Please pay at the pump

**SLO gets attention for its gas prices, some of the highest in the country**

Alicia Freeman

San Luis Obispo County has the third-highest priced gas in the nation. As of March 9 gas prices in the county are at $3.963, falling only behind (but nearly matching) San Francisco at $3.969 and Santa Barbara County at $3.964, according to an AAA report.

Liam Kilgallen, a former Cal Poly student, said he cannot believe the rapid rise in prices.

“It seems like the price goes up 5 cents every time I look,” Kilgallen said.

According to an AAA Fuel Gauge Report Overview by Avery Ash released March 7, the turmoil in Libya, as well as other Middle Eastern and North African countries, has caused the rapid rise. Libya reportedly "produces 1.6 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil — 2 percent of global oil consumption," causing prices to rise in fear of a shortage, though this shortage has not happened yet. In the face of this crisis, some Americans are pushing for President Obama to dip into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR), an emergency reserve of more than 720 million barrels for the United States.

Brittany Renfro, an English sophomore, said she tends to wait to get gas in cheaper areas, unless she's forced to get gas in San Luis Obispo.

Yet, the high prices have made her reconsider whether or not to drive around town, Renfro said.

“The gas prices really make me double think about if it is really necessary for me to drive someplace,” said Brittany Renfro, an English sophomore. “But I do not think the gas will keep me from driving, unless they continue to rise.”

Cal Poly students to swim with turtles

Anieca Ayler

A volunteer study abroad program scheduled for this summer will give students the opportunity to work with, and learn about, sea turtle conservation and explore the Oaxaca Coast in Mexico.

The Sea Turtle Rescue and Eco-cooperative Tour, hosted by Viva Study Abroad, is a Morro Bay-based company that offers education and cultural volunteer programs with an emphasis on Latin American culture, language and people.

During the tour, students will visit several businesses in Oaxaca that have adopted environmentally-stable practices.

“This will simultaneously broaden the participants' cultural perspective, help the Oaxacan people economically and give the students an opportunity to work directly with nesting sea turtles,” said Emily Taylor, a biological sciences professor who will attend the tour this year.

Viva Study Abroad, working in conjunction with the National Mexican Turtle Research Center, is located in Oaxaca, and closely monitors the Olive Ridley sea turtle, the most abundant sea turtle species in the world.

This tour provides a unique hands-on experience with the turtles, a privilege volunteers do not normally get to enjoy. Viva Study Abroad owner and director, Dawn Feuerberg, was given special permission for this trip because of her connections with the research center.

“This is the most important nesting ground for Olive Ridley sea turtles in the world,” Feuerberg said. “No tourists are allowed on that beach without permission.”

No one is allowed on that beach without permission. The Olive Ridley sea turtle, as well as

see Turtles, page 2

**This is the most important nesting ground for Olive Ridley sea turtles in the world,” Feuerberg said. “No tourists are allowed on that beach without permission.”**

The Olive Ridley sea turtle, as well as...
Turtles
continued from page 1

as every other species of sea turtle, is endangered because of human interference, Taylor said. Destruction of nesting beaches, exploitation by people eating eggs and adult turtles, drowning in the nets of fish crawlers and dying from eating plastic bags mistaken for jellyfish, all play a factor in sea turtle endangerment. The Oaxaca program focuses on helping and learning about the reproductive cycles of the turtles, so they may have a better chance to repopulate.

"The students will help Mexican scientists collect data on nesting turtles, patrol beaches at night to look for turtles and deter poachers and learn firsthand about the Olive Ridley sea turtle," Taylor said.

The 12-day trip is divided into two phases. During the first five days, students will explore the Oaxaca area and visit local eco-cooperatives, such as a facility that makes peanut butter or an iguana sanctuary. During this time, students will reside in environmentally-friendly hotels known as eco-lodges.

Feuerberg includes the exploration phase in the program because she said she wants the students to have the time to get to know the area that she herself has been traveling to for 20 years. She also wants them to learn about the sustainable practices in a place they would not necessarily need to experience.

