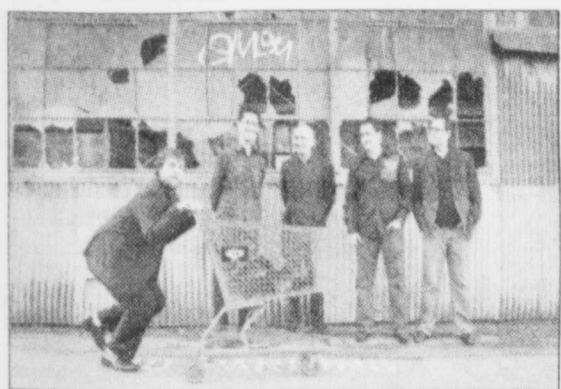




TOMORROW: Mostly cloudy High 61°/Low 38°

MUSTANG DAILY

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY



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Thursday, April 1, 2010

www.mustangdaily.net

Controversial grading policy repealed

Electrical engineering guideline had predetermined grade curve

Will Taylor
MUSTANG DAILY

A controversial grading guideline within the electrical engineering department was voted out by a faculty majority on Feb. 3. The guideline affected roughly 900 electrical engineering and computer engineering students and the tenure-track faculty who teach them.

The guideline, which had been in place for more than two decades according to numerous sources,

was applied in order to standardize grade point averages and prevent grade inflation for certain classes within the department. The grading guideline could partially pre-determine student grades even before the quarter started. For instance, if a student set the curve and it was too high, their grade could be lowered to fit into that particular class' grading guidelines or vice versa.

The guideline was not official but was adhered to within the department. A sophomore computer engineering student, who request-

ed anonymity to prevent discrimination within the department, said the fact the guideline was "hidden" proves it wasn't fair.

"I think the fact that the department didn't tell anyone that this was their policy and that they were secret about it, shows how wrong the policy was to begin with," he said.

The guideline was similar to curving grades in classes, but was subtly different. Curving during a class is based on students' cumulative performances during the quar-

ter. If a professor's material is unusually hard, the top grade of the class would determine how the curve is set for the rest of the class below them.

The guideline didn't only affect students. When faculty members were being reviewed for tenure, they were evaluated through the Retention, Promotion and Tenure (RPT) guidelines. This is called a "probationary" period.

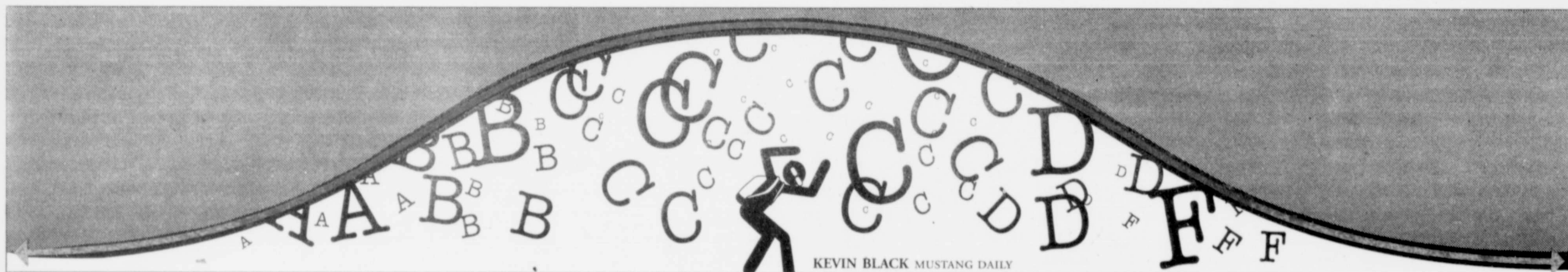
Provost Robert Koob said he became troubled when professors were required to follow the guide-

line in order to remain on tenure track.

"My concern was that this guideline would show up occasionally that would make it seem like more than a guideline," Koob said. "It would show up when evaluating teachers."

Department chair Art MacCarley said the purpose of this guideline was to curb grade inflation and to prevent "harsh instructors from grading far below the norm." He

see Engineering, page 2



KEVIN BLACK MUSTANG DAILY

Short-cutters beware:

Crossing railroad tracks could result in \$2,000 fine

Raquel Redding
MUSTANG DAILY

Many students cross railroad tracks daily to get to school; some look both ways before they cross, while others listen to music and don't look at all. Yet no matter how they cross, they can be fined up to \$2,000.

Crossing railroad tracks in non-designated areas is considered trespassing and could result in a warning, fines or arrest. Student housing located across the tracks from Cal Poly makes illegal crossings popular because it is faster and in some cases easier.

English junior Natalie Maris said she crosses the tracks frequently to get to school from her house.

"Going around can add 10 minutes or more so it is worth it to cross, but now that I know about tickets, I'm not so sure," Maris said.

Designated areas to cross are built for pedestrians or at roadway crossings where there are gates. As long as the person is not crossing when the gates are down and the lights are flashing, it is legal to cross tracks. The other way to cross is the Mustang Village crossway that was built just

last year near the Alex G. Spanos Stadium.

According to the Federal Railroad Administration Statistics for

We are trying to convince people that railroad right-of-way is a dangerous place. We're not doing this maliciously.

—Aaron Hunt
Union Pacific Railroad

2009, California had the highest statistics of trespassing fatalities out of all the states, with 59 fatal accidents due to crossing tracks illegally.

Trespassing is getting in the right-

of-way of a train, meaning any part of railroad property, said Aaron Hunt, director of Corporate Relations & Media for Union Pacific Railroads.

Union Pacific Railroads is the top operator of railroad tracks for North America and is in charge of the tracks in San Luis Obispo.

"Trespassing on railroad property could be standing on the gravel next to the tracks," Hunt said.

Railroad property or railroad right-of-way depends on where the tracks are, but according to Operation Lifesaver.org, an organization to help educate about railroads, train overhang is at least 3 feet from the tracks, and potential loose straps could add to the overhang.

"We are trying to convince people that railroad right-of-way is a dangerous place. We're not doing this maliciously," Hunt said.

Safety is the main reason for giving out tickets and warnings. Since crossing the tracks illegally is a federal offense, Hunt said seeing people continuously cross the tracks warrants tickets, but that

see Tracks, page 3

Poly invites Michelle Obama to speak at obesity summit

Aimee Vasquez
MUSTANG DAILY

In response to the Michelle Obama's new government initiative, STRIDE (Science through Translational Research In Diet and Exercise) director Ann McDermott penned a letter to the first lady inviting her to speak at the HEAL SLO Childhood Obesity Summit at Hearst Ranch this fall.

The backbone of the initiative is aimed at combating childhood obesity and is already being implemented in San Luis Obispo County, thanks to the efforts of groups like STRIDE, which is a research-based community health organization at California Polytechnic State University.

On Feb. 9, Obama unveiled the Let's Move Campaign. Backed by up to \$1 billion a year in federal funds for the next 10 years, Let's

Move represents the first federal childhood obesity task force ever created. According to the campaign's presidential memorandum, almost 30 percent of children across the nation are overweight or obese, which is almost triple the 1980 rate.

What's more, studies show that approximately 80 percent of obese children will continue to have a high body mass index (BMI) as adults. Overweight adults are at an increased risk for cancer, diabetes, heart disease and numerous other health problems.

The BMI scale is essentially an estimate of body fat percentage. Obesity is defined as having a BMI of more than 30, while having a BMI of more than 25 is considered to be overweight.

A 2004 study by the California Center for Public Health Advocacy

see Obama, page 2

SeaWorld trainer suffered "blunt force" injuries, autopsy says

Bianca Prieto and Amy L. Edwards

THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

SeaWorld Orlando trainer Dawn Brancheau suffered "blunt force" injuries to her neck, head and torso after a killer whale pulled her under water last month, according to a final autopsy report released Wednesday.

The report confirms last month's preliminary findings by the Orange-Osceola Medical Examiner's Office that Brancheau's cause of death was from multiple traumatic injuries and drowning.

The medical examiner ruled her death an accident.

The Orange County Sheriff's Office and SeaWorld officials initially said Brancheau slipped and fell into the killer whale's tank.

Brancheau, 40, was interacting with a 12,000-pound orca named Tilikum in knee-deep water Feb. 24 when the killer whale grabbed her by her ponytail and wouldn't let go. A crowd was present when the orca attacked Brancheau.

The six-page autopsy report shows the violence with which Tilikum treated the veteran trainer after she was pulled in the water.

The orca removed part of Brancheau's scalp and detached her left arm. She also suffered multiple fractures, including to her back, ribs, legs, arms and face. Her spinal cord also was injured, the report said. Her body was covered in cuts and

bruises.

The medical examiner found fluid in Brancheau's lungs, showing that she drowned. A toxicology report, which is routinely performed on autopsies, found no drugs in Brancheau.

Immediately after the attack witnesses told The Orlando Sentinel the killer whale shook and tossed the trainer while swimming with her in the tank.

The Sheriff's Office said its investigation into the accident is ongoing and did not release additional information about the attack.

The lawyer representing the Brancheau family was not immediately available for comment about the autopsy. A message left for a SeaWorld spokeswoman was not immediately returned, although the park spokeswoman told The Associated Press it would have no comment.

Brancheau's family has filed a motion in Orange County Circuit Court to keep Sheriff's Office photographs and SeaWorld's on-site video of the accident from becoming public.

Two of the theme park's video cameras captured parts of the killer whale attack. SeaWorld has argued in court that the video should not become public because it is private and that it owns the video.

A judge permitted the family, SeaWorld and the media to negotiate a possible agreement about the availability of the video and photos.

Obama

continued from page 1

cy (CCPHA), a nonprofit organization established by the California Public Health Association, found that approximately 24.7 percent of the children in San Luis Obispo County were overweight or obese, as compared to the national 30 percent.

Kinesiology graduate student Kyla Tom, a program coordinator at STRIDE, explained.

"In general, I think San Luis Obispo is a forward-moving, health-conscious place," she said. "But we still have health problems and issues, and I think it's good to be in the forefront of that."

While the county is working to get ahead of the obesity epidemic, STRIDE is supplying the research. STRIDE is working to create scientific standards for healthy eating and exercise. They then translate this into programs the community can easily understand and utilize.

"I want to say that we use research in order to implement programs to help the community," Tom said.

For example, STRIDE's Pink and Dude Chefs program partners with the community's Bright Futures after-school learning program to teach healthy eating habits. Tomas Cee, Bright Futures director at Mesa Middle School, said the 12-year-olds love the hands-on approach.

"The kids are very excited about the chef program," Cee said. "They are asking me at least every other day when we're going to do it again."

The FLASH study, on the other hand, focuses on the college population. The study was developed to track and analyze the eating and other health habits of incoming freshman. The program, which is still in the

process of collecting data to analyze, will ultimately be used to help make changes across the campus as a whole.

