Separation of church and state tackled in tonight's discussion

Matt Fountain
MUSTANG DAILY

Constitutional law scholar Philip Muñoz will visit campus tonight to engage students in a discussion on the boundaries of religious freedom and the role faith plays in American politics.

Muñoz will present "In God We Trust" on our money and we put 'Under Bush, (the Supreme Court) has become more conservative," said Lloyd-Moffett. "There's a question of whether the court's relationship to religion is going to be shifted because of the appointment of the last eight years and especially now with one to maybe three appointments with Obama." We've been here 30 years; we're the oldest coffee and tea retailer in the county and said that many are running into financial hardships as a result of the sluggish economy. In addition to less foot traffic, Geisen said that customers at his store are purchasing just the essentials such as coffee and tea and that they are staying away from supplemental purchases.

"It wouldn't allow us to stay here; not with the high rent," he said. "Unfortunately because the economy is slow it doesn't mean your rent goes down." Geisen stays in contact with other local business owners in the downtown area and said that many are running into fiscal hardships as a result of the sluggish economy. In addition to less foot traffic, Geisen said that customers at his store are purchasing just the essentials such as coffee and tea and that they are staying away from supplemental purchases.

"We've been here 30 years; we're the oldest coffee and tea retailer in the county and this really seems to be the toughest year," Geisen said. "The amount of foot traffic has gone down but it's not even just that, it's that people aren't spending any money. People just aren't pulling out their cash. They get stuff that they really need and that's it."

According to the data, consumer retail spending dropped from a high of just below $335 billion in June to just above $335 billion in November—a near 8 percent drop in less than a six month period of time. Reports from December sales and the fourth financial quarter are still expected to trickle in over the next few weeks.

Geisen said that despite the economic downturn, his business has been staying afloat due to his Website, which allows him to keep lower prices and enables him to market his products globally. He added that he would not be able to stay in business without a Website.

"We're at a time where everything is up and national-level economic slowdown have hit home for some local businesses as consumer penny-pinching and purchasing just the essentials continues to grow.

"There's a lot less foot traffic out there," said John Geisen, owner of the Koffee Klatch on Higuera Street. "Christmas was actually OK, but as soon as tourists are around it quiets down a lot."

Data on the U.S. Census Bureau Web site documents a plummet of retail sales and the fourth financial quarter are still expected to trickle in over the next few weeks.

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"We don't trust: The Supreme Court and Religion," said religious studies program advisor Stephen R. Lloyd-Moffett. "On the one hand, we cherish the separation of church and state, yet on the other hand, we put 'In God We Trust' on our money and we put 'Under God' in our Pledge of Allegiance. So we have this tension inherent in America that we still haven't figured out. What role should religion play in society? It's one of those enduring questions in American history and one that is particularly pertinent now, because America is changing so much. We are becoming so religiously diverse. So I think the question of religious freedom is coming to the floor again," he continued.

One of the topics Muñoz will address is how President-elect Obama's appointments may affect the Supreme Court.

"Under Bush, (the Supreme Court) has become more conservative," said Lloyd-Moffett. "There's a question of whether the court's relationship to religion is going to be shifted because of the appointment of the last eight years and especially now with one to maybe three appointments with Obama."

"We're at a time where everything seems to be changing. And students aren't real comfortable with how to feel about religion in the public square."

Political science professor Ron Den Otter, who encouraged his students to attend the lecture, agreed. "The place of religion in public life is not only an important political question but also an important constitutional question," he said.

Man accused of hitting guards remains in jail

Alisha Assom
MUSTANG DAILY

The man accused of hitting two security guards with his truck early Sunday morning remains in San Luis Obispo county jail as he awaits word of what will happen next.

Police arrested the 19-year-old man after he reportedly hit two security guards at the Mustang Village student housing complex before abandoning it nearby.

Charles Dunham, of Victorville, was arrested on suspicion of felony drunk driving and felony hit-and-run and was booked into the county jail, said the San Luis Obispo Police Department. He remains there on $100,000 bail.

Police think Charles Dunham, shown here in his mug shot, was under the influence of alcohol when he hit two security guards.
**Economy**

It seemed like people were out more after Christmas than they were before.

"It's not all bad news according to Garth. Despite the few businesses that are doing poorly, he said that many are reeling numbers similar to the beginning of 2008. Some have actually increased their business numbers.

"Businesses that are doing okay are almost all assumed to say that they are because it's almost counter to what they're supposed to say," Garth said.

Among those businesses holding its own in the stagnant economy is Decades Vintage Clothing on Highway Street.

