Baker postpones decision to raise CBFs

Cal Poly President Warren Baker agreed to postpone his decision whether to raise College Based Fees (CBFs) after a request from California Education Chancellor Charles B. Reed following questions surrounding the CSU system budget.

The quarterly fee increase, originally proposed by several Cal Poly deans, was overwhelmingly passed by students last quarter and would increase CBFs to $682 a quarter next year and up to $862 a quarter by 2011. Forty-eight percent of students voted and of those, 78 percent voted to increase fees.

"In light of the uncertain economic environment, the chancellor of the CSU system has asked the CSU campuses to delay any decisions on implementation of campus-based academic fees until there is more clarity on the state budget and its impact on the CSU," Baker said in a press release sent Wednesday.

In an e-mail sent to students Wednesday, Baker thanked them for their patience and restated the chancellor's wishes that the CSU system wait to increase student fees until the state budget system clears up.

Numerous forums were held in departments, colleges and campus-wide to debate the increase during the weeks before the March 18-11 vote. Proponents of the increase argued that the increase is necessary to uphold Cal Poly's quality of education while critics say it is unfair to increase students' financial burdens.

Student arrested on suspicion of forgery

A Cal Poly student was arrested Monday on suspicion of forging prescriptions at a local Rite Aid Pharmacy. Natural resources management student Luke Marvos, 23, is being investigated for the burglaries of a Santa Maria doctor's office and an elderly San Luis Obispo woman's residence, according to San Luis Obispo Police Department.

Marvos spoke to police on Sunday regarding the burglary of an elderly San Luis Obispo apartment but was released after the interviews. He had allegedly met the woman at the Footlockers Rite Aid and later went to her door soliciting donations for a school project. Her apartment was later burglarized and prescription medication was the only thing stolen, police said.

Suspicion arose when Marvos dropped off three pamphlets or prescriptions to the Footlockers Rite Aid on Sunday. Store employees thought the prescriptions may be fraudulent and contacted other local pharmacies, police said.

The Longs Drug Store on Marsh Street had filled a prescription for Marvos recently and the doctor listed on it had recently had his office burglarized and suspected his prescription pad to be stolen.

When Marvos went to pick up the confirmed fraudulent prescriptions from Rite Aid, he was arrested and consented to a search of her residence in the JB Apartment complex.

Officers reportedly found evidence that Marvos was selling prescription drugs, including drugs in other people's names, a small indoor marijuana grow and drug paraphernalia. He was booked into San Luis Obispo County Jail for one count of possession of a controlled substance.

The Cal Poly natural resource management department had no knowledge of a student fundraiser regarding a greenhouse, which Marvos had reportedly claimed he was collecting donations for while going door-to-door.

Obama and Brown: G-20 deal will fight recession

G-20 delegates and guests attend a dinner at Downing Street, in London, Wednesday. Celebrity chef Jamie Oliver's meal for G-20 leaders at Downing Street features seasonal, local produce slow-roasted Welsh lamb is the main course for Wednesday's dinner. U.S. President Barack Obama, is seen seated 8th from right. While summit host Britain's Prime Minister is seated 4th from right.

Jane Wardell

LONDON (AP) — Doggedly optimistic in the face of doubts, President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown predicted Thursday's emergency G-20 economic summit would produce a significant global deal to tackle the deepening worldwide recession.

Others weren't so sure. France warned on Wednesday that neither it nor Germany would agree to "false compromises" that soft-pedal a need for tougher financial regulation to curb abuses that contributed to the spreading chaos. And outside the carefully scripted meetings, protesters smashed bank windows and pelted police with eggs and fruit.

Thousands surged into London's financial district, blocking the Bank of England and breaking into a branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland. Elsewhere, however, inside the meetings, Obama said differences among the president and prime ministers of the Group of 20 rich and emerging countries, were "vastly overstated."

"I am absolutely confident that this meeting will reflect enormous consensus about the need to work in concert to deal with these problems," said Obama, who is under pressure to make a good showing in his first major international appearance.

With economic chaos spreading, Brown, the host of the summit, predicted an agreement on a coordinated strategy, including a possible $1 trillion fund to finance global trade, tighter financial rules and actions to support economic growth and job creation.

"G-20 leaders are also in general agreement on a plan to double the money available to the International Monetary Fund, to some $500 billion, to help emerging countries."

"Consensus on further measures is by no means clear.
"Brown initially trumpeted the gathering as "a new Bretton Woods" - a new financial architecture for the years ahead." But the meetings far behind little substantively to the 1944 New Hampshire conference where the eventual winners of World War II gathered to set postwar global monetary and financial order.

