Save a car, ride a bike

**SLO Rideshare celebrates May with multiple biking events**

David Liebig
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May is San Luis Obispo County’s 11th annual Bike Month, a spree of events put on by San Luis Obispo Regional Rideshare to celebrate and encourage cycling in the community.

Rideshare is a division of the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments that promotes public transit, carpooling and biking in order to reduce the number of single-occupant vehicles on the road.

Rideshare program manager Morgan Marshall said it is important for community members to bike to work or school because it reduces traffic congestion, decreases air pollution and lessens wear and tear on the streets.

“There’s health benefits, there’s benefits of engaging with your community,” Marshall said.

More than 30 events are scheduled for Bike Month, all of which will be planned and run by local volunteers.

One notable event is the Commuter Bike Challenge. The countywide contest is between organizations, divided into four categories based on size, to see which can get the most participants to bike to work or school by May 6 and will receive a free Bike Month T-shirt. The winning organizations will be recognized with trophies at the Bike Month Blowout June 2 at Creeky Tiki in downtown San Luis Obispo.

Last year, Cal Poly’s information technology department won the Commuter Bike Challenge in the smallest organization category.

Marshall said she is challenging even more Cal Poly students and staff to participate in the contest as well as other Bike Month events this year.

“Taco time is great fun, every little bit counts,” Marshall said.

“Taco time is great fun, every little bit counts.”

We would love to see more involvement on the Cal Poly campus,” Rideshare program manager Morgan Marshall said of the program’s bike month.

**SLOpnessmonster attacks Cal Poly**

Amanda Sedo
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Textfromlastnight.com and the “Trinity: Texting While Intoxicated” application have company. A new website called Slopnessmonster.com has hit the Internet, featuring pictures of students in various drunken states.

The creator Patrick (who did not want to disclose his last name) from Austin, Texas said the term “slopness monster” refers to when alcohol in excess meets droopy.

“I don’t know exactly how the term was coined,”

**Heading to the BIG DANCE**

Brian de los Santos
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Cal Poly will not have one representative in this year’s NCAA Championships, but two. Both the Cal Poly women's and men's tennis teams received at-large bids to the 2011 NCAA National Championships Tuesday afternoon. The men's team will take on Washington (17-8) in the first round, while the women will take on Oklahoma (18-6).

"It is a great day for Cal Poly tennis," men's head coach Justin McGrath said in a release. "To have both the men's and women's programs make the championship is phenomenal."
Houston excels at two different sports.

IN SPORTS, P. 12

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One notable event is the Commuter Bike Challenge. The countywide contest is between organizations, divided into four categories based on size, to see which can get the most people to record a bike ride on its website.

Participation of any organization must register by May 6 and will receive a free Bike Month T-shirt. The winning organizations will be recognized with trophies at the Bike Month Blowout June 2 at Cricket Tiki in downtown San Luis Obispo.

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IN ARTS, P. 6

IN OPINION, P. 9
There is a saying about what’s on the inside is a lot more important than what’s on the outside. It can be difficult for some to keep a perfect figure when surrounded by fattening foods, but have no fear; FLASH is here to help.

FLASH is a health-study program created to promote health awareness. Currently, FLASH is working on the Freshman Heart Health Study, which screens newly admitted freshmen in fall quarter and tests their cholesterol and glucose levels. During spring quarter, the students get retested and the two results are compared.

For the test, students draw two drops of blood from their finger — which reveal their cholesterol and glucose levels and whether or not they are at high risk of having diabetes or cardiovascular disease.

When it comes to your body, FLASH program director Ann McDermott said she doesn’t believe it should be a mystery.

“We don’t believe in ignorance is bliss. We want to test how healthy you are on the inside.”

— Ann McDermott
FLASH program director

“We don’t believe in ‘ignorance is bliss,’ McDermott said. “We want to test how healthy you are on the inside.”

Tests include the measurement of weight, height, waist, blood pressure and body fat percentage. The equipment used includes standardized measurements, including a stadiometer (a portable height measurement), a digital scale, a gillick tape measure for waist and wrist, an automatic blood pressure cuff and a Bioelectrical Impedance Analysis unit that has electricity passing through the body to calculate body fat percentage.

Assistant leader and kinesiology senior Robert Buitrago said all these determinants expose the students to their exact health ranking and where they generally stand.