Feuerberg said when killing sea turtles became illegal approximately two decades ago, the Oaxacans, who depended on turtle meat for food, were forced to find new ways to support their livelihood. The eco-cooperatives the students will be visiting on the tour are examples of the Oaxacans' resourcefulness to survive.

The second phase will start with a training session with the Sea Turtle Conservation Project before participants begin to work and come into contact with the sea turtles. The night will be spent on an organic coffee farm in the tropical mountains. Then, the volunteer component of the trip begins. Students will spend the last five days working with the biologists, veterinarians and full-time staff of the National Mexican Turtle Center to help revive the Olive Ridley sea turtle population. They will help protect the area from poachers, collect eggs and move them to higher ground, measure the turtles and assist in the rescue efforts on the beaches (these include sea turtle eggs) and count nests and eggs in addition to anything else the workers need help with.

"Every year is slightly different," Feuerberg said. "It's very exciting this year, it's very new and not offered anywhere else. This is actually an opportunity to stay, learn and feel like you're making a difference."

Feuerberg said she also hopes "arrahua" will occur during their trip. Arrahua is an annual natural phenomenon in which thousands of sea turtles simultaneously come to the shores of Oaxaca to lay their eggs sometime between the months of August and November. While last year's group did not get to witness this event, they did interact with the turtles on the beach.

A participant of last year's trip, biological sciences junior Shannon Gonzalez, said she was able to help some newly hatched sea turtles find their way to the ocean.

"It was an amazing experience to put a baby turtle in the ocean," Gonzalez said. "They were so cute."

Gonzalez found the experience very enlightening. "Always an animal-lover, especially of reptiles, Gonzalez said the tour was an interesting opportunity to learn about an animal in a country she hadn't visited in many years."

"At one point, we got to swim with the sea turtles," Gonzalez said. Her tour was structured similarly to this year's, with an initial exploration phase followed by the volunteer phase. One of the eco-cooperatives she and her group visited during their exploration was a cosmetic cooperative that specializes in making cosmetics from natural ingredients and native plants.

This cooperative is also scheduled for this year's tour. She also enjoyed learning about the local culture and the people, who she said were very friendly. She even learned some of the Spanish she had lost since high school, and enjoyed working with animals and seeing the exotic plant life.

And despite the heat, humidity, rain and surplus of mosquitos, she said the trip was "super fun."

Animal science sophomore Jeffrey Westling, who also went last year and is an avid conservationist and admirer of Latin America, said his experiences made him want to visit Mexico as well.

"I learned (as I learn whenever I go to Latin America) how beautiful life is," Westling said. "The people of Latin America have contributed to floor me with their unrelenting kindness, love and humble nature when they have so little — that and how important conservation is and how beneficial it can be for a rural community like Mazunte or Escobedo, where we traveled in Oaxaca."

He, too, said interacting with the sea turtles was one of his favorite parts of the trip, and is returning this year. "It is such an eye-opening experience which is so valuable," Westling said.

More information can be found on the Viva Study Abroad website. The deadline to register for the tour is April 1.
Word on the Street
What are your plans for spring break?

"Working — I might also go salsa dancing or surfing."
— Carlos Olvera, mechanical engineering senior

"Either jury duty or going to L.A. to see my dad.

— Shae Byer, nutrition junior

"Touring with the Cal Poly choir, then Disneyland and then maybe San Diego or going home."
— Gurneer Deol, civil engineering junior

Proposed bill would extend oil drilling in Gulf

Maria Recio
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Senators said Wednesday a bill extending exploratory leases in the Gulf of Mexico will encourage drilling — and bring down the price of oil.

“All offshore energy producers in the Gulf of Mexico are currently being penalized for the mistakes of a few companies responsible for the Deepwater Horizon accident,” said Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, referring to the April 20, 2010, BP drilling rig explo-

sion that sent oil flowing into the Gulf of Mexico. A little more than a month after the blowout, the Interior Department issued a six-month moratorium on all deepwater offshore drilling.

“The drilling moratoria forced energy producers with exploratory leases to sit idle while still having to pay the expenses of the lease and their employees,” Hutchison said. “This is fundamentally unfair.”

Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., is a co-sponsor of the legislation.

