World peace, one beer bong at a time

Alicia Freeman

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 website.

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 job, pay us,” Lewis said. “We’ve all 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

“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-creator

Associated Student Inc. (ASI) election season is here, and the presidential candidates banners are flying.

Active campaigning began Sunday, and an introductory forum was held Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the University Union (UU) Plaza in preparation for voting on April 27 and 28.

Liberal studies freshman Kayla Meints attended the forum, but said she noticed an overall lack of student presence.

“No one was really there,” Meints said. “Not a lot of people know about the elections.”

The two presidential candidates, Kiyana Tabrizi and Daniel Galvan, have booths in the UU Plaza and election posters around campus. They spoke briefly at the forum, followed by introductions of each of the 69 candidates for ASI Board of Directors. Yet, many students continue to overlook the ASI election process.

Kinesiology senior Anna Acuña said she pays little attention to ASI elections.

“I think (the candidates') posters are cute with how rhyme-y they are,” Acuña said. “But, other than having the opportunity to speak with them, you have no idea what they intend to do as ASI presidents.”

Other students, such as materials engineering senior Ryan Satcher, said they can’t make decisions about either candidate because of how difficult it is to access information about the elections.

“I may vote, but probably not,” Satcher said. “Because I don’t know anything about it, it would be hard to vote.”

Not all students, however, are ignoring the election cycle.

Industrial technology freshman Katie Brennan said she has wanted to get involved for a while, and is doing so by joining the Tabrizi campaign team.

“I think it’s important to vote,” Brennan said. “These are the students who are going to represent us.”

Tabrizi, a political science senior, addressed student disinterest during her speech, as well as the
Environmental engineering professor wins waste-full award

Karlee Prazak
KARLEEPRAZAK.MUSTANGDAILY.COM

The Journal of Solid Waste Technology and Management presented environmental engineering professor Samuel Vigil with the Iran 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 Shou-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 that he won 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 Yesler completed for California a few years ago on post-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,” Vigil said. “I didn’t know Ron Mensky (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 Mensky, 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,” Mensky said. “In this case, there was no debate.”

The committee that selects the recipient 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 of environmental engineering. It originally received the name because the recipient inspired Iran 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,” Mensky 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. Mensky said, “(Vigil) is one of the authors of by far one of the most commonly used textbooks; he has thousands of students who have learned from him across the country.” Mensky said, “He certainly deserves the award as someone who has been very effective in inspiring people in the waste management field.”

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

Karlee Prazak Mustang Daily

“(Samuel Vigil) is one of the authors of by far one of the most commonly used textbooks; he has thousands of students who have learned from him across the country,” said Ron Mensky, chair of the International Conference. Vigil co-authored the textbook “Integrated Solid Waste Management: Engineering Principles and Management Issues,” published in 1993.

Experience SLO. Learn about great activities to do around the central coast with the Laughs and Leisure Directory on Thursday!

Write a letter to the editor! Please include your name, year and major!

Send your letter, in 250 words or less, to mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com. Or submit it at mustangdaily.com.
805-544-DENT (3368)
Complete Auto Body and Paint Services
Paintless Dent Repair • Quality Spot Painting
BRING THIS AD IN FOR 10% OFF LABOR RATES
ALL INSURANCE ACCEPTED
Mark Torkle 25 yrs experience Mike Adams 15 yrs experience
2978 S. HIGUERA ST., SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401

International Auto Service
European Auto Repair Servicing
15% OFF plus after your first service enjoy the most competitive prices
we service all makes and models
call 805-393-1047
visit 835 Capitolo Way #1
San Luis Obispo

We have Full Service Maintenance Factory Programs & Extended Warranty Repair!

Open 7 Days a Week!
Complete Repair and Autobody Services
Import and Domestic Autos and Trucks
• Complete Repair & Service
• Complete Automotive Collision & Paint
• California Brake and Lamp Certified
• Exhaust Systems
• Off Road Performance

Auto Body Shop
Auto Lube Services
Radiator
California Smog Station
R.V. Center

FREE Loan Car While We Repair Your Car (FOR UP TO 10 DAYS)
VIEW Repairs and Progress ON-LINE ANYTIME
CALL OR GO ON-LINE FOR AN ESTIMATE

3453 EMPRESSA DRIVE • SAN LUIS OBISPO • CA 93401
805-544-7979 • www.vintageab.com

Import and Domestic Autos and Trucks
• Complete Repair & Service
• Complete Automotive Collision & Paint
• California Brake and Lamp Certified
• Exhaust Systems
• Off Road Performance

