Some, such as the protestor pictured above, with omuwctioi down Diablo Nuclear Power Plant at the Avila Pier on April 16. Amidst normal beachgoers enjoying the sun, warmth and even a wedding, the group of rally participants crowded around a makeshift stage, outfitted with speakers and microphones on the sidewalk and beach in Avila.

The protestor’s signs read, “Fukushima Dai-ich is Japanese for Diablo” and “Children Not Chernobyl.” The rally members peacefully protested Peace (MFP), led a rally aimed to shut specific Gas & Electric’ s (PG&E) attempt and “Children Not C'hernobyl.” The group of rally participants crowded the Avila Pier on April 16.

Dan Roser, a longtime advocate against nuclear power, said although some of his family members work at the plant, he still wants it to be shut down. Roser said he also participated in a 1974 MFP rally, at which he was arrested.

“One of my best life experiences was getting arrested,” Roser said. “I don’t believe in nuclear power, never have.”

MFP is a nonprofit organization that began in 1969 after a mother expressed her disinterest for the Vietnam War. In 1973, the group became more centered against nuclear power and Diablo’s licensing by filing to become an intervenor — a group who isn’t directly involved with an organization but has been granted permission by the court to legally give their input on judicial matters.

Liz Afelberg, one of the MFP members said, “My values align with our values, it’s all about organic foods that nourish the people and the land.”

His values align with our values. It’s all about organic foods that nourish the people and the land.

— Tessa Salzman
FocusSLO Earth Day event coordinator

His values align with our values. It’s all about organic foods that nourish the people and the land.

— Tessa Salzman
FocusSLO Earth Day event coordinator
Farmer continued from page 1

go with an open mind, he said, because “to know how food is produced will help maintain food independence.”

The public is invited to a free show­
ing of “Food, Inc.” today at 7 p.m. in Chumash Auditorium. The showing is “to get the bullet points out there and spark interest,” said Ryan McLeod, a computer science sophomore and club member.

Tuesday morning before the scheduled event, Salatin will tour the campus led by animal science professor Rob Rutherford. Ruther­ford said he would describe Salatin as a preacher; and, according to the Polyface, Inc. website, Salatin considers himself one, too.

“I hope he will stimulate a spirit that it’s OK to be a farmer,” Ruther­ford said. “It’s truly valuable for people to produce food.”

After the tour, Salatin will speak in Rutherford’s holistic manage­ment class. Since modern agricul­ture is a highly regulated business, Salatin offers a fresh look at where we can head as far as feeding our civilization, Rutherford said.

In fact, Rutherford said he predicted Salatin will make a case about established, pending and forthcoming regulations and its impact on family farmers. Fam­ily farmers may be driven out of business because we over- regulate ourselves, Rutherford said.

After the keynote speech, anoth­er forum for students will run from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

The public is invited to a free show­
ing of Salatin’s film, which will be every student connec­tion to the ultimate college experience.

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Protesters denounced the possible Diablo Canyon license renewal citing questionable safety. “Anything that is not insurable —and nuclear power is not insurable — is not safe,” local Betty Faas said. “We can’t afford the long-term cost, period.”

**Diablo continued from page 1**

members who filed to be an interve­not, said the group decided to apply to fight against PG&E’s initial want for an operating license.

“We went to the Mothers and said, ‘Okay, what can we do?’” Afel­berg said. “We can go to meetings and voice our opinion; we can write letters, but really, it’s not going to do anything. (We) read in the Atomic Energy Commission bulletin that individuals that met certain criteria could file to be what’s called an inter­venor … so we filed.”

The group also attended a San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors meeting, seeing county leaders to tell PG&E to delay its relicensing proce­dures until a seismic study is done. The board agreed and sent a letter to PG&E expressing its concerns.

San Luis Obispo Mayor Jan Marx said the city agrees with the county board, especially because of Diablo’s age and the unknown po­tential damage an earthquake could have on the plant, which is near at least two fault lines.

“I would like to see the license renewal process abandoned,” Marx said. “The community was promised three things when the project was built: one, it would be safe; two, they would figure out what to do with spent fuel rods. They would not be stored on site forever, that was only temporary. And there, at some point it would be decommissioned, when the license expired.”

Afelberg said Diablo’s age also con­cerns her, noting that PG&E may not be able to sustain the maintenance it takes, especially with spent fuel rods stored on site. In addition, she said past nuclear catastrophes and weather disas­ters should also raise concerns about Diablo’s safety.

One such disaster occurred in 1812 when a tsunami approximately 55 feet in height ravaged Santa Bar­bara, as well as a smaller tsunami that hit in 1927. Also taken into consider­ation are natural disasters such as the 1979 meltdown of Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania.

The meltdowns did not cause any injuries or death but did send radioactive gas and waste into the environ­ment. Situations, such as the overheat­ing of the Boeing-Rockendyne nuclear facility 20 miles from downtown Los Angeles in 1959, have caused a release of radioactive iodine that residents be­lieve caused cancer.

Betty Faas, a local who attended the rally, said concerns said over the nuclear power plants safety with the list of past — and more recently with Fukushima — disasters drive her to be against them, especially with the highly danger­ous fuel, Plutonium, used.