“It gives students a chance to see their health status and a chance for us to see if we are healthy coming into college and not going in the wrong direction,” Buitrago said.

But people in the program worry about some of the information collected concerning students’ health habits.

“Only 6 percent out of 911 students have five or more servings of fruits and vegetables a day (and) less than 50 percent had normal blood pressure,” McDermott said. And blood pressure is the silent killer.

“Therefore, when it comes to taking these tests, it is important to know what is happening inside the body, and understand how to improve it with up-to-date results, she said.

“We don’t believe in ‘ignorance is bliss,’ McDermott said. “We relied on high school data (that shows) 57 percent of high school students are obese, and 60 percent of adults are obese. What’s happened in this four year span? If we’re a science institute, why are we running on falsehood?”

An infamous “falsehood” is the “Freshman 15,” in which new college students are expected to gain at least 15 pounds upon entering college.

“Perception isn’t reality,” McDermott said. “We relied on high school data (that shows) 57 percent of high school students are obese, and 60 percent of adults are obese. What’s happened in this four year span? If we’re a science institute, why are we running on falsehood?”

An infamous “falsehood” is the “Freshman 15,” in which new college students are expected to gain at least 15 pounds upon entering college.

“Freshman 15: (where is) dau for this ad for 10% off

see FLASH, page 3
Website

continued from page 1

but after a night of drinking, we got back to my friend’s place and one of our other friends, who was pretty fat at the time, came out in skinny jeans and no shirt and did the most ridiculous, atrocious dance,” he said. “That is the definition of a slopes monster right there.”

Patrick said this happened in 2008, but he did not think of coming up with a website until April 2010.

“In April, I started a Tumblr page, and by October, I thought to put up a full-blown site,” he said. “It looked terrible at first but it is slowly making progress.”

Students at Cal Poly seem to have mixed feelings about the website.

Haley Armstrong, a nutrition freshman, said she views the website as pointless. “I don’t post any pictures of people getting taken off in ambulances … those pictures are not funny,” Patrick said. “I just think it will make people think twice about getting too drunk.”

In addition, the website is seeing improvements with its growing popularity. Early in April, the website underwent changes as a new Web designer took over.

“We have made some changes to the site, but there is still a lot more to come,” Patrick said. “I am also starting to brainstorm other interactive features to add to the site … maybe try to evolve it from just a picture blog to an entertainment brand. (An iPhone app) will hopefully incorporate a lot of interactive features I’m brainstorming, on top of being able to upload content from your phone.”

Patrick said one of his main goals for the site is to continue to have the picture aspect, but allow people to upload original content when going to events and concerts.

“It’s really hard to tell where the site will go because you can get as creative as you want with a site,” Patrick said. “The users ultimately determine what they like and don’t like, so I’ll just keep trying new things.”

FLASH

continued from page 2

that,” McDermott said. “It’s a fals­lacy used all the time.”

Tests like the Freshman Heart Health Study are important for abolishing these beliefs and showing the actual outcome of students living in a college environment. There are three points why these physical assessments are important: for the individual, the university and the medical field, McDermott said. By concentrating on these three points, people can learn and realize what the problem is.

“If people don’t know what’s getting them in trouble, they don’t know how to change,” McDermott said.

To improve healthy lifestyle tendencies, FLASH project manager Jane Hurley said being active is important to stay fit and healthy.

“It’s not just about being cardio­vascular active, like going for walks and jogs,” Hurley said. “That’s im­portant too, but there is a lot of new research emerging that it’s an impor­tant — or even more — to make sure you have strength training.”

Hurley said she is surprised by the increasing number of obesity when it is well-known that exercise is the main component to living a health­ier life.

“It’s astonishing the number of people who are overweight de­spite over 20 years of people being aware that exercise is beneficial,” Hurley said. “The obesity rate is still increasing. Being active is the biggest way to avoid that and eat­ing a healthy diet. It’s always both together, and I think that’s what people lose sight of.”

To avoid losing prospect of liv­ing healthier, those involved with FLASH look forward to more par­ticipants understanding their bodies.

“We want to continue to do this every year and get more people in­volved,” Buitrago said. “We’re the nation’s largest health study, and we want to continue that tradition at Cal Poly.”
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guests

Word on the Street
Are you taking classes at Cal Poly this summer? Why or why not?

