Rec Center closing until January 2012

Kacey Malone
KARLEEPRAZAK.MD@GMAIL.COM

The Cal Poly Recreation Center will be closed for approximately seven months starting in June, said executive director of Associated Students Inc. (ASI) Rick Johnson at the ASI Board of Directors meeting on Feb. 23. The current University Union fee of $133.13 will remain part of tuition despite the gym being closed.

Johnson said the Recreation Center closure will take place immediately following the spring commencement ceremonies and will remain closed throughout the Summer and Fall 2011 quarters.

Director of ASI programs Marcy Malone said this is a mandatory step toward finishing the Recreation Center construction, which is slated to be completed in December.

"We were able to make it a fitness area for as long as possible," Malone said. "We knew at some point the contractors would need it back."

In contradiction to Malone's statement, when the students voted on the two-year-long expansion in February 2008, it was initially stated that the Recreation Center would remain open. In fact, one of the top 10 reasons argued to support the referendum was that, "The Recreation Center will remain open during construction, although the entrance may change and some components will be offline during the expansion," according to the ASI Recreation Center Expansion FAQ's Web page.

Business administration junior Kaitlyn Dondero said Fall quarter will be the most difficult time for the Recreation Center to be closed.

"It will be frustrating to not have somewhere to go and have a break especially during Fall quarter when people are going to want to come back and use the gym," she said.

But the desire to finish the construction on time means handing the Recreation Center over to the contractors is a necessary step at this point, Malone said.

"The great news is that means it looks like the project is on time and it's the last final push," Director of ASI programs, Macey Malone said about the construction date. "This will be the most minimal impact since the beginning."

Guest lecturer presents 'Googleplex-ing' history

Hannah Croft
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The Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center's main auditorium filled with students, faculty and community members Thursday, Feb. 24 for Google's Vice President of Product Management Marissa Mayer's presentation, "Innovation at the Googleplex."

At 11:10 a.m., true to Poly time, the lights in the auditorium dimmed but the room was still brightly lit by computer and iPad screens.

Computer science department chair Ignatius Vakalis took the stage to introduce Mayer and said he was very happy to see a diverse audience in attendance.

"It's amazing to see so many people from so many different majors out here for this presentation," he said.

Mayer took the stage and began with the beginnings of Google. She was the first woman hired by the company in 1999 when the company had only eight employees.

"My first job was to hang the sign outside our first office," she said. "My first big engineering feat."

Mayer's colorful PowerPoint presentation followed the life of Google and her role in its development.

"We started in a garage," she said. "And grew from there."

Mayer said she and founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin were faced with many questions in their startup stage. The most important question to them was, "Why does the world need another search engine?"

To that, Mayer said, "Well if you can do it better than anyone else, why not?"

Google has always been different from other search engines. The turn of the century was a time of flashy websites and flashy punch monkeys, and Google wasn't about any of that. The simple, white website Google is famous for was unheard of when it first launched.

Mayer described a study in which they had Stanford students pair up and search. Many students stopped and waited, staring at the computer screen.

"When I asked them what they were waiting for, they said 'I'm waiting for the rest of it,'" she said. "They were expecting one of those flashy 'punch the monkey' sites."

Money was a question, too. The site's revenue comes from sidebar ads, which earn them cents every time searchers click on them. Google has created a billion-dollar company based only on nickels and dimes.

Mayer said the ads on the page are designed to make searches easier.

"If you're searching for concert tickets, the ads that come up might be even more helpful than the search results," she said. "They're supposed to make your search experience better."

Mayer went on to explain the experience of being a Google employee. The eclectic office space, complete with T-Rex statues and Googleplex-ing history

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But the desire to finish the construction on time means handing the Recreation Center over to the contractors is a necessary step at this point, Malone said.

"The great news is that means it looks like the project is on time and it's the last final push," Malone said. "This will be the most minimal impact since the beginning. If we only had one quarter of major impact in a two-year project that's something we're really proud of."