STRIDE also provides programs for adults, minorities, elderly populations and pregnant women.

This multifaceted approach to fighting obesity is the reason McDermott said she thinks Obama might respond to the invitation. Both programs are based upon the societal model of public health, so they have a markedly similar structure.

Stephanie Teaford, the community liaison for STRIDE, compared the societal model to an onion.

"At the heart, the center, is the individual," Teaford said. "And surrounding that individual is their support, the family."

In fact, the programs were so similar that, after Obama's speech, McDermott said her office was flooded with phone calls and e-mails from both community members and STRIDE participants. Within a week, McDermott and other STRIDE leaders decided to invite Obama to come and see San Luis Obispo's efforts.

"We're trying to tell her that we're doing all the things that she asked for," McDermott said. "So we're asking her to come out for the Childhood Health Summit."

The resulting invitation was really more of a compilation, highlighting the county's efforts to create a healthy community. The letter included a photo documentary of San Luis Obispo schools, hospitals, nonprofits, government agencies and private businesses. Each of the 34 photo-stories was signed by community leaders, such as Cal Poly President Warren Baker and Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee.

One of the letter's signers, CAFES (College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences) Center for Sustainability Director Hunter Francis, collaborated on the letter.

"I'm a huge supporter of STRIDE," Francis said. "One of

the things Ann did a really good job of highlighting through the photo essay is that we now have a broad coalition of stakeholders (in the health movement)."

Cal Poly graduate Madeline Dover worked with McDermott to design the document.

"There's kind of a call to action in the letter," Dover said. "The cause would be to kind of stretch our initiative to bring community members together for the common goal (of fighting obesity)."

Nutrition science junior Rosalia Rochon, vice president of Cal Poly's Nutrition Club, said the Obama visit would encourage community members that they are indeed making progress.

"I think just the awareness of it would help," Rochon said. "And I think it will encourage the community to make healthier decisions, even just at the grocery store level."

Kinesiology senior and STRIDE program manager Kristina Wong agreed.

"It would be awesome to have her," Wong said. "It would really turn heads and create more awareness and community support. This is not something that just Cal Poly or one hospital can do. We need the whole community's support."

For Cal Poly students, addressing the obesity epidemic under the societal model means that many different disciplines have the potential to get involved. In fact, more than 11 disciplines, from statistics, architecture and graphic communication to nutrition and food science, are already taking part.

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Engineering

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said he couldn't legally comment on whether or not the guideline was used in RPT reviews.

"They existed strictly as guidelines and were not hard restraints," MacCarley said. "We'd prescribe a range of grades in this mode, of this level, in this range. It didn't prevent grades from falling outside that range."

Another factor MacCarley said resulted in the removal of the guideline was an Academic Senate policy.

"There is an Academic Senate ruling that (if a guideline) could influence the grade of students it needs to be published," MacCarley said. "This wasn't published, so we voted it down."

David Conn, the associate vice president for inclusive excellence, a program that looks to provide equal student opportunities on campus, said that such a system is not unusual, especially in engineering schools and departments. But he said such a guideline disregards individual teacher performances and may lessen their motivation to improve.

"What I personally object to is the notion that this is a static situation, that everything is going to be the same irrespective of who you have in the class or who is teaching it," Conn said. "If I'm successful at being a good teacher, which means I have the ability to make my students learn better, then this process prevents me from giving them the grade they deserve."

Improved student performance could also be ignored under this

system, Conn said. Cal Poly makes a strong effort to improve their students' performance, and there is evidence that even prior to attending Cal Poly, students' performances are improving.

"We do have data that the quality of our students, our expectations, in terms of grades, high school standings, test scores and so on, have gone up over the years," Conn said. "One of the consequences is we've

dell said the potential for furthering of faculty careers over student achievement was disturbing.

"I think the part of it being unfair is whether or not a teacher gets tenure," Waddell said. "You're putting a pressure on a professor to change grades that aren't reflective of their or students' performance. That's the part that I have a problem with ... professors being strung along to help them achieve depart-

like this is inappropriate no matter how small the effect may be on students. An anonymous source from within the department said they were simply disappointed with the lack of support for students.

"It saddens me how this place is so non-student oriented; (professors) are here to promote their careers, promote themselves," the source said. "Students come last."

I think the fact that the department didn't tell anyone that this was their policy and that they were secret about it, shows how wrong the policy was to begin with.

—Anonymous
computer engineering sophomore

been graduating more students."

Many people on campus, including administrators, students and teachers, stated that they think the guideline was unfair and goes against university learning objectives. Cal Poly's grading policy is based on the "attainment of course objectives," according to the 2009-2011 Cal Poly catalog.

Scott Waddell, a 2009 electrical engineering graduate, said he didn't explicitly know about the unique guideline within his department until his fourth year. He said it is not unusual for electrical engineering students' grades to be curved, so he never took notice. But Wad-

ment goals."

When Waddell was told about the guideline by "several professors," he said he was too busy with his course load to get involved.

Some students within the department, like Mike Sweetman, another 2009 electrical engineering graduate, said he didn't feel the guideline affected his work.

"I didn't notice much of a difference between what I got and what was recorded," Sweetman said. "I feel like I earned my grades and my teachers weren't trying to prove something by inflating or deflating."

But some say that a guideline

Tracks

continued from page 1

warnings are sometimes just as effective.

"We work hard to inform and educate as much as possible," Hunt said. "For one out of 10 encounters we give out a ticket. We will go the extra mile to educate. People don't want to pay a fine."

To deter people from crossing tracks and possibly risking a ticket, the railroad tracks along Cal Poly have clear signs giving warning about trespassing, but the fact that a person can be fined up to \$2,000 is not made clear on the signs. Many students are aware that crossing the tracks is illegal, but almost no one knew the fine could be so large.

Psychology senior Tiffany Hulse said she knew it was trespassing, but she was unaware of the fine.

"I didn't know it could be that much; that is a whole quarter's tuition," she said. "I see a lot of people that cross them not looking, so I can see why they have fines. It comes down to responsibility, and a lot of people don't take responsibility for themselves."

According to University Police Department safety and education go hand in hand. University police officer Ray Easter said fences are being put up around the tracks to deter students from crossing, because it comes down to the safety of the students.

"We don't give out citations very often. The ones that do get tickets are walking in between or parallel to the tracks. It's all about safety," Easter said. "If a student is very intoxicated, what happens when they fall?"



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Obama's offshore drilling plans to win votes

Jim Tankersley, Richard Simon and Christi Parsons

TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama, after delaying and deliberating for a year, unveiled a controversial new offshore drilling plan Wednesday that was driven largely by the politics of his agenda on energy and climate change — not getting a lot more oil and natural gas anytime soon.

As a presidential candidate, Obama was attacked by Republicans for not supporting all-out expansion of offshore drilling. And one of his administration's first acts after taking office last year was to cancel the long-term offshore plans President Bush had released at the end of his tenure.

But now, the White House sees its new drilling plan as a way to curry favor with Republicans and moderate Democrats whose support will be critical for comprehensive energy and climate change legislation.

Under the new plan, Obama proposed to begin moving toward drilling off parts of the Atlantic and Alaskan coastlines — along with the Eastern Gulf of Mexico — in areas that have been off-limits to oil and gas exploration for up to three decades.

The proposal includes no drilling off California, Oregon or Washington state, or in Alaska's Bristol Bay, which environmentalists consider especially sensitive.

The President pitched the decision in national security terms and called it "part of a broader strategy that will move us from an economy that runs on fossil fuels and foreign oil to one that relies more on homegrown fuels and clean energy."

Analysts cautioned that, under the most favorable circumstances, the plan would take years to begin producing new oil and suggested it would not reduce oil imports or gasoline prices substantially. Increased jobs and other economic benefits also are a year or several years away.

But making a commitment to develop new domestic supplies of oil and natural gas — especially offshore — is seen as an important overture to Republicans and other conservatives, who attacked Obama relentlessly on the issue in 2008.

A small bipartisan group of Senators is trying to piece together 60 votes to pass some version of the President's long-sought bill to limit greenhouse emissions and boost clean-energy production. The new offshore plan is aimed especially at potential Republican votes for the bill.

They were also a primary target for Obama's earlier proposal for loan guarantees for new nuclear power plants.

"The president's view is that what he did today is an important part of moving (a climate bill) forward," deputy press secretary Bill Burton said after the drilling announcement. "The president's view is that this is the best policy, and that working with members of the Senate on both sides, the Republicans and the Democrats, this is policy that people of both political persuasions can agree to and we can move forward on."

The outreach drew warm, but not overwhelming, reviews from its target audience.

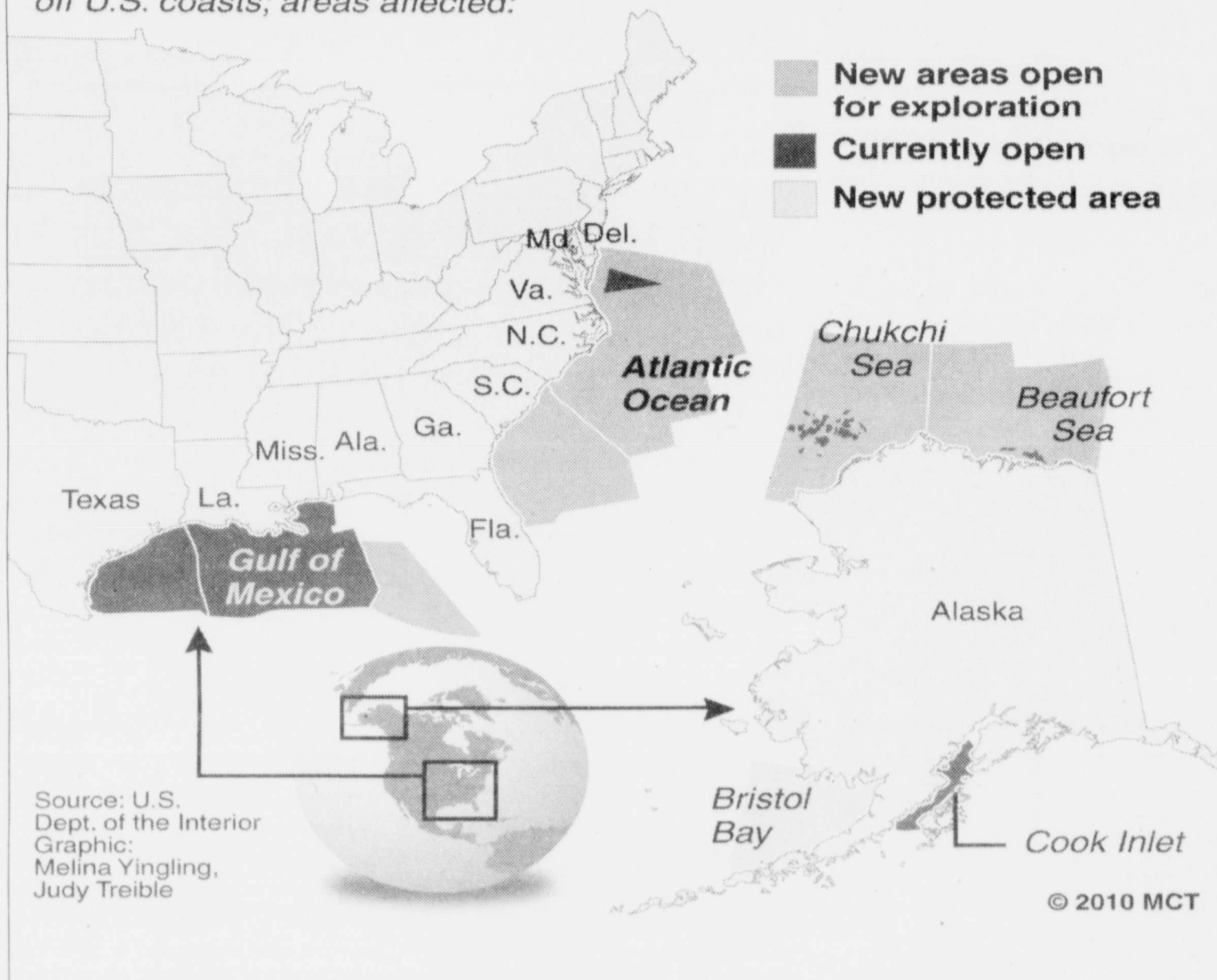
Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., one of the senators drafting the climate bill and a major proponent of using the legislation to expand drilling, called Obama's plan "a good first step" but said "there is more that must be done to make this proposal meaningful and the game-changer we all want it to become."