Wardell wrote: "WASHINGTON has eased on its push for other governments to pump more money into economic stimulus programs after heavy opposition from European countries, who concern their biggest social safety nets make more spending unnecessary."

Germany and France have instead campaigned for tougher rules to restrain financial market excesses. That disagreement has lowered expectations for the London summit and weakened confidence in the world's ability to quickly pull out of the downturn.

Global trade is plummeting, protectionsism is beginning to make inroads and unemployment is rising.

French leader Nicolas Sarkozy, who had earlier implied he might walk out on key demands on tighter regulation were not met, presented a more conciliatory stance at a joint London news conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, saying he had "confidence in Obama."

He still warned, however, that France or Germany would reject "false compromises" and considered concrete steps on tax havens, hedge funds and rating agencies crucial.

France and Berlin want definitive agreements on a crackdown on tax havens and action on other regulatory issues, rather than simple commitments to reform. The summit is also expected to consider lightly regulated hedge funds and how to clear bank balance sheets of shaky assets.

Sarkozy said that "without new regulation there will be no confidence, it's a major non-negotiable objective."

Merkel said both she and Sarkozy had come to London "in a very constructive mood." But she said, "We do not want results that have no impact in practice."

Even free trade remains the subject of potentially bitter disputes.

In their meeting in November, the G-20 members vowed to avoid protectionism that could stifle trade. But since then, 17 have acted to pass subsidies to protect their own industries or see Summit, page 2
Don Thompson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO (AP) — The head of California’s prison system said Wednesday that he will soon ask state legislators to approve expanding three prisons to hold an additional 2,800 inmates, adding to what already is the nation’s largest state prison system.

The construction projects would be the first to draw money from a nearly $8 billion bond measure approved by lawmakers two years ago. The money has been stalled ever since by drafting problems that were corrected in the budget legislation that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed into law in February.

Corrections Secretary Matthew Cate said he plans to seek approval within weeks to build cellblocks for about 900 inmates each at high-security Kern Valley and medium-security North Kern state prisons, both near Delano.

He also wants to convert a juvenile lookup near Paso Robles into a prison for 1,000 older men.

Adding cells is part of the state’s response to a federal court finding that it must reduce prison overcrowding.

The $80 million Cate will seek from legislative budget committees would pay for those three expansions, plus building a re-entry center in Stockton for 800 inmates who are nearing the end of their prison terms. It would be the first of several planned regional re-entry centers to help inmates adjust in the months before they are paroled.

Actual construction of the four facilities will depend on when the bond markets open, Cate said, because bonds to pay for construction can’t be sold until then.

Building the facilities would take about two years, he said.

Legislators approved $7.8 billion in revenue bonds in April 2007 to build more state prisons and county jails.

Cate also plans to soon ask legislators to approve expanding medium-security Wasco State Prison, though details are still being worked out, he said in an interview after his confirmation hearing.

The Senate Rules Committee plans to vote April 22 on whether to let Cate keep the job he has held for nearly a year. He needs approval by the full Senate by mid-May to continue to hold the post.

The proposed construction comes as a special panel of three federal judges is preparing a final order that could force the state to free about a third of its nearly 170,000 inmates. About 153,000 are in the state’s 33 adult prisons, with the remainder in correctional camps, community correctional centers and private prisons in other states.

The judges tentatively ruled in February that severe crowding is causing unconstitutional conditions for physically and mentally ill inmates.

To that end, Cate said he is working with J. Clark Kelso, the federal court-appointed receiver who controls prison medical care, to see if some of the new cells Cate plans to build could be used for sick inmates.

Cate also is considering if some of the cells could be used for mentally ill inmates as part of a treatment plan due to be filed with another federal judge within 60 days.

“Let’s maybe kill two birds with one stone,” Cate said. “There are a number of options we are exploring.”

An inmate in a special head brace is seen in cell at the California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility in Corcoran, Calif. in January. As California’s inmate population ages a federal court-appointed receiver says the state will have to spend more money on specialized treatment and housing.

Schwarzenegger’s administration has argued it can use the $7.8 billion approved by legislators two years ago instead of approving up to $8 billion in additional borrowing sought by Kelso to improve inmate care.

But Cate told senators Wednesday that the $7.8 billion will likely not be enough to bring prisons up to constitutional standards. He said he is negotiating with Kelso to determine “the minimum we can live with in these tough times.”

