Senior project addresses college suicide, depression

Alicia Freeman
Agricultural Journalism, '12

The Love Out Loud Campaign, a senior project by several Cal Poly students, aims to spread awareness for depression and suicide, with a focus on providing help and support to those with mental illness.

Early this semester, English seniors Maxine Dryden, Sophie Tuesta, Jordan Anderson, and Graphic Communications senior Aina DeLorenzo independently came up with the idea to start a campaign to fight mental health stigma on campus.

They wanted to use their platforms and reach out to students to make them feel heard and supported in their struggles with mental health. They decided to start the campaign with a speaker to shed light on the issue.

This speaker is Kacie Martin, a Cal Poly student who survived a suicide attempt and has experienced mental health struggles.

The Love Out Loud Campaign aims to provide a platform for students to voice their experiences and feelings regarding mental health. It is important for others to know they are not alone.

The campaign seeks to fight against the stigma associated with mental illness and provide support and resources for those in need.

The Love Out Loud Campaign encourages students to speak up about their struggles and seek help when needed. It also aims to create a supportive community where students feel comfortable discussing their mental health.

The campaign encourages students to reach out to friends, family, or mental health professionals for help.

The Love Out Loud Campaign is a positive step towards reducing stigma in the mental health community.

You feel alone, you feel confused, you're exhausted. It takes a lot of courage to walk through our door for the first time.

Aubrea Felch
Graphic Communications, '12

I wake up every day and I say... 'This is incredible. I don't know if I'll ever be depressed again, but I know now I can get past it.'

‘I don’t know if I’ll ever be depressed again, but I know now I can get past it.’

— Aubrea Felch

graphic communications major

The Love Out Loud Campaign is a positive step towards reducing stigma in the mental health community. It encourages students to reach out for help and support when needed.

1 in 4 people live with mental illness
90% of those who die of suicide have mental illness
60% have depression disorders
33,000 people die from suicide each year
Approximately 1,088 suicides occur at colleges every year
1 in 12 college students have made a ‘suicide plan’ at some point

*American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

The Love Out Loud Campaign is a positive step towards reducing stigma in the mental health community. It encourages students to reach out for help and support when needed.

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Suicide

continued from page 1

abuse prevention, is also a sponsor of the event.

Kristi Vail, a psychology junior and Friday Night Live chapter president, said she wanted Love Out Loud to provide awareness about self-medica-

ting with drugs. Vail also said she wanted to continue the Love Out Loud program for her own senior project in order to further provide awareness.

"I'm going to take it as my senior project and make it a nonprofit," Vail said. "There's just a lot of background in my family of self-medication, and that's why I got involved with Friday Night Live.

In addition to depression and self-medication, Love Out Loud also focuses on suicide prevention. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 33,000 people die from suicide a year, making it the second leading cause of death among college students.

Rouse said indicators of suicidal thoughts are the giving away of possessions, writing thank you notes for no apparent reason, not sleeping for a long time and withdrawing from school, family and friends. Rouse also said those who attempt suicide do not want to die; rather, they feel like they have to.

"In that moment, it's very difficult to say, 'I'm dying.' It's like a darkness completely invades his body, and he can't see any type of light whatsoever." However, it's not only the person who attempts to commit suicide who is affected. Smoother, with her personal experience of loss, said she felt confused and blame after the loss of her friend.

"You look back and go, 'What could I have done differently? Why didn't I save her?'" Smoother said. "And obviously, suicide isn't one person's fault, but when you're just coming out of that, you just want to find an answer because it's so hard to understand." Rouse said people who are de-

pressed and possibly considering sui-

cide should seek help because recovery is possible, although it was not consid-

ered to be before.

"People who have a mental health issues can go on and live the lives they imagined for themselves," Rouse said. "But here's the thing too — it's very indi-

vidual-based. Recovery for one person is just getting out of bed in the morn-

ing. Recovery for another is graduat-

ing from college or having a family or having the career they imagined for themselves."

LGBTQIA, gay, bisexual, transgres-

der, queer, intersexual or asexual (LGT-

BQIA) students often have this feel-

ing of loneliness and pressure, which is shown with the influx of suicides in the community. Rouse said those in the LGTBQIA community are four times more likely to commit suicide than heterosexuals. If the individual comes from an unsupported family or community, he or she is nine times more likely to commit suicide.

Kris Gottlieb, an America's VIP for the Pride Center, said she thought it was alarming that people were not outraged by the amount of suicides in the LGTBQIA community, though the national epidemic gained media attention with Tyler Clement's suicide in 2010.

"This epidemic is nothing new," Gottlieb said. "The only thing that's new is the media sensationalism. For some reason, our culture was ready to hear about what really was happening in the LGTBQIA community as far as depression and hopelessness.

Though Gottlieb said the media was paying more attention to LGTBQIA suicides, she felt the media attention has since stopped while the epidemic has not.

