on Chinese leadership, agrees. "If you read (Hu's) speech, he recognizes that China really is faced with a lot of social issues and you have to deal with them," said Bo, a senior research fellow at the National University of Singapore. "But he's not an alarmist. He's not saying, 'If we don't do something the whole thing might collapse.'

Los Angeles (MCT) — Huawei California Highway Patrol reports there are at least two fatalities and other serious injuries after a school bus filled with teenagers collided with another vehicle on Monday. The bus went down a snow-covered embankment near Crestline, in the San Bernardino Mountains east of Los Angeles.

The CHP's website said the driver's office has been called to the scene as crews tried to rescue trapped items inside the bus.

Several of the youths have been extracted from the bus, and a makeshift triage center was set up nearby, according to KCAL-TV. Authorities said there were at least 20 students on board, with half of them immobilized in the crash.

The accident was reported shortly before noon PST along Highway 189, officials said.

Burlingame (MCT) — Fuelling game could become the latest affluent community to blow leaf blowers out of town. The City Council on Tuesday is set to discuss a proposed ban on the noisy machines and institute fines of up to $1,000 for those caught using them.

The proposal from the city's Community Environmental Council would prohibit gardeners from using both gas and electric leaf blowers on the grounds that they are too noisy and spew too many toxins into the air. Gas-powered generators and "any other pressurized-air debris-moving devices" would be restricted as well.

The plan, city officials would not roam around town looking for leaf blowers. Instead, code enforcement officers would respond when neighbors complain.

Gardeners, property managers and companies caught using the machines would get a warning the first time. After that, code enforcement officers could cite them for a misdemeanor infraction, with fines from $100 to $300 for gardeners, $250 to $750 for property managers and $500 to $1,000 for companies.

Mississippi (MCT) — Baby dolphins, some hardly three feet in length, are washing up along the Mississippi and Alabama coastlines at 30 times the normal rate of infant deaths, researchers say.

The Mississippi dolphin has learned to adapt to the Gulf of Mexico. "For some reason, they've started abortion or they were dead before they were born," Solangi said. "The average is one or two a month. This year we have 17, and February isn't even over yet.

Deaths in the adult dolphin population rose in the year of the oil spill from about 30 to 89, Solangi said. "The institute has done autopsies, but no trend has emerged yet."

Wisconsin (MCT) — Thousands of people descended on the Wisconsin state Capitol in Madison Monday to chant and sing, hoist signs and denounce Gov. Scott Walker for what they view as a direct assault on organized labor.

The union supporters gathered during an ice-glazing storm and temperatures in the mid-20s that had them glyphically jumping up and down during the musical portion of the demonstration. "What's disgusting! Union busting!" was the chant of the day.

It was the eighth straight day of protests at the Capitol as state government workers fight Walker's proposal to drastically cut the collective bargaining rights of the state's labor unions.

Police were visible outside the Capitol, where singers whispered up the crowd with songs made famous during the Vietnam War, the last time such large protests were seen in Wisconsin.

New Zealand (MCT) — A 6.3-magnitude earthquake hit the city of Christchurch on Tuesday in New Zealand's South Island, with reports of toppled buildings and injuries.

Witnesses said the ground lifted up to a meter in places, with widespread liquefaction.

A large number of buildings have been destroyed by the quake, including a historic cathedral in the central city.

Prime Minister John Key told Parliament that early reports were sketchy, but it was uncertain there had been significant damage to buildings with people inside.

New Zealand's Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences said the quake was centered near Christchurch at a depth of 5 kilometers at 12:51 p.m. local time and will have caused more damage than the recent 7.1 earthquake on Sept. 4 because of its shallower depth.

Afghanistan (MCT) — A suicide bomber struck a government administrative center in northern Afghanistan on Monday, killing about 30 people, among them civilians who were trying to obtain identification cards or other official documents, the provincial government said.

It was not immediately clear whether the bomber's main target was Kunduz province because the government office or a district police post in the same complex, said Mahboobul- lah Sayedri, the deputy governor of Kunduz.

The attack underscored the deadly danger that mundane errands can pose these days for ordinary Afghans. On Saturday, a team of insurgents guns and bombers laid waste to a bank branch in eastern Afghanistan, killing at least 60 people inside.