"Yes, I'm taking three classes so I can graduate early — otherwise I'd have to stay here two quarters later. Per unit it's a little more expensive, but in the long run it'll pay off." — Danielle Dodds, landscape architecture junior

"Yes — I need them to graduate on time." — Efren Almeida, biological sciences junior

"No, because I got an internship." — Brett Irwin, manufacturing engineering senior

"No — I'm going to take classes back home because I miss home. I want to spend my first summer at home." — Alda Marin, psychology freshman

"Yes, I'm taking three classes, mostly because I transferred here and I need to knock off a couple classes. I'll probably be here an extra two quarters anyway." — Audrey Payne, kinesiology junior

"No, because I have an internship." — Zac Curhan, industrial technology senior

Bike
continued from page 1

"We would love to see more involvement on the Cal Poly campus," she said.

Another event is the New Belgium Brewing-sponsored Bike Fest, featuring music and activities at the Branch Street Deli in Arroyo Grande on May 7.

New Belgium Brewing — makers of Fat Tire beer — donated a cruiser bike to be raffled off at Bike Fest. A road bike purchased by Rideshare will also be given away at the Bike Month Blowout.

Tickets for the raffle can be obtained at other Bike Month events and at Bike Fest by parking at the bike valet.

Bike Month events not featured in previous years will include Buy By Bike Day on May 21, during which approximately 20 local businesses give 15 percent discounts to customers with helmets, and a Tweed Ride May 15, which calls for participants to wear turn-of-the-century attire.

Construction management senior Scott Allen said San Luis Obispo is a good place to commute by bike because of its reasonable size.

"It's a small enough town where you can bike from one end to the other," Allen said. "It's not a grueling ride just to go to the store or go to campus. You can ride pretty much anywhere...

see Bike, page 5

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see Bike, page 5
Lawmakers call federal aid package for Pakistan into question

Bin Laden was hiding in a compound (above) in Abbottabad, Pakistan when he was killed in a raid May 1. Now U.S. officials are proposing to re-evaluate the federal aid package that is given to the country.

David Lightman
William Douglas
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

Congress is seriously weighing the amount of its aid package to Pakistan as lawmakers Tuesday demanded to know more about what Islamabad officials knew about Osama bin Laden’s secret compound.

There was widespread bipartisan agreement that aid to Pakistan, which last fiscal year included $2.2 billion in military assistance, should be “re-evaluated,” as Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., put it.

“It needs to be looked into,” added House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, D-Md.

They and others stopped short of calling for an aid cutoff, which appeared unlikely. As Graham said, “It is better to engage with imperfect people.”

Lawmakers were almost uniformly upset, skeptical — and puzzled — over what Pakistani officials knew about bin Laden’s compound, which was only about 35 miles from Islamabad as the crow flies, and about a 75-mile drive. Built in 2005, the outsize fortress-like structure sat less than a mile from Pakistan’s top military school in a neighborhood populated with retired army officers.

If Pakistani officials knew bin Laden was there, they never told their U.S. allies, and if they didn’t know, that raises questions about their competence.

Despite such doubts, some lawmakers defended Pakistan.

“The fact is that even while all of this has been going on, they’ve allowed us to pursue our drone program,” said Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry, D-Mass., referring to the use of CIA drone aircraft to fire missiles at suspected terrorists in Pakistan, which is considered highly controversial there.

“We’ve taken out 16 al-Qaeda leaders because of that. The fact that we were able to keep this place under observation for two years or more happened with their cooperation. The ability to track the couriers happened with their cooperation,” Kerry said.

Still, lawmakers want answers. That process will begin in earnest Wednesday, when the Senate Intelligence and Armed Services committees question CIA Director Leon Panetta and other top officials familiar with Sunday’s mission that resulted in the death of bin Laden.

Among the questions Graham wants to ask Panetta is “Do you believe killing bin Laden is an excuse to withdraw from Afghanistan faster? Should we sever our ties with Pakistan because of, obviously, some double dealing?”

But they know they have to proceed carefully.

“I think we have to know whether they knew,” said Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., referring to Pakistani officials. “If they didn’t know, why didn’t they know? Was this just benign indifference, or indifference with a motive?”

However, evaluating Pakistan’s role vis-a-vis bin Laden, and the future of U.S.-Pakistan relations, is complicated, Feinstein and others agreed.

