In an effort to boost revenue amid a struggling economy, San Luis Obispo City Council members voted April 9 to increase downtown parking fees, including charging for parking on Sundays.

Robert Horch, the San Luis Obispo parking services manager, said city council members voted to charge for metered parking from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., beginning in July, and raise the hourly meter price from $1.25 to $1.50 in the "downtown core areas" in November. The changes are projected to bring in $351,125 per year, with $206,125 from Sunday fees, according to the city.

Horch said the council also approved adding meters that accept credit cards to help supplement the raised parking costs. He said the raised fees help pay for parking costs around the city.

"Parking is not someone's destiny when they come downtown, but a method to access the downtown," Horch said. "Charging on Sundays helps us afford the costs of maintenance, lighting, elevators and debt service or funding of parking structures and other parking areas."

Though the city aims to help pay for costs, some San Luis Obispo residents are unhappy about the decision. Horch said some downtown churches are concerned the new costs could deter worshippers. However, he said they shouldn't worry because many other cities charge parking on Sundays and those worshippers still attend services.

"We recommended this because of the retail business occurring on Sundays, not because of religious services," Horch said. "We know this is a big change. We will work with these churches to help find the best parking on Sundays that meets their needs."

Others besides churchgoers are also concerned about the new fees.

Mathematics sophomore Nora- dino Salas said the additional cost on Sunday may complicate his weekend plans.

"(Costs on Sunday) would not be very good," Salas said. "I would not be very happy. If I wanted to go downtown on the weekend, it would just be another hassle."

Although some may not go downtown on Sundays due to the new charge, Horch said, the parking costs could help make the downtown economy more prosperous. With parking fees on Sundays, many employees park in the sought-after spots closer to businesses, leaving customers to park farther away. But if the city starts charging, employees are less likely to park at all, leaving the spots open for customers who want to shop.

Horch said the additional funds from Sunday parking will also help pay for a new potential parking structure on Palm and Nipomo streets.

Yet, with a new parking structure comes new costs.

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Yet, with a new parking structure comes new costs.
Students feeling lemony fresh after agribusiness win

Katelyn Sw eigart
KATELYN.SWEIGART.MD@GMAIL.COM

Cal Poly agribusiness students and their "Liora" Seedless Lemons won first place in the annual National Agribusiness Association Student Marketing Competition in Kansas City, Mo. last week. They competed against 30 teams from across the nation, including Purdue University, Ohio State University, Cornell University and Texas A&M University.

The competitors are judged based on a marketing plan summary sent in a month in advance. At the actual competition, the teams have 20-minute presentations and a 10-minute question and answer period with the judges.

Agribusiness graduate student Brandon Banner was one of the advisors for the team.

"The biggest goal of the competition is to take your product and find the most realistic market plan," Banner said. "Where are you going to sell it, and how much are you going to sell it for and what kind of promotional efforts are you going to use. The judges really liked our utilization of social media in our advertising..

"I don't think many of the competitors make up their own products, but this isn't the case for Cal Poly. "One of Cal Poly's traditions is that we strive to partner with Cal Poly (alumni) and actual people in the industry to develop marketing plans for real products, rather than making something up," Banner said.

This year's team started up with Peter Alkire — a Cal Poly agribusiness alumni who owns Future Fruit, LLC and a part of the AGB Advisory Council — as an advisor for the first seedless lemon in the U.S. market. Not only did the team win the competition, but Future Fruit, LLC can apply parts of its marketing plan in real life.

The team focused its marketing in San Francisco, Las Angeles and Las Vegas, specifically on high-end chefs. Its research found more than 70 percent of lemons sold are used in restaurants.

"The lemons are grown in the Central Valley of California, (and) those three cities are within 230 miles of the growing region, so we were able to appeal to the locally grown trend as well," Banner said.

Banner said the team worked late nights and weekends from January until the competition, and essentially lived in the agriculture building. It even, accidentally set off alarms in the computer labs multiple times for staying too late.

The students chose the product name "Liora," which is Hebrew for "light." Banner said the product was meant to be a "shining light on the future of the lemon industry."

Agribusiness senior and competitor Taylor Hansard said some people didn't like the name.

"We had one judge that told us it didn't remind him of lemons," Hansard said. "Then we asked him when he heard 'Citrine' if the thought of lemon trees, and he said no.

The name grew on people though, and Hansard said the judges asked how many times they had practiced, because they could tell the difference. One of the biggest difficulties during the competition was appealing to a mostly Midwestern judging panel, consisting of representatives from companies such as The Monsanto Company and John Deere.

"Cal Poly gets a different population to market to versus the Midwest one," Hansard said. "I know with (Purdue University) they had a sandwich and cheese that they were marketing to natural foodies. And if you went to market sandwiches to a natural foodie in California they'd say you're crazy."

