

TOMORROW: Sunny High 77°/Low 56°

MUSTANG DAILY

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY



Cal Poly golfer
Geoff Gonzalez
will compete
in the western
regionals.

IN SPORTS, 12



Afghani students
receive Cal Poly
education to
help rebuild their
country.

IN NEWS, 6

Fraternity
comes out
for drag
event tonight.

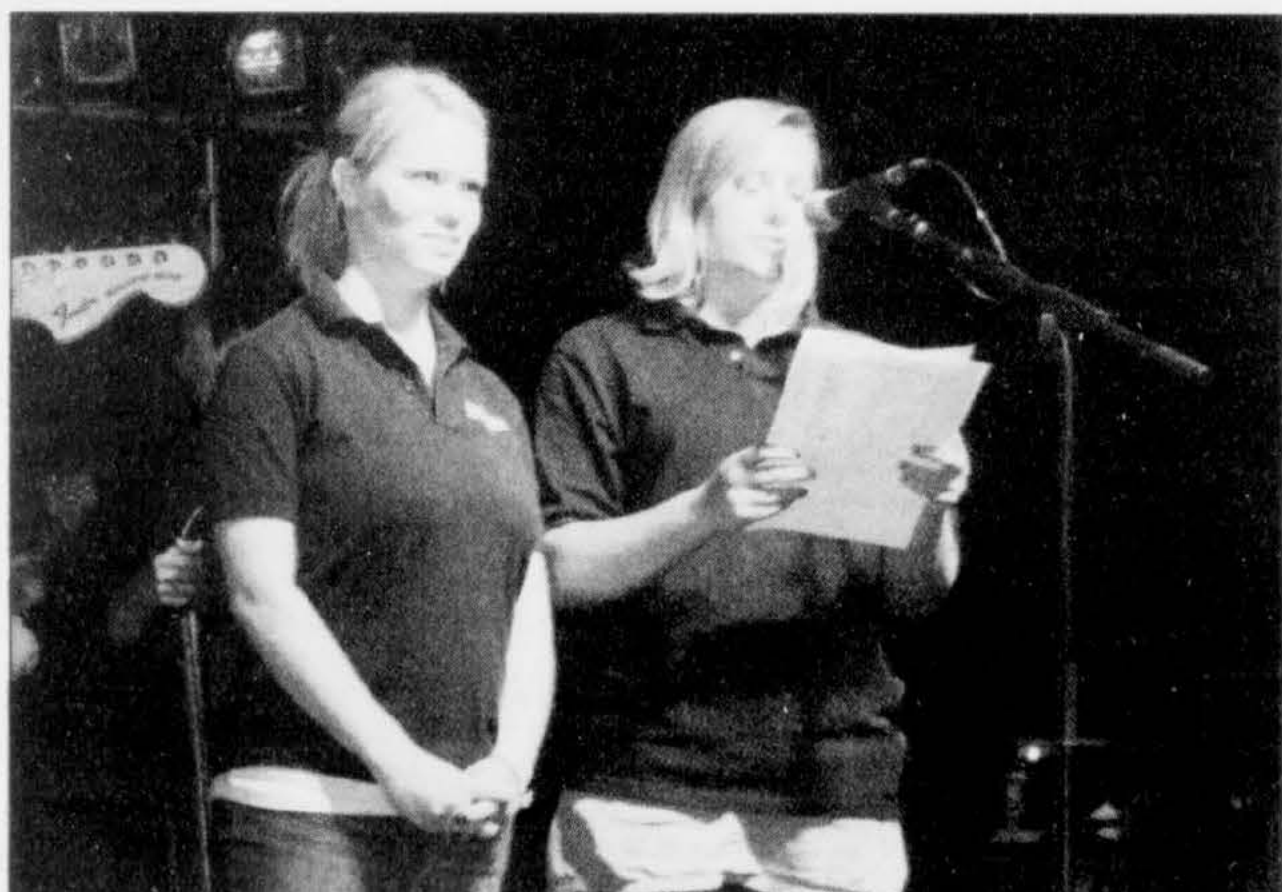
IN ARTS, 9



Volume LXXIII, Number 145

Thursday, May 14, 2009

www.mustangdaily.net



NICK CAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY

ASI Election committee chair Kelly Wigton announced the ASI presidential election results last Thursday, but due to a vendor problem, the vote breakdown didn't come out until yesterday.

ASI presidential election details finally released

Matt Fountain
MUSTANG DAILY

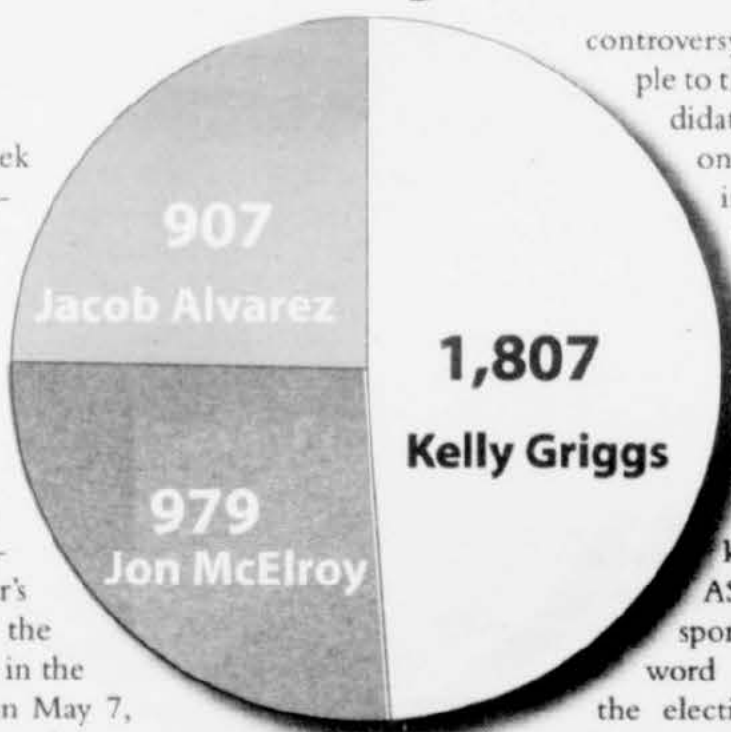
After nearly a week of delays, a breakdown of the vote count from last Thursday's Associated Students, Inc. presidential election was announced Wednesday. Although Kelly Griggs was announced as next year's ASI president at the May Mayhem event in the University Union on May 7, the exact breakdown of votes was not released until yesterday.

Art and design senior Kelly Griggs won the election with 1,807 votes, followed by computer science graduate student Jon McElroy's 979 and psychology senior Jacob Alvarez's 907.

Unidentified problems with the off-campus vendor used to collect and count the votes led to the delay in the results, current ASI President Angela Kramer said. According to its Web site, Elexpert is an online voting systems company that has specialized in online student government elections for nearly 10 years.

Voter turnout for this year's election was at approximately 20 percent of the student body, down 7.5 percent from last year. While Kramer said she felt the turnout was "still really good," Griggs admitted she was "a little disappointed."

"It's definitely a trade-off," Griggs said. "As we've seen in politics on a national scale,



controversy brings more people to the polls. We, as candidates, decided early on that we were going to try hard not to engage in that kind of thing."

"Also I think this election kind of snuck up on everyone," she said. "I know students are busy. It kind of falls within ASI and it's their responsibility to get the word out about when the election so there's no confusion and things like that."

Griggs is expected to appoint a chief of staff this weekend. As of Wednesday, 15 candidates had applied for the position. Because she is bound by confidentiality until she makes a decision, Griggs said she could not disclose the names of these candidates, but did say a number of them are "highly qualified."

"It's a tough decision," Griggs said. "The chief of staff position is really important and you really have two main goals for a candidate. First, you have to work well with them personally. They also have to be able to carry out the goals of the president."

The qualities she is looking for in a chief of staff are, "someone who has a strong personality, is a good listener, who understands what you want to do with the campus, but who can also stand up to you. Also, of course, being very honest and communicative is important."

see Election, page 3

CSU system approves student fee increase

Terence Chea
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The California State University system approved a 10 percent increase in student fees Wednesday to address a severe budget shortfall triggered by the state's fiscal crisis.

Despite objections from students, the CSU Board of Trustees voted 17-2 for the seventh fee hike since 2001, saying the increase was necessary to prevent deeper cuts to student services, classes and enrollment. CSU fees have more than doubled since 2002.

The board also approved a new fee for business graduate programs that will more than double the fees paid by MBA students

who take a full course load.

"We face difficult fiscal challenges, and we have to make tough decisions to protect the quality of the education we provide," Trustee Lou Monville said after the board meeting in Long Beach.

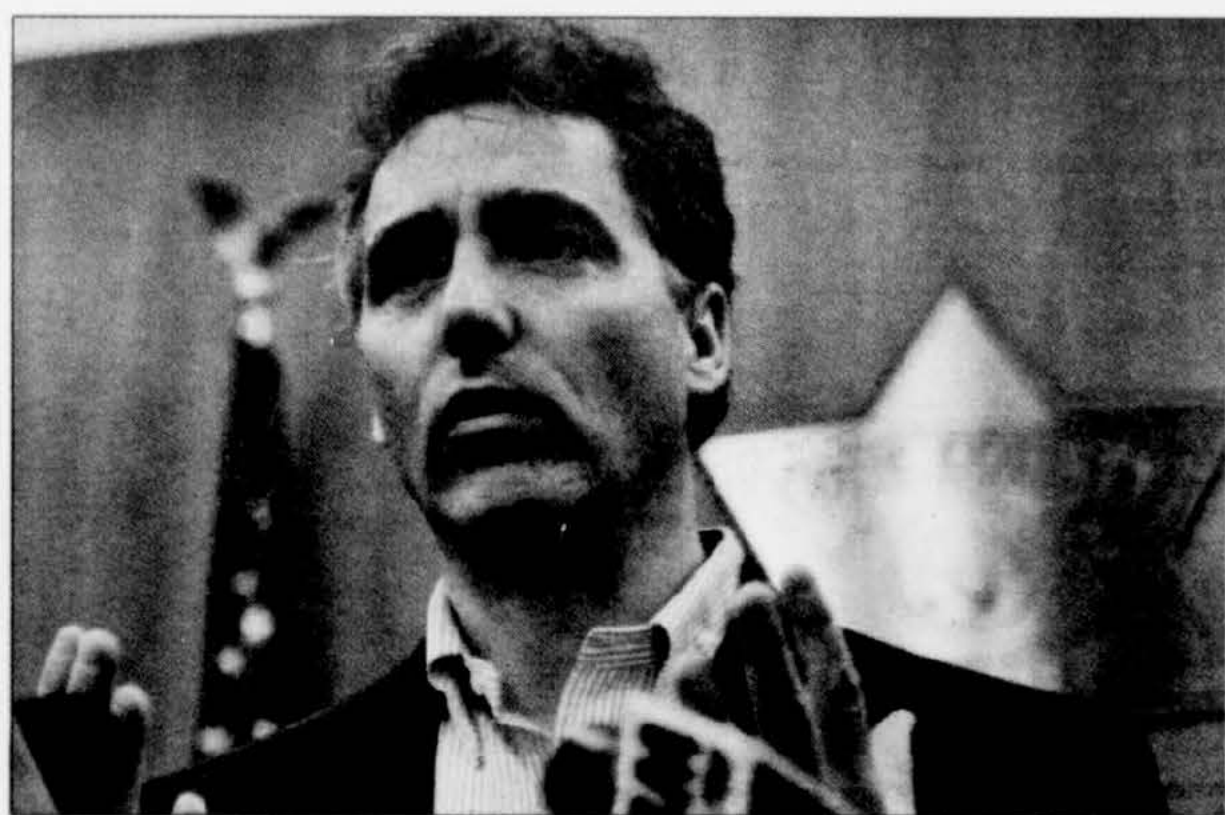
The CSU fee increase follows the University of California's decision last week to raise fees by 9.3 percent.

CSU officials said the fee increase is needed to offset a 10 percent reduction, or nearly \$300 million, in state funding to the 23-campus system for the coming academic year.

To reduce expenses, the university system already has frozen administrator sala-

see Fee, page 2

Craigslist site will drop 'erotic services' classifieds



JEAN LACHAT ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart talks to reporters during a news conference at his Chicago office, Wednesday. Online classifieds site Craigslist said Wednesday it will drop its controversial "erotic services" category in response to law enforcement leaders who said the ads were a front for prostitution.

Don Babwin
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO (AP) — A month after the killing of a masseuse who advertised on Craigslist, the classified ad site announced plans Wednesday to eliminate its "erotic services" category and screen all submissions to a new "adult services" section before they are posted.

Law enforcement officials praised the move as a victory against online prostitution, but they acknowledged doubts about whether the

changes will curb the practice.

"I'm not going to take their word for it. We want to see action," said Dan Gallagher, an attorney representing Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart, who sued Craigslist in March, accusing it of being the nation's biggest source of prostitution.

The announcement marked a significant policy change for Craigslist, which in the past has never pre-screened ads, choosing instead

see Craigslist, page 3

Fee

continued from page 1

ries, deferred building maintenance, restricted employee travel, implemented hiring freezes and reduced student enrollment for the coming academic year.

The CSU fee hike is expected to generate an additional \$127 million in revenue, with about one-third set aside for student financial aid.