Sellers креди Addison Harris, 19, San Luis Obispo, and Lacey Redd, 29, San Luis Obispo, said that sales have been comparable to the same time last year, but that shop owners have turned out in spurs.

"It was about the same as it was last year, that temporary as the same as it has been for the last three years," Harris said.

Redd reasoned that cash-crunched consumers were waiting around for sales during the holiday season which led to hit-and-miss sales days.

"Christmas seemed to be compacted down to three days," Redd said. "It was pretty odd. It built up until about a week before Christmas. It felt like we were waiting for people to come in and then they finally opened."

Redd said that sales picked back up immediately following Christmas and that the foot-traffic in the store increased.

"We did really well after Christmas," he said. "It seemed like people were out more after Christmas than they were before."

Aside from the retail angle, the current market also has had an impact on local construction contractors.

Brian Fisher, a painting contractor based out of Grover Beach, has seen his fair share of hit-and-miss for his business this year.

"For me, it's not that bad," he said. "We've got about six jobs lined up right now and I was starting to worry about it because I was having to pay my own bills plus all my em­ployees I was thinking I was going to have to lay guys off so I could pay my bills cause the phone wasn't ringing. Come Monday (Jan. 5) I got three calls. Two I've already been accepted on."

A business like Painting Pirouette requires a lot of overhead costs including purchases for equipment and supplies, while multi-national companies can pay for a staff and keep up with bid­ding opportunities, Fisher said.

"For me, it's not that bad," Fisher said. "I went to school with Muñoz who went to school with Muñoz, has seen his fair share of hit-and-miss for his business this year."

"The pervasive feeling is fear," Garth said. "That fear turns into more conservative spending and that in turn affects other businesses."

"That is not spending money. That is not spending money that those particular companies have been battling economic factors for."

"They've had problems for years," he said. "The economic downturn just pushed them over."

In addition, the San Luis Obispo Cham­ber of Commerce has seen a slight decline in membership in its peak of about 1,550 members in mid-2008 to the present figure of 1,500, Garth said.

He attributed the decline in memberships, which cost from $200-$2,000 depending on the size of the business, partly as a result of the economic downturn, partly as a result of less-than-aggressive membership sales by the organization.

**Religion**

The security guards had been trying to flag Dunham down using flashlights because he was driving dangerously through the parking lot at the Foothill Boulevard and Santa Rosa Street complex, po­lice said. Dunham allegedly drove away after the collision and left his vehicle at an adjacent housing complex where it was discovered by a San Luis Obispo police officer.

Dunham fled on foot to a nearby creek bed, but with the assistance of Cal Poly Police he was found and arrested in the creek bed near the 1900 block of Foothill, police said.

According to police, Dunham is not a student at Cal Poly or Cuesta College and he was not a resident at Mustang Village. He reportedly had been staying in San Luis Obispo for a few weeks but is not considered a resident.

Anyone with information about the incident should call the San Luis Obispo Police De­partment at 781-7317 or Crime Stoppers at 541-STOP.

"I think it's a topic that people would be interested in," said Lloyd-Moffet, who went to school with Murdock and knows him personally. Students will find him balanced and thought provoking, as well as welcoming of open discussion.

"Phil's greatest skill is that he can bring light way of thinking about things that challenge you without alienating you," he said. "He loves for people to bring up challenging ideas and engage him in con­versation."

Miller, assistant professor of po­litical science at Tufts University, is also the William E. Simon Visiting Fellow in Religion and Public Life at the Janus Madison Program at Princeton. He has published articles for the American Political Science Review and the Wall Street Jour­nal, as well as given commentary for National Public Radio and the Fox News Channel.

In keeping with his theme of re­ligion and the American Constitu­tion, Muno's first book, "God and Politics in America," is set to be published by the Cam­bridge University Press later this year.

The free event, which is open to the public, will be held in Room 220 in the University Union and will begin at 7 p.m.

**Arrest**

Continued from page 1

Leon 27, and Michael Shipman, 27, were injured after Dunham allegedly hit them with his blue 1984 Chevy S-10 Tahoe truck just before 4:30 a.m. Leon was taken to the hospital and treated for minor injuries. Shipman was treated for moderate injuries.

"I didn't see or hear anything, he said. "I was out walking my dog and I heard a loud noise and I heard a loud noise and I thought it was a car accident."

"I saw the truck break away from the lot and it was a blue truck," Leon said.

"I was able to get away and that's when they started yelling at me and the police came and started yelling at me."