“It’s time for this administration to be a better partner to this industry,” said Landrieu, who’s been a vocal critic of the Obama administration’s handling of the spill and the drilling ban.

The Lease Extension and Energy Security Act, or LEASE, would give energy companies affected by the drilling moratorium an additional 12 months on their leases to make up for the lost time. The bill has been referred to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, where it will draw opposition from environmental groups. The bill’s fate in the full Senate is uncertain.

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Senator rejects spending bills, deliberations begin again

David Lightman
 McClatchy Newspapers

The Senate on Wednesday soundly rejected two bipartisan bids to cut federal spending this year, defying the hopes that should clear the way for serious bipartisan negotiation over a budget compromise before the government runs out of money at the end of next week.

Both proposals needed 60 votes to pass, and neither came close. Republicans wanted to cut $61 billion from the current year’s spending, while Democrats wanted a test of how their $6.5 billion counteroffer would fare.

The Republican plan lost 56-44, with all 44 votes supporting it from Republicans. Opposing it were 51 Democrats, two independents and three Republicans.

The GOP senators who voted no on the plan were conservatives Jim DeMint of South Carolina, Mike Lee of Utah and Rand Paul of Kentucky. They wanted even deeper cuts. The Democratic proposal got fewer votes, losing 38-42.

The 42 yrs votes were from 41 Democrats and one independent, but 10 Democrats joined 47 Republicans and one independent to oppose the plan.

Few were pleased with the choices. “Both bills are dead, and they deserve to be dead,” said Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Nebraska, who voted against both proposals. “One bill cuts too little. The other bill has too much hate. Neither one is serious.”

Budget deliberations now are expected to follow several paths. One is a resurrection of talks led by Vice President Joe Biden. Republicans in the House of Representatives are currently preparing another short-term budget bill that would reportedly cut about $2 billion per week from spending while keeping the government running until mid-April.

All the cuts, as well as those rejected Wednesday, would come from only a small piece of the budget, non-defense domestic discretionary programs, which make up only 12 percent of federal spending.

Many lawmakers would prefer a longer-term agreement that would target the big-budget programs and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. In a statement after Wednesday’s votes, Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad, D-N.D., said, “Any such pact would face its toughest test in the Republican-led House.”

On Feb. 19 it approved the $61 billion in domestic cuts for the seven remaining months of this fiscal year. The cuts came pairing such programs together as job training and employment grants, health centers, high-speed rail, border security, diplomatic programs and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. In a statement of official policy Wednesday about that House bill, the White House said such cuts were unacceptable.

“If the president is presented with a bill that undermines critical priorities or national security through funding levels or restrictions, or if it contains earmarks or curtails the drivers of long-term economic growth and job creation while continuing to burden the future generations with deficits, the president will veto the bill,” the White House budget office said in a statement.

Both bills are dead, and they deserve to be dead. One bill cuts too little. The other has too much hate. Neither one is serious.

— Senator Ben Nelson
D-Nebraska
U.S. action to help Libyan rebels may still be an option

David S. Cloud
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates is not opposed to military action to protect rebels in Libya, including a no-fly zone, but he wants to explore the possible consequences of intervening in the crisis, Gates' spokesman said Wednesday.

Gates "has not staked out opposition to any particular course of action," Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell told reporters traveling with Gates.

Morrell was addressing questions about Gates' position on creation of a no-fly zone that have arisen since he warned Congress against "loose talk" of such a move and noted that any effort to patrol Libyan airspace would probably have to be preceded by a bombing campaign to neutralize its air defenses.

Gates is heading to Brussels for a North Atlantic Treaty Organization meeting Thursday and Friday, where Libya is expected to be a major topic of discussion.

He was in Afghanistan on Monday and Tuesday to attend meetings with U.S. commanders, troops and Afghan officials.

On Wednesday, he is scheduled to attend a ceremony for the incoming head of U.S. Africa Command in Stuttgart, Germany, and fly to Brussels, where NATO is headquartered.

As reports of airstrikes against rebels in Libya have continued in recent days, the White House has emphasized that a no-fly zone is one of the options it is considering along with NATO allies. Gates has said little publicly about the idea since his congressional testimony.

