Green with environmental sustainability

The Cal Poly Surfrider Club is dedicated to furthering the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches, through monthly beach clean-ups such as the one pictured above. Members also participate in anti-plastic bag campaigns.

Amanda Sedo
AMANDASEDO.M@CALPOLY.EDU

Due to the prominence of issues such as global warming, sustainability and water conservation, many Cal Poly students are placing increasing importance on developing a green campus. This can be seen through the widespread mention of recycling and sustainability on the Campus Dining website, Open House and many other domains.

But what exactly are students doing to help our campus “go green?”

One program dedicated to helping Cal Poly become more sustainable is the Green Campus Program, a group of students and staff dedicated to creating a more energy-efficient and environmentally-conscious campus, led by general engineering junior and team leader Ravi Sahai.

Sahai said the group implements projects, such as dorm and Poly Canyon Village energy competitions, to help make Cal Poly more sustainable.

“The energy competitions have been super successful and it is one of my favorite programs,” Sahai said. “The goal is to educate and teach students how to live sustainable lives.”

The competition also yields significant savings in water and electricity bills.

“With students choosing to take shorter showers and turning the lights off when they leave the room, last year the red bricks had over $10,000 in savings,” Sahai said.

The program not only teaches sustainable lifestyles to students, but also to staff as well. The Green Campus Program goes into workplaces throughout Cal Poly to rank how sustainable the buildings are using a point system, Sahai said.

For example, workplace eliminating all window air conditioner units turn a point. Once the workplace receives enough points, they are awarded a “Green Campus Workplace Certification Program” certificate.

Besides the Green Campus Program, there are more than 23 clubs on the Associated Students Inc. (ASI) website under the “environmental” affiliation. These can range from groups such as the Green Campus Program, to clubs focusing on smaller aspects of sustainable living, such as the Association of Environmental Professionals (AEP).

Missy Sparks, president of the AEP said its main focus is on professional networking with a green, sustainable eye.

“We discuss a wide variety of environmental topics like water, soils, wildlife,” Sparks said. “This is basically a way to help people find a career path to a green job.”

AEP is dedicated to not only helping members build professional relationships with those in green professions, but also to community and educational outreach.

Sparks said the club does many outreach events in the community while partnering with other organizations.

“ECOSLO is one of our partners, as well as the city,” Sparks said. “We work with them on planting and weed removal as well as Creek Day and coastal clean-up.”

see Green, page 3
Green
continued from page 2

Another program on campus dedicated to helping the community "go green" is the Real Food Collaborative, which brought in speaker Joel Salatin on Tuesday during the FocusSLO second annual Earth Week.

At the Salatin speaking event, Tessa Salzman, a city and regional planning sophomore and president of the Real Food Collaborative, said the organization's goal is to educate about sustainability as well as increase the use of fair trade products and organic foods. It is also a member of the Empower Poly Coalition, which is an umbrella club for all sustainable clubs, Salzman said.

"We are passionate because we want to start educating people about a sustainable food system," Salzman said. "We are not here to condemn the negative, but to celebrate the positive."

Salas said, "We try to educate people about getting their own grocery bags, or if you do get a plastic bag at the store, don't throw it away, find another use for it."

The Surfriders also encourage community members to maintain ocean-friendly gardens.

"If you are going to have a garden, plant native plants that can live in their climate so you don't have to use fertilizer or a lot of extra water," Salas said.

Club members also participate in monthly beach clean-ups. As a way to add fun to the activities, the members surf together before or after the clean-up.

"It's a way to kind of combine work with pleasure, I'd say," Salas said. "There are so many things that we are doing, but we really love what we do."

Those interested in participating in one of the many green campus clubs and programs can go to the ASI club directory for more information.
Activists hold vigil marking anniversary of BP oil spill

Richard Fausset
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Gulf Coast residents and activists commemorated the first anniversary of the BP oil disaster Wednesday with prayers and petitions to government and industry to aid a region that continues to suffer, despite some remarkable displays of resilience.

As a vigil in New Orleans' French Quarter, a few dozen activists held candles as the sun rose over the Mississippi River, listening quietly as a man called out the names of the 11 men killed in the April 20, 2010 Deepwater Horizon rig explosion that triggered the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history.

"On this 365th morning after our lament of the BP Gulf oil disaster commemorated the first anniversary of the BP Gulf oil disaster, we remember — we remember — we remember it all."

At the New Orleans vigil, Father Shawn Anglim, pastor of the city's First Grace Methodist Church said in a prayer, "with sons and husbands, fathers and friends departed and lost, and with our longing still lapping at eternal shores, we remember — we remember it all."

Oil giant BP, the operator of the rig, marked the occasion with a minute of silence at its facilities around the globe.