"I didn't say anything, he said. "I just threw a can at the truck and that's when they started yelling at me."

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The elections law says that for every four winners there is a wom­an, but the commission had another interpretation, he said. "This is not applicable in the small entities that have only one or two people, and that might mean that for the few weeks they might get less than their stated quota." Jallalbhadi-Saghiri, a lawmaker who has been working on the issue, said the committee had correctly predicted the issue could prove problematic.

"I think this process will create political paradox because some male candidates will feel that some women have won despite the fact that they had fewer votes," he said.

The electoral commission also said it had taken measures to mini­mize confusion at the polls since voters for the first time will be al­lowed to choose candidates instead of just political parties.

"We understand that a vote for a political party is re­quested while individual candidates are optional. If they mark an individual, the ballot is invalid.

"Candidates' names won't appear on the ballot. Instead they will be identified by numbers found on a board posted in the polling station. Officials decided not to include names of candidates on the bal­lot because of the large number of candidates, said the law is unclear on certain points, including how to allocate seats based on the number of votes received."

"The lack of clarity has forced the commission make its own interpre­tations in establishing the special guidelines for the vote.

Commission chief Faraj al-Hal­dari singled out the women's quota system, saying the committee had decided to mandate one female winner for every two men because the law did not allow for smaller parties without female can­didates.

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Terrified residents ran for cover Tuesday in a densely populated neighborhood of Gaza City as Israeli troops backed by tanks thrust deeper into the city and sought Hamas fighters in alleys and cellars.

On the diplomatic front, Egyptian mediators pushed Hamas to accept a truce proposal and, in a hopeful sign, Israel sent its lead negotiator to Cairo for "decisive" talks on a cease-fire. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also headed for the region to join diplomatic efforts.

Palestinian medical officials reported at least 82 deaths from the conflict on Tuesday throughout Gaza.

Early Wednesday an Israeli warplane fired a missile at the former Gaza city hall, used as a court building in recent years, witnesses said. The 1990 structure was destroyed and many stores in the market around it were badly damaged, they said.

The Israeli military said three soldiers were wounded, including an officer who was searching a northern Gaza house when a bomb exploded.

Palestinian hospital officials say more than 940 Palestinians, half of them civilians, have been killed in the fighting. A total of 13 Israelis, 10 of them soldiers, have died.

Palestinian rocket fire has dropped significantly since the offensive was launched Dec. 27 to end years of Palestinian rocket attacks on its southern towns.

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The situation in the territory of 1.4 million people, who are effectively trapped because of blocked border crossings, remains very much in the hands of Hamas. The operation to clear the Gaza Strip is ongoing.

Fired shells and smoke plumes from Israeli bombing have become a common sight in the territory of 1.4 million people, who are effectively trapped because of blocked border crossings.

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**Briefs**

**State**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A California man has been arrested for arranging for his 14-year-old daughter to marry a neighbor in exchange for $10,000, 100 cases of beer and several cases of meat, police said.

Authorities in Greenfield, a farming community on California’s Central Coast, said they learned of the deal after a mother asked them for help getting back her daughter after payment wasn’t made.

Martinez was arrested Sunday.

**SACRAMENTO (AP)** — The state Senate leader is shuffling committee chairmanships and has removed a Republican who complained about lawmakers taking per diem payments during the budget crisis.

Senate President Pro Temp Darrell Steinberg, a Democrat from Sacramento, named Senate Majority Leader Dean Florez, a fellow Democrat, to head the Committee on Food and Agriculture.

**Gaza**

continued from page 3

cautions, they are being more careful than the army has ever been before in any war," he said. "Soldiers shoot at anything suspicious, use hits of fire and carry out suicide bombings. Hamas has said it will only oblige to move around."

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The ice and snow that glazed the upper Midwest on the heels of yet another snowstorm, closing schools and making most people think twice before going outside.

The ice and snow that glazed the upper Midwest on the heels of yet another snowstorm, closing schools and making most people think twice before going outside.

He spoke by telephone and requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the information.

Temperatures crashed to Arctic levels Tuesday as a severe cold wave rolled in. Authorities also charged two men suspected of setting fires to get money from the firefighters, and were seeking arrest warrants for two former firefighters who have moved out of state. The firefighters worked at the fire district in Ehrenberg, a town of about 1,200 people and about 140 miles west of Phoenix.

**International**

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Temperatures crashed to Arctic levels Tuesday as a severe cold wave rolled across the upper Midwest on the heels of yet another snowstorm, closing schools and making most people think twice before going outside.