“Pakistan, you can’t trust ‘em and you can’t abandon ‘em. That’s just where we’re at in Pakistan,” Graham said. “It’s not in our national security interests to let this one event destroy this difficult partnership but a partnership nonetheless. Pakistan is a state hanging by a thread, and I don’t want to cut the last thread.”

The White House voiced similar views. Press secretary Jay Carney said the U.S.-Pakistan relationship was “complicated but important” and that “we look forward to cooperating into the future.” He said the U.S. did need to find out more about the support network that allowed bin Laden to hide there, but cautioned that “you have to be careful about tarring everyone either in the country or the government.”

Asked about Graham’s comments, Carney said he didn’t think it was a matter of trust, but more a matter of shared interests.

Still, pressure is growing in Congress to send a message of anger to Pakistan.

Curtailing aid might be one of the easiest ways to do that; lawmakers could shave just enough to send a message while not damaging the relationship.

And they could argue that at a time when they’re desperately seeking ways to cut the federal budget, aid packages should be re-evaluated anyway.

“We’re re-evaluating every part of the budget,” said Senate Republican Conference Chairman Lamar Alexander of Tennessee. “That’s always a healthy thing to do.”
There have been 15 unassisted triple plays in major league baseball history, but civil engineering junior PJ Simas said he tries to turn one every day — though what he does is a bit different.

The student, father and rapper will perform at the University Union (UU) Plaza on Thursday after releasing his sophomore album, "Triple Play," for free last week.

Most 21-year-old college students who have a voicemail message on their iPhone from Atlantic Records and have opened a concert for the likes of Mac Miller think music is the biggest thing in their life, but not Simas. He said he is not even sure music will be his eventual career of choice.

For the time being, Simas will bring his act to the UU stage, which fellow collaborator and University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) junior, Jordan Corey said is one-of-a-kind in today's industry.

"PJ is different," Corey said. "When I hear PJ, I'm not thinking this is a pretty decent white rapper. I'm thinking this is a great rapper. I think he could (get big), but I see totally where he's coming from (in leaning toward engineering)."

Simas shies away from the modern pop and rap influences that rate the lives of self-addicted stars. Instead he tells a story in each song, such as the downward spiral of someone close ("Drugs") or the anatomy of a disintegrating relationship ("Diagnosis of a Beautiful Mind").

"Life is dark baby, but you always bring that shine." - Beat to My Heart

For now, the road to turning the father/student/musician "Triple Play" runs first through Simas' son Paxton who, by no coincidence, turned two on April 29, the day he released the album.

"(Paxton) is obviously a huge source of inspiration," Simas said. "'Triple Play' has two songs that are directly about him."

One of those songs, "Far From Home," turns Simas to the mouthpiece for his son who watches him return to his hometown of Sacramento, Calif. only to leave again for college.

The third-person approach to some of his songs is a stylistic choice that sets him apart from mainstream rap and hip-hop.

"I really like writing the serious deep songs that people can connect with, and that's what music is for me; it's like such a release," he said. "Everyone has so much going on in their life, and everybody has a story to tell. Music is a way for me to tell it. Music is a way for me to tell it."

"When I hear PJ, I'm not thinking this is a pretty decent white rapper; I'm thinking this is a great rapper," said Simas' fellow collaborator Jordan Corey.
really helps me express the emotions that I feel."

Paxton is one of the main reasons Simas is unsure if his future should be in the music industry or engineering, which he considers a safer bet.

"I don't think that I am good enough to be the best rapper; you know like people that say, "Damn, make millions type of guy," Simas said. "Civil engineering is definitely the secure route. I'll always do music, but civil engineering is the direction I'm going."

Simas' music speaks about providing Paxton with the best life he can. The rough and tumble life of a touring artist might not be the path Simas is willing to take, though he said it would be hard to deny if he has a smash hit.

"Have you been on stages, up in front of crowds that yell your name and the same words from your lyric pages?" - Livin It Up

One of the most surreal experiences for Simas thus far in his career, which kicked off last summer with the release of "The SLO Life," has been going to venues to see people he does not know sing along with him, an experience he looks to witness again in the UU this week.

"It's super weird, I freak out pretty much," he said. "Everything happens so fast, just the fact that people listen to my music and actually like it surprises me."