Transcan, the oil rig owner, held similarly low-key commemorations, including a private ceremony at its Houston headquarters for the families of the victims and a helicopter flyover of the abandoned offshore site.

President Barack Obama said his administration was committed long term, to the "continuing and important work required to ensure that the Gulf Coast recovers stronger than before."

As a news conference in Grand Isle, La., Gov. Bobby Jindal praised the thousands of "heroes," and said the state of Louisiana was on the track to recovery.

"Clean up efforts in some places are still ongoing, and the full scale of the damage done to our state has yet to be calculated, but the good news is that most all of our fishing waters are back open again," he said. "... All of us here today want the entire nation to get the message that Louisiana is making another historic comeback and we invite you to come down here and see it for yourself."

Elsewhere, however, some environmentalists lamented the ongoing environmental degradation in the Gulf, and locals argued that the administration of the BP compensation fund was paying out too few claims.

Administrator Ken Feinberg said this week that nearly $4 billion of the $20 billion fund has been paid to individual businesses.

At the New Orleans vigil, Father Vinh Nguyen, a prominent leader of South Louisiana's Vietnamese community, blasted Feinberg for his website to solicit an attack on Mark Hoffman, the foreman of a 2004 jury that convicted another white supremacist for soliciting the murder of a federal judge in Chicago. However, the jury convicted White after deliberating for about three hours.

**FOTANOA (MCT)**

A 38-year-old Fontana man has been arrested for allegedly kicking and killing his family dog, authorities said Wednesday.

Victor Lopez became angry Sunday morning when the two-pound Yorkshire named Woody unraveled on the floor, police said.

Lopez took the dog to the back door and kicked it about 15 feet to a concrete slab, said Sgt. Billy Green of the Fontana Police Department. Family members told police the dog did not move after hitting the concrete.

Four children ages 6 to 16 were in the room at the time, Green said.

Lopez was arrested on charges of felony animal cruelty and taken to the West Valley Detention Center, Green said. He posted $25,000 bond and was released a few hours after being booked, according to jail records.

**WASHINGTON D.C. (MCT)**

The much-lampooned color-coded Department of Homeland Security threat alerts are being replaced with a simpler, two-level system that warns of specific dangers for a defined period of time.

New alerts will advise the public that there is an "elevated threat" or a more serious and specific "imminent threat." The warnings will include a concise statement about the danger and steps that can be taken to mitigate the risk to the public.

The primary-color alerts have "faded in utility except for late-night comics," said Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano on Wednesday.

A government review determined that the five-tiered color-coded system instituted in 2002 had suffered from a lack of credibility and eroded public confidence.

**LIBYA (MCT)**

Tim Hetherington, an award-winning news photographer and Oscar-nominated co-director of the documentary "Restrepo" was killed Wednesday in an explosion in the Libyan city of Misrata, doctors and colleagues reported.

At least three other photojournalists were injured in the blast, which was believed to have been caused by a mortar round. The rebel-held city in western Libya has been under attack for several weeks by forces loyal to Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi.

The wounded journalists included Chris Hondros of Getty Images, Michael Benson of the Carvin agency and Guy Martin of the Panos Photo Agency. Hetherington was born in Liverpool, England, and studied literature at Oxford University.

**AFGHANISTAN (MCT)**

Afghan officials plan to sell part of troubled Kabul Bank, the country's biggest financial institution, in hopes of clearing the way to resume international aid and put an end to the bank's financial ruin.

The head of the country's central bank announced Wednesday that his institution had placed Kabul Bank in receivership and plans to have a government commission collect on its problem loans, then privatize what's left of the bank within three months.

Kabul Bank was the flagship of Afghanistan's 17 commercial banks, responsible for the salaries of the nation's 300,000 public employees. President Hamid Karzai has blames foreign companies for failing to assist the bank, insisting they should be prosecuted as well as bank shareholders who accepted illegal loans. Experts said Karzai and other officials have failed to adopt financial regulations that would prevent another scandal but would alienate bank leaders who helped fund their campaigns.
Study finds lingering psychological effects from BP oil spill

Exactly one year after the largest offshore oil spill in U.S. history, psychologists are finding the disaster is still having an impact on those affected.

Erika Bolstad  
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

A team that has spent two decades studying psychological distress among residents who lived near the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska has found striking similarities among those affected by the Deepwater Horizon spill.

On the one-year anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon explosion that killed 11 people and fouled the Gulf of Mexico, the research team warned that the lingering psychological effects of the disaster could be expected to continue over the next decade.

"Technological disasters have very unique consequences for communities, families and people," said Steve Picou, a sociology professor at the University of South Alabama in Mobile. "It's not like a natural disaster. Technological disasters cause long-term corrosive communities, whereas natural disasters result in therapeutic communities."

The team has been studying the long-term social costs of the Exxon spill, including increased rates of bankruptcies, substance abuse, divorce and suicides.