SUMMIT

The Los Angeles Times plan for developing countries and urge the G-20 countries to back away from damaging anti-trade policies.

It remains to be seen if the leaders will be able to avoid a repeat of the last time that London hosted a world economic summit — the 1933 World Economic Conference that tried to agree to plans to revise the global economy in the midst of the Great Depression.

Many commentators blame the collapse of that gathering — torpedoed in part by the recalcitrance of now-President Franklin D. Roosevelt — to make agreements that would restrict his freedom to act on the U.S. economy — for the subsequent erection of international trade barriers, continued competitive currency devaluation and rising unemployment.

An informal meeting between leaders of the G-20 nations, which would include the United States, will take place in London on Thursday morning. United States President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown will be attending the informal meeting in London on Thursday morning. The meeting will be held at the British Prime Minister’s residence in central London. The meeting will be attended by the leaders of the G-20 countries, including China, Russia, India, Brazil, South Africa, Turkey, Mexico, and the European Union. The meeting will focus on a range of issues, including global economic recovery, climate change, and international security. The meeting will be held in a formal setting, and the leaders will discuss their views and concerns on these issues. The meeting will be closed to the public, and there will be no scheduled press conferences. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for the leaders to discuss their views and concerns on a range of issues, and to find common ground on which to build a more stable and prosperous global economy.
Internet hoaxes launched for April Fools’ Day gag

Jake Coyle  
_PRESS ASSOCIATIE

While the potentially dangerous Cofbiker worm was being tracked throughout April Fools’ Day, more harmless hoaxes were being fed out across the Internet.

Everyone from Google to The Guardian were rolling out prank Web sites Wednesday. It’s become an April 1 tradition on the Web to showcase absurd technological breakthroughs and silly pseudo-innovations.

New media mockery was everywhere. Google unveiled “Gmail Auto Pilot.” It alleges that it will help you weed through your e-mails by replying to e-mails with automated responses, tailored to your preference for emoticons.

Google also claimed to have mastered artificial intelligence with an entity named “CAIDIE.” That technology led Google to claim, among other things, that it could now “read your brain.”

The 18-year-old British site Fools, page 4

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MAKING THE MOST OF CAREER COUNSELING

Having a plan of action when it comes to your career is important, now more than ever. Luckily, you have a Career Counselor available to help you clarify what you want to do and how to get there. Making an appointment by calling 756-2501 is the first step, but to get the most out of your career counseling session keep these tips in mind.

- Expect to have a two-way conversation. Your ideas, values and interests are crucial to the career planning process. We want to know more than what job you want, we want to cover all your bases, come in with an idea of what you want to get out of your appointment.

- Decide what your goals are for the meeting. Even if you just want to make sure you’re covering all your bases, come in with an idea of what you want to get out of your appointment.

- Be honest. With us for sure, but especially with yourself.

- Have realistic expectations. Know that you are ultimately responsible for making your own decisions and finding your own job. However, your counselor will give you the tools, etc. that will help you accomplish these tasks now and throughout your lifetime.
Briefs

State

PALO ALTO, Calif. (AP) — Getting an acceptance letter from Stanford University is harder than ever. Stanford said Wednesday the university only admitted 7.6 percent of its freshman applicants, its lowest admission rate ever.

Officials say only 2,500 of the more than 30,000 applicants received an offer of admission. Admissions officers had expected about 25,000 applications, but received 20 percent more.

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The University of California, San Diego accidentally sent a welcome e-mail to about 20,000 applicants. E-mail was sent to about 25,000 applicants, but received 20 percent more.

C V C T , Stanford said Wednesday.

Students and alumni of the University of New York lined up for a job fair in New York March 20, 2009. The U.S. Labor Department reported Wednesday all 372 metropolitan areas tracked saw their jobless rates rise in January from a year earlier.

International

SEUL, South Korea (AP) — Two California journalists detained in North Korea could land in a nontransparent labor camp for years if convicted on charges of illegal entry and "hostile acts." But the regime may be more interested in using the reporters as leverage in talks with the United States.

They could provide Pyongyang with an edge in any negotiations with Washington following its planned launch of a rocket some time in the coming week.

LONDON (AP) — Clanting G-20 protesters clashed with riot police in central London on Wednesday, overwhelming police lines, vandalizing the Bank of England and smashing windows at the Royal Bank of Scotland. An effigy of a banker was set ablaze, drawing cheers.