The spokesman for another drilling proponent and potential GOP climate bill supporter, Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, also praised Obama's drilling plan but said Murkowski will judge a climate bill "by its own merits."

Perhaps bolstering his case to moderates, Obama's announcement drew harsh criticism from the poles of both parties. Conservatives complained it would "lock up" more swaths of ocean than it would open

Easing offshore drilling ban

President Barack Obama announced expansion of oil and gas exploration off U.S. coasts; areas affected:



to drilling.

"If the president is trying to offer an olive branch in order to pass climate change, this hardly qualifies as any major step," said Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash., the top Republican on the House Natural Resources Committee.

Environmental groups accused the President of exposing marine ecosystems to damage and exacerbating global warming.

"It makes no sense to threaten the East Coast of America with spills and other drilling disasters when we're about to unleash the real solutions to oil dependence — cleaner cars and cleaner fuels," said Anna Aurilio, who directs the Washington office of the non-profit Environment America.

Industry groups offered modest support, though some questioned whether the administration will follow through and lease all the areas included in the proposal.

Analysts project little immediate impact from the plan — which still faces a public comment period and other administrative hurdles — on oil supplies or gas prices. A 2009 analysis by the federal Energy Information Administration suggested a new drilling plan substantially larger than the one Obama proposed Wednesday would only serve to cut gasoline prices 3 cents a gallon by 2030.

Daniel Yergin, chairman of IHS Cambridge Energy Research Associates, said in an interview the economic boost from Obama's plan

could be three to five years away.

"If this gets going, it would create a lot of onshore jobs," particularly in hard-hit East Coast shipping communities, he said, "but not overnight, by any means."

Even as they touted the drilling plan as proof of Obama's commitment to all types of domestic energy production, administration officials cautioned drilling alone would not produce anything close to energy independence.

"It's still a relatively minor amount relative to the oil and natural gas that we import," Interior Secretary Ken Salazar told reporters after the announcement. "This is not the panacea, and it's not the answer to the issues that we face in this country."

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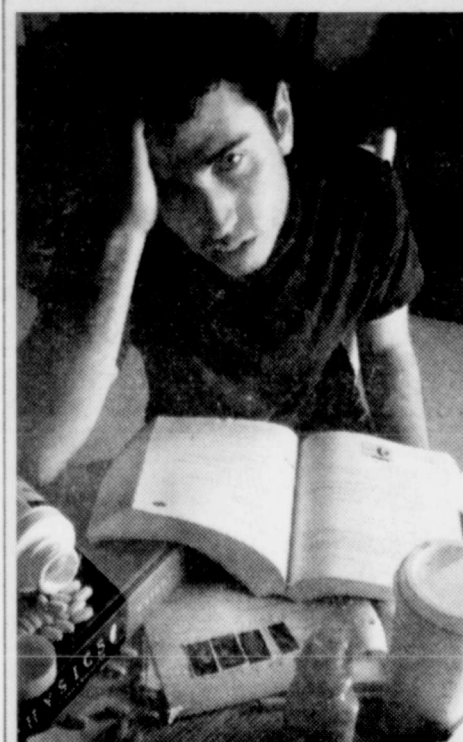
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WORD ON THE STREET

What would you rather have: world peace or your own apartment?



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-Roeurn Tourn, computer engineering junior



"I'd rather have an apartment, because Brian (Planas) wants world peace."

-Emily Carlip, architectural engineering senior



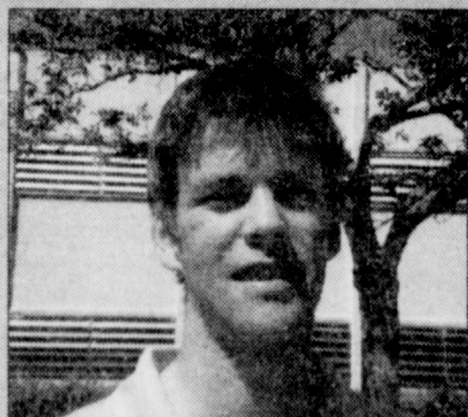
"World peace. I don't like apartments."

-Brian Planas, architectural engineering senior



"World peace for sure."

-William Pittman, biological sciences junior



"World peace. I can handle roommates fine."

-Eric Gasper, civil engineering senior



"I'll take world peace if it means Brian (Planas) shaves."

-Melissa McKinney, architectural engineering senior

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY LETICIA RODRIGUEZ

Drug already sold may reduce risk of prostate cancer

Thomas H. Maugh II

LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES — Men at an above-normal risk of prostate cancer may be able to reduce their risk of developing the disease by taking a drug already on the market.

In research reported Wednesday, the drug dutasteride, currently used to shrink enlarged prostates, was found to reduce the risk of prostate cancer by about a quarter in high-risk men. The medication, sold under the brand name Avodart, apparently caused small tumors to stop growing or even to shrink, the team reported in The New England Journal of Medicine.

A previous study had found that a similar drug, finasteride, could also lower the risk of prostate tumors, but the new research — conducted at 250 sites in 42 countries — suggests that dutasteride is slightly more effective.

The new study "is further evidence that there is a role for these drugs in risk reduction," said Dr. Jack Jacob, a medical oncologist at Orange Coast Memorial Medical Center in Fountain Valley, who was not involved in the study. "If a patient understands all the issues (associated with the drug), I think it would be appropriate to provide it."

Dr. Howard M. Sandler, an oncologist at the Cedars-Sinai Medi-

cal Center in Los Angeles, was even more emphatic: "The question might be, why isn't every man taking one of these drugs? They help people urinate better by shrinking the prostate, they probably reduce baldness and they reduce the risk of prostate cancer. There seems to be very little downside to them."

GlaxoSmithKline, which manufactures Avodart, said on Monday that it would apply to the Food and Drug Administration for permission to market the drug for risk reduction in men with high PSA levels — a measure of prostate cancer risk — a family history of the disease or other risk factors, such as ethnicity.

But because the drug is already available, doctors don't need to wait for such permission to prescribe it as a preventive. Considering the low risk of the drug, that might be a safe option, experts said. Insurance companies are not likely to pay for it for that purpose, however, until the FDA approves it.

Both dutasteride and finasteride, sold by Merck & Co. Inc. under the brand name Proscar, are already approved for treating benign prostatic hyperplasia, or BPH, an enlargement of the prostate gland that caused urinary and other problems.

Prostate tumors and BPH are driven by the male hormone dihy-

see Drug, page 7

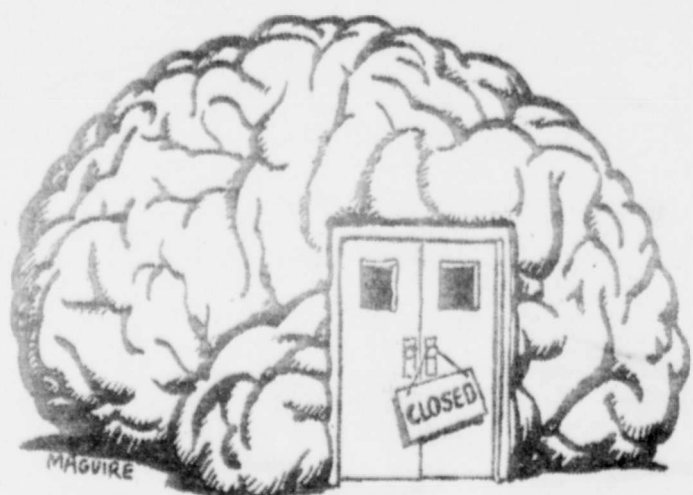


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Humane Society stirs conflict with agribusiness

Matt Campbell

MIC CLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — An escalating culture war in the United States pits our appetites against our compassion for animals — and the Midwest is a key battleground.

Agriculture interests see an enemy in The Humane Society of the United States. One of their main voices calls the animal-welfare organization a bunch of “humaniacs” who ultimately want to remove the eggs and bacon from your plate, the burger from your bun and the dog from the foot of your bed.

Unfazed, the Humane Society dismisses what its director calls a “bilge pump” of lies and defamations. It is pushing ahead, state by state, for laws against cruelty, from “puppy mills” to intensive confinement of animals in factory farms.

This is getting ugly.

Some of the arenas:

—In Kansas, the president of the state Farm Bureau is firing off complaints to corporations that show signs of empathy with the society.

—In Missouri, there may be a surreal showdown on the November ballot over a proposed law to regulate dog breeders — its opponents are led by the head of the state pork association.

—Nationally, agribusiness interests launch daily salvos against the society through a new outlet at Humane-Watch.org.

The society says its critics are spewing inflammatory rhetoric.

“They see (our) strength and they’re very paranoid about it,” said society president Wayne Pacelle. “But we remind them and others that we are seeking simply to curb the worst abuses in livestock.”

The industry doesn’t buy that.

“Ultimately, the Humane Society wants to make it more difficult to produce livestock on the scale that this country requires to meet demand,” said Don Lipton, a spokesman for the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Industry argues that agriculture is vitally important to the economy and that each farmer produces food to sustain 155 people. Unnecessary rules

on animal welfare pushed by the society, it says, will drive up prices, cause food shortages and force farmers out of business.

