**Garden Street Terraces approved**

**Kory Harbeck**

Garden Street Terraces, a hotel, residential and retail complex proposed for downtown San Luis Obispo, received a major boost when the San Luis Obispo Downtown Association delivered a “vote of confidence” for the project.

The area for the proposal is the block between Garden and Broad streets between Higuera and Marsh streets. The location is currently home to a parking lot, several stores, restaurants, bars and Bubblegum Alley.

The project consists of a 70-room hotel with a restaurant and café, 25,000 square feet of commercial/retail space, 53 residential units, and 162 parking spaces. It would also implement city-approved enhancements to Garden Street that have previously lacked funding for completion.

The project is currently in the planning stages at City Hall, but that has not stopped the developer, Westpac Investments Inc., from conducting a public outreach campaign that started in 2005, sending postcards to city residents asking for their opinions and concerns.

**California's top court legalizes gay marriage**

**Lisa Leff**

SAN FRANCISCO — California's Supreme Court declared Thursday that gay couples in the nation's biggest state can marry — a monumental but partial victory for the gay rights movement greeted with tears, hugs, kisses and at least one instant proposal of matrimony.

Same-sex couples could tie the knot as little as a month. But the window could close soon after — religious and social conservatives are pressing to pass a constitutional amendment that would put gay marriage on the ballot in November that would undo the Supreme Court ruling and ban gay marriage.

“Essentially, this boils down to love. We love each other. We now have equal recognition for our love and our family,” said Stuart Gaffney, right, kisses his partner of 21 years, John Lewis, after hearing the decision on same-sex marriages outside the State Supreme Court.

“In contrast to earlier times, our state now recognizes that an individual's capacity to establish a loving and long-term committed relationship with another person and responsibility to care for and have children is not dependent upon the individual's sexual orientation,” Chief Justice Ronald George wrote for the majority in ringing language that delighted gay rights activists. Politicians are talking about it. Rocker Tommy Lee and rapper Vanilla Ice's reality show "Barefoot in the Park" revolves around it. Sustainability and ecological awareness are growing more important to people around the world, so why not start working toward it at Brizzolara Creek on campus?

Seventy-two students endured the heat Thursday to participate in Creek Day as part of the Brizzolara Creek Education and Outreach Program and the senior project of Kevin Waldron, a city and regional planning senior working under assistant professor Adrienne Grove.

Waldron considers this an outlet for students to practice environmentalism. "Here, environmentalism is becoming a buzzword," he said. "People all agree that they're great words — environmental stewardship, for instance — but do people actually put their time into it?"

"All you can do is give students an opportunity and hope they take it." Creek Day involved three components: creek cleanup, which encompassed the area of the creek from the miscellaneous sports fields through Poly Canyon, minus the section of the creek within the Poly Canyon Village construction zone; wetland rehabilitation of a small section of the creek on the other side of the construction site; and gravel pit rehabilitation within Poly Canyon.

For the creek cleanup, volunteers picked up trash and brought full bags back to Dexter Laws. "A lot of people say (the creek) is trashy because their only knowledge of it is from the bridge between the parking lot and Campus Market," Waldron said. "They forget the gorgeous area of the creek."

The wetland rehabilitation was meant to protect native plants and ensure their livelihood by eradicating invasive species and "giving them the best possible chance to succeed."

The gravel pit, which used to be mined for red dirt, was turned into a "vote of confidence" for the project.

On the blog: Charter to start monitoring San Luis Obispo customers' Web surfing.

**In spite of Thursday's sweltering heat, Dr. Drew Pinsky discussed drug- and sex-related topics with students in the Recreation Center. For an in-depth look at his visit, read the arts section Monday.**
Marriage
continued from page 1
Massachusetts is the only other state to legalize gay marriage, something it did in 2004. The California ruling is considered monumental by virtue of the state's size — 38 million out of a U.S. population of 302 million — and its historic role in the vanguard of the many social and cultural changes that have swept the country since World War II.
California has an estimated 92,000 same-sex couples.
"It's about human dignity. It's about human rights. It's about time," San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, pumping his fist in the air, told a roaring crowd at City Hall. "As California goes, so goes the rest of the nation. It's inevitable.

Terrorises
continued from page 1
The public comment period just closed, and now the comments will be reviewed by the environmental consultant, who should issue a response by late July in time to go before the planning committee in August.
"People are more excited than not; the majority of the responses have been very positive," said Carol Florence, principal planner for Oxnard Associates, a landscape architect and project planning agency in charge of Garden Street Terraces.
"San Luis Obispo is not like other urban centers in the sense that we don't have a lot of residential in the downtown area," Florence said. "We are very hopeful and positive that this project will work very well to maintain and enhance downtown vitality.