“Anything that is not insurable — and nuclear power is not insurable — is not safe,” Faas said. “We can’t afford the long-term cost, period.”

Rally participants also raised con­cerns over the spent waste pools at Diablo, which some said prove to be even more dangerous.

Jane Swanson, a speaker at the event and another longtime MFP advocate, said because waste stays radioactive for an extended period of time, it is es­pecially unsafe.

“Radioactive waste is lethal for a quarter of a million years,” Swanson said. “Now, I’m not personally aware of a human institution that’s gone on for a quarter of a million years, so the folly of creating radioactive waste is it’s going to be here forever as a pollutant.”

With the proximity of Diablo to the Cal Poly campus, Swanson said students should be aware of its dan­gers and even participate in the action against nuclear power. She said MFP is happy to present information to campus clubs for those wishing to know more about its efforts.

Afelberg said another concern for college students and San Luis Obispo residents is the lack of evacuation plan­ning for those near the plant.

The plant says to stay on site, put duct tape around the windows and stay there until you die,” Afelberg said. “But there’s no way to evacuate this commu­nity. Some might be able to get out to Highway 1, but Highway 1 is closed.”

Swanson said was happy people of different ages and sexes attended the rally, because it showed the yearn­ing for safer, more renewable energy. "It’s wind and solar, stretches across generations. Also, she said all the par­ticipants were ‘mothers,’ no matter the gender or ‘biologic,’ because of their values — ‘caring, nurturing, and working to provide a safe environment for future generations.’

As for PG&E’s plans to renew the license, it was agreed to delay the renewal until seismic tests are done; however, PG&E will still pursue a renewal. Marx said the company is doing the renewal and seismic stud­ies concurrently. Yet, if the studies prove Diablo is unsafe, Marx said the hopes PG&E and Diablo offi­cials would decommission the plant immediately.

But in an unclear what an event that would happen to (coastal) bluffs,” Marx said. “I think we need more scien­tific information right now.”

But for Afelberg, lessons need to be learned and people should be­come more educated before licenses are considered and more nuclear projects are invested into.

“T here are some that have new li­censes and some that have all kinds of renewal licenses and ones for modification,” Afelberg said. “All of those should be stopped until all the lessons from Japan are learned.”

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**One of my best life experiences was getting arrested. I don’t believe in nuclear power never have.**

— Dan Roser
Anti-nuclear power advocate

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State

STOCKTON (MCD) —
Green policies have county agen­
cies buying more recycled prod­
ucts, opting to use less paper and working together to come up with
ways to increase eco-friendly prac­
tices, according to the second an­
nual report from the San Joaquin County Green Committee report.
And the efforts are saving county
government hundreds of thou­
sands of dollars, according to the
report presented to the Board of
 Supervisors.

"It's been proven in dollars and
cents that it makes sense to do this," board Chairman Larry Ruhl­
staller said.
The report, covering 2010, showed significant achievements. Purchasing Director David Louis said. The solar panels atop the county's Agricultural Center and Administration Building reduce greenhouse gases to the tune of 66
tons of CO2, and is the equivalent of planting 2,650 trees or not driv­
ing 225,000 miles, Louis said.

Use of recycled office supplies has been increasing, climbing from 12 percent in 2006 to 30 percent of total dollars spent on supplies in 2010. Buying the recycled products in 2010 is estimated at $72,000, he said.

... 

NORTH CAROLINA (MCT) —
A powerful stream of fast-moving
storms and tornadoes pounded the
South again Saturday, bringing the
three-day death toll to at least 17
and leaving a trail of destruction,
uprooted trees and downed power
lines. The storm swept through
North Carolina, causing "multiple
facilities," destroying scores of homes in Raleigh and knocking out power
to much of the state, said Julia Jar­
rena, a spokeswoman for the state's
emergency Management agency.

Officials began surveying damage
Saturday night in the central area of
the state and could not confirm the
number of deaths, Jarema said. The
storms ripped across the state's easter­
northern area into the night.
The storm front was expected to
make its way into the Atlantic Ocean
by early Sunday, said Greg Carbin, a
meteorologist with the National
Storm Prediction Center.
The particularly violent system
gained late Thursday in Oklahoma,
where two people were killed. It
traveled eastward through Arkansas,
killing seven before surgeons through
Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia
on Friday.

... 

WASHINGTON D.C. (MCT) —
Treasury Secretary Timothy G. Geithner says Republican leaders have assured the president that they will come to terms with the debt limit and that "you can't play around" with the possibility of def­
defauling on the country's obligations.
He said GOP leaders "understan­
d" that they still had to vote to aver­
default even if there was no deal on
budget-cutting by the time the coun­
try hits the $14.3 trillion debt limit sometime around the middle of
May.

But Republican lawmakers on the Sunday morning shows pushed back against that idea, indicat­
ing they aren't ready to give up the looming debt-ceiling issue as leverage to get President
Barack Obama and other Demo­
crats to cut spending.

The back-and-forth featured dud­
ing comments for both sides in the
contentious budget talks. Each side
needs to preserve its negotiating pos­
tion, but neither wants to see con­
cern about the nation's creditworthi­
ess disrupt the markets.

when news breaks... we've got it covered

National

YEMEN (MCT) —
Protesters calling for the resigna­
tion of President Ali Abdullah
Saleh gathered across Yemen on
Sunday while opposition officials
met with Gulf mediators in neigh­
boring Saudi Arabia to seek a way
out of the political crisis.