Agribusiness graduate student Hayley Loehr said Cal Poly was the only school in the finals that didn't have a grand grant from their state — meaning it did not get money from its state to fund programs for research and development. The other schools also had faculty advisors who played a much bigger role in their teams, whereas Cal Poly was nearly completely student-run because it had graduate student advisors, Loehr said.

"All the other schools were competing against had PhDs because they had teachers who were running this team, and (were) with them at all of their practices," Loehr said. "With us, we meet as a group of students. So it wasn't 'Don't come and you're not passing.' We're not forcing, but everyone's there."

"All the other schools ... had teachers who were running this team," graduate student Hayley Loehr said. "With us we, as a group of students. So it wasn't 'Don't come and you're not passing.' We're not forcing, but everyone's there."

The top six teams, in ranking order, were: Cal Poly, Purdue University, Kansas State University, Ohio State University, Texas A&M and Michigan State University.

Loehr also said Cal Poly President Jeffrey Arntz was the former dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University.

"So we beat his alumni," Loehr said. "He made the right choice — he made a step up."

Parking

continued from page 1

Cindy Campbell, the associate director of the Cal Poly University Police Department, said the decision was necessary because additional fees are essential due to regular maintenance costs and those associated with the new structure, as well as paying city money for other services that need the funds.

Though Campbell said Cal Poly's parking fees are not proposed to rise next year, she could not guarantee they would not also eventually increase with rising maintenance costs and debt owed on current campus parking structures.

Cal Poly offers reserved parking for the three types of Poly parking: general students, residents and staff. By having different sections, each are reserved spaces, making it convenient for residents, Campbell said.

By the residential areas on campus, you don't have a choice," Campbell said. "You've got a car, you've got to put it where the residential parking is for you. You have to be assured you have a spot."

Though Sunday parking changes may make downtown travel less desirable, Cal Poly and the city both provide services to help.

Campbell said students can ride the bus for free, which she thought students should take more advantage of.

"Maybe students are weary of hearing this message, but the bus is free," Campbell said. "We're paying for it out of citation money. You don't worry about getting a ticket at the meters, you don't have to worry about paying the meters at all."

In addition, Horch said the city allows access for bikers and walkers, making the downtown area conducive to those without cars or who do not wish to pay the additional fees. He also said the city always keeps locals in mind when making parking changes.

"Our city council has addressed a host of parking and access issues historically," Horch said. "In this case they made a tough decision to ensure funding for downtown parking as an investment in the long term health of the downtown and the Parking Enterprise Fund. If more parking issues surface, I am confident the city council will meet those issues and decide on the appropriate course of action to fix them.
Homeless

continued from page 1

seeking a hot meal.

The city of San Luis Obispo has the highest percentage of homeless persons in the county—36 percent of the county’s homeless population reside in the city. Paso Robles has the second most, with 20 percent. Half of the homeless in the county have been without a place of their own for more than a year.

Dan De Vaul is the owner of Sunny Acres, a non-profit corporation that provides a clean and sober environment for those with drug and alcohol addictions. De Vaul is currently preparing to serve for two code violation convictions regarding the use of his land for housing homeless individuals.

De Vaul said the majority of taxpayer money going toward homeless community programs is spent on “hypocritically bullshit.”

He is closely connected with the homeless community in San Luis Obispo, and said he fears things are becoming worse. But De Vaul said he is pleased to see Cal Poly students reaching out to the community.

“I hope some of the students will seek out our program here at Sunny Acres and volunteer,” De Vaul said.

Paul Rogers, an engineering senior, works closely with De Vaul and the homeless community.

Rogers said the resources for the homeless community in San Luis Obispo are understocked.

“I’d like to see more resources and for more people to get involved,” Rogers said.

Many locals find the homeless community an annoyance in the city.

“There’s a growing number of people losing their homes,” San Luis Obispo resident Larry Nash said. “I think the government should be more assistive and get these people off the streets.”

“Bobby” has lived on the streets of San Luis Obispo for more than five years. He has seen a lot, and said he enjoys his life.

“There’s a lot of happy homeless people in this city,” he said. “The grumpy people are the ones with the money. San Luis is homeless-friendly, but there’s nowhere to go.”

For more insight on the homeless problem in San Luis Obispo, check out the video at mustangdaily.net.
SANTA CRUZ (MCT) — President Obama has made federal disaster aid available to California communities that suffered damage in the March tsunami.

The tsunami caused an estimated $50 million damage, with the harbors in Santa Cruz and Crescent City being hardest hit. In Santa Barbara, fierce waves turned the harbor into a tidal pool, sweeping away a barge used for the city’s commercial fishing operation and nearly destroying a 200-ton crane barge that became unmoored in the tumult. In Ventura, a city sailing dock broke off and at least one boat was lost at sea. In Morro Bay, a dock came loose in the waves. California has declared a disaster in several coastal counties, and federal aid would add to that.