Creek
continued from page 1
Again, no clear path through the debris to the wildlife there," Waldron said. "As the goal first and foremost was to have a healthy creek to support the wildlife there," Waldron said. "Making sure their customers have full access and they have plenty of notice concerning closures to accommodate their needs. Our priority is not to be a headache.
He added that all the businesses have been extremely positive and see the potential benefit for the city. At the heart of the matter is creating a hotel downtown, since the closest options currently are Apple Farm Inn on Monterey Street or Embassy Suites at Madonna Plaza.
If the proposal were to go forward, Garden Street would be home to a privately owned, non-franchised hotel that city planners hope will bring in visitors to revitalize downtown business.

The project as designed is also capable of a silver award from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification.
"From the get-go, it has been designed to be as sustainable as possible," Garcia said.

Most of the businesses that will be affected by the project reside in unreinforced masonry buildings that require retrofittings by 2012, meaning construction, relocation and possible closures are in the future for downtown, even without Garden Street Terraces.
"The fate of Bubblegum Alley has not yet been decided, but developers have implied they will act in accordance with city planners and community opinion.

Terraces
continued from page 1
The big issue is with existing businesses and minimizing the effect on them as much as possible," Garcia said. "Making sure their customers have full access and they have plenty of notice concerning closures to accommodate their needs. Our priority is not to be a headache.

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"The fate of Bubblegum Alley has not yet been decided, but developers have implied they will act in accordance with city planners and community opinion.
WORD ON THE STREET

“What is the best sunny day activity?”

Compiled and photographed by Rachel Glas

“I like to go wakeboarding. It’s a family tradition.”
— Athena Lawson, political science and journalism junior

“I like eating lunch in the University Union.”
— Brandon Rolle, music junior

“I like going to the beach with friends and reading a book.”
— Inna Treyger, business junior

“I like hanging out with Inna!”
— Melissa Feldman, business junior

BrieF

State

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The commission responsible for clearing runway sewage along the U.S.-Mexico border says it will upgrade an existing government wastewater plant in San Diego instead of paying a developer to build a new plant in Tijuana.

Thursday’s decision by the International Boundary and Water Commission appears to end a decade-long gambit by private Bajaqua to win millions in U.S. contracts to pump wastewater back to Mexico.

The commission is under federal court order to raise Mexican wastewater to U.S. standards by September but is seeking an extension.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Today is the first Spare the Air Day of the smog season, but there aren’t any free rides on Bay Area transit systems.

Air quality officials are ending the practice of providing free rides on smoggy days because federal grant money to cover the cost is running out.

Critics have long contended that the $2 million to cover a free day of transportation was too expensive.

So far this year, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission will set one day for free rides.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama accused President Bush on Thursday of launching a “false political attack” with a comment about appearing to negotiate with terrorists and radicals.

The Illinois senator interpreted the remark as a slam against him, but the White House denied that Obama’s words were in any way directed at Obama.

In a speech to Israeli Knesset, Bush said, “Some seem to believe that we should negotiate with the terrorists and radicals, as if some ingenious argument will persuade them they have been wrong all along.”

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International

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — A mother bear and her young cub stopped traffic and caused panic Thursday in central Romania after they roamed through gardens in search of food and finally climbed the stairs of a 4-story building, breaking onto the roof.

A rescue team tranquilized the mother after failing to steer her toward a nearby forest, officials said.

Residents had reported that the bear and her cub were wandering through gardens and breaking fences in search of food in downtown Bucharest.

Traffic was stopped for two hours as a team tried to get the animals back to the wilderness.

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — President Hugo Chavez on Wednesday warned Colombia not to allow a U.S. military base on its border with Venezuela, saying he would consider such an act an “aggression.”

Chavez said he would not permit Colombia’s U.S.-backed government to establish an American military base in La Guajira, a region spanning northeastern Colombia and northwestern Venezuela.

The Venezuelan leader said if Colombia allows the base, his government will renew a decades-old territorial conflict and stake a claim to the entire region.
Chinese wonder if animals can predict earthquakes

Henry Sanderson

First, the water level in a pond inexplicably plunged. Then thousands of toads appeared on streets in a nearby province. Finally, just hours before China's worst earthquake in three decades, animals at a local zoo began acting strangely.

