Gregg withdraws as commerce secretary nominee

Liz Sidoti and David Espo

Saying “I made a mistake,” Republican Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire abruptly withdrew as commerce secretary nominee on Thursday and left the fledgling White House suddenly coping with Barack Obama’s third Cabinet withdrawal.

Gregg cited “irresolvable conflicts” with Obama’s policies, specifically mentioning the $700 billion economic stimulus bill and 2010 census in a statement released without warning by his Senate office.

Later, at a news conference in the Capitol, he sounded more contrite.

“Young president asked me to do it,” he said of the job offer. “I said, yes. That was my mistake.”

Obama offered a somewhat different account from Gregg.

“It comes as something of a surprise, because the truth, you know, Mr. Gregg approached us with interest and seemed enthusiastic,” Obama said in an interview with the Springfield (Ill.) Journal-Register.

Later, he told reporters traveling with him on Air Force One that he was glad Gregg “snatched his heart” and changed course now before the Senate confirmed him to the Cabinet post. He also said Gregg’s withdrawal won’t deter him from working with Republicans and trying to change the partisan ways of Washington.

“Clearly he was just having second thoughts about having the Senate, a place where he’s thrived,” Obama added.

The unexpected withdrawal came just three weeks into Obama’s presidency and on the heels of several other Cabinet troubles. The new president is in the midst of expending political capital in Washington — and around the country — for his economic package and is seeking to move forward with an ambitious agenda in the midst of an economic recession while the country continues to face threats abroad.

New Obama also finds himself needing to fill two vacancies: — at Commerce and at the Health and Human Services Department. Former Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle withdrew his nomination for that post amid a tax controversy. Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner was confirmed despite revelations that he had not paid some of his taxes on time.

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson was Obama’s first choice as commerce secretary. He withdrew in early January following disclosure that a grand jury is investigating allegations of wrongdoing in the awarding of contracts in his state. Richardson has not been implicated personally.

Gregg was one of three Republicans Obama had put in his Cabinet to emphasize his campaign pledge that he would be an agent of bipartisan change.

White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel said Gregg told the White House early this week that he was having second thoughts and met with Obama about them during an Oval Office meeting on Wednesday. Emanuel said there were no indications of wrongdoing.

In this Feb. 3 file photo President Barack Obama, accompanied by Vice President Joe Biden, left, listened as then-Commerce Secretary-designate, Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., speaks in the Grand Foyer of the White House in Washington. Gregg has withdrawn his nomination to become President Barack Obama's commerce secretary.
Obama

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no hard feelings and "it's better we figured this out now than later."

"He went into this eyes open and he realized over time it wasn't going to be a good fit," Emanuel added.

Gregg said he always had been a strong fiscally conservative and added "It really wasn't a good pick."

In an interview with The Associated Press, Gregg said, "For 30 years, I've been my own person in charge of my own views, and I guess I hadn't really focused on the job of working for somebody else and carrying their views, and so this is basically where it came out."

Gregg, 61, said he changed his mind after realizing he wasn't ready to "trim my sails" to be a part of Obama's team.

"I just sensed that I was not going to be good at being anything other than myself," he said.

The New Hampshire senator also said he would probably not run for a new term in 2010.

Senior Majority Leader Harry Reed, D-Nev., called Gregg a friend and said, "I respect his decision," but Sen. Jim Rockefeller, D-W.V., chairman of the Senate Committee on Ethics, said he wished Gregg "had thought through the implications of his nomination more thoroughly before accepting this post."

In his statement, Gregg said his withdrawal had nothing to do with the setting into his past that Cabinet officials routinely undergo. He told the AP he foresaw conflicts over health care, global warming and taxes.

He also cited both the stimulus and the census as areas of disagreement with the administration.

When the Senate voted on the president's massive stimulus plan earlier this week, Gregg did not vote. The bill passed with all Democratic votes and just three Republican votes.

Gregg's decision to withdraw and remain in the Senate did not alter Democrats to take his seat.

The New Hampshire Democratic governor, John Lynch, in turn, pledged to appointed Bonnie Newman, a Republican and a former interim president of the University of New Hampshire.

She, in turn, had agreed not to run for a full term in 2010, creating an open seat for Democrats to try to claim.

In a statement, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said Gregg "made a principled decision to return and we're glad to have him."

Lynch, who spoke to Gregg several hours before the announcement, said he respected Gregg's decisions to withdraw and remain in the Senate. He thanked Newman for her willingness to serve.

A day after Gregg's nomination had been announced, the AP reported that a former staff member, Kevin Koone, was under criminal investigation for allegedly taking baseball and hockey tickets in exchange for legislative favors while working for Gregg.

The senator said at the time that he had been told he was neither a subject nor target of the investigation, and would cooperate fully.


--Judd Gregg

I just sensed that I was not going to be good at being anything other than myself.

Sen. of New Hampshire

Speaker

continued from page 1

stable thing to get to understand, to really know who you are," Holzinger said.

