World peace, one beer bong at a time

Alicia Freeman
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It is a Friday night-in and a knock bangs at the door. Instead of the expected pizza delivery man, there stands a bearded, stocky man holding a black funnel and tube — known to college students everywhere as a beer bong — which he says will help stop world hunger.

Though a beer bong may not seem like the most conventional way to fight hunger, Cal Poly alumni Quinn Lewis and Casey Curtis, created the nonprofit group BeerBongs for World Peace (BBFWP) to do just that. Lewis, who also delivers for Woodstock’s Pizza, often hands delivers the beer bongs ordered on the BBFWP website if they are in the San Luis Obispo area.

“We love beer bongs, and we thought it would be great to start a company that gives back right off the bat,” Curtis said. “Most corporations start with the idea they should make money, and then they can give back, but we thought it was such a fun idea that we weren’t really interested in money at all. We just wanted to spread the idea and the cause.”

With the slogan, “We’re thirsty, they’re hungry,” BBFWP markets beer bongs for $10. Each sale feeds four children, and proceeds go to the World Food Programme, which is the world’s largest humanitarian agency focused on decreasing worldwide hunger, according to its websites.

Since it began last year, BBFWP has fed 1,008 children, and the group plans to feed many more in the future, Curtis said.

Lewis said the members of BBFWP wanted to “channel their energies and talents into something that is giving back to the world we live in.”

He said because he and his friends like to do freestyle beer bonging, which involves taking pictures of themselves doing beer bongs in outrageous places, selling them to fight hunger seemed like the best idea.

“We all kind of graduated, and we didn’t want to get into any real world jobs, pay us,” Lewis said. “We’ve kind of lived here and been friends for a while. We all enjoy going out and having a good time. So, what’s a way we can continue having a good time, but at the same time promoting a progressive world view and helping out? We decided, ‘Hey, we like to do beer bongs.’”

Though the group aims to party for a good cause, Curtis said they have received some negative feedback.

Curtis said opposition to the group’s partying message has been met by groups that aim to raise awareness against excessive drinking such as Peers Understanding Listening Speaking Educating (P.U.L.S.E) as well as the alcohol-related death of Carson Starkey in 2008. This also includes some older members of the community and even the parents of BBFWP members. However, Curtis said the company’s dedication to feeding hungry children has won them support from other groups.

“We’re thirsty, they’re hungry,” BBFWP marketers blare to passersby.

A group of Cal Poly alumni created BeerBongs for World Peace (BBFWP) to help fight world hunger. Each $10 beer bong sold feeds four hungry children.

“We love beer bongs, and we thought it would be great to start a company that gives back.”

— Casey Curtis
BeerBongs for World Peace co-founder

see Beer Bong, page 5

We love beer bongs, and we thought it would be great to start a company that gives back.
Environmental engineering professor wins waste-full award

Karlee Prazak
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The Journal of Solid Waste Technology and Management presented environmental engineering professor Samuel Vigil with the Ira J. Zandi Award for his work in the solid waste management field. It is one of four awards given at the Journal’s annual International Conference on Solid Waste Technology and Management, which was held March 27 to 30 in Philadelphia.

Regional editor of the Journal and professor of civil and environmental engineering Shouz-Yuh Chang attends the conference every year. He said he had the honor of sitting next to Vigil as the award was announced and that he was a very deserving recipient.

“We talked a lot during the conference, and I think he’s a very social and nice person, in addition to his knowledge in solid waste management.” Chang said. “I think it’s very good (the award). It indicates his contribution in this area — he has educated a lot of students in solid waste management, and he deserves this honor.”

Vigil said the award came as a surprise because he had never attended the conference before. In fact, he said the main reason he attended this year was to present two papers he has recently completed.

The first discusses a research project that he, Cal Poly associate professor James Hanson and director of Cal Poly’s Global Waste Research Institute Nadi Yenser completed for California a few years ago on compost regulation within the U.S.

The second was about a project Vigil is still working on. It uses a space satellite called an orbiting carbon observatory satellite to identify landfill gas emissions from different countries.

“The Zandi Award is typically given to a professor presenting his or her paper(s) at the conference, so it surprised Vigil even more as he flipped through his itinerary packet and saw he would receive the award at a luncheon.”