Morrell reiterated on Wednesday that the Pentagon was preparing a list of military options regarding the situation in Libya, and that Gates would outline the risks of taking action as part of those discussions.

"We are committed to providing the president with the full range of options for him to consider, including a no-fly zone," Morrell said. "But (Gates) also sees it as his responsibility to provide the president and his national security team with the potential consequences of military action."

He played down reports of splits over how to respond to the Libyan crisis among members of Obama's national security team.

"I don't know that there is the distance that some of you perceive there to be between (Gates') position and others in the administration," Morrell told reporters.

Analysts and retired Air Force officers say enforcing a no-fly zone over Libya would be difficult without U.S. involvement. It could require hundreds of fighter aircraft and refueling tankers, an operation that could exceed the capabilities of Britain and France, which have been the most vocal NATO governments calling for an international response.

The White House must also weigh the risk that Libya might try to shoot down U.S. aircraft and of getting involved in an internal civil war that could continue for weeks or months. Even if a no-fly zone denied Libyan airstrike access to rebels, it would not necessarily shift the tide of the fighting, which could potentially leave the U.S. and its allies involved in a protracted intervention.

U.S. air transport planes have moved hundreds of refugees who had fled to Tunisia to escape the fighting.

State

PASO ROBLES (MCT) — A woman whose brother sent her a letter in 1944 will finally receive it — with a little help from officials at California's Camp Roberts and one of the post's most famous enlisted men, the late comedian Red Skelton.

Last month, the envelope mysteriously arrived in the daily mail at Camp Roberts, near Paso Robles. It was postmarked in Montgomery, Ala., and addressed to Miss R.T. Fletcher at the base's Red Cross hospital, which had been torn down decades ago.

SAN MATTEO (MCT) — The San Mateo County District Attorney's Office said Tuesday it is looking at an upscale work that was performed by PG&E in the 1990s as part of an investigation into the company's pipeline operations. The investigation could lead to criminal or civil charges of negligence in the Sept. 9 San Bruno gas explosion that killed eight people and destroyed 38 homes.

Two investigators and an attorney from Wagstaff & Rice are working with their counterparts in the U.S. Attorney's Office and State Department of Justice in the investigation, Wagstaff said. The U.S. Attorney's Office declined to comment.

FLORIDA (MCT) — Commander Steve Lindsey brought space shuttle Discovery in for a graceful landing at Kennedy Space Center just before noon Wednesday, ending a 13-day mission.

It was also the first step in the end of the U.S. space shuttle program. Discovery's return leaves just two more shuttle launches before the program is retired. With it will go an estimated 7,000 jobs at the space center. And for the first time in 50 years, NASA is uncertain what is next for the U.S. space flight program.

International

GERMANY (MCT) — An Egyptian-born imam lost a court fight Wednesday to stave off his expulsion from Germany after he was accused of preaching hatred towards Christians and Jews. The superior administrative tribunal in Muenster, northern Germany, agreed to a federal government demand to strip his political asylum. A lower tribunal must now review whether to order his actual deportation to Egypt.

His lawyer said he would appeal, adding, "This may take years." Germany ordered him stripped of asylum rights in 2006 but the Muslim preacher fought the order in the courts.

PAKISTAN (MCT) — A suicide bomb attack on a funeral held by an anti-Taliban tribal militia killed at least 34 people and injured more than 40 others Wednesday in northwest Pakistan, prompting militia leaders to angrily rebuke the government for failing to provide enough support for their battle against insurgents.

Members of the militia, known in Pakistan as a lashkar, complained that local officials had not provided any security for the funeral.

DID YOU KNOW...

THAT STORMWATER RUNOFF AFFECTS THE WATER QUALITY IN OUR CREEKS AND FLOWS UNTREATED TO THE OCEAN?

HERE ARE A FEW WAYS THAT YOU CAN HELP STOP POLLUTED RUNOFF:

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• Pick up after pets. Pet waste can harm aquatic life as it decomposes in our waterways. Properly dispose of pet waste in the trash.