Direct military clashes tend to drop off during the cold winter months, but militants in recent weeks have mounted a string of attacks in Afghan population centers, where people congregate in large numbers.

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Oil prices jumped to their highest levels since 2008 as violence spread through Libya, the first major petroleum exporter to be shaken so far by the drive for democracy in the Arab world.

In London on Monday, the benchmark price of crude oil surged $5.48, or more than 5 percent, to $108 a barrel. The rise knocked European stock markets sharply lower as fears mounted that soaring energy costs could derail the global economic recovery.

U.S. oil prices also jumped, rising $5.22, or 6 percent, to $91.42 a barrel in electronic trading on a day when most of the U.S. financial markets were closed for the Presidents Day holiday. U.S. oil prices lately have been consistently below the London oil price because the United States is less reliant than Europe on Middle Eastern oil. Also, U.S. crude inventories have been near record highs.

Still, the domestic price of oil also is near a two-year high, reviving memories of the energy price surge in the first half of 2008, which saw crude prices rise to record levels. Some analysts said further violence in Libya could push prices beyond the all-time high of $147.27 a barrel set in July 2008.

Unlike Egypt, Tunisia and Bahrain, which are not major oil producers, Libya is a member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, or OPEC, and it sold about 80 percent of its 1.5-million-barrel daily output mostly to Europe. Citizen protests and the attempts by the government of Moammar Gadhafi to suppress the protests have squeezed the country's oil production.

A German oil venture is suspending its daily production of 100,000 barrels, while other major oil companies have started to evacuate family members and non-essential employees from Libya. The National oil field in a prolific part of the country has been shut down by strikes, Al-Jazeera reported. A tribal leader in eastern Libya, home to several major fields, also told Al-Jazeera that his tribe "would stop oil exports to Western countries" if the regime did not end its violent crackdown.

"We will have a new Libya, new flag, new anthem," he said Sunday in a rambling, often combative speech that was the regime's attempt at compromise. "Or else, be ready to start a civil war and chaos and forget oil and petrol."

— Seif Islam
Gadhafi regime spokesman

"The key country in the Middle East is Saudi Arabia, not Libya. If all of this can avoid Saudi Arabia, I think it runs its course and we see gasoline at $3.50 to $3.75 a gallon and oil at $95 a barrel. If we start to see demonstrations in Saudi Arabia, then we are dealing with something entirely different," Kratz said.

"The nation's two biggest sources of imported oil are Canada, at around 2 million barrels a day, and Mexico, at about 1.1 million barrels a day, according to the U.S. Energy Department. Saudi Arabia is third, at a little less than 1.1 million barrels a day, followed by Nigeria, and Venezuela. California, which depends on foreign sources for almost half of its oil, relies mainly on Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Ecuador, Brazil and Colombia, according to the state's Energy Commission."

If Libya oil production is curtailed for a significant period of time, the U.S. will feel it in higher energy prices, according to Mark Cooper, director of research at the Consumer Federation of America in Washington. That's because buyers will be seeking crude from a smaller number of suppliers.

"This is a market that has very few suppliers and it is concentrated in very unstable places," he said. "The only way for Americans to extricate themselves from this vulnerability is to dramatically reduce their dependence on oil, and drive much more fuel-efficient vehicles."

On Monday, the U.S. average price for a gallon of regular gasoline rose to $3.171, up from $3.126 a week earlier, according to the AAA Fuel Gauge Report. The AAA uses daily figures from credit card receipts from more than 100,000 retail fuel outlets in the U.S., compiled by the Oil Price Information Service and Wright Express.

European stock markets, which have rallied sharply this year on expectations that the global economy would continue to rebound, tumbled Monday as oil prices zoomed. The Italian market sank 3.6 percent, Spanish shares slid 2.3 percent and the German market lost 1.4 percent.

U.S. stocks closed at multiyear highs Friday, with the Dow Jones industrial average ending at 12,391.25. But if oil prices stay elevated, investors will be bracing for a sell-off Tuesday.

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Reggae-punk band Pepper returns to SLO Brewing Co. tonight for an exclusive, intimate acoustic show — something the trio hasn’t explored until now in their 14 years together.