"For the high level of suicides might be the rate of home-

less LGBTQIA youth — one in four youths who come out to their families are kicked out of their homes," Gottlieb said.

"Not only are these children fac-

ing incredible amounts of rejection (and) feelings of hopelessness, but they are also facing hunger, economic failure, and" Gottlieb said. "When we're childhoods, we're supposed to feel free to learn, and we're supposed to be encouraged to grow and be healthy individuals. But a lot of times, when these youths are rejected by their fami-

lies, even if it's temporary, all of those things that should go on as children are just ripped away. You no longer have that innocence of child-

hood anymore."

Gottlieb said youths who are reject-

ted start to get situational depression, which can resemble clinical depres-

sion after a long period of time. For those LGTBQIA youths looking for help, Cal Poly and San Luis Obispo offer suicide prevention. The Pride Center offers resources, as well as the PRISM Peer Counseling Program. Addition-

ally, there is the SARP Center, which provides anonymous help to any indi-

vidual who may have been a victim of sexual violence.

"Some individuals and individ-

uals are not the only victims."

Cal Poly was once rocked with a suicide after many students' world. Senior Frances Chang comm-

itted suicide in fall 2008, shocking the campus and her sorority, Gamma Phi Beta. Those who knew her said she was a beautiful, warm girl who did not appear to be depressed.

Kathleen Lee, a graphic commu-

nication alumna and a former mem-

ber of Gamma Phi Beta, said Chang was an idol for her and other pledges that year.

"Everyone was drawn to her and everyone had a girl crush on her, but everyone thought she was way too cool to be their friend," Lee said. "She gave so much of herself that clearly she didn't care of herself. She was kind of like a lightning bolt of energy."

Kristina Benvenuto, a graphic commu-

nication junior and the presi-

dent of Gamma Phi Beta, said though many of the sorority members who knew Chang personally have graduat-

ed, she is still spread their her memory. Annually, the sorority holds a benefit walk, the Forward for Fran-

ces Memorial Walk, which benefit the many charities Chang supported. The sorority donated $250 to the Love Out Loud Campaign after Benvenuto heard about it.

"This is something I truly (want-

ed) Gamma Phi Beta to be involved with," Benvenuto said. "And our girls were automatically like, 'Yes, let's do it.'

Let's help.'"

Lee said she hopes with events like Love Out Loud and Forward for Frances, unacquainted with suicide will rise above the stigma it sometimes creates.

"I think people should try to edu-

cate themselves on both depression and suicide before passing judge-

ment on someone," Lee said. "There's a lot more to people who's not depressed just can't ever understand. People should get to know the back-

story, and also understand that it's not something that will ever make sense."

Feltch, the digital media and Web organizer of Love Out Loud, said she was Chang's lab partner freshman year, and felt that if Chang had more support and had been able to express her feelings, things might have turned out differently.

"People that seem to have it all together, they can be the worst of it," Feltch said. "If she felt comfortable talking to people or people felt com-

fortable talking to her, it could have been different. Well, I would hope."

Feltch herself knows what it's like to hide pain and depression with a happy, bubbly facade. Feltch said after her father died the summer before her senior year of high school, she experi-

enced an extended bout of depression.

"As myself I would say, I didn't see potential in myself. I didn't see hope in the future," Feltch said. "I couldn't see the good in other people, which I knew was such a big one because I'm such a people-person. It was basically a canvass of depression." Feltch said she had a hard time deal-

ing with her depression, often not eat-

ing and feeling unmotivated to do the things she once enjoyed. She kept up a happy image in order to hide her true feelings. Yet, her facade did not help with her depression.

"For the love of humanity, I was closest to, I kind of remembered I was going through a hard time, but I am also an actress," Feltch said. "I kept up sort of my ex-

terior and also sometimes that helped me to get back into feeling better. I felt like I was lying to myself sometimes.

Yet, Feltch said after seeking help from a grief counselor and taking medication, she realized the extent and normalcy of her depression. She said over time, she was able to accept her grief and take care of herself again.

"Now I wake up every day and I say, 'You know what? This is in-

credible,'" Feltch said. "'Now it's just like I can wake up and be OK and happy. I don't know if I'll ever be de-

pressed again, but I know now I can get past it.'"

The message of Love our Loud is the importance of communication and compassion. Egan said she hoped the Love Out Loud message would continue to spread.

"I would love to do Love Out Loud for the rest of my life — that's my dream," Egan said. "But it will spend a few years at Cal Poly getting developed as senior projects. By the time it expands, there will be a comprehensive library of Love Out Louds.

Feltch said she hoped, ultimately, the concert would draw depressed students, and maybe those consider-

ing suicide, that life is still beautiful and worthwhile.