They picked Bayou La Batre, Ala., for comparison, because like Cordova, Alaska, it's a small community heavily dependent on commercial fishing.

Picou, along with Liesel Ritchie of the University of Colorado Boulder's Natural Hazards Center and Duane Gill of Oklahoma State University, surveyed more than 400 people in south Mobile County, Ala.

Most people were worried about their health or that of their family, the economic loss they've suffered and potential future economic losses because of the spill, the team found.

Of those surveyed, more than a fifth were in severe psychological distress. Another fourth were in the moderate distress range — findings that were similar to the results in Cordova following the Exxon Valdez spill.

"Several people told us: 'We know what to do after a hurricane. We know how to pick ourselves up and move on. How to plan, how to build better.'" Gill said. "This oil spill? We don't know. There's so many uncertainties associated with it."

The anniversary of the spill has caused many to reflect in Cordova, where a state-ordered oil spill response drill was under way Wednesday afternoon.

For Osa Schultz, the discussion about the safety of Gulf Coast seafood is especially eerie.

It's one they struggled with in Alaska, which lost market share because of the taint of the spill — if not the actual harm to fisheries.

"I can't help but think about what the people in the Gulf are doing, the small businesses and the residents, and reflect on the many years that we've fought to even come back up to even. Or try to anyway," said Schultz, who continues to run a fishing boat alongside her husband.

The researchers hope that what they see...
Vietnamese fishermen for the shrimp and fish they catch not to continue from page 4

...he said. It seems that the lives of the fisher folks in Louisiana are deemed quite cheap," he said.
The morning vigil, like many around the Gulf Wednesday, was sponsored by a national environmental group, the Sierra Club. Lead-off speaker Robin Mann, the Sierra Club president, declared her organization stood in solidarity with the gulf people.

But national environmental groups have been at odds with many Louisiana residents and state leaders who resent the groups' support of the federal moratorium on deepwater offshore drilling. In tiny Point a la Hache, La., meanwhile, a large group of fishermen gathered in the local marina, to remind the nation that all is not well here.

Although the government has approved Gulf seafood for eating, many fishermen are worried that oil and dispersant may lead to long-term reproductive problems for key species.

"BP and the government want to make it just go away," said Tracy Kuhns, co-owner of a commercial family fishing business. "We're here to tell you our communities are not made whole; the oil is still there at the bottom."

Speaker after speaker blasted the restitution process, arguing that too much paperwork had been rejected, and that too many payouts were paltry. They also called on the government to allow those fishermen who took small, quickly administered settlements in exchange for a promise not to seek further damages to be able to seek damages as needed.

Clint Guidry, head of the Louisiana Shrimp Association, said that many fishermen signed under duress; the waivers, he said, amounted to "extortion."

Archbishop Gregory Michael Aymond made a brief appearance. "I beg you not to lose hope," he told them.

Then they repaired to the shade of a community center in the nearby town of Davant. Underneath a post-Katrina community center set on 13-foot pilings, they feasted on boiled crabs.
Word on the Street

Do you do anything "green"?

"I don't use plastic water bottles. I also use reusable coffee mugs."
— Lynsi Anderson, sociology sophomore

"I recycle bottles."
— Ziyang Tan, software engineering sophomore

"I use a reusable water bottle."
— Jessica Moon, architecture junior

"Honestly, if I do something that's green, I'm probably not very conscientious of it."
— John Kraning, aerospace engineering sophomore

"I use my bike every day, and I don't use water bottles."
— Diana Sandoval, architecture sophomore

"I walk to school, and I use my own reusable coffee mug."
— Ignacio Orozco, business administration senior

Study
continued from page 5

they've learned in Cordova since the spill in 1989 will aid those in the Gulf of Mexico.

They've taken a so-called "peer listening" program they used on a much smaller scale in Alaska to the Gulf, where they've trained more than 600 people in the concept.

The program teaches people in the community to help steer their distressed friends, family and co-workers to find professional help or resources.

People are trained to listen for the root causes of problems, he said. If someone is drinking too much, for example, is it because he's worried about losing his home? If so, there's often a way to gently point him in the direction of a program that helps avoid foreclosure, he said.

The researchers also teach peer listeners what not to say. They never should say that they know how someone feels, because they don't, Picou said. They also don't tell people to "get over it" or to "move on," he said.

And clergy who train as peer listeners are advised not to tell people that "God will take care of it." Instead, the researchers suggest that clergy offer to pray with someone who's in distress.

Although the listening program was designed to be used in future disasters in Alaska, it's portable, Picou said.

"It clearly demonstrates that this was an important lesson learned from the Exxon Valdez," Picou said, one that is "very applicable" in the Gulf.