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**TORONTO (AP)** — Canada’s prime minister said Tuesday that energy and the environmental impact of Alberta’s massive oil sands operations will be priorities when Barack Obama visits Canada on his first foreign trip as U.S. president.

The timing of the trip has not been announced but Prime Minister Stephen Harper told a Calgary radio station he’s been in touch with members of Obama’s incoming government as the president-elect prepares to officially take office Tuesday.

"We want to work together with the United States on environmental and energy issues," Harper said.

**RIGA, Latvia (AP)** — A protest against economic reforms that drew thousands to Latvia’s capital turned violent Tuesday as small pockets of rioters clashed with police and attacked government buildings.

Police responded by charging the crowd and shooting pepper spray at the rioters through chunks of ice and rocks. Three officers were seriously injured and 126 protesters were detained. Interior Ministry spokesman Sigita Pildara said.

"I hope he says sorry for everything."

-Karie Eggeland, nutrition senior

"He’s going to talk about his difficult decision to choose the flight suit over the white bell bottoms."

-Jennifer Carr, earth science senior

**Compiled and photographed by Chris Jagger**

**WORD ON THE STREET**

"What do you think President Bush will say to the nation during his farewell address this Thursday?"

-"He will end up trying to defend his presidency."

- Carly Pearl, nutrition senior

-"Forgive me."

-Logan Hunt, general engineering senior

-"I love his fareweil address this Thursday?"

-Katie Eggeland, nutrition senior

-"He’s going to talk about his difficult decision to choose the flight suit over the white bell bottoms."

-Jennifer Carr, earth science senior

**Compiled and photographed by Chris Jagger**

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When we started, my hope was that we get five people... and (it) has been growing little by little each time.

-Maura Johnston
Assistant Director of the Art Center
SAG meeting ends with no clarity on strike vote

Ryan Nakashima
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — The prospects for a strike-authorization vote by film and TV actors were unclear Tuesday after board members of the Screen Actors Guild attempted but apparently failed to fire their lead negotiator in a two-day meeting.

Forces inside the union had sought to have SAG's national executive director, Doug Allen, removed from talks with Hollywood producers as a dispute raged over whether the union should proceed with a strike vote, which Allen supports. A vote was originally announced in December but ultimately postponed until this week.

After a meeting that began Monday and ran into Tuesday afternoon at SAG headquarters, one participant told The Associated Press that the attempt to oust Allen had proven unsuccessful.

The actor spoke on condition of anonymity because the meeting was supposed to be confidential. A spokeswoman for the 120,000-member guild had no immediate comment.

Coming into the week's meeting, SAG leaders planned to send out strike-authorization ballots as early as Wednesday and count the vote within about three weeks. That would be enough time to disrupt the American Awards and give the guild more negotiating power with Hollywood studios.

The actors have been working without a contract since June 30. They began negotiating the major movie studios for a better deal on residual payments for productions made for Internet distribution. They also want to ensure continued benefits during work stoppages, including those that are caused by strikes by other unions.

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This story is a muted telling of a great story.

If only "Defiance" were as spirited and feisty as the title suggests, it held such promise, too.

The real-life story of brothers who lead their fellow Jews into the forest of Belarus during summer 1941 to fight Nazis and form their own community offers a glimpse into a facet of the Holocaust we might not have known about before. Such a new angle is hard to find, especially recently, when there's been a slew of films with Holocaust themes including "Valkyrie," "The Reader," and "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas.

But director Edward Zwick's movie never finds a way to grab you emotionally, despite typically strong performances from Daniel Craig and Liev Schreiber as two of the Bielski brothers, Tuvia and Zus. It's as if Zwick was more concerned with making sure we know the movie is about something important — which should be obvious based on the subject matter alone — rather than taking any narrative or aesthetic risks or delving into the complexity of the characters.

Tuvia is the stoic leader and protector; younger brother Zus is the bloodthirsty rebel; Jamie Bell, as the youngest of the three, is caught somewhere in the middle. Women who've shown up from various villages and walks of life become their "forest wives," their primary function apparently being to fawn over them and then worry about them when they head off into potential danger. Naturally, Craig gets the most beautiful forest wife of all: the mysterious, blue-eyed Lilla (Alexa Davalos), with whom he shares a tastefully lighted tumble in a bundle of furs. (He is James Bond, after all.)

But the Bielskis also get help, as their ranks grow, from refugees from all over who've heard about their hidden village and want to hide, forge a new life and, eventually, fight back — everyone from carpenters to intellectuals. The rare moments of comic relief come from their attempts to fool nearby villagers out of their food.