The religion is often criticized because material from science fiction author and founder L. Ron Hubbard's Scientology works sometimes read like his novels, and the tenets of the religion state that humanity stems from extraterrestrial sources.

"It's a piece of cake to take a religion out of context. There is so much material, and if you find one little detail that you don't agree with it is easy to take it out of context," Holzinger argued.

Scientology is infamous for collecting massive donations from its followers, which leads many to question the religious intentions of the organization.

Holzinger explained that it costs a lot of money to train auditors and that donations are important.

"In order for the church to function and grow, there are much more significant donations needed for that," Holzinger said. "We encourage people to learn how to audit on their own."

Cal Poly students had mixed opinions on the presentation.

"It's been really good to see a Scientology in person and realize the humanity about it," biological sciences senior Heidi Swanger said. "He's actually human and it's not this weird celebrity thing that's going on."

Others disagreed. "I'm not overwhelming satisfied with the talk," electrical engineering senior Nick Sagan said. "(Holzinger) just avoided too many topics and never got to the meat of it."

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Court weighs contempt motion in Calif. prison case

Don Thompson

A federal appeals court on Thursday began considering whether Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger can be held in contempt for refusing to release money to improve inmate health care, setting the limits of federal intrusion into states' control of their prisons.

The talk hosted by Qatar are the first such one-on-one meeting between the Sudanese government and southern Sudan's strongest group of ethnic African rebels, the Justice and Equality Movement. It was also the first round of peace talks between any rebels and the government since the last negotiations founded in 2007.

Other Darfur rebel groups are not attending the talks, which began Tuesday with the aim of sealing a strategic decision to solve the Darfur conflict.

The head of the Sudanese government delegation in Qatar, Amin Hassan Omar, railed against the ICC, calling it a "European court with a political character. It was used openly for political pressure," Omar said.

Omar accused JEM delegation of siding during the negotiations, saying that it came to the talks with a "shopping list," missing all demands to be met. "Not everything demanded is to be answered," he said.

However, JEM spokesman Ahmed Tugod accused Khartoum of undermining attempts at a political solution after fresh fighting in central Darfur.

Tugod, speaking from Darfur, said his fighters clashed with government troops who were advancing on Malam, a JEM-held town in central Darfur. Tugod said JEM repulsed the government forces.

"They want to improve their negotiating position," Tugod said in a satellite phone interview. "This clearly indicates that this government of Sudan has not taken yet a strategic decision to solve the problem of Darfur in a political manner. They insist on using military means. This will undermine the whole peace process."

The mediators say there is no set timetable for the talks, which continued with sessions Thursday.

In a related development, the American ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, expressed concern on a statement condemning the escalations leading to civilian losses in Darfur.

Rice blocked the 15-nation council from issuing a unanimous presidential statement, objecting to language condemning Sudan's government to the aerial bombing and the proposed calls for it and all other military action to stop.

"We’re really quite deeply disappointed that the Security Council failed this week to reach consensus on a statement condemning the escalating civilian losses in Darfur."

Libya blocked the 15-nation council from issuing a unanimous presidential statement, objecting to language condemning Sudan's government to the aerial bombing and the proposed calls for it and all other military action to stop.

A decision (by the ICC to issue a warrant) won't affect the Doha negotiation track, instead it would provide need for negotiations," Ibrahim said.

Some international workers in Darfur fear a war could spark a backlash by al-Qa'ishi, leading him to end the peace process. Khartoum worries that the prospect of prosecution could harden rebels' negotiating positions.

The head of the Sudanese government delegation in Qatar, Justice and Equality Movement leader Dr. Khalih Ibrahim, left, are seen during the Darfur Peace talks in Doha, Qatar, Wednesday.
If humans could evolve into another species, what species would you choose?

"I would probably be a bird. I would want to be a hawk, since it's a predatory animal. I wouldn't want to be a prey."

-Andres Lopez, architecture senior

"I really like being human so I probably wouldn't change species. I would stay the same."

-Scott Chapman, computer engineering senior

"A bird because I could fly and the meaning of my last name means bird in Serbian."

-Petra Tica, city and regional planning freshman

A killer whale, because it's my 3-year-old's favorite animal.

-Daniella Inde, English senior

"A bird because I could fly the meaning of my last name means bird in Serbian."

-Scott Chapman, computer engineering senior

UK marks Darwin's 200th birthday with pride, humor

Raphael G. Satter
Associated Press

They threw him a party at the Natural History Museum, they trotted out a set of stamps in his honor, and a zoo offered free admission to anyone sporting a beard in recognition of his famous facial hair. While more than 600 events took place worldwide Thursday to commemorate "Darwin Day" — the 200th anniversary of scientist Charles Darwin's birth — it was a particularly special occasion in his native land.

Darwin enjoys a special pride of place in Britain, where his face adorns the 10-pound note. In a message to Parliament, British Culture Secretary Andy Burnham called the scientist "one of the most influential Britons of all time."

The smashup 5,000 miles (800 kilometers) over Siberia on Tuesday involved a derelict Russian spacecraft designed for military communications and a working satellite owned by U.S.-based Iridium, which served commercial customers as well as the U.S. Department of Defense.