During the closure period the facility serving as the temporary gym will undergo necessary renovations. Malone said it took two to three months to convert that facility into the temporary gym. However, the reconversion process is expected to take an additional three months because of the renovations being made.

The main floors will be taken out and additional floor, roof and...
They shouldn't allow the fees to be implemented if we can't have access to the gym for essentially half a year.

— Vince Benvin
Biomedical engineering junior

Google

continued from page 1

colorful outdoor patios, is a place where creative thinking is highly encouraged. While Google employees work hard, the company also gives them time to work on projects they're passionate about. "We call it '20 percent time,'" said Mayer. "It's when we're paying for the Recreation Center to be built."

But not all students feel the same. Matty Moriates is an industrial engineering junior and said he focuses on the other facilities the fees still pay for on campus. "The sports complex is what the Recreation Center incorporates a lot more than just the gym, like intramurals and the sports complex," he said.

Even so, Murphy said if Cal Poly is not willing to relocate fitness equipment, the university should find another alternative for students. "Since the fees aren't being reduced, if Cal Poly should provide us with off-campus gym memberships," Murphy said.

Even though students are still required to pay this fee, local gyms might see an increase in membership from students willing to pay additional money for gym access.

"Cal Poly 24 manager Sanat Rahimi said although she was unaware of the closure until the Martin Daily’s call, she wants students looking for other gym options to consider Cal Poly 24 because of its convenience (it is the closest gym to Cal Poly, located on Foothill Boulevard), among other reasons.

In the past Cal Poly has waived the enrollment fee for Cal Poly students unable to access the Recreation Center. Rahimi said this is an option the gym will consider, especially after seeing students come to the facility the last time the Recreation Center was closed from June to September 2009.

"A lot of students replied that at first they could just run outside and do sit-ups at home, but day after day that workout routine became monotonous," Rahimi said. "So, having a facility where you can have a locker room, inclusive equipment and classes will definitely help. There's only so much you can do outside."

As far as alternative forms of exercise, "Cal Poly Engineering junior and said he feels the fee system.

Vince Benvin, a biomedical engineering junior who regularly works at the Recreation Center, said the university is not doing its best to inform students when changes occur with Recreation Center construction. "(ASI) hasn't done as good of a job as possible to communicate with the students about updates and a timeline," Benvin said.

He said this is important because as a facility expands, would need the entire facility to continue from page 1

The idea for the Cal Poly gymnasium was inspired by the fact that Africa's roads are poorly mapped. Citizen Cartographers comes in. The program takes on these challenges and does something very linear manner.

"It's something we never would have tried in 1999," she said. "But taking on these challenges and doing something really great is what changes people's expectations."

However, there are places where Street View's camera cars can't access, and that's where Citizen Cartographers come in. The program was inspired by the fact that Africa's roads are poorly mapped. Citizen Cartographers have satellite images of these remote areas, and experts have gone in and mapped more than 50,000 miles of African roads.

Now focused on the future, Mayer said the company's biggest project is Google Translate. Currently, the site gives you an automated answer, based on statistical methods, and it just goes to show that gender stereotypes are changing.

"It says something when some­one like Mayer takes time to think creatively because she's doing it in a world that seems to think in a very linear manner."

"It's really impressive to see that she set the standard," he said. "Now I see how, if you think far enough outside the box, you can change the standard. You can change what the world expects."

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distractions and try to get ¿is possible to avoid. "I go to the library as much as I can."—Benjamin Negtayum, landscape architecture senior

I try to organize my schedule and I work out.—Heather Rogers, environmental engineering sophomore

Exercising — it helps me focus on my goals and just make sure 1 day everything I need to do, I do — it helps me do it better.—Matt Quinn, architectural engineering senior

I try to get to the library as much as possible to avoid distractions and try to get as much sleep as I can.”—Matt Quinn, architectural engineering senior

I need to do.'—Joanna Bolanos, construction management junior

It's nice having friends to keep me motivated, and I also try to stay healthy.—Heather Rogers, environmental engineering sophomore

Thursdays are the one day that you can make sure 1 day everything I need to do, I do — it helps me do it better.—Matt Quinn, architectural engineering senior

The Obama administration appeared Sunday to welcome the formation of a national opposition government in Libya, with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton saying "we've been reaching out" to forces trying to oust dictator Moammar Gadhafi and are prepared "to offer any kind of assistance that anyone wishes to have from the United States."