Gill warned that a great source of future anxiety for victims of the Deepwater Horizon spill could come from the uncertainty of unresolved litigation.

In Alaska, the lawsuit to determine punitive damages went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which decided the case 19 years after the spill.

Technological disasters have very unique consequences for communities, families and people.
— Steve Picou, Sociology professor, University of Alabama

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Kristy Gonzalez

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traditional use bags made of latex, because it is not
reusable. Water bottles or canters. Some grocery stores
like Trader Joe’s, also have incentives for those who bring
reusable bags.

Buy locally and seasonally.

The Central Coast offers a variety of farmers markets with
fresh produce, and local goods such as honey from local farmers. Buying local produce instead of for-
du c e s  l o c a l  e c o n o m y  a n d  c a n  r e d u c e  p e t r o l e u m  u s a g e .
Food transported from other states and countries utilizes
more petroleum than food transported from a local farm or
to a supermarket or grocery store that carries local produce. Buying these produces more carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, particulate
matter, and other pollutants are released into the atmosphere. This
is called local climate change, smog, acid rain and local air pollu-
tion which is detrimental to the Earth and people’s health, accord-
ing to the Air Pollution Control District of San Luis Obispo.

Produce from grocery stores usually has a PLU (price look-
up) code and includes where the product originates. Codes start-
ing with the number 9 are organic. Codes starting with the number 8 are genetically modified products. Visit
www.fruitsticker.com to see
vegetables come from.

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- Reduce weight in the car by removing unnecessary items.
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- Avoid unnecessary idling by turning your car off.

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Growing the Village’ with Earth Day SLO

Catherine Borgeson
CATHERINE.BORGESON.MU@GMAIL.COM

The 21st annual Earth Day San Luis Obispo will take place at El Chorro Regional Park April 23.

This year’s theme is “Growing the Village,” which focuses on creating a community both ecologically and economically prosperous. Hosted by Earth Day Alliance, more than 100 exhibitors and sponsors will have different displays on what people can do to be sustainable as well as what businesses and individuals are already doing.

There will be a children’s section with different activities for children to learn how to think more sustainably, a line up of four musical acts, local food, speakers and tours of the botanical and healing herb gardens.

To help support a sustainable community, San Luis Obispo Regional Transit will donate its buses for the day so anyone can ride free to the event. Every hour, the double-decker bus will be departing from downtown to El Chorro Regional Park.

Director of Earth Day SLO 2011, Sandra Marshall, has been involved with the event since 1994. Earth Day started April 22, 1970 when 20,000 million environmentalists wanted to create change, Marshall said.

“We are completely a grassroots, volunteer non-profit organization all done by inspiration,” Marshall said. “Now Earth Day is celebrated around the world. Most people observe it in school, people will do small rural events to recognize it locally and in the big cities they have big events. Ours is medium and we want to make it bigger because it would educate more people about what we are doing here to be green locally.”

There are still many environmental problems today that need better regulation, Marshall said.

“Number one issue this year on a local level is Diablo Canyon,” she said. “There’s also the debate on whether or not to do solar plants in exchange for destroying the habitat of the native animal and plant life. People are also concerned with what’s going to happen to our oceans after what happened in Japan. This day is a time for everybody to wake up, come out and enjoy the day — and be active. Some of the younger generation is already tuned into what it means to be environmentally active, but everyone could learn something new.”

Businesses, community members and Cal Poly students are all contributing to make this a successful event. Architecture freshman Danielle Aspitz is applying her major by building an information booth completely out of recycled materials, including cardboard, water bottles and woven plastic bags for fabric. “Originally I was just planning on helping with phone calls and volunteering but then I told (Marshall) that I was an architecture major and I explained some of the projects I’ve done,” Aspitz said. “We put two and two together, and she asked if I could design the booth. I feel like I’ve won the lottery of internships.”

Prior to this year, the information booth had always been an idea — something to construct if there was time to design and there never has been, Aspitz said.

Aspitz found out about the event through a flyer posted in the lobby of her dorm that read “Eco-SLO Earth Day.” She said she wanted to get involved to gain experience as well as her interest in service.

“I have always been an environmentalist and wanted to protect the earth and recycle — I am for the cause,” Aspitz said. In addition to booths, speakers, tours, displays and presentations, bands will play throughout the event. Zongo All-Stars is returning again this year and will perform from 3 to 5 p.m.

The band consists of seven members who play the alto and baritone saxophones, wood and bamboo flutes, a trumpet, electric bass and guitar, steel drums and congas. The band brandishes its music
Phantogram brings something new to SLO Brew

Phantogram is known for its juxtaposition of electronic and natural sounds.