"Such warmth, with an outstretched hand," said New York Rabbi Arthur Schneier, a Holocaust survivor, after the audience in the frescoed Consistory Hall
Gay couples protest for rights at marriage bureaus across the nation

**Leslie Ferris and Verena Dobnik, Associated Press**

Same-sex couples seeking to wed showed up at marriage license counters nationwide Thursday to highlight a right they don't have in 48 states, part of an annual protest that took on renewed urgency given recent erosion of gay rights.

In San Francisco, where same-sex marriage was legal for nearly five months last year before California voters approved a ban, many couples who came to City Hall had already tied the knot but wanted to express their gratitude and to show they're still part of the fight.

"All of our marriages are under the cloud of Proposition 8," said Stuart Gaffney, 45, referring to California's ballot initiative banning gay marriage. "Equality is an unfinished business in California.

In Las Vegas, couples gathered outside the downtown marriage bureau with signs that read "Don't hate my love" and "No laws on love." In New York, activists wore signs that said "Just Not Married." They were turned away and elderly-handicapped in both places when they asked for marriage licenses.

"We could get married in Massachusetts or Connecticut, but we'll wait a little and see what happens in New York," Matt Flanders, 37, of Lincoln, Mass. "It's a matter of principle. This is our love, and we should be able to get married where we live, where our friends are."

The protest around Valentine's Day, part of the 12th annual Freedom to Marry Day, were considered especially important this year because they come after the November passage of Proposition 8. The measure has prompted protests, lawsuits and questions about the direction of the gay rights movement.

"A lot of people feel a sense of determination and regret over having been too complacent a little while back so there is a commitment to, "Never again, we have to take action," said Evan Wolfson, a civil rights lawyer who conceived Freedom to Marry Day. "In that sense, California was a terrific energizer and wake-up call."

Currently, gay marriage is legal only in Massachusetts and Connecticut, while 30 states have gay marriage bans in their constitutions. Gay rights groups are pressing lawmakers in New York, New Jersey and Vermont to take up bills that would legalize same-sex marriage in those states.

Jenner, a former Olympian, was "not a big fan" of Proposition 8, but he said the vote is split among six senators, "which is a little bit disappointing.

In Maine and Minnesota on Thursday, dozens of proponents of gay marriage gathered outside the statehouses to lobby for bills that would legalize same-sex marriage in those states.

Under a black and white banner that read "Legalize Love," Minnesota lawmakers voted to push the bill as far as they can.

State Sen. Scott Dibble, a Minneapolis Democrat who is one of the few openly gay members of the Legislature, said the state's economic woes showed the need for couples to support each other. But gay couples can't get the same legal security as those in marriage that might make things easier, he said.

"Those with strong families more than anyone are going to be able to rely on each other," Dibble said. "So why does our own government try to stop that from happening? Why does our own government try to stop us from trying to take care of our own?

Terran Smith, 41, and his partner of six years, Justin Gibson, 26, were among the 15 couples waiting with tourism outside the marriage bureau in downtown Las Vegas. Smith, a coordinator at a local wedding chapel, said he's constantly faced with the reality of Nevada's constitutional ban on gay marriage.

**Debra L. Dumont, Special to The Washington Post**

In tribute to Darwin's work in the Pacific, the Royal Mail unveiled six jigsaw-shaped stamps carrying pictures of wildlife from the Galapagos islands — including the giant tortoise and the Floreana mockingbird.

1982 — there have been 16 stamps celebrating Darwin: Britain's Press Association news agency said no other non-Royal has had as many commemorative stamps released in its or her honor.

In the same publication that Darwin's complete publications and 25,000 private papers are available online. 

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Happy Valentine's Day! 

from the Mustang Daily

Elliot - you are more special than relativity.
Ryan Carril, I dream about you sometimes.
Love, Someone Special
Gravitation is not responsible for people falling in love - Albert Einstein

In love you baby!
You show those chickens who's boss! AND then we will deep fry them!
-Mickey, Mikey Monkey Moose

Happy V-day Mark H! Bio is made my day, just knowing you exist.
You have a gray umbrella -Justin

Dear Staters, You guys are the hardest working group of people I have ever worked with. Love, J Lutey

Rita, you will always be MY valentine.

Kevin S! Be OUR valentine!
Oh, if it be to choose and call thee mine, love, thou art every day my Valentine!

On the behalf of the Brothers of Alpha Phi Omega, I would like to give a shout out to the following Lovely Ladies of Zeta Omicron Chapter: Audrey, Brie, Brittany, Catherine, Christine, Colleen, Dawn, Giao, Helena, Jennie, Jennifer, Jordan, Kelly, Kelsey, Krista, Linda, Ma-Chi, Mallory, Melissa, Michele, Monica, Rita, Shannon, Tracey, Tracy, Vikki, Isabel, Emily, Annalynn, Ivy, Yumi, Heather, and Kathy.