Clinton's comments came as former high-ranking Libyan aides to Gadhafi who resigned since the uprising and his bloody crackdown began 12 days ago met behind closed doors in rebel-held Benghazī in eastern Libya, the country's second-largest city, to create an alternative national government. Organizers said the government will include liberated cities and towns and emphasized it was temporary. With an unconfirmed death toll estimated in the hundreds to the thousands, Gadhafi still held the capital of Tripoli on Sunday. Resistance was being organized in the east and as the revolution moves westward there as well: I think it's way too soon to tell how this is going to play out, but we're going to be ready and prepared to offer any kind of assistance that anyone wishes to have from the United States."

A spokesman for the opposition government, Abdulhafid Gouga, said at a news conference in Benghazī on Sunday that the organizers were not talking to foreign governments and were not interested in outside intervention. He also emphasized that the government was still being shaped and that he could not offer many specifics, but he insisted there would be no negotiations with Gadhafi's regime. "Our blood cannot be nego­tiated," he said.

More anti-government protests were reported across the Middle East on Sunday. At least one protestor was killed by security forces in Oman, according to news service reports. The Tunisian prime minister agreed to step down, after reports of at least five protesters being killed since Friday. Thousands also protested against the king in Bahrain.

Back in the United States, Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Joe Lieberman, a Connecticut independent, urged Obama to impose a no-fly zone over Libya, which would prevent Gadhafi from flying military aircraft to attack rebel territory, and to offer aid to the provisional Libyan government being formed in liberated areas in the country's east.

The senators told CNN that Obama's response to the crisis has not been tough enough, nor with­standing the need to get U.S. diplomatic and other citizens out of the country.

"I understand that America's security and safety of American citizens is our highest priority. It is not our only priority," McCain said.

Saif al-Islam Gadhafi, son of the dictator, told ABC News in an interview aired Sunday that "we didn't use force," that the media was falsely reporting the situation, that Gadhafi wasn't stepping down, that aids who defected are "hypocrites" and that what Gadhafi does is none of the United States' business.

The Libyan-American, who left Tripoli on Friday aboard a U.S. government-chartered ferry to Malta, said in a telephone interview from London on Sunday that what is taking shape is not a civil war as Gadhafi and his sons have insisted. He asked that his last name be withheld to protect family still in Libya.

He said Libyans overwhelmingly are against their leader. "If this is a war, it's a war of the people against the Libyan regime." He said there were pockets of resistance to Gadhafi throughout Tripoli, in the neighborhoods of Fathliboom, Zawiya el-Dhibmani and Souq al-Jouma, but that those still were being met with deadly force, and that ongoing military trans­ports from the airbase outside Tripoli suggest Gadhafi is still import­ing African mercenaries to fight.
Danger of government shutdown passes, but new threat is funding cuts

William Douglas

David Lightman

MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Congress will likely avert a federal government shutdown this week, but lawmakers signaled Sunday that there are still plenty of short-term and long-term fiscal fights ahead on spending cuts and deficit reduction.

The House of Representatives returns from its President’s Day recess Monday poised to vote on a compromised stopgap plan to fund the federal government for two weeks beyond Friday.

The measure, embraced by House and Senate Democratic leaders, contains $4 billion in new spending cuts, several of them already called for by President Barack Obama in his fiscal 2012 budget proposal.

If approved, the measure, at least temporarily, ends a political game of chicken between leaders in the GOP-controlled House and the Democratic-run Senate over a potential government shutdown and who would be to blame if it actually happened.