Otherwise, there's something too muted, too respectful and, ultimately, too didactic about Zwick and Clayton Frohman's script, based on the book by Nechama Tec. It's a great story told in a remarkably unremarkable way.

You're more likely to walk away feeling wowed by the romantic cinematography from veteran Edgardo Serru (who also shot Zwick's "Blood Diamond"), with its lush green meadows that give way to blinding whites as winter envelops the ever-growing encampment. Snow delicately falling on a makeshift hupah during a young couple's wedding is one moment that springs to mind.

Beautiful as "Defiance" is, though, it almost makes you long for a documentary on the subject instead. You might actually get some meat and grit with your history lesson.

"Defiance," a Paramount Vantage release, is rated R for violence and language. Running time: 137 minutes. Two stars out of four.
I wrote about the global warming (GW) debate last week, evoking the predictable feedback flack, some of it apt and intrinsic, some of it silly and sophomoric. I dare say that it seems to muffle the feathers of many when a lowly, non-scientist half-wit commentator hazards an opinion on this issue. While I humbly admit to fitting the description, describing my glowing qualifications would be a tragic disfigurement and likely an unnecessary one at that.

The more obvious matter that deserves consideration is, why does the lowly, non-scientist, half-wit commoner even bother with trumpeting his two cents worth? You do not find debates about the veracity of quantum mechanics theory spilling into the public papers and inciting the same spirited, if generally hopelessly uninformed, debate as global warming prompts. Why is it that this scientific debate proceeds in such an unscientific way, certain disaster looms. In either scenario, the means to mollify it must both be established and implemented grand schemes to avert those predictions. Point out the provision in the Constitution that allows for that! Whatever your belief about global warming, you have to admit it's a pretty money crew that's caught in the thug, everyone from mad and (let us pray) brilliant scientists to average, but concerned, joes, to swarms of blustering, blaring politicians, among them a former vice-president. Isn't it a perplexing curiosity that this debate, which you would expect to be properly confined to the halls of science, spilt out like a drunken brawl onto the public square?

The world has not engendered such a debate since a certain Italian genius challenged the established understanding of the orientation of celestial bodies. But this time it isn't anyone's particular religious prejudices that drive a wedge between proponents and opponents of global warming. No, this debate is fueled by something much more material. Some might call it a "green movement," and that is exactly what it is, for it is driven by money. While there are many who are indignant that such an important debate should count among its participants rough yokels, let me assure you, it's to be expected. The debate concerning global warming is emphatically forced into the public square because it concerns the public treasury — that is, yours and my tax dollars.

The simple, unanswerable truth is, when it regards the public's money, the public may debate it. This is a democracy after all.

At this point, it becomes quite obvious why the debate is so inflammatory as it is. If the world is warming, we must (so we are told) spend billions and trillions to repulse it for both posterity's and our sake. If the globe is not warming, I'm sure I'm not alone in expressing the sentiment that we'll be happy to keep our money if you please.

When you consider this understanding of the debate, it becomes clear that there are only two truly important parties to this debate. The first one wants to take and spend your money — after all, no single individual or private group seems willing to tender the trillions necessary to avert the impending catastrophe — presumably for noble, even sentimental, causes, like children yet to be. The second group, whatever their belief, whether they believe the world is melting or freezing or turning somersaults, is much more likeable for it does not demand the public's money.

The world is warming or it is freezing; either way, certain disaster looms. In other scenarios, the correctness catastrophe might inst instant, even demand, that the government is authorized to take whatever means necessary I disagree. But even so, the certainty of the disaster as well as the efficacy of the means to modulate it must both be established prior to making demands on the public treasury. Surely, nobody contemplates this elementary step. And only a true zealot consciously avoiding any inconvenient facts would claim that both requirements have been met.

Now, please, don't mistake me to relish trampling on anyone's inner barometer. That is the last thing I would desire. If you believe the world is warming, please gather your comrades and take all the necessary precautions. If you believe the world to be freezing, I urge you to do likewise. But do it on your own time, with your own money.

I, for one, do not live in a nation whose government is authorized to dribble away taxpayers' money trying to predict tomorrow's weather or implementing grand schemes to avert those predictions. Point out the provision in the Constitution that allows for that!

But wait, the nation that actually recognized constraints on the government must have been that of my forefathers. Now, we live in Obama's nation so I suppose we should all cheerfully get along with the plan. On the sunny side, at least we're promised a job or two out of the agenda, mangiakid though it is.