For the first show in a miniature six-stop tour along the California coast, the band is returning to SLO Brew after a long break from playing at the venue. Drummer Yesod Williams said when the band first moved to California in the late ‘90s, it played at SLO Brew all the time.

“We did go up to Santa Barbara and play in Ida Vista, and then we’d go up to San Luis Obispo,” Williams said. “Believe it or not, we’ve probably played there more than anywhere else in the whole country.”

But why the San Luis Obispo revival? On the band’s last tour, Williams had the idea of adding a new exclusive, intimate acoustic show — something the trio hasn’t explored until now in their 14 years together.

The band, originally hailing from Preedeedilok’s hometown of Long Beach, but also for his voice.

The Offspring and Slightly Stoopid, 111, Snoop Dogg, The Wallers, The Offspring, and Slightly Stoopid, will be sharing the stage with opener Josh Fischel, an acoustic artist whom the band has known for years.

“I think it’s still the same Pepper, the same three guys that we all know and love, so I think they’ll still manage to get the crowd pumped and make a lasting impression,” Hernandez said.

Environmental management and protection senior Andrew Lanterman, who saw the band rock out at Cal Poly a few years ago, said he still remembers how the group “brought the party.”

“They’re definitely up there with Slightly Stoopid and Groundation,” he said. “They put on a good show.”

Lanterman said he holds Pepper close to his heart not only because he’s learned a few of its songs on bass, but also because of its melodies.

“The plan is to work on this acoustic stuff and release an acoustic album,” Williams said. “We’ve known him for a long time,” Williams said. “I think it will be more intimate — it’s pretty much going to be泵 the crowd up?” Hernandez said. “They love doing it, and they love what they’re doing.”

They’re definitely up there with Slightly Stoopid and Groundation,” he said. “They put on a good show.”

Lanterman said he holds Pepper close to his heart not only because he’s learned a few of its songs on bass, but also because of its melodies.

“You have all these California and new-age reggae bands, and I just like their style — it’s unique compared to the rest,” Lanterman said.

The band members, who’ve been rehearsing for the last week, are reworked several of their songs for an acoustic setting.

Williams said he’s thrilled to give their songs new life.

“It’s a whole new beast, and the songs have taken a new life,” Williams said. “I think it will be more intimate — it’s pretty much going to be pump the crowd up — but also just doing the whole storytelling thing. It will probably be the most personal Pepper show anyone will ever see until now.”

After releasing its most recent EP “Stitches” in October, the band may be carrying this new acoustic vibe into its next album, which has no set release date at this point in time.

“Reggae-rock is just feel-good and happy, and a lot of the kids in town can relate to it,” Preedeedilok said. “In a lot of the songs, the lyrics relate to having a good time, and that’s what kids in SLO like to do.”

Doors for the show open at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are sold out.
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<td>35-cent Wings</td>
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OYSTER NIGHT 5-10pm $0.75 oysters

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You could also consider registering an Internet domain name using your full name, or close to it, and writing wonderful things about yourself.

By joining high ranking websites and registering your own Internet domain, you begin pushing other search results you are associated with lower. If a search engine spins out Web pages you are in and have no control over removing — like a column in the Mustang Daily — your only real course of action is to push it lower in the search results.

Control: For better or worse, because Google is the search engine used approximately 80 percent of the time, by creating a “Google Profile,” Google allows you to have a little more control over the search results people get when they Google you.

Creating a Google account and profile is fast, free and easy. Upon creating your Google Profile, you should enable it to be searched for by your name — set your Google Profile to show your full name publicly.

Monitor: Finally, monitoring your name online is fairly simple, and there are several services that will e-mail, or “alert,” you when new internet content about you, or something related to you, is available. Set up alerts for several variations of your full name, or your full name and some other identifying detail, such as your college name, or your hometown. Many of these services will allow you to monitor the Web, and register your own Internet domain name using your full name, or close to it, and writing wonderful things about yourself.

From these queries, create a list of Web pages that you would like to edit, remove or at least push to the second page of search results.

Clean: Now it’s time to start sweeping and scrubbing. That old LiveJournal account from your freshman year of high school should probably go. From the list of Web pages you have created — the list that you have deemed detrimental to your "brand" — go in and delete all entries, pictures, posts, etc. Then, close the accounts all together.