Chenese online chat rooms and blogs are buzzing with a question: Why didn't these natural signs alert the government that a disaster was coming?

"If the seismological bureau were professional enough, they could have predicted the earthquake ten days earlier, when several thousand cubic meters of water disappeared within an hour in Hubei, but the bureau there dismissed it," one commentator wrote.

In fact, seismologists say, it is nearly impossible to predict when and where an earthquake will strike.

Several countries, including China, have sought to use changes in nature — mostly animal behavior — as an early warning sign. But so far, no reliable way has been found to use animals to predict earthquakes, said Roger Musson, a seismologist with the British Geological Survey.

But that has not stopped a torrent of online discussion, even the mainstream media has chimed in, with an article in Tuesday's China Daily newspaper questioning why the government did not predict the earthquake.

Online commentators say the first sign came about three weeks ago, when large amounts of water suddenly disappeared from a pond in Enshi city in Hubei province, around 350 miles east of the epicenter, according to media reports.

Then, three days before the earthquake, thousands of toads roamed the streets of Mianzhu, a hard-hit city where at least 2,000 people have been reported killed.

Mianzhu residents feared the toads were a sign of an approaching natural disaster, but a local forestry bureau official said it was normal, the Huaxi Metropolitan newspaper reported May 10, two days before the earthquake.

The day of the earthquake, zebras were banging their heads against a door at the zoo in Wuhan, more than 600 miles east of the epicenter, according to the Wuhan Evening Paper. Elephants swung their trunks wildly, almost hitting a staff member. The 20 lions and tigers, which normally would be asleep at midday, were walking around, five minutes before the quake hit, dozens of peacocks started screeching.

There are a few possible reasons for such behavior, said seismologist Musson. The most likely is that the movement of underground rocks before an earthquake generates an electrical signal that some animals can perceive. Another theory holds that other animals can sense weak shocks before an earthquake that are imperceptible to humans.

Zhang Xiaodong, a researcher at the China Seismological Bureau, said his agency has used natural activity to predict earthquakes 20 times in the past 20 years, but that still represents a small proportion of China's earthquakes.

"The problem now is this kind of relationship is still quite vague," he said.

In winter 1975, Chinese officials ordered the evacuation of the city of Haicheng in northeastern Liaoning province the day before a 7.3 magnitude earthquake, based on reports of unusual animal behavior and changes in ground water levels. Still, more than 2,000 people died. Strange environmental phenomena, including changes in well water levels, were also reported a year later before a 7.6 magnitude earthquake in Tangshan in northeastern China that killed 240,000, Musson said.

A team of Chinese seismologists was sent to the region but didn't find any evidence to suggest an earthquake. As the seismologists were going home, they stopped for the night in Tangshan and were killed in the quake.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A street in Chengdu, China is covered by water after a water pipe blew out during a 7.8 magnitude earthquake. Just before the quake hit, animals in local zoos acted oddly, causing scientists to believe they knew it was coming.

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*GREEK DAY / 80s THEME NIGHT
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SUNDAY MAY 18
VS. LONG BEACH STATE 1PM**
SPONSORED BY THE CAL POLY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
*YOUTH JERSEY DAY
All youth, 13 and under receive FREE admission by wearing their jersey to the game. Following the game the Cal Poly Baseball team will host an on-field autograph session for all fans.
Hayley Bramble
MUSTANG DAILY

Those taking a foreign language or interested in foreign films will have the opportunity to take a cineconomic trip alongside world literature department. From May 19 to 22, the department will present a mini film festival titled "In Four Days Around the World: Movies You Did Not Expect." Created by Kate, who teaches all German language and literature classes, the festival was organized for the students. "I feel that the films are coming from that country. The overall idea is that the films are not just something new to offer, but that they are not just the most obvious or traditional films coming from that country," she said.

Kate has been screening German crime and horror films this quarter on Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. "Benny's Video" (1996), the film she chose for the festival, is one with this quarter's horror genre and will screen on Wednesday evening. The crime and horror series will continue until the end of the quarter.

The festival includes films in Russian, German, French and Spanish. Each of the four films is subtitled in English and will be shown in the language lab in the Erhart Agriculture Building, room 128. The screenings will commence at 7 p.m. and will run until about 9 p.m. with a discussion of the film afterwards. Before each film, the Cal Poly instructor who chose the film will introduce it and speak briefly about it to the students.