... SAN FRANCISCO (MCT) — A teenager was rescued Sunday morning after jumping or falling from the Golden Gate Bridge, a San Francisco Fire Department dispatcher said. The girl was conscious and responsive when pulled from the chilly water. A city sailing dock broke off and at least one boat was lost at sea. In Morro Bay, a dock came loose in the waves. California has declared a disaster in several coastal counties, and federal aid would add to that.

JAPAN (MCT) — Heat stroke is posing yet another threat to workers dealing with already hazardous working conditions at the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant. Some workers have suffered heat stroke while working in heavy protective suits in radioactive areas with no air conditioning.

Tokyo Electric Power Co. is considering setting up air-conditioned buildings as makeshift rest stations for workers. On March 11, the day the massive earthquake and tsunami struck northeastern Japan, the temperature near the plant was 49 degrees Fahrenheit (9.3 degrees Celsius).

Workers in charge of checking power supply and clearing debris inside and around turbine buildings wear protective suits and full-face masks. Because they are not allowed to take off the masks during work, they cannot even drink water.

AFGHANISTAN (MCT) — An insurgent dressed as an Afghan soldier opened fire Monday inside the Defense Ministry, killing two soldiers in an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate the Afghan and French defense ministers, officials said. The attacker struck the ministry before noon, ahead of a joint news conference the ministers had scheduled. He was shot and killed by Afghan soldiers before he could detonate his explosives, said a Defense Ministry spokesman. Seven soldiers were wounded in the attack.

Afghan Defense Minister Abdul Rahim Wardak was at the ministry on Monday to decide whether federal judges may consider “rehabilitation” when setting a prison term. Tapia’s case put a spotlight on the history of sentencing policy in America and the personal history of a troubled young woman. She was arrested at San Ysidro, Calif., in 2008 when border agents found two illegal aliens hidden in her Jeep. She was charged with the attempted smuggling of aliens. When she did not appear for a hearing, she was arrested again, and agents found methamphetamine in her apartment.

Tapia was convicted on all counts, but because she had been sexually abused as a child, her lawyer asked for leniency from the court. However, current law ties the hands of federal judges and leaves them little freedom to set very long or very short terms.

The minimum sentence for Tapia was three years. U.S. District Judge Barry Fixowski decided on the maximum term of 51 months, or slightly more four years, and cited her need for drug rehabilitation as a factor.

Before 1984, judges had wide leeway in sentencing policy, but Congress, by adding prison time for rehabilitation, sought to end the practice of sending defendants to prison for “non-criminal” offenses. Bibas agreed a judge could not add five years so that a prisoner could be rehabilitated, but argued the law did not forbid the use of practical programs that would help a prisoner. He said Tapia’s sentence should be affirmed because it still was within the range set by law.

The justices sounded split. Citing the words of the law, Justice Antonin Scalia said it clearly prohibits judges from adding prison time for rehabilitation, but Justice Anthony Kennedy said it forbids the use of practical programs that would help a prisoner. He wanted to deter Tapia from committing future crimes, by recommending rehabilitation, she said. Justice Anthony Kennedy seemed to agree. Tapia will await a ruling in federal prison.

Supreme Court to rule on U.S. sentencing policy

David G. Savage

TREASURE WASHINGTON BUREAU

Alesandra Tapia expected to go to prison on_vom charges for her crimes. But she didn’t expect to be there longer to undergo drug rehabilitation.

The U.S. Supreme Court took the case Monday to decide whether federal judges can sentence prisoners to more time if it’s deemed to be for their own good. The outcome could have a broad impact — more than 80,000 convicted criminals are sentenced each year, and the lower federal courts are split over whether judges may consider “rehabilitation” when setting a prison term.

Tapia’s case put a spotlight on the history of sentencing policy in America and the personal history of a troubled young woman. She was arrested at San Ysidro, Calif., in 2008 when border agents found two illegal aliens hidden in her Jeep. She was charged with the attempted smuggling of aliens. When she did not appear for a hearing, she was arrested again, and agents found methamphetamine in her apartment.

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Syrian protesters call for president to resign

Andrew Bossone
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Thousands of protesters occupied a key square in the Syrian city of Homs on Monday demanding the resignation of President Bashar Assad, the latest sign that the monthlong anti-Assad rebellion is still gaining momentum.

The demonstrators took their positions after a funeral for eight protesters who were killed in the city Sunday during clashes with police, but there were no reports of violence Monday.

Assad's government has switched between brutal repression and restrained attacks on demonstrators that have left many analysts of Syrian events grasping to explain whether the response is an effort to curb the regime's worst abuses or a sign of confusion within the government on how to respond to a movement that appears to be diminishing.