Don’t want to close your Flickr account? Much like what you have probably already done with your Facebook account, adjust the privacy settings so only your close friends can view those interludes you had in Thailand last summer.

Rebuild: While Googling yourself, you probably noticed three websites always rank extremely high in your search results: Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. If you have not already done so, register with these three websites. Make sure to keep these accounts current and clean — reflecting a positive light on your past and current accomplishments. Oh, just keep your privacy settings set very high.

After you have completed the above steps, be sure to Google yourself again in a couple months. Reassess your new online identity, looking for any more changes that need to be made — wash, rinse and repeat. Maintaining a clean and positive online presence is not just reserved for corporations and businesses anymore.
‘What is Black?’ investigates origin of stereotypes

She said the discussion is an especially important one for Cal Poly because it's easy for people to stereotype when they aren’t exposed to different cultures. Kimball said this happens to her at Cal Poly when she's identified as African-American because of her skin color — even though her father is from South America.

"Technically, I'm not African-American, I'm Latin," Kimball said.

Confusion about race is not uncommon at Cal Poly, where Caucasian students make up 64.4 percent of the population. African-American students make up just 0.8 percent, according to the Fall 2010 PolyView report.

Animal science senior Allison Thiel said it is impossible to avoid stereotyping at Cal Poly.

"The campus is not diverse enough to not have stereotypes," Thiel said.

Thiel, who is Caucasian, said she wonders at times whether the term "black" is politically correct.

"Even when people say, 'It's Black History Month,' is it Black History Month," Thiel said.

The constructed racial category of black is marked particularly by their physical prowess, Isom said.

"The constructed racial category of black is marked particularly by the body," Isom said.

At Cal Poly, people often assume black students are athletes, according to the Mustang Daily's recent article on diversity. "Asking Cal Poly to tough questions about diversity," Thiel said. The fault is not entirely on the media either, Isom said. Some responsibility goes to the society that accepts the images they see in movies, television shows and music videos.

"We're drawn toward what we're familiar with," Isom said. "We operate in a set of schemas and frameworks about how the world works."

The idea behind "What is Black?" is to break the cycle of stereotypes, by giving people information to form their own opinions.

To start the discussion off, Kimball will give a PowerPoint presentation on the evolution of the word, with examples of words that give "black" a negative connotation — including "blackmailed" and "blacklisted." The presentation will also cover bias toward white people, such as when "red-blooded" describes only white skin color.

The slideshow will be followed by a word association exercise, in which Kimball will give the group a word and ask them to say the first word they think of. Then, she will mediate an open discussion about stereotypes.

The event is open to anyone, and Kimball said she wants to draw a diverse crowd so the discussion will be lively.

With a variety of people debating, Kimball said she hopes Cal Poly students will better understand stereotypes and begin to work on breaking them down.

"The whole discussion is trying to come up with solutions," Kimball said.

"What is Black?" will take place Feb. 23 from 7 to 9 p.m. in room 204 of the University Union.

Victoria Billings
VICTORIABILLINGS.MP@gmail.com

Cal Poly's MultiCultural Center (MCC) will host a conversation discussing the origin of "black" as a term to describe race to celebrate Black History Month.

"What is Black?" will discuss the history and negative connotations of the word "black" as a color and as a term for a race, said information technology senior and MCC diversity advocate Shauna Kimball.

"It's basically discussing when did the idea of the color black become so negative," Kimball said.

"It's the best thing since sliced bread."
Eric Baldwin is an electrical engineering senior and Mustang Daily libertarian columnist.

I am a long-time advocate of wealth (admittedly more in theory than in practice), and I am not alone. Everyone wants wealth, whether or not they admit it in so many words. For all our interests in the subject, we seem to have missed some fundamental facts, resulting in waste and misery that doesn’t need to exist.

We tend to think of wealth in terms of such things as stocks, real estate, gold, data and companies — and these are all valid forms — but wealth, at its most abstract, is the capacity to satisfy human needs and desires. Wealth is the ability to command solutions.

Wealth doesn’t exist apart from the demand for it; it is the demand that causes it to be wealth. An ancient shipload of gold at the bottom of the sea isn’t wealth if no one wants it, or if it is unable to be recovered. A truckload of iPad’s is not wealth until it is put to use, whether that use be by force. All people seek to maximize their own satisfaction (deriv­ ing pleasure from helping others certainly qualifies), so those who have the power to decide how wealth is disposed of will expend it on themselves.