— PJ Simas
Civil engineering junior

"Student living at its finest"
www.stennerglen.com

Student, page 8

Stenner Glen

"Student living at its finest"
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6. If yes, what do you do at MustangDaily.net?
   [ ] Read current articles  [ ] Follow up on articles  [ ] Take a poll
   [ ] Read archived articles  [ ] Check out Police Log  [ ] Blog
   [ ] Place classified ad

7. Do you look at the ads in the Mustang Daily?
   [ ] Yes  [ ] Only when planning to shop  [ ] No

8. Have you ever used a discount advertised in the Mustang Daily?
   [ ] Yes  [ ] No

9. Where do you look at the ads in the Mustang Daily?
   [ ] Beauty (salon, barber, spa)  [ ] Auto Shop  [ ] Retail store
   [ ] Restaurant/Dining  [ ] Other

10. What Mustang Daily promotions have you seen?
   [ ] Booth at campus/community event  [ ] T-shirts  [ ] Sports Games
   [ ] Reusable tote bags  [ ] Twitter  [ ] Facebook  [ ] Marked Housing Fair  [ ] Other

11. What Mustang Daily promotions would you like to see?

12. What is your age?
   [ ] 18 to 20  [ ] 21 to 25  [ ] 26+
we never even anticipated it. Yeah, we were at the mall eating some Steak Escape, and I get an email saying, "It's so much different than giving a speech in class," he said. "It's a different element and just being behind a guitar or a microphone, I just love it.

"I'm about to kill the future and throw my past away." - No More You

Fans will still hear from Simas even though he released an all-original album and has finals creeping up. "After this, I'm doing an End of School: Remiks," he said. "That's the plan to keep the hype up. I'm just going to bring my music to the UU Plaza on Thursday.

Though the increasing fame is far from all-encompassing, Simas doesn't notice signs bearing his name promoting UU hour, and he's only been recognized by fans a few times. Though his profile might elevate when he takes the stage on Thursday, a chance he relishes. "I'm about to kill the future and throw my past away." - No More You

Simas' first album did so well that it was downloaded 10,000 times. Within two weeks of releasing it on the Internet, just on his site alone, it was downloaded 10,000 times. "It was crazy," Peterson said. "We were at the mall eating some Steak Escape, and I get an email saying,"

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In the end, Simas is just a college student, still figuring out his future. Though the increasing fame is far from all-encompassing, Simas doesn't notice signs bearing his name promoting UU hour, and he's only been recognized by fans a few times. Though his profile might elevate when he takes the stage on Thursday, a chance he relishes. "I'm about to kill the future and throw my past away." - No More You

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In the end, Simas is just a college student, still figuring out his future.
Two weeks ago I wrote about the na­tional debt and the two steps necessary to appropriately address the problem, namely tax reform and entitlement reform. I offered a couple of ideas about how to proceed on tax reform, so this week I will discuss the two big entitle­ment programs — Social Security and Medicare/Medicaid. The ad­mirable attributes of these programs are how they address periods in our lives we all will experience (such as aging, retiring and the need for additional medical care as we age) and spread the burden of these vulnerable times throughout society.

Contrary to common wisdom, So­cial Security is still solvent and func­tioning properly. This does not mean, however, that programs do not exist within the program.

Currently, Social Security can pay through 2042 according to the CBO. However, 2010 was the first year that benefits paid out exceeded tax receipts taken in, largely due to the extent of the recession. This terrible though, because Social Security has a trust fund of $2.4 trillion in which the excess funds over the years have been placed.

The trust fund, however, is full of IOUs because the excess tax receipts each year get put into the Treasury’s general fund to finance other govern­ment expenditures. The Social Secu­rity Administration’s website makes this sound great because the tax receipts over and above benefits paid out are invested in government bonds with government guarantees on the prin­cipal and interest. What the SSA seems to forget, however, is that when the fed­eral government pays interest, the tax­payers are the ones financing the bills. So I’m not sure how good of a deal this is. In effect, the excess funds in Social Security have allowed government to grow more without paying the requisite bills, and one way or another, this will fall on our generation to figure out.