Kate plans an event for the department each quarter, but the film series, she said, will bring all the languages together for the first time. Her goal for the festival was to put something out where all the students could join together. Kate said she uses a lot of film in her language and literature classes, and that film is a great tool for learning the everyday speech of a language.

"The Motorcycle Diaries," which chronicles Ernesto "Che" Guevara's life-changing trip across South America — the basis for his Mario revolutionary ideas later on — will be shown Tuesday as part of the modern language and literature department's international mini film festival.

Hayley Bramble
MUSTANG DAILY

by Lee Toboy, is a war drama that recounts the plight of two Russian soldiers who are ambushed and held captive by Muslim rebels as collateral for a man's son being held in a Russian prison. Trice said he selected the film because, although set in contemporary Russia, it connects modernity with the country's Soviet and imperial pasts — and it is also one of his favorite films.

"In the two major Russian programs I teach, they always incorporate film as part of the process," he said.

Trice also said he found cinema helpful in learning the language, for it's one thing to sit in a classroom and learn the language but another to listen to film or radio and understand the idiomatic expressions and different accents. Film is "a window into any culture," and "the energy of this is so much more dynamic than what Hollywood has to offer," he said.

The series continues on Tuesday with "Diarios de motocicleta" ("The Motorcycle Diaries," 2004), a biographical account of the early travels of Ernesto "Che" Guevara across South America. Kevin Fagan, who teaches Spanish, Italian, philosophy and humanities classes at Cal Poly, will present the film.

"We want to promote Latin American culture here at Cal Poly," Fagan said. "I did the Latin American movie because I lived most of my adult life in Latin America, and my wife is South American."

Fagan, who is the faculty coordinator of the exchange program between Cal Poly and Universidad La Serena in Chile, said he finds the film helpful for students not only to understand the customs, politics and religion of South America, but also the geography of Chile, Peru and Colombia.

"We think it's important to show the reality of South America," he said.

The festival closes on Thurs­day with the French film "Gouttes d'eau sur pierres brillantes" ("Water Drops on Burning Rocks," 2000), presented by Brian Kennelly, chair of the modern language and literature department.

Kennelly said that he chose the film because of its curious nature. "It involves couples, coupling, transsexuality, France, Germany, the 1970s and one of France's most avant-garde directors," he said. Kennelly said French cinema tends to be bolder and more daring than what Hollywood has to offer.

"There's a little bit of buzz being created about each of our shows, and that's how we know that we've done a good job. We've been hearing from everyone on the lineup is going to be great," Keffury said. "There's not a majority of the acts this year look to do the same.

"To be able to get names like these to play in little Faso Robles — and a majority of the acts this year look to do the same.

"We're interested in how much we spend on the acts," said Tom Keffury, director of marketing and sponsorships for the fair. "As the marquee event during the summer on the Central Coast, we take our fair very seriously, and we want to top it every year."

The lineup for the Budweiser Concert Series this year looks to beat out even the stellar acts featured last year, which included the likes of AEROSMITH, GODSMACK, BOB DYLAN, LEANN RIMES and STEVIE NICKS. Many of the shows last year quickly sold out — especially AEROSMITH — and a majority of the acts this year look to do the same.

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"There's a little bit of buzz being created about each of our shows, and that's how we know that we've done a good job. We've been hearing from different people about the different bands we have coming.

Those who remain on the Central Coast for the summer will be treated to a myriad of talent performed over a 12-day period. Those who've seen concerts at the fair in years past have expressed their enthusiasm for the quality promised at this year's fair.