What property rights are an exclusive right to utilize some aspect of wealth. We’re each better off than the others, and policies that prohibit voluntary trades take place when people to force changes in others’ behavior. When laws become so vast and complex that legal rulings can be "purchased" through shrewd ef­ fort, people lose confidence in their ownership of current wealth and its defense.

The idea of ownership and property rights is the foundation of wealth. If wealth is a solution to a problem, the question of whose property gets resolved must be determined, either by consensus or by force. Everyone wants wealth, whether or not they have the power to decide how wealth is disposed of will expend it on themselves.

Property rights indicate an exclusive right to utilize some aspect of wealth according to the owner’s wishes, however the preferences of others might be. Only when ownership is agreed upon can people make use of wealth — for themselves or for trade — without accusations of theft.

The complex forms of wealth we enjoy today rely on long-term planning. Creating such wealth requires ownership of the capital used to produce it; without the stability of property rights wealth creators cannot plan. A peaceful and consensual world relies on a broad and stable agreement, supported by law, about who owns what wealth.

Laws mandate and forbid human behavior. When laws prevent and punish violations of property rights (from deception to theft to murder), they protect the production and util­ ization of wealth. But because all communal trades take place when both parties anticipate a profit, laws and policies that prohibit voluntary behavior tend to preclude the pro­duction of wealth.

Perhaps particular forms of wealth are evil and ought to be prohibited (like methamphetamine), but to so raise the question, "What property rights does the group have over the individual?" There is a vast difference between saying something ought not to exist and claiming to have the authority to prevent it.

The proliferation of laws and lawyers has a damaging effect on property rights. Every new law pres­ents a new opportunity for clever people to force changes in others’ behavior. When laws become so vast and complex that legal rulings can be "purchased" through shrewd ef­ fort, people lose confidence in their ownership of current wealth and its capacity to make definite plans for the future. Certainty is a very important ingredient in wealth, as the futures’ markets attest.

In the end, wealth and its defense are equal elements of human dignity — because the needs satisfied by wealth are proper and admirable, and since the act of creation is cen­ tral to our nature as humans.

Wealth doesn’t exist apart from the demand for it; it is the demand that causes it to be wealth.

— Eric Baldwin

Libertarian columnist
Knock tobacco out of the park

The following editorial appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer on Friday, Feb. 16.

It's good to see the boys of summer back on the baseball field. It will be even better if more players take the field without a pinch of chewing tobacco or smokeless tobacco use. It's difficult to grasp how the habit has survived for this long in the big leagues.

Sure, that puff-of-jaw jazz of Lenny "Nuts" Dykstra will live in the memory of every Philadelphia Phillies fan who ever watched him tear up the base paths. And ballpark chewing tobacco habit goes back more than a century, nor leagues in 1993, as it is in college campuses. We should eliminate Cal Poly's agriculture program. We should also ban playing loud music in your dorm when you're one of the last to register and get stuck with a class that ends at 10 p.m., forcing you to do your homework at 2 a.m. The three men who were the industry leaders -- and many other Americans -- who think that the United States should focus on deporting more illegal immigrants are being held in private prisons run by private detention companies, which have become a powerful lobbying group for large-scale detention of undocumented immigrants.

Critics of the current immigration system say that, instead of wasting money on dubious enforcement programs, we should go to the source of the problem: a system that doesn't grant legal visas to match the labor market's demand, forcing businesses to hire undocumented immigrants.

"We should have an immigration system that is flexible, so that we can expand the number of legal immigration visas for workers," NIF spokeswoman Katherine Varga says.

Interestingly, growing numbers of undocumented immigrants are being held in prisons run by private detention companies, which have become a powerful lobbying group for large-scale detention of undocumented immigrants. Much like OxyContin is a U.S. "military-industrial complex," there is an "immigration enforcement complex" that is influencing Washington's immigration policy decisions.

In an Oct. 28 report, National Public Radio journalist Laura Sullivan concluded after several months of researching immigration campaigns that the "private prison industry" helped drive Arizona's anti-immigration laws. The NPR report cited the Corrections Corporation of America, the largest private prison company in the country, as a key player in a national campaign for deceptive immigration detention bills. CCA denied any wrongdoing.