“We have a moral responsibility to address the problems we face,” House Speaker John Boehner said Sunday in prepared remarks to the National Religious Broadcasters convention. “That means working together to cut spending and rein in government — not shutting it down.”

The House passed legislation — reflecting the will of the people — that would keep the government running through October.

— John Boehner
House Speaker

The potential for a 2011 shutdown drew comparisons to the budget duel between President Bill Clinton and House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., that resulted in the government shutting down twice in the fall and winter of 1995-96.

The first closure, in November 1995, lasted six days and resulted in the furloughs of 800,000 federal workers.

The second shutdown lasted 21 days, from Dec. 16, 1995, to Jan. 6, 1996, and resulted in 284,000 federal furloughs while another 475,000 employees worked without pay.

Gingrich and Republicans were widely blamed for those government shutdowns. Mindful of the political consequences of such a result, Republicans, Democrats and the White House said last week that they didn’t want the government to close.

Still, some bad blood and unfinished business continues.

While leading the compromise measure, Boehner also blasted Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., for blocking a Senate vote on a House-approved spending package that would cut more than $60 billion over the next seven months.

The measure would pare such programs as job training and employment grants, health centers, high-speed rail, diplomatic programs, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and reduce funding for border security.

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While cutting spending,” Boehner said Sunday on ABC’s “This Week.” “The bottom line is, is that the budget has not been completed. I’m hopeful that it will be reinstated by the dollars. And I hope those dollars end up in Arizona, and in Texas and in California.”

In state after state, the battle is a moral responsibility to address the problems we face.” House Speaker John Boehner said Sunday in prepared remarks to the National Religious Broadcasters convention. “That means working together to cut spending and rein in government — not shutting it down.”

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In state after state, the battle lines so far have fallen largely along party lines. In Iowa, Jill Ellsworth, a 41-year-old massage therapist from Urbandale, supports the substantial cuts, even though her parents are farmers who receive federal subsidies.

“I question my dad on subsidies,” she said.

But Democratic state Sen. Gene Fraise recalled hearing groans during a town hall meeting that he held recently in what he thought was a largely Republican crowd in Keokuk.

“They started complaining,” Fraise said. “They didn’t want to take money away from education.”

Though the chances of a government shutdown appear slim this week, some lawmakers and budget analysts worry that Republicans and Democrats will be unable to reach a long-term compromise on spending cuts and that the government might begin to lurch along on two-week funding resolutions.

That could put the issue of cutting spending on a collision course with another volatile issue on Capitol Hill: whether or not to raise the debt ceiling.

The federal government could run out of money by March 31, and Congress must decide whether to raise the $14.3 trillion ceiling on federal borrowing.

Many of the new tea party-backed freshmen Republicans in the House and Senate say they’re against raising the ceiling or would only agree to raise it if Congress and the White House agreed to implement significant cuts in federal spending.

The potential threat of government funding and debt ceiling deadlines might make the voting public immune to the potential gloom and doom that each issue brings, said Ross Baker, a political science professor at New Jersey’s Rutgers University.

“It’s kind of like the air raid drills we used to have,” Baker said. “After a while it becomes routine and the enormity of nuclear war fades.”

Or, Baker added, the dual threat could lead to more political games of chicken.

“There is a constituency, particularly among conservatives, for a shutdown,” he said. “And there are liberals on the president’s side who probably think this would be good for Democrats.”
Tea party holds conference to focus on political policy

Robin Abcarian
LOUIS ANGELES TIMES

Two years ago, they got mad. They made homemade signs and attended rallies. They started grass-roots groups. They voted in the midterm elections and helped deliver the House to a new Republican majority. Then, suddenly, for many in the "tea party" movement, the question was: Now what?

"Fiscal responsibility, constitutionally limited government and free markets," responded Mark Meckler, the Grass Valley, Calif., attorney who co-founded Tea Party Patriots, a coalition of 3,300 groups.