More than 30 people were arrested after some 4,000 anarchists, anti-capitalists, environmentalists and others tagged London's financial district for what demonstrators branded "Financial Fools' Day."

Fools

continued from page 3

newspaper The Guardian said it would become a "Twitter-only publication," limiting its reports to 140 characters or less.

One example from 1927 read: "OMG! first successful trans-Atlantic air flight was, pretty cool!"

(1)he North Carolina alternative weekly Mountain Express announced a similar reconfiguration, saying itself the "nation's first Tweet." Yahoo! created a new "Ideaological Scratch" that uses results to filter your personal beliefs. On it, you can get either Republican or Democratic results to a query like "stimulus package."

A startup called Monetate launched a proof of the photo-sharing site Flickr. With "snip," the site claims it has brought social networking to your personal belief. On it, you can get either Republican or Democratic results to a query like "stimulus package."

"It's like Flicker but for your nose." YouTube offered its latest innovations in online video: up-down viewing. Its experience at YouTube suggests turning your monitor upside down and tilting your head — or moving to Australia.

The online marketplace Amazon.com announced that it had brought cloud computing to the skies. Though "cloud computing" is simply a metaphor for a kind of interconnected computing, Amazon said it used "the latest in supercomputing technology to put computers in the clouds (with blimps)."

The travel booking site Expedia.com on Wednesday began offering flights to Mars. It's a steal, too, with flights for just $99 "Save over $13 Trillion" for the trip.

FunnOrDie.com, the comedy video Web site co-founded by Will Ferrell, announced that it had been bought by country star Reba McEntire. The site was temporarily renamed "Reba of the Sky" and its home page was populated entirely with videos featuring McEntire.

"We got to be bought by someone, at least it's Reba," said Ferrell.

There were countless fake press releases and news reports issued Wednesday.

But most of the most popular pranks were obvious and lightweight. If anything, what was evident Wednesday was the full breadth of media playing April Fools' gags.

Microsoft's XBox unveiled a mock version of the popular video game Guitar Hero: "Alpine Legend." This version is for yodeling, rather than guitar playing.

On Facebook, various applications posted joke alerts like "Barack Obama confirmed you as a fan." The version for yodeling, rather than guitar playing.

The blog for How Stuff Works explained how "Works" like inventions — like replaceable guns and "permanent kettles."

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“The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” to enchant Poly this weekend

Jennifer Ticecomb
March 30

Release the child within and escape to the magical snow-covered land of Narnia. "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" musical is based on the first novel from C.S. Lewis' series "The Chronicles of Narnia." Theatreworks USA has been performing the musical since 1993 and it's been one of its most successful productions.

The musical tells the tale of four children who find a portal to the land of Narnia while playing hide-and-seek in a magic wardrobe. The White Witch represents evil and casts a spell on Narnia that makes it winter forever but never Christmas. The children fight to break the spell and bring King Aslan back into power.

Theatreworks USA's portrayal of the book is unique because the entire story fits into a 60 minute performance.

"I'm actually really anxious to see how they will do this," said Peter Wilt, Program Manager for Cal Poly Arts. Wilt said he had had good experience with the company in the past. "They do a great job of taking books and making them into musicals."

The book and the movies "The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe" and "Prince Caspian" have grossed more than one billion dollars combined worldwide according to the Web site Box Office Mojo.

"A lot of parents read the books and people have seen the movie "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," Wilt said.

Marketing Coordinator for Theatreworks USA, Patrick Dwyer explained that because the musical is only an hour it is presented in a story-theatre style where actors step out of character to explain what is going on.

The small cast consists of five actors that play four or five different roles each throughout the musical. "It is very cleverly staged and it's never confusing for audience members," Dwyer said.

Distinguishing between the different characters is made simple using headgear and costumes.

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Then things get interesting... chosen applicants will receive an initial funding of $500 so they can get moving. Keep us updated throughout Spring Quarter, and then show us what you got! On a date to be announced, you'll display your discoveries and progress to the world.

A group of students will pick three contestants to be awarded additional funding to continue their research. The winners and their faculty advisors will be honored at a special event at the end of the Spring Quarter (Date TBA).

It's that simple!

Proposal details are available online at honorsprojects.com/husel.php

QUESTIONS? Student Contact: Casey Kellahan - ckellhan@calpoly.edu
Faculty Contact: Sema Alptekin - salpteki@calpoly.edu

So what are you waiting for? Lust-Husel!
This spring break was a rediscovery of life, love and most importantly myself. Important life lessons were learned as mistakes were repeated, reviewed, refined and refined over plastic cups of gin and ginger ale indoors and out. But I am supposed to review a record, not waste space on such trivialities as how I spent my spring break. So I'll take the easy way out and tell you about "Bromst," the new Dan Deacon album off of Carpark as if the album were the soundtrack to my spring break.