Annual systemwide fees will rise to \$3,354 for undergraduates, \$3,894 for teacher-credential students and \$4,134 for graduate students. Adding fees charged at individual campuses, CSU undergraduates on average will pay \$4,155 in annual fees in 2009-10.

The new fee for MBA programs — \$210 per semester unit and \$140 per quarter unit — will raise the annual fees paid by most full-time business students to \$9,174.

Officials said CSU still will charge far less than comparable universities around the country, and the higher fees will be offset by expanded student aid. More than half of CSU students receive some form of financial aid, and most of those students will receive enough grants to fully cover their fees.

But students said the fee increase will cause financial hardship for many of CSU's

450,000 students, especially those who receive little or no financial aid.

"During these difficult economic times, CSU should be focusing on ways to reduce the costs for students," said Tim Snyder, a senior at CSU Sacramento, who chairs the California State Students Association. "As fees continue to rise, future students ... will perceive the CSU as inaccessible and the degree unaffordable."

CSU officials said the university will likely be forced to make further cuts because Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said this week the state faces a \$15 billion budget deficit in the coming fiscal year. That shortfall would grow to \$21 billion if voters reject the five budget-related measures on the May 19 special election ballot.

Assembly Majority Leader Alberto Torrico and California Faculty Association President Lillian Taiz called on state lawmakers to approve legislation that would tax oil companies to help fund the state's colleges and universities.

"The Board of Trustees' action today shows an increasing dependency on annual, double digit student fee hikes to cover for declining state support," they said in a statement. "It is a dependency that must be broken to maintain access and affordability for students."

Hubble grabbed; repairs coming next

Marcia Dunn

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Atlantis' astronauts grabbed the Hubble Space Telescope on Wednesday, then quickly set their sights on the difficult, dangerous and unprecedented space-walking repairs they will attempt over the next five days.

Hubble and Atlantis are flying in a 350-mile-high orbit littered with space junk. Some of that debris put a bit of a scare into NASA late Wednesday, when a 4-inch piece was spotted on a path coming close to the shuttle.

The debris did not hit the spacecraft and NASA had decided it didn't need to move Atlantis out of the way.

Left over from the 2007 Chinese destruction of a satellite during a weapon test, the debris was predicted to come within 1.7 miles of Atlantis. Mission Control let it pass by without noting it.

The international space station also is watching a different piece of debris at its lower altitude that has a slight chance of coming close on Friday.

The shuttle already has an ugly stretch of nicks from Monday's launch, but the damage is considered minor and poses no safety threat. NASA continued to prep another shuttle, though, just in case Atlantis is damaged and the crew needs to be rescued.

Mission Control told astronauts that engineers determined Atlantis' heat shield was in such good shape that no extra inspection would be needed next week.

Flight controllers gasped when the telescope that had been in orbital solitude for seven years first came into view.

"It's an unbelievably beautiful sight,"

reported John Grunsfeld, the telescope's chief repairman. "Amazingly, the exterior of Hubble, an old man of 19 years in space, still looks in fantastic shape."

NASA hopes to get another five to 10 years of dazzling views of the cosmos with all the planned upgrades, which should leave the observatory more powerful than ever.

Shuttle robot arm operator Megan McArthur used the 50-foot boom to seize the school bus-sized telescope as the two spacecraft sailed above Australia. Then she lowered the observatory into Atlantis' payload bay, where cameras checked it out.

Going into the mission, Hubble scientists and managers warned that the telescope might look a little ragged because it hasn't had a tuneup since 2002. Initial observations showed nothing major.

"Everybody's very excited up here, I can tell you," said Grunsfeld, who will venture out Thursday with Andrew Feustel. They will replace an old Hubble camera that's the size of a baby grand piano, and a science data-handling unit that failed in September and delayed Atlantis' flight by seven months.

Also Wednesday, NASA found odd particles around equipment in the cargo bay that are used for telescope repairs.

Along one hand rail, white particles look like someone had sprinkled large grain salt from a shaker on the rail "from one end to the other," deputy shuttle program manager LeRoy Cain said. It is probably debris that fell off insulation blankets, he said.

The initial worry was that it could contaminate Hubble, but it should not be an issue, said Hubble repair mission operations manager Keith Walyus.

Astronauts will be told to "try to stay out of the way" of the particles, Cain said. There are places where they can grab the handrail and not touch debris.

This is the fifth time astronauts have called upon Hubble. The previous overhauls went well, but those repairs were straightforward, with spacewalkers pulling equipment in and out. This time, Grunsfeld and his team will venture into the guts of broken instruments.

"Don't hold us to too high a standard," NASA space operations chief Ed Weiler warned before Monday's launch. "We're trying to do two things that we've never done before, take apart instruments

that aren't designed to be taken apart in space and operated on by gloved astronauts, and fix them after pulling out 110 or 111 screws.

"That's one heck of a challenge."

Two teams of spacewalking astronauts — two men per team — will take turns stepping outside. Besides swapping out the old camera and science data unit, they will replace Hubble's batteries, gyroscopes and a pointing mechanism. They also will install fresh thermal covers on the telescope, along with a docking ring so a future spacecraft can guide the telescope into the Pacific Ocean sometime in the early 2020s.

And in the toughest challenge, they will open up the two broken science instruments to replace fried electronics.

The first spacewalk, swapping out Hubble's workhorse 15½-year-old camera for a newer and better one, is crucial, Morse said.

Walyus compared grabbing the telescope and Thursday's work to a baseball game: "We've got to the plate. Now we're ready to go."

No one will visit Hubble after the Atlantis astronauts leave next week, so NASA crammed as much as it could into the five spacewalks and poured more than \$1 billion into the mission. Managers also chose two experienced spacewalkers who have been to Hubble before, Michael Massimino and Grunsfeld, who is making a record third visit.

Atlantis is loaded with 180 tools; 116 were designed for this 11-day mission.

"We've set the bar extraordinarily high for ourselves," said senior project scientist David Leckrone, "and nobody should consider this mission a failure or any of the crew a failure if for some reason we don't get all things done to the 100 percent level."

The mission almost didn't happen.

A year after the 2003 Columbia tragedy, NASA canceled the repair effort, saying it was too dangerous. The astronauts would not have anywhere to seek shelter because the international space station is in a different, inaccessible orbit.

A new NASA regime reinstated the flight in 2006 after shuttle repair techniques were developed and tested in orbit. A plan also was put in place to have a shuttle on the launch pad to blast off within days for a rescue. Since then, Hubble's unusually high orbit has become dirtier as a result of satellite smash-ups; even a small piece could pierce the shuttle or the suit of a spacewalker.

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CAL POLY

Craigslist

continued from page 1

to remove them only after receiving complaints. The new adult services ads will also carry a fee.

Skeptical authorities said the Web site had broken previous promises to monitor erotic ads.

New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo had even harsher words, saying that Wednesday's announcement came only after his office informed Craigslist a criminal probe had implicated the site.

"Rather than work with this office to prevent further abuses, in the middle of the night, Craigslist took unilateral action which we suspect will prove to be half-baked," he said in a statement.

Craigslist did little to address those concerns. The Web site refused to comment beyond a prepared statement and left unanswered a host of questions about how the site could possibly screen all the ads.

"It doesn't guarantee that such activity will not pop up elsewhere, and it doesn't guarantee that it won't pop up elsewhere using highly coded words," said Steve Jones, a communications professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Jones said it will not be long before someone fills the void left by Craigslist's "erotic services" section.

"By now someone has probably registered the domain name 'Craigslist-erotic-services.com,'" Jones said.

Although authorities had expressed concern about the ads in the past, the Web site came under closer scrutiny last month after a Boston-area man was accused of fatally shooting a woman who placed an ad on Craigslist.

Police believe 22-year-old Philip Markoff may have been involved in other crimes against women who also posted ads on Craigslist. Some reports have suggested he was robbing victims to pay gambling debts.

Craigslist officials and attorneys general from Illinois, Connecticut and Missouri met last week to seek an end to the ads. Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan said the group told Craigslist that authorities' own checks had revealed the service was not monitoring the site as it had

promised last year.

After receiving complaints about nude photographs, Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal brokered an agreement with the site in November to crack down on prostitution ads.

The erotic services ads currently posted will expire in seven days. The new "adult services" section was already up on Wednesday.

Law enforcement promised to keep a close eye on Craigslist as it implemented the changes. Madigan said there was a risk that the reforms could just drive prostitution to other platforms, but she insisted authorities will monitor those sites, too.

One major question stemmed from Craigslist's vow only to monitor the new "adult services" category and not other areas people may try to place solicitation ads, such as under the personals ads.

Gallagher also wondered why Craigslist agreed to monitor the site after making previous statements that doing so would be too expensive.

New postings in the "adult services" category will cost \$10, but once a posting is approved, customers will be eligible for reposting at \$5.

Dart, the Cook County sheriff, said the action by Craigslist "is what happens frequently when all of a sudden people are looking at a court date." The announcement came on the same day prosecutors and a Craigslist attorney appeared in federal court.

Jim Buckmaster, Craigslist's CEO, said the agreement preserves a place "for legal businesses to advertise" while incorporating suggestions from law enforcement, free speech advocates and Internet law experts.

Dart said his lawsuit will stay on file until he sees changes online.

"If we see what we'd ask for ... we will dismiss our lawsuit," Dart said.

Craigslist agreed to take action despite its contention that it has been unfairly singled out by what Buckmaster called "sensationalistic journalism."

"The record is clear that use of Craigslist classifieds is associated with far lower rates of violent crime than print classifieds, let alone rates of violent crime pertaining to American society as a whole," he said.

The record is clear that use of Craigslist classifieds is associated with far lower rates of violent crime than print classifieds, let alone rates of violent crime pertaining to American society as a whole.

—Jim Buckmaster

Craigslist CEO

Election

continued from page 1

According to Griggs, her former fellow candidates may also take part in her administration. "We all had an understanding going into this. Throughout the campaign we wanted to make it fair and honest, and that after the results were in we would all be able to be part of ASI this upcoming year."

Although the application deadline for ASI chief of staff has already passed, Griggs said that she encourages any interested students in joining her in student government in other available positions.

"I would definitely recommend students to apply for the executive cabinet," she said. "Until we get close to filling all positions there is no deadline. This is a great opportunity for students to get involved. There are really important posi-

tions but there are also positions to fit their areas of interest."

Students looking to take part in student government are encouraged to drop by the ASI office on the second floor of the University Union.

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Mustang Daily Survey

The Mustang Daily is conducting a survey to determine the prevalence of ADD/ADHD medication abuse at Cal Poly, specifically Adderall, Ritalin and Concerta. The survey is completely anonymous and will take less than five minutes. Please go to the Mustang Daily's Web site at:

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The Career Services website provides extensive resources. Click on the 'Graduate School' link to read helpful hints. A good starting point is to think about why you want to attend graduate school and how furthering your education could enhance your professional goals. For example, do you need a masters or doctoral degree to obtain your future dream job? When applying, consider: variety of degrees offered, prerequisites for admission, reputation of the institution, the application process and deadlines, and financing options.

Other important factors to keep in mind:

- Meeting deadlines is key to successful admission
- Some schools require "real world/work" experience prior to applying, while others admit students directly out of an undergraduate program
- You will probably need to take required examinations such as the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) ahead of time
- Apply for FAFSA during the spring prior to returning to school

Finally, remember to meet with your career counselor to evaluate your options and organize your plan of attack.

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State Briefs

ARROYO GRANDE, Calif. (AP) — More than 200 guns, including 22 assault rifles, have been discovered at a rural Arroyo Grande home and investigators say one of the residents remains a dangerous fugitive.

San Luis Obispo County sheriff's investigators say boxes of ammunition were also found in the home where an illegal weapons dealing operation was based.

Sheriff's spokesman Rob Bryn said Monday that 61-year-old Alan Krinsky is in jail for investigation of weapons violations and 62-year-old Alan Dale Garrison has eluded capture.

Bryn says Garrison, who skipped a sentencing hearing on a previous weapons conviction, is "very, very dangerous" and should not be approached if seen.

...

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Environmental groups have dropped a lawsuit that challenged the federal government's approval of two potent pesticides used to combat an invasive moth that threatens California farms.

The plaintiffs withdrew their lawsuit after the Obama administration last month rescinded its decision to allow use of synthetic pheromone mixtures called Check-Mate to control the light brown apple moth in the Bay Area.

The request to drop the complaint was granted Wednesday by U.S. District Judge Sandra Armstrong.

WORD ON THE STREET

"Do you think Afghanistan will ever find peace within its borders?"



"No, because its borders were made by the Europeans."

-Leah Munley,
education graduate student

"No. Even though not all Muslims are extremists, the groups in power over there don't seem to be very peace oriented. It is an issue of religion and government being too closely related."

-Matt St.Pierre,
business administration senior



"I hope so, but at this point it's not looking very optimistic. I always hope that change can happen, but that would mean something would need to change there."

-Katelyn Ball,
journalism senior

"If they do it is going to take a long time and a lot of work."