The society denies that it wants to destroy livestock production, although it does advocate eating less meat for health reasons and because livestock farms are heavy greenhouse-gas emitters.

The Humane Society is a big operation with 11 million supporters who contributed nearly \$87 million in 2008. It calls itself a mainstream voice with a mission “to celebrate animals and confront cruelty.”

Among its crusades, the society fights against intensive confinement of livestock in factory farms. That includes cages with floor spaces smaller than a piece of typing paper for egg-laying hens and crates for pregnant sows that don’t allow them to move around for months.

The society also presses poultry producers to switch to gas to kill animals as a more humane approach than “electrically shocking them into paralysis, cutting their throats while they are conscious and sometimes even drowning them in tanks of scalding water.”

Among the society’s tactics is to buy stock in publicly held corporations so it can introduce shareholder resolutions for more humane animal treatment. It has aimed this tool at McDonald’s, Tyson Foods, Smithfield Foods and The Kroger Co., and intends to use it with Jack in the Box, Steak ‘n Shake and Domino’s Pizza.

Among the society’s victories have been announcements by some companies, such as Wendy’s, Sonic Corp. and Subway, that they will start to buy cage-free eggs. Wal-Mart, the nation’s largest grocery, said last month that all of the eggs under its own label were now cage-free.

The society has also successfully promoted ballot initiatives or legislation in a succession of states to ban intensive livestock confinement. At least six states now have laws banning or phasing out sow-gestation crates.

One of the society’s biggest triumphs was in California, where 63 percent of voters in 2008 approved a law to phase out the confinement

of animals “in a manner that does not allow them to turn around freely, lie down, stand up and fully extend their limbs.”

The success of the California initiative “sent a shudder up the spines of many involved in animal agriculture,” said Meatingplace.com, an industry news outlet.

Defenders of big livestock production say it is in farmers’ self-interest not to abuse their animals.

does not make a lot of grants. Instead, it champions legislation across the country, as well as operates five large animal-care sanctuaries and provides mobile veterinary care in poor areas.

The 115,000-member Kansas Farm Bureau is also in the fray. Baccus recently sent a letter to the chief executive officer of Bank of America, urging the institution to reconsider donating 25 cents to the society for every \$100 charged on one of its

that enforcement against cruel and unhealthy conditions is lacking.

The Better Business Bureau reports that in the last three years, there have been 352 consumer complaints over sick puppies and unexpected veterinary bills in Missouri.

The Humane Society is working to collect about 100,000 signatures to place a measure on the ballot in November to regulate “puppy mills.”

Among other things, it would limit breeders to 50 sexually intact animals.

Agribusiness interests say the bill does nothing to boost enforcement and is a feint by the society to increase its leverage against livestock.

“The dog-breeder issue is simply the beginning, we feel, of what can happen in the future with a broader agenda relating to agriculture,” said Estil Fretwell, spokesman for the Missouri Farm Bureau.

Agribusiness recently formed Missourians for Animal Care to fight the initiative. The chairman is the director of the Missouri Pork Association.

The industry also supports a bill in the General Assembly to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot in November to establish the right to raise domesticated animals in a humane manner whether dogs or hogs without “undue economic burden” from the state. The bill has passed the House and is pending in the Senate.

Another pending bill would create a state livestock-welfare board similar to the one in Ohio.

“It is just to make for certain that agricultural regulations are based on sound science and not upon emotions,” said Fretwell.

“We don’t want outside groups coming into our state trying to get their agendas forced upon us.”

The Humane Society’s Pacelle said that the “puppy mill” bill had nothing to do with livestock and that industry used the same false argument about threats to farmers before Missourians approved a cockfighting ban in 1998.

“I think it’s a shame that mainstream agriculture would allow itself to be associated with cockfighting and puppy mills, which the public revile,” said Pacelle, who added that the society would fight both industry-backed efforts.

Ultimately, the Humane Society wants to make it more difficult to produce livestock on the scale that this country requires to meet demand.

—Don Lipton

Spokesman for the American Farm Bureau Federation

“If the farmer or rancher wants to be profitable, he has to take care of the animals so they can take care of him,” said Steve Baccus, president of the Kansas Farm Bureau.

He added that cages keep chickens from injuring each other and crates prevent sows from crushing their piglets.

But the Humane Society’s successes have been a wake-up call for the industry, said Lipton of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The Center for Consumer Freedom, which bills itself as a research organization on food, beverage and lifestyle issues, last month launched a Web site to fight back. It accuses the society of soaking up money from people who mistakenly believe the national organization helps support their local dog and cat shelters. It then uses that money, critics say, to promote its extremist agenda.

The society acknowledges that it does not run local animal shelters and

credit cards.

And last month, Baccus wrote the CEO of Sonic with a warning about its new animal-welfare policy.


“I have heard from literally hundreds of our members who say, as a result of your decision, they’ve made their last visit to Sonic,” Baccus wrote.

In Ohio, agribusiness tried to preempt the society’s influence by proposing a state board of its own choosing to set livestock-care standards. The society took a setback when voters overwhelmingly approved that constitutional amendment. But now the society is coming back with a proposed referendum to set the minimum standards the new board would have to accept.

Agribusiness in other states are watching the Ohio experience. But the immediate issue here is dogs.

Missouri commercially breeds more puppies than any other state, and the state auditor’s office has found

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Drug

continued from page 5

drotestosterone, which is produced from testosterone by two forms of an enzyme called 5-alpha reductase. Proscar inhibits one form of the enzyme. Avodart inhibits both forms, especially the form that plays a more important role in prostate cancer, "and the expectation is that dutasteride would be a better drug," said Dr. Gerald Andriole of the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, who headed the new study.

That proved to be the case, he said.

Andriole and his colleagues enrolled 8,231 men, ages 50 to 75, who had elevated levels of PSA but no evidence of prostate tumors on a biopsy. Half received dutasteride daily for four years; half received a placebo. All the men received biopsies two years after enrollment and again two years later.

Overall, 659 men taking dutasteride were diagnosed with prostate cancer (19.9 percent), compared to 858 men (25.1 percent) taking a placebo — a 23 percent reduction. Among men with a family history of prostate cancer, the drug reduced risk by 31.4 percent.

The risk reduction occurred primarily in tumors of moderate aggressiveness, the type that accounts for about 70 percent of all prostate tumors in the general population. That means that men "are less likely

to be diagnosed with cancer that is not likely to kill them, so they are less likely to undergo aggressive treatment," Andriole said. "That spares the anxiety of cancer diagnosis and the costs of treatment."

The treatment also reduces BPH and its associated problems. A final benefit is that it reduces PSA levels and makes the assay a more sensitive indicator of tumors, a result that will be reported in a separate paper. "If the PSA level starts rising while a man is on this drug, that is a very strong signal that he has an aggressive tumor" and needs a biopsy, Andriole said.

About 5 percent of the men developed sex-related side effects, including reduced libido, poor erections and complaints about ejaculation, similar to the proportion who suffered them when taking the drug for BPH. Those effects were all reversible if they stopped taking the drug.

Price may also be a problem. According to GlaxoSmithKline, the wholesale cost of Avodart is \$3.23 per pill. Finasteride is available in a generic form and is thus cheaper.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men after skin cancer, affecting 192,000 men per year and killing 27,000. Men who are concerned about their prostate cancer risk can calculate it at: deb.uthscsa.edu/URORiskcalc/pages/uroriskcalc.jsp.

The study was funded by Glaxo-SmithKline; Andriole is a consultant to the company.

Briefs

State

SAN LUIS OBISPO (MCT)

— The owners of four Paso Robles elder care homes allegedly used the promise of a better life to lure at least three people from the Philippines to work as caregivers, then forced them to labor for little or no pay and threatened to kill their families if they fled.

FBI investigators searched the homes run by Maximino "Max" and Melinda Morales of Paso Robles on Tuesday after allegations of human trafficking surfaced late last year. According to the FBI, the Moraleses are charged with harboring illegal immigrants, which carries a maximum statutory penalty of 10 years in federal prison per person smuggled.

Several charges will likely be added against the Moraleses including trafficking with peonage, slavery, involuntary servitude or forced labor, the FBI said.

LOS ANGELES (MCT)

— The Swiss government won't consider the L.A. District Attorney's Office request to extradite Roman Polanski to the United States until a California appeals court rules on whether the director can be sentenced in a 1970s sex case in absentia.

In December, the court suggested that Polanski ask to be sentenced in absentia for the statutory rape he admitted committing 32 years ago.

National

WASHINGTON (MCT)

— The first customer for the Chevrolet Volt also happens to be its largest investor, the Obama administration.

The White House said Wednesday that the government will "purchase the first 100 plug-in electric vehicles to roll off American assembly lines" before the end of the year.

The Volt, which GM describes as an extended range electric vehicle, is the only model that fits that description. GM began building its first production Volts at the Detroit-Hamtramck plant on Tuesday.

GEORGIA (MCT)

— The Great Recession has yet to claim J.C. Butler's warehouse job on the north side of metro Atlanta.

But now it has eradicated his means of getting there. Butler, 57, lives in Clayton County, a majority-black, working-class suburb on Atlanta's south flank that killed off its local bus system Wednesday over concerns about a \$19 million countywide budget shortfall.

The demise of the buses is among the most dramatic of the scores of public transit cutbacks enacted across the U.S. in recent months as agencies adjust to plummeting government revenues.

International

SUDAN (MCT)

— Sudan's government on Tuesday slapped the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) saying it had only discussed the power-sharing with them in Chad and submitted a series of "impossible demands."

On Monday, JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim held a press conference in Doha announcing the willingness of the rebel group to negotiate with Khartoum government and accused the later of stalling the peace process.

In a press conference held in Doha on Tuesday after his return from Khartoum, Amin Hassan Omer, government top negotiator accused JEM of neglecting the demands of Darfur people and negotiating only with them on the positions and jobs they want to get in the government and states' functions.

HAITI (MCT)

— Pledging to work in partnership with a Haitian-led reconstruction effort, foreign aid donors Wednesday promised more than \$4.8 billion toward rebuilding the earthquake-ravaged country.

Heading the line of pledges at the start of the much-anticipated Donors Conference was the United States with \$1.15 billion of the \$2.8 billion the Obama administration is seeking from Congress to help jump-start the country's recovery over the next 18 months.

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Bay area band Crackerjack Highway to perform at Mr. Rick's in Avila Beach

Rhiannon Montgomery
MUSTANG DAILY

Crackerjack Highway will play jazz-melded-funk-rock music from their debut album for the first time in the San Luis Obispo area this weekend at Mr. Rick's in Avila Beach.

The visiting band has an eclectic new album influenced by some of the most popular jazz, classic and modern rock bands.

Mark Schuh, lead vocals and guitarist, said they play everything from their own songs to a few covers of Miles Davis, The Doobie Brothers and Radiohead in a set.