David Liebig
davidlieburg@gmail.com

Trip-hop band Phantogram is bringing its unique sound to SLO Brewing Co. for the first time tonight. The duo, comprised of Sarah Barthel on the keyboard and Joshua Carter on guitar, is touring in support of their 2010 Barsuk Records debut, "Eyelid Movies." Other bands signed to Barsuk Records include Death Cab for Cutie, Ra Ra Riot and Rilo Kiley.

Phantogram meshes electronic samples and acoustic instruments to make the characteristic sound found on the band's record. "Eyelid Movies" primarily features crisp drum loops, dreamlike vocal effects and string instruments with Barthel and Carter alternating as vocalists.

The album has carried the band, hailing from Saratoga Springs, N.Y., to nationwide acclaim, garnering several positive reviews and opening the door to high-profile concert opportunities. Four days ago, Phantogram took the stage at the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in Indio, Calif.

Carter said the change of scenery from Coachella to SLO Brewing Co. will not be a letdown for him.

"We like playing big venues and small venues," he said. "It's been really fun selling out the Independent in San Francisco, playing Coachella. We didn't expect it, being from where we're from." Saratoga Springs is definitely backcountry, Carter said.

To write and record "Eyelid Movies," the band spent time in even more remote spots: New York at a barn on Carter's parents' property — a place they have dubbed "Harmony Lodge." "It's definitely a little more serene," Carter said. "There's not too many distractions." The pastoral environment is not the only thing influencing their music, Carter said.

"If we lived in Hawaii, I don't think we'd sound like Jack Johnson," he said. "When we made the album, we just made music we would want to hear. You should do it for yourself to begin with."

Even though Carter said he's not trying to impress anybody in his music career, indie fans are finding and liking Phantogram's music on blogs and other online venues.

Aerospace engineering junior Dave Nguyen said he was impressed when he first heard Phantogram on a mixtape he downloaded from a private forum.

"I feel like the juxtaposition of a really electronic sound with the sweet, natural voice," Nguyen said. For some hands, a popular debut doesn't ensure long-term success, but Nguyen said Phantogram will remain a presence in the indie music scene.

"Their popularity has just been increasing ever since I heard about them," he said. With a new EP coming out this year and another album set for release in 2012, Carter said he has high hopes for the future.

One factor contributing to the band's success is a diverse fan base. Carter said the music contains elements that appeal to fans of hip-hop, shoegaze and pop music alike.

"We don't follow any specific trends," he said. "I don't think we'll ever be the 'in' sound, but I don't think our sound is too out there." Music junior Tommy Nickerson said he finds the band's willingness to be different intriguing.

"Their unique vocals offer an angle on this kind of music that is unheard of, and that fact alone proves that this is a quality band," Nickerson said. "Bringing new ideas to the table is not only a characteristic of new bands in alternative rock but inspiring to the listener."

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**HOROSCOPES**

**T A U R I S** (April 20-May 20) — There's no reason for you to take the blame for something that is not your fault; don't let yourself become the sacrificial lamb.

**G E M I N I** (May 21-June 20) — You have your fortune is something you give others what they need and want.

**C A N C E R** (June 21-July 22) — A job you have taken on will not be a letdown for him.

**L E O** (July 23-Aug. 22) — Good fortune is something you can manufacture, you don't have to wait for something to come your way simply as a matter of luck.

**V I R G O** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Avoid getting yourself into a tricky situation even as you go to great lengths to take the blame for something that is not your fault.

**S C O P R O** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You may find yourself waiting on someone else before you can put the finishing touches on an important and time-sensitive project.

**S A G I T T A R I U S** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Something you've been trying to keep to yourself may actually be common knowledge already. Now you can focus on other issues.

**C A P R I C O R N** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — With another by your side who shares your vision and enthusiasm, there is no reason that you can't do what others say can't be done.

**A U G U S T** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — You can share some good ideas with someone who complements your abilities quite well. A third party may be of value, too.

**P S C H E S** (Feb. 19-March 20) — It's not goodby, just so long — for you and a certain someone have much to do together in the near future.

**A R E S** (March 21-April 19) — You may not be able to get it all done, but making sure headway will show others that you truly mean to fulfill all responsibilities.**

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Earth Day
continued from page 9

as "CalCubano," a blend of Afro-Latin, Afro-Caribbean, funk, reggae and calypso elements.

Paul Irving, a trumpet player and business manager for the Zarago All-Stars, said the band's music complements outdoor events well.

"We're a band that's well-suited for outdoor events," Irving said.

"We bring a lot of people out because we have a wide demographic of listeners. You can come out to our concerts and it's very danceable music where you'll see a 3-year-old boogieing next to grandma and everyone in between having a good time together."

Other musical acts include singer to make (Earth Day) bigger because it would educate people about what we are doing here to be green locally.
— Sandra Marshall
Director of Earth Day SLO 2011

Phantogram
continued from page 10

Carter said he is excited to give his San Luis Obispo fans a live performance.