-Brogan McGuire,
biomedical engineering
freshman



COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY BRIDGET VELDRI

Valencia

Townhouse Apartment Living For Students

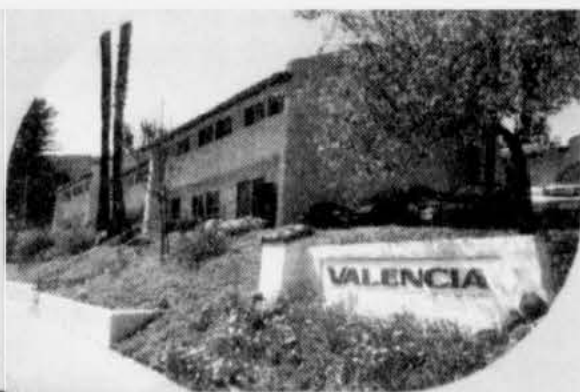
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Providence mayor wants to tax college students



STEPHAN SAVOIA ASSOCIATED PRESS
Heather Lee, president of the Brown University Graduate Student Council, center, stands with fellow graduate student Gideon Goldin, left, as they talk with a student raising money for a Pakistani relief fund on the Brown University campus in Providence, RI., Tuesday afternoon.

Eric Tucker
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The mayor of Providence wants to slap a \$150-per-semester tax on the 25,000 full-time students at Brown University and three other private colleges in the city, saying they use resources and should help ease the burden on struggling taxpayers.

Mayor David Cicilline said the fee would raise between \$6 million and \$8 million a year for the city, which is facing a \$17 million deficit.

If enacted, it would apparently be the first time a U.S. city has directly taxed students just for being enrolled.

The proposal is still in its early stages. But it has riled some students, who say it would unfairly saddle them with the city's financial woes and overlook their volunteer work and other contributions, including money spent in restaurants, bars and stores.

"We want to support the city as best we can, but financially is not really what we can afford to give," said Heather Lee, president of the Brown Graduate Student Council.

The four schools generate more than \$1 billion a year in economic activity, said Daniel Egan, president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Rhode Island. They employ nearly 9,000 people in a city of roughly 172,000.

"We think the indirect and direct benefit of students within the community would outweigh any costs," Egan said.

Cicilline's office said there is no study showing how much students cost Providence for the use of police and fire protection and other services. The city points out that the private schools' property, valued at more than \$1.7 billion, is tax-exempt.

Many college students are already involved in tutoring, arts education and mentoring for public school students. Providence College, for instance, offers student volunteers to staff after-school programs, and Brown is raising money for a \$10 million endowment to help the city school system.

Even so, Cicilline said everyone should be expected to help the city through this economic crisis. He said he wants students to have a vested interest in their city instead of seeing themselves as visitors just passing through.

"It's really about a shared commitment to the well-being of your community that you're a part of," the mayor said. "Everyone should be doing their part and coming to the table."

Students at Rhode Island College, a state school in the city, and the Providence campus of the University of Rhode Island would be

exempt.

A city head tax on students would need approval from both the City Council and state lawmakers. However, a similar measure failed in the state Legislature in 2005, and Rhode Island's colleges are likely to fight this proposal, too.

Josephine Nash, a Brown junior from New York City, said the idea seems reasonable, provided it doesn't overly burden students on financial aid. "I do spend the majority of my year here, and I do use the services of the city," she said.

But Susette Holman, a Johnson & Wales freshman also from New York, said her mother works seven days a week, sometimes 14 hours a day, to put her through school. "I

have three sisters at home, so how's she going to be able to provide an extra tuition fee?" she asked.

University administrators also object, saying students and their families spend years saving for college and shouldn't have to bear more costs.

Tuition at Brown costs nearly \$40,000 a year, with about 40 percent of undergraduates receiving financial aid.

"Given at least the rhetoric of trying to retain students, be a place that's attractive to students and young people shortly after college, it just seemed counterintuitive to at least the students I talked to," said Richard Spies, Brown's executive vice president for planning.

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CASSANDRA J. CARLSON MUSTANG DAILY

■■■■, left, and ■■■■ right, are part of a Cal Poly pilot program, Afghan Education Outreach, which gives educational opportunities for the next generation of Afghan women.

Cassandra J. Carlson
MUSTANG DAILY

(Editor's note: Last names of students have been withheld from this article for the safety of the students.)

She thought it was a joke.

The morning phone call from Cal Poly social science professor Maliha Zulfacar told Afghan student ■■■■ that she was coming to the United States as part of a pilot Afghan Educational Outreach Project.

"I couldn't believe that it would happen to me, that one day I would be coming to the United States to study," ■■■■ said. "It was unbelievable."

■■■■ and ■■■■, both 23 years old and now Cal Poly agricultural business juniors, seized the opportunity

to receive education outside of their country of Afghanistan.

"In my house it was everyone's dream to go outside the country," ■■■■ said. "I always had wanted to go outside (of Afghanistan) and when I heard about this program I was excited, but I was an only child."

Although apprehensive about leaving her mother behind, she found the strength to do it, with the support of her mother.

"My mom was very supportive and she told me to go outside and explore the world," ■■■■ said.

■■■■ is from the city of ■■■■ in ■■■■; here it is not the norm for females to go out of the country for education, let alone earn a degree.

"I'm the only girl studying (and)

actually, getting my bachelor (degree)," ■■■■ said. Although her village is against education for females, her immediate family is very progressive.

"Education is high in my family and it's really respected to be an educated woman and an educated man," ■■■■ said.

But the ambition to be educated took a while to develop. It was not until a vacation to ■■■■ with ■■■■ cousin that ■■■■ view of education changed.

"I looked at these girls and they were thinking highly and they were going to school," ■■■■ said. "I planned then to transfer from ■■■■ to ■■■■ and complete my high school thinking I would go to Kabul University and thinking to be an engineering major."

That all changed when Zulfacar met the two girls while auditing a class in Kabul.

Zulfacar, who is currently an Afghan ambassador to Germany, decided to start the Afghan Educational Outreach Project after discussing the possibility with Cal Poly President Warren Baker and Said Tayeb Jawad, the University of Afghanistan's Ambassador to the United States.

The goal of the project is to educate the next generation of Afghan women and help build an intellectual future in Afghanistan.

From Kabul to San Luis Obispo

With help from U.S. Representative Lois Capps' office, the U.S. State Department and U.S. Embassy in Pakistan, the students were able to travel from Afghanistan to the United States in December 2005.

They attended the California Coast Language Academy (CCLA) in San Luis Obispo for six months to learn English.

"Our English was very limited,

since we spoke very little. There are still phrases that the young people use and the slang that they use that are confusing," ■■■■ said, laughing.

"People would say 'Oh sick' or 'wicked'. We'd know the meaning but didn't really know what they really mean."

"Like 'piece of cake,'" ■■■■ added.

After their time at CCLA, the two attended Cuesta College's transfer program and were admitted into the agricultural business program at Cal Poly and now reside with President Baker's chief of staff Dan Howard-Greene and his wife Paula.

"It's extremely beneficial for them to attend classes gaining added value to their education. It's been terrifically positive," Dan Howard-Greene said.

"The women in Afghanistan faced challenges under the Taliban and the emphasis of the program is the understanding that they take it back home and use (their education) in the reconstruction of Afghanistan."

During their time with the Howard-Greene family, the girls have bridged close relationships with the family and refer to them as 'mom' and 'dad.'

■■■■ hopes that one day there will be peace in Afghanistan so that her host family can go there to meet her family.

The students celebrate Christmas with their host family and also celebrate the student's own traditions such as their New Year, the eighth day and Eid ul-Fitr, the festival of fast breaking and the first day of spring on March 21.

"■■■■ and I wear something new or something green," ■■■■ said. "Spring is a green time for us so we need to have something new to start a new year and I walk on the grass outside just thinking my year will be lucky."

■■■■ says this is significant because in Afghanistan winters are so barren that when grass grows it's a sign of a joyous occasion.

"In the new year, people will go walk on the grass thinking the new year starts with green (since) it's more happiness," ■■■■ said. "Green is Islam's color."

The two girls are known for inviting friends over and cooking meals to share their culture, especially if they have never had Afghan food.

"I love to cook dough food. Anything with a dough. Like dumplings,"

Ulker said. "Sometimes I try to cook Indian and Thai food."

The women said other students are often surprised to discover they

It's not like we don't know anything about this world. The problem is that this world don't know much about us.

■■■■ agricultural business junior

are from Afghanistan.

Ulker, with fair skin, freckles, and light brown hair, and Farida with dark skin and black hair are sometimes mistaken as other nationalities.

"Most of the time they think I'm Russian or from Europe. My own country thinks I'm a foreigner," Ulker said, explaining that just like America, Afghanistan is a melting pot of all different people with many different faces.

Farida is many times mistaken for being Indian and sometimes students

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think that the women do not know much about American culture.

"It's not like we don't know anything about this world. The problem is that this world don't know much about us," ■■■■ said.

But neither girls are offended. They want others to know more about their country and its people beyond others' preconceived impressions of Afghanistan from what they hear, see and read in the news.

"They see all the bad pictures... all they see is dead people," ■■■■ said. "The first thing is I want to make clear is Afghani people don't just have one face. They have many faces. Different tribes and different looks. It does not mean that all Afghans are all dark and dark-haired. I'm Afghan and I'm proud."

Part two of this series will be published in the May 21 edition of the Mustang Daily.



a&e
arts and entertainment

Arts and Entertainment Editor: Emilie Egger
Arts and Entertainment Designer: Milena Krayzbukh

movie column

"Star Trek" has action, smarts

Movie Review: *Star Trek* — 2009 (4/5 stars)

Director: J.J. Abrams

Starring: Chris Pine, Eric Bana, Zachary Quinto, John Cho, Anton Yelchin, Zoe Saldana, Karl Urban, Simon Pegg

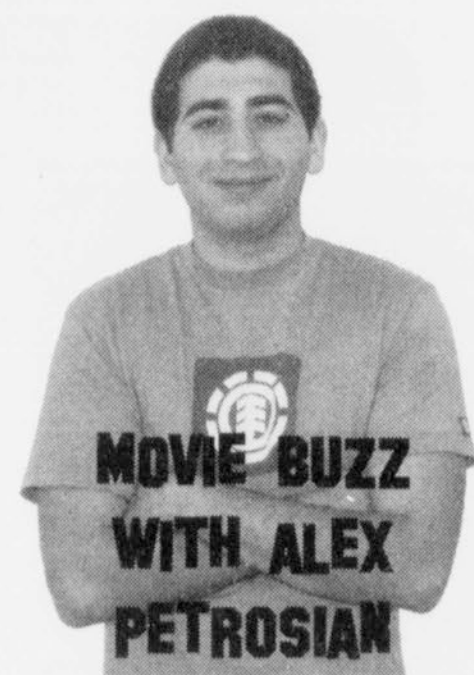
In my mind, *Star Trek* has never been as commercially smart or successful as the *Star Wars* series. In fact, I never truly understood the appeal of being a "Trekkie," mainly because my exposure consisted only of poorly produced late night episodes and funny parody videos (you've all seen the fight scene on YouTube). As a result, I walked into the IMAX theatre expecting to see a barrage of special effects and action scenes implemented in order to replace smart story lines and plot points. Turns out, I was right ... well at least about the first part. Director J.J. Abrams's recent installment to the legendary franchise, "*Star Trek*," surprised me with its effective use of both old and new Trekkie concepts to present an extremely entertaining film that uses a sufficient balance of both action and intelligence.

"*Star Trek*," like most other major

blockbusters being released in the past few years, is an origin story, focusing on how initial rivalries on the USS Enterprise developed into the friendships so many of our parents love. The film begins with our main protagonist, James T. Kirk, hitting on girls and getting into bar fights with cadets from the local Starfleet Academy. He is later approached by Bruce Greenwood's character Captain Pike, who hopes to convince Kirk that he was born to be a member of the Federation and command his own ship, something his father accomplished while sacrificing himself to save the lives of 800 others.

The rebellious and initially hesitant Kirk later realizes he is up to the challenge and chooses to enlist, a decision that leads to tension with fellow classmates, particularly in regards to the uptight and insensitive Spock (who has his own problems being torn between his half Vulcan / half human ethnicity). However, when duty calls the Enterprise crew must put aside their differences to deal with a new and imposing threat, the villainous Romulan Captain Nero. Nero, who mans what might be the most visually attractive space ship I have ever seen on screen, is on a mission to destroy all of the Federation planets (which include both Earth and Spock's home planet Vulcan) by drilling "Red Matter" into their cores creating black holes that inevitably engulf the planets from within.

One of this film's strongest aspects is exceptional casting, especially in the cases of Nero and Kirk. I have been a fan of Chris Pine since viewing his performance in the disappointing shoot em' up mess that was "*Smokin' Aces*" (2006). He brings to the role of Kirk the perfect amount of rebelliousness, refraining from making an attempt to impersonate William Shatner's infamous mannerisms and wisely choosing to focus on developing his character. Talented but un-



derrated veteran Eric Bana ("*Troy*," "*Munich*") did not portray Nero as the typical over the top *Star Trek* villain fans have grown accustomed to (Khan), but instead presented a character that was energetically sinister and determined to finish what he started. The rest of the skilled cast includes Zachary Quinto ("*Heroes*") as Spock, Zoe Saldana ("*Guess Who*") as Uhura, John Cho ("*Harold and Kumar*") as Sulu, Simon Pegg ("*Shaun of the Dead*") as Montgomery Scott and Karl Urban ("*Bourne Supremacy*") as Leonard McCoy. Urban, more efficiently than any other actor in the film, perfectly nails the behavior and accent of DeForest Kelly's original television character.