At least 40 people were injured in
dashes between anti-government
protesters and Saleh supporters in
the central city of Zamakah.

Meanwhile, a delegation from
the Joint Meeting Parties, a grouping of
the Yemeni political opposition,
held talks with the foreign ministers
of the Gulf Cooperation Council in
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The talks aim to create a compre­
hesive plan to end the conflict.

... 

AFGHANISTAN (MCT) —
In one of the deadliest days for
foreign forces in Afghanistan this year,
eight NATO troops were killed in
three separate incidents Saturday,
authorities said. Three died in two
attacks in Laghman province in the
south, according to NATO statements.
The nationalities of those killed were not
immediately released.

Earlier in the day, five NATO
service members and four Afghan
soldiers were killed in a suicide attack
by a Taliban bomber who dressed
like an Afghan soldier to infiltrate a
joint Afghan-U.S. base on the edge
of the eastern province of Laghman.

A Taliban spokesman has said the
group plans to target Afghan offi­
cials, including security forces, allied
with NATO and the U.S.

A senior U.S. military oficial
Sunday said infiltration by Talib­
ans are the security forces is a con­
cern, but insurgents do not appear to
be pursuing it as a strategy of late
in the same extent as car bombs, suicide
bombs and assassinations.

International

Precautions taken against
air traffic controller fatigue

Christi Parsons
THOMSON WASHINGTON BUREAU

Federal officials moved on Satu­
day to address the problem of air
traffic controller fatigue and an­
ounced they will adjust workers' schedules after another controller fell asleep on duty, this time at a
center handling high-altitude air
traffic near Miami.

The latest incident came to light
when one controller reported that a
co-worker was asleep on duty Sat­
day. A preliminary review showed
that the sleeping controller did not
miss any calls from pilots.

But the incident — the seventh
reported to the Federal Aviation Ad­
dministration this year — highlighted
the agency's overuse of the job.

"We are taking swift action to
ensure the safety of our aviation sys­
tem," Transportation Secretary Ray
LaHood said in a prepared state­
m ent. "There is no excuse for air
traffic controllers to be sleeping on
the job. We will do everything we
can to put an end to this."

FAA Administrator Randy Bab­
bits said that the agency will change
scheduling practices that most like­
ly promote fatigue. He didn't say
what those changes were but that
they will take effect within three
days. "We know we will need to do
more," he said in a statement. "This
is the beginning of the end.

The agency brought the issue to
the forefront in March by ordering
that officials around the country
report instances of sleeping control­
ors to them rather than simply han­
dling cases as disciplinary matters at
the local level.

In one case, a medical flight was
unable to contact a lone control­
er working the overnight shift at
the Reno airport. The plane landed
safely with help from controllers
at a regional radar facility. When a
single controller at Reagan Nation­
al Airport in Washington, D.C.,
fell asleep last month and could
not assist two jewelers that safely
landed, the FAA launched its re­
view of the system.

The FAA has since placed an
additional air traffic controller on
the midnight shift at airport
towers and other facilities around
the country previously staffed by
only one controller during that pe­
riod. Last week, the head of the FAA
Air Traffic Organization turned in
his resignation.

On Monday, Babbitt is sched­
uled to visit facilities around the
country to speak with controllers
and their managers about profes­
tional standards.

Despite the tweaks already
made, federal officials and aviation
experts say systemic changes are
needed. Babbitt has ordered what
he called a "top to bottom" review
of the entire air traffic system.

Agency officials say they are work­
 ing with the National Air Traffic
Controllers Union to address ques­
tions of controller safety.

Fatigue is a persistent problem,
said retired aviation safety consultant, because air traffic control is neces­
sary around the clock and can't be
performed by computers.

"It's a job that has to involve a
human, because it requires judg­
ment," said Ramis Poureymore, a
retired United Airlines captain and
aviation safety consultant. "But hu­
man beings get sleepy at night, un­
less they are very well-tested and
give a back-up system for those
times when they are not alert."

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"The fact that they knew so little about their gas transmission lines strikes many of us as a risk," said Paul Clanon, executive director of the California Public Utilities Commission, which launched the record investigation in February.

As controversy rages over a proposed $3 million fine for failing to give state regulators pipeline-safety documents on time, California utility company PG&E on Monday will face its first key deadline in a potentially far more punitive state probe — examining whether its record-keeping practices contributed to September's natural gas explosion and other pipeline hazards.

This broader record-keeping inquiry will consider whether the utility's missing or otherwise hard-to-locate records violated the law and hurt the safety of its vast network of gas pipes. It's likely PG&E will be found guilty and potentially fined $400 million or more, according to a report Friday by Bernstein Research, which does detailed financial analysis of utilities.

"The fact that they knew so little about their gas transmission lines strikes many of us as a risk," said Paul Clanon, executive director of the California Public Utilities Commission, which launched the record-keeping investigation in February. Noting that the probe will likely take months to conclude, $3 million "will be a very litigated process. The potential fines could be very significant. PG&E will certainly put up a fight."