"We've got an interesting mix, as much as we're influenced by these guys, we don't really sound like them," Schuh said.

Schuh said the musicians have a diverse musical background and it shows in the sound on the record. The drummer, Aaron Xavier, studied jazz music, the guitarists are "classic rock

kids" and the bass player has toured with folk singer Lisa Loeb. They may be fairly new as a group, but the individual members have also played with Shawn Colvin, Soulive, Melvin Sparks, Eric McFadden and Umphrey's McGee.

Crackerjack formed in San Francisco 2007 as an instrumental group. Schuh said they found there was not a big enough market for what they were doing and decided to add vocals. Schuh joined the group approximately a year ago as the lead singer and has helped bring the band to a larger audience.

Schuh said with the changes they stepped up promotion and were able to record their first album, which was released last week. He said this is the band's first tour outside of the Bay Area.

The five-member ensemble is playing shows up and down the West Coast and finished their Oregon leg last week.

Road gigs are famous for band antics and Crackerjack Highway is working on living up to the reputation. Schuh said it's been a lot of fun being on the road, and keyboardist Kevin Wong got a little crazy with a vaporizer on the Oregon trip and was laughing so hard tears started pouring down his face.

"We asked him what was so funny. He said he was just too stoned and couldn't stop," Schuh said laughing.

Schuh said they've had a lot of laughs on the road, but didn't think many stories would be suitable for printing.

The trip to Avila was an idea they got from a group that had previously played at Mr. Rick's and said they loved the atmosphere of the place. Schuh contacted the tavern soon after to make it part of the tour. Levi Caron, booking and promotion manager at the venue, said he was impressed by the band's original sound.

"I checked out their MySpace page



COURTESY PHOTO

Crackerjack Highway from left to right Mark Schuh, lead vocals and guitar, Kevin Wong, keyboard, Joe Quigley, bass and vocals, Nate Silverman, guitar and vocals, Aaron Xavier, drums and vocals.

to hear the music, and it seems like they're really dialed in," Caron said.

Caron said he thought they would be perfect for the laid-back Sunday

crowd. He said customers come in swimsuits and enjoy the music and

see Crackerjack, page 9

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Crackerjack

continued from page 8

food.

Mr. Rick's is a beachside bar with a patio and an ocean view. Caron said people wander in from the sand to hang out, have drinks and play pool. The bar has live music and dancing every weekend year-round.

Caron said this time of year is when they start having bigger events. He said one of their most popular nights is the Friday night farmer's market on the promenade. The bar has a band play out on the patio and

hosts an after-party. Melanie O'Keefe of Pismo spends her time hanging out on the patio.

"It's perfect. There's a great ocean view, and the food and drinks are great," O'Keefe said.

Caron said they have a lot of regulars, but don't see very many Cal Poly students or people from San Luis Obispo. He said they've been advertising more in downtown to draw residents, and Shuh and Caron said this weekend's show is going to be "great."

"We're going to rock your socks off," Schuh said.

Crackerjack Highway is scheduled to play Sunday, April 4 at 3 p.m.

Palin

continued from page 10

but yourself."

The "Real American Stories" Web site is still up, now as an extension of the television series. The site currently includes profiles of Americans, including some celebrities, who share their lessons about fulfilling their dreams and helping others.

The cable show hosted by Palin is being cast as program in the same vein, focused on inspirational people who have overcome obstacles in life. The premiere episode, which airs Thursday at 10 p.m. EDT, is set to feature a piece about a Marine who sacrificed his life for his fellow soldiers, and a story about a stockbroker who helps underprivileged youth pay for college.

"As Americans, we aspire to greatness," Palin says in a promo for the show. "When we dream, we dream

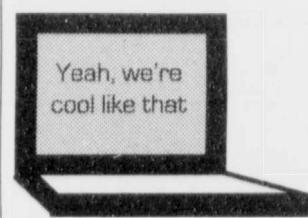
big. We reach out, we pick each other up. We pride ourselves on our make up and our character."

In its original release about the show, Fox News said LL Cool J and former General Electric Chief Executive Jack Welch would be featured in the first episode, talking about making it in America as part of a segment called "In Their Own Words." The network did not specify when the interviews were conducted.

Palin serves as host of the program and conducted some studio interviews. The premiere episode of "Real American Stories" is re-airing Sunday, but does not yet have a regular time slot.

None of the well-known figures who will be featured on the show, including country music star Toby Keith, were interviewed by Palin. But the former Alaska governor did conduct interviews before a live studio audience with people with stories of inspiration, such as a girl who risked her life to save a stranger.

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Calloway Dreams joins San Luis Obispo singer-songwriter community

Kelly Cooper
MUSTANG DAILY

Acoustic band Calloway Dreams will open for Pure Water Construction Band at Backstage Pizza Friday night. Composed of two guitarists and a female singer, Calloway Dreams blends powerful vocals and relaxed melodies.

Guitarists Brandon Morris, a Cuesta student, and Cal Poly crop science sophomore Martin Etcheverry began playing together last fall after meeting through mutual friends. They rehearsed with a male vocalist before he moved away, and shortly after, Morris met Cuesta student Katie Boyer after her introduction on the first day of class.

"I usually don't say anything about my music stuff. But the professor said, 'Say something interesting about yourself,' so I said I like singing and playing piano," Boyer said.

"And I thought, 'This has to be our singer,'" Morris said.

The group said after incorporating Boyer, they almost effortlessly found their sound, pulling from influences such as John Mayer and Taylor Swift to create melodious ballads carried by easy-to-listen-to tones. Emphasizing the unity of female vocals and acoustics, the band wants to create a sense of appeal to a wide range of listeners.

"When we listen to a song, we all agree that the first thing that catches us is the melody," Morris said. "That's usually how we write our songs."

Their sound, however, strays far from their personal tastes in music, which ranges from country to hard-core rock. Yet the three are able to meet in the middle, finding a common playing style and lyrics they



COURTESY PHOTO

Calloway Dreams, comprised of Cuesta and Cal Poly students, will open for Pure Water Construction Band Friday night at Backstage Pizza.

still enjoy. Close friend and fan Tim Koppi, who has listened to the group since the start, has watched them sacrifice their preferences for a common ground.

"(Etcheverry and Morris) have polar opposite tastes and music. It's cool how they both were willing to find a middle and adapt to different playing styles to accommodate Katie," he said.

Their playing style is directly built around their songwriting, which the band said is the most rewarding part. However, because most of the songs are written by Morris and Etcheverry, Morris said the lyrics don't fall into place as easily when writing for a female.

"I'm trying to put myself in her shoes, which is hard. But you take what you know," Morris said.

With just a five-song demo released, they continue to write with a focus on attaching lyrics with emotions. The feelings associated with the songs, they said, is what distinguishes

a genuine artist from a media-masked performer. True musicianship, they said they believe, encompasses not only performance, but original songwriting as well.

"Obviously, Carrie Underwood is super talented, but I don't believe what she says when she sings. But when I hear an Eric Church song, I know he wrote this. I know what he means," Morris said.

Finding lyrical inspiration from artists such as Jack's Mannequin, Etcheverry prefers to write about the inescapable ups and downs of relationships.

"We try to look at the good and bad side of relationships," Etcheverry said. "We're just trying to get all the different moods."

Boyer, a more secretive songwriter, finds it difficult to thread the thoughts together. Although she has not shared her personal songs with the group yet, she said

see Dreams, page 11

Rapper LL Cool J no longer to appear on Sarah Palin's new show

Matea Gold
LOS ANGELES TIMES

NEW YORK — The announcement by Fox News on Tuesday that LL Cool J would be featured in the debut episode of a new show hosted by Sarah Palin provoked surprise among many — including, apparently, the rapper himself, who wrote on his Twitter account late Tuesday that he had not participated in the show.

"Fox lifted an old interview I gave in 2008 to someone else and are misrepresenting to the public in order to promote Sarah Palin's Show," he tweeted. "WOW."

Fox News said the program, "Real American Stories," included an interview the performer gave to the network as part of an online project of the same name that launched during the 2008 election. But producers are now excising his

interview from the show after LL Cool J, whose real name is James Todd Smith, raised objections.

"Real American Stories" features uplifting tales about overcoming adversity and we believe Mr. Smith's interview fit that criteria," a spokeswoman for the network said. "However, as it appears that Mr. Smith does not want to be associated with a program that could serve as an inspiration to others, we are cutting his interview from the special and wish him the best with his fledgling acting career."

LL Cool J did not immediately respond to requests for comment made through his Twitter account or his manager. On Wednesday morning, while the news that Fox had cut him from the show was breaking, the star of "NCIS: Los Angeles" tweeted that "Nobody can bring you peace

see Palin, page 9

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Networks tuning back into families for television programming

Mary McNamara

LOS ANGELES TIMES

For a while there, it looked like family television was dead. In answer to the hard-R rating of cable, both network dramas and comedies became increasingly dark, grisly and/or sexually oriented, while the family comedy, once the keystone of prime time, dwindled to "The Simpsons" and a couple of live-action shows, one of which was "Two and a Half Men."

Finding a show the whole family could watch was virtually impossible — the kids got Disney Channel, Cartoon Network, Nickelodeon and asked to turn the volume down. Oh, there was always Animal Planet and, of course, "American Idol," but in terms of scripted shows, programming seemed bound by isolated demographics.

It was strange, considering the "familification" of virtually everything else. But this past fall, with very little fanfare, television got back on message. Between the recent renaissance of the family comedy and the increasing popularity of kinder, gentler crime-solving shows, the long-lost family hour has quietly reconstructed itself.

After years of being dominated by shows about graphic police work,

medical procedurals and the sexual antics of friends and colleagues, the television landscape is once again dotted by homesteads, ringing with the sound of multigenerational and mostly non-propane voices.

Obviously, "family-friendly" is possibly the most subjective term in the English language (after "a woman's size 6") and the standards of language, violence and sexuality are, like that size 6, much more elastic than they were 20 or 10 or even five years ago. (Which means, among other things, that we're all going to have to get used to the fact that "sucks" is the new "stinks.") Crime shows and even medical shows are gorier than they were in the day of "Murder, She Wrote," while animated shows with crude language and adult humor, such as Fox's "The Family Guy" and its spinoff, "The Cleveland Show," blur even simple things like genre.

But while no one's saying that "The Wonderful World of Disney" is back on prime time, two significant things have returned: a Nick and Nora detective sensibility, and actual children, who have been strangely MIA pretty much since "Malcolm in the Middle" ended four years ago.

For the last few years, CBS had the two most successful family (or family-ish) comedies — "Two and a

Half Men" and "The New Adventures of Old Christine," but they followed in the footsteps of "Everybody Loves Raymond," focusing on the adults; the kids were mostly props.

But last fall brought a slew of shows in which children at least

the level of sexuality in the story lines, there are no obscenities and the only violence comes in the form of seriously high C's and heavy hip action.