While I am not a fan of his brain-child "*Cloverfield*" (2008), J.J. Abrams's skills in direction and cinematography are easy to spot and much appreciated in this space opera, and I find myself already looking forward to his next project. Bringing along his frequent collaborators and talented storytellers Roberto Orci and Alex Kurtzman to write a script with very few problems will also only add to the movie's success. Although this film is not without mistakes, which come only in the form of a few cliché lines and "shortcut" plot methods, it achieves what the filmmakers wished to accomplish: A visual masterpiece that is both entertaining and imaginative. It is a blockbuster that will live up to the hype and please audience members ... whether or not they've ever seen a *Star Trek* episode.

Alex Petrosian is a biological sciences freshman and the *Mustang Daily* film reviewer.



music column

"Hoy a las Ocho" perfect for the hipster phase of life

Over Mother's Day weekend, I got the opportunity to hang out with my 17-year-old sister who, under my guidance, has blossomed into a hipster, complete with ironic T-shirt and ukulele. As we talked about some of the shows we had been to, the fake bands that we've formed and "Nick and Nora's Infinite Playlist," I realized something about hipster evolution. Now, I haven't submitted this theory for peer review or anything, but I have come to the conclusion that the only time it's fun to be a hipster is when you are in high school. Maybe I'm just bitter about it, but this truth made itself known to me as I listened to Hello Seahorse's new album "*Hoy a las Ocho*." For the first time in a really long time, I really wanted to get a ukulele and sing about baking cupcakes for friends around a campfire.

These Mexico City natives encapsulate what being a hipster in high school is all about: being cute, nervous and playful. To put it simply, this band is hell a twee and should probably replace your overplayed Kimya Dawson album as your soundtrack to the summer. It's poppy, fun and has a really cute girl in glasses on vocals.

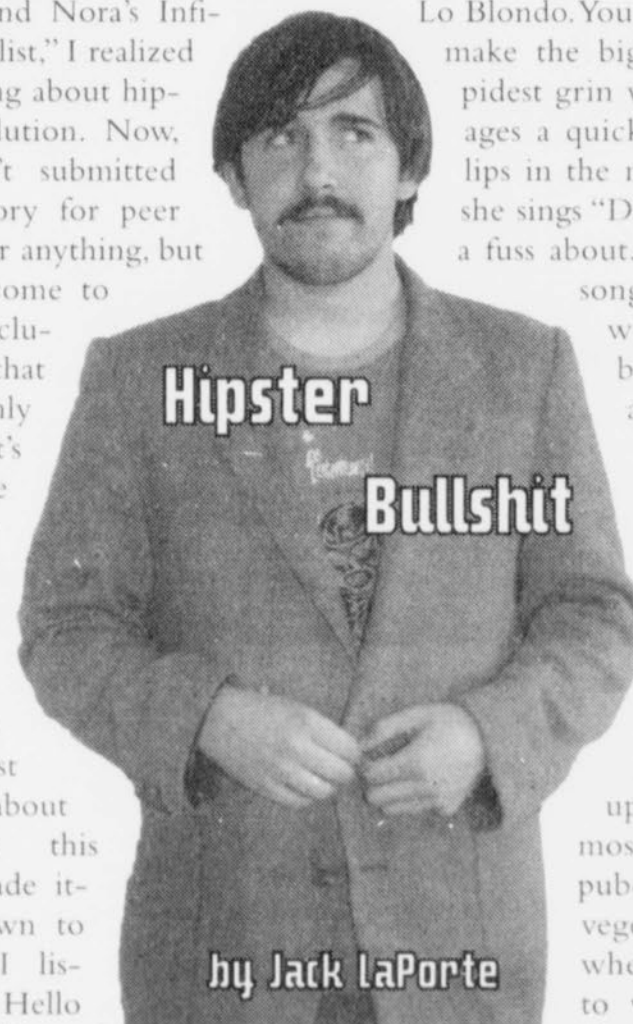
The album seems to be inspired solely by snacks, camping and crushes. "OK! ... Lobster" is a soft pop jam composed of hi-taps, tambourines, keyboards and hand claps to cutie magootie Lo Blondo singing about bugs and ocean breezes and how "Simple things make me feel so good!" Even if you are as dead inside as I am, you can't help but be nos-

talgie for the time you and your friends donned your floral summer dresses and tweed jackets stolen from the women's section of thrift stores for a trampoline party. Or when "Won't Say Anything" comes on with the same formula plus Oro de Neta doing his best not to make out with Lo Blondo. You can't help but make the biggest and stupidest grin when he manages a quick peck on the lips in the music video as she sings "Don't you make a fuss about." I swear, that song makes me wish it wouldn't be completely absurd to ask a girl on a date to the park for some fruit punch and hummus sandwiches. But alas, I am grown up now. I've almost completed puberty, I've quit vegetarianism and when I go out, it's to walk the rails alone.

My little sister told me that this is not what life is about. It's about having fun with friends, hopping fences and sneaking out at night to have a picnic on the beach. My mom asks me what she is up to and worries that going to her prom in Converse sneakers, oversized neon glasses and friendship bracelets instead of corsages isn't wholesome. I assured my mom that it was a phase and if I remain her teacher she will soon see through hipster bullshit, get into free jazz and start becoming disenchanted with the world. But that only made her more nervous, saying that "she's the only one in the family that doesn't think the world's a joke, shouldn't we nurture that?"

"Well, I guess if you want her to be happy," I said.

Jack LaPorte is a KCPR DJ and a *mustang daily* music columnist.



by Jack LaPorte

www.mustangdaily.net
Always in color

Friends say film shows Fawcett as a fighter

Lynn Elber
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Farrah Fawcett expected that a video diary chronicling her fight against cancer would have a happy ending, friends Ryan O'Neal and Alana Stewart said Wednesday.

But even as her disease has pro-

gressed, they said, the former "Charlie's Angels" star is keeping hold of hope.

"I know that Farrah hasn't given up," said Stewart, who met Fawcett in the 1970s in Los Angeles when they were young actresses from Texas looking for commercial work.

Stewart was part of the making of "Farrah's Story," airing Friday at

9 p.m. EDT on NBC, holding the camera as her longtime friend underwent treatment.

The diary will make clear to Fawcett's fans that there's more to her than glamorous good looks, O'Neal said.

"They'll think they made the

see Fawcett, page 10

Fans line up for Ralphie May



EMILIE EGGER MUSTANG DAILY

Hundreds of students lined up early Wednesday evening for a chance to see world famous comic Ralphie May. The line, which began at the door of Chumash Auditorium, ran through the University Union plaza, all the way to The Avenue.

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Welcome to the Dollhouse

Drag queens will be coming out for a good cause tonight at Downtown Brew.

Bridget Veltri

MUSTANG DAILY

Delta Lambda Phi, a fraternity for gay, bisexual and progressive men, presents the Dollhouse, the first annual drag show raising money for the AIDS Support Network in San Luis Obispo.

The 17-member fraternity received its charter in February.

"We wanted to create a fraternity that would provide an outlet for gay men to feel included and have a brotherhood of gay men that they can relate to," Delta Lambda Phi president and graphic communication senior Brad Purpura said.

"And to bring awareness to campus; just the fact that we are now a part of the greek community on campus does so much for the progression of gay rights, it is saying it's OK to be gay, and it's OK to be gay and greek."

The Dollhouse is the fraternity's first big philanthropic event and while a portion of the proceeds will go to the AIDS Support Network, Purpura thinks that the show itself will benefit the community.

"I feel that drag shows help break down gender role stereotypes," he said. "Those stereotypes of how your gender is supposed to act perpetuate people staying in the closet and homophobia in society."

Lanz Nalagan, architecture freshman and incoming president of Delta Lambda Phi explained that drag shows are a prevalent fundraiser event for the other Delta Lambda Phi chapters.

"It seems to be a tradition for the chapters to present some sort of drag show," he said.

Purpura said that the name Dollhouse emerged from a brainstorming session.

"At one point we had 'Poly Dol-

lies' and that evolved into 'Dollhouse.' It was just classy enough and just gay enough," he said. "When you hear dollhouse you know it's not going to be a baseball game."

Purpura and Nalagan both stressed the importance of AIDS and HIV as an issue.

"The reason why is because AIDS awareness is important to the entire community, gay or straight, because the number of new HIV and AIDS cases is rising on the Central Coast," Purpura said. Nalagan added, "We just feel that by introducing this social event we can raise awareness for the gay community and most importantly our philanthropy, and how important AIDS awareness is around the world."

The event is for ages 18 and over and will feature professional drag queens from Las Vegas, Sacramento and San Luis Obispo. Doors open at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at Boo Boo Records, the Downtown Brewing Co. box office and ticketweb.com. They are \$10 at pre-sale, \$12 at the door and \$10 if you come dressed in drag.

The Dollhouse isn't going to be like other Downtown Brew events. Purpura said to expect different.

"It won't be your typical DTB club music, it's going to be 'gay' music," he said. "The whole night is going to be different, and fun." He added that there is a good chance Lady Gaga will be blaring at one point or another. "Lady Gaga for the gay community," Purpura mused. "I was listening to her last summer, and when she became popular six months later everyone was like 'oh my God Just Dance,' and I was like umm, yeah eight months ago."

Purpura clarified that when he uses the term "gay" he means it in a positive way.

"We are trying to reclaim the

word gay so it doesn't mean stupid," Purpura said.

Nalagan is excited about the Dollhouse event and hopes to see the fraternity expand and have an increased presence in the community.

"I really hope that our guests and visitors leave with awareness," he said. "I hope that they see that we have a lot to offer."

Both men said that they felt welcomed by the greek community on campus.

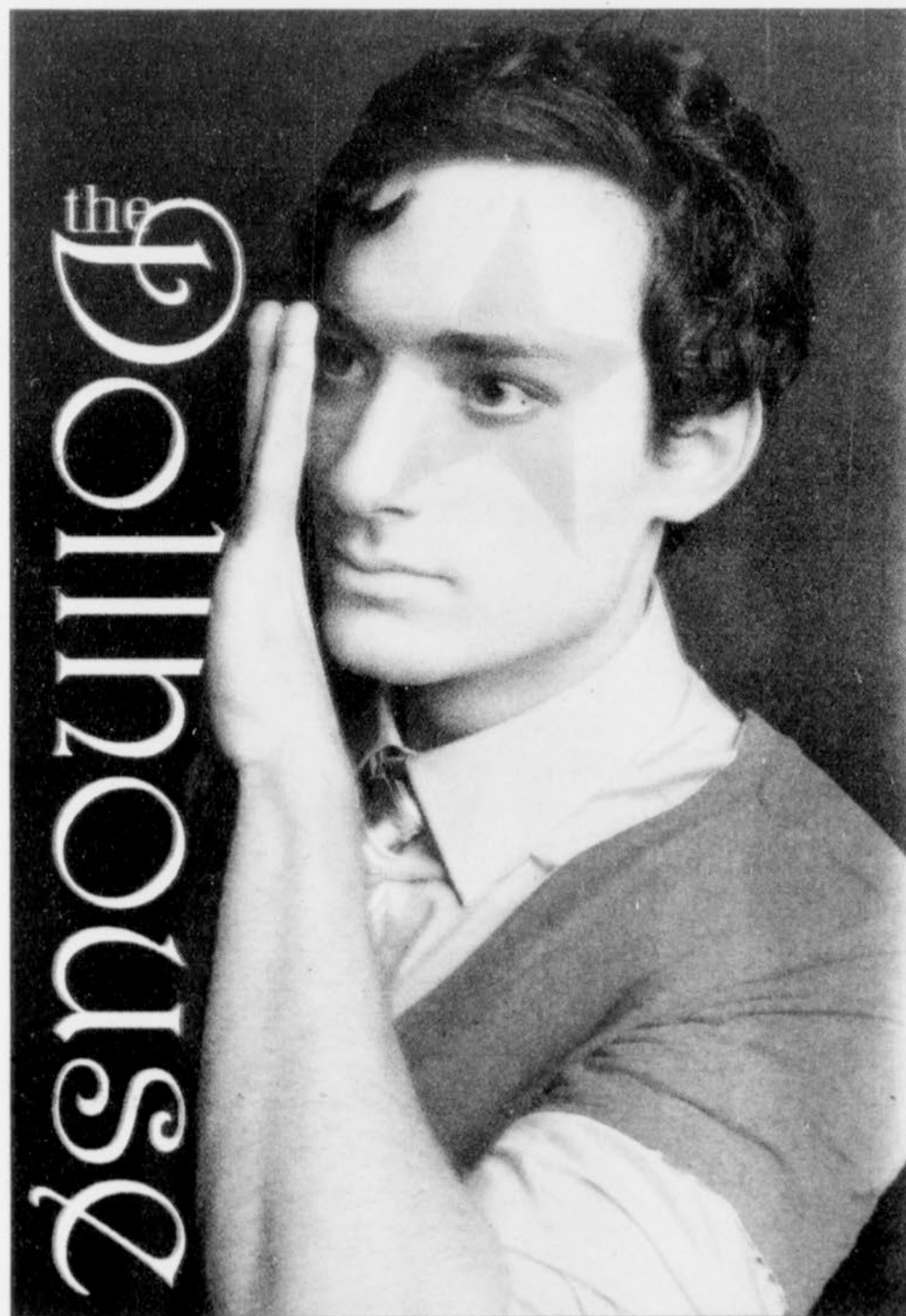
"When we received our charter we were very well received," Nalagan said. "At the Interfraternity Council meeting they clapped and applauded for us."