"There are seasons, and they do pass, and there is hope," Feltch said. "So to also know you're not alone. That helps to know that you're not crazy." Tickets for Love Out Loud are still on sale and today there will be a booth where those interested can pick up a small fabric heart to pin on their sleeve. The fair starts Saturday at 4:30 p.m. in Chumash Auditorium.
Republican budget cuts could bring down U.S. GDP and economic growth

Lisa Mascaro  
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

The spending cuts approved by House Republicans would act as a drag on the U.S. economy, according to a Wall Street analysis that added new pressure to a raging political debate in Washington.

The report by the investment company Goldman Sachs said the cuts would reduce the growth in the country’s gross domestic product by up to 2 percentage points this year, essentially cutting in half the nation’s projected economic growth for 2011.

The report, which was prepared for the company’s clients, represents the first independent economic assessment of a congressional budget fight that could lead to a government shutdown as early as next week.

Nonetheless, Republicans are unlikely to retreat from their insistence on more than $60 billion in reductions in federal spending as a condition of continuing funding for the government through the rest of 2011.

A spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio said the Goldman report represented “the same outdated Washington mindset,” comparing it to the thinking behind the 2009 Recovery Act that released federal funds to counter the effects of the recession.

But Democrats quickly seized on the report as a validation of their arguments against the Republican stance.

“Just as the economy is beginning to pick up a little steam, the Republican budget would snuff out any chance of recovery,” said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.

Congressional Democrats and Republicans are near deadlock on the spending issue, with their positions hardening this week.

Democrats have rejected the $61 billion in reductions that affect every state and virtually every domestic aspect of federal government operations as too severe. Instead, they have proposed a temporary spending freeze as they negotiate deeper cuts.

Congress must pass a spending bill by March 4, when a stop-gap funding measure expires, to avoid a shutdown.

But the House Republican leaders are under pressure from their energized conservative base not to give in.

An aide familiar with talks under way between congressional leaders said House Republicans have indicated they cannot compromise on the level of the cuts, heightening the possibility of a shutdown in a matter of weeks.

The aide described the talks on condition of anonymity because of their sensitivity.

“They’re saying that they can’t go back to the caucus with anything less,” said the aide. “If they went through a shut down.... then the caucus would at least feel like they tried.”

Boehner’s spokesman rejected that characterization, saying Senate Majority Harry Reid, D-Nev., has only proposed a spending freeze.

“It’s up to Sen. Reid to tell Americans what — if anything — he’s willing to cut,” said the spokesman, Michael Steel. “At this point, the House has done its work by passing a (continuing resolution), and the Senate has done nothing.”

The Goldman Sachs analysis said the spending cuts would reduce the country’s economic growth by between 1.5 percentage points and 2 percentage points for the year.

A smaller budget reduction of $25 billion reduction, if approved as a compromise, would have a lower effect, reducing GDP by only 1 percentage point. The effects would fade over time, the report said.

“Fiscal drag is quickly emerging as a focus,” the Goldman report said. The report said the spending cuts are "the most important near-term risk." The report concluded that while a government shutdown would result in an additional hit, that outcome is regarded as less likely.

While politicians reacted quickly to the findings, the view among economists was mixed.

“It would be a meaningful hit to GDP this spring and summer,” said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody’s.com, who has advised Republicans and Democrats.

Zandi said he would prefer spending cuts next year, as the economy shows further signs of improvement. "I just wouldn’t do anything that would forestall that kind of job creation that we need,” he said.

But Douglas Holtz-Eakin, a former director of the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, who has advised Republicans, said the projections were overestimated.

“It’s way too high,” he said. He estimated the drag on growth from the House-approved cuts at no more than 0.2 percentage points.

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The Supreme Court reversed course Wednesday and ruled that the nation's automakers can be sued for failing to install the most effective safety equipment in their vehicles.

The unanimous decision clears the way for a California man to sue Mazda Motor's because his family's 1993 minivan did not have a lap and shoulder belt in a middle rear seat. His wife, Thanh Williamson, was sitting in that rear seat wearing just a lap belt when their car was struck head-on on a Utah highway. She died in the accident.

Dilbert Williamson sued Mazda and alleged that its failure to install the more-effective safety device resulted in her wife's death. But judges in California had thrown out his lawsuit, citing a Supreme Court ruling in 2000 that shielded automakers from lawsuits for their failure to immediately install airbags in all their vehicles.

In a surprise outcome, the high court reversed the California courts and cleared the way for Williamson's lawsuit to proceed. In its opinion also backed away from its earlier view that the federal motor-vehicle safety law blocks most safety-related lawsuits against automakers.

Justice Stephen G. Breyer described the federal safety regulations as setting forth only "minimum standards," not the "maximum standards" required by law.

Breyer explained that airbags had posed a different issue from the time, federal safety regulators did not want mandatory installation of airbags because of early doubts about their effectiveness. By contrast, he said, federal regulators had no objection to automakers installing lap and shoulder belts for all seats. It is not clear whether the decision in Williamson v. Mazda will open a door to many more successful suits against automakers. Much depends on the specifics of the federal motor-vehicle safety regulations.