About 2,000 supporters gathered this weekend in Phoenix for what was billed as their first national policy conference. Having helped elect half of the 100 new members of Congress, tea party activists said they don't plan to sit back and take it easy.

Congress has heard from them on federal spending, the debt ceiling and what they say are federal intrusions on states' rights. Planning for the long term, they have settled on the deliberately grand idea of a 40-year plan. The focus will be on policy, not politicians. Unを中心に politicians get in their way.

"Politicians are a fungible commodity," Meckler said at the Phoenix Convention Center. "We are going to have our say and not give up easily until we have our day in the court." Some tea party members were lukewarm about the new health care law who advocates health care compacts among states, echoed the crowd to "break the corrupt cycle of incumbency because if we don't, it will destroy this great republic."

Although some tea party members were lukewarm about the Republican crop of potential presidential candidates, many -- including Roger Langenberg -- were enthusiastic about former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, who has been mentioned as Mitt Romney's choice of running mate in 2012.

Pawlenty, a candidate considered to have a "moderate" approach to social issues, is viewed by some as the "safe" choice in a field of candidates who are considered too conservative.

Democrats are striking back with their own "moderate" candidates. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, the leading Republican in many polls, is expected to announce his candidacy in the next few weeks.

"I would consider it a distraction to deal with those issues," Dan Langenberg, 29, said Saturday. "That's not going to affect our jobs and the debt."

In the convention hall, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio and Arizona Senate President Russell Pearce, author of the state's controversial new anti-immigration law, were enthusiastically welcomed.

But the conference did not provide a cozy environment for career politicians. Meckler said GOP leaders in Washington were invited; all sent regrets.

Rep. Joe L. Barton, R-Texas, was one of the few elected Washington administrators to attend. When he told the crowd he had been in Congress 26 years, a veritable chill fell over the room. But he was cheered when he mentioned he had sponsored an effort to repeal the law banning incandescent light bulbs.

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Cain advocated lowering the corporate tax rate, eliminating the capital gains tax and suspending taxes on profits parked overseas by American companies.

"The health care law must go," senior Cain adviser John Feeley said Saturday. "It is one of the greatest things that happened in my lifetime, and I wish they had the guts to stand up and do the right thing.

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"We are going to court, agenda and minutes of the meeting where the board approved that settlement, and public records guidelines they have," Bakersfield City and nearby Pan­ ama County were chosen at random. For BCSD, CalAware said, "response was somewhat slow, but it supplied all records." However, CalAware said it never heard back from Panama of­ ficials, who say the request was found recently in a spam folder by an infor­ mation technology officer. They will respond appropriately to the request, said assistant superintendent Genie Kiscicad.

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"We are going to court, agenda and minutes of the meeting where the board approved that settlement, and public records guidelines they have," Bakersfield City and nearby Pan­ ama County were chosen at random. For BCSD, CalAware said, "response was somewhat slow, but it supplied all records." However, CalAware said it never heard back from Panama of­ ficials, who say the request was found recently in a spam folder by an infor­ mation technology officer. They will respond appropriately to the request, said assistant superintendent Genie Kiscicad.
Melinda Forbes is an artist and a dressmaker, but above all, she is a self-proclaimed recycler and sustainability guru. From her organic gardening classes to her recycled book art classes, Forbes’ passion is brought to life in different ways. So, when a fellow artist suggested Forbes expand her small display of white dresses in Linnea’s Cafe in San Luis Obispo, the idea for The White Gowns exhibit was born. The show, which opens March 4 at the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA), will feature approximately 22 dresses created by Forbes and local artists Jennifer Blue, Peg Eckert and Nancy Martin. All of the gowns were made exclusively from reused and recycled materials. Gold beading, lace trim and delicate white flowers constructed from used fabrics are just a few of the dainty details on the gowns, which conjure up images of princesses, fairy dust and fields of flow- ers perfect for frolicking in.