Jeremy Hicks is a 2008 political science graduate, the founder of the Cal Poly Libertarian Club and a Mustang Daily political columnist.

I hope you will send your letter, in 250 words or less, to mustangdailyopinion@gmail.com. Or submit it at mustangdaily.com.
You wouldn't pay the same amount for half a sandwich as you would for a full one. You wouldn't pretend to drink a full beer and be content with the regular size. So why are you paying for full-sized groceries and receiving minis?" why are you paying for full-price, when you know that your $0.50 canister is getting smaller and the box that used to read 16 ounces now read 13. There was no discount for the missing three ounces, but rather a price increase. This trouble is that according to a Nielsen report from this past summer, products like sliced deli meats are supposed to be scaled by our economic downturn. The inaccuracy of this assertion supports a different claim that 2009 will hold a commodity cost increase double that of 2008, leaving no product immune to downsizing.

This supermarket shutdown is surely cheating us from the reality of our economic situation. We are witnessing few price increases at the grocery store, yet prices have skyrocketed. As our country's economic activity begins to diminish, the cost of raw materials continues to climb. One of the first few to manufacture these products have made budget cuts everywhere they could, due to the rise in cost of raw materials.

Yet manufacturers have reached the point where they're not much left to trim, and so their financial burden has been passed down to us, the consumers. But because of our competitive nature, manufacturers and retailers aren't content to raise the price of their product outright. They fear breaking a popularly accepted price point. They know that raising the price will cause you to go elsewhere, and so they must find a way to compensate for the price increase without losing customers.

Manufacturers are thus not only manufacturing smaller products, but also minimizing the consumer influence in the marketplace by forcing us to compare the price-increase strategy that we would otherwise oppose. This Shrinking has more of a downside than just being deceptive. It produces "upgraded" items. With fewer plastic baggies in a box, there is more waste per baggie as the box is more quickly emptied and discarded, and a new box is purchased to reach the same fate. Downsizing also leads to bungled recipes. A recipe that calls for a can of Starkist tuna will now come out less fishy due to the shrunken can. Knowingly, this consumer trend, manufacturers don't consider opt for a sneaker price-increase tactic: downsizing their product.

Changes in product sizes are virtually unnoticeable to the unassuming eye. A box of Apple Jacks now holds 15 ounces where it once held 17. Fruit loops now hold 17 ounces where they once held 19.7. A Honey Nut Cheerios previously held 8 ounces is now 6.8 ounces and pales and around a "Giant Nut Bar."Frankly, we can't return weight-loss-centered New Year's resolutions, a cut in portions really the worst thing for the American consumer. It is the deceptive nature of these downsizes that is the worst thing for the American consumer.

A sneaky case of Comotomeh bath tissue downsizing was recently uncovered. In the store, "green and clean" cities, and their development of cutting-edge technology.

苯胺Nejathaim
landscape architecture

Preventing corruption in the government

Marlite, you are absolutely right. This thesis became clear to me about halfway through the article (published yesterday): all politicians are corrupt, some more than others. Ultimately, all politicians are corrupt to some extent. The ones that were fund- ed the least, however, have less favors to hand out upon reaching the White House. Voting for the charismatic candidate (which people inevitably do) will not stop corruption. I believe the solution does lie in smaller government and third party candidates. As Marlite pointed out, smaller government limits the power of politicians, reducing their ability to hand out favors at the taxpayer's expense. A smaller government would waste less taxpayer money to operate and would reduce the influence of the individual politician. Another way to reduce corruption (not mentioned in the article) is through third party candidates. Obama spent record amounts of money on his campaign trail while lesser-known Ralph Nader spent nothing in comparison. If a 3rd party candidate like Nader were elected, he would have less favors to repay to his donors. I encourage our nation to break the two party stranglehold, and vote for real change: vote third party next time.

Aaron Baldwin
electrical engineering sophomore
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I WANT TO SLEEP

A FUNNY (SAY,

YOU'RE SUCH

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Many elves enter Anger Management after the Holidays.

Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

I WORK MY BUTT OFF FOR 364 DAYS, THEN SOME OLD, FAT GUY IN A STUPID RED COSTUME STEPS IN FOR ONE NIGHT AND TAKES ALL THE CREDIT, I WANT TO SLAP THE "HO HO HO" RIGHT OUT OF HIM!!!

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Continued from page 12

Henderson

Other too blind to see his name on the ball or were New Yorkers who still held a grudge against him for playing poker in the clubhouse while the Mets were attempting to hold on to a one-run lead in Game 6 of the 1999 National League Championship Series.