Then, last fall, ABC single-handedly resurrected the family comedy, making Wednesday night the new Thursday night. "The Middle" follows the hilarious exploits of a working-class Midwestern nuclear family (and is so traditional it stars Patricia Heaton), while "Modern Family" goes multigenerational and socially aware, with its May/December second marriage and gay couple with adopted child.

They are followed by "Cougar Town," which is more of a sex comedy — and features one of those irritating new mothers who's always complaining about how hard it is over endless drinks with the girls — but the primary relationship between the lead character, her son and her ex-husband makes it a PG-13 hybrid.

At midseason, Fox gave us "Sons of Tucson" and NBC finally launched Ron Howard's "Parenthood," a dramedy based on the popular film by the same name that follows another extended family as they wrestle with divorce, commitment and middle-class angst, but with more pathos than comedy.

Finding a show the whole family could watch was virtually impossible.

—Mary McNamara

Los Angeles Times

shared the spotlight. First there was Fox's "Glee," a show that capitalized on the Disney-led, "American Idol" fed rediscovery of hoofin' and singin'. "Glee" is all about the kids. And while some viewers object to

Dreams

continued from page 10

she is still writing for herself, testing songs on both guitar and piano.

"I don't think about who I'm writing for, I just write for myself. I can put thoughts together, but to turn it into a song is really challenging," she said.

Collectively tying their talents together, the group has played a few shows around the San Luis Obispo area, hoping for more to come. San Luis Obispo events host Casey McDonald is excited for the band to join the singer-songwriter community. Having hosted showcases for over a year, McDonald has helped the band book two shows at The Clubhouse in San Luis Obispo, and is eager to continue working with them.

"They have a very lyrical style. Katie's voice is great. The combination of her voice and acoustic guitar is light and very pleasing to the ear," McDonald said. "More importantly, they seem to get along and that trans-

lates to the performance."

In their short time together, the group has had almost no problems, aside from the inevitable exhaustion from school. However, because both Boyer and Morris are waitlisted for Cal Poly, the future of the group may be their biggest obstacle yet. But they are looking forward, ready to accept whatever direction finds them.

"Every setback is the setup for a comeback. Like when our singer moved away and then we found Katie, and now we're 10 times more badass. It's just like one step back and two steps forward," Etcheverry said.

The band may take larger steps forward in the future, such as bigger shows and more promotion, but for now, just baby steps.

"If you like playing and writing music, then play and write as much as you can. If you get a few gigs, great. If you don't, so what? You don't play music to become famous," Morris said.

The free concert starts at 6 p.m. and is open to the public.

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Mustang Daily

"Just don't put lettuce, please."

OPINION/EDITORIAL

Thursday, April 1, 2010

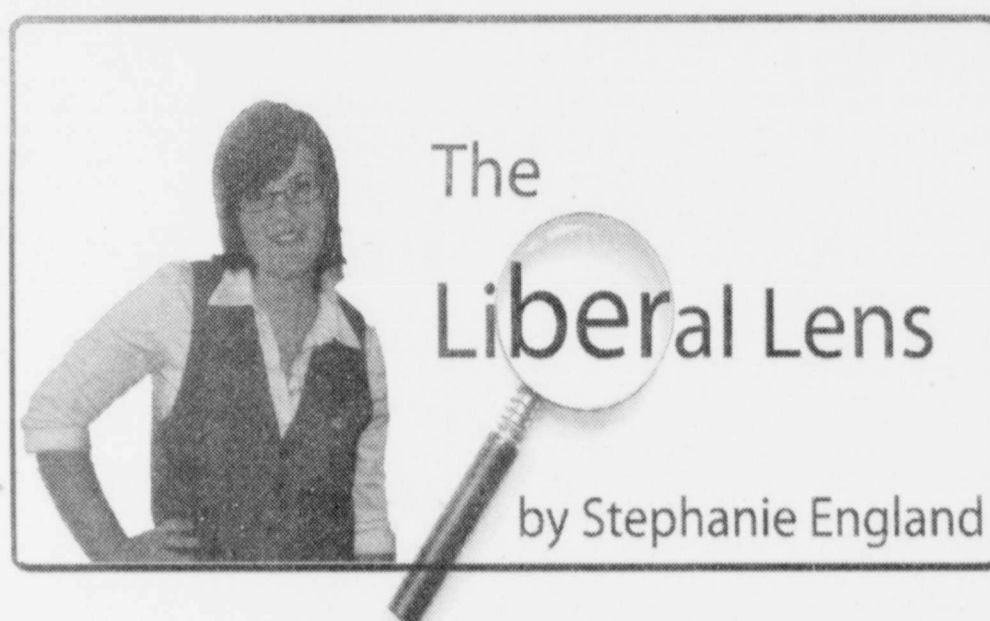
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Health care bill not as radical as projected



After all of the flying bricks, fanatical protests and frenzied tea parties, the controversial health care reform bill passed. It has been 12 days since the bill passed, and I have yet to see any hammers and sickles or murals of Obama in military garb painted on City Hall downtown. I'm actually very interested to see all of the prophetic words spoken during the creation of the bill challenged by the results of the new programs implemented by the health care reform bill.

Indeed, I have heard so much about what this bill might create in the distant future that I lost sight of what the programs and reforms actually were. Not surprisingly, I discovered that the reforms are not as radical as I was made to fear. Hasn't that always been the case in the history of the United States? We tend to fear more than we should.

Beginning in six months, health insurance companies will no longer

be able to deny children insurance based on pre-existing conditions, nor can they drop people from coverage when they get sick; in 2014, health insurance companies will no longer be able to deny any person insurance based on preexisting conditions. Also, insurance companies must allow parents to keep their children on their insurance until the child turns 26. This will directly affect a significant portion of the Cal Poly campus.

There are other reforms that are more controversial, of course. If an employee of a large business buys into the federal insurance exchange, the bill then requires large businesses to offer employees health coverage or face a fine of \$2,000 per employee. However, the bill also provides tax incentives to all employers, making the offer of coverage affordable.

There is also an individual mandate, which requires individuals to purchase health insurance, whether from the government or from a pri-

ivate provider. However, a person is free to keep their private insurance, or they may choose to buy into the exchange at a significantly reduced cost.

The portion of the health care reform bill that will affect you and me the most, perhaps, has nothing to do with health care reform. In a move hailed as the most significant federal reform to education since No Child Left Behind, Democratic legislators also added college aid reform to the health care reform bill, which provides significant relief and protection to us starving college students.

As a result of the reform bill, private lenders (formerly the primary loan providers) will be eliminated from the process. The simple elimination of the private sector in this process will eliminate \$36 billion in waste. President Obama and Democratic legislators have chosen to redirect the \$36 billion savings into new Pell Grant funding, which secures the necessary future of the Pell Grant.

They have also reformed the way we repay our student loans. Beginning in 2014, those of us who had to take out loans to attend college will only be required to devote 10 percent of our monthly income to loan payments, and after making payments on our loans faithfully for 20 years, the debt will be forgiven.

See how much Obama cares?

Stephanie England is an English sophomore and Mustang Daily columnist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Response to article about Jeff Halper

Once again Jeff Halper comes to Cal Poly to remind the students that "during the Six-Day War in 1967, Israel captured multiple territories in the region including the West Bank and the Gaza Strip." Do Cal Poly students think the Arab nations were innocently living in peace and were suddenly overtaken by surprise by a premeditative Israel?

If so, I say: Beware of propagandists brought to campus to deceive you! Be skeptical! Do the research! The Library has newspapers (on microfilm) that tell the day-by-day story. Read the back issues of the LA Times beginning weeks before June 5th, 1967. You will learn that Egypt expelled the UN Peacekeeping troops from the Sinai desert where they were stationed since the mid '50s, moved in the Egyptian army to Israel's southern border, and blockaded Israeli shipping lanes through the Straits of Tiran in the Red Sea (an act of war). The leaders of the surrounding Arab countries bragged that Israel was about to be destroyed and the Jews driven into the sea. All this took place when the Gaza Strip was governed by Egypt and the West Bank was governed by Jordan. The PLO (Arafat) was formed three years earlier with the expressed aim of destroying Israel.

The fundamental problem is the Arab world has always been against the existence of the State of Israel, even as far back as WWII when the main leader of the Palestinian Arabs — Amin el Hussein — spent WWII in Berlin as an advisor to Hitler and begged for the extermination of the Palestinian Jews. Today, the mainstream media shield the American people from the full truth. How many of us have ever been told that the Hamas charter says, "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it?" How can you make peace with people of that religious mentality?

Gary Epstein

Cal Poly professor emeritus of mathematics

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BARRY MAGUIRE NEWSART

The price of education increases while degree legitimacy decreases

Karen Stabiner

LOS ANGELES TIMES

It's admissions notification season at colleges and universities nationwide, so let's congratulate the big winners.

Families who face payments of \$50,000 a year over the next four years, for a bachelor's degree from a prestigious private university.

Families who face payments that will be at least 30 percent higher than last year, for a bachelor's degree from a University of California campus whose prestige is hanging by a budgetary thread.

Investing in the future, indeed. Parents get the chance to spend the price of a vacation home on an undergraduate degree, and seniors embrace senioritis with a vengeance, convinced that they have leapt modern life's only significant hurdle. Perhaps it's no coincidence that so many schools send out their admissions notifications on April Fool's Day. And these are the good-luck scenarios; I can't bring myself to shine a light on families who are paying top dollar for what they always considered a last-resort school.

A quick disclaimer: I speak as a fellow traveler. Three years later, I still have a visceral memory of the moment the large envelope arrived from a favored school — and of the far different chill when I computed what a single, one-semester required science class was going to cost.

It's an apparently recession-proof system. Despite pundits who forecast that the expensive and competitive logjam is about to break, schools seem to raise their rates annually and then await the stampede of eager customers.

We scrimp on cars, groceries, clothes. We convince ourselves that "less is more" is an aspiration and not a survival tactic. And then we go crazy, for a minimum of a year — scheming, waiting, dreading — all for the chance to spend buckets of cash on college.

What, exactly, do we think we're buying?

If you tell me it's a splendid psychology curriculum for your budding Freud, I bet you're lying. Admissions has become a contact sport. The real thrill is having your kid get into that school, especially if somebody else's kid didn't.

If you say it's ironclad security in a dwindling job market, here's a wake-up call: By the time your child is a junior, like mine, all you'll hear is, "In this economy, a bachelor's is meaningless. They've got to go to graduate school."

If you're a cynic or a "Mad Men" fan, you might admit you're building the family brand; the four-bedroom house, the six-burner stove, the 8-cylinder roadster and the Top 10 school.

The truth is, we're sitting ducks, stalled at the intersection of two fundamental American beliefs: You get what you pay for, and if everybody else wants it, it must be worth having. Getting our kids into college feels precariously like buying an Hermes Birkin bag, the \$5,000-and-up handbag that requires even famous people to sit on a wait-list for years.