Forbes said she hoped the gowns in the exhibit would convey messages inspiring interest in recycling and innovation. “There is a lot of precious stuff out there that has been cast off,” Forbes said. “I want people to be inspired and say ‘Wow, I can do that.’” For example, someone else’s old silk items became useful vintage silk that Forbes used for stitching her gowns, which was mostly done by hand. “Creating beauty does not have to be going out and buying things to enrich our lives,” Forbes said. “It can be achieved using what we already have.” And that is exactly what the artists have done. The recycled materials used range from thrift store clothing and old workaday to items like plastic and buttons. Anything goes in the realm of clothing re-construction, but for this exhibit there was one rule: all white materials. “Working with just white is not that normal for me, I love colors,” Forbes said. “But white is so beautiful. You can layer it and the light shines through it.” Forbes said lighting will be important for illuminating the dresses, once they are on display. Some will be hung from the ceiling, while others will be worn by dress forms.

Amber Kiwan

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How to become a Mustang
Freshman offers advice for prospective students

J.J. Jenkins is a journalism freshman and Mustang Daily freshman columnist.

What a difference a year makes.
Just 365 days ago most college columnist and Mustang Daily freshman changed and, after a quick celebration process, we were just glad to see freshmen were in the midst of session, we notified our parents whose Poly's acceptance letter.

four (who am I kidding, five) years of top school or your backup, for some Whether or not Cal Poly was your course, grew infinitely wiser, and I believe it is now my duty to speak to any current high school senior creep on the Mustang Daily website or reading through the paper on their too much campus tour.

My first piece of advice is to avoid the addiction of College Confidential and other similar sites. I assure you, as much as the alumni from 1954 or that mom who posts 100 times a day claims to know, they are not current freshmen and simply parrot what they hear from other sources that do not know much either.

Another thing to be aware of is that we upperclassmen are honestly stoked to see the class of 2015 around campus during Week of Welcome (WOW) in September. I have daily discussions with my future Co about how great our WOW group will be and the fun activities we have planned.

The calls of "WOW!" heard when you walk around campus at SOAR or Fall Launch are not meant to patronize, we have honestly just waited months for your arrival.

Another unique aspect about Cal Poly I failed to realize before I pulled up in San Luis Obispo is that the majority of students you see walking around campus are freshmen and sophomores. Few juniors or seniors live on campus, so your first two years are spent socializing with people around your age.

This also makes the campus feel smaller in terms of the number of students because upperclassmen tend to occupy a different social sphere off-campus. The 18,000 (or whatever they say it is now) undergraduates end up feeling like 6,000 students because upperclassmen are freshmen and simply parrot what they hear from other sources that do not know much either.

White Gowns continued from page 6

simple to very complex, depending on the artist’s style. All four artists have varying skills in art and sewing.

Jennifer Blue said she has made clothing since she was nine years old but since she specializes in wedding gowns, this project was a challenge.

"Making and altering wedding gowns is much more exact than the recycled pieces," Blue said. "It was a challenge, but very liberating at the same time."

In addition to the gowns, all of the artist’s notebooks will be on display, giving exhibit guests a firsthand view into these very challenges as well as the processes of making the gowns.

For example, Blue said her notebook contains pictures of the items before being cut and altered to create the final dress.

"With these projects, I made a test of what I wanted to do and sometimes it didn’t even come out close," Blue said. "So (in my notebook) I talk about the process of that, and a little about the anxiety and the embarrassment."

The inclusion of the notebooks gives the exhibit an interesting and personal touch.

"It will make for a very intimate exhibit," SLOMA assistant director Johnston said.

Those seeking more interaction to complement the notebooks and the gowns can attend the opening reception on March 4, which will take place in conjunction with Art.

Several monthly art sharing events on the first Friday of every month from 6 to 9 p.m. Johnston said the reception will give all members of the community an opportunity to talk with the artists.

The exhibit will be open through April 2 and all gowns will be for sale during this time. The prices range from approximately $90 to $290, which Johnston said is a stunningly reasonable price for handmade gowns.