Happy Valentine's!!! in Love, Friendship, and Service Steven PS. Be ready for 2/25

I love you so much Trav! Love, Katie

To the hope house, Ina, Tina, Cassie, Katie and Duke! Happy Valentine's Day! I love you all! Love, Brittany

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Happy Valentine's Day, Jimmy!

If I know what love is, it is because of you.
-Hermann Hesse

Hey Kara Doelling! Happy Valentine's Day! Beautiful! XOXO :) I Love, Tom N.

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Happy Valentine's Day, Jimmy!
Allen mingle HARD EDGE with sweet POP

Although she has received more attention recently for her topless photos and drunken antics than for her music, Lily Allen's focus must have at least partially been on the latter. Her sophomore album, "It's Not Me, It's You," is a strong effort that skillfully blends her Brit-pop sound with the nightclub-friendly sensibility that so strongly appeals to the American market. The album displays the brash and confident personality that's gotten her so much tabloid attention but also shows her songwriting talents, as the album is free of filler and is rife with potential hit singles. Allen wrote and recorded the album with producer Greg Kurstin, who is one half of LA-based indie group The Bird and The Bee, and has an impressive resume that includes Beck, The Red Hot Chili Peppers and Kylie Minogue.

Album opener, "Everyday's At It," seamlessly blends Kurstin's Radiohead-esque synthesizer with Allen's pop sound, producing a song that quickly convinces the listener the album will be a worthwhile listen. "Not Fair" is a song about an under-performing lover with a similarly danceable and poppy chorus. The debut single, "The Fear," opens with a gentle acoustic guitar but then progresses into a synth and drum machine driven beat that blends perfectly with her gentle, melodic vocals. This song will definitely be a major club hit, as it's fast-paced beat, punchy verse, and strong chorus makes it an easy choice for any DJ or radio program manager. That being said, the most interesting part of the song is the juxtaposition between Allen's profane and dark vocals and the song's poppy, bubblegum melody.

The album takes a jazzy turn with "22," a song that bemoans the struggles of single, older women but then falls flat with "I Could Say." This song opens sounding like it was written by Coldplay, but by the time it hits the chorus, it sounds like it is straight from a videogame, making it the album's only dud. "Back To The Start" picks the momentum back up again, once again highlighting the indie and synthesizer-happy sensibilities of Kevin Durston. Allen and Durston are perhaps at their most inventive with "Never Gonna Happen," a song that combines accordions with bubblegum pop, creating a sound that both polka fans and teenie boppers can appreciate.

Allen tries to get religious with "Him" but has about as much lyrical success as she does on "F-- You." When she sings the clearly forced, "Do you think he's ever been uncivil?" her favorite band is Creedence Clearwater Revival, the song's attempt at seriousness is rendered futile. Feist and Norah Jones collide on "Back To The Start," a song that goes so retro it sounds like it is from the 1940s, complete with manufactured microphone crackle. "It's Not Me, It's You" is a strong album that deserves both commercial and critical success. Lily Allen manages to combine the indie-rock influence of her producer with the bubblegum pop she is expected to produce, and the result is a cohesive album that is immediately catchy but gets more interesting with additional listens.
Despite economy, show must go on in Hollywood

Christy Lemire
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — It's a city where perception is reality and image is everything. But Hollywood is being stunned by the ups and downs of the past year, and some predict a downturn, even during its splashiest, most self-celebratory time: award season.

Of course, the show must go on. The Academy Awards bring $10 million into Los Angeles, and city economists say that to be true this year, too. But it's in the ancillary activity — parties, studios' campaigns for Oscar votes, glossy ads in trade publications — where less money is being thrown around.

Even director Danny Boyle, whose "Slumdog Millionaire" is the front-runner to win the best-picture Oscar, acknowledged the awkward paradox of backslapping as the economy slides backward.

"When you read a headline like last week, I read 60,000 jobs lost in a day in America, you just think you've got to be very careful because we live in a very glamorous world, you take lots of photos, there's lots of smiling asked for and stuff like that," Boyle said backstage after winning the top prize from the Directors Guild of America.

"We're very lucky," he added. "And we're aware of that."

So how does the lavish machinery keep running during such tough financial times?

"I feel like the economy is very much a technology-based economy," Boyle said, "and the technology is in the movies." 

Variety, the industry's bible, says the meetings and the parties, the presentations, the art forms that are generating the ideas for upcoming movies, have continued.

"We're a city where perception is reality, and image is everything," Boyle said. "So the mood of the economy is not going to affect what we're doing on stage."

"There's more emphasis on buying out a room, you're not going to be over the top where you were building a tent with decking, floor-to-ceiling creating a whole environment for the Governor's Ball more than ever before," Boyle said. "It's just like any other creative writing, it just depends on how you research it." 

The economy is also affecting the way awards campaigns play out in the trade publications, where high-profile ads are a crucial component of the annual bragging rights.

"It would be ridiculous to say it isn't," said Variety president and publisher Neil Stiles. "You can see it in the volume of advertising that is running, and the The Hollywood Reporter is carrying or not carrying, coupled with the L.A. Times on the phone with us."