Should we spend increasing money on dubious immigration enforcement programs? I asked Ira Mehlman, the director of the Federation of American Immigration Reform, a group that wants to reduce immigration levels.

"We should spend more on enforcement, especially on immigration enforcement," Mehlman said. "In 2007, New York City collected $554 million in fines for parking violations, while the federal government last year collected only $7 million from employers who were caught hiring illegal aliens. That tells us that it is really making a serious effort to deter employment of illegal immigrants."

Second, Congress needs to make it easier to deport public and private housing authorities who have been caught hiring illegal aliens. That tells us that it is really making a serious effort to deter employment of illegal immigrants.

At the very least, they should have a serious discussion on whether it makes sense to spend $4.5 billion a year in deporting people who have not committed serious crimes and do not pose any real threat to the country's ability to do, while slashing funds for the FBI and other law enforcement agencies whose job is to put serious criminals behind bars.
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**TODAY’S CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**ACROSS**

1. "Yes, Jack!" neat cry (5, 6)
5. Turnip numbers ten (2, 6)
11. Rainbow goddess
15. Piece of lumber
16. Stage award
17. Coward
18. Designer Nina
19. Manner
20. Vim and vigor
22. Invisible
24. Pine secretion
25. Forceful removal
26. Colour showdown
28. It’s a motor (bead)
31. Seafar
33. Over minimum (2 wds.)
35. Crack pot
36. Spacious
41. Minute alert
42. Inequitable solution
43. Corny
46. Adventurer, often
47. Van Gogh’s stand
48. Shat
50. Tad securely
52. Black-and-white whales
56. Lumber eer (2 wds.)
62. Lemon peel
66. Keep occupied
67. Statuesque model
68. An ex of Cugie
69. Makes after taxes
70. Pretoria cash
---

**PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED**

2. L.O.V.E. (10)
3. 3. N.Y. (10)
4. Old guy (9)
5. 5. A.D. (10)
6. 6. V.Y. (10)
7. 7. A.U. (10)
8. 8. R.B. (10)
9. 9. The bouncing and pouncing finally got to Piglet.
Softball drops to 2-8

RYAN SIDARTO

MUStaNG DAILY FILE PHOTO

The tough competition took its toll on Cal Poly. Through its first two weeks of play, the Mustangs have a 2-8 record. Last Friday, Cal Poly lost 8-6 to No. 23 BYU and 11-2 to No. 3 Tennessee. The team then lost 7-5 to Boise State and grabbed their only win of the weekend, 5-2, against Utah State on Saturday. In Cal Poly’s final day of play, the team dropped a 7-1 decision to Portland State.

To date, unranked Cal Poly has played five different top-25 teams, including No. 2 Arizona and No. 13 Arizona State. Their schedule doesn’t get easier; their next contest is against No. 13 Texas in Cal Poly’s first game in the Cathedral City Classic this weekend.

Basketball

continued from page 16

Poly went on a 14-4 run over five and a half minutes, with the help of seven points from Lewis. Love, who sat for 16 minutes of the first half after picking up two quick fouls, returned the game in the second half and, according to Lewis, helped team catch a spark.

“Malik is a phenomenal fresh- man,” Lewis said. “He just makes us click … That’s what a point guard is supposed to do and that’s definitely what he does.”

Lewis had more high praise for Love, and said he sees the point guard emerging as a team leader in the coming years.

“I think words can’t describe the value (Lewis) brings to this team,” Hanson said. “He’s been huge for us all year and it’s unfortunate we weren’t able to win here on senior night, but we’ll respond.”

The Mustangs will take the court again Thursday, when they travel to face Big West-leader Long Beach State. Although the team does not return home this season, they will make the brief trip south March 5 as the Mustangs look to avenge their tough loss to UC Santa Barbara on the road.

Women’s basketball drops second straight

This is all too familiar territory for the Cal Poly women’s basketball team.

After it looked like Cal Poly would secure the No. 1 seed in the Big West Tournament last season, the Mustangs dropped two of their last three games to fall behind UC Davis in the conference standings. As the No. 2 seed in the tournament, Cal Poly lost to UC Riverside in the conference tournament semifinal.