But the outcome is a surprise nonetheless. In recent years, the Roberts court has regularly sided with corporations and blocked many lawsuits.

State

SACRAMENTO (MCT) — Lawyers challenging Proposition 8 urged a federal appeals court Wednesday to lift an order preventing gay from marrying and called on the California Supreme Court to speed up its review of a key issue in the case. The legal team trying to overturn the 2008 ballot measure asked the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals to lift its hold on a federal district court judge's order declaring the ban on gay nuptials unconstitutional.

The request is considered to be a long shot.

The attempt to place pressure on the judges comes as the state's high court considers whether initiatory sponsors are entitled to defend a ballot measure when state officials refuse to do so. California officials declined to appeal the ruling last August by U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn R. Walker overturning the measure.

LOS ANGELES (MCT) — An alleged FBI operation that conducted illegal surveillance of local mosques caused outrage in the Muslim community and prompted a class-action lawsuit against the agency, lawyers said Wednesday.

The lawsuit filed on Tuesday on behalf of three plaintiffs accuses the FBI and seven employees of infringing on their First and Fourth Amendment rights to hold meetings in mosques. It is not clear whether the decision in Williamson v. Mazda will open a door to many more successful suits against automakers.

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Floridians are setting forth only "minimum standards," not the "maximum standards" required by law.

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FLORIDA (MCT) — Mission managers today gave space shuttle Discovery an all-clear for Thursday's planned launch on STS-133.

The 39th flight of the orbiter is set to lift off from Kennedy Space Center at 4:50 p.m. EST. This is the final flight of Discovery, the oldest of the three remaining ships in the U.S. space shuttle fleet.

There's an 80 percent chance of good weather and no significant technical hurdles in the way. The countdown clock is in the middle of a 13-plus-hour hold at T-11 hours that will begin again just after midnight Thursday. The mission was originally slated to launch back in November, but cracks in the external fuel tank forced repairs and the four-month delay.

"Discovery looks like she'll fly this time," said Shuttle Launch Director Mike Leinbach.

Discovery will take six astronauts, thousands of pounds of supplies and Robonaut 2, a humanoid robot, up to the International Space Station.

National

WISCONSIN (MCT) — Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker has been punk'd, his office confirmed Wednesday. Walker, the Republican governor who wants to end collective bargaining for his state's public employees, was at the wrong end of a prank telephone call with a person he was led to believe was David Koch, a conservative businessman who is one of Walker's major campaign contributors.

But in reality it was Ian Murphy, a blogger from Buffalo, N.Y. in the call, Murphy as Koch makes inflammatory statements on unions and Democrats. Murphy, who runs an online publication called the Buffalo Beatle, said he was inspired to prank the governor Tuesday after hearing he was hard to contact.

Legal experts predicted that the U.S. Justice Department would move to bring the pirates to the U.S. for trial in an American courtroom.

International

SOMALIA (MCT) — As FBI agents began investigating Wednesday the deaths of four Americans whose yacht was hijacked by Somali pirates in the Arabian Sea, U.S. officials were mulling whether to bring captured suspects to America to face justice.

Fifteen Somalis — as well as the bodies of the four Americans and four Somalis — remained aboard the USS Enterprise off the coast of Oman, where the high-seas hijacking ended tragically Tuesday with the shooting deaths of two couples, Jean and Scott Adam of Marina del Rey, Calif., and Phyllis Macay and Robert Riggle of Seattle. The U.S. military says Navy SEALs boarded the yacht after the pirates fired a rocket-propelled grenade at an American warship following it; and that they found the four hostages already shot.

Legal experts predicted that the U.S. Justice Department would move to bring the pirates to the U.S. for trial in an American courtroom.

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Obama administration takes new position on issue of gay rights

David G. Savage
James Oliphant
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

In a historic shift on gay rights, the Obama administration announced that it believes the Constitution forbids unequal treatment of gays and lesbians in almost all cases, specifically when it comes to federal benefits for legally married same-sex couples.

Attorney General Eric Holder said in a letter to Congress on Wednesday that the Justice Department would no longer oppose legal challenges to the Defense of Marriage Act. The act, which was passed by Congress in 1996, bars the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages or extending them the same benefits as heterosexual couples.

Holder said President Obama had decided that discrimination against gays can no longer be accepted as rea-sonable. Laws that allow such discrimina-tion “warrant heightened scrutiny” by officials and judges, he said, similar to the scrutiny that courts give to laws “targeting minority groups with a his-tory of discrimination.”

This new stance by the adminis-tration was hailed as a “monumental break-through that will be.”

The immediate practical effect of the announcement may be limited. Holder said the administration would continue to enforce the law until a fi-nal ruling is made, most likely by the Supreme Court. Longer term, even if the administra-tion’s view prevails it would not force states across the na-tion to grant equal marriage rights to gays and lesbians. Currently, there are five states that grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

But Obama’s position, if accepted by the courts, would prevent federal agencies, including the Internal Rev- enue Service, from discriminating against gays and lesbians who were legally married. Its legal rationale could be used as a test case for other equal rights measures, so long as they could be justi-fied as constitutional.