Nadim Houry, a Beirut-based analyst for Human Rights Watch who's monitored Syria for six years, said that he believes the confusion has arisen in part because Assad's regime has always been able to argue that leaving him in power guarantees stability in an unstable region. But the continued protests have cast doubt on that pledge.

Adding to the confusion is that every time Assad has offered reforms, it's been followed by a crackdown.

"The government is trying to negotiate but the social contract (the promise of stability) is broken," Houry said. "And people have no reason to believe promises of reform."

Video on YouTube of Sunday’s protests in Homs showed bullets and blood on the ground along with the sound of machine gun fire. In another video, crowds of men run along what appears to be a rural street and crawl on the ground as bullets whiz overhead.

On Monday, a YouTube video showed what purported to be the funeral of one of the protesters. The crowd, made up exclusively of men, chanted "One! One! One! The Syrian people are one!"

Authenticating the source of videos is nearly impossible. Syrians who post the footage online remain anonymous for fear of government retaliation.

Witnesses in Homs could not be reached for comments. Assad in recent days has promised that the government would soon end the emergency law that allows it to detain and arrest citizens. Each time he's made the pledge though, police followed up by taking to the streets and shooting protesters.

The government also has announced it would grant citizenship to the Kurdish population, but this was largely seen as an attempt to prevent the estimated 300,000 Kurds living in limbo from joining protests. Assad also replaced half of his Cabinet, but stacked it with loyalists. The result has been only rising calls for more protests.

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It's time to choose how you want to retire

Social Security won't kick in until you're 67 years old — and rest assured, there won't be any money left in the pot by then.

— Erik Hansen
Gustave columnist

If, starting at 22, you continue this practice through your 20s, up your contribution to $10,000 a year in your 30s, up it again to $15,000 a year in your 40s and max out your contribution at $22,000 a year in your 50s, by the time you hit 60 and retire, your retirement account will have more than $3.2 million in it.

As a caveat, that's assuming an average yearly return of 8 percent, and of course, you're not going to get a yearly return of 8 percent every year. As a second caveat, I did that calculation myself in Excel, so $3.2 million could be way off.

Details aside, with $3.2 million in your retirement account, you could pull $250,000 a year from your account until you're 100 years old. The money that sits in your retirement account will continue to grow — hopefully — until you've pulled the last of it out. However, with your lifestyle, you probably won't live long enough to spend every last dime.

Also, keep in mind that at 60 — when you retire — while your husband or wife may be past their prime, your school loan, mortgage and gambling debts should already be paid off. This means you'll have $250,000 a year of fun money to blow as you see fit.

On the downside, if it's not a Roth account, you'll be paying taxes when you make withdrawals from your retirement account. You didn't think the government wasn't going to take their "fair share" of your hard earned money did you?

Retirement Plan
Slowly bankrupting our cities, counties and great state, retirement plans are awesome. What's even more awesome, if you don't have any self-control, retirement plans are almost compulsory if you are a member of CalPERS, CalSTRS or some other public employee retirement plan.

Dummied down, a lot of retirement plans will allow you to slowly build a percent of your final salary when you retire ... at 55. For instance, on the low end, some cities and counties will offer a plan that states you will earn 2 percent a year of your final salary at 55. So, if you work for some random city from the time you're 22 to 55 (33 years) and are so ambitious that you work your way up to middle management and retire with a final salary of $150,000 a year, you will pull down about $100,000 a year — or 66 percent of $150,000 — for the rest of your life. And because you're vested, you'll get health insurance too.

On the downside, your retirement will be slightly less luxurious than if you had a 401K — but hey, you get to retire at 55, when you still have some life in your tires. Also, a lot of retirement plans require that employees contribute a small amount every paycheck to their retirement plan, and average their final salary over their last few years of employment. Oh yeah, and you'll be paying taxes after you retire too.

If you're on a retirement plan, and you want to up your "retirement lifestyle" a little, with all that money you save not contributing to a 401K you could open your own Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Anyone can open one right now; most banks even offer them. The max yearly contribution is only $5,000 — until you hit 50, when it bumps up to $6,000 a year — if you start contributing the max at 22, when you retire at 55, your annual income after retirement would increase significantly.

So, what'll it be — shuffleboard or boote, drugs and hookers?

Erik Hansen is a graduate student pursuing a Master of Public Policy and the "When I Was a Mustang..." column.

As you get ready to leave Cal Poly, join the working world and do whatever it is you learned by doing, the last thing on your mind is getting old and wrinkly, retiring and dying.

However, the choices you make now will play a big part in determining if you die 1) playing shuffleboard at the local senior center, or 2) surrounding by all the boote, drugs (your prescriptions) and hookers money can buy.