“I didn’t know Ron Mersky (the conference chair) before this and this is a different group of people than I normally know, so this came as a complete surprise,” Vigil said. “I’ve won awards in the past, but nothing quite as prestigious as this.”

Although this year marked the 26th conference, it was the first time the award selection committee had no debate over who would receive the Zandi Award, said Mersky, the chair of the International Conference and associate professor of civil engineering at Widener University.

“In the previous years, we have looked at such things as: had the individual advised students who received a Ph.D in waste management or have students been published while working under the individual?” Mersky said. “In this case, there was no debate.”

The committee that selects the recipients looks at each speaker and their biography to decide a potential winner and make a decision.

“The winner is someone who has significantly contributed to the waste management field,” Mersky said. “It absolutely deserves the award because the recipient inspired Ira Zandi, a former emeritus professor of Systems & National Center Professor of Resource Management and Technology at the University of Pennsylvania.”

“We began giving out this award to an individual who has inspired others to go succeed in the field of waste management,” Mersky said.

This year, it was based on Vigil’s work on a textbook he co-authored as well as his work with the Air and Waste Management Association.

“The textbook Vigil co-authored, ‘Integrated Solid Waste Management: Engineering Principles and Management Issues,’ was published in 1993 and is widely used in the field. Vigil said. In fact, the text is currently used worldwide and is published in several different languages.

Vigil has a bachelor’s degree from the University of California, Berkeley, a master’s in environmental engineering from Texas A&M University and a Ph.D in environmental engineering from the University of California, Davis.

He is a registered civil engineer in California, a board certified environmental engineer and serves on several environmental engineering boards, such as the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and the U.S. Green Building Council.

The textbook Vigil co-authored, “Integrated Solid Waste Management: Engineering Principles and Management Issues,” was published in 1993 and is currently used worldwide.

The award recognizes an individual who has significantly contributed to the waste management field.

“I’ve won awards in the past, but nothing quite as prestigious as this.”

— Samuel Vigil
Environmental engineering professor

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Giffords to attend husband's shuttle launch

Scott Powers
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

The space shuttle Endeavour is set to make its final launch April 29. But as it soars aloft through the mid-afternoon sky, the focus may be on U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords as she witnesses her husband Mark Kelly's start of a 14-day mission.

Giffords, an Arizona Democrat who was critically wounded in the Tucson shooting that killed six people and wounded 12 others on Jan. 8, hopes to mark a huge milestone in her recovery by traveling to Kennedy Space Center to watch her husband's fourth launch. Giffords has made a steady and, her doctors say, remarkable recovery since being shot in the head by an attempted assassin.

On Tuesday, NASA's flight readiness team at Kennedy Space Center finished its evaluations of Endeavour, its crew and all mission-critical issues, and declared everything ready. NASA then officially set the launch for 3:47 p.m. EDT April 29, for rendezvous with the International Space Station.

The flight will be Endeavour's 25th since it first launched May 7, 1992, and its last. NASA's newest orbiter will be the second to be retired, following Discovery, which completed its work when it landed for the last time on March 9. Atlantis will be the last to launch, now scheduled for late June.

As with Discovery, the Endeavour's final mission is a bitter-sweet event, for the thousands of space center employees who worked the shuttle program, including many who are losing their jobs.

Kelly, a U.S. Navy captain, will command Endeavour. He and a crew of five other astronauts will have plenty of work to do during NASA's next-to-last shuttle mission.

Chief among them: they'll be delivering and installing the alpha magnetic spectrometer-2, a $1.5 billion device that has been in development for 12 years, and delayed several times.

The spectrometer will provide physicists their most powerful tool yet to study the farthest reaches of the universe, to help understand its origins. The device is designed to detect charged particles of cosmic rays that are released by exploding stars. Those could include dark matter and antimatter, two elusive missing pieces in physicists' theories of the makeup of the universe.

Bill Gerstenmaier, NASA associate administrator for space operations, said the science that could come from the spectrometer could be "earth shattering."

"This is a pretty unique mission to close out Endeavour's career," Gerstenmaier said. "This is not a run-of-the-mill mission."

Endeavour also will carry another space station component, called the Express Logistics Carrier-3, as well as spare parts, a high-pressure gas tank and micrometeoroid shields for the space station. The mission will require four space walks by the astronauts.