The mantra "SB '99: So fine!" started off the break with a sense of insecurity but would eventually build momentum and become a proud phrase to be shouted out of cars on various road trips. You see, I was the messenger behind the rhyme, but I was too afraid to share it with my life partner Graham, a proud phrase to be shouted out in public with. We were repeating the mantra, reviewing it, were learned as mistakes were supposed to review a record, not waste space on such trivialities as how I spent my spring break. So I'll take the easy way out and tell you about "Bromst," the new Dan Deacon album off of Carpark as if the album were the soundtrack to my spring break.

"Bromst" is the latest release from American musician Dan Deacon. The fourth track, "Snookered," is without a doubt, the best song of the album and likely to be one of my favorites of the year. My play counter doesn't even come close to comprehending how many times I've listened to this song and just been inspired to do something stupid just to make sure that the music will end in tears. Dan Deacon turns off whichever one of the myriad of wires and switches that makes his voice sound like a chipmunk and clearly states that he has "been wrong so many times before, but never quite like this (inaudible mumble) I'm in the rain, but the rain all turned to nasals." I just want to howl to this song and throw water at pedestrians from a moving car at pedestrians accosting me with their nasals.

As a whole, "Bromst" stays true to the pop sensibilities of "Spiderman of the Rings," while evolving into a somewhat more mature and self-conscious entity layered in so many instruments and effects that I'm surprised that I actually get to hear the album and likely to be one of my favorite albums of the year. My play counter doesn't even come close to comprehending how many times I've listened to this song and just been inspired to do something stupid just to make sure that the music will end in tears. Dan Deacon turns off whichever one of the myriad of wires and switches that makes his voice sound like a chipmunk and clearly states that he has "been wrong so many times before, but never quite like this (inaudible mumble) I'm in the rain, but the rain all turned to nasals." I just want to howl to this song and throw water at pedestrians from a moving car at pedestrians accosting me with their nasals.

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Actor from ‘Angel’ dies at 33 of heart disease

Erin Carlson

NEW YORK — Seven students have been punished for violating the code of conduct at Oprah Winfrey’s school for disadvantaged girls in South Africa, the second controversy to hit the fledgling institution since it opened in 2007.

Winfrey representative Don Halcombe said Wednesday that four students were expelled and three were suspended last week from her Leadership Academy for Girls outside Johannesburg.

Halcombe declined to say what led to the violations because there are minors involved. Lisa Halliday, a spokeswoman for the academy’s foundation, said it was a confidential school matter and would not “confirm any personal information or disclose any details related to these expulsions.”

South African media have reported that the seven girls were accused of trying to force students into relationships and to engage in sexual contact.

“I’m disappointed that several of our students chose to disregard the school’s rules,” Winfrey said in a statement issued by her production company HARPO. “It’s disheartening when any student has to be suspended or expelled and it’s a process that involves serious review and consideration.

We will not tolerate a violation of school policy and dishonesty.”

This isn’t the first time events at the elite girls school have upset Winfrey. The talk-show queen said she was devastated after a woman over­seeing a dormitory at the academy was accused of abuse and sexual assault months after the school opened. The woman’s trial has not yet ended.

The institution opened in January 2007 with about 150 girls in 7th and 8th grades. The Academy is expected to grow by one grade each year until it reaches full capacity in 2011, with approximately 450 girls in grades 7 through 12.

Winfrey poured $40 million into the 28-building campus, which is spread across 22 lush acres. It has computer and science labs, and a library, theater and wellness center. Each girl lives in a two-bedroom suite.

It’s the fulfillment of a promise she made to former South African President Nelson Mandela and aims to give poor girls a quality education and prepare them for leadership positions in a country where schools are struggling to overcome the legacy of white-minority rule.

In this television publicity image released by Twentieth Century Fox, Andy Hallett who portrays Lorne in the vampire TV series, ‘Angel,’ is shown. Hallett’s agent Pat Brady says Hallett died Sunday, March 29, 2009, at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles after having problems breathing. Brady says he has battled the heart condition for the past five years. He was 33.

Solov Schou

LOS ANGELES — Andy Hallett, who made his mark playing green-skinned, good-guy demon Lorne on the TV series ‘Angel,’ has died of congestive heart disease. Hallett was 33.