Variety didn't say exactly by how much Variety's print ads are down, but said it's less than 40 percent. (The Hollywood Reporter declined comment because it is in the middle of a labor dispute.)

Overall, the number of films being promoted has been cut by 15 percent.

Several elements are at work simultaneously. Stiles said. Almost half the number of films were offered for awards consideration compared with previous years. Then the art-house branches of several major studios, often the origin of such awards contenders, got folded into the studio themselves — Warner Independent into Warner Bros, for example — shutting down internal promotional infrastructures.

Now, the corporations that own these studios, often the origin of such awards contenders, got folded into the studio themselves — Warner Independent into Warner Bros, for example — shutting down internal promotional infrastructures.

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Using B.S. to get a career
10 suggestions for life after college

Since our first day of kindergarten, people have asked us what we intended to do as a career. The further we advanced in our education, the more people wanted to know. Unfortunately, the closer we get to finishing school, the less certain many of us are when it comes to what we want to do for the rest of our lives. Most of us have ruled out becoming a princess or a superhero, but we still can't commit to any single career.

Even once we have chosen a major, we still face the "What are you going to do with that?" question. Now, I know people often ask in an effort to seem friendly and make conversation, but sometimes it seems more like an interrogation. For example, when people inquire about my future career, I tell them I plan on teaching. Then they ask, "What grade?" and respond with "elementary school." But then they need to know "What grade?" And it is like they are playing a game; one where they keep asking questions about our career plans until they got us confused and worried about the huge decision that weighs on our shoulders.

It is time to fight back. So, I have compiled a list of appropriate answers that will work for everyone from those majoring in environmental management and protection to art history.

1. Teach English overseas.
2. Join a band.
3. Become a black jack dealer in Las Vegas.
4. Go on a VH1 reality TV show to become a celebrity.
5. Help the parents get their money's worth from both their couch and flat-screen TV.
6. Roam the streets of the Central Coast and recycle cans.
7. Save the whales, rainforest, American economy.
8. Become a whale hunter/ lumberjack/politician.
9. If I told you, I would have to kill you. 10. How the hell should I know? I'll cross that bridge when I get there.

Like I said before, many of the people questioning our career plans have the best intentions, and I know we should respond with simple pleasurites. But, from now on, I am using response number 10.

Marc Pall is a public policy graduate student and a Mustang Daily humor columnist. "Marc's Word of the Week" explores some of the more important vernaculars of college life, one word at a time.

Marc Ahtaa subject.

Gunter Worland

students in English and philosophy who is currently touring the East Coast with his hand. His name is Gary, and he is one of the people who will be affected by the government's decisions. He is interested in the issue of climate justice: (1) U.S. areas were shown where people will be affected the most, interestingly enough these are the areas where mostly minority groups can be found and that (2) environmentalism can be found in African American literature, breaking the myth that environmentalism does not pertains to minority groups.

Here are some solutions the speakers came up with on how to approach climate justice: (1) Van Jones' proposal to solve the pollution of our environment and our economy, and the idea to (2) create all-inclusive decision-making groups.

The tides are changing now, and we need to re-evaluate the way we do things, and one of them is to include the people who will be affected, either positively or negatively, whenever we are addressing any issue in order to create a fair and just society. This is basically what the main message was from the presentation.

For example, if you want to solve the world's poverty and hunger, you might want to talk to the farmers in developing countries about ways to fix this, don't just assume that drugged-tolerant, Roundup Ready GMOs will fix everything; there are a lot of terrible consequences that these little babies bring along. Hope this helps.

Jorge Montezuma

environmental engineering senior

NOTES: 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.

1. Teach English overseas.
2. Join a band.
3. Become a black jack dealer in Las Vegas.
4. Go on a VH1 reality TV show to become a celebrity.
5. Help the parents get their money's worth from both their couch and flat-screen TV.
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7. Save the whales, rainforest, American economy.
8. Become a whale hunter/ lumberjack/politician.
9. If I told you, I would have to kill you.
10. How the hell should I know? I'll cross that bridge when I get there.
Help Wanted

Lifeguards - Avila Beach Port San Luis Harbor District has seasonal part-time opportunities for high school graduates (or enrolled seniors age 17+) with certification in First Aid and CPR. Title 22 (or ability to obtain same) to serve as lifeguards in Avila Beach. Candidate must be able to: pass a 500 meter ocean swim test in 10 minutes or less; provide safe conditions for users of public beach by watching over beach activities; advise public of dangerous sea conditions and provide lifesaving assistance; use emergency equipment; keep logsheets of incidents/ injuries; and maintain cleanliness of beach areas. Prior experience desirable. PAY RANGE: $11.96 - $15.26/hr. (Minimum wage during training: $8.00/hr.) SWIM TESTING: Saturday, March 14, 2009 (Avila Pier at 9:00 a.m.) Obtain application at the Harbor Office, 2900 Avila Beach Dr., in Avila Beach. Mon-Fri from 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon and 1:00-4:30 p.m., or by mail: Port San Luis Harbor District, P. O. Box 249, Avila Beach, CA 93424 or online at www.porsanluis.com. Deadline: Thursday, March 12, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. Questions call 805-756-5834.

Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton

Some people don't understand our wive, but our wive is true.

Survey Takers Needed: Make $5-$25 per survey. GetPaidToThink.com

Volunteer at Cal Poly Student Community Services Stop by UU Room 217! or call (805) 756-5834

Place a Mustang Mini ad! Contact your ad rep at 756-1143

Cartoon Cross-Dressing Valentines on Today's Jerry Springer

Across
1 A looker might give it - or get it 18 Wankel engine component
2 Partner of a certain rabid 19 Since 21-Down
3 Some neighbors 25 22-Down that
5 Between two 26 Forgers
12 Please!" editor 27 Something to turn on
14 Native home of the canary 30 Blood sausage ingredient
16 Lion, tiger or shark 33 Pork
17 Warrant engine component 34 First name in erotica
19 Winner of 11 Grand Slam tournament titles 35 Swilly
21 Goose
22 Computer hookup point 37 With 15-Down, hangs on the line
23 Infer from data 38 nursery rhyme
24 From 35-Across 39 Matted cotton
27 Napkin 40 Dylan was once her protege
41 Dirty material, in München 41 Shorts material, in München
42 Prefix in 43 Call for delivery
43 Prefix in 45 Habitat of art, galleries, theaters, etc.
45 Hydrids 46 First name in erotica
46 Department store founder who pioneered credit unions 47 Nursey rhyme
46 Department store founder who pioneered credit unions 48 Once-common, monochrome PC display
48 Department store founder who pioneered credit unions 49 Of a game of tennis
50 19th-century engineer with a star on the St. Louis Walk of Fame 50 19th-century engineer with a star on the St. Louis Walk of Fame

Answer to Previous Puzzle


Help Wanted

STAYING IN TOWN THIS SUMMER AND LOOKING FOR A GREAT JOB ON CAMPUS? Conference and Event Planning is Hiring 10-20 staff for summer conference season. Paid training begins in late April. Seeking hardworking, responsible and positive individuals who enjoy working in a fun, fast-paced team setting! Customer service and cashier experience preferred. Optional on-campus summer housing at highly reduced rate. Flexible hours. PT/ FT available. $8.00-$10.00/hour. Great internship opportunity. Applications and job descriptions available in bldg. 1704 (Cerro Vista Apartment Admin. Bldg) M-F 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. or on Mustang Jobs online. Completed Apps. and resume due by 2/25/09. Call (805)756-7600 for detailed job description to be emailed to you.

SUMMER OF YOUR LIFE! CAMP WAYNE FOR GIRLS - Northeast Pennsylvania 6/20 - 8/16. If you love children and want a caring, fun environment we need Counselors and instructors for our summer camp. Interviews on Cal Poly campus February 17th. Call 1-215-944-3069 or apply at www.campwaynegirls.com

Houses for Sale

Now is the time to buy a house! Take Advantage of Huge Discounts and Historically Low Mortgage Rates. Free List of SLO Houses/ Condos for Sale. steve@slothomes.com Nelson Real Estate 546-1990

Cartoon Cross-Dressing Valentines on Today's Jerry Springer

Across

Basketball
continued from page 12
last Saturday's game against Cal State Fullerton.
Harrison became the first Cal Poly player to collect a double-double this season when she had 16 points and 10 rebounds against the Titans last week. As a senior, Harrison has seen some of the downs times in previous years. She said she's glad to be playing on a team that is talented enough to contend for conference supremacy.

"Since I've been here, suddenly everyone's believing that we can win a championship," she said. "When I started my freshman year we were at the bottom of the pack and now we're up at the top."
The Mustangs can normally rely on their size advantage against the smaller teams in the conference, but the Gauchos counter with size of their own.

Led by the 6-foot-4 duo of seniors Jenna Green and Kat Suderman, UC Santa Barbara's front line is the only other in the conference that rivals Cal Poly.

Suderman, a San Luis Obispo native, will be playing her last game at Mott Gym on Saturday. She did not play in the team's previous meeting this year.

But Green did, scoring a game-high 16 points on 5-of-8 shooting.

Despite the confidence Cal Poly has coming into the game, sophomore forward Kristina Santiago said it wouldn't make a difference in the team's preparation for UC Santa Barbara.

"When you're losing you're always working trying to get back into it and when you're winning you feel like you're in a groove," she said. "Father this way this team just tries to get after it."

Phelps
continued from page 12

Phelps has been in the pool nearly every day since age 7 and his accomplishments, beginning with a national age-group record at 10, attest to how much he sacrificed, had no problems getting on with his life.

Phelps and his wife, Nicole Johnson, have a son, Caeleb, and a daughter, Boomer, born in 2016. Phelps has been in the pool nearly every day since age 7 and his accomplishments, beginning with a national age-group record at 10, attest to how much he sacrificed, working trying to get back into it and had no problems getting on with his life.