VILLA AUTOMOTIVE
“Our Family Takes Care Of Your Family”
SERVICING THE SLO COMMUNITY SINCE 1947
24 South Street, San Luis Obispo 761-3925 • Call today for an appointment

Interested in running in Pit Stop call 805.756.1143 or e-mail mustangdailyads@gmail.com
Giffords to attend husband's shuttle launch

Scott Powers
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

As 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. These 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 micro-meteoroid 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 their launch window 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 mani¬cleavage — I have two this week and I had one last week. I have another in two weeks."
— Selena Lee, agricultural business junior

"I have all my midterms in one week and I have an other on Thursday.
— Jeffrey Bryan, computer science sophomore

"They're pretty close together — I have two this week and I had one last week. I have another in two weeks."
— Tina Craig, general engineering junior

"They're spread apart — I have one tomorrow (Wednesday) and then basically one a week (month) stop until finals."
— Brenda Carlson, animal science senior

"They're spread apart — I have one tomorrow (Wednesday) and then basically one a week (month) stop until finals."
— Adam Dong, industrial technology sophomore

What's your midterm schedule like this quarter?

"My classes the quarter are all group based, so midterms aren't as important — it's more about completing certain goals on projects."
— Heath Arbogast, agriculture junior

"I had one yesterday (Monday), and I have two on Thursday."
— Erin Rusch, biological sciences junior

"I have all my midterms in one week, and then that's it until finals week."
— Adam Dong, industrial technology sophomore

 Learned about the Alumni Association

ORDER FOR GRADUATION
• Personalized Graduation Announcements
• Class Rings [Graduation Days Discounts]
• Thank You Cards
• Certificates of Appreciation
• Diploma Plaques
• Schedule your Senior Portrait
• Learn about the Alumni Association

GRAD CENTER OPEN
May 19th through June 3rd
On campus, in the recreation center

what is black and white and read all over?

well that's just遗址
Beer Bong
continued from page 1

people against the group are not its
target demographics. Nathan Huerta, a BBFWP mem-
ber and Cal Poly alumna, said doing beer bongs is actually more respon-
sible 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 being able to do it. But 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 way too 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 contribute to a good cause.
Lewis also said because partiesing is so prevalent in college, aiming it toward something beneficial for the world shows a positive message.
"You're not ever going to get rid of the drinking culture at college."

In Cabrav's speech, he also said he pledged to enhance communication between the ASI president and the stu-
dent body.
"I plan on using technology to communicate to all Cal Poly students. (through something as simple as a
one-minute, biweekly YouTube video)," Cabrav said.
The ASI presidential candidates will head-to-head in a debate Thursday in the UU Plaza during
Sunday UU hour. Until then, people involved in ASI, such as ASI sec-
retary of sustainability and biology sciences freshman Cale Reid, are still aware of world issues and can contribute to a good cause.

"ASI lacks in a few major skills; communication and maintaining and creating relationships," she said at the forum.
She said ASI must develop more transparency, specifically with re-
gard to its handling of the Recre-
ation Center closure.

Tabares's opponent's platform differed in a few aspects when it was announced.
Galvan, a sociology senior, said in his speech that he is running on a three-
part platform of sustainable living, di-
versity and advocacy.
"A job is a great way to serve as a way to hold me accountable during my term," Gal-
van said. "With no platform, what can you hold me accountable for?"

Summer Day Camp
Seeks fun, caring summer staff that reside in or near the
San Fernando & Conejo Valleys.
Counsellors, Lifeguards & Instructors
for horses, crafts, gym, drama, rock
climbing, animals and more!
Earn $3275-$3500 for the summer
888-785-CAMP
www.workatcamp.com

"You might end up very full and not
enjoyable place. You might as well
do it, and you will probably be mak-
ing dumb decisions because you're way too drunk."

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

In Cabrav's speech, he also said he pledged to enhance communication between the ASI president and the stu-
dent body.
"I plan on using technology to communicate to all Cal Poly students. (through something as simple as a
one-minute, biweekly YouTube video)," Cabrav said.
The ASI presidential candidates will head-to-head in a debate Thursday in the UU Plaza during
Sunday UU hour. Until then, people involved in ASI, such as ASI sec-
retary of sustainability and biology sciences freshman Cale Reid, can only hope the elections begin
to garner more attention.
"As we get closer to the day people can vote, I imagine active campaign will ramp up," Reid said.