• Properly dispose of household hazardous wastes, such as automobile fluids, paints and fertilizers by taking them to the household collection center at Cold Canyon Landfill.

• Maintain vehicles to prevent fluids from dripping onto the streets and driveways.

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www.mustangdaily.net
Reggae band Iration will end its two-month tour in San Luis Obispo tonight and tomorrow. Iration bassist Adam Taylor said finishing the tour here made sense for the band. “We wanted to end the tour with SLO because it’s a place that we all love, and we wanted to make it special,” he said.

The tour, which the band spent half of with Rebelution and the other half as headliners, has taken Iration across the U.S. “It’s a market that’s kind of grown with us as we’ve grown as a band,” Taylor said. “Since it’s so close to us, we wanted to end the tour with SLO because it’s a place that we all love, and we wanted to make it special. So we decided to do two shows. It’s a good place to end — a coming home show.”

The momentum isn’t running out, either. Their most recent EP “Time Bomb” a year ago reaching No. 2 on the iTunes reggae singles chart. Taylor said the group’s goal has always been to do well on the music charts.

“It’s a surprise, but it’s something we’ve been working toward our entire career,” Taylor said. “We also said their success is reflected in other ways. It’s translating with the crowds, and we’re able to play bigger shows,” Taylor said. “We feel really blessed and thankful that we’re able to experience this success.”

Fans have been noticing the band’s rise in popularity as well. “Reggae is the type of music that I’ve never used acoustic guitar,” Taylor said. “They have so many different genres, so we’re experimenting with more musical styles. “It has a wide array of music — we’ve added acoustic guitar.” Taylor said. “We want to remain unique but stick to the fundamentals of reggae, so we’re experimenting with different styles within that genre. It’s cool to go out of our comfort zone.”

And so far, audiences have received the new sounds with open ears. “One track “No Letter”, which is an acoustic song, has been a hit among crowds so far, Taylor said.

Civil engineering freshman Alan Blevins said the fact that Irationexperiment with sounds within reggae is what distinguishes them from other reggae bands. “They have so many different sounds,” Blevins said. “They have the rock sound sometimes, sometimes the Bob Marley reggae sound. Just the variety is what makes them unique. I really like all the songs on the new album. They went all out on this one.”

So why does the Iration sound resonate so well with San Luis Obispo — enough to support two shows? Ison said it comes from the sheer enjoyment of reggae music. “Reggae is the type of music that a lot of people enjoy — it’s not too loud and over the top,” Ison said. “It’s just feel good music. So no matter what genre is your favorite, everyone seems to like their stuff.”

Sanderson attributes it to the crowd connection. “Iration has always been a SLO staple,” Sanderson said. “They performed earlier in the year and at UU hour and they had a huge crowd. We’ve always given them our support and I don’t think it’ll stop.”

Tickets for both all-ages shows are available in advance for $18 at Boo-Boo Records or at ticketweb.com, and are $20 at the door. Doors for tonight’s show open at 8 p.m., and at 6:30 p.m. for tomorrow’s show.
Students host sea life event at Avila Beach

In the tradition of finding innovative ways to explore their senior projects, Cal Poly students Natalie Do and Rebecca Leong are no exception. The two communication studies seniors will put on the event "Find Oz and Lula" at the Avila Beach Sea Life Center Saturday afternoon.

The family-based event is a scavenger hunt which takes kids around the small Avila Beach community to find Oz and Lula, the two new clownfish the center is welcoming as a new exhibit. Attendees will be given a map leading them to various locations — such as Avila Grocery, the Marine Mammal Center and Hula Hut — to find clues revealing the location of the new critters.

Leong said she got connected to the Sea Life Center last year through the Avila Beach community to find Oz and Lula, the two new clownfish the center is welcoming as a new exhibit. Attendees will be given a map leading them to various locations — such as Avila Grocery, the Marine Mammal Center and Hula Hut — to find clues revealing the location of the new critters.