In the past, the Su-preme Court struck down measures that discrimi-nated based on a person’s race or gender. In his letter to House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, Holder said the Justice Department will not defend the Defense of Marriage Act to prevent the IRS after the death of her spouse, Thea Spyer. The two had lived together for 44 years in New York City and were married in Canada in 2007, and yet the IRS treated them “as though they were strangers,” according to her legal complaint.

Until now, the Obama administra-tion had taken the view that it had a duty to defend all laws, in-cluding discrimina-tory measures, as long as they could be justi-fied as constitutional.

In the past, the Su-preme Court struck down several anti-gay laws, including one in Texas that made private sex between gays a crime. The just-ices have not ruled on whether laws that treat persons differently because of sexual orientation are constitu-tional, as are measures that discrimi-nate based on a person’s race or gender.

In his letter to House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, Holder said the Justice Department will not defend against Windsor’s suit in New York or a similar suit in Connecticut. He said Congress may wish to appoint its own lawyers to defend the law.

One spokesman for Boehner criticized the White House for an unnecessary foray into a hot-button social issue. “While Americans want Wash-ington to focus more on creating jobs and cutting spending, the presi-dent will have to explain why he thinks now is the appropriate time to stir up a controversial issue that di-vides the nation,” said Boehner aide Michael Steele.

In a statement from New York, Windsor said, “There are not words to express my feelings today given that President Obama and the Department of Justice have done the right thing by recognizing this fundamental principle that all people and all marriages are en-titled to be treated equally under the United States Constitution.”

The decision is Obama’s boldest so far in favor of gay rights. Last Decem-ber, Obama suggested his position on gay marriage is not set in stone but he might one day conclude gays and lesbians should have the right to marry. “I struggle with this,” the presi-dent said at a news conference. “I have friends, I have people who work for me, who are in powerful, strong, long-lasting gay or lesbian unions.”

— President Barack Obama
Victoria Zabel
VICTORIAZABEL65@GMAIL.COM

Few events can bring freshmen choir singers, senior Arab music aficionados, professionally trained musicians, ethnic dancers and music appreciators together for a single show. Cal Poly, however, will host a concert that will do just that.

"A World of Music," a diverse arrangement of musical selections and performances from many world cultures, will come to Harman Hall in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center (PAC) on Feb. 26. The performance will showcase a collaboration between different musical groups on campus: the Arab Music Ensemble and the Cal Poly choirs, PolyPhonics and The University Singers.

This is the second time the Arab Music Ensemble will collaborate with the Cal Poly choirs, said Ken Habib, assistant professor of ethnomusicology and music history at Cal Poly.

"The first time the Arab Music Ensemble collaborated with the Cal Poly choirs we received tremendous support — the first performance was overwhelmingly successful," Habib said.

Though Habib said he hopes this year's collaboration will be equally (if not more) successful, he doesn't believe it is possible or desirable to mimic the first.

"Each performance is different, just like any class or quarter is different," Habib said. "Students bring different talents and skills, the audience changes and the professionals we bring in alter the show. The only steadfast goal is to improve."

"The quest of this year's performance is to expose those in attendance to a vast array of musical styles. The concert will feature each group performing first on its own, then collaborating for the entire second half."

Additionally, San Luis Obispo community dancers as well as internationally acclaimed dancer L'Emir Hassan Harfouche will perform, Habib said.

Saundra Sarrouf is one of the local dancers participating in the show. Sarrouf is the co-director of dancers for the Cal Poly Arab Music Ensemble.

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LIFE
(IT STARTS IN BED.)

LOVE
(CAN TELL A MILLION STORIES.)

SEX
(WHERE WOULD WE BE WITHOUT IT?)

Featuring loveable and neurotic characters, Falsettos is a lively musical comedy about a family in flux. With his bar mitzvah looming, eleven year-old Jason watches his father struggle to maintain a “tight-knit family” after he leaves his wife and child for another man. Jason’s mother marries his father’s psychiatrist and two lesbian neighbors provide friendship and support when it’s needed most. Their story is set at the dawn of the 1980s, just as AIDS begins its insidious spread. Falsettos offers an opportunity for us all to reflect on the nature of family, growing up, and above all, love.
Musical-comedy 'Falsettos' portrays controversial issues

The all-musical performance "Falsettos," which began in 1992, was the first play to address the AIDS epidemic. "Falsettos" opens at the Alex and Fay Spanos Theatre tonight, and will perform until March 5.

Karlee Prazak

"Falsettos," a story about love, life and sex will take the stage in the Alex and Fay Spanos Theatre for its opening show tonight. The Tony Award-winning musical comedy is put on by the theatre and dance department and by director and assistant professor of theatre arts Ginny Anderson.