"Expect to hear loud music that's pulsating and droning and fun," he said.

Tim Oakley, from The Mathematicians, will be joining Barthel and Carter on drums tonight.

For those who miss the show, Phantogram will be featured on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" tonight at midnight.

Doors for the show open at 8 p.m. Tickets are on sale for $14 at the door or $12 in advance at Ticketweb.com and Boo Boo Records.

When we made the album, we just made music we would want to hear. You should do it for yourself to begin with.
— Joshua Carter
Phantogram guitarist

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Renewing faith in renewable energy

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

Energy will be the greatest issue our generation has to deal with and the more we achieve today the less will be forced upon us — you and me — when we are "in power" — later, allowing us a wide array of options today that will inevitably be crowded out as necessity becomes the driving force for policymaking. In fact, the energy issue is actually comprised of a number of smaller issues.

First and foremost, renewable energy is important if we want to continue to live anywhere near our current standard of living. Our entire economy runs on fossil fuels, whether coal or oil. There is substantial coal left in the hills across the U.S., but as people begin to factor in environmental costs, coal is quickly becoming perceived as more expensive.

Doomsday warnings about peak oil have been around for decades, but there are real questions about the supply relative to the demand, especially with India and China each experiencing incredible growth and more of a necessity.

The first was in 1973 as a result of an embargo enacted by the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries against the U.S. for backing Israel in the Yom Kippur war. The second occurred in 1979 as a result of the Iranian revolution and the general uncertainty of oil supplies in the area, much like the rising gas prices today. What these countries were forced upon us — you and me — when we are "in power" — later, allowing us a wide array of options today that will inevitably be crowded out as necessity becomes the driving force for policymaking. In fact, the energy issue is actually comprised of a number of smaller issues.

Since the U.S. does not have vast oil reserves like the Middle East, more drilling in places like ANWR, off the California coast and in the Gulf will only put off an inevitable supply relative to the demand, especially with India and China each experiencing incredible growth and adding to the demand.

As demand increases, prices should increase as well, meaning higher transportation costs, higher priced consumer goods and a greater strain on the economy overall. Wages don't usually take into consideration from the sharp decline in tourism). Renewable energy generates in the U.S. will solve our long-term concerns concerning the economy and help with employment and growth in the short run. That's why it is important in view of the rising energy technology today and not when the market dictates it profitable for private industry to do it. In fact, many rising economies in the world, most notably India, Brazil and China, are directing resources into these markets and it is very likely that they will be directing the market as renewable energy becomes more and more of a necessity.

The last reason that renewable energy needs to be on the political agenda today and not later when it's forced upon us is the issue of climate change.

I got a good chuckle out of Fox News and the right when they cited the winter blizzard across the Midwest and Eastern seaboard as a sign that global warming was a hoax. Global warming was indeed the initial name for the idea, but the fact that atmospheric temperature would be rising would have drastic implications for weather systems. What this meant is that the weather would be more unpredictable and more extreme, like the winter storm as well as the record heat the East faced last summer. Warming oceans also provide the energy for more deadly hurricanes. I like to refer to it as climate change and not global warming — this term includes some humility in admitting that we don't know for sure exactly how increasing greenhouse gases will affect the climate.

The earth is a complex ecosystem; a balance of atoms that can have drastic effects when that balance is tipped by unnatural forces. That is what I never understood about the opposition to climate change: regardless of how much weight you attribute to human activity in accounting for recent climate changes (increased global temperature, melting ice sheets and polar ice caps, rising sea levels, etc.), it cannot be rational to think the amount of greenhouse gases we emit is sustainable for generations to come.

The earth acts in a complex web of biological, chemical and physical reactions that we have only recently begun to understand. To not take into account future costs and to think this non-natural source of greenhouse gases will have no impact on that web of interactions is irresponsible and unrealistic. For some reason (which I attribute to the rise of the evangelical, new Christian Right among many on the right), Republicans have, as a party, become the party of science skeptics, although most of what we know is based on this crazy thing called science.

As a result of the right's objections, this issue has become a political football rather than an issue that has been addressed in a pragmatic and rational manner. As the effects of our current practices make themselves more apparent, perhaps it will entice people to inform themselves about renewable energy so our political system will respond with appropriate fixes rather than play the blame game.

Renewable energy is important if we want to continue to live anywhere near our current standard of living.

— Jeremy Catches
Liberal columnist

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### Shelling out the green for a greener future

By Andrew Nenow

Conservator Corner

How perturbed are you these days to go to the gas station to fill your gas tank? If you are anything like me, you are almost standing yourself on the side of the road, refusing to fill your tank until absolutely have to.

A friend of mine told me it took her $93 to fill her truck’s tank this week. Gas prices like that make it seem like we’re living in Europe where prices push $6 in most countries.