Giffords has been recovering in a rehabilitation center in Houston since late January. On April 8, her congressional office released a statement saying that doctors at the TIRR Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston will have the final word on whether she can attend. "Our office is making plans for her to attend, pending medical approval," the statement read.

Giffords is not expected to make any public appearances.

The other Endeavour astronauts are Greg Johnson, a retired Air Force colonel, who will be the pilot; Air Force Col. Mike Fincke; European Space Agency astronaut Roberto Vittori, Drew Feustel and Greg Chamitoff, all mission specialists.

In case delays are required, NASA officials said they launch window is clear through May 4, though there is one conflict with the April 29 date that was not considered: the British royal wedding. Gerstenmaier said many scheduling factors were considered, but he wasn't aware of the wedding date when the launch date was first picked a few weeks ago.

"I haven't yet put on our manifest charts: wedding constraints," he said.

"I have all my midterms in week five, and then that's it until finals week."

— Selena Lee, agricultural business junior

"I had one yesterday (Monday), and I have two on Thursday."

— Erin Rusch, biological sciences junior

"They're pretty close together — I have two this week and I had one last week. I have another in two weeks."

— Tim Gregg, general engineering junior

"They're spread out between two weeks, — this week and next week. I have two presentations in place of a midterm, I have to give it twice."

— Adam Dong, industrial technology sophomore

"They're spread apart — I have one tomorrow (Wednesday) and then basically one a week more stop until finals."

— Brenda Carlson, animal science senior

"My classes the quarter aren't as important — it's more about completing certain goals or projects."

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What's your midterm schedule like this quarter?

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What is black and white and read all over?

Well, that's just news.
Beer Bong
continued from page 1

people against the group are not its
target demographic." Nathan Huerta, a BBFWP mem­
ber and Cal Poly alumna, said doing beer bongs is actually more re­
 sponsible than other drinking activities, such as taking shots downtown.

"Theoretically you try to take 10
beer bongs in an hour," Huerta said. "You might end up very full and not
be able to do it. If you take 10
shots in an hour, you will be able to
do it, and you will probably be mak­
ing dumb decisions because you're
too way drunk."

Curtis said he hopes they can show those against the group that
although college students party, they
are still aware of world issues and can
show those against the group that
his speech that he is running on a three
communication and maintaining
a checklist."

"You're not ever going to get rid
of the drinking culture at college,"

In Cabrera's speech, he also said he
pledges to enhance communication
between the ASI president and the stu­
dent body.

"I plan on using technology to
communicate with all Cal Poly students. (through) something as simple as a
one-minute, biweekly YouTube video,
Galvan said.

The ASI presidential candidates
will head to head-in a debate
Thursday in the UU Plaza dur­
ing UU hour. Until then, people
involved in ASI, such as ASI sec­
detary of sustainability and biologi­
cal sciences freshman Cale Reid,
said the group hopes to have an on­
line ordering system on its website
by July, but until then, those wish­
ing to buy beer bongs must contact
him through the website.

Huerta said buying a beer bong
from BBFWP is a good investment
because of the children it feeds.

"If you want to go out to Fire­
tone and get a tri-tip sandwich, it
will cost you $7.79, and with a drink,
you're looking at $10," Huerta said.
"It's filling and delicious, but you
are only feeding yourself. With that
same $10, you can buy yourself an
awesome beer bong, feed yourself
and feed four hungry little children."

Still, other students not associated
with ASI, such as electrical engineering
freshman Matthew Williams, said the
atmosphere on campus does not show
passion for the elections.

"It doesn't seem like most people
are interested in what's going on," Williams said.

Though the group is just starting,
Curtis said the majority of feedback
has been exceptionally positive.
Huerta said he even ob­
tained a software specialist job be­
cause of BBFWP.

"In my job interview, the person
who interviewed me said, 'Give me
your beer bong pitch,' and I guess
she was just thinking I was going to
make something up," Huerta said. "I
just fully gave her my elevator pitch
on BeerBongs for World Peace. She
just bust out laughing and called
her secretary to get my information
because I was hired on the spot."

She even bought a beer bong.
Curtis said he hopes the program
will continue far into the future. The
next plan is to have a motor home
donated to the group so it can travel
across the country to different cam­
puses and music festivals and sell
beer bongs.