"The commission's concerns about PG&E's records stem from the National Transportation Safety Board's investigation of the San Bruno explosion, which discovered that PG&E's computerized records had incorrectly described the ruptured pipe segment as being "seamless." That segment — part of gas transmission line 132, which runs from Milpitas to San Francisco — actually had been welded along its length.

Feeling that error may have caused PG&E to overestimate how much pressure the pipe could withstand, the commission in January ordered the company to provide documents proving that the rest of its urban pipe pressures were set at safe levels. PG&E's failure to submit all of those records by the March 15 deadline prompted the commission to propose fining it $3 million, plus another $3 million if it can't turn over the documents by Aug. 31.

But the utility could get slammed much harder, depending on the outcome of the broader record-keeping investigation. The company could be hit with "daily fines for a significant period of time," the agency declared in a formal notice launching that probe. The potential fine — assuming the commission hits it with the maximum $20,000 a day penalty since the San Bruno pipe was installed in 1956 — would total "some $400 million."

Bernstein Research concluded.

When PG&E failed to meet the March 15 records deadline, the agency issued a fine that could have amounted to more than $100 million. But under its current proposal, which is yet to be approved by the full commission, the most PG&E would pay is $6 million.

The commission has demanded that PG&E provide a detailed summary of all the actions it took from 1955 through Sept. 8, 2010, to keep its pipes safe. But because of the amount of work it will take to accumulate that and other information, the commission has granted the company's request to provide only a few initial responses to the investigation on Monday, including whether its record-keeping error may have contributed to the San Bruno accident.

Aside from the "seamless" mistake, the investigation will likely focus on PG&E's recent difficulties in locating records to justify its pipeline pressure levels. PG&E said it has so far found pressure-test records for about a third of its 1,805 miles of urban pipes that were subject to the records request.

PG&E has argued that it wasn't required to keep records when it installed many of its older pipes. But a 1979 federal law required extensive documentation on pipes built since then. And the commission has said it is especially concerned that PG&E can't provide complete files for about 7 percent of the urban pipes installed after that date. In addition, the commission must determine whether the general condition of PG&E's records violates laws requiring it to run a safe pipeline network.

"We're watching it closely," Salazar said. "Obviously, because it's located 60 miles off the coast of Florida ... it's an issue that we're monitoring carefully." Cuba is eager to explore new options for energy sources off its coast near Havana.

"There's a Spanish energy giant Repsol, which drilled an exploratory oil well in 2004, is expected to drill another five to seven such wells as soon as this fall," said Jorge Pinon, an energy expert and a visiting research fellow at the Cuban Research Institute at Florida International University.

Pinon, who attended an oil and gas conference in Havana last week, said the Cuban government is cognizant of its tourism-dependent economy and "is reviewing everything it is learning from the Deepwater Horizon." But he acknowledged the country doesn't have the assets to respond to a spill like one in the Gulf of Mexico.

"Houston is 900 miles from where the well is going to be deployed and equipment could be there in a matter of hours, but it is hard to envision because we haven't sat down with Cuba," Pinon said.

"The U.S. and Mexico — which share ownership of the Gulf of Mexico with Cuba — have been meeting to strengthen the standards for oil drilling in the Gulf, but Cuba hasn't been a part of these talks.

The U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement has talked with Repsol about its plans for oil drilling in Cuba, but agency director Michael Bromwich says there is currently no agreement on a drilling standard. He acknowledged that the U.S.-Cuba policy makes direct talks difficult.

"Everyone has an interest in there being the highest standards possible in all the countries that co-own the Gulf of Mexico," the Houston Chronicle quoted Bromwich as saying recently on a conference call.

"That would certainly be desirable, but finding the mechanism to do that is tricky and needs to be explored further." The presidential commission that investigated last year's BP spill recommended that Cuba and the U.S. come together to talk about oil drilling. A spokesman for the State Department says that it hasn't yet held any discussions with the Cuban government on the possibility of oil exploration.

"However, we expect any company operating within Cuba's oil and gas sector to adhere to all the industry environmental, health, safety standards we have in place to have adequate prevention, mitigation, and remediation systems in place in the event of an incident," spokesman Carlos Luoma-Overstreet said.

"We will pursue activities that are within our legal authority, in order to minimize the risks posed to U.S. territory." Cuba's policies of further engagement with Cuba argue that Cuba has proposed offshore oil drilling for some years without deliv- ering on the promise.

"We've seen this dog-and-pony show for 10 years and the fact re- mains that there's no drilling," said Mauricio Claver-Carone, the director of a leading pro-embargo lobby called the U.S. Cuba Democracy political action committee.

He contends that the plans are part of a propaganda campaign by the Cuban regime to attract investors and to secure the oil industry's support for joining the lobbying group.

The embargo has already affected Cuba's operations: the country needs oil but can't violate the U.S. law that prevents vessels with more than 10 percent of U.S.-made parts from operating inside Cuba.

Claver-Carone suggested that if the oil rig — which is now located in Singapore — approaches Cuba, there would be time for Congress to make it even more difficult and expensive for Repsol to proceed with its plan.

Some Florida lawmakers have already filed legislation aiming to block Cuba's actions by making it more difficult for foreign oil companies to do business in that area of ocean.