Delta Lambda Phi is open to all men but has no heterosexual members yet.

"We currently don't but it would be amazing if we did," Nalagan said. "We hope to see some pledge next fall."

Purpura encourages those who have never been to a drag show and are unsure about the event to be open to it and have fun.

"College is a time to expand your horizons and learn about other cultures," he said. "This is an opportunity to expose both the greek and Cal Poly communities to an event that they would normally not see. In (a) fun way that is for a good cause."



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Fawcett

continued from page 8

right choice years ago when they fell for her," he said. "She's a doll. She's a beauty inside and out."

O'Neal, who has a son with Fawcett and remained close to her after their long romantic relationship ended in the late 1990s, said he plans to watch "Farrah's Story" with her at her Los Angeles home Friday.

Fawcett, 62, was diagnosed with anal cancer in 2006. It has spread to her liver.

"She's heavily medicated," O'Neal said. "We're going to take some of these medications down so she's lucid and sharp to watch herself. I think she'll take great pride in this," he said.

That's "on the one hand, and I don't know on the other," he said, his voice trailing off.

Trying to field questions about Fawcett and choking up at times, O'Neal described himself and Stewart as "two broken people."

Fawcett is in a "very rocky place," O'Neal said. "We put on a brave front, always, when we're with her. She doesn't know how scared we are."

"Farrah's Story" started out as a personal record, intended as a "success story" for family viewing, O'Neal said, and to keep track of her treatment.

"Somewhere along the line she got so many letters thanking her for her battle and courage and strength," Stewart said. "She started to feel there must be a reason she got cancer. If she had cancer, maybe it was her responsibility to do something for others. That's how the film evolved."

"Farrah's Story" will show her "incredible strength," Stewart said. "Her big message to people is don't give up, no matter what they say to you, keep fighting."

That's what Stewart has told Fawcett when the ill woman's belief falters.

"She's looked at me before and said, 'Do you think I'm gonna make it?' I look at her and say, 'I always believe in miracles, you believe in miracles.' ... And it's the truth. I do believe in miracles," Stewart said.



CHRIS O'MEARA ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Aug. 29, 2004 file photo, actress Farrah Fawcett arrives for the MTV Video Music Awards in Miami.

Palin has book deal, memoir to come next year

Hillel Italie

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP) — You knew it was coming: Sarah Palin is ready to tell her side, agreeing to publish a memoir with HarperCollins. The book comes out in Spring 2010 — the year she is up for re-election.

"There's been so much written about and spoken about in the mainstream media and in the anonymous blogosphere world, that this will be a wonderful, refreshing chance for me to get to tell my story, that a lot of people have asked about, unfiltered," the Alaska governor and 2008 vice presidential candidate said during a brief telephone interview Tuesday with The Associated Press.

Palin's memoir, currently untitled, will cover her personal and political life, from her childhood in Alaska and last year's campaign to her political beliefs and her family life, including the pregnancy of her teenage daughter, Bristol Palin, who gave birth in December to a baby boy, Tripp. (She and the baby's father, Levi Johnston, have since ended their relationship.)

"In fairness to my family, this is going to be a good opportunity for them, too, because there have been so many misperceptions out there about who we are and what we believe in, and I'm excited to get to put my journalism degree to work and tell my story as it relates to my family," said Palin, 45, who in 1987 graduated from the University of Idaho with a degree in journalism.

Palin declined to name any specific misunderstandings and avoided detailed comments about her family, her political aspirations or about the divide in the Republican Party between moderates and conservatives, a divide her vice presidential run helped widen.

A Palin book has been rumored virtually from the time the election ended. Although Republicans Sen. John McCain and Palin were easily beaten by Democrats Barack Obama and Joseph Biden, Palin emerged a favorite among conservatives, an object of tabloid



CHRIS MILLER ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin listens to a question during a news conference in Juneau, Alaska.

gossip and — as the only candidate in the race who had never written a memoir — a natural for a publishing deal.

The book will be co-released by the HarperCollins imprint Harper and, for the Christian market, by the HarperCollins-owned Zondervan, which publishes "The Purpose Driven Life" author Rick Warren, among others.

A memoir (or two) have become a virtual requirement for White House seekers, especially after Obama's "The Audacity of Hope" and "Dreams From My Father" established him as a stylist and storyteller with a vast following.

Although Palin denied any presidential ambition during Tuesday's interview, she did pick the most presidential of literary representatives, Washington attorney Robert Barnett, to handle negotiations. Barnett's clients include Obama and former presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

As he did when arranging a publisher for memoirs by Bush and Clinton, Barnett did not solicit competing bids, but chose to negotiate only with one publisher, HarperCollins, which Barnett praised for being "first and fervent in pursuing this project." Financial terms were not disclosed, but Palin was widely expected to get a multimillion-dollar contract. Barnett and Harper publisher Jonathan Burnham both declined to offer details.

If terms of the book deal aren't leaked by next spring, at least some of the details will be revealed in Palin's next financial disclosure forms with the Alaska Public Offices Commission. Income next must be reported on March 15, 2010. However, if she isn't paid in full by Dec. 31, some income may fall over to the next year's report.

Palin's book will address, and complicate, the push-pull between home and public life. With the release date just one year away, the governor will have to work quickly. Barnett said that the governor has formed an outline in her mind, but has yet to start writing. Burnham said Palin did not submit any writing samples when she met with Harper-

Collins executives in Washington, earlier this year. She will work with a collaborator, to be determined.

"She's obviously going to be engaged in the whole process of the book," said Burnham, adding that the role of the collaborator would depend on who was chosen.

"Every word of the book will be her words," Barnett said.

Palin and Burnham said the memoir will emphasize Palin's Alaskan upbringing, and the governor will talk about her "unpretentious" lifestyle. Burnham described the book as the story of an Alaskan encountering a national audience, "the soccer mom and the political operative, and how one became the other."

Palin has never written a book and her critics, noting her disjointed CBS interviews with Katie Couric, have questioned whether she could. Two years ago, Palin told PBS' Charlie Rose that her favorite writers were C.S. Lewis ("very, very deep") and a Runner's World columnist, Dr. George Sheehan. Asked Tuesday about her reading, Palin mentioned that she "really enjoyed" Katharine Graham's Pulitzer Prize-winning "Personal History" and cited works by Obama, McCain and Bill Clinton, whose "My Life" she read "just recently."

"Being a voracious reader, I read a lot today and have read a lot growing up. And having that journalism degree, all of that, will be a great assistance for me in writing this book, talking about the challenges and the joys, balancing the work and parenting, and, in my case, work means running the state," Palin said.

Under the Alaska Executive Branch Ethics Act, the governor and any head of a state agency are prohibited from having outside employment. But the book deal would fall under another provision of the act outlining outside services for a financial benefit.

Judy Bockmon, an assistant attorney general, said it appears the book deal would be permissible under the act as long as it is not incompatible with Palin's official responsibilities and she doesn't use state resources, like her staff or her office, for personal gain.

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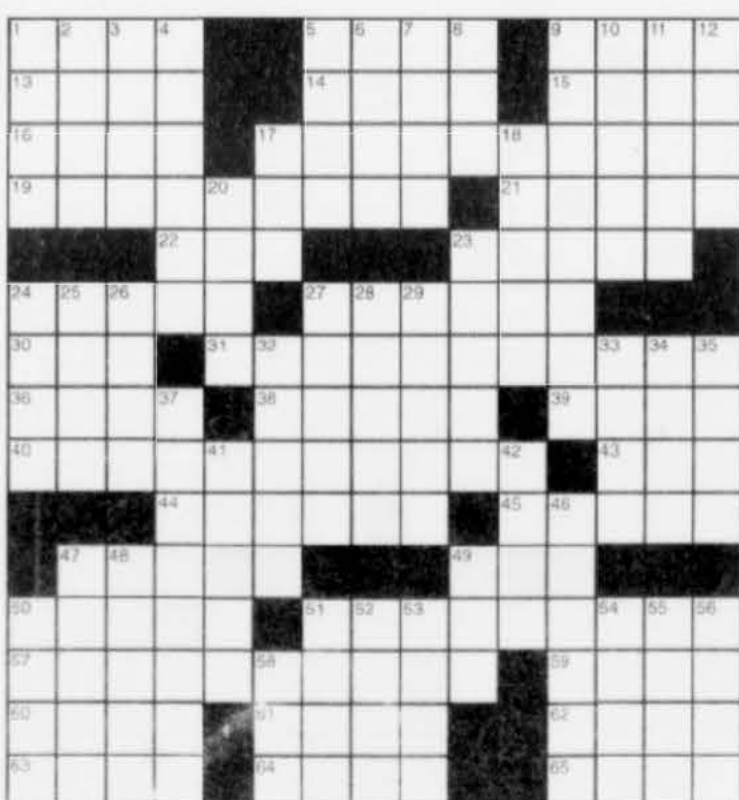
The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0409

- Across**
- 1 Garland native to Minnesota
 - 5 Not in the buff
 - 9 With 46-Down, site of Cape Breton Island
 - 13 English artist John who's buried at St. Paul's Cathedral
 - 14 Potential sucker
 - 15 The brother in "Am I my brother's keeper?"
 - 16 Lawyers: Abbr.
 - 17 Nickname for a dwarfish piano prodigy?
 - 19 Sleeping cave denizen?
 - 21 "First Blood" hero John
 - 22 Musical sound before and after "da"
 - 23 Comic Dunn and others
 - 24 Bank
- Down**
- 27 Collected
 - 30 Adaptable truck, for short
 - 31 Pickled pub quiz winner?
 - 36 Musical Mitchell
 - 38 Said with a sneer
 - 39 Icicle site
 - 40 Ships carrying a smelly gas?
 - 43 Domingo, for one
 - 44 Deli machine
 - 45 One begins "By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down"
 - 47 Toast
 - 49 Parenthesis, essentially
 - 50 It may be organized
 - 51 Comfy kids?
 - 57 Pride of 12?
 - 59 Bring (out)
 - 60 Part of ABM
 - 61 Move like molasses

- Down**
- 62 Combative retort
 - 63 - Verde National Park
 - 64 1974 Sutherland/Gould spoof
 - 65 Contented sighs (and a homophonic hint to this puzzle's theme)



Puzzle by Patrick Blindauer and Tony Orbach

- 28 Online weekly, e.g.
- 29 Golf's ___ Cup
- 32 K, __, of country music
- 33 Early baby talk
- 34 Devilish
- 35 Chew (out)
- 37 People with this don't go out for very long
- 41 Actor Cary of "Twister"
- 42 Not at all stiff
- 46 See 9-Across
- 47 It can cure many things
- 48 Laugh-a-minute folks
- 49 Writer Rand
- 50 Chowder morsel
- 51 Prison, slangily
- 52 Black Sabbath singer, to fans
- 53 Pieces of pizza?
- 54 Celestial bear
- 55 Bite
- 56 Pontiacs of old
- 58 How many it takes to tango in Spain?

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"One more month until graduation, seniors!"

MUSTANG DAILY OPINION/EDITORIAL

Thursday, May 14, 2009

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Managing Editor: Giana Magnoli

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12

College playoffs need to change

Like their professional bretheren before them, the heads of college football traveled to the nation's capital this past week to defend the integrity of their sport against the verbal tirades of our nation's lawmakers.

As Rep. Joe Barton (R-Texas) took on the heads of college football this past week in a House sub-committee meeting, the debate over college football's postseason once again became a hot topic issue among sportswriters and fans of college football nationwide.

The congressional sub-committee argued with Bowl Championship Series (BCS) representatives about what needs to be done to fix college football's postseason. They went to great lengths to berate ACC commissioner and BCS coordinator John Swofford, even comparing college football's lack of a playoff to "communism" in the sense that it just flat out doesn't work.

The current system involves computers using a complex formula to decide who the top two teams are at the end of the season and allowing them play the national championship game. As a native of Eugene, Ore., I can tell you from firsthand experience how unfair this system is. In 2001 my beloved Oregon Ducks were ranked No. 2 in both the AP and the ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll at the end of the regular season.

However, the computers decided that No. 3 Nebraska, who had just lost their conference championship game a week before, was the better match to take on the vaunted top-ranked Miami Hurricanes. This is one of many examples that fans of college football could cite as evidence to why the current system doesn't work. Simply put, everyone with half a brain knows that the system is, as representative Barton said, unable to be fixed.

Over this last week more and more critics in the blogosphere have blasted off about how college football needs to scrap the traditional bowl game format and install a playoff system. While it is true college football needs some type of playoff, these critics present the problem as an "either, or" situation, in that we fix the current system or we completely scrap the bowls in favor of an eight team, free for all last team standing wins, playoff. Channeling my inner Henry Clay I boldly ask why can't there be both? And thus propose my compromise of college football's traditional bowl postseason and its need for a playoff.

In short, here is what I propose: At the end of the regular season, the top four teams (not eight), as determined by the BCS computers play each other in a single elimination playoff. The No. 1 team will play the No. 4 as is normal in traditional seeding with the No. 2 playing No. 3 as well. The semi-final

games would take place the week after the conference championship games so each team will have its normal break that occurs during bowl season only one week less.