"This being said, Cabrav's speech fo-
cused less on a platform, and more on
the changes she wants to see in the cul-
ture of ASI.

"(ASI) lacks in a few major skills; communication and maintaining and creating relationships," she said at the forum.
She said ASI must develop more transparency, specifically with re-
gard to its handling of the Recre-
ation Center closure.

Tabares's opponent's platform differed in a few aspects when it was announced.
Galvan, a sociology senior, said in his speech that he is running on a three-
part platform of sustainable living, di-
versity and advocacy.
"A job is a great way to serve as a way to hold me accountable during my term," Gal-
van said. "With no platform, what can you hold me accountable for?"

Monday might be the day you find
your new favorite restaurant.
Check out the Pub and Grub Directory!
Freshmen bring ‘Hope for Japan’ with start-up T-shirt company

J.J. Jenkins
jjjenkins.md@gmail.com

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 a positive.

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
Lavay Smith and Skillet Lickers bring Jazz Age glamour to Cal Poly

Victoria Billings
VICTORIA.BILLINGS.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 met pianist Chris Siebers 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, Siebers said, because of the vast age differences between musicians. The youngest member is in his 30s, while the oldest is 74.

Siebers 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," Siebers said.

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

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

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 string, independent attitude of the sirens of the Jazz Age.

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

---

ALL SUNGLASSES $4.99

Crazy Jays Downtown SLO
767 Higuera St.

WELCOME ABOARD

MUSTANG DAILY
805.756.1143 | Mustangdailyadvertising@gmail.com
T-shirts
continued from page 6

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.

"The 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."

Right now every purchase is a big deal ... In five years hopefully we're in stores across California and we're as big as anything.

— Tyler Nuss
Industrial engineering freshman

HOROSCOPES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Home affairs may seem somewhat topsy-turvy, and yet all the while you feel as though you are maintaining your equilibrium.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Your approach to a particular problem is likely to impress those who do not have the same insight. Indeed, you know what's wrong.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — The political scene may be forcing you into a mode of behavior that doesn't come naturally. Do what you can to disguise your discomfort.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Prospects are improving; your view of the future can be much brighter by day's end than it was before. An interesting offer comes your way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Your chance to show someone else a good time, and you'll enjoy yourself much more than you thought possible.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — You'll have the chance to show someone else a good time, and you'll enjoy yourself much more than you thought possible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — What began as an uncertainty is likely to be anything but uncertain as this exciting day comes to a close.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You may be too concerned with profit for your own good; it's not just financial gain that you need — or want, really.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You may feel as though you're being weighed down by another's expectations, but in truth your spirits are low for another reason.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — You may receive information that has you reconsidering the way you do certain things. Change, however, may be a long way off.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — You can do the same thing as always in a different way, and the results are likely to be far better than you had expected.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — A game of emotional hide-and-seek results in a drama that ties you down until you find a way that makes a bit of sense.
Tax reform does not have to be so taxing

Jeremy Galbraith 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 broad consensus that the debt ceiling needs to be raised to prevent the U.S. from going into default on its debt obligations, except among the irresponsible ranks of the Tea Party stalwarts. At this clear warning, Standard and Poor downgraded its outlook for the U.S. government's debt from stable to negative on Monday, and in response, stock markets fell with the Dow Jones closing down 140 points.

Now let me be clear: In principle, I’m 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 that means is lobbying for power now support a growing government without paying the requisite bills. Thus, the current generation in power reap the benefits yet these bills will come due for future generation. 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 adamantine 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 fully 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 wither entrepreneurial efforts, 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 issue, 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 tax reformers 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 seem 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 levels were divided over how large an effect it had.

What’s important to realize is that due to our progressive tax structure, wealthier individuals are able to benefit more from tax expenditures because they can deduct a larger total amount (e.g. a larger home mortgage) at a higher rate (35 percent instead of 28 percent).

Wealthy individuals and businesses also have the resources to employ tax consultants to make sure they take full advantage of these tax expenditures while most middle and working class take the standard deduction because they don’t have the time and the resources to lower their tax bills in that fashion. This is how General Electric can pay nothing in taxes (and even get a tax rebate), even though the corporate tax rate is 35 percent.

Many economists promote a flat tax, often ranging from 16 to 20 percent, with the only exemption being the corporate tax rate is 35 percent. This won’t punish the wealthy simply for controlling more resources, but it will provide a tax bill being irresponsive 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 savings rates ranging from 2% to 4%) 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 and cope with the debt?