Kelly Cooper
KELLYCOOPER.MD@MBAJ.COM

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Encouragement is something you will have plenty of, and you can bet that those who aren’t as encouraging will soon be on your bandwagon.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You’ll find yourself count­ ing the hours as you work much faster than others and find yourself with extra time on your hands.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Check and double-check your preparation, and you’ll surely minimize any risk of error. Even a small misstep can be costly.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You may have to work harder than usual to control unwanted influences. Keep your eyes open, and be ready to do what is necessary.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Anything off­daled is going to rub you the wrong way. You’ll want to get things done through unofficial channels if you can.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — A little nostalgia takes you a long way, especially when you are enjoying a fond memory of someone who has never really left you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Someone may be trying to distract you from your primary goal, but your concentra­tion and dedication are nearly unassailable.

LIBRA (Sept. 23­-Oct. 22) — Take care that your reactions to the unexpected are proportional — you don’t want to be accused of being something of an alarmist.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — It will be important for you to get things right, and getting them right means starting strong, being thorough, and not rushing at all.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You’ll be able to weather any kind of criticism that comes your way, unless of course it comes from that one particular fan.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — There are exceptions to every rule, and you’re likely to discover just what this means with regard to a key personal endeavor.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-­Feb. 18) — You can deliver a perfor­mance that surprises even you. When all is said and done, you will have defied all expectations.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

get a step up on your search for housing at the Cal Poly Housing Fair!

2011 CAL POLY HOUSING FAIR

THURSDAY MARCH 10, 2011

11am–2pm on Dexter Lawn
Sea Life
continued from page 7
a friend. She then contacted the ex-
ecutive director of the center, Priscil-
la Kiesig, to pitch some ideas about
a fundraiser.
"I contacted Priscilla and she said
they don't really do anything like
what we wanted to do, and they only
really do one fundraiser a year," Le-
ong said. "So we met with her (at)
the end of fall quarter and brain-
stormed ideas for what we could do.
She said that they were bringing in a
new exhibit, so maybe we could do
something around it."
Do said the idea to promote a
clownfish exhibit at a small sea life
center came about during a brain-
storming session.
"We were sitting in the car, think-
ing of ideas and then it hit me —
Finding Nemo," Do said. "So that's
where we came up with the name.
They're going to name the fish Oz
and Lula."
One of the main goals of the
event aside from the hunt, is raising
awareness for the existence of the Sea
Life Center, which is located next
to Pirate Park on San Juan Street.
However, another main goal got in
the way of this one before they could
embark on creating awareness: rais-
ing funds for the center.
"The Sea Life Center isn't that
well-known, so people don't want to
invest their money in something that
they don't know about," Do said. "It
took a lot of convincing."
Also, the center is a non-profit
organization, so the women had to
start from scratch with a budget of
$0. Being the first event of its kind
for the Sea Life Center, the newness
of it left donors skeptical at first.
"Having this new event was a
struggle because people are hesitant
because they don't know what it's
about, so that was difficult," Leong
said. "Because it's a new event, peo-
ple are reluctant to donate."
However, the women managed
to get five solid sponsors — the par-
ticipating businesses in the scavenger
hunt — as well as a few monetary
donations.
"It was a struggle, but we man-
aged and we're actually staying un-
der budget and donating, as of now,
$500 to Sea Life Center," Leong
said. "That's not even including the
ticket sales."
Despite their financial road
bump, the women said they hope the
event will bring outsiders into the
small Avila community, and more
importantly, raise sea life awareness.
"By having this, it's going to draw
people there and see how the animals
need care, so hopefully that will draw
in membership," Do said.
The Sea Life Center is also look-

ing to promote more family-oriented
events in the future. Volunteer and
Cal Poly College student Sierra Stock-
ton said she hopes this event will lead
to more awareness about the posi-


sibilities within the center.
"It's something that really needs
to be shared," Stockton said. "It's a
little jewel in Avila that a lot of fami-
lies — once they know about it — I
think will access it and use it."
Volunteer Shannon Patterson
said she's hoping for a big turnout
for the event.
"I think it's going to be a lot of
fun for the kids," Patterson said. "I
know if I was a kid, I'd totally be
all over that."
As far as promotion goes, the
girls have covered all aspects. But if
they were going to do it again, Le-
ong said to start as early as possible.
"I think it's been hard doing it
in one quarter — it's just a lot to
do in 3 months," she said.
Do said this experience — both
incorporating a senior project as well
as personal satisfaction — has helped
shape the path she hopes to follow in
her career after graduation.
"Doing this event and planning
it strengthened only my liking for
this. Just learning a lot about the
event planning process has excited
me about a career," Do said.
The event will be held from 11 a.m.
to 3 p.m. Tickets will be sold
at the door for $5; members and
children under 3 are free.
Conservatives searching for anyone but Romney