"I don't understand why any- one would want to facilitate the creation of a petroleum behemoth 90 miles away," he said.
Little overall progress made in Libya

"We expected Kadafi to quickly fold his tent and go somewhere else," said Barso, a senior fellow at the Center for New American Security, a Washington-based think tank. "But the Libyan forces quickly adapted to the airstrikes by becoming very quickly like civillians."

French President Nicolas Sarkozy and British Prime Minister David Cameron, who led the charge within NATO to launch the air campaign in Libya, argued last week that the alliance needs to step up its attacks to fulfill the United Nations mandate to protect civilians. But shifting agreement to escalate the intervention could further divide the already badly split alliance.

The U.S. military moved into a support role early this month, and Obama has given no indication U.S. warplanes will start flying combat missions again. If Washington isn't willing to escace, few alliance members may be eager to do so either. Admiral James Stavridis, the U.S. commander of NATO, has appealed to NATO members for additional ground attack planes.

Obama's decision to limit the U.S. military role left NATO without a A-10 Thunderbolt II or AC-130 Spectre gunships, U.S. planes that are designed for close air support of ground troops and precise attacks against ground targets.

The U.S. is losing A-10s and other strike aircraft on standby in case of emergency. But bringing the planes back in for another combat mission again. If Washington were to consider, a NATO officer said.

The Air Force is flying two Preda­tor drones over Libya to help con­duct surveillance, but they are un­armed, officials said. The U.S. also is transfering precision guided bombs to NATO allies flying combat missions, since supplies have begun running short, the NATO officer said.

Washington-based think tank. "But unlike the conflict in Libya, how­ever, U.S. warplanes conducted the vast majority of the airstrikes during the Kosovo campaign and gradually escalated the bombing."

The U.S. military moved into a support role early this month, and Obama has given no indication U.S. warplanes will start flying combat missions again. If Washington isn't willing to escalate, few alliance members may be eager to do so either. Admiral James Stavridis, the U.S. commander of NATO, has appealed to NATO members for additional ground attack planes.

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The Modern Music Academy is an outlet for kids. "We know how powerful music is," she said. "Getting stuck into music can be such a productive thing." Student Adviser of San L4U S Obispo’s Modern Music Academy, Jessie Clarke, emphasized the importance of music in a child's life.

The Modern, Music Academy (MMA) is putting on its second annual Big Benevolent Bash at SLO Brewing Co. on Sunday, April 24. The concert will showcase many of MMA's most talented students and raise money for Guitars Not Guns, a national nonprofit organization that provides guitars and music lessons to at-risk youth. All proceeds from ticket sales will go to the organization.

Last year's Big Benevolent Bash raised approximately $1,600 for the Arroyo Grande chapter of Guitars Not Guns, which provides a guitar, gig bag and lesson materials for each youth they instruct. Student adviser and co-founder of San Luis Obispo's MMA chapter, Jessie Clarke, said she hopes to see more people at this year's event.

"We know this is our crowning moment," Murdock said. "We're pitching our music to people who've never heard it before." The Artist Development Program is the more advanced of the academy's two courses — the other is the Professional Music Foundation Program. The curriculum for these courses comes from the Academy of Contemporary Music in London (ACM).

"It's one of the most prestigious music schools in the world," Murdock said. "No other school in America is allowed to use ACM's programs. Clarke said.

Diplomas from ACM are industry qualifications, which are not considered accredited in the U.S. However, MMA students receive technical training for a career in the music business. By the time they graduate, students have developed an online presence, created a press kit and recorded original songs to promote themselves as artists.

"They have a really good way of helping people solidify what they want to become," Murdock said. Despite the fact that some schools have canceled music programs for budget reasons, creative outlets are needed in schools to teach kids about themselves and inspire, he said.

Barbara Gorin, the Guitars Not Guns vice president of fundraising and public relations, said the organization provides guitar lessons to kids who would not have a creative outlet otherwise.

"Their mother could be a drug addict in rehab; their father could be locked up in jail," Gorin said. "We're giving kids an alternative to destructive behavior."

The beneficiary of the Big Benevolent Bash offers an eight-week program for foster care, at-risk and needy kids, ranging from ages eight to 18. They are given a guitar to practice basic techniques with a volunteer instructor for an hour each week. If they complete the program, they are allowed to keep the guitar. "It's a happy time — that one hour they hold the guitar," Gorin said. "It gives them a sense of accomplishment. They leave the class having learned chords, having learned songs."

Exceptional students are also considered for a sponsored education at MMA. "The MMA is currently accepting applications for its 2011-2012 programs," Clarke said. "We need to know how powerful music can be." Clarke said. "Getting stuck into music can be such a productive thing."

Tickets for the Big Benevolent Bash are $6 and can be purchased at Boo Bob Records, Ticketweb.com or at the door. All ages are welcome and doors open at 7 p.m.
Every Monday cut out this refrigerator to find out what deals are happening around you!