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 a successful person in life. So I try to transform that a little bit, as best I can, with the kids on our team.

For McGrath, taking his players' life into consideration proves he is dedicated to them. Before games, he can't sleep at night and gets up at about 3 a.m., which he says drives his wife nuts. On his own time, he likes to play golf — more than he likes to admit. He tries to hide his anxiety but expects them to give their best. "I have a 4-year-old," he said, referring 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 soon for athletics programs. He said the saving grace is Cal Poly has nowhere to go but up and the community is demanding a top-notch program.

"I just couldn't be more happy," he said. "I wouldn't be as out of the boat, rein it together, let's do our thing as long as we work hard," McGrath said. "I'm blessed to be playing on this team with these people," he said. "I couldn't see myself anywhere else."

Junior Brian McPhee said his coach is a great guy whose coaching style is tailored on an individual basis. McPhee said McGrath and the players have their own unique styles and feel comfortable in them. He takes out a lot of the anxiety but expects them to give their best.

"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 these coaching staff. I feel like with 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. Two hours into the drive, they came to a complete traffic deadlock, where people were even getting out of their cars and sitting on the highway. They waited, but there was no movement. Then, they saw another car drive off the road onto a dirt path. Shortly after, they too went off roading.

"He was driving the entire time, talking to us and keeping the positivity of the players there. He was talking about Gasol struggling again in Game 2. "He's pretty good," he said.

Gasol had eight points, made two of nine shots and took only six rebounds, none at the offensive end, in the opener. Neither he nor Kobe Bryant spoke to reporters Monday.

"There isn't a player in the world who plays a sport that hasn't had a bad game," Lamar Odom said in defense of Gasol. 

For all their past triumphs, 16 NBA championships and 31 Western Conference titles, the Lakers have a shaky 3-9 series record since buying Game 1 of the opening round.

Not that they're worried. "It's not the end of the world," Jackson said calmly. "Teams have good days and bad days. We probably had a bad day and they had a good day. Now we have to meet their energy."

After their video session ended, the Lakers opened their doors to reporters here and there.

Blake, averaging four points and 20 minutes a game, still isn't sure how he contracted an illness normally reserved for children.

"It's not like I went up and shook someone's hand who had spots all over them," he said.

Lakers head coach Phil Jackson

"It's not the end of the world," Jackson said calmly. "Teams have good days and bad days. We probably had a bad day and they had a good day. Now we have to meet their energy."

"Basketball-wise, I felt a lot better than I thought I would after lying in bed for seven days," he said. "I got a little tired and sat out a couple plays here and there."

Reserve guard Trey Johnson, signed last week out of the Development League, will stay with the Lakers the rest of the season.

Not only did Paul have a historic Game 1, but the Hornets tied the playoff record for fewest turnovers (three) and became only the third team in 20 years to have such an accurate playoff effort from their reserves.

Led by Aaron Gray (five for five) and Jarrett Jack (five for six), the Hornets' reserves made 16 of 22 shots (72.7 percent).

Among playoff teams whose backups took 15 or more shots, only Milwaukee (75 percent against Detroit, 2006) and Phoenix (74 percent against the Lakers, 2006) had better efficiency since 1991.

Sorority and Fraternities!

We have a directory dedicated just for your needs. Check out the Go Greek Directory on Monday!
Men’s tennis head coach Justin McGrath has his team streaking in the Big West. The Mustangs are 4-0 and 14-3 overall.

Mustangs’ success stems from Justin McGrath

Katelyn Sweigart

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.

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

“They came from maybe not as affluent 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

Los Angeles Times

Lakers turn to Steve Blake for help

Mike Bresnahan

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

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 alter 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 “spackled,” 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 anybody 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-tig.”

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.

see Lakers, page 11

NBA Western Conference Playoffs - Game 1

Los Angeles Lakers forward Ron Artest (15) and center Andrew Bynum (10) pressure New Orleans Hornets forward David West (30) in the first half of Game 1 of the Western Conference Series at Staples Center on Wednesaday, April 20, 2011. (McClatchy-Tribune / Flexible Photographic Images - Drew Magary)

Los Angeles Lakers guard Steve Blake is expected to play in Game 2 against the New Orleans Hornets after missing the first game of the series due to an illness.

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

NBA Western Conference Playoffs - Game 1

Los Angeles Lakers guard Steve Blake is expected to play in Game 2 against the New Orleans Hornets after missing the first game of the series due to an illness.

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