Because Social Security won't kick in until you're 67 years old — and rest assured, there won't be any money left in the pot by then — you'd better be proactive if you have your sights set on what's behind door number two. Don't fret, Social Security probably wouldn't have covered your lavish lifestyle anyway.

Due to the glut of job openings out there right now, careful consideration should be put into which employer you choose and the type of retirement they offer.

In trying to clarify your retirement choices, let's keep things simple and assume you'll have to choose between a retirement account — if you're industrious and decide to work in the private sector — or a retirement plan if you're lazy and decide to work in the public sector.

Retirement Account
401K, 403b. Roth, not Roth. blah blah blah. Let's just look at a normal 401K. First thing's first, contribute — 10 percent (or more!) of your annual salary would be ideal.

Also, because you can be picky, choose an employer that matches your 401K contributions to at least 5 percent of your annual salary. Now we can imagine that you start off making an annual salary of $50,000 a year, you contribute $5,000 a year to your 401K and your employer matches you with $2,500 a year. That's $7,500 in your retirement account in your first year.

527x1185
Mint has more to offer than fresh breath

VIRGO
Girl Scout Cookie season ended not too long ago, and many of us are just now finishing the last of our Thin Mints that really didn’t help us keep too thin at all. This reality may lead some to believe a gloomy sadness looms in the cloudy skies of April, but be consoled; there is no need to fret. The columnist.

Aotearoa

Arms working harder than expected to make up for lost time. You’ll get some valuable assistance if you ask. The capabilities of mint encompass a wide spread of everyday realms including the cooking realm, curing realm and even as far as the control of pests realm — mint being a proven safe mouse deterrent. It is clear mint is on the move to pass a widespread of everyday realms.

Aries
A recent study may have some potential peaks in what he or she proposes. You’ll get some valuable assistance if you ask. The study performed by the University of Cincinnati concluded that the ancient Romans were onto something. It is clear mint is on the move to pass a widespread of everyday realms.

Cancer
A recent study may have some potential peaks in what he or she proposes. You’ll get some valuable assistance if you ask. The study performed by the University of Cincinnati concluded that the ancient Romans were onto something. It is clear mint is on the move to pass a widespread of everyday realms.

Capricorn
Focus on that which opens the door to certain self-discoveries. What you learn could be a lot more useful to almost immediately.

Aquarius
Recent affairs take on increased importance. Time spent alone gives you the opportunity to be more honest with yourself.

Pisces
You may be called upon to provide something to someone else who needs to eat one of your creations.

HINT:
Vanilla: Chocolate
White: Surf: Turf
Steak

Mint Basil Pesto
Ingredients
Large handful leaves
Butter
Mint
Juice
Garlic
Sugar
White wine
Pine nuts
Parsley

Method
Boil the mint leaves. Let them cool, then add nuts, pine nuts, garlic and sugar to taste. Add a dash of white wine if desired. Add mint pesto to taste.
Those who think the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival has lost some of its luster in its 12th year, whether because of sell-out crowds, ticket prices or increased competition in the festival market, have not met college-age Yorba Linda residents Michael Burke and Riley Dahlson. The two are skilled in the art of sneaking into the Indio grounds, which concludes Sunday night — persuaded them to use their skills to go legit.

“We owed it to them,” said Dahlson, a music fan who shelled out for a ticket that topped $300 after service fees. Then again, the pair may have succeeded so far in protecting the annual event from the ticketing issues and waves of gate-crashers that proved so problematic last year.

Security personnel hired by promoter Goldenvoice said that in some places, fence climbers are greeted with greased chains, and those who make it over may land in a small, quicksand-like trap. More advanced are the new electronically encrypted wristbands that festival-goers are required to wear, which have helped security patrol the perimeter, said Indio Police spokesman Benjamin Guitron. “From the law enforcement perspective, it clearly identified people as to where they should be.”

Other issues appear to have been successfully tweaked, too. Coachella attendees have long complained of lengthy traffic hold-ups. And although waits to get into the festival reportedly hit two hours, that’s an improvement over the tales of backups twice that long last year.

Exiting the grounds went more smoothly Friday night as well. Guitron said the parking lots were fully cleared within 90 minutes of the event’s 1 a.m. conclusion.

Allrecipes of some headaches was surely an upswing in the number of shuttle users, as Goldenvoice has more heavily championed the service this year. Coachella co-founder Paul Tollett said 15,000 shuttle passes were sold in advance, compared with just 3,000 last year.

Even as temperatures rose toward 100 degrees Saturday afternoon, most attendees seemed to agree that Coachella had officially rebounded from an off, overcrowded 2010 concert festival.

Lauren Emily Brown, an 18-year-old from Ventura, said she was happy with Goldenvoice’s new safeguarding plans. “I like it a lot,” she said. “Last year, I know a lot of my friends snuck in, and that just kind of ruins it for everyone. It’s not fair to the people who have spent all this money.”