See Fair, page 6
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Film</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Cast &amp; Crew</th>
<th>The Big Picture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baby Mama (PG-13)</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Tina Fey, Amy Poehler, Greg Kinnean, Dax Shepard, Romany Malco, Maura Tierney, Holland Taylor, Signourney Weaver; directed by Michael McCullers</td>
<td>Summary: Unable to get pregnant, successful businesswoman Kate Hubbard can't wait any longer to have a baby. But when she hires a surrogate mother, she gets more than she bargained for. The Good: The Rey/Reheir duo is dynamic, but the supporting actors make the film even stronger. The Bad: Unsurprisingly, a plausibly main character in the company of completely unrealistic people. (Kristen Marichal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (PG)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ben Barnes, Skandar Keynes, William Moseley, Anna Popplewell, Georgie Henley; directed by Andrew Adamson</td>
<td>Summary: In the second installment of C.S. Lewis’s fantasy, the Pevensie siblings find themselves again in Narnia (1.300 years have passed) to help Prince Caspian, the kingdom’s rightful heir, overthrow his evil uncle. The Good: Contains some of the charm of the first film but with carefully thought out meditations thrown in. The Bad: For those especially attached to the book, the film version might be a disappointment (of course). (RottenTomatoes.com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed (PG)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ben Stien, Jason Collett; directed by Nathan Frankowski</td>
<td>Summary: In this documentary, Ben Stein travels the world in search of scientists and scholars being discriminated against for their lack of faith in Darwinism, meaning the misfortunes they encounter. The Good: Addresses an interesting aspect of the evolution vs. creation debate. The Bad: Strong bias and lack of factual evidence does little to further Stein’s argument. (Metacritic.com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forgetting Sarah Marshall (R)</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Jason Segel, Kristen Bell, Milla Jovovich, Bill Hader, Russell Brand, Jonah Hill, Paul Rudd, Liz Cackowski; directed by Nicholas Stoller</td>
<td>Summary: After being dumped by his girlfriend of five-and-a-half-years, Peter Breter (Segel) escapes to Hawaii. But in a sick-turn of fate, Sarah (Bell) and her new beau happen to be staying at the same resort. The Good: Clever one-liners and awkward situational humor in this “ultimate romantic disaster” movie. The Bad: If you don’t like full-frontal male nudity, be sure to close your eyes (four times). (Janelle Eastridge)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold &amp; Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay (R)</td>
<td></td>
<td>John Cho, Kal Per, Rob Corddry, Roger Bart, Neil Patrick Harris, Kai Per. Rob Corddry, and Roger Bart; directed by Jon Hurwitz and Hayden Schlossberg</td>
<td>Summary: After Kumar’s bomb is mistaken for a bomb on an international flight, he and Harold are thrown into and escape Guantanamo Bay. Their subsequent life on the run yields random adventures. The Good: Running jokes from the first movie, political (mixed with po humor), uncorns and NPH. The Bad: Don’t see it if you’re easily offended by anything. It pushes the R-rated envelope. (Glenn Magnol)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron Man (PG-13)</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Robert Downey Jr., Terrence Howard, Jeff Bridges, Gwyneth Paltrow, Leslie Bibb, Shaun Toub, Faran Tahir; directed by Jon Favreau</td>
<td>Summary: Robert Downey Jr. plays Tony Stark, a brilliant head of a large weapons company who creates a suit of metal to get out of the desert after being taken hostage. Gwyneth Paltrow plays his sassy assistant. The Good: The acting and special effects are stellar. The Bad: The plot lacks much forward movement. (Christina Casci)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jellyfish (NR)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sarah Adler, Tasor Apon, Bruna Alkeb, Ilanit Ben-Yaakov, Asli Dayan; directed by Shira Gefen and Etgar Keret</td>
<td>Summary: Jellyfish tells the story of three very different 1940s women, each struggling with different issues, whose intersecting stories reveal an unvarnished portrait of modern Israeli life. The Good: Highly cinematic, with a good balance between existential loneliness and magical whimsy. The Bad: Though some may find the film clever, it might strike others as slightly too precious. (Metacritic.com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Made of Honor (PG-13)</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>Patrick Dempsey, Michelle Monaghan, Kevin McKidd, Kathleen Quinlan, Sydney Pollack; directed by Paul Weiland</td>
<td>Summary: Tom and Hannah have been best friends since an awkward college encounter. Ten years later, Tom realizes he’s in love with Hannah when she leaves for Scotland — and returns engaged. The Good: Culer actors and clever one-liners with a great musical score. The Bad: Full of cliches and very predictable. Plus, Dempsey plays a very unconvincing man’s man. (Kristen Marichal)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speed Racer (PG)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Emile Hirsch, Christina Ricci, John Goodman, Susan Sarandon, Matthew Fox; directed by Andy and Larry Wachowski</td>
<td>Summary: A natural behind the wheel, Speed Racer turns down an offer to join Royalton Industries, which wants to increase its profits. He participates in the racing world’s pinnacle event against stiff competition. The Good: At its best, the film is buoyant pop entertainment focused on speed, racing and cool colors. The Bad: A so-so storyline with minimal character development. (Metacritic.com)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Visitor (PG-13)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Richard Jenkins, Oliver Bokelberg, Hiam Abbass, Maggie Moore; directed by Thomas McCarthy</td>
<td>Summary: The film follows Walter Vale, a disillusioned Connecticut economics professor, as he is transformed by a chance encounter and newfound connections in New York City. The Good: The film goes more or less where you think it will, but still manages to surprise. The Bad: Afraid to take a political stand, the film seems to avoid hard-hitting questions. (Metacritic.com)</td>
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<tr>
<td>What Happens in Vegas (PG-13)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cameron Diaz, Ashton Kutcher, Rob Corddry, Treat Williams, Dennis Farnia; directed by Tom Vaughan</td>
<td>Summary: After a rowdy weekend in Las Vegas, strangers Jack Fuller (Kutcher) and Joy McNally (Diaz) find themselves hitched, then must try to survive six months of &quot;wedding bliss&quot; to keep their Vegas earnings. The Good: An exceedingly bright comedy with smart lines and desire comic acting. The Bad: The stars lack the classic sparring but-mean-for-each-other mentality. (Metacritic.com)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Year My Parents Went on Vacation (PG)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Michael Jeter, Daniela Piazzzy, Liliana Castro; directed by Cao Hamburger</td>
<td>Summary: In Brazil’s 2007 Oscar contribution, a young boy is separated from his parents, who are forced to leave the country because of political turmoil, and moves to a Jewish neighborhood. The Good: Poignant and surprisingly tender at times. Plus, the film’s climax is definitely worthwhile. The Bad: A film about a childhood trauma presented in a tired and sanitized manner. (RottenTomatoes.com)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young@Heart (PG)</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Young@Heart vocal group; directed by Stephen Walker</td>
<td>Summary: A documentary tracking the progress of the Young@Heart vocal group, comprised of elderly men and women who sing covers of songs by Bob Dylan, The Clash and others, as they prepare for a major gig. The Good: An enjoyable film with a built-in cute factor (70's and 80's music) singing good music. The Bad: Some claim it “reeks of commercial calculation” and lacks the grit of the group it follows. (RottenTomatoes.com)</td>
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As the presidential primary season drags on long after most expect it to end, potential nominees continue to duke it out for the critical remaining delegates. The Democratic race is still up in the air, and Obama and Clinton are slowly inching up toward the 2,025 delegates needed to clinch the nomination. As if on queue, the price of oil has also begun its yearly ascent. American summers have always been marked by steep oil prices, but recent record-setting highs have prompted presidential candidates to make the issue of oil availability a central point of their campaigns. Both John McCain and Hillary Clinton have proposed a “summer gas tax holiday” to alleviate the painful price crunch of the coming months. This article will focus on Clinton’s plan, since it is one of the most pronounced policy differences between her and her rival, Barack Obama.