SLOMA will host other events this spring that follow the same theme of recycled clothing material. Forbes’ ideas of clothing reconstruction are clearly present in these upcoming events.

"There are so many beautiful things that have deteriorated, so to save them you have to be creative," Forbes said. "It’s about looking at things with new eyes."
The domino effect of revolution in the Middle East

Andrew Nemec is a wine and viticulture sophomore and Mustang Daily conservative columnist.

For the second time in a row, I went into this week's column looking for a domestic issue to write about to get away from the Middle East. But the more I researched, the more I could not ignore what is going on halfway across the world.

There is no doubt in my mind that however the dominos fall in the Middle East, it will have a significant effect worldwide as these countries search for democracy. This is not meant to cause alarm but simply to prepare you for the worst. The reason I say that we must be prepared is because there are some serious theories on how this may unfold.

I will present the two scenarios thus far presented to us by the media and give you my take on what is most likely to happen. First, it is probably a good idea to bring you up to speed on what is happening.

As Egyptian turmoil calmed, the chaos spread elsewhere. At this point, a majority of northern African and Middle Eastern countries are either in full-blown revolution or on the brink of it. These countries include Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Sudan, Yemen, Bahrain, Jordan, Iraq and Syria. The amount of countries on the list should itself be alarming.

The left-wing has a positive outlook on the situation. They see it as a number of oppressive governments being trampled as citizens search for democracy. So this is a pretty good deal, right? News outlets such as CNN see this as an opportunity to bring us closer to a region known for U.S. hatred.

The right, on the other hand, see the move toward democracy as an opportunity to be seized. Right-wing minds, such as Glenn Beck see the move toward democracy as a step toward the dismantling of the U.S. 

My personal opinion stands somewhere in the middle with a slight lean to the right. I agree with CNN that democracy in the Middle East is a great achievement, but believe there are some consequences from those who gain control. I disagree with Beck that there may be consequences but none to the point of the destruction of the U.S.

What we should be concerned about is the direction that these revolutions are headed. A group called the Muslim Brotherhood has made an appearance in Egypt and Libya already, and it would not be far off to say they will appear wherever else they are needed. The kicker is this "brotherhood" is anything but a moderate Islamic group.

They know that revolution is contagious, that the Middle East will soon be cascaded with a blanket of chaos and that someone will need to pick up the pieces and give them direction. So what direction can we expect them to go?

In front of hundreds of thousands of people in Cairo, the leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, Ali Hasan Al-Muhammad, said, "Throughout history Allah has imposed upon the people who punish them for their corruption. The last punishment was carried out by Hitler."

He really calling for the genocide of the Jewish race? Qadhafi’s threat to Israel should be very important to our government.

The biggest issue for the U.S. directly, however, is the spread of revolution to the last standing ally in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia is surrounded by chaos and turmoil in Yemen, Bahrain, Jordan and Iraq. So if riots erupt in Saudi Arabia, and someone purposefully disrupts the oil fields, how severe will the effect be for us?

As a comparison, think of the effect the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico had on domestic gas prices. A total of 185 million gallons of oil spilled into the Gulf Coast in the 70 days it took to cap the spill. When Saddam Hussein purposefully lit the Kuwait oil fields on fire during the First Gulf War the loss of oil totaled 36 billion gallons. That's more than 194 times the amount spilled by BP.

Those 36 billion gallons were just from the little country of Kuwait. The loss of Saudi Arabia's oil would have an effect that is somewhat unfathomable. Some experts said the U.S. could see oil prices soar as high as $10 a gallon. While probably a stretch, this is the time to start preparing for the worst. The most recent loss of Libya to upheaval will have a direct effect on Europe's oil supply but due to worldwide trade, expect to see rising gas prices already here in the U.S.
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Men's basketball follows LBSU loss with win over Fullerton

Mustang Daily Staff Report

The Cal Poly men's basketball team clinched the number two seed in the Big West tournament after a 1-1 weekend in Southern California. After losing to Long Beach State, their 75-70 victory over Cal State Fullerton on Saturday helped the Mustangs move to 15-13 on the season and 10-5 in conference.