Is there a purse anywhere in captivity that could possibly be worth all that money and effort? Of course, because look at how many people want the Birkin, and they can't all be crazy. And if they have that kind

of money to spend, can't they find something just as wonderful that's actually available? Of course not, because a principal part of its allure is its unattainability.

You could replace "Birkin" with "Harvard," "Yale" or "UC Berkeley" and see the feeding frenzy for what it is. And we haven't even gotten around to discussing the emotional cost, the poor dented kids who feel like failures because they're only in the top 5 percent of all the graduating seniors in the country.

One sadder but wiser undergraduate I know sees the smart move, in retrospect: Find a good school (you can safely dip below the Top 10 in the U.S. News & World Report rankings) where your odds are better than good, apply early, and take yourself out of the high-stakes roulette game.

This scenario seems only to lower the stress quotient, not the out-of-pocket expense, but pay attention: Often that good school has to try harder, and trying harder can mean the seductive allure of a merit scholarship. Tip the balance of desire — find a school that wants to distract you from the pie-in-the-sky schools — and the price might fall from astronomical to merely high. Or you might end up at a Cal State or an out-of-California land-grant university that turns out to be a better fit for your child.

Backing off the status track is a start, but it's no guarantee of either fiscal or psychic savings; that kind of reform requires collaboration with the institutional players. As I'm not running for political office, I can afford to make the following unpopular but appropriate suggestion:

Let's raise California's property

tax, just a little bit. Seriously. We've been coasting on Jarvisonomics since 1978 — very nice in the personal short view, not so hot in the educational long view. We need to reinvest in the state's Master Plan to keep high-quality education as affordable as possible, whether we have children in school or not.

But the state can't just cash the checks, whatever size they are, nor can the private schools. It's time for some accountability. Paying fees of \$50,000 a year, or a one-third increase, ought to buy us transparency. Let's have a lively debate about where

both public and private institutions might trim the fat, so that the cost/benefit ratio no longer mimics that of a luxury handbag.

There must be a more global solution out there — a universal remedy for a process that defies both fiscal and psychological gravity — but I'll have to leave that to the big thinkers whose kids are either too old or too young to be in college. As for me, I have to get back to work as long as those tuition bills keep coming.



Finally, someone who shares my understanding of Metal as good study music. It makes me feel alive, like I can take on anything, even that huge stack of homework. While it's great that she is doing that, and that it is spreading awareness ... this is not a new idea. <http://hungryforamonth.blogspot>.

com/2006_11_01_hungryforamonth_archive.html

Also, it made me laugh that people got so concerned. Most of the world lives on less than \$1 a day for food!

—Jameson

In response to "BLOG: Metal rocks my studios socks"

Has to be the \$40 million PR campaign, because we all know the OCOB hasn't invested shit in improving the quality of their programs.

—Anonymous

In response to "Orfalea College of

Business moves up in the ranks"

Unfortunately, many people tend to avoid all interactions with folks they disagree on a few issues that are seemingly important to them ... and this is sad, they miss the opportunity to collaborate on those important issues — and there are many of them — in which many do agree.

Listening to both sides of an issue should be part of a broader educational experience. FIRE is making that difference.

Very nice article.

—Roger Freburg

In response to "BLOG: non-partisan group a good example"

I don't know if FIRE does take a middle ground. Rather they try to be issue-neutral, which is quite different.

In other words, they likely feel very strongly that some people have their heads up their backsides. FIRE just happens to think that those people have an absolute right to have their heads up their backsides, and are willing to help protect that right.

—Anonymous

In response to "BLOG: non-partisan group a good example"

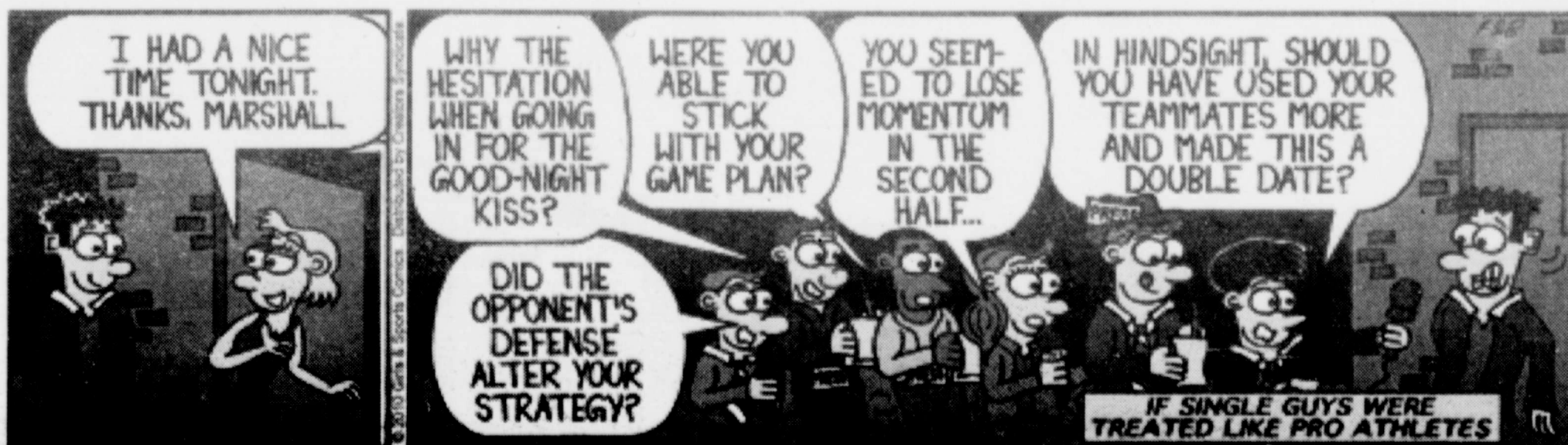
FIRE often represents the mi-

nority voice on campus ... the majority voice doesn't need free speech ... they own it.

—Roger Freburg

In response to "BLOG: non-partisan group a good example"

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



BY ANDREW FEINSTEIN

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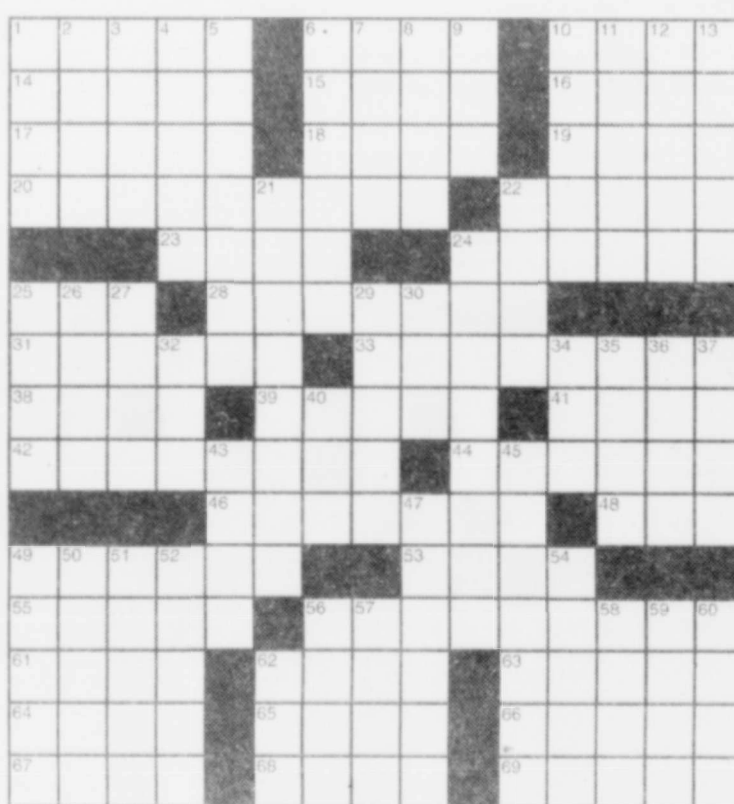
Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0225

- Across**
- 1 Antiaircraft missile
 - 6 Au
 - 10 Apple offering
 - 14 NPR's "Only"
 - 15 Ubangi tributary
 - 16 Choice at checkout
 - 17 Inspiration for "Troilus and Cressida"
 - 18 "Look at me, _____ helpless _____" (opening to "Misty")
 - 19 See 23-Across
 - 20 When said three times, a yuletide song
 - 22 Picnics, e.g.
 - 23 With 19-Across, borderer of four states
 - 24 Frees, in a way
 - 25 Follow relentlessly
 - 28 Simple sort
 - 31 Not so attractive
 - 33 Mixed
 - 38 Clod
 - 39 Title role in a 1950s TV western
 - 41 Bear in the sky
 - 42 Stick-to-it-iveness
 - 44 Artisan whose work is featured in this puzzle?
 - 46 County seat on the Des Moines River
 - 48 pal
 - 49 Well-defined
 - 53 Bean pot
 - 55 Is too cool
 - 56 1957 Disney tearjerker
 - 61 One in civvies who maybe shouldn't be
 - 62 Lost traction
 - 63 Santa _____, Calif.
 - 64 Scratch
 - 65 What a getaway car may be waiting in
 - 66 Literary invalid
 - 67 Remnants
- Down**
- 1 Fly (through) sensation
 - 2 "Sleeping" sensation
 - 3 Ambie, e.g.
 - 4 P.D.A. communiqué
 - 5 Delay cause
 - 6 Neighbor of Liberia
 - 7 San _____, Italy
 - 8 "There oughta be _____"
 - 9 Parts opposite some handles
 - 10 Freeze over
 - 11 Happy hour order
 - 12 Petula Clark's _____ of the "Times"
 - 13 Knight's activity?
 - 21 Emmy-winning Tom of "Picket Fences"
 - 22 Not conned by
 - 24 In a very generous manner
 - 25 Main, e.g.
 - 26 Figure in Magic: The Gathering
 - 27 Valley _____ redundantly named California community
 - 29 RCA competitor
 - 30 Actor John
 - 32 1986 showbiz autobiography
 - 34 Some punch for punch
 - 35 H.S. math

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

RIVET ARIB CALI
AVILA TABU AMEN
NAVEL OVER NOOK
KNICKS NIX NICKS
SAD TACO OTE
LOSE LOUS LOOS
SAKI INTO HRE
TRIPLES ESKIMOS
ENIILES NYSE
METEMEETMEAT
VIM RATS TIM
WRITERIGHTRITE
WIEN NEAP RANAT
OPEC TATI ACELA
PEKE SPEE LYSOL



Puzzle by Holden Baker

- 36 "Como _____?"
- 37 Gary who invented the Pet Rock
- 40 "_____ be a pleasure"
- 43 Regulated pollutants, for short
- 45 "Eeny-meeny-miney-mo" activity
- 47 Walk unsteadily
- 49 Captain of the Golden Hind
- 50 Any resident of 46-Across
- 51 Termagant
- 52 Bell sounds
- 54 "Abandon hope _____"
- 56 _____ English 800 (Miller brand)
- 57 Oscar winner Kedrova
- 58 Missing the boat, say
- 59 Santa's suitor in "The Flying Dutchman"
- 60 Some butters
- 62 1960s event

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Baseball

continued from page 16

Luke Yoder said. "But we can't define our season by getting the short end of the stick. That's just creating excuses for why we're doing as bad as we are."