His talents were so immense that in his prime it seemed like he could steal a base or hit a home run any time he felt the need. His performance was so great that he stole more bases and scored more runs than any other player, had the second-most walks, and banged out 3,055 hits.

And while he may not have always known the names of his teammates, he seemed to always know what his final place in history would always be. When he broke Lou Brock's career stolen base record in 1991, Henderson lifted third base over his head and addressed the crowd, which included a man whose record he had just broken.

"Lou Brock was the symbol of great base stealing," he said, microphone in hand. "But today, I am the greatest base stealer."

Muhammad Ali might argue that, but Henderson never seemed to be about the rings or the trophies. His place in the Hall of Fame was defined by more than his statistics. He bounced somehow get a 26th season in the big leagues.

"If it was up to Henderson he'd still be playing today, because Rickey always wanted nothing more than to be playing baseball. Even now he's still holding out hope."

"They said I have to be retired to go in the Hall of Fame," he said in a conference call after the announcement. "Maybe they gave me that day or two that I come back and it wouldn't mess up anything."

Just wait until Henderson gives his induction speech in Cooperstown, N.Y., on July 26. He may become the first inductee to use the platform to complain that no team will take a chance on him.

Indeed, Henderson's self-absorption defined his career almost as much as his statistics. He bounced between teams and overaddressed the crowd, which included the man whose record he had just broken.

"Lou Brock was the symbol of great base stealing," he said, microphone in hand. "But today, I am the greatest base stealer."

Just Rickey being Rickey.

MUSTANG DAILY SPORTS

Lowe

Continued from page 12

spent his entire big-league career with the Braves but was coming off major shoulder surgery.

The signings of Lowe and Kawakami should take some of the heat off the front office, though Atlanta is still in the market for a power-hitting outfielder.

"They've done a good job of sticking it out and having some patience," Cox said. "There's a lot of teams involved, especially when it comes to the free agents. There's always six or seven teams going to be disappointed when they don't land the guy. That's what happened up with Burnett and Foulk, but that's the nature of free agency."

With Kawakami and Lowe, the Braves would have the makings of a solid rotation. They previously acquired Javy Varzquez to join holdover Jar Jurrjens, the team's top starter last season as a rookie with a 15-10 record and 3.68 ERA. Another rookie, Jona Campillo, was 8-7 with a 3.91 ERA.

Varzquez was acquired from the Chicago White Sox for a package of minor leaguers after going 12-16 with a 4.67 ERA.

Kawakami is not overpowering, but he has good control, an effective cutter and a slow, sweeping curve that reminds the Braves of Roy Oswalt's signature pitch.

"You've got to have pitching," Cox said. "You can't play the game without pitching. You could have the best hitting team in the history of baseball and you still may not get it done. We will feel confident now that whoever toes the mound on any particular night, we've got a good chance of winning."

— AP Baseball Writer Ronald Blum in New York and AP Sports Writer Charles Odum in Atlanta contributed to this report.

SPORTS DESIGNER: Kate Nickerson
Mustang Daily Sport Report

Braves: Cal Poly wrestling team will take the mat for the final home dual of the season when they meet Pac-10 rival "California State Fullerton at 6:30 tonight in Mott Gymnasium.

The Mustangs began their season conference schedule dropping a 24-10 decision to Cal State Bakersfield.

Cal Poly head coach John Azevedo said that the conference schedule is filled with difficult matches no matter who the Mustangs face.

"There's a lot of parity in the Pac-10," Azevedo said. "It's a tough conference and it's not going to get any easier."

The Titans are coming off a team win over Air Force and San Francisco on Sunday.

"Fullerton is a solid team," Azevedo added. "We're just keeping our guys positive to go out and wrestle their best."

The Mustangs wrestled a competitive non-conference schedule that included duals with Oklahoma, Missouri and Oklahoma State. Azevedo said the experience will help his wrestlers get better.

"When you keep losing and some of our guys are losing (to the top guys) a lot, it's hard to keep them bouncing back," he said. "We hope it builds some confidence in that they've competed against the best in the country and have been close at times." The Mustangs won three individual matches against Bakersfield, including wins by Filip Novackovic (141 pounds), Eric Maldonado (149 pounds) and Chase Parni (175 pounds).

Novackovic (3-3 overall, 176 at 141 pounds) and Parni (144-6, 9th at 157) represent the Mustangs in the Top 25 by the Amateur Wrestling News.

Injuries have forced Azevedo to reshuffle some of the weight classes, but he said that the experience should help his team in the long run.