### Buffet Deals

- **Lunch** Mon-Sat 11:30-3pm $8.99
- **Dinner** Monday 5-10pm $9.99
- **Sunday Brunch** 11:30-3pm $9.99 w/ Mimosas & Champagne

### Check out all the deals from 04/18/2011 to 04/24/2011

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<th>MON</th>
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<td>Sandwich</td>
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- **Happy Hour** 3-6pm
  - $3 Well
  - $4 Premium Drafts
  - $5 Appetizers

- **Pint Night** 9pm-CL
  - Live Music
  - Live Music

- **Live Music** 6-9pm
  - Happy Hour 3-6pm
  - Happy Hour 3-6pm

- **Bottomless Mimosas & Drafts** 11am-5pm

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

"This is a story well told in our grandkids about, well, at least our grand-WOWies." I told my two friends at 2 a.m. as we sat in my car in a foreign city with a mysterious bra in my trunk.

But how did we end up sleeping in my car 500 miles from home after one of the greatest nights of my life? Note: it had nothing to do with the bra. The reason can be summed up in two words: road trip.

The quest for the perfect college road trip is a timeless pursuit. The unique challenges a road trip presents to a gang of college kids who can sometimes appear insurmountable, but that has not stopped my friends and I from trying.

Our first attempt was after finals week fall quarter. The group of five freshmen hopped into my car and headed south toward UCSD where our favorite band, The Black Keys, was playing a holiday show.

We struggled through backed-up Santa Barbara only to hit Los Angeles traffic. — I was not aware that 9 p.m. on a Friday night was a prime time for rush hour. Nonetheless, I barrelled down the 405, 205, and off at her house (as she picked up her laundry, a bra was left behind — my apologies if you were reading as hear about the bra) and arrived at UCSD to meet up with another friend a day before the concert.

We made plans to stay at his house in Corona the night after the concert and hightailed it up the freeway. The next night we tried, we locked out to The Black Keys and made fun of Tokyo Police Club and Sleigh Bells and their poor excuse for music before heading north.

We are some delicious In-N-Out Burger, reminiscence and blared loud music to keep us awake (it was now 1 a.m.) all the while texting our friend out whereabouts, “Thirty minutes out, 15 minutes, be there in five.”

But the closer we came to our friend’s house, the less texts we received. Pulling up into the driveway, we saw all the lights were out and a quick check at the door revealed that no one was in the house, so we retreated to the car.

After 10 anxious minutes and five or six phone calls, we admitted defeat. Our friend fell asleep minutes before we arrived. After spending hours in the car for two days, we were going to spend the next couple of hours making friends with my car seats.

With drooped heads we shuffled back to our car thinking about how our best laid plans had come crashing down upon us.

Inside the car we drifted off to sleep in the sweaty T-shirts we had picked up at the concert while coming up with some of the most ingenious and profane commentary on our sleeping beauty friend — most of which I have blocked from memory. Sometime later, around 7 a.m., our phones went haywire.

Having awoken from his slumber, our friend raced to find out where we were — which was about twenty yards away from his house. Greggory and still pissed off, the group staggered inside and crashed on the nearest soft piece of furniture we could find, too tired to scold our ashen friend.

In any case, we gave him enough crap about it to last a lifetime (see this column).

Thankfully last weekend my friend had a chance to redeem himself as 10 of us headed north to catch the final game of the Giants’ opening series against my team, the St. Louis Cardinals.

This road trip pitted a mini-van full of four women and one guy (shout out to Alan for getting through the weekend) as well as a Sabre with sleeping beauty, myself, and another friend.

The trip to The Bay was uneventful. Other than spotting a half of the perfect college adventure will come, but I do know that I’m still in search of the perfect road trip. But, on second thought, maybe imperfection is exactly what makes road trips perfect.

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Conservatives and their Planned Parenthood lies

Leonard Pitts Jr. is a columnist for the Miami Herald.

"If you want an abortion, you go to Planned Parenthood, and that's well over 90 percent of what Planned Parenthood does," — Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., April 8, 2011.

("The statistic Kyl used was not intended to be a factual statement," — Statement from Kyl's office to CNN, later that day.

Actually, about 3 percent of Planned Parenthood's services are abortion-related. The overwhelming majority of the organization's work involves cancer screenings, contraception and treatments for sexually transmitted diseases. Granted, the 3 percent figure is self-reported and PolitiFact, the non-partisan, Pulitzer Prize-winning fact-checking website, suggests it could mudge higher depending on how you crunch the numbers. But it also rules that Kyl "easily overstated" the organization's involvement in abortions. In other words, he lied.

Conservatives seem to do that as an awful lot.

Yes, Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and Harry Reid have all, at one point or another, said at variance with the truth. But when it comes to serial lying, to the biggest, most brazen, most audacious lies, the lies repeated ad nauseam until people mistake them for truth, when it comes to the most absolute contempt for the facts and for the necessity of honest debate, it's not even close. Conservatives have no equal.

Consider: Politifact has six categories for judging veracity. A statement is either true, partly true, half true, barely true, false, or "Pants on Fire," after the old schoolyard taunt that begins "Liars! Liars!" Politifact uses this designation for statements that are not only untrue but also make some "fictional claim."

I reviewed 100 such statements on PolitiFact's website. By my count, of the 70 that originated with an identifiable individual or group (as opposed to a chain email or miscellaneous source), 61 were from the political right. That includes Rush Limbaugh saying President Obama was going to take away your right to fish, Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer saying beheaded bodies are found in the desert, Sarah Palin claiming death panels will stalk the elderly — 90 percent of the most audacious lies coming from conservatives.