Clinton envisions a period from Memorial Day to Labor Day during which the federal excise tax on fuel would be suspended. This move would save consumers 18.4 cents for each gallon of gas they purchase and 24.4 cents for each gallon of diesel. According to Barack Obama, who opposes the plan, the average American driver could expect to save about $30 over the summer. But $30 is not going to solve any real problems. If implemented, the plan will almost certainly do more harm than good.

Environmenlists oppose the idea because it might encourage motorists to use more gasoline. A reduction in the price of fuel could result in increased carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere. This would have an adverse effect on the stability of our climate. We should not create the illusion that oil is really obtainable, that it is inexpensive, or that it is OK to burn more of it than we already do. We simply do not have enough oil to enact policies that discourage conservation. The plan is a terrible example of an environmental policy.

Just as troublesome as the possible damage to our environment are the potential implications of the plan for roadway construction around the United States. The Federal Highway Trust Fund is the primary recipient of fuel taxes. The fund distributes tax money from fuel purchases to state and local authorities to build and maintain transportation infrastructure across the United States. Clinton’s gas tax holiday would divert billions from the fund. She claims this revenue could be recaptured by imposing a “windfall profits tax” on oil companies. Unless she can get her tax policy from the drawing board onto paper and past legislators in record time, the highway construction industry could stand to lose a great deal of funding. That money is crucial to the safety of American motorists. Industry insiders estimate that thousands of highway construction jobs could also be at risk.

Environmentalists and people who enjoy driving on roads are not the only ones who have taken issue with Clinton’s proposal. Many economists have also voiced their strong opposition—on both sides of the political aisle. If the windfall profits tax were to be imposed, experts argue that oil companies would make up the money lost in taxes by charging more for petroleum products. That reduction in the windfall profits tax would result in even higher profits for oil companies!

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, of Clinton’s own home state, called the proposed gas tax holiday “about the dumbest thing I’ve heard in an awful long time, from an economic point of view.” When questioned recently about her policy, Hillary responded, “I’m not going to put my lot in with economics.”