Another problem is that Social Security is funded through a highly regressive payroll tax of 12.4 percent split evenly between the employer and the employee. Although this was designed to share the burden, employ­ees and consumers actually pay the tax (rather than the business) through lower wages and higher consumer prices. Employees pay 6.2 percent on earnings up to $106,800. This means that those who earn under $106,800 pay the full 6.2 percent of their earn­ings; however, each dollar over that maximum is untaxed. Thus, a person making $233,600 would pay 3.1 percent of their earnings and a millionaire would only contribute .66 percent of his/her earnings toward Social Security. Another common misconception is that we pay into an account in our name what we deduct from when we retire. This is not true. Social Security has allowed government to appropriate Medicare/Medicaid. People often talk of rationing in an universal health care system but the simple fact is that rationing occurs in all markets — it just depends how you want to ration health care: by need or by wealth?

To recognize that these programs need to be reformed is not the same thing as saying they are defunct or fundamentally unsustainable. Instead, this is a recognition that they are social programs and thus must adapt to changing social circumstances, chang­ing demographics. Contrary to the House Republicans’ proposal to turn Medicare into a voucher program and Medicaid into a block grant, I don’t think either programs should be priva­tized because personal security cannot be commoditized (hence why police, fire and militar) are provided by the government). Private markets work through supply and demand with the profit motive serving as the engine, and I’m not convinced this mechanism is the best for such vulnerable timess in our lives. Perhaps it is time to broaden our conception of personal security to in­clude things such as well-being and health, so that the state wants to provide for your care, protection, so why is it so easy to advocate for the nationalization of health care?

The reality, however, is that the current generation of workers pays the benefits of retired workers.

Jeremy Catchet is a political science senior and Mustang Daily editorial columnist.

The Mustang Daily is the voice of Cal Poly since 1916. For more information on the Mustang Daily, please visit mustangdaily.opinions@gmail.com.
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NFL draft upsets eligible underclassmen

Rick Gosselin
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

NEW YORK — John Clay was the Big Ten Offensive Player of the Year in 2009 when he led the conference in rushing with 1,517 yards. In 2010 he helped power his Wisconsin Badgers to the Rose Bowl with 1,012 yards.

Clay skipped his senior season to enter his name in the 2011 NFL draft. But he won’t be turning pro anytime soon.

The 6-0, 230-pound Clay went undrafted last week. The 32 NFL teams decided there were 254 better options than spending a draft pick on Clay. But he had company.

Of the 57 underclassmen who filed for early admission to the 2011 draft, 14 were not selected. Also unclaimed were Darvin Adams, the leading receiver on Auburn’s national championship team; Darren Evans, the leading rusher on Virginia Tech’s ACC championship team, and Tom Keiser, a top pass rusher on Stanford’s Orange Bowl champions.

Because of the lockout, NFL teams cannot sign college players after the draft as free agents. So Clay and those 13 other underclassmen remain unattached. They can’t go back to school for their senior seasons, and no NFL teams want them, at least not for now.

Clay’s Wisconsin coach, Bret Bielema, Auburn coach Gene Chizik, Butch Davis of North Carolina and Brian Kelly of Notre Dame all made appearances at the draft, as did Nick Saban of Alabama and Les Miles of LSU.

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell spoke with all six.

“I ask them what their No. 1 issue is, and they say the agents, to a tee,” Goodell said. “They can’t control them, which scares the heck out of them.”

The college coaches think the NFL could be on the verge of addressing that problem with a rookie salary cap, which is one of the key elements in negotiations between the owners and players for a new collective bargaining agreement.

In theory, if the NFL limits the money teams can spend on unproven rookies, they’ll have more money to spend on proven veterans.

Last season, even though he had yet to play an NFL down, the St. Louis Rams gave quarterback Sam Bradford, the first overall pick of the 2010 draft, a $78 million contract with $50 million of it guaranteed.

Fewer millions earmarked for rookies could slow down the parade of underclassmen into the NFL. Less money means less incentive to jump. That translates into less control of the players by agents.

Most of the underclassmen who declare expect to be high draft picks. But only 15 of the 57 who declared in 2011 became first-rounders, and only 12 more became seconds.

That means about 30 players probably would have been better off returning to college in 2011, finishing out their eligibility and working to improve their draft stock for 2012.

Since the NFL opened its doors to underclassmen in 1990, there have been 932 players who have applied for early admission to a draft. Only 241 became first-round draft picks.

That’s less than 26 percent of them.

In hindsight, plenty of players would have — or should have — elected to return to college rather than become a fourth- or fifth-round draft pick, or even go undrafted like Clay.