Problems on Friday were relatively minor. Guitron said. Only 20 arrests were made, and all were alcohol- and drug-related. “There were a couple (complaints) from the residents, just trespassing, but nothing — nothing like it was last year,” he said.

The only notable scare occurred Friday night, when Indio Police and Fire departments were alerted that a woman had attempted to jump off a Ferris wheel, fire battalion chief Daniel Taltob said. A helicopter was called, and Taltob said the “young lady mentally altered on substances” was saved by someone on the Ferris wheel before it arrived. Both riders were uninjured.

Coachella — a sell-out with about 90,000 people expected per day (including festival staff and security personnel) — has established itself as the premier three-day music event on the West Coast and the unofficial kickoff of the annual summer concert season. Dan Whiford of electron-pop act Cut Copy said onstage Friday that he would never turn down an opportunity to play at Coachella.

“It’s like an oasis,” he said.

Even artists not on the bill couldn’t resist making the trek. Former Beatle Paul McCartney, who headlined the festival in 2009, jumped onstage to perform alongside electronica producer Afrojack — as did Red Hot Chili Peppers. Actor Danny DeVito popped onstage with the Aquabats.

The allure of the festival wasn’t lost on Mick Jones, who as a founding member of the Clash helped shape and advance British punk. He performed with his re-formed post-Clash band, Big Audio Dynamite.

The Clay always resisted a reunion, but Jones said his Coachella 2010 gig as part of Gorillaz helped persuade him to get Big Audio Dynamite back together. Jones said Coachella’s Tollett successfully nudged him last year. “He said, ‘Mick, tell me when you want to come back and play. We will always have you.’”

While Big Audio Dynamite is celebrating a return, local band Odd Future Wolf Gang Kill Them All had something of a coming-out party at Coachella. The hip-hop collective played the festival’s biggest dance tent in the late afternoon and drew a packed crowd. But the impatient masses, initially curious about the Odd Future hype, eventually began to drift away mid-set, leaving a tent that was suddenly only a little more than half full.

Coachella, after all, with its roughly 120 acts, is a place that encourages short attention spans. Or, as Stephen Hoyt of San Diego found, more simple pleasures.

“I’m having a great day,” he said Friday. “It’s beautiful out. I’ve seen some great bands, and there are beautiful women everywhere.”

According to Indio Police spokesman Benjamin Guitron, Coachella had made big improvements since last year, with only 20 arrests made at the festival.
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opinion/editorial
Tuesday, April 19, 2011

College support shouldn’t end at acceptance

Barbara Steely is a member of the Kansas City Star editorial board.

The wildest college admissions story of the year involves a 4-year-old.
The tyke’s mother sent a New York City preschool, claiming it hadn’t lived up to advertising claims that the $19,000-a-year tuition would set her child on the path to the promised land.

Instead of drilling for the intelligence test needed for admittance to a prestigious elementary school, it seems the girl spent most of her time — believe it, folks — playing.

“It is no secret that getting a child into the Ivy League starts in nursery school,” the mom said in a legal brief.

Well, Harvard admitted only 6.2 percent of its applicants this year, so perhaps this mother is on to something.

These are the stories we hear this time of year, as the acceptance and rejection notices from top-flight colleges roll in.

It’s an entertaining exercise to watch. But from a public policy perspective, it’s almost irrelevant.

Dips in endowments aside, the Ivy’s and their students will be fine.

Even their rejects will get by. Kids with completion rates. Four of 10 college campuses, students with the goal of attaining a two-year degree ever receive one.

Four-year colleges also struggle with the goal of attaining a two-year degree within six years.

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It’s an entertaining exercise to watch. But from a public policy perspective, it’s almost irrelevant.

In other news, waiting lists for selective schools are at an all-time high. And being raised by a tiger mother paid off. The daughter of Amy Chua — the Chinese mom who recounted her stern childrearing methods in a controversial book — was accepted by Harvard and Yale.

Students who borrowed money left college last year with an average debt of $24,000.

— Barbara Steely
Kansas City Star editorial board

For too long, we’ve been focused on the campus entrance. “Go to college.” We’ve told our young men and women, holding out a degree as the key to the American dream. We’ve offered them scholarships and grants and loans and applauded them as they’ve walked through the front gate. But no one pays much attention when they slip quietly out the back door with no degree and tons of debt.

That’s starting to change. The Obama administration has asked states to come up with new approaches for improving college completion rates. The Gates Foundation is offering incentives to community colleges to work on the problem.

These are good moves, but they confine themselves to the conventional wisdom that at least some college is good for everyone. A growing number of counselors, economists and, yes, academics, are questioning that wisdom, and instead recommending more apprenticeships and vocational training to prepare students for middle-skill jobs.