President Obama launched a vici­cious, underhanded attack on one of the leading contenders for the 2012 Republican presidential nomination last month: he praised former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney for launching a state-administered health-care plan.

I agree with Mitt Romney, who recently said he's proud of what he accomplished on health care in Massachusetts. "Obama told the nation's governors," Romney supporters wrote, "his potential rivals for the Republican nomination were delighted. They're already taken to calling the Massachusetts healthcare plan "RomneyCare," to remind conservative voters how much it resembles the "ObamaCare" law they loathe.

Like the "tea party," the Obama White House, it appears, is hoping for a Republican candidate more conservative than Romney.

On paper, Romney should be the front­runner for next year's GOP nomination: he has experience, name recognition, broad popularity and plenty of money. But Republican strategists warn that because of the Massachusetts healthcare plan "RomneyCare," to remind conservative voters how much it resembles the "ObamaCare" law they loathe.

There's a big opportunity for anyone with conservative credentials who isn't named Romney.

The country's in a conserva­tive mood. Republicans just won a landslide victory in last year's congres­sional elections. The unemploy­ment rate is likely to remain stub­bornly high at 20 months until the presidential election. Defeating an incumbent president is never easy, but this ought to be one of the best chances in a generation. If only conserva­tives can settle on a champion.

Some potential champions ap­pear unlikely to run. G O P strate­gists warn that because of the Massachusetts healthcare plan "RomneyCare," to remind conservative voters how much it resembles the "ObamaCare" law they loathe.

And that's why so many Repub­licans — 17, at last count — are testing the waters for poten­tial presidential campaigns: there's a big opportunity for anyone with conservative credentials who isn't named Romney.

The country's in a conserva­tive mood. Republicans just won a landslide victory in last year's congres­sional elections. The unemploy­ment rate is likely to remain stub­bornly high at 20 months until the presidential election. Defeating an incumbent president is never easy, but this ought to be one of the best chances in a generation. If only conserva­tives can settle on a champion.

That process of elimination has

President Obama launched a vici­ous, underhanded attack on one of the leading contenders for the 2012 Republican presidential nomination last month: he praised former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney for launching a state-administered health-care plan.

I agree with Mitt Romney, who recently said he's proud of what he accomplished on health care in Massachusetts. "Obama told the nation's governors," Romney supporters wrote, "his potential rivals for the Republican nomination were delighted. They're already taken to calling the Massachusetts healthcare plan "RomneyCare," to remind conservative voters how much it resembles the "ObamaCare" law they loathe.

Like the "tea party," the Obama White House, it appears, is hoping for a Republican candidate more conservative than Romney.

On paper, Romney should be the front­runner for next year's GOP nomination: he has experience, name recognition, broad popularity and plenty of money. But Republican strategists warn that because of the Massachusetts healthcare plan "RomneyCare," to remind conservative voters how much it resembles the "ObamaCare" law they loathe.

And that's why so many Repub­licans — 17, at last count — are testing the waters for poten­tial presidential campaigns: there's a big opportunity for anyone with conservative credentials who isn't named Romney.

The country's in a conserva­tive mood. Republicans just won a landslide victory in last year's congres­sional elections. The unemploy­ment rate is likely to remain stub­bornly high at 20 months until the presidential election. Defeating an incumbent president is never easy, but this ought to be one of the best chances in a generation. If only conserva­tives can settle on a champion.