All humor aside, Curtis said the
group aims to spread its philosoph­
ic message.

"In reality, world peace feels good,
and so does one really fresh, fast beer
bong," Curtis said.

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Freshmen bring ‘Hope for Japan’ with start-up T-shirt company

Cal Poly freshmen John Hall, Tyler Nuss, Chad Kihm, Mark McNeff and Kyle Jackson started T-shirt company Apoc Apparel in the fall, and used their business to fundraise for Japan relief with “Hope for Japan” T-shirts, which raised more than $2,000 for the cause. “I’m so stoked at how many people just love them,” Nuss said.

J.J. Jenkins
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Graphic communication freshman John Hall, along with industrial engineering freshmen Tyler Nuss and Chad Kihm, electrical engineering freshman Mark McNeff and fruit science freshman Kyle Jackson, are living out Hall’s dream with the latest edition of the college-startup archetype, a T-shirt company called Apoc Apparel.

Now, they are ready to take their business to the next level. “We all have the drive to see this succeed and that pushes it a lot,” Nuss said. “If we were complacent about it, we wouldn’t sell shirts. We have a financial and, I think, a personal stake in it. I don’t want to see something I do fail.”

But Apoc is hardly the typical business. The company’s owners met at Cal Poly in the fall and use a blank pantry door in Cerro Vista as their storefront. The apartment holds four types of T-shirts and will soon be stocked with a new spring line of women’s shirts, v-necks, tank tops and regular T-shirts.

Although the freshmen had no experience starting a T-shirt company, the owners have elevated Apoc from an attempt to make money into a serious project. In just two months the group nearly sold out their first run of shirts. The initial printing included four designs spread over 160 shirts and was little more than a shot in the dark. Having never sold clothing, the group of five had little idea of how many shirts to order in each size and failed to make a women’s shirt — a move they said they plan to correct in the latest set.

The Apoc name bounced around the Cerro Vista apartment as shirt designs including gnomes and airplanes surfaced, but they got a break when they turned misfortune into an opportunity.

We all have drive to see this succeed and that pushes it a lot
... I don’t want to see something I do fail.

— Tyler Nuss
Industrial engineering freshman
Victoria Billings
VICTORIABILLINGS.MD@GMAIL.COM

The sultry sounds of jazz, swing and jump blues will fill Cal Poly's Alex & Faye Spanos Theatre Thursday, as Cal Poly Arts hosts vocalist Lavay Smith and her Red Hot Skillet Lickers.

Smith is a modern jazz and blues singer who draws on musical legends such as Billie Holiday and Dinah Washington for her vocal inspiration. She and the Red Hot Skillet Lickers are a diverse group of musicians who play a mixture of blues, swing and jazz tunes.

Smith got her start in the jazz world in the late '80s, when she was only 17 years old and heard that Janis Joplin was a fan of singer Bessie Smith.

"I went and bought a Bessie Smith record, and that's what started it," Smith said. "I just fell in love."

Smith started to perform with the Red Hot Skillet Lickers shortly after graduating high school, when she met pianist Chris Siebert at a club he was performing at in San Francisco. An impromptu performance by Smith led to the formation of the band, which has recorded and toured around the world for the last 20 years.

The Skillet Lickers, who got the name by combining the names of two popular bands from the 1920s, is a seven-piece group made up of trumpet, trombone, alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, piano, bass and drums. The band's members have performed or recorded with artists such as Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Ray Charles, Nat King Cole and Frank Sinatra.

The Skillet Lickers are a unique group, Siebert said, because of the vast age differences between musicians. The youngest member is in his 30s, while the oldest is 74.

Siebert said the diversity of age and experience allows older members to mentor younger ones.

"The band ended up being something of a university for blues music," Siebert said.

The Skillet Lickers are not only a university for blues music, but also a homage to an age in American music, Siebert said. The band is proof this style of jazz and blues music remains popular today.

"We sort of celebrate that mid-century renaissance," Siebert said.

That celebration will come to Cal Poly, after the efforts of Cal Poly Arts Director Steve Lerian, who invited Smith to perform.

Lerian is a great fan of Smith and said he has booked her on previous occasions.

A Lavay Smith concert is an evening well spent, Lerian said, because of her movie star stage personality that is reminiscent of Marilyn Monroe.