And that wool is used advisedly here. There is little that is truly conservative about what we are seeing. No, this is extremism, true believers so rigidly committed to their ideological crusades that they feel justified in vandalizing reason and sacrificing integrity in furtherance of their cause.

The end justifies any means. So, in was the case with Jon Kyl, if you can't prove your point with the facts at hand, make up facts and prove it with those.

— Leonard Pitts Jr.

Miami Herald columnist

So as was the case with Jon Kyl, if you can't prove your point with the facts at hand, make up facts and prove it with those.

I apologize for making assumptions about (Matt) without knowing you. I envisioned you to be completely insufferable, which is unfair. However, I was not saying that technical disciplines are robotic. I only meant that, to me, they seem to have more clear cut answers. Since your discipline also "requires" (at least as much) creativity and abstract thought as any other, you must know that it can be difficult to come up with those ideas sometimes. Because many areas of liberal arts offer so few high profile, famous superstars, we must prove ourselves above and beyond others in order to garner praise and success, and that engenders excessive pressure, just as you probably feel excessive pressure in your field. Both my major and yours are difficult, but in completely different ways. You may disagree with the previous point, but I respect your major just as I respect mine, and find no use in comparing them. But that's just me.

— Debbie

In response to "Majorcastrum making students feel special"

Well I was going to say everything that John said, but I beat him to it. As John said, societal worth is not the same as personal worth. Further, rather than using income as a proxy for societal worth, as it has been shown to have important exceptions, I think we should look directly at the heart of the matter — which schools of thought, in general, make a larger impact on society?

Over the last 300 years, societies have advanced (and therefore provided a better standard of living for their members) more than throughout the entire remainder of human history. These advances have been driven by medical sciences, self-driven trans-

— Matt

In response to "Majorcastrum making students feel special"

I feel that I am uniquely qualified to comment on this. I hold a degree from the Cal Poly College of Engineering (B.S.) as well as a master's degree in the social sciences from a well known, Ivy League university (A.M.). While my experience is, of course, anecdotal, I can certainly vouch for the ease of my social science degree versus that of my engineering degree.

In addition, there is an old phrase that goes something like, "I don't need a weatherman to tell me it's raining." I think that applies here quite well: the soft sciences simply are not as difficult as the hard sciences, and it doesn't take a rocket scientist (perhaps you'd prefer a poet) to make that observation. Even if one were to accept the thrust of your argument — that somehow the amount of time one major spends in study versus another — engineering would still come out on top. Beyond this, of course, is the nonsensical nature of the "time = difficulty" argument. Social sciences are important, but not difficult. Not by a longshot.

— Stephen

In response to "Majorcastrum making students feel special"

NOTE: The Mustang Daily features select comments that are written in response to articles posted online. Though not all the responses are printed, the Mustang Daily print comments that are coherent and future intelligible discussion on a given subject. No overcapitalization, please.
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Baseball

continued from page 12

Miller then launched a two-strike single into right field scoring Crocker and putting Cal Poly up 5-2. A leadoff home run by shortstop Kyle Ati would be the last run scored during the game, as Cal Poly closed out the game 5-3. Crocker credited the team's recent success to new players who have filled into starting roles. "Guys are stepping up," Crocker said. "Even guys who are taking the place of injured players are really taking a role in the lineup. We're finally playing to our capability. We got to keep taking things one game at a time and things are going to keep falling into place."

It was Cal Poly's first Big West Sweet since it defeated UC Davis in April 2009. Lee said he expects second baseman Matt Jensen and first baseman Tim Wise to return to the lineup Tuesday against Fresno State after being out for four weeks.

Softball

continued from page 12

to left as the Titans walked off with an 11-8 win.

The Mustangs didn't fare better in the first game of Saturday's doubleheader.

Cal State Fullerton got on the board first with a run in the first, when Torrie Anderson hit a RBI single to center.

The Mustangs answered in the sixth. Catcher Stephanie Correia hit a single down the right field line to bring home right fielder Nicole Lund, and Parson hit a RBI single to center to put the Mustangs ahead 2-1.

But, in the bottom of the sixth, Cal State Fullerton answered with two runs of its own. Cal State Fullerton's Ashley Carter hit a RBI single, while Jens Ribio gave the Titans a 3-2 lead.

The Mustangs would go down 1-2-3 in the seventh for the loss. Parson pitched all six innings and gave up two earned runs. She struck out two, while walking one.

In the second game, Cahn got the start and pitched all six innings. She gave up two earned runs and walked four, en route to her ninth loss of the season.

It's now a battle to get back to the top. With UC Riverside defeating UC Santa Barbara, the Mustangs are in sole position of last place in the Big West. The Mustangs will play Long Beach State, Cal State Northridge, UC Davis and Pacific to close out the regular season.

Men's tennis downs UC Santa Barbara

The Cal Poly men's tennis team stayed undefeated in Big West play, after beating UC Santa Barbara 4-3 Saturday. The Mustangs are now 4-0 in the conference and 14-3 overall. Andre Dome got the Mustangs started with a win in singles play, but the Mustangs won just two more matchups. With the point in doubles play, it would be enough for the win.
Baseball sweeps Cal State Northridge, wins fourth straight

The Cal Poly baseball team combined for 12 hits, and boasted a .364 batting average Sunday against Cal State Northridge.