Hallett was taken by ambulance to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles after having problems breathing and died there Sunday following a five-year battle with the heart condition, his agent Pat Brady said Tuesday.

His father, Dave Hallett, was by his side.

“Andy was the all-American boy from Massachusetts,” Brady said. “He was a cool, he was comfortable whenever he went. Girls loved him. He was a very gregarious, happy young man.

Born and raised in Osterville, Mass., Hallett moved out to Los Angeles when he was 23 and worked as a messenger at a talent agency, said Brady.

He went on to become an assistant to Lisa Whalen’s wife, Brady. It said it was when Winch said the sickly Hallett perform karaoke that he had him audition for ‘Angel’ a spoof of Whalen’s hit series “Buffy the Vampire Slayer.” Hallett snarled the part of Lorne.

Hallett proved himself a fan favorite on ‘Angel’ as the show’s unique, lovable red horned demon who runs the karaoke club Caritas and can read a man’s aura when they sing, revealing their problems and futures. The series, starring David Boreanaz as the brooding vampire Angel, ran for five seasons on the WB network before it was canceled, ending in 2004.

Hallett was diagnosed with his heart condition at the end of the show, said Brady, and had been in and out of hospitals for the past five years. He decided to concentrate on his own music, stepping away from acting.

Hallett, an only child, is survived by his father Dave Hallett and mother Lori Hallet.
Obama's decision to remove CEO was the right one — this time

I'm not interested in politics, polls or any politician. I'm not interested in ideology, or even government as an institution. I am interested in forward-thinking ideas and in how policies affect individuals. I see America's positive potential, both for the benefit of our country and for countries and continents abroad. I'm interested in "vision over visibility," as Bonobos in one of U2's new songs "Moment of Surrender" — the idea that what we are is not as appealing as what we could be.

I label me a socialist, communist or naive, but I think the majority of Americans voted for Barack Obama because of his intelligent optimism, knowing that our best days as a nation are still to come and that he has the thoughtfulness to achieve those better days. This, among many policy reasons, is why I voted for Obama and still trust his decisions.

However, President Obama's decision to ask General Motors' Chief Executive Officer Rick Wagoner to step aside in order for GM to continue to receive government bailout funding has been scrutinized this week by news pundits and political analysts, and it was usually disconcerting to me.

The news story that has been running for the past week is that the government stepped into the private business sector and fired Wagoner. So Varney, as an economist, journalist, ranting on the campaign trail.

Varney went on to say with an air of finality, "The government controls the car industry in the United States." You know the classic music from that scene in Psycho, the Hitchcock movie, where the bad guy repeatedly stabs the woman to death in the shower and all the blood runs down the drain? That's the music that should have followed Stu Varney's portrayal of Obama's decision to ask Wagoner to step aside.

But it is all that bad? Be sure, it was unsettling to me, simply as an American. Despite my liberal tendencies, I still retain aiver of capitalist respect for the separation of private business and government. However, there are important practical reasons why President Obama was entitled to ask Wagoner to step aside.

According to New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd, Wagoner "lost $82 billion in the last four years, took $1.3 billion in bailout money and asked for $16.6 billion more, even as the carmaker's market share melted from 33 percent to 18 percent and its stock slid from more than $70 a share to less than $4 — about what that this week has news story that should not set a precedence for government to be so freely allocated to millionaires while elderly Americans choose between food and medicine, and some families file for bankruptcy due to high hospital bills.

President Obama has expressed outrage over the AIG executives who spent for financial assistance and then expected it to be acceptable for them to distribute bonuses to certain employees. By asking Wagoner, an irresponsible CEO, to step aside, President Obama demonstrated the responsibility he has taken upon himself to insure that our tax dollars are not misused by corporate America again.

It's a forward-thinking idea that should increase Americans' confidence that he will retain the same concern for the middle class that he had on the campaign trail.

Nevertheless, Wagoner's removal as CEO of GM should not set a precedence for government intervention into the private business sector. If we are to forge a new path of policies in America, we must always focus our judgments on liberty and justice. Proposals must both affirm those principles and lift our country to its feet to insure that one can fire, how much can you pay them, the perks that they can receive, their business practices and basically what product you can put out.

The news story that has been running for the past week is that the government stepped into the private business sector and fired Wagoner.