This weekend, the Mustangs will have a way to reverse their fate with a clean slate at the start of conference play this season. Cal Poly will travel to UC Riverside Friday for their first Big West series of the season.

"What it really comes down to is that we are not playing to our capabilities," Yoder said. "We have the capability to do very well."

A year ago the Mustangs closed the season with the run at the record

books. They finished with a 37-21 overall record and clinched the first NCAA regional playoff berth in school history.

They haven't seen the same success this season.

Cal Poly has yet to win a weekend series — or hold a winning record — all season. Not to mention, the Mustangs have tasted defeat in 10 of their last 11 games.

Recently, the games have been closer. The seven-run deficits have dwindled to single-run leads, and the Mustangs have been one big hit away from several victories.

"We feel like we are on the right path right now," Brayton said. "We've been working hard, and we feel things are going to turn around soon — start going our way."

The competition could be a fac-

tor. Head coach Larry Lee is not one to stray away from a challenge; he is known for scheduling challenging opponents. This season, the Mustangs have squared off against four Pac-10 opponents and traveled to Arizona for the Coca-Cola Classic — a tournament that included teams like FIU, Arizona State and Oregon State. But, in each contest, Cal Poly kept the games close.

"It helps us out knowing that we are fully capable of playing with those top teams," Yoder said.

What's the way to get out of this funk? How do they raise the combined .285 batting average? How do they lower the staff 6.73 ERA?

"We need to continue to work hard," Yoder said. "No matter how tired you are, you have to try and get out (onto the field)."

The Mustangs will have a special incentive to work this week, as opposed to others. As far as they're concerned — this weekend — it is a new season.

"Stepping into conference we are 0-0. It's a new season; it's a new win loss column ... We have an opportunity for us — as a whole team — to have a clean slate and go out there to play to the best of our capabilities," Yoder said. "What's happened earlier on in the season is behind us."

Not including Wednesday's 7-5 loss against Loyola Marymount, freshman Mitch Haniger leads the Mustangs with a team-high .337 batting average coupled with 17 RBIs and a 14-game hitting streak. Along with Haniger, four other Mustangs are hitting above .300. Outfielder Bobby Crocker is hitting .317, second

Baseman Matt Jensen is hitting .316, Brayton stands at .311 and Yoder is hitting an even .300 on the season.

The Mustangs' first conference opponent, UC Riverside (12-8), may be a problem. The Highlanders are rolling off three victories in a four-game series against Saint Mary's this past weekend. They will send starting pitcher Matt Andriese (2-2, 6.27) to the mound Thursday, starting pitcher Dustin Emmons (4-1, 2.87) on Friday and starting pitcher Matt Larkins (2-2, 5.06) on Saturday.

Even if the early non-conference schedule has not rolled the Mustangs' way, every game means experience.

"It sucks; we don't like losing," Brayton said. "We're frustrated with it."

First pitch is set for Thursday at 6 p.m.

Smith

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With learning the X's and O's out of the way, Smith can focus on the little things.

"It's just football now," Smith said. "I know I can come out here and work. I know the things that I have to work on. I feel good."

During the first day of spring practice, Smith walked around the field with swagger. He held his chin high — it was his day to prove that he has what it takes to lead the Mustangs.

"This year, coming back, I can already see it today," cornerback Asa Jackson said. "(Smith) was throwing the ball, slinging it

around, looking good, putting the ball on the money, I can see (what he can be) — and I'm excited."

Completion after completion, his performance didn't go unnoticed — he impressed head coach Tim Walsh.

"I think Tony had a great practice today, and we want to see what he can do when he puts the pads back on," Walsh said.

But the position is not unanimously his. Standing in his shadow is Andre Broadous — a former Oregon State Player of the Year waiting to grab hold of the starting quarterback position. Broadous racked up 6,000 yards of total offense at Grant High School in 2006 and 2007. Last season, he saw limited playing time and didn't accumulate many stats.

"I'm athletic, and we run the triple-option here, so that works towards my strengths as a quarterback," Broadous said. "I just got to get the mental part down, adjusting the plays at the line of scrimmage, learning the offense, being a leader on and off the field — all the other intangibles besides the physical ones."

Still, Walsh isn't sold on a starting quarterback. It is either Smith, the experienced veteran who knows the offense well and has the numbers, or Broadous, the inexperienced athlete who has the intangibles to be your prototypical triple-option quarterback.

"Day one, without pads on, (Smith) demonstrated some of the things we wanted to see him do to continue to stay at quarterback.

On the same hand, we saw (Broadous) do some of the same things he needs to improve upon in order to be the quarterback," Walsh said.

Each wants to become the starter; neither wants to spend his season on the bench. Walsh plans to use that to both players' advantage. He said he is going to let the competitiveness of both players help him decide the starter.

"We want to make that position as competitive as we possibly can, for our team's growth but also push those two guys to be the two best players that they can be," Walsh said.

Each player has the skill set the other wants. Smith wants to improve an aspect of his game that Broadous possesses: athleticism.

"I want to become a better fac-

tor in the run game," Smith said. "I feel my training in the offseason has prepared me for that. I just need to do more of an explosive player, which I feel that I can be."

Broadous seeks to improve an aspect of his game that Smith utilizes: awareness.

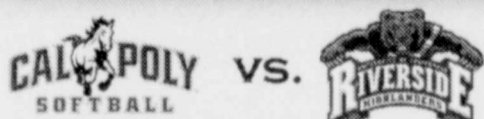
"I have a good arm," Broadous said. "I have the ability to make all the throws in this offense. I don't think the physical part is the problem for me right now ... (Smith) picked up to the offense faster than I did. He has more of the mental game than me."

For now, Smith looks like he will end up at the top of the depth chart, but Broadous is not going to sit back quietly.

"I'm hungry," Broadous said. "I want to start."

THIS WEEK IN CAL POLY ATHLETICS

SOFTBALL

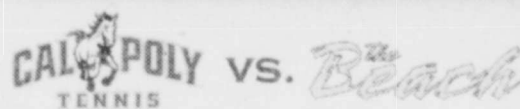


FRIDAY DOUBLE HEADER

Friday at 12:00 p.m.

Saturday at 12:00 p.m.

WOMEN'S TENNIS



MUSTANG COURTS

Friday at 1:30 p.m.

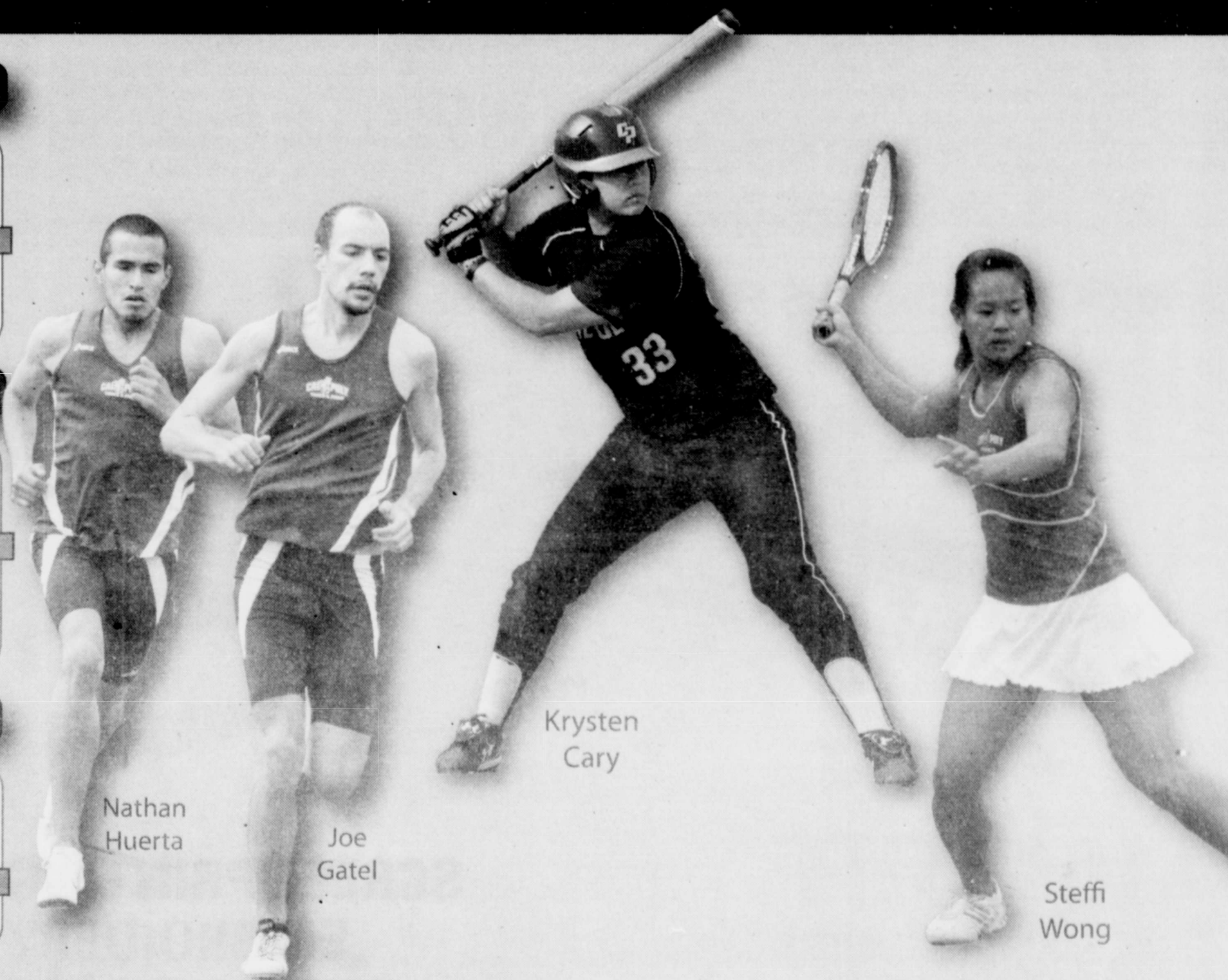
BATTLE FOR 1ST PLACE
IN THE BIG WEST...

TRACK AND FIELD



CAL POLY INVITATIONAL

Saturday All Day



Nathan
Huerta

Joe
Gatel

Krysten
Cary

Steffi
Wong

Admission for all Cal Poly Athletic Events is FREE for Cal Poly Students.

WE ARE THE MUSTANGS