The show will take the audience back to the late '70s to early '80s — when the AIDS epidemic was first recognized in headlines and medical journals nationwide. And yet, the musical — which is entirely in song — calls attention to more than just this epidemic.

"It's a show about love, and it's a show about family," Anderson said. "And, it was the first musical to deal with the AIDS crisis in any way, shape or form."

"Falsettos" premiered in 1992, two years before another popular AIDS-based musical took to Broadway — "Rent."

Yet, it was "Falsettos" that caught Anderson's eye as a 16-year-old in Buffalo, NY. She said she remembers reading about the musical in her local paper. The focus on homosexuality and AIDS turned what she knew as musical theater on its head and intrigued her.

"The show opened my eyes so much," Anderson said. "It changed the person I was, and the person that I certainly like to think I became and continue to strive to be."

Anderson decided to bring the musical to Cal Poly because the people here are passionate and willing to open their eyes to new perspectives and reevaluate their own views, she said.

Theatre arts junior Jack Adams, who plays the role of the father Marvin, said the musical has the potential to inspire those in attendance to become more open-minded.

"I want people to come to the show and keep an open mind with what they are seeing because there are some delicate themes we're dealing with, with AIDS and homosexuality," Adams said. "But in a way it's not even a show about that. It's about family, love and accepting people."

For instance, Act 1 takes place in 1979 and explores Marvin's struggle to keep his family united, despite leaving his wife for his male lover, and her remarriage to his shrink. All the while, the son Jason is coping with what it means to be "normal."

"Marvin is a character who in a lot of ways is just now starting to be himself," Adams said. "He had been married for 10 years and had been stilling a part of himself for a long time. It's him coming out and being who he is. It is someone who is doing what he thinks is right and for the benefit of his whole family."

Then, Act 2 opens in 1981 with Jason planning for his upcoming bar mitzvah. When Jason needs guidance, the two lesbian neighbors come to help him and support his family through rough times.

The role of Jason is a pivotal role in the play because the audience is understanding the story through his perspective, Anderson said. When casting Jason, it wasn't just casting an 11-year-old, it was casting his whole family because the child would need to be filled in on a controversial storyline.

"It's a story with a lot of ups and downs with love, with heartbreak and it kind of fills the entire spectrum of musical theater and has a White Light of everything for everyone," Whitman said. "We do a lot of singing to the audience and practically try to engage them in a conversation."

Preceding tonight's show will be an hour-long, fundraiser event in Chumash Auditorium open to the public from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. A raffle will be held, and all proceeds will go to the San Luis Obispo County AIDS Support Network.

"Falsettos" will be held in the Alex and Fay Spanos Theatre Feb. 24, 25, 26, and March 3, 4 and 5 with a matinee performance at 2 p.m. on March 5. Tickets are $15 for general admission and $12 for students, seniors and Cal Poly faculty and staff, and are available at the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center Box Office and online.
Music

ble and also teaches Middle Eastern dance in the community. Usually Sarrouf and her fellow dancer Jenna Mitchell choreograph the routines used in the performance. This quarter, a special exception was made.

"Hassan choreographed the dance for this quarter," Sarrouf said. "He's a professional, and he can bring something special to the show... a different perspective. It's what Middle Eastern dance is all about: community and collaboration."

English junior and clarinet player in the ensemble Megan La Plante agrees with Sarrouf. The power of the music and the richness of the Arabic sound are only fully conveyed when there are vocals and instrumentals, she said, and the dancers add an extra element.

The Arab Music Ensemble, PolyPhonies and The University Singers are quarterly classes at Cal Poly. The ensemble sets itself apart from others since a majority of participating students are non-music majors who have some formal music training and still participate in the music world, Habib said. Often, students who participate in the ensemble pick up instruments they have never even seen before at the beginning of the quarter.

"The students do a really remarkable job with the new music," Habib said. "Most times they have never heard the sounds that come from the instruments I teach, and by the end of the quarter they are playing the instruments successfully."

Director of choral activities and vocal studies Thomas Davies said his experience with the choirs has been similar to Habib's experience with the ensemble. Davies estimated that about 80 percent of the choir members are non-music majors.

"I think it's great, it's what's truly unique about the music department," Davies said. "Most of the students who participate have had formal training at some point and just want to be involved with music still. Students are actively learning about music, playing new instruments, being trained by professionals — you don't have to be a music major to appreciate that."

Part of what makes the collaboration enjoyable is the exposure the audience gets to a different sound than they are accustomed to. Arab music is played in a very unique pitch, Habib said, and many Americans have never heard the type of sounds that will be performed.

"Just as with the instruments, to sing Arabic is a feat," Habib said. "Soloists, especially, have progressed and developed a tremendous amount throughout the quarter. It's tough stuff. And, we have some very informed audience members — so they know what the music should sound like."

Not only will those with trained ears enjoy the "World of Music" performance — music lovers of all kinds will be able to appreciate the sound.