Send a letter to the editor!
Submit your thoughts, opinions, rants and raves in 250 words or less to mustangdailyeditorials@gmail.com

Have something to say?
For those of you who left the country over spring break, your currency exchanges may have left you with a private banking cash in your pocket unplotted. On the Wednesday prior to break, the Federal Reserve (Fed) announced it was monetizing one-trillion dollar worth of debt in the form of long-term treasury bonds and mortgage securities. This injection of cash into the economy was promoted as a stimulus measure, but many fear this action is a major step towards the devaluation of the dollar. 

Despite the mainstream news outlets and Congress being engulfed in the AIG bonus scandal at the time, the commodities markets and exchange rate reacted quietly, not at what a dollar note actually says. Across the country and with close ties to the wealthy influential schemers and demands of the federal government. Such manipulations create money out of thin air to satisfy the funding deficiency. Fiat monetary system. The Fed has continually devalued the dollar with new rate has not yet regained their losses. This instability in value is undeniable in the world of major currency States with a vested interest in the stability of the dollar voiced their concerns over the dilution of the dollar and the announcement, and their concerns with our central banking system should not be taken lightly. The Fed's move prompted officially from President, Russos, the United Nations, and the International Monetary Fund to make announcements and let your representatives know your opinions. 

Established at the Bretton Woods agreement during World War II. Although the Bretton Woods system, which provided a stable dollar, collapsed in 1971, the dollar continues to be a major reserve currency. This era may soon come to an end if current trends continue, with possibly disastrous consequences for America. President Woodrow Wilson later regretted signing the Federal Reserve Act once he realized the potential of the system to manipulate the financial system in a way that touches every American. The act delegates an authority granted to Congress by the Constitution to a private banking system not held fully accountable to the Treasury or to Congress. As the complexity of the banking system grows, so did the influence of the Fed. The Fed has become influential to the point many take it for granted. Its existence is manifested every time you use paper currency, widely termed "money." Its existence is manifested every time you use paper currency, widely termed "money."

Another option to circumvent the Fed's influence is to repeal the laws authorizing the use of Federal Reserve notes as legal tender. Congress is not authorized by the Constitution to declare which forms of currency are legal tender and states are limited to gold and silver as forms of legal tender per Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution. While the act would not fully make the Federal Reserve system constitutional, the increased monetary oversight and review of the relationship to the Treasury may make the act an excellent interim measure to limit reckless and secretive actions by the Fed. If your representative has not yet expressed his or her support for the bill, please urge him or her to do so, as I have.

The passage of the CRFB increase only solidifies how nave the Cal Poly student population is. Congratulations, you were successfully bilked by a supposedly "unbiased" administration into passing a referendum promoting fiscal irresponsibility than you think. But now are futures are safe right? We no longer have to worry about the administrations threat of class eliminations. We have preserved the "learn by doing" philosophy. Well, I thank you Cal Poly; you have taught me something during my tenure. When the going gets tough I should just admit defeat like you did. Rather than laboring to fix fundamental budgetary flaws, you took the easy way out. This seems to be the ever popular ideology of the US population. Take the easy way out. But how can we blame our citizens when institutions of higher learning are not only preaching but also practiced this philosophy?

— John Abruzzini

When I applied to Cal Poly over four years ago, one of the biggest draws to the university was the fact that I will receive an education that is on the same caliber as a middle-ranked University of California institution (such as UC Davis, UC Irvine or UC Santa Barbara) for half the cost. Of all the universities I applied to and was accepted to, Cal Poly had the best the "bang-to-buck" ratio. However, these fee increases threaten the "bang-to-buck" ratio advantage that Cal Poly has. Keep in mind that the fees that were just increased are only the college-based fees. The state university fee seems to go up about 10 to 15 percent annually due to California's chronic budget issues, and other fees related to Cal Poly, from the ASI fee to parking permits, always seem to increase as well. Fees may be in the mid-$7,000 ballpark by the 2011-2012 school year. Although I understand that UC fees are also increasing, the gap between UC fees and Cal Poly fees is becoming smaller each year. Cal Poly needs to focus on ways to control the costs of running an institution, instead of just demanding more money whenever it faces budget issues. It can start by reducing freshman enrollment to sustainable levels and by perhaps outsourcing some of its services, such as dining. My long-term dream would be for Cal Poly to focus on its premier programs (engineering, architecture, and agriculture) are prime examples, although there are many other great programs here) and remove some of its non-premier programs. I have the same philosophy with California's chronic budget issues, but that's a topic for another day.