Naturally the winners will go on to play in the National Championship game but here's where my plan changes from other playoff proposals. After this game the normal BCS bowl selections will take place in which both losers of the semifinal games would participate in the bowl that they would normally play in if it were the current system that's used today. After that the long, mundane and boring beginning part of bowl season would happen. This would allow the heads of college football to still rake in all their sponsorship and ticket revenues that they are so desperately trying to hold on to. After that the BCS bowls would take place and everyone would be happy.

It is well publicized that those in power want to keep the system the way it is so they can continue to make ridiculous amounts of money. My playoff compromise will still leave the bowl season intact while only adding two more games that will take place during a week when there isn't any college football games going on normally.

Besides wanting to make their money, those in power do have some legitimate reasons for wanting to keep things the way they are.

College football's unique postseason is exactly that — unique. In no other sport do half the teams, players and fans get their own Super Bowl, giving each team a chance to end its season on a special note. The heads of power believe that in this amateur sport it is necessary for all fans to have a chance to see their team win the last game of the season year after year. If an eight-team playoff was adapted those in power and fans alike would be worried about losing this special part of college football. Yet in my playoff format, the losers of the semi-final games would still get to go to a bowl (most likely a prestigious BCS bowl) so this becomes a non-issue.

However there are fans on the other side of the spectrum who feel that the entire BCS system needs to be scrapped and want college football to adapt this proposed eight-team playoff. This system appears to make sense on the surface but a couple of problems arise with deeper observation.

The most important part of college football is the regular season. In no other sport is each game so valuable. In no other sport will one slip-up cost you a chance at the ultimate prize.

Just ask Texas who was a miracle catch away from an undefeated season and had a shot at the national title. In

some extreme cases a perfect season won't even get you a ticket to the big dance (Auburn in '04). This makes every game of the season a must watch for the fans of every perennial contender. This heavy fan-interest leads to higher revenues for the NCAA, a fact of which they are very aware.

More importantly though this creates a season that is unequaled by anything else in the world of sports. My playoff system though would still ensure the importance of a regular season because unlike a giant eight-team playoff with four-teams, the entrance fee to the playoffs would still be a perfect or one-loss record.

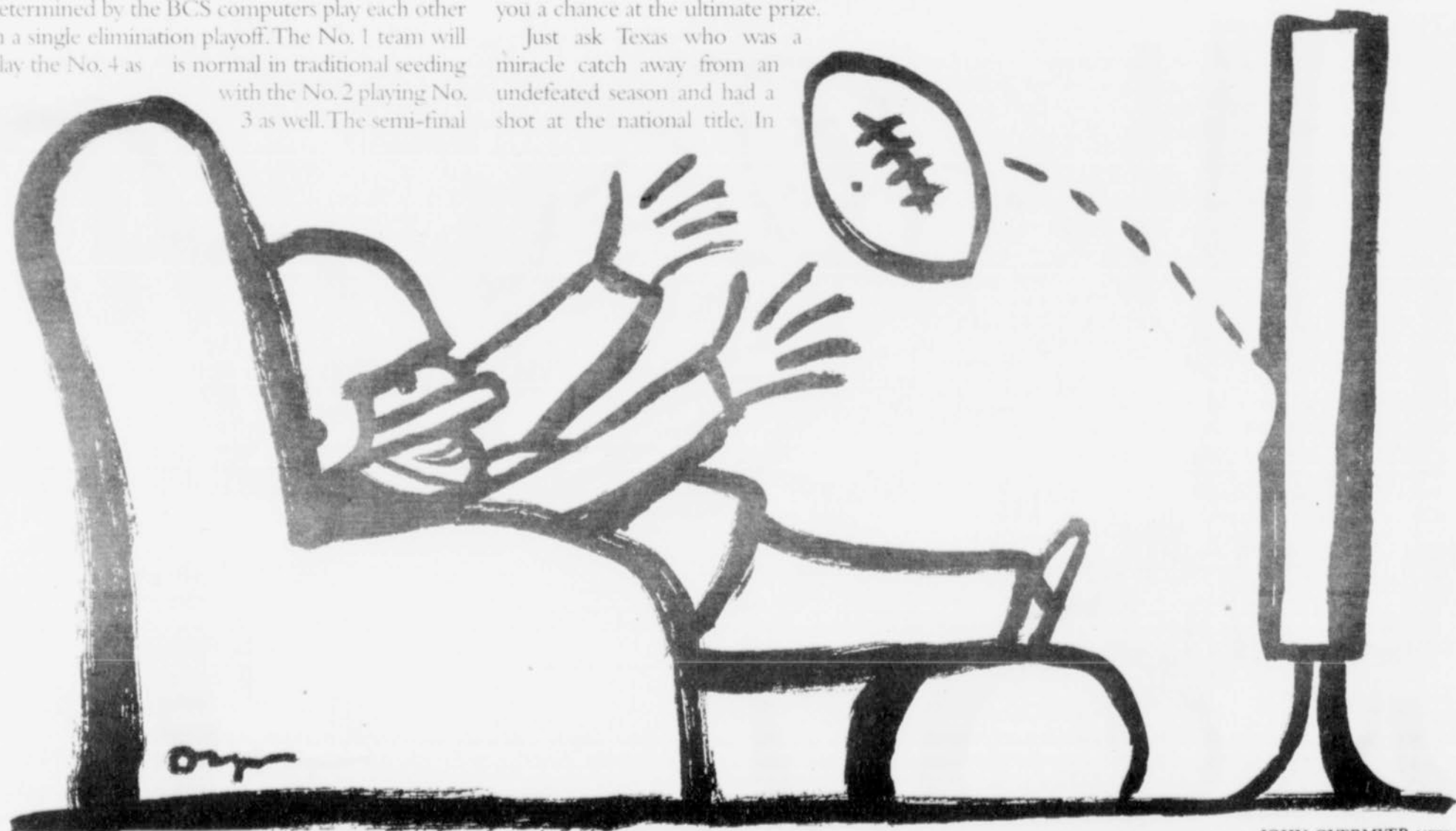
Secondly, football is a violent sport; I mean a really violent sport. The average life for a NFL player is 55 years, which is more than 20 years short of the national average. By putting in an eight-team playoff the NCAA would ask these players to extend their already draining season by two extra games essentially wiping out the month long rest that comes between the end of the regular season and the bowl game. My hybrid four-team playoff only extends the season by one extra game and essentially gives the teams the regular lay-off that they'd normally experience.

At the end of the season the debate always seems to be over the much-scrutinized decision of who actually gets into the championship. Imagine how much controversy would ensue over who the six, seven and eight teams would be to get into the playoffs especially when you have twice that many in worthy candidates.

Who decides between 12-0 Boise State and 11-1 Texas Tech? How do you seed eight different one-loss teams (which is how many one-loss teams there were entering the bowl season this year)? In my four-team playoff the debate would be a little simpler with less teams to choose from. This year as in other years, the selection process would be easy as you would choose the two teams that would normally have a gripe with not getting into the national championship (like USC and Texas this year.)

All in all, my playoff system would add the one or two teams that normally don't get the chance to participate in the championship game. It would still keep the traditional bowls and the importance of the regular season intact. In stark contrast I think that the eight-team playoff would ruin the beautiful bowl season and regular season that makes college football so great. It's time for sportswriter and BCS coordinators alike to take heed and give college football a true national champion.

Zach Lantz is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily reporter.



JOHN OVERMYER NEWSART

Recent health care reforms aren't Obama's November promises

A key concept to Democratic political thought is equality. Democrats believe that every poor person has the right to the same quality of life as a wealthy person. Of course, equality is a high-minded ideal. We know that the poor are often marginalized in society. They often decide between medicine and food, and health exams and mortgage payments.

The president said Monday that about 46 million Americans do not have health insurance. If a person without health insurance needs emergency care, they do receive quality health care, but are then saddled with high bills which, in many cases, result in bankruptcy.

The lack of affordable health care in America is a serious issue. We remain the only developed nation without universal health care.

President Obama sought to begin health care reform when he struck a deal with health care insurers and providers at the White House this week. He said at a press conference following the meeting that out-of-pocket health care costs and premiums have risen at four times the rate of wages over the last decade. He said that Americans are spending more on health care than any other nation on earth. These facts led up to what Obama called an "unprecedented commitment" on behalf of health care insurers and providers.

The Los Angeles Times reports that while the letter outlining the health insurance companies' and providers' commitments "lacked detail." These companies and organizations committed to lowering health care costs by 1.5 percent each year by elimi-

nating wasteful billing practices, transitioning into computerized medical records and changing the way that hospital employees are paid. Obama said these efforts will save the American people and the government \$2 trillion — over the next 10 years, that is.

Is this commitment really what we wanted when we elected Barack Obama?

As a candidate, Obama's health care platform was multifaceted.



His proposals were to require that insurance companies cover preexisting conditions so that no one is excluded from having health insurance, and to establish a National Health

Insurance Exchange which would provide all Americans with the option of private insurance plans and a public insurance plan based on the health insurance given to members of Congress. In his speech this week on his negotiations, he echoed his commitment as a candidate to save the average American \$2,500 in health care costs.

He planned to pay for his health care reform proposals by re-

pealing the Bush tax cuts for those who earn more than \$250,000 and by keeping the estate tax at its current level.

While Obama's negotiations with the health care insurance companies and providers might be viewed as an easy way out in comparison to his ambitious proposals as a candidate, he prefaced the developments this week by noting that "the only way these steps will have an enduring impact is if they are taken not in isolation, but as part of a broader effort to reform our entire health care system."

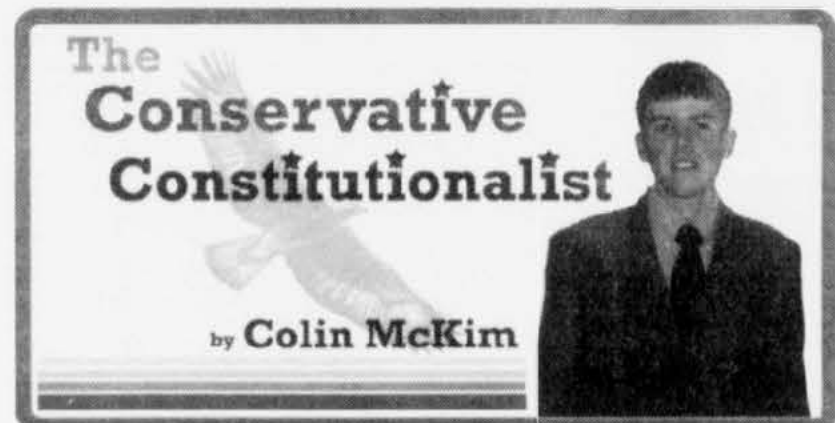
Congress is working on a health care reform bill that Obama hopes will be completed by the end of the year. The President's original proposal of a national health care system based on the health care plan provided to Congress, with low premiums and co-payments, might be smart to make it universal.

People would still be able to retain their private health insurance if they prefer, or they may choose the president's health care plan. His original proposal might forge a middle way between republican dedication to low taxes and private industry and democratic dedication to establishing equality and a fair standard of living in America.

It's essential that Obama push forward his original health care reform plan, and that it is passed. The health care providers' and insurers' commitment to reduce costs by 1.5 percent per year over the next decade isn't change, and it isn't what we voted for.

Stephanie England is an English junior and a Mustang Daily political columnist.

Feds seek to control even your kitchen sink while UN heads for the beach



The Clean Water Restoration Act (S. 787) is likely to move forward in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee this week. This sounds like a great piece of legislation from the name, but one doesn't have to think long about the implications of the bill to see it as one of the biggest power grabs in history. This bill seeks to amend and replace the regulatory authority of the 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act over only navigable waters to all water within the United States. The way the bill is worded exempts no drop of water in the United States from federal jurisdiction, drawing no clear distinction between whether it is in a national park or is being used to irrigate crops.

"With its claim of authority over 'all interstate and intrastate waters,' this bill pushes the limits of federal power to an extreme not matched by any other law, probably in the history of this country. Neither an ornamental pond nor the proverbial kitchen sink are excluded," said M. Reed Hopper, Principal Attorney at the Pacific Legal Foundation.

The bill lays the framework for unprecedented control over private property by the federal government. As the current law generally only affects navigable waters (one a boat can float on), its authority is largely constitutional under the interstate commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution. Although federal agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers have often pushed the limits of their jurisdiction over water bodies, this amendment gives them free reign over all water, wherever it is located. The U.S. Supreme Court sought to clarify the extent of the jurisdiction of these federal agencies under the Clean Water Act in cases in 2001 and 2006. The courts ruled that for waters to be federally regulated, they must be relatively permanent or directly adjacent to a navigable waterway. But this amendment seeks to return and expand excessive jurisdictional leeway over water on private land to these agencies.

Bob Stallman, President of the American Farm Bureau, explains, "The legislation would grant — for the first time ever

— the Environmental Protection Agency and the Corps of Engineers jurisdiction over all wet areas within a state, including groundwater, ditches, pipes, streets, municipal storm drains and gutters. It would grant these same agencies — for the first time ever — authority over all activities affecting those waters, regardless of whether the activity is occurring in water or adds a pollutant..."

What does this mean for the typical residential landowner? Likely, a lot of hassle, expense and time spent in court. The legislation clearly states "all waters." Those of you with farm, stock and even goldfish ponds — beware.