Mack Brown of Texas was the first college coach to attend the draft in 2010 and even announced the selection of his quarterback, Colt McCoy, by the Cleveland Browns in the third round.

Such an appearance at the draft became a recruiting tool. So six more coaches showed up in New York in 2011, and the NFL will continue to invite more college coaches from around the country to future drafts.

It’s a think tank Goodell will continue to tap.

“I firmly believe we’re all focused on the best interest of football,” Goodell said. “Everything that affects us affects them, and vice versa.

If we do a better job together we can help one another.”
Two-sport athlete makes time for ‘wife’ and ‘mistress’

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For Jarred Houston, balancing two sports with schoolwork and a social life is all part of the routine schedule he has juggled for the past eight years. In fact, the recreation, parks and tourism administration senior has lived the life of a two-sport athlete since his freshman year of high school, when he first started playing football and joined track and field.

Houston began his football career in high school because his mom, who was worried about the potential for injury, would not let him play any sooner.

"My mom said, 'Don't break bones before high school,' and then when I started in high school, I broke bones," Houston said. But the split knee scope, dislocated jaw and broken fingers did not discourage him from track or football. His passion for both sports resulted in unswerving consistency and dedication.

While many other students look forward to the sunshine and beach days that spring quarter offers, it is perhaps the busiest time of the year for athletes such as Houston — spring football and the track season occur simultaneously.

"I have football practice Mondays and Wednesdays, track practice Tuesdays and Thursdays, then track meets on Saturdays," Houston said. "So it's all back-to-back, with weight lifting somewhere in between."

Despite the time and energy he commits to track and field, Houston said he can't deny football is in his main focus. "The way I see it, football is my wife and track is my mistress," Houston said. "Football is what I came to college for. I love the physicality of it and how every play can be a big play."

Houston currently plays wide receiver. He really moved forward from last year. "We hope to have more playmaking students with a big play factor," Houston said.

"I think as a team we finished really well, but were looking for more consistency and improvement," Houston said. "So I redeemed myself this year," head coach Tim Walsh said. "It's obvious that Jarred is a very talented athlete, and I think he can play both sports, he pulls the best out of both of them." Houston has proven his ability to do so. The two-sport athlete somehow manages to find time for playing chess (his "hidden talent") with the elderly, working on underground rap albums and practicing his karate (he's a black belt) in preparation for Avatar 2 stunt double auditions.

Houston will graduate next year and plans to pursue a career in sports media and marketing.

Women's golf shows future potential

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The Cal Poly women's golf team took third place at the Big West Conference Championships April 11-13 at the Tijeras Creek Golf Club in Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif. and is now looking forward to the next few years.

"This is the highest Big West finish for head coach Scott Cartwright, with one of the youngest lineups in his career."

"It was a great accomplishment for the girls this year, being a very young team — seven freshmen, two sophomores and one junior," Cartwright said.

The five players who competed finished with a total score of 895 (31 over par) for the Mustangs, falling only to second-place finisher Long Beach State's 21 over par and reigning champion UC Davis' three over par. This year marked a new starting lineup and a one-place higher finish from last year's fourth place finish, which was aided by a lineup of seniors.

"I think it opened up some doors because there were some opportunities for these players to come in and play right away," Cartwright said. "And having the opportunity to play right away was a big part of getting a fresh group on the course."

Having a successful team of mostly freshmen means there is time to improve and succeed in seasons to come, he said.

"Communication studies freshman Taylor Yoshitake said she can't wait to see where her team will go in the next few years. "We had really high hopes because we're all newbies," she said. "I'm hoping that one day we will win a NCAA Championship as a team, and we could go to championships individually."

Yoshitake was Cal Poly's highest Big West finisher at seventh place. She helped keep the team's stroke total down with individual rounds of one over par, two over par and four over par.

"I think as a team we finished really well, and I was really happy with how I played individually," Yoshitake said. "I can throttle back a little bit, and we would probably be a little bit more successful, but third is awesome," she said. "I can't complain at all. We beat UC Irvine, which was one of our goals."

Cal Poly beat out UC Irvine for the top spot at the Big West Conference Championships. She said, "I'm hoping that one day we will win a NCAA Championship as a team, and we could go to championships individually.

— Taylor Yoshitake
Communication studies freshman

Mustangs rally in St. Mary's victory

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