Lerian said Smith also has a distinct and seductive voice to go with her persona, and seeing her band, the Red Hot Skillet Lickers, is always a treat.

"I love that she has a very sort of sultry voice," he said. "But I also think she has one of the most fantastic bands I've heard."

Lerian said he anticipates the music will appeal to a wide crowd, ranging from older folks who remember the golden era of jazz music to younger, college-age people who enjoy swing and dance music.

Cal Poly jazz professor Paul Rinzler said he recommends those attending the concert listen for the danceable rhythm in Smith's music, which, in addition to improvisation, is what defines the jazz genre, he said.

Smith's creative lyrics should also appeal to audiences.

"Lavay is a singer, and the songs that she sings, they're really very clever," Rinzler said. "Lyrics are really very funny sometimes."

Smith's songs, though sung in a retro style, often express the attitude of a modern, independent woman, inspired by the strong, independent attitude of the sirens of the Jazz Age.

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Smith and the Skillet Lickers will play at 7 p.m. in the Alex & Faye Spanos Theatre. Tickets are available in advance at the Performing Arts Center Ticket Office and are $29 for students and $36 for the general public.

Editors note: Check out mustangdaily.net for an audio slideshow about Lavay Smith and her Red Hot Skillet Lickers.

I love that she has a very sort of sultry voice. But I also think she has one of the most fantastic bands I've heard."

— Steve Lerian
Cal Poly Arts Director
into hope.

Following the earthquake and tsunami that ravaged northern Japan last month, the five freshmen forewent studying for finals to design and create "Hope for Japan" shirts. They sent the order to a printer during their last week in San Luis Obispo and set up a booth on Dexter Lawn upon returning from spring break. The group raised more than $2,200 by selling the shirts for $12 each and sent all proceeds to the Red Cross.

"That group didn't make a profit, but the "Hope for Japan" shirts did expand its audience. Almost overnight, Apoc shirts went from being a rare sighting away from Cerro Vista to a common occurrence across campus. It's been really cool, and I'm so stoked at how many people just love them, especially seeing them on people I don't know," Nuss said.

But getting the shirts out of Hall's pantry and onto the backs of Cal Poly students has been no small task.

"It's all about persistence," Kihm said. "I have to ask people (to buy a shirt) two or three times, then they'll come by and be stoked about it. Once they find out we really care and we are adamant about it, then they become adamant about it."

The process usually begins and ends with Hall, who works on Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator to design the graphics. Hall said he draws inspiration from psychedelic artists from the '70s and popular British street artist, Banksy. After creating the shirts, he shows the design to the team for approval before placing a shirt order. 

"With no official place of business, the guys fund their startup with money they put in themselves. They hope to change that in a few years with a mail order system that would enable them to ship their shirts to customers across the country.

The goal is to be as big as possible. "Right now every purchase is a big deal," Nuss said. "We want to get to the point where our finances are under control and we are comfortable making financial purchases. In five years hopefully we're in stores across California and we're as big as anything."
Tax reform does not have to be so taxing

Jeremy Caucutt is a political science senior and Mustang Daily liberal columnist.

One of the many issues dominating the beltway media right now is the issue of the debt ceiling.

There seems to be widespread consensus that the debt ceiling needs to be raised in order to prevent the U.S. from going into default on its debt obligations, except among the irresponsible ranks of the Tea Party faithful. As long as governments spend more than they take in, they have to issue debt in order to continue normal operations, while most middle and working class people are burdened with paying the interest on that debt.

Now let me be clear: in principle, I am against raising the debt ceiling.

What this means is that, politically, we say it’s OK to borrow more money — that we increase the credit limit on our “national credit card.” In practice what we mean is that in power now support a growing government without paying the requisite bills. Thus, the current generation in power reaps the benefits yet these bills will come due for future generations. We can have debates about the size of government, but there are no debates to be had about a $14 trillion national debt — that is money you and I will have to repay with interest.

To only focus on cutting spending, as the Republicans are adamantly in doing, is to completely disregard the political process of the past decades that has expanded to more adequately address the concerns of the underprivileged.

But our consciences have guided us one way, and our self-interest has guided us another. It has been a failure of that same political process to garner enough support to fund the growth of government that has led us to this crisis.