The difference, of course, is that Americans are not offered nearly as much public transportation as Europeans. This has many Americans demanding more modes of transportation in their cities and asking why we cannot manage it when our friends across the pond can. The truth is that it’s just not plausible at this point.

### LS

In response to “Majorscentrism making students feel special”

Actually, there many job opportunities for journalism majors in the realm of engineering, believe it or not. Technical writers, ever heard of them? Better get used to them, you’ll have to rely on them sometime down the road. They make good money, too.

### JD

In response to “Majorscentrism making students feel special”

Bottom Line: If you put a liberal studies major in a high level proofs mathematics course, they would not have the mental capacity and knowledge to pass, they just can’t think at that high of a level. However, if you put a valedictorian engineering major, which we have so many, in a high level history, or other liberal arts major, you put them in a level engineering class, in no way means that liberal arts majors are better than those with math and/or science majors we just think and express ourselves differently, and we bring different societal values.

### Snitch

In response to “Majorscentrism making students feel special”

I completely understand the view of those with technical majors. Yet, to say Liberal Arts majors are “stupid,” unemployable or useless to society just strengthens the argument of this column.

Literature, like Frederick Douglass’ autobiography, “Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl,” have provided insight into societal issues that needed to be addressed and changed. In fact, due to the graphic detail of “The Jungle,” the horrendous conditions of factory workers received further notice and legal standards were established (among other reasons, not just Sinclair alone.)

Without the arts, we would be those lifeless shells of 1984 (which Orwell, who you quoted, wrote beautifully to show the perils of an unemotional society.) But I digress. The point is, in no way means that liberal arts majors are better than those with math and/or science majors we just think and express ourselves differently, and we bring different societal values.

### Debbie

In response to “Majorscentrism making students feel special”

I don’t think engineers are trying to go down in history, I know my limits. If you have thousands of dollars to pass away so you can spend the next few years making sure you understand the deeper meaning of existence and your place in the cosmos in some major that will not lead to a career, good for you! That sounds like a lot of fun to me. I on the other hand, chose to major in engineering so I could acquire skills that would lead to a job so I could make enough money to live the life of leisure I choose, and ultimately take responsibility for the environment I live in and become a responsible adult.

I actually enjoy history, have taken several upper division classes in it, but aside from odd facts collected in the past, I don’t think history is anything more than a subject to me. But comparing the time and energy required to even get through an upper division engineering class is far greater than that required to ace an upper division history class. The “value of society” or “amount of intellectual stimulation” are subjective matters, and will vary from person to person. So, spending the time and energy the two require is indeed ludicrous, anyone who disagrees is either too naive or just really fucking stupid.

### Major

In response to “Majorscentrism making students feel special”

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

Andrew Nenow is a wine and viticulture sophomore and Mustang Daily conservative columnist.

Major and has a graduate degree can make a lot of money, too. A teacher who’s been in a district for a long time doesn’t define people or in­-depth of understanding. It’s the majors that contribute to success. Anyone else feel as if this town tries to make students feel special?”

In response to “SLO enacts Sunday parking fees” — Andrew Nenow

Conservator columnist

Shelling out the green for a greener future

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Miller's freshman year. Miller retained eligibility.

That summer Miller regained his mojo, so he contacted Cuesta College head baseball coach Bob Miller. "His skills jumped out," Bob, who is in his ninth season, said. "Soft hands, quick feet, an accurate arm. He brought versatility."

Yet Bob liked more than Miller's skills. "I coached him every day," Bob said. "He was the guy at the end of the day who locked the gate."

By Spring 2009, Miller was Cuesta's starting shortstop. After the season, he spent the summer playing for the San Luis Obispo Rattlers, a collegiate summer team that draws players from colleges and high schools.

Miller said he played well for the Rattlers. In fact, when the season ended he received a phone call from the coach of an Alaskan collegiate summer league team, the Anchorage Glacier Pilots. The team needed a shortstop, so Miller joined and played in the National Baseball Congress Baseball World Series, which is held every year in Wichita, Kan. Miller was selected for the NBC All-Tournament team.

Part of an exclusive fraternity again, Miller became the starting shortstop when the 2010 season began. But initially Miller struggled. "It's a big jump from junior college to NCAA Division I because the speed of the game is different," Lee said. "I can generate more torque and speed of the game is different," Lee said. "I have the utmost respect for Michael," Jeans said. "He has a shot at playing pro ball. I wouldn't put it past him."

While a professional career remains uncertain, one thing is for sure. "I want to be remembered as a guy who played hard every day," Miller said.

Miller's summer season in Alaska. So far he has championships the 2011 season. Offensively he is leading the team with a .374 batting average, to go with his seven doubles and 18 RBIs.

"He's been our best hitter in pressure situations," Lee said.