Besides, it's not as though Phelps hasn't paid a steep price already. Beyond the public apology and ridicule the photographs spawned, Phelps has been suspended for three months by USA Swimming and lost at least one megabucks sponsor, Kellogg Co.

But that apparently wasn't steep enough for Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott. His department reportedly has arrested eight people connected to the November party, near the University of South Carolina campus in Columbia, where Phelps was photographed.

"It seems to me that Richland County has a host of its own crime problems much more serious than a kid featured in a photograph with a bong in his hand," said attorney Joseph McCulloch, whose client was charged with possession of marijuana and questioned by investigators.

McCulloch is right, of course. The latest FBI statistics show violent-crime rates for Columbia — part of Richland County — were nearly three times higher than the national average and nearly twice as high as those for the state. For purposes of comparison, the only jurisdiction with a higher violent crime rate than South Carolina was Washington, D.C.

Whatever those numbers suggest about Lott's job performance, he's won election to four terms as a Democrat in a mostly red state, the last time in 2008. Lott has also earned a reputation as a savvy and progressive if occasionally flamboyant — crime-fighter who rose from patrol officer to captain of the narcotics division and once drove around in a Porsche seized from a dealer.

After defeating the sheriff who fired him in 1996, election, Lott never lost his knack for grabbing attention. He bought an armored personnel carrier from military surplus for use by the Richland County sheriff's department, set up his own drug lab after deciding the State Law Enforcement Division's lab was too slow processing requests, and once showed up in an evening gown, heels and makeup for a costume fundraiser at a local theater.

I wondered how Lott would feel if a photo of him in that outfit surfaced in News of the World, but he didn't return a message left on his cell phone Thursday. That may be because Lott was busy testifying before Congress to rally support for the federally funded Head Start program to assist kids in poverty.

Then again, for a sheriff who's never been shy about grabbing headlines from the day he took office, Lott has been surprisingly hard to reach since his office announced it was pursuing Phelps.

Even attorney Dick Harpootlian, a former county prosecutor who worked with Lott before going into private practice, acknowledged the investigation caught him by surprise. He's representing a second person charged with possession of marijuana as a result of the party, and he isn't buying Lott's stance that nobody is above the law.

"I find it amazing," Harpootlian said, "this justification is they don't want to treat him any differently just because he is a celebrity, and he is being treated far differently than any other Joe Blow who might have smoked marijuana four or five months ago."

If Lott genuinely believes that Phelps is a real danger to Richland County, somebody needs to sit him down and explain the meaning of prioritizing. And if he thinks the memories of all those medals dam the right to blow off some steam, it's his choice. He bought an armored personnel carrier from military surplus for use by the Richland County sheriff's department, set up his own drug lab, and once showed up in an evening gown, heels and makeup for a costume fundraiser at a local theater.
**SPORTS MUSTANG DAILY**

**Branagan-Franco and Peterlin return in MLS Showcase**

Omar Sanchez

They have come a long way from their days playing on a Division III soccer team, or coming to Cal Poly as a walk-on. Tomorrow they will have the opportunity to show their soccer prowess at the next level when they participate in the 2009 Major League Soccer Showcase at Alex G. Spanos Stadium.

Former Mustangs, and members of the Cal Poly 2008 NCAA Tournament team, Anton Peterlin and Eric Branagan-Franco will run onto the field with the San Jose Earthquakes when the team plays exhibitions against the Seattle Sounders tonight, and the Houston Dynamo on Sunday.

Peterlin and Branagan-Franco will vie for a spot on the Earthquakes’ roster. If either of the two gets signed to the MLS, it will be the first time Cal Poly soccer has had a player on an MLS roster.

Both started training with theEarthquakes Thursday and Mustangs’ soccer head coach Paul Holocher said the two will likely get playing time.

"Anton will hopefully get some play time here, obviously in front of his home fans. It will be nice for him to come out in our Earthquake gear," Yallop said.

Peterlin is looking forward to playing before a familiar crowd, but not a motivating factor.

"It should be fun playing in front of the home crowd. We have a great atmosphere of soccer here, but you get to play your A-game everywhere you go," Peterlin said.

Branagan-Franco isn’t so sure whether his cleats will meet the stadium’s vet after practicing yesterday but said he is prepared either way.

"I’m not going in there expecting to get any playing time," he said. "I’m just going in there to work as hard as possible and train as hard as can and stay on the team. Maybe in the future I will get some chances to play."

What he does expect this weekend is the experience of taking in the highest level of American soccer.

"It’s a good way to step into the league and get an idea of how the league is and the higher level that I will need to play at," Branagan-Franco said. "I’m going to do my best to get myself a spot, but otherwise it’s going to be a great experience."

Earthquakes goalkeeper Joe Cannon said getting experience is crucial for new players in determining their mindset.

"I think a lot of you come in as a kid, in your mind you kind of put it up on a pedestal and I think if you’re ever going to be a pro, the first thing you need to do is get exposed and get in there and say ‘you know what I can do’,” Cannon said.