"My father-in-law has no formal music training, heard the Arab Music Ensemble last year and cannot wait for the performance," Davies said. "Everyone can find something to enjoy about it."

The show will start at 8 p.m. Tickets are $8 for students, $13, $15 for the public and $12 and $14 for seniors, and can be purchased at the PAC ticket office or online.

picture of the day

"My little pony"

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THIS WEEK IN CAL POLY ATHLETICS

THURSDAY

7:00 P.M.

CAL POLY vs.

BASKETBALL

Women's Basketball Fullerton

SUNDAY

1:00 P.M.

CAL POLY vs.

Tennis

Men's Tennis Santa Clara

FRONCOS

TENNIS

BRONCOS

SATURDAY

4:00 P.M.

CAL POLY vs.

BASKETBALL

Women's Basketball Long Beach State

SUNDAY

11:00 A.M.

CAL POLY

TENNIS

Men's Tennis Sacramento State

Mustang Courts

Admission is FREE for all Cal Poly Students.

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WE ARE THE MUSTANGS
Unsettling times for U.S. friends in Middle East

By Doyle McManus

The Voice of Cal Poly since 1916

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I am very impressed by the progress Bahrain is making on all fronts — economically, politically, socially,” Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the last time she visited Manama, in December.

“The democratic process is continuing — and we are committed to strengthening this,” Bahrain’s foreign minister, a cousin of the king, told a U.S.-sponsored conference only a month ago. Asked if he foresaw any problems, the ebullient foreign minister replied, “Maybe a bump in the road, but we’re moving forward.”

But Bahrain has problems, and in hindsight they look bigger than speed bumps.

About two-thirds of its half a million citizens are Shiite Muslims, the same sect as the majority in nearby Iran. But the royal family is Sunni Muslim, like the majority in Saudi Arabia.

Bahrain’s Sunni minority has institutionalized discrimination against the Shiite majority to keep control of the country’s government, military and economy. Parliamentary districts are gerrymandered, so only 18 of 40 seats in the elected Assembly are held by Shiites. The military’s officer corps is entirely Sunni.

Rodham Clinton said his reign in 1999 with promises of reform, but in practice his regime has oscillated between periods of modest liberalization and harsh repression.

Much of the real power is wielded by the king’s uncle, Khalifa ibn Salman Khalifa, who has been prime minister for almost 40 years. Khalifa, 75, is a pro-Saudi conservative who has worked to slow democratization — and, along the way, has made himself one of the richest men in the kingdom, leading to widespread charges of corruption. The demonstrators’ initial demand last week wasn’t to end the monarchy; it was to replace the prime minister. That’s also a move three U.S. administrations have rarely favored.

The U.S. favorite in the royal family is the king’s eldest son, Crown Prince Salman ibn Hamed Khalifa, 41. He’s a U.S.-educated modernizer, and he told a conference in Turkey last week that the events in Egypt should spur Bahrain to continue its reforms. But Salman hasn’t been able to get past his great-uncle, the prime minister.

If the uprising gets out of hand, there’s little danger that the monarchy will be overthrown. The Saudis, who don’t want the precedent of a uprising to set an example for the rest of the region, would almost surely intervene to prop up the royal family, no matter how the Obama administration said.

So the aim of U.S. policy in the short run is to head off that crisis before it happens — to persuade all sides to de-escalate and start negotiating. The long-term aim of U.S. policy is to strengthen the crown prince and the modernizers, but also to keep the Navy headquarters, which means that any rock the boat too hard.

Standing for democracy and freedom is in the same time has always meant walking a fine line between change and stability, but it is especially difficult now. An increasingly educated public is swamped with news from the rest of the world, can tell the difference between earnest democracy and the real thing.

In Bahrain and elsewhere, history is calling our bluff.
Ten matches into the season, the Cal Poly women's tennis team has a winning record (7-3) and is nationally ranked at No. 66 — only dropping two spots since the season opener. This success is expected when taking a look at the team's past winning records (last year at this point in the season the team was 4-1, 1-1). The difference is, this year the team's underclassmen are outnumbered 7-3 by the underclassmen.

Head coach Hugh Bream said having a majority of young players will work in the team's favor this season and in the long run.

"It's really a great, young foundation," Bream said. "From everything I see, they love the sport, and they're willing to put in a lot of hard work. It's a tremendous foundation for future."

The most effective way to build upon this foundation and grow as a team is to accept tough losses and learn from the mistakes made, Bream said. And these lessons are most effective when learned early in the season.

The three losses on the record were served up early by nationally-ranked teams, stacked with upperclassmen. The team fell to No. 1 ranked Stanford, followed by No. 29 UNLV and just this past week, No. 7 UCLA.

"I think when we played Stanford we rushed a little in between points, and got rattled and out of our game style — but we competed with heart," Bream said. "When we played UCLA, we were much more composed and focused between points. We maintained our game styles, using our players' strengths."