Many on the right believe that if we raise taxes to fund current levels of government, it will reduce economic growth and make us less competitive in the long run. But the growth we experienced even as our government became more expansive was funded on borrowed money. It doesn’t seem fair to say that the level of welfare spending our parents and grandparents enjoyed will not be extended to us simply because they didn’t pay in the first place. Now we have to shoulder their burden and try to figure out how to have a responsible, moral and productive society.

Raising the debt ceiling says, in essence, it is appropriate to put off debt obligations to future generations to meet present short-term political ambitions. This is why principles don’t always function properly in the real world. If Congress doesn’t increase the debt limit, the U.S. will not be able to pay the interest it owes on the debt, which in turn will cause panic and uncertainty in international markets and reverberating effects, and potentially, beginning a depression.

The debt ceiling has become a political football for irresponsible elected officials, but it does not attempt to solve the problem of our national debt. If we are to address our debt is, two things must occur: we must reform the tax code and we must reform entitlements. Unfortunately, these two issues are too large for a single article, so I will only address tax reform this week.

There are many proposals about reforming the tax code. I do believe we have a problem admitting that I’m not sure which proposal would do the best. I do have faith that, when the American people are properly informed (and not misinformed), they often make the best decision for the country.

There are, however, a number of issues people can agree on from the outset. Many economists have noted that there are too many exemptions in the tax code (known as tax expenditures since it is tax revenue we could collect if we didn’t laden the tax code with these tax preferences). This has a number of unintended consequences. Take the home interest deduction. This tax expenditure effects a number of Americans, and over the period from 2006 to 2010, amounted to more than a $700 billion in decreased tax revenue.

What is seen to have actually done is make more people buy larger homes. Some even cite the interest deduction in helping to inflate the housing bubble, though debt obligations have not always functioned in a manner that is not only unsustainable, but unpredictable.

Wealthy individuals and businesses also have the resources to employ tax consultants who make sure they take full advantage of these tax exemptions, while most middle and working class people are burdened with paying the tax burden onto those with less ability to pay and one way or get around this would be to implement a highly progressive consumption tax along with the flat tax on income earnings. This won’t punish the wealthy simply for controlling more resources, but it will provide a way for being irresponsible with their wealth.

Thus, if Donald Trump wants to spend millions to investigate whether President Obama was actually born in the U.S., he may do so. But he will face a tax of say 50 percent on those spent resources. This gives an incentive to save and invest (which is dangerously low for the U.S., with housing and corporate tax rates being a contributing factor to the recent recession) and makes consuming for consumption’s sake more expensive. Again, there will be some standard deduction for low-income earners, who often spend most if not all of their income on consumption.

The tax reform debate is really about what kind of government we want. Do we want the level of government we have now and pay for it or would we rather pay current or lower taxes to afford a better future.

Before we can address tax reform, we must have a consensus on this question; otherwise, the solutions we propose won’t actually address the depths of the real issue. I feel some cuts can and should be made, but correcting the deficit problem will undoubtedly require increased revenue. That increased revenue must be collected in a manner that is not only equitable but also manages to eliminate the unintended consequences of our current tax structure and keeps the U.S. competitive internationally.
McGrath
continued from page 12
he said. “I'll take a dedicated, disciplined player in every aspect of his life over the talent,” McGrath said. “Patience, dedication, discipline and hard work. Not just on the tennis court ... that's what's going to make elsewhere. He considers the pro-

vity involvement as spectacular.

individually, he tends to let us do our thing as long as we work hard,” McPhee said. “I'm blessed to be playing on this team with this coaching staff. I feel like with out these people I wouldn't be as happy or as strong as I am.”

He adds that McGrath was the driving force behind him. “Individually, he tends to let us do our thing as long as we work hard,” McPhee said. “I'm blessed to be playing on this team with this coaching staff. I feel like with out these people I wouldn't be as happy or as strong as I am.”

One of the most memorable moments with McGrath for junior Sebastian Bell is when they drove to Las Vegas for a match. “I have a 4-year-old,” he said, re-

ferring to his son Maddox. “Right now, he's my hobby.”

With severe budget cuts looming on the horizon, McGrath is aware that things might get tight sooner for athletics programs. He said he has a “terrific” new president and new athletic director. “That was a really good trip.”