Clinton’s proposed gas tax holiday is a clear case of election year pandering. If the gas holiday were to take place, it would increase profits for oil companies, rob funding from American highway and bridge projects, and encourage increased carbon dioxide emissions. Oh yeah, it might even save you $30 this summer.

Thanks, Hillary.

Matt Hutson is an environmental engineering senior, member of the Employer Poly Coalition and Green Spot columnist for the Mustang Daily.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Justice, peace for both sides

On Monday, a 70-year-old woman was killed in Israeli’s southern Negev region when one of three Hamas rockets fired from Gaza by Habbous hit a house.

On May 10, Jimmy Kedoshim, 48, was also killed in Kfar Atar in southern Israel when a mortar shell fired by Hamas landed on his front lawn as he was gardening.

Most people probably didn’t hear about these killing because no one shouted “mussaref, massacar!” After all, it is the Israelis who die. Who cares?

The Students for Peace and Justice in the Middle East and a Wall of Oppression on Dexter Lawn. They what have not done is any justice to either side of this issue. They treat the Palestinians as victims, where everythong that happens to them is someone else’s fault. So long as the Palestinians are treated this way, and as long as they are not held responsible for what they do, or do not do, there will be no peace and no justice in the Middle East.

Similarly, for them, Israel is always at fault. If terrorists wear an explosive belt with ball bearings and nails, and explode themselves in buses, at Passover seders and weddings, and in pizza parlors and university dining rooms, and Israel, in response, builds a wall to keep them out, it is solely Israel’s fault. If Palestinians launch more than 6,000 Qassam rockets into the civilian areas of Israel, intending to inflict maximum damage on civilians, it is still Israel’s fault when they respond.

Even though the Jews and Israelis have been the subjects of unequivocal atrocities the world over, they accuse Israel of any and every bad deed any nation has ever done, including racism, wars, crimes, apostasy, Nazis and many more.

What is sad is that by eliminating any reference to the opposite side of the equation, they delegitimize Israel, teach others to hate one people, and advocate the destruction of Israel.

Unfortunately, there are very few young students on this campus who only see this side and believe in this rhetoric. It is unfortunate but true. No one can stop this group and their faculty associates from teaching hate, but they can learn on their own and study the subject by considering the real causes of hate and injustice, not what these people say.

Justice should be for both people, and peace is between two people, not just for one. Think about it.

Benjamin Goodman is a San Luis Obispo resident and a guest columnist for the Mustang Daily.
Baseball
continued from page 12
threw it to second base."

The streak was the longest by Cleveland's starters since Bob Lemon, Gene Bearden, and Stan Zusky threw a total of 47 scoreless innings for the A's in 1970. It was the longest by a major league team in one season since a 54-inning streak by Baltimore's starters from Sept. 17, 1947, to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Johnny Perolta homered for the Indians, who on Wednesday moved up three runs, seven hits and three

scores.

Ben Francisco and Travis Haf- fner hit three-run shots, while 3-1 with RBI singles in the third, and Per­ o­alty homered in the seventh off Sunday's starter, Joel Pohlad, who left after

fully one batter. Casilla has a strain in his elbow area and will seek a second opinion. Friday, April 25, 2008

Tigers said.

Billingsley (3-5) didn't allow

any runs in 8 1/3 innings and walked

one, leaving after 115 pitches. He

noted 15 straight batters after a

first-inning single by Brian Ciiles,

who had three hits.

Bermuda, a 6-0, 170-pounder

from Iran, who signed a national letter of intent.

Betancourt, who left after

fanning pinch-hitter Ryan Sweeney for his second save in 14 opportunities. Byrd (2-2) allowed six

hits in 8 1/3 innings and walked

one, leaving after 115 pitches. He

retired 15 straight batters after a

first-inning single by Brian Giles, who had three hits.

Maddux (3-4), who entered

the major leagues with the A's in 1986, had made what might have been his final start at Wrigley Field. He covered four runs and hit 11 outs in 4 1/3 innings.

Alticco (2-2) got outs for the win and Jose Valverde

made his second save for the win. The Cubs, who won three of four from the team with the worst record in the major leagues (15-27), NL Central-leading Chi­

cago has won six of seven.

Dempster (5-1) allowed six

hits in 8 1/3 innings and walked

one, leaving after 115 pitches. He

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Astros, Giants 7

SAN FRANCISCO — Lance

Berkman splashed his major league-leading 13th home run into

McCovey Cove, breaking a rain­

ning tie and helping Houston rally to a 7-6 victory.