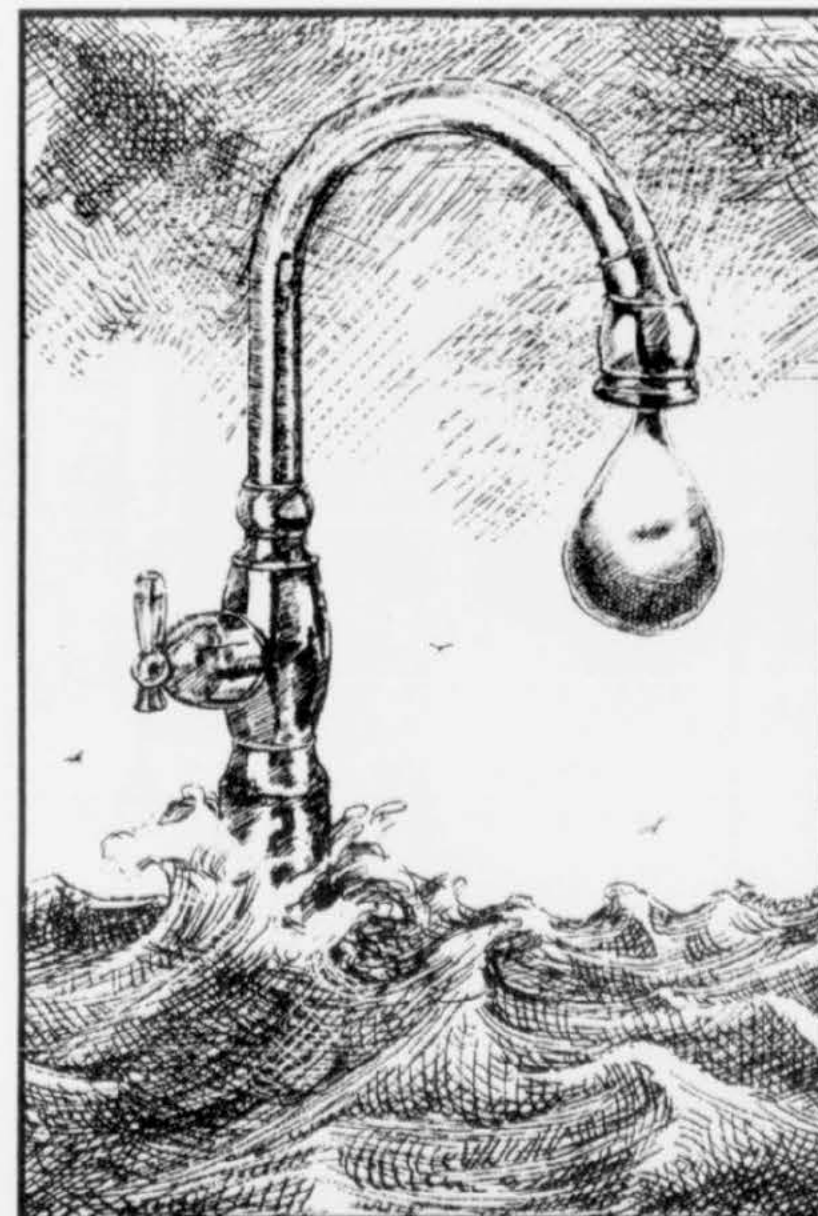
Senator Barbara Boxer of California has cosponsored this bill (along with 23 others) to show her support for this statist approach to complete environmental control. An identical bill in the House gained 176 cosponsors before expiring at the end of the session. This bill proposes to grant federal legislative governance over the most essential compound for life, a power far surpassing moral and constitutional bounds. Would even the water within your body's cells be owned by the federal government? There are no clear bounds to the potential newfound authority of this bill, and that is why it must be stopped. Water contained on private property would be at the mercy of federal regulators to determine what the owner can and cannot do to it. As water fills soil pores, essentially this amendment transfers landowners' rights to the federal government. The EPA and Corps would be free to dictate land management practices anywhere, without compensating landowners for the cost of the restrictions. This also brings up Fifth Amendment concerns, as arguably private property is being commandeered for public use without any promise of "just compensation."

Meanwhile, the U.N. and its globalist cronies over at the Council on Foreign Relations are pushing for the Senate to ratify the Convention on Law of the Sea. The Law of the Sea Treaty (LOST) proposes to put "all ocean space" under the control of the U.N.'s Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (DOALOS). DOALOS would have the authority to regulate all the resources the oceans provide, including the seafloor, air above the oceans, fishing and shipping. This treaty would give the U.N. control over 71 percent of the earth's surface and override traditional territorial waters along coastlines. The treaty has not had any major action taken on it in the Senate after it was first introduced in 1982. The president, vice-president and secretary of state have in the past argued for the passage of the treaty, and is now being promoted under the guise of piracy control. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated in January that pushing for ratification of the treaty would be one of her top priorities under the Obama administration.

While the treaty has been signed and ratified by 156 coun-

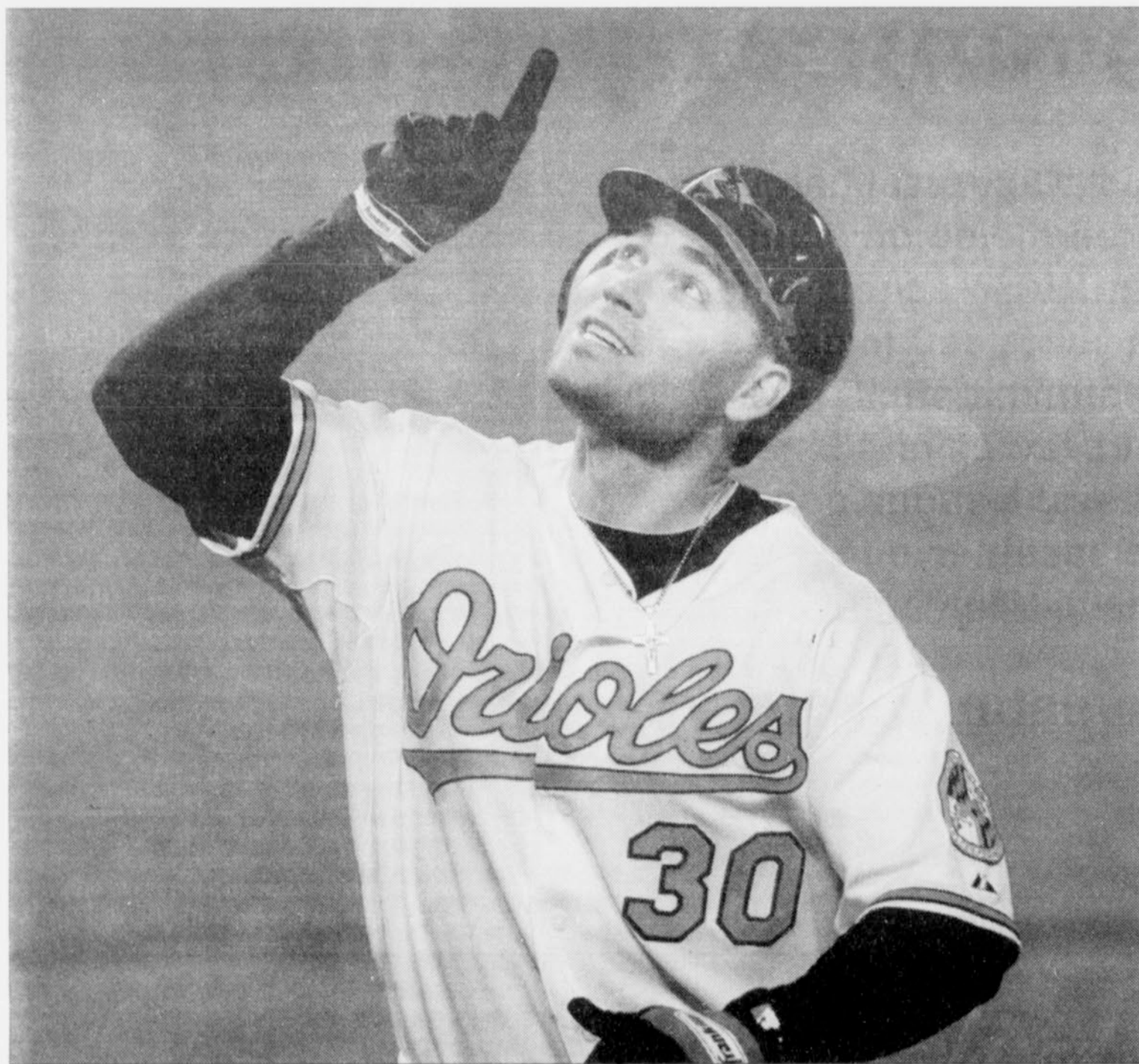
tries and the European community, that is not any excuse to hand over such enormous power to any centralized government. As a consequence of the ocean's interconnectedness to the atmosphere and land's water that flows into it, the treaty may be used as a back door for the U.N. to push global pollution and carbon emission regulations on the United States without having to pass any more treaties. There is no harm that can come from the United States not ratifying the treaty, and only the possibility of abuse from the U.N. if we do. Contact your senators and representative today to alert them to the ominous potentials of S. 787 and LOST.

Colin McKim is an environmental management and protection junior and a Mustang Daily political columnist.



TIM BRINTON NEWSART

Pointing is the newest sign in baseball



Baltimore Orioles' Luke Scott points skyward after hitting a solo home run against the Minnesota Twins.

Tim Dahlberg

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Signs, signs, everywhere the signs.

Back in the day it was fairly simple to figure them out in baseball. One finger for a fastball, two for a curve, maybe a third for whatever extra pitch the guy on the mound at the time might have.

Deciphering what the third base coach was doing was a little more difficult, but that was all part of the fun. At least we knew what he was trying to accomplish.

Not anymore. Now there new signs with deeper meanings, as Casey Blake found out the other day at Dodger Stadium.

Blake had the misfortune of being caught on camera making a gesture in the dugout after hitting a home run off San Francisco closer Brian Wilson to tie Sunday's game in the 12th inning. He appeared to be mocking Wilson by making the crossed-arm, finger-pointing gesture Wilson uses after each successful save.

He apparently hurt Wilson's feelings, so much so that Wilson's teammates had to console him in the locker room after the game.

Turns out the gesture was more than just a way for Wilson to celebrate. It was his way of expressing his faith and remembering his late father.

Blake said later that had he known that, he wouldn't have mocked Wilson. But, really, how many signs are players supposed to keep track of?

Sure, pointing to the heavens seems to be the universal way of celebrating success on the field these days. Barry Bonds believes he started the craze by pointing upward after each one of his mammoth home runs, though cynics might suggest that it would be more appropriate for him to point to his chemist instead.

But Wilson apparently wasn't content with a mere finger stretched upward. He came up with a gesture that could be open for interpretation by opposing players, and Blake responded in kind.

In Blake's defense, the only other athlete I've seen make a similar gesture was boxer Bernard "The Executioner" Hopkins. Hopkins crossed his arms above his head entering the ring not to honor anyone, but to show his opponent that his fate was already sealed.

That's boxing, though, where anything goes. Do something like bite off an ear in a baseball game,

and you could get in trouble.

But what's the point about all the pointing anyway?

Yes, I know it's all about honoring God and thanking him for providing enough skill to (a) hit a home run, (b) strike out an opposing player, or (c) get a save. Either that, or a tribute to a deceased family member for passing along enough skill to (a) hit a home run, (b) strike out an opposing player, or (c) get a save.

Or, in the case of Wilson, both, hence the need for the combination crossing of the arms and finger pointing.

An increasing number of players seem to be doing it, and there does seem to be some protocol developing around it. A mere double doesn't rate a finger pointed skyward, and neither does a sacrifice fly. It's got to be an accomplishment of a higher variety, something worthy of drawing attention to the heavens.

You know, like saving a baseball game.

It's not something that translates well outside of sports, either. The guy who did a great job making me lunch at my favorite taco shop the other day didn't step back and point his hands to the sky in celebration. I've yet to see anyone try it in a crowded office, and no one would dare do it after making it past security in the airport.

What's surprising to me is that other players allow it in a sport where the unwritten code is that the one thing you don't do is show another guy up. Aubrey Huff was quick to mock New York Yankee Joba Chamberlain's fist pump after hitting a home run off him the other day, but no one says a thing when a player jogs across home plate with his arms held aloft.

Maybe things have changed, but my guess is there's some muttering in the opposing dugout when Francisco Rodriguez finishes off a game by falling to his knees, pointing to the sky and screaming something unintelligible. Save that for winning the World Series, not for protecting a three-run lead against the Washington Nationals.

Indeed, the whole pointing to the sky thing is being done so much it has become trite, which might be why Wilson came up with his variation. Had he stuck to the basics, Blake probably would have given him a pass.

Because even in baseball no one messes with departed relatives or the man upstairs.

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press.

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Giants

continued from page 16

stop against reliever Pat Misch in the ninth, but San Francisco's fans gave him a standing ovation. His streak, the majors' longest since Moises Alou hit in 30 straight for the Mets in 2007, ended right before Washington flew home for a 10-game homestand at Nationals Park, where the struggling club could have used something to celebrate.

"We all had fun, we all enjoyed it, and tomorrow is the next day to start a new one," said rookie right-hander Shairon Martis, who allowed two hits over seven sharp innings to remain unbeaten this season.

Nick Johnson had an RBI double among his four hits, and Elijah Dukes drove in two runs with a broken-bat single in the seventh as the Nationals avoided a three-game sweep in San Francisco while snapping a nine-game losing streak to the Giants.