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According to McGrath, the biggest role he plays off the court is being a dad. “I'll take a dedicated, disciplined player in every aspect of his life over the talent,” McGrath said. “Patience, dedication, discipline and hard work. Not just on the tennis court ... that's what's going to make

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Lakers
continued from page 12

McGrath doesn't plan on jump-
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not the end of the world,” Jackson said calmly. “They have good days and bad days. We prob-
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After their video session ended, the Lakers opened their doors to re-

veal Blake practicing on the court. He had some marks on his cheek and neck area but was no longer con-

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Mustangs' success stems from Justin McGrath

Katelyn Sweigart

Men's tennis head coach Justin McGrath has his team streaking in the Big West. The Mustangs are 4-0 and 14-3 overall.

I couldn't be more happy ... I couldn't see myself anywhere else.

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Men's tennis head coach Justin McGrath doesn't like being in the spotlight. He would rather the focus be on his players, who are No. 41 on the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) rankings and is currently 14-3 and 4-0 in the Big West.

"I want to see them walk away with a great experience — getting their degree, being a good citizen out there and walking away with a competitive experience where we have an opportunity to win championships," McGrath said. "That, to me, is the winning formula."

He started playing tennis at age 11 in Rapid City, S.D. His dad was an airline pilot, so his family moved around for his job. While he considered himself a multi-sport kid, he took tennis all through college in Arkansas. He tried his hand at coaching at a country club in Texas, and later coached at the John Newcombe Tennis Academy in New Braunfels, Texas.

Afterward, he got a job as an assistant coach at his alma mater. His first head coaching job was with the Ragin' Cajuns at the University of Louisiana, Lafayette.

McGrath said there is a noticeable difference between the Ragin' Cajuns and the Mustangs.

"They came from maybe not as avenues and maybe not as educated," he said. "I think in some ways it was more difficult for them to adapt in a college setting."

Cal Poly athletes, he said, are more well-rounded, disciplined and able to balance difficult academics with their athletics.

When he first came to Cal Poly, the men's tennis team wasn't nationally ranked, but he felt they had a competitive spirit and exemplified what he came to characterize as Cal Poly students: hard working with great character, even if they lacked born talent.

"I do have to say the first year that I came, those kids really wanted to have a great senior year, and those kids actually made it to the conference championship at the tournament," he said. "And that wasn't a very talented team in terms of ability but great character."

This is his fourth season at Cal Poly and McGrath said the program is growing every year. But the credit for the good seasons goes to his players. He just tries his best to help his players by being patient and just as hard working as them.

see McGrath, page 11

Lakers turn to Steve Blake for help

Mike Bresnahan

LOS ANGELES — Steve Blake will play in Game 2. So will the Lakers, presumedly.

They're certainly studying enough, spending two hours in video review Monday and enduring enough stops and starts at the hands of coach Phil Jackson to cause a headache.

"We went over everything, pretty much," Andrew Bynum said.

The Lakers needed to after their 109-100 loss to New Orleans in the playoff opener.

Chris Paul ripped apart their defense, Pau Gasol imploded on offense and their overall play was no better than "speckled," as Jackson called Blake's appearance a few days ago.

Blake is over his bout with chickenpox and can only help the Lakers' effort Wednesday to stop Paul, who had 33 points, 14 assists, seven rebounds and a brush with history in Game 1.

It was the fourth time in 3,272 previous playoff games that any body had as many points, assists and rebounds. Oscar Robertson did it twice, Magic Johnson and Walt Frazier each did it once ... and it had never happened on the road until Sunday.

The Lakers tried to funnel Paul toward the sideline, desperately trying to seal off the paint, a process Jackson referred to as "umbrella-ing."

To ensure they don't get poured on again, steps are being taken defensively. In Game 1 the Lakers' big men were stuck on Paul eight times after bad defensive switches, including twice in the fourth quarter when Paul drilled jumpers over Gasol near the top of the key.

The coaches' message to the players Monday stop switching on defense. Don't be lazy. Stay with your man.

And if Paul squeezes into the key, Bynum and Gasol need to stop getting walled off from him by the Hornets' big men.

"We can't let (Paul) have a lot of space to just dictate and decide what he wants to do," Bynum said.

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NCAA TENNIS WEST REGIONALS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2011

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Christian Miller Mustangs Daily

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