Jerome Goyhenetche

The Cal Poly baseball team extended its winning streak to four on Sunday as the Mustangs completed a sweep over Cal State Northridge with a 5-3 victory in game three.

Even though Cal Poly had already clinched the series Saturday night with an 8-2 win, head coach Larry Lee said the team was not going to be satisfied with just two wins in the series.

"[Two wins] wouldn't have done us any good," Lee said. "We needed to take care of business after last weekend. You don't always think of a sweep, but you know that each game was necessary just to keep us within striking distance, so each upcoming series means that much more."

In their past four games, the Mustangs batted .364 as a team while averaging only one earned run in each of those games. The Mustangs followed suit in the last game, batting .364 as a team, and only giving up one earned run.

Freshman Chase Johnson started the game and went 5 2/3 innings, giving up no earned runs off four hits.

Pitcher Joey Wagman then came on and pitched the last 10 outs of the game, striking-out eight of 11 batters, including the last six in a row. His only blemish was giving up a solo home run in the seventh inning.

Wagman said when he walked on the mound, he was determined to preserve Cal Poly's lead and earn them a much-needed win.

"We know the time is now to step up," Wagman said. "We wanted to go 6-3, win this game and sweep this team. My main goal was give the team a chance to win this game."

The lineup was powered by center fielder Bobby Crocker, who went 3 for 5 with two runs, shortstop Mike Miller, who went 3 for 4 with two RBIs, and first baseman J.J. Thompson, who went 2 for 4. It was the fourth straight game Cal Poly has earned double-digit hits.

The Mustangs scored their first runs of the game in the bottom of the fourth inning, with Miller hitting a single down the left field line. DJ Gentile followed up with a double off the center-field wall to bring Miller home.

Thompson kept the rally going, with a single to right field, advancing Gentile to third. The hit, his second of the game, marked the 12th time in the last 20 games Thompson's bunted two hits.

Catcher Elliott Stewart brought Gentile home with a ground out to third base, giving the Mustangs a 2-0 lead.

Cal Poly continued to add to its lead with another lead-off single in the bottom of the fifth, this time from Crocker. After second baseman Denver Chavez laid down a sacrifice bunt that advanced Crocker to second, Miller singled up the middle to bring Crocker home and expand the Mustang lead to three.

But in the bottom of the sixth, Cal State Northridge pulled itself back in the game.


With just one out, a ground-out from third baseman Tommy Simis brought in Goossen-Brown and narrowed Cal Poly's lead to one.

That brought starting pitcher Johnson out of the game and brought in Wagman. After pitching a full count, Wagman managed to strike out Miles Williams to end the inning.

Cal Poly responded again in the sixth scoring in its third consecutive inning. With one out and Busby on first, Crocker collected his third hit of the game, putting runners on second and third with one out. Chavez brought in Cal Poly's fourth run after Simis missed a hard grounder to third base, and Busby scored.

see Baseball, page 11

Softball swept by Cal State Fullerton

Mustang Daily Staff Report

After the Cal Poly softball team defeated UC Riverside in its Big West opening series, the Mustangs looked like they were about to flip the script on what has been a difficult year.

Now, the Mustangs are starting to write a different story.

Cal Poly failed to grab a win against Cal State Fullerton in its three-game conference series this weekend, marking the second weekend in a row where the Mustangs have been swept.

It's been a hard fall off for what has been a streaking program in recent years. Head coach Jenny Condon's 189-114 record in her five seasons at Cal Poly has been the best in the Big West during that stretch. She had yet to record a losing record in her tenure at Cal Poly, until last season's 23-24 team.

Still, last season was close to a successful season in itself. The Mustangs were in the running for the Big West regular season crown after winning eight games in a nine-game stretch last year. But a series sweep to UC Davis knocked the Mustangs out of playoff contention.

The season before that, the Mustangs string together a storied 39-10 (18-3 Big West) record, winning their second straight Big West title and two games in the Palo Alto regional of the NCAA Tournament.

This season, none of that success has carried over — at least not yet. After losing their sixth straight game against Cal State Fullerton on Sunday, the Mustangs are now 6-29 and 2-7 in the Big West.

Yet, the Mustangs were one swing away from winning the series finale Sunday.

With the game tied 6-6 as the Mustangs headed into eighth, Anna Cahn belted a RBI double to center field and Rebecca Parton hit a RBI single down the left field line to put the Mustangs on top 8-6. But in the bottom of the sixth, the Titans tied the game at 8-8.

With runners on first and third, Cal State Fullerton's Nicole Johnson knocked a three-run home run in the eighth inning.

see Softball, page 11

Women's tennis clinches No. 2 seed in postseason

Ryan Sadarto

The Cal Poly women's tennis team was named the Big West regular-season and tournament champions.

The Mustangs defeated UC Irvine 6-1 Saturday in Irvine's last home match of his career, while the Poly-teams were at the end of the season. The Mustangs had a clean sweep against UC Irvine in singles play, but fell to doubles play. With the win, the Mustangs claimed the No. 2 seed in the Big West Tournament.

see Tennis, page 11