The coaching staff has worked to improve Miller's offensive approach at the plate. Changes include a leg kick, which helps time pitches and makes him aggressive and attack pitches. Plus, Miller said his body is in sync so he uses more shoulders and less arms.

"I'm 170 pounds, but I'm just a strong as somebody who uses 160 pounds," he said. "I can generate more torque and keep my bat in the zone as long as possible to give myself a chance, even if I'm fooled."

If there's one thing Miller knows, it's how to maximize his potential.

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Editor's note: Look at a breakdown of Mike Miller's swing at mustangdaily.net.

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Mike Miller was one doctor's appointment away from hanging up his baseball spikes.

However, Miller, Cal Poly’s starting shortstop, returned to the game he loves after facing setbacks stemming from a lingering injury.

The pain most affected his play as a junior in high school, and he said he doesn’t know how it happened.

Miller visited doctors, who ran tests and took X-rays. It turned out Miller had stress fractures in the lumbar region of his back.

“I could barely walk, hardly get out of bed,” he said.

Miller subdued the pain by loading up on seven to eight ibuprofen a day.

“My liver will probably fail by 50, that’s how it goes,” he said.

Doctors told Miller to wear a plastic corset specifically designed to restrict movement, which meant no twists, no turns. But playing baseball requires twisting and turning, essential movements with hitting, throwing, running and fielding.

David Miller, Mike’s dad, said it was frustrating for his son.

“It took him out of everything because he lost his mojo,” David said.

From February 2006 to August 2006, Miller wore the corset.

“Every day he had to Velcro in and out of the thing,” David said. “And every time he went to the doctor it was another six weeks, and so on.”

While he abstained from physical exertion, the pain gradually worsened.

Surgery was the next step. Had Miller gone that route, doctors would have fused his L4 disc to his vertebrae columns, he said. The L4-5 discs in the lumbar region are the biggest discs. Vertebrae 1-5 helps transfer upper body weight to the pelvis and legs, and vice versa.

The lower back is the “kinetic link,” transferring energy from the legs to the upper body, said kinesiology professor Robert Clark, who specializes in biomechanics.

An incomplete connection between body parts hampers athletic performance, as does size. Clayton Valley High School baseball coach David Jeans, who coached Miller while at De La Salle in Concord, Calif., said Miller was undersized.

“I know I can win (the national championship),” Miller said.

For an athlete, the inner competitor never dies. That spring Miller realized this and made the call.

“I said, ‘Dad, I’m thinking about doing this,’” Miller said. “And he was on board from the get-go.”

Starting in March 2008, Miller worked at a batting cage in Paso Robles. There he honed his skills, reading time in the cage for hitting lessons.

“I just wanted to take hacks; I didn’t care about getting paid,” he said.

After the 2008 spring quarter, Miller played for the Oakland Oaks, a summer league team coached by his former high school coach.

“I loved my time (at Cal Poly) and I loved the guys on the team. ... It was an awesome experience.”

— Mark Perry

Former wrestling co-head coach

The Mark Perry era is over before it even began. The man who was supposed to take the helm of the wrestling team, one of Cal Poly’s most successful programs, has accepted an offer to be an associate coach at the University of Illinois next season.

“I enjoyed my time (at Cal Poly) and I loved the guys on the team; everyone at the athletics department is great,” Perry said. “It was an awesome experience, but it came down to a personal financial situation for me and my fiancée.”

Perry said he was not actively searching for a new job, but Illinois “came after” him and, in the end, they had a bigger budget for coaches.

Perry was paid more than $55,000 in 2010 while sharing co-head coaching duties with John Axvedo who was paid more than $64,000.

Perry, who came into the program as an assistant coach in 2009, was quickly promoted to co-head coach a year later and was expected to fill the head coaching position after Axvedo retires this season.

Although he was at Cal Poly for only a short time, he said he hopes the wrestlers he worked with will continue to remember the things he preached.

“If you want to be successful at anything you have to have a deep, deep passion for what you’re doing,” Perry said. “You can’t be halfway in, halfway out. You have to live, breathe, eat it.”

The most successful Cal Poly wrestler in 2011 was junior Boris Novachkov who placed second at the NCAA Championships in March. He was notified approximately a week ago of Perry’s decision, and said he bears no hard feelings.

“I know I would go if I were in his position,” Novachkov said.

Novachkov left little doubt the Mustangs will be in good hands.

“I know I can win (the national championship),” Novachkov said.

The new coach will inherit a team losing only two seniors out of 10 starters. Six of whom made it to the national championships in 2011. Returning NCAA participants are Novachkov, Ryan Des Roches and Ryan Smith.

The Mustangs were 9-2 in dual meets last season while going 4-2 in the Pac-10, but placed a disappointing sixth at the Pac-10 Championships.

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