The Mustangs battled conference-leading LA Times Beach on Thursday but fell 61-55, as the 49ers clinched the regular-season conference title. The team took the lead in the final stretches of the game as the teams exchanged 11 one-point leads in the final minutes. Guard Shawn Lewis put the Mustangs up two-points with his third 3-pointer of the night with 4:30 remaining. Lewis had been held scoreless through much of the second-half.

However, 49ers rallied in the final four minutes working their way to a six-point lead. Guard Chris O'Brien scored a career-high 16 points for the Mustangs while guard Malik Love put up 10 of his own.

The team then traveled to Fullerton for an ESPNU televised matchup with the Titans. Under the spotlight, forward David Hanson registered 25 points after going through a brief shooting slump.

Hanson found his touch from long range hitting 6-of-11 from behind the arc. Lewis added 17 points of his own.

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Women's basketball clinches co-share of Big West title

Center Abby Bloetscher was the Mustangs' second-leading scorer against Long Beach State Saturday with 16 points.

J.J. Jenkins
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The Cal Poly women's basketball team embraced history Saturday night, but the Mustangs (16-10, 12-3 Big West) are not satisfied yet. They defeated Long Beach State (8-21, 6-9) 61-48 to clinch a share of the Big West regular season title — the first time in program history. However, with one game remaining against second place UC Santa Barbara, the Mustangs are not in the mood to share.

"We want to put the first banner in Mott Gym, and we don't want it to say 'Co,'" head coach Faith Mimnaugh said. "We're not interested in 'Co.' We're happy that we're at least in that position, but Santa Barbara has enough banners in their gym."

Guard Rachel Clancy guided the Mustangs through a tough stretch in the first half after the 49ers took a 7-2 lead out of the gates. Yet, once Cal Poly began to work its way around the full-court press, the Mustangs were off to the races. Clancy hit a 3-pointer with 13:50 to go in the first half to take an 8-7 lead, and the Mustangs would not trail again.

"I know that when everyone sits down after their dinner tonight, and really thinks about it, they'll realize we made history tonight for Cal Poly," Clancy said. "It's just been a phenomenal season and everyone in the locker room is really contributing, and I think that's what makes it special. It truly is a team championship this year."

Over a span of nine minutes in the first half, Cal Poly turned a 7-2 deficit into a 19-7 lead, on the back of seven points from Clancy and poor shooting by the 49ers. Over the same stretch Long Beach State was 0-11 from the field.

The 49ers worked their way back in the final nine minutes of the half, clawing within three points on the final possession. 49er forward Courtney Jacob drove the lane toward center Abby Bloetscher and put up a shot with three seconds remaining. It bounced off the backboard, but ricocheted back to Jacob, who turned and shot as the buzzer sounded.

The basket counted and, although it was a questionable call, the officials drew no ire from the Mustang bench.

"It sucked going into halftime with a one-point lead, but maybe on the other hand it was good for us because it fired us up," Bloetscher said. "It happened and I think we responded to it well and completely shut them down in the second half."

A complete shutdown is not a bad description for the Cal Poly defense in the final period. After watching their 12-point lead shrink to one before the break, the Mustangs went on an 8-0 run during the first 5:20 of the half, completely shutting down Long Beach State.

Baseball drops three games to Oklahoma State

Cal Poly was one run away from grabbing its first win of the season. The Mustangs (0-6) dropped an 8-7 decision to Oklahoma State Sunday afternoon, marking the third consecutive game the Mustangs dropped to the Cowboys this weekend.

The close score in the final game of the three-game series masked what was a rough series for Cal Poly. The Mustangs fell to the Cowboys 8-2 and then dropped a 1-0 decision on Saturday. Sunday, after Cal Poly cut four runs into a five-run deficit in the ninth inning, freshman left fielder David Armandariz struck out with freshman Tim Wist on second base.