Houston came back from a 6-0
deficit to take three of four from the Giants, its first series win at

San Francisco since a three-game sweep in late May.

Pinch-hitter Darin Erstad hit a tying, three-run homer in the eighth for the Astros, who faltered on his 32nd birthday.

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Day leads Cal Poly into final weekend of Big West Championships

Cal Poly women's and men's squads each looking for first conference titles since moving to Division I in 1994

Donovan Aird

In spite of her heptathlon achievement, Day says she’ll likely see her best at mid-Jan's nationals for her No. 1 event, the high jump.

"I don’t know that I will be competing in the heptathlon at nationals, because it’d be very difficult to try the high jump (two days) after that," she explained.

With a season-best clearance of 6 feet, 2 ½ inches at the Mt. SAC Relays on April 20, Day is still in search of a 6-4 ½ mark that would meet the Olympic “A” standard, which would substantially improve her prospects of competing on behalf of the United States at the 2008 Summer Games.

"I’ve had really good attempts, and I feel it’s definitely attainable this season," she said of reaching the standard "any given day, (at) any given meet." Crawford is also optimistic about the chances of Day and Cal Poly as a whole.

"Over the last several years, as we’ve had our athletes really do well at multi-event (competition), it seems like that really sets the tone for the whole team going into the conference meet the next weekend," she said.

Also playing for the Mustangs on May 10 were Katie Robbins and Sara Klein, who took fourth and fifth in the heptathlon, and Corbin Duer, who came in seventh in the decathlon.

Besides Day, whose marks rest stop the conference in the high jump and long jump, triple jumper Jessica Eggleson is the only Cal Poly woman entering today ranked No. 1 in the conference in an event.

Mustang ranked second are Jasmine Pickett (in the long and triple jumps) and Julieann Dufrane (shot put and discus).

football

Ellerson: Perrilloux report not true, Brennan off team

Donovan Aird

Contrary to a report of an Alabama newspaper, Cal Poly had no interest in former LSU quarterback Ryan Perrilloux, Cal Poly head coach Rich Ellerson said Thursday. "The news is not true," Ellerson said of the Thursday report by The Anniston Star of Anniston, Ala.

The report said Cal Poly is one of "approximately two-dozen schools" interested in Perrilloux, widely considered the top quarterback prospect in the country while at East St. John High School in Reserve, La.

He was dismissed earlier this month from national champion LSU following several off-the-field transgressions before signing Wednesday to transfer to Jacksonville State, which he is reportedly expected to join June 1 with two years of eligibility remaining.

Because he'll now be playing at the Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA) level, Perrilloux will be able to play immediately.

In addition to Cal Poly, other FCS schools named in the report as displaying interest in the passer were Alabama A&M, Jackson State, Alabama State, Alcorn State and Chattanooga.

Jacksonville State head coach Jack Crooke told The Anniston Star that "there were only a few schools (he'd) seen printed" as having interest in the signal caller but he knew "she list of real schools," which

see Football, page 11

Indians sweep A's, scoreless streak ends

Joe Milicia

CLEVELAND — It wasn't even a bad pitch that ended the Cleveland Indians' scoreless streak.

An unpitched ball against Aaron Laffey on his own throwing error halted the starting rotation's string of dominant outings. Laffey pitched the Indians to a 4-2 victory over the Oakland Athletics on Thursday, completing a three-game sweep and giving the surging Indians eight victories in 10 games.

"When you talk about five guys — to do it in day and day out it's impressive," Laffey said.

"It's just been an incredible week of starting pitching for us."

Cleveland completed a 6-1 homestand in which it allowed runs in just four of 64 innings. The starters went 6-0 with a 0.16 ERA and haven't allowed an earned run in 50 1/3 innings.

In the rotation because of an injury to Jake Westbrook, Laffey (2-2) allowed just the unearned run and five hits in seven innings, struck out six and walked one. He lowered his ERA to 1.35 and has gone seven innings in each of his last three starts without giving up an earned run.

Cleveland's scoreless streak, which began last Friday, ended in the second when Laffey charged Rob Bowen's weak ground and threw it into right field, allowing Bobby Crosby to score from second.

"When it's an error like, that it's kind of disappointing, especially to break a streak like that," Laffey said. "I had a lot more time than I thought I did. I just kind of rushed and let go of the ball too early. It went flying; I almost