This season, the Mustangs look to be heading on the same path. After reeling off eight straight wins, the Mustangs dropped two games this weekend. One to conference bottom dweller Cal State Northridge (4-22, 4-9 Big West), and the other to UC Riverside (14-11, 7-5). The Mustangs entered this weekend as victors in 10 of their last 12 games. They leave it with just a one-game lead over No. 2 UC Santa Barbara.

Four different double-digit scores helped conference-worst Cal State Northridge upset No. 1 Cal Poly on Thursday. Janet Alvarado scored 16 points, Amanda Thomson scored 14, Violet Alama scored 14 and Jasmine Erving scored 10 for Cal State Northridge.

Against UC Riverside, guard Rachel Clancy’s 29 points couldn’t help the Mustangs knock off the Highlanders. The senior connected on 63 percent of her shots — and five of six from behind the arc — but the Mustangs still fell short.

It was partly due to the Highlanders’ hot shooting against the Mustangs. They shot 51 percent from the field in the first half and upped that number to 53 percent in the second half.

The Mustangs will return to action against Cal State Fullerton Thursday at 7 p.m. in Mott Gym.

THIS WEEK IN CAL POLY ATHLETICS

THURSDAY

7:00 P.M.

CAL POLY VS. Fullerton

Women’s Basketball

SUNDAY

1:00 P.M.

CAL POLY VS. Santa Clara

Men’s Tennis

Mascot Game

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Men's basketball falls to Northern Arizona in final seconds

RYA N SIDARTO
MUSTANG DAILY

Guard Shawn Lewis, Cal Poly's only senior this season, put up 25 points in his final game in Mott Gym Saturday night.

The big left palm of guard Shawn Lewis followed through as the ball traveled toward the hoop with eight seconds left in the game. The 3-pointer swished through the net, completing a Cal Poly rally to tie the Northern Arizona Lumberjacks at 56-56. The lone senior, on a night dedicated to his career, looked like he might be the hero once again.

And then, it was déjà vu.

A quick series of passes found Northern Arizona guard Cameron Jones wide open from behind the 3-point line. And like the similar situation the Mustangs faced against UC Santa Barbara weeks ago, he swished home a shot as time expired to give the Lumberjacks a 59-56 victory.

The Mustangs fell to 14-12 on the season, snapping their six-game win streak. Lewis led all scorers with 25 points, while grabbing nine rebounds.

But for Lewis this game was much more than just statistics—it was his farewell to Mott Gym.

"I love the students, the student participation at the games," Lewis said. "I love this gym, I love this team, I love Coach Callero and I love all my teammates. Like I said, this is not the end of us, at all."

Head coach Joe Callero took the microphone from the PA announcer and asked the fans to thank Lewis again, then thanked the fans for cheering loudly and said he cannot wait to see them next season.

"We need to appreciate what Shawn's done for the program and we need to let the fans know that they're appreciated," Callero said.

The story line coming into the matchup was the Mustangs' nation-best 3-point defense and the Lumberjacks nation-best 3-point shooting offense. However, neither team made a shot from behind the arc until Northern Arizona's Eric Platt hit one with 3:12 to go in the first half.

Northern Arizona would end the game shooting only 30 percent from 3-point range, 14 points below its season average.

The Mustangs roared out of the break to start the second half. Cal Poly knew who to hand the ball to with their late possession. Lewis found a spot just to the right of the top of the arc and let one fly with 25 seconds to go, but the ball bounced away only to be corralled by center Will Donahue, who quickly dished it back to Lewis.

This time he did not miss. However, the Mustangs were still down one point with 18 seconds to go. So, guard Malik Love fouled Gabe Rogers, who converted both of his attempts, leading to the late-game theatrics.

"We have more games to go and this is not the end of our season," Lewis said. "This game doesn't make us or break us, this game just prepares us for Anaheim. I'm ready for Anaheim and I'm ready for the next game."

The Mustangs trailed by four points with 1:50 remaining in the game and forward David Hanson threw up two 3-pointers on back-to-back possessions. Both hit iron and bounced into Lumberjack hands. Hanson went on to foul Austin Smith, but he missed the front end of a one-and-one.

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