— Michael McInerney

The Obama maniacs just keep voting to spend spend spend. Really, check people. Spending isn't the solution to all of life's problems. I thought that the election of Obama was going to solve all our problems — you mean that his stimulus package couldn't fix the budget? He was supposed to take care of all of us. I'm glad I'm out of here in June. Suckers.

— Mike
Pardon
continued from page 12

"When we couldn’t beat him in the ring, the white power establishment decided to beat him in the courts," Burns told the AP in a telephone interview. Burns’ 2005 documentary, "Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson," examined Johnson’s case and the sentencing judge’s admitted desire to "send a message" to black men about relationships with white women.

Bush, McCain and King said a pardon, particularly one from Obama, would carry important symbolism.

"It would be indicative of the distance we’ve come, and also indicative of the distance we still have to go," McCain said.

Burns, however, sees a pardon more as "just a question of justice, which is not only blind, but color blind," adding, "And I think it absolutely does not have anything to do with the symbolism of an African-American president pardoning an African-American unjustly accused."

Burns helped form the Committee to Pardon Jack Johnson, which filed a petition with the Justice Department in 2004 that was never acted on. Burns said he spoke about the petition a couple of times with Bush, who is governor of Johnson’s home state of Texas, who proclaimed Johnson’s birthday as "Jack Johnson Day" for five straight years.

Bush gave Burns a phone number which led to adviser Karl Rove. Burns said, but Rove told him a pardon "ain’t gonna fly."

"Rove doesn’t recall any such conversation with Burns, his spokeswoman Sheena Tahmouresian said, and "if he had been approached, he wouldn’t have offered an opinion."}

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Football
continued from page 12

"The game is supposed to be enjoyable," Walsh said. "It’s supposed to be. Let’s go out and play football because we love to do it. At coaches we’re supposed to show the players that we love what we do too. So I think the enthusiasm and the positive energy will be contagious from both sides."

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**THURSDAY**

**MEN’S TENNIS VS. OREGON**

12PM, MUSTANG COURTS

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**FRIDAY**

**BASEBALL VS. CAL STATE NORTH RIDGE**

6PM, BAGGETT STADIUM

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**SATURDAY**

**TRACK & FIELD INVITATIONAL MEET**

11AM, MUSTANG TRACK

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**SUNDAY**

**SOFTBALL VS. UCSB**

12PM, BOB JANSSEN FIELD

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**MEN’S TENNIS VS. SACRAMENTO STATE**

12PM, MUSTANG COURTS

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**BASEBALL VS. CAL STATE NORTH RIDGE**

6PM, BAGGETT STADIUM

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**BASEBALL VS. CAL STATE NORTH RIDGE**

1PM, BAGGETT STADIUM

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**JERSEY DAY WITH MUSTANG SOFTBALL**

All youth, 13 and under, receive free admission by wearing a jersey to the game!

**JERSEY DAY AND POST-GAME PARENT-CHILD TOSS**

All youth, 13 and under, receive free admission by wearing a jersey to the game! Be sure to stay for the whole game as parents and their children will be invited down to the field to toss the ball around with the Mustangs!
Mustangs spring into first practice of new year

Scott Silvey

The college football season is just around the corner, but for the Cal Poly Mustangs, it’s already in full swing.

Cal Poly junior quarterback Tony Smith takes a snap during the team’s first practice of the spring.

Cal Poly’s offense will be totally revamped this year after losing most of their starters last year. The Mustangs are counting on a surprisingly strong crop of redshirt freshmen and upperclassmen to fill the shoes of Noble and Mole, who helped lead Cal Poly to the top overall offense in FCS and the third best rushing attack.

While Grayson has filled in admirably in the past averaging over eight yards per carry over the last two years, he is not expecting any special treatment from the new coaching staff.

The quarterback position is not the only one for the taking, as players will jockey for spots on both sides of the ball and special teams. Walsh said players would be watched and evaluated in terms of performance and athletic ability to determine where they fit.

Senior running back Jono Grayson is one of the players likely penciled in to fill the shoes of Noble and Mole, who helped lead Cal Poly to the top overall offense in FCS and the third best rushing attack.

The first two days of non-pad practice were open to the public, providing a glimpse into the team’s progress.

Walsh said the quarterbacks would all be monitored closely throughout the spring.

Cal Poly’s offense was expected to be the biggest story this season. The Mustangs are counting on a surprisingly strong crop of redshirt freshmen and upperclassmen to fill the shoes of Noble and Mole, who helped lead Cal Poly to the top overall offense in FCS and the third best rushing attack.

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