The solution isn’t one approach or another. Students need options other than college and those who opt for college need support once they get there.

College admissions drama make for good reading. Jobs and financial security make for happier endings.

Students who borrowed money left college last year with an average debt of $24,000.

— Barbara Steely
Kansas City Star editorial board
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10 Apparel
14 Hodgepodge
15 Joyce Oulbrief
16 Eurasian range
17 Watermelon part
18 Eats or drinks
19 Signature
20 Silent horse epoch
22 Forward on
24 Stone monument
25 Bags
26 Easy
28 Princess Copper
30 Strong connection
31 Gershwin
34 Virgo
37 Olds
38 Eco-friendly leeds
39 Peace Place
41 Mir successor
43 Pinball palace
45 Underwater seeker
46 Nix
47 Tall US president
48 Syrup brand
50 G tooth's moose
52 Mac 1990's record
54 Open
56 The Cows (hyph.)
59 Heart attacks
63 Tree anchor
66 Torn or worn
67 Farmers aid makers
68 Miner’s quest
69 Camel’s Hump
70 Wave hello
71 Son of Aphrodite

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
A B C D E F G H I J

1 A R M Y 2 I N T E R 3 A S S 4 B U L L 5 T A R Z 6 R E N T 7 T Y M 8 C O N 9 M U N 10 C O R

4 8 5 7 6 1 2 9 10

56,711

DOWN
1 Dime
2 George who was a star
3 Lombard
4 Called from the Lyric
5 Donned rectos
6 Out a load of
7 Ponzy germ
8 Brief guest appearance
9 True inner self
10 Mediterranean country
11 By mouth
12 Monopoly or volatile
13 Husky’s burden
14 Craftsmen org
15 Envelope abbr.
16 Bike sandwhich
17 Calculator key
18 Teen girl
19 Top
20 Three ready to drop
21 Nashville landmark
22 Forwarded on
24 Stone monument
25 Bags
26 Easy
28 Princess Copper
30 Strong connection
31 Gershwin
34 Virgo
37 Olds
38 Eco-friendly leeds
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4 8 5 7 6 1 2 9 10

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Johnson continued from page 12
tantly gain experience.
As his freshman season con-
ccluded, Lee recognized Johnson had
more potential as a reliever; two solid
pitches would not sustain him as a
college starter.
So to the bullpen Johnson went,
There, Johnson toiled through his
sophomore season while allowing 35
runs over 44 1/3 innings, hardly the
picture of the dominant closer fans
see today.
Yet, it all changed in the summer
of 2010 when Johnson made adjust-
ments to his form and improved his
pitch speed from the mid-80s to the
mid-90s — a jump that can make
the difference between a collegiate
pitcher and a professional one.
With his burning fastball and an
apparent inability to give up critical
runs, Johnson has morphed into a
dream for Lee, who has 25 years of
coaching experience at the collegiate
level under his belt.
"He's the best closer I've had in all
my years of coaching," Lee said. "He
has the ability to come in with runners
in scoring position and get out of it
without giving up any further damage."
For now, the Mustangs are using
Johnson as much as they can. Soon,
in all likelihood, after the Major
League Baseball draft starts June 6,
Johnson will have a new team and
begin his professional career.
But for Johnson, it's just one more
step to complete a dream he had to
put on hold.
"I have my dream, I know what it
is and I'm just going to chase after it
now," he said. "If that doesn't work I
can always finish up school and figure
out what I want to do from there."
Until then, the Mustangs will use
Johnson to fuel a postseason run.
Miller said Johnson could be the guy
to put them over the top.
"We know once Johnson gets into
the game, it's over," Miller said.
And maybe that's just the motto
Johnson seeks. Game over.

Linemen continued from page 12
season. Bowers won both the Nagurski Award as the best defensive player in the college game and the Hendricks Award as the best defensive end.
"I try to dominate inside," Fairley said. "I think that's what teams look for. What I did at Auburn I hope I can do in the NFL. Hopefully I'm the guy they are looking at."
Quinn is at a disadvantage in
this draft process because there is no
game tape of him from 2010. He did
not play last season because of an NCAA suspension for receiving improper
benefits.
"People tell me I can be the next
Julius Peppers or DeMarcus Ware," Quinn said, "but I ask, 'Why do I have
to be the second of somebody else?
Why can't I be the first Robert Quinn?'"
Marvin Austin, Quinn's linemate
at North Carolina in 2009, also
missed the 2010 season because of an
NCAA suspension. Now he hopes to
join Quinn in the first round. Austin
is on the draft board as a tackle, and
his value could increase with his abil-
ity to play the nose.
Kenrick Ellis of Hampton could
be a late first-round selection for the
same reason. Every 3-4 defense wants
to find a Casey Hampton, and these
two players are the best bets.
A couple of more Big Ten ends
could turn up in the first round: Ryan Kerrigan of Purdue and Adrian
Clayborn of Iowa. Both are three-
year starters and two-time All-Big
Ten selections. Kerrigan collected
326 career sacks, including 126 in
2009. Clayborn's best was an 116-
sack season, also in 2009.
"We've got a number of guys from
the Big Ten that had great seasons," Kerrigan said. "It's a privilege to be
one of them."
Jeff Johnson hopes to turn strikeouts into paychecks