From yesterday’s practice, Yallop said he hasn’t seen enough of Branagan-Franco, but is impressed with what he’s seen so far.

"He’s hard, a shooting exercise is not goalkeeping," Yallop said. "He looks the part, he’s not the biggest but he’s sharp and quick which is good. If you’re quick and agile, you can get it done."

Branagan-Franco attributes his success to his work ethic and the Cal Poly soccer program that has gained much attention since Holocher took over the team three years ago.

"It’s developing, no doubt about it," Branagan-Franco said. "Coach Holocher has done a great job of picking up better quality players every year. He’s making the program one of the best in the nation. There are going to be more guys from Cal Poly going into MLS, guaranteed. There is a lot of talent."

Holocher also said he was happy with the progress of his program, noting that there is a bright future ahead.

"We ended last year No. 23 in the country," Holocher said. "We got that nice little plaque on the wall that says ’we’re a top-25 program. ’We’re bringing in a great recruiting class. Having Major League Soccer teams come to our campus is very exciting for young players."

While at Cal Poly, Branagan-Franco was named Co-Big West Goalkeeper of the Year and was selected to the NSCAA All-Far West Region Second Team, Peterlin was named to the third team. During his time as a Mustang, the team went 27-15-14 and recorded 10-plus saves against nationally ranked opponents in 2008. Both made the all-Big West first team.

Peterlin was the Mustangs’ team captain in 2007 and 2008, leading the team to its first NSCAA Division I Tournament appearance since 1995.

The Earthquakes will be making their second appearance at Spanos Stadium. Last year, they beat the Columbus Crew in the Central Coast Showcase. The Crew would go on to win the 2008 MLS Cup.

The team intends to work out its kinks during the preseason exhibition.

"We’re looking to be more competitive at every position," Peterlin said. "I think last year we started off the season a little sluggish. We had a good core of guys, but we didn’t have much depth. But with tomorrow’s game it will be the first test, kind of like a quiz as to see if we’re at Cal Poly," Cannon said.

**women’s basketball**

**Mustangs face rivals again**

Scott Silvey

UC Santa Barbara enters into its Big West Conference season this week. The Mustangs put a serious scare into the Gauchos last season winning 10 to 9. With those two teams in such close proximity, the Mustangs could be considered one of the most intriguing Big West teams.

Cal Poly women’s basketball coach Faith Minnough was unsung for a moment, as if reflecting on the past 11 seasons, all filled with high expectations often marred by injuries to key players and disappointing results.

The question posed to Minnough was a simple one: How would you know better than to mess around with the progress of your program, not with the progress of your program, noting that there is a bright future ahead.

"It’s about time," she finally said.

"We’ve been battling h..." The Mustangs (15-7, 7-3 Big West Conference) have their first opportunity to win a game when they take on UC Santa Barbara at 4 p.m. tomorrow in the WBCA Pink Zone game to benefit cancer awareness.

The Mustangs (15-7, 7-3 Big West Conference) have their first opportunity to win a game when they take on UC Santa Barbara at 4 p.m. tomorrow in the WBCA Pink Zone game to benefit cancer awareness.

With a win over the rival Gauchos, the team can guarantee Minnough her first winning season, and the school’s first since the 1991-92 campaign.

But UC Santa Barbara (15-7, 16-0) provides a formidable task. Past the halfway mark in the conference schedule, the Gauchos are unblemished against the Big West, including a 55-45 defeat of Cal Poly at the Thunderdome last month.

The Mustangs put a serious scare into the Gauchos at home, leading by 12 points at halftime. But it all unraveled in the second half. UC Santa Barbara would outscore Cal Poly by 22 points after the break to secure the win.

"The team is aware that we played one really good half at Santa Barbara, but we definitely going to have to play 40 minutes in order to beat them," Minnough said.

The Mustangs haven’t lost since that night. They’ve run off of consecutive victories since the defeat, building momentum towards what could arguably be the biggest regular season game between the Central Coast rivals.

"It’s going to be very physical, so we’re going to try to bring it," senior forward Megan Harrison said after practice.

**BIG WEST STANDINGS**

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see Basketball, page 11

**Sheriff chasing Phelps is also chasing fool’s gold**

Jim Litke

Associated Press

All the real criminals in Richland County must be doubled over with laughter at reports that a sheriff in South Carolina is trying to build a case against Olympian Michael Phelps.

After all, most everybody else thought the last word on this sorry episode was issued last weekend on "Saturday Night Live," when comedian Seth Meyers told parents how to handle their side of the role-mod-

del debate.

"If your kid says, ‘Michael Phelps smoked pot, why can’t I?’" Meyers quipped, "Say, ‘You can — right after you win 12 gold medals for your country!’"

Phelps has won 14 golds, actu-

ally, plus two bronze medals since making his debut as a 15-year-old in the 2000 Olympics, but you get the point. He’s 23 now, old enough to know better than to mess around with a bong at a party where almost everybody is armed with a cell-

phone camera.

While there’s no condoning what Phelps did, most of us under-