Stanford has four upperclassmen and UCLA has five. Despite these losses, everything the Mustangs have accomplished thus far proves that age doesn't necessarily translate into talent on the court.

"We have all the hope in the world and no expectations," Bream said. "I think that can work in our favor. We're not expecting to be the best, but our goal is to be most improved."

Bream said many of the improvements can be attributed to the returning players. They trained hard over the summer to come back and fill the top positions on the team, which were previously filled by four seniors.

For example, sophomore Alexa Ler advanced from No. 5 last year to No. 1 this season. Also, senior captain Ashley Pane moved from No. 7 to No. 2 or 3 this season, Bream said.

Pane is an example of the hard work the team put in to succeed, and she sees this dedication in teammates as well. Pane said every day, every girl is competing her hardest to earn a spot in the lineup.

"We have this thing called 'ACE score' — attitude, concentration and effort," Pane said. "It's when you put in 100 percent of your heart, concentration and focus to have the most positive attitude every day on the court; just working hard every day to get one day better."

The ACE score-philosophy is small achievements the team can focus on when preparing for games. Especially when preparing to face the other two nationally ranked Big West teams — No. 69 UC Irvine and No. 49 Long Beach State.

"We try and not focus on the team we're playing," Pane said. "We try to focus on how we want to play, and what attitude and effort we want to put in that day. It doesn't matter what team it is, we still want to play at our highest performance against every team, every time."

Playing hard and focusing on day-to-day improvements is something the young team excels at, said former player and current assistant coach Suzie Matternauer.

"Every match they are learning so much," Matternauer said. "They always have good efforts and attitudes and every day they get better."

Compared to last year, Matternauer is happy to see the leadership roles filled by returning players, which have grown a lot in their play since last year, she said.

For Bream, who is entering his 11th year of coaching for Cal Poly, the youth on the team isn't an advantage or a disadvantage. It is just another element he takes into account. It reminds him of the team in 2003 who won the Big West and advanced to the NCAA championships, he said.

"That year we started three freshmen," Bream said. "That team, like this team, was super competitive. They were really going to go out and play their hardest in every match. They played their best tennis in the Big West championships and at the NCAAs. I believe that will happen with this young team as well."

"We'll just have to see how things unfold here."
Lewis looks to help men’s basketball past Long Beach State

Jerome Goyenetchie
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After tying the game with seconds to go, senior guard Shawn Lewis’ final home game of his career was spoiled as guard Cameron Jones hit the game winner for Northern Arizona last Saturday night.

Despite the painful loss in his farewell to his hometown, Lewis made history within the walls of Mott Gym, elevating himself to the seventh highest scorer in Cal Poly’s history with 1,233 career points and leading the team to second place in the Big West.

And if Cal Poly wants to get past top-seeded Long Beach State, the Mustangs may need another big game from their lone senior. The Cal Poly men’s basketball team (14-12, 9-4 Big West) will travel to Long Beach to contend with the 49ers (17-10, 11-2) for first place in the Big West tonight.

Junior forward David Hanson, who spent the last three years on the bench, has been fantastic not only (on Senior Night), and this year, but his whole career.

But what has been a scoring-filled game stretch.

A win for the Mustangs would bring them within one game of first place. Despite maintaining their defense, Cal Poly will have to contend with Long Beach State’s conference-leading offense. The 49ers currently lead the Big West defensively, holding opponents to 40 percent shooting and just 57.9 points per game. But, they also were last in the league in scoring and field goal percentage, with only 56 points per game on 36.7 percent shooting.

Since then, Cal Poly has averaged 67 points per game on 44.8 percent shooting in their last eight games, while remaining No. 1 in the Big West in field goal defense, 3-point defense and opponent points per game. During these last eight games Cal Poly went on a six-game winning streak, which was sandwiched between back-to-back losses to UC Santa Barbara and Northern Arizona.

Despite maintaining their defense, Cal Poly will have to contend with Long Beach State’s conference-leading offense. The 49ers currently lead the Big West offensively with 75.8 points per game on 48.3 percent shooting.

A win for the Mustangs would bring them within one game of No. 1, and their first regular season championship.

Head coach Joe Callero said he is proud of everything his team has accomplished this season, and before they start thinking about the Big West Tournament, they need to focus on their game.

“We’ve obtained most of our goals already for the season,” Callero said. “We wanted a winning record at home, and we’ve done that. We wanted to split our road games, and we’ve already won four. Now we’re competing for a number one spot.”

Junior center Will Donahue said though Cal Poly has improved, he expects Long Beach State to be an even tougher team now.

“We’ll be a stronger team for sure the second time around, but they are going to be a stronger team as well,” Donahue said. “We’ll see who put in more work during the season.”

If Long Beach State defeats Cal Poly, they would clinch the first seed in the Big West Tournament.

The game will take place tonight, in Long Beach at 7 p.m.