Martis (5-0), who walked four batters and hit another but didn't allow a run until the seventh, is responsible for nearly half of the Nationals' 11 victories this season. The former Giants farmhand also

doubled and scored the game's first run in the fifth.

Kip Wells earned his second career save.

Zito (1-3) gave up eight hits and four runs while pitching into the seventh, losing control of a tight game late in another tough loss on his 31st birthday. The former Oakland ace has been given just 2.29 runs of support in his seven starts this season, sabotaging his markedly improved performance after two disappointing years across the Bay.

"On the bright side, it keeps me focused on what I have to do," Zito said. "It keeps me locked in. Of course, it would be great to come out and get five every time, but that's not realistic in this game. Their guy on the other side was pretty good. He pitched

It makes you realize how much better 56 is than 30. To get a hit every single game there's got to be a lot of luck involved.

—Ryan Zimmerman
Washington Nationals

out of some jams."

The Giants scored 20 runs in the series' first two games, including Pablo Sandoval's game-ending three-run homer off Joe Beimel on Tuesday night, but couldn't score against Martis until Rich Aurilia's sacrifice fly in the seventh.

The Nationals' bullpen struggled yet again, however. Sandoval added an RBI single in the eighth off Beimel, and Nate Schierholtz then tripled and scored in the ninth before Wells escaped trouble.

Spots

continued from page 16

with the wings either.

No. 4 – Downtown Brewing Co.

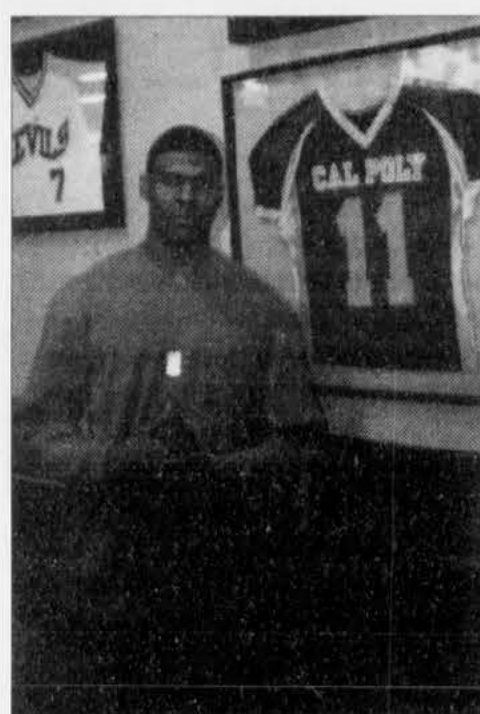
Another local favorite in the downtown area. This one is also more of a social and entertainment bar than a designated sports bar. It's probably mostly known for its shows for upcoming artists. However, it has a big menu with good food that isn't too expensive. There are a few TVs all around the place that makes it a good place to go with some friends on a weekend to watch a game.

No. 3 – Legends Bar

Legends is a small local place in Morro Bay. Yes, it's a little far, but it's worth the drive for sports fans. It has a full bar and any sort of sports entertainment you want. They have a great package of sports channels that broadcast games from all over, including local Cal Poly games. It has a pool table for game breaks and standing bar tables only. As far as eating goes, there is a small walk-up pizza place right on the side. Legends was formerly owned by a Cal Poly football coach.

No. 2 – Firestone Grill

Again, we've all been there and we all know how good it is. Possibly the best tri-tip sandwich I've ever had. The atmosphere is absolutely great with hometown jerseys and photos all across the walls complete with California sports fans in every room. The only reason this place isn't No. 1 on my list is that it's too popular. It



NICK CAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO
Former Cal Poly receiver Ramses Barden poses for a photo during his jersey retirement at Firestone Grill.

can get ridiculously crowded to the point that it's difficult to even get a seat in the TV room. There are just too many people that like this place, and for that reason it's sometimes difficult for the sports fan to enjoy the game. If you do manage to get a seat in the back room, there are several TVs of all sizes with plenty of games on at all times.

No. 1 – The Shack

This place has everything you could ask for in a sports bar. It's a tiny little burger and fries joint on Foothill Boulevard, very close to campus. For starters, the food is great. They have a pretty large menu of their own original burgers that are each packed with tons of ingredients that make it big enough to last you a good portion of the game. If you

feel like spending more money, you should definitely go for the garlic fries. The best part of the place is the atmosphere. It has a small, relaxed feel to it with sports memorabilia and flat screens on every wall. At the front, they hang empty beer mugs on the wall for you to throw peanut shells in during breaks in the game. Overall, it's just a great place to go with plenty of other college students to relax and watch the game.

So I think we can still say that San Luis Obispo doesn't exactly have a wide variety or selection of sports bars for a night out with your roommates. However, we are fortunate to have plenty of local favorites that never fail to entertain when the occasion arises. Whether you're looking for great food or beer, dozens of nice flat screen TVs or just a great place to sit with your friends and cheer for your favorite team, you'll find it at one of these places.

Tyler Jauch is a political science sophomore and a Mustang Daily sports columnist.

su|do|ku
TODAY'S SOLUTIONS

7	1	9	3	4	5	6	2	8
5	8	2	1	9	6	4	7	3
3	4	6	8	2	7	5	9	1
1	7	4	6	5	8	2	3	9
8	2	5	9	1	3	7	6	4
6	9	3	4	7	2	1	8	5
2	5	1	7	8	9	3	4	6
9	3	7	5	6	4	8	1	2
4	6	8	2	3	1	9	5	7

UPCOMING EVENTS IN MUSTANG ATHLETICS

BASEBALL

VS. SANTA CLARA

MONDAY, MAY 18, 6:00PM

BAGGETT STADIUM



Ryan Lee (L)
Los Altos, CA

Kyle Smith (R)
Visalia, CA



BASEBALL

VS. UC RIVERSIDE

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 6:00PM

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 6:00PM

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 1:00PM*

BAGGETT STADIUM

*Jersey Day and Senior Day

All youth, 13 and under, receive free admission by wearing a jersey to the game and the Mustang Senior class will be honored prior to the game!



WE ARE THE MUSTANGS

MUSTANG **round-up**

Gonzalez to compete in regionals this weekend



COURTESY PHOTO

Cal Poly junior golfer Geoff Gonzalez, shown above, will compete in NCAA Western Regional at Lake Merced Golf Club on Thursday.

Scott Silvey
MUSTANG DAILY

Geoff Gonzalez has been here before. Not only has the junior golfer competed in the NCAA

Western Regional two years ago, but he has also played at the Lake Merced Golf Club where this year's regional will take place.

"I played Lake Merced when I was about 12," Gonzalez said, laughing. "I don't remember too much."

What Gonzalez does remember is the challenge of competing with some of the nation's best collegiate golfers and he said he would bring that experience with him when he tees off in the first round on Thursday morning.

"I learned a lot in my first regional," he said. "At first I was a little awestruck. It's a huge tournament with so many people. It's neat to see teams from the East Coast and Midwest."

Gonzalez is the only Mustang who will compete at the regional which will have 13 teams and 10 individuals not on those teams vying to advance to the NCAA Championships at the Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio.

The top five teams will advance while the lone individual player with the lowest score will also move on.

It may seem like a daunting task, but Gonzalez recalls another small-school player in his situation moving on during the 2007 regionals.

"I remember a player from Penn made it all the way to the championship out of nowhere," he said. "So it's very feasible to move on from there. I learned a lot of good lessons and hopefully I can use that to benefit me."

Gonzalez finished tied for 53rd place in 2007 playing in Tempe, Ariz., shooting a four-under-par 212.

Gonzalez's grandfather took him to Lake Merced course years ago, and while he doesn't remember much about playing the course, he said he would always remember the impact his grandfather had on his golf game.

"I'm the only one in my fam-

ily who plays golf, there's no one else," Gonzalez said. "But he did, and he showed me this great game and if it wasn't for him I wouldn't be here today."

Gonzalez averaged 71.9 strokes over 23 rounds with five top-10 finishes and 13 rounds of par or better this season.

He has 14 career rounds in the 60s and 37 rounds of par or better, finishing in the top 10 a total of 11 times. Gonzalez's career average of 72.57 strokes per round is second to Mustang career record-holder Travis Bertoni (71.70).

Other regionals will be held at Galloway National Golf Club (Galloway, NJ), University of Texas Golf Club (Austin, TX), Red Tail Golf Club (Sorrento, FL), The Club at Olde Stone (Bowling Green, KY) and Karsten Creek Golf Club (Stillwater, OK) with the top teams and individuals advancing to the May 26 championship.

Sports Talk with
Tyler Jauch

COMMENTARY

Hitting up
the local
spots

Tyler Jauch

ON WHERE TO CATCH A GAME

We're coming up on the best time of the year — in the sports world, that is. With the start of summer comes many promising things: The NBA Finals are coming to a hopefully dramatic conclusion, baseball season is in full effect, the U.S. Open is right around the corner and of course it's time to start talking about favorites for the football season.

There are certain ways to go about watching these sporting events. The proper environment can give a sports fan the ultimate viewing experience — or at least an experience better than sitting in front of a small television in your dorm room with the volume turned all the way down because your roommate has a mid-term the next morning.

Obviously the best way to watch the big game is by being at the game with your friends; tailgating in the parking lot before kickoff then sitting in your seats on the 50-yard line. But we're not all that lucky.

So the next best thing is to round up the guys and head out to your favorite spot, or sports bar, for the afternoon. Now San Luis Obispo isn't exactly a huge sports town, so it's not like there's a sports bar on every corner in the downtown area. So I thought I'd help out by using this week to compile a list of the top five spots in the San Luis Obispo area to go watch the big game.

There are a few standard things that we use to decide where we want to go for the game. Usually all that matters is the food quality, the atmosphere, available TVs and location. Some things might matter more to others, but I think that's the gist of it.

So the following is a list of what I think are the five best spots to go watch the game. I'm sure you'll be somewhat familiar with a few of them, but not all of them. I'll try to give a few good reasons of why you might want to (or not want to) spend your money at these places:

No. 5 — Woodstock's Pizza

We've all been there. It's a nice clean pizza joint right in the middle of downtown. But it's last on my list because it's more of a dining experience and social place than a sports restaurant. First of all, there are only a few good spots to sit to actually watch the game on a decent TV. Also, there are a lot of families and other people in there at times who aren't even into the game. So it's hard to really get the in-game experience at times. The food is pretty decent though. The Carnivore Delight is definitely one of the best pizzas I've eaten in a while. You can't go wrong

Nine Mustangs among All-Big West Team

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

Sophomore lefthander Anna Cahn was named Big West Pitcher of the Year, heading the list of nine Cal Poly softball players named to the conference team.

Cahn led all Big West

pitchers with 27 victories, was second with 151 strikeouts and third with a 1.71 ERA and a .223 opposing batting average this season. She was joined on the All-Big West first team by senior shortstop Melissa Pura and junior first base-

man Krysten Cary.

Senior third baseman Cristen Lee, senior center fielder Jessica Rogers, junior lefthander Helen Peña and sophomore catcher Stephanie Correia comprised Cal Poly's selections to the second team while

senior second baseman Stephanie Tam and senior left fielder Jenna Maiden earned honorable mention praise.

In addition to the players, Cal Poly head coach Jenny Condon was named coach of the year for the

third time in leading the Mustangs (39-10, 18-3) to the Big West Conference championship.

Cal Poly will begin the postseason at the Palo Alto Regional when they play Nevada (39-17) at 3 p.m. Friday.

Zimmerman's hit streak ends at 30, Nats top Giants

Greg Beacham
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Although Ryan Zimmerman's 30-game hitting streak ended right before he could carry it home to Washington, he thinks the monthlong experience will benefit him for years to come.

The Nationals' rising star also got a less tangible prize: A whole new appreciation for the greatness of Joe DiMaggio.

"It makes you realize how much better 56 is than 30," Zimmerman said, referring to the San Francisco native's record hitting streak in 1941. "That's a long time. ... To get a hit every single game, there's got to be a little bit of luck involved."

Zimmerman got no luck in the Nationals' 6-3 victory over the Giants on Wednesday, going 0 for 3 with two walks. He never got the ball out of the infield, grounding into a fielder's choice on his final chance in the ninth.

At least Zimmerman slid home with Washington's sixth run moments later, allowing him to play a part in a rare victory for the frustrated Nationals, who have the majors' worst record.

"I'm not relieved it's over, because I would have liked to keep it going for as long as I can," said Zimmerman, who fell just short of Vladimir Guerrero's franchise-record 31-game streak with Montreal in 1999. "But it'll be good to go back to the usual routine. ... I've said every day that I'd rather win. It's been a tough year for us. I feel like we're a lot better than our record."

Zimmerman produced two groundouts and two walks against Giants starter Barry Zito, who walked Zimmerman intentionally to load the bases in the seventh after a wild pitch left first base open moments earlier. Both Zimmerman and Washington manager Manny Acta said they agreed with San Francisco manager Bruce Bochy's decision.

"We had no choice," Bochy said. "You're behind in the count, and you have the hottest hitter in baseball up there. You're trying to limit the damage. ... It's impressive, what he did. We got caught the one time when we had to put him on, but he had four at-bats, and we pitched him well."

Zimmerman grounded to short-



San Francisco Giants' Randy Winn, right, steals second base during the Giants 6-3 loss to the Washington Nationals on Wednesday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

see Giants, page 15

see Spots, page 15