That process of elimination has
Softball set for two games against Notre Dame Sunday

Wrestling
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Softball is heading home. After four tournaments and 20 games, the Mustangs will play their first games at home this weekend, a double-header against Notre Dame. This season hasn’t exactly been kind to the Mustangs. Cal Poly has a 3-17 record but will have a chance to turn it all around at home on Sunday. The Mustangs’ first game will start at 1 p.m. and the second at 3 p.m.

UCLA
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The childishness has manifested itself on the court in repeated lulls and an inability to play consistently hard for two halves. Howland responded by coaxing and cajoling, holding his players accountable but not overreacting to turnovers or Bad shots.

"He’s on me all the time whether I’m on a high or a low," Nelson said, "just encouraging me or just telling me to keep doing what I’m doing, so he’s just been a big help."

Known for his icy exterior, Howland has run an emotional gamut recently. He cried after walk-on Tyler Trapani made the final basket in Pauley Pavilion, the arena Trapani’s great-grandfather John Wooden made famous, before its renovation. A week later, Howland kissed a reporter on the forehead, fulfilling his promise to do so if the Bruins won 22 games.

"I don’t always show my emotion," Howland said later. "You don’t always get to see it."

THIS WEEK IN CAL POLY ATHLETICS

BASEBALL SERIES
Friday - 6 P.M.
Saturday* - 1 P.M.
Sunday - 1 P.M.
CAL POLY vs. LMU
Baseball

SUNDAY
1:00 P.M.
CAL POLY vs. NOTRE DAME
Softball

"Doubleheader"

Admission is FREE for all Cal Poly Students.
Like us on Facebook.com/calpolymustangs.

WE ARE THE MUSTANGS
J.J. Jenkins
jjenkins.mta@gmail.com

For co-head coach Mark Perry, describing the Cal Poly wrestling team's No. 6 finish in the Pac-10 Championships as anything other than disappointing would be an understatement. Coming off one of the best seasons in a decade, going 9-2 in dual meets, the Mustangs were unimpressive, sending only one wrestler to the Pac-10 finals.

But after a dismal performance, the Mustangs are sending four wrestlers to the NCAA Championships in Philadelphia March 17 to March 19.

Cal Poly's lone Pac-10 champion was junior 141-pounder Boris Novachkov, who won one point over three matches and took home the title for the second year in a row. The victory cemented his place in the national championships, giving Boris a No. 3 seed in the tournament.

"(Boris) put himself in this position by making his mind up last year after NCAAs, and he committed himself in the spring and in the summer and that's why he's (a number three seed)," Perry said. "He's done a hell of a job all year.

"He's a hell of a job all year," Perry also said that Boris, who placed seventh last year, has a legitimate shot at being a national champion in 2011. The last time a Cal Poly wrestler took home the ultimate crown was in 1976 when Mark DiGirolamo won it all.

Boris Novachkov, Barrett Abel, Ryan DeRoches and Ryan Smith all earned bids to the NCAA Championships Wednesday.

The only wrestler Boris has lost to this year is Kellen Russell of Michigan, who earned the top seed after an undefeated season. Being on opposite sides of the bracket, the two would only meet in the championship final, or if both lost in the early rounds and were forced to the losing side of the bracket.

Conspicuously left out of the field of 35 wrestlers in the 149-pound weight class was senior Filip Novachkov, who was denied a final chance to wrestle for a national title. Filip moved up two weight classes later in the season, from 133-pounds, but a No. 3 finish in the Pac-10 was not enough for him to go to Philadelphia.

Barrett Abel was the only other Mustang to earn an automatic bid, placing third, but Abel dwells on the fact that he was not able to pull off an upset against Intermat's No. 4 Bubble Jenkins of Arizona State. He tied the match at two going into the final period, but Jenkins escaped early in the third period and hung on for the victory.

Abel said he lost some of his composure in the final two minutes, allowing Jenkins to win, but is mostly pleased with his game plan for the match and would relish another shot at the Sun Devil.

In the first round, Abel will face Johnny Greisheimer of Edinboro who is 25-13 on the season.

Ryan DeRoches also earned an at-large bid to the NCAA Championships for a second straight year, despite suffering an upset loss to Trevor Hall of Cal State Bakersfield in the semifinals.