J.J. Jenkins
jjenkins.mako@gmail.com

Jeff Johnson is searching for a motto. The closer for the Cal Poly baseball team has put up unparalleled numbers to start the 2011 season: a 0.74 ERA, 13 hits, and 35 strikeouts over 24 1/3 innings — numbers that could put Johnson in prime position to be drafted into professional baseball.

But the San Francisco Giants fan from Dodgers country does not have a Brian Wilson “Fear the Beard”LIKE credo.

“I might have to get a mullet going or something, bring that in,” Johnson said. “It would definitely distract the batter quite a bit.”

Joking aside, with a two-pitch combination of fastball and splitter, Johnson clocked his pitches in the mid-90s and baffle batters at the plate. The newfound velocity is a development head coach Larry Lee said was the biggest difference between 2010 and 2011, and the results back him up.

Johnson has yet to take a loss, and recorded four saves while instilling confidence in his team. Sherronport Mike Miller said Johnson’s “domination” gives the rest of the team a feeling that any lead going into the eighth inning is not just safe, it’s “Jeff Johnson-ensured.”

“We ride with him in the late innings and he feeds off that,” Miller said. “He loves that competition and the adrenaline he gets going into the eighth, ninth innings. But much of Johnson’s success boils down, in part, to Lee’s coaching. Without the veteran coach, Johnson might have ended up pitching against the Mustangs and for the rival Gauchos. UC Santa Barbara was Johnson’s school of choice until Lee picked up the phone and gave him a call.

“(Lee) said it was only fair to yourself to give another school a chance,” Johnson said. “So I said ‘All right.’ He showed me (around campus) and I just loved it.”

The campus visit moved Johnson’s college destination 90 miles north, but it very well might have changed the trajectory of his career. In an era where phenoms are drafted into the pros during high school, Johnson hardly talked to a scout coming out of Thousand Oaks High School. Looking back, he admits he was not ready.

“At that age I wasn’t thinking about going pros,” he said. “I was just having fun and I didn’t really want to get drafted. I wasn’t really my scene at that age. But now it’s different.”

Even a year ago, a future in professional baseball might have been far-fetched. Johnson’s rise was hard by a done deal even once he began playing for the Mustangs. Upon arrival in San Luis Obispo, Johnson was greeted with time as a starting pitcher for a depleted Mustang squad — time that allowed him to get roughed up, but more importantly, to start getting his feet under him.

“Through the whole week preparing for the game, I was telling all my teammates, ‘You’re looking at the MVP’,” Darius said. “I figure if you speak it, you speak it into existence. I went out there and played the best I could, and it just happened to fall into my lap.”

Fairley won the Lombardi Trophy as the best lineman in college football last season. Fairley is expected to be a prime target for the Miami Dolphins in this year’s NFL draft.

Rick Gosselin
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Think trenches.

NFL teams do this time of year. You need a quarterback to have a chance on Sundays, but NFL games are won up front. Control the line of scrimmage and you control your fate.

Great defensive linemen dominate the trenches and, NFL teams are on the lookout for them every April.

In the last five years, seven quarterbacks have been selected in the top 10 of drafts. There have been eight skills players — running backs and wide receivers — in the top 10. There also have been seven offensive linemen and five defensive backs selected there.

But there have been 15 defensive linemen chosen with top-10 picks during that five-year stretch.

“The game of football started up front,” Alabama defensive tackle Marcell Dareus said. “Some people were scared and backed up of the ball. But the real bulls stayed up front and played the game.”

The bulls will be running this April.

There has never been a treasure trove of defensive linemen as there is in the 2011 draft. In 2005, a record 11 defensive linemen were selected in the first round. There are 14 defensive linemen with first-round grades in this draft. In 2010, a record 16 defensive linemen were selected in the first two rounds.

“There’s a plethora of talent in this draft,” said Cal defensive end Cameron Jordan. “But there’s focus on the defensive line in this draft. There are a lot of guys who are pretty good and pretty great. Luckily, I’m one of the pretty good ones.”

As in first-round good, Jordan was an All-Pac-10 performer with 166 career sacks. He has the size to play end in a 3-4 scheme at 6-foot-5, 287 pounds. With 13 sacks scheduled to play a 3-4 this season, those numbers end have an increasing value.