"We have some weights where we're changing up a little bit," Azevedo said. "But some of it's been because of injuries. There have been a couple weights where we have tried other guys and see how they do under the lights. Sometimes the guys can't beat their opponents in a wrestling off, but under the lights they perform better."

Former Dodger Lowe on verge of joining Braves

Paul Newberry

ATLANTA—The Atlanta Braves reached a preliminary agreement Tuesday on a $60 million, four-year contract with Derek Lowe, according to a person familiar with the negotiations.

The deal is subject to the pitcher passing a physical, the person said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the contract had not been completed.

Atlanta also finalized a three-year contract with Japanese all-star pitcher Kenshin Kawakami, but the 35-year-old Lowe is the big catch.

A 14-game winner for the Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Derek Lowe throws a pitch Aug. 31 against the Boston Red Sox.

In an interesting twist, the Braves were determined to rebuild their pitching staff with pitchers who have been highly healthy through their careers. Lowe has yet to throw a pitch because he was being sought by the rival Los Angeles Dodgers.

"Derek is a guy we would love to have," Wren said coyly. "We visited with him last week and would love to see that come true."

The Braves had hoped to re-sign Smoltz for a 22nd season in Atlanta, but he took a deal from the Red Sox that included more guaranteed money and the chance to earn another $5 million largely based on how much time he spends on the active roster.

In an interesting twist, the Braves reached the preliminary agreement with Lowe and held an afternoon news conference with Kawakami at Turner Field on the same day Smoltz was being introduced in Boston.

"It's different, it's hard, but the game goes on," Braves manager Bobby Cox said. "You pick up the pieces and get going."

Kawakami is another significant addition, becoming the first Japanese-born player in the franchise's history. The 33-year-old right-hander held up a picture he drew with the symbol for "soul" in his native language.

"My pitching style is all about putting my soul into my pitches," he said through a translator. "I hope to show that in America as well."

Kawakami, the 2004 Central League MVP, has won 112 games in 11 seasons in Japan and was regarded as one of the top free-agent pitchers from Japan available this offseason. He was 9-5 for the Chunichi Dragons last year, though he missed several weeks with a strained back.

The Braves were confident about his health after the 5-foot-10, right-hander passed a physical on Monday, and they spoke with numerous Japanese people in the community to make sure he would feel comfortable in his new home.

"One of the things we found at dinner last night was Kenshin speaks a little more English than we originally thought," Wren said. "I think it will be a smooth transition. He's such a smart guy and has the ability to adapt."

Though many Atlanta fans were outraged over the loss of Smoltz, Wren declined comment on the situation from reporters at a press conference Wednesday morning.

"When you keep losing and some of it's been because of injuries. There have been a couple weights where we have tried other guys and see how they do under the lights. Sometimes the guys can't beat their opponents in a wrestling off, but under the lights they perform better."

Mustangs grapple with Titans

Scott Silvey

The Mustangs wrestling team will take the mat for the final home dual of the season when they meet Pac-10 rival "California State Fullerton at 6:30 tonight in Mott Gymnasium.

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— John Azevedo
Cal Poly wrestling coach

Baseball Hall of Fame inductee Rickey Henderson fields a question from reporters at a press conference in New York on Tuesday.

Timm Dahlberg

The story probably isn't true, but does it really matter? So many things about Rickey Henderson blur the boundary between reality and fiction that one day they'll probably be accepted as fact anyway.

It goes something like this: John Olerud had joined the Seattle Mariners, one of many teams Henderson pined his trade with, and one day Henderson asked Olerud who he wore a batting helmet while playing first base.

Olerud explained that he once had an aneurysm and wore the helmet for protection.

"Oh, Rickey," Olerud said.

"That was me."

This story is true, and San Diego Padres general manager Kevin Towers got the voice mail to prove it.

Late in his career, Henderson was shopping around for a team who would take a chance on his aging legs, and called Towers, who signed Henderson twice, to see if the Padres had any interest.

"This is Rickey calling on behalf of Rickey," Henderson said. "Rickey wants to play baseball."

And then there's the one about Henderson waiting several months to cash a $100,000 bonus check.

"He wanted to wait and see if interest rates would go up," Olerud explained.

Long before Manny ever thought of being曼纽，Rickey was being Rickey. Arguably the greatest lead-off man ever, no one would ever argue that he wasn't one of the great characters of the game.

Henderson won election to the Hall of Fame on his first try Monday with 94.8 percent of the vote, missing perfection only because there were 28 writers who were