**Cal Poly student dies over summer**

**SAE sued because of Starkey death**

**Students wild about Week of Welcome**

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**Memorandum reveals flaws in foster care system**

**Find out what happened over the weekend in Cal Poly sports**

**US and China team up to reduce greenhouse gasses**

---

**University Police Department**

43 Arrests

51 SLO Police Department

49 Open-container citations

16 Noise violations

13 Public intoxication arrests

12 Urinating in public

7 DUI arrests

2 Trespassing violations

1 Resisting arrest

1 Battery case

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**California Polytechnic State University**

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**IN News, 4**

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**IN Sports, 16**

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**IN Arts, 10**

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**TOMORROW: Sunny High 88°/Low 52°**
**Mustang Daily**

**News**

**Rodriguez**

Continued from page 1

Tangible moments of Rodriguez.

The passing of Rodriguez, a Malibu resident and former Malibu High School student, prompted the creation of a 447-member strong Facebook group, titled "In Loving Memory of Kevin Rodriguez, R.I.P." Rodriguez’s younger sister Diana started the group.

Many members of the group shared reactions to the news of Rodriguez’s death on the group’s Facebook wall.

"Kevin was always such a nice person," one member wrote. "I didn’t know him well, but he made going to Malibu High a lot easier for me as an incoming freshman some six years ago. I’ll always remember you as the caring, smart person who accepted everyone for who they were and always had something nice to say."

Rodriguez is remembered by friends and family as a friendly face and someone who enjoyed learning. He liked surfing, both at home in Malibu and at school around Pismo Beach and Morro Bay. His friends described him as respectful and loving.

Rodriguez was interested in programming and software development and wanted to develop his own computer games, his father said.

Ikobert Ikodriguez noticed that his son was becoming increasingly spiritual about three to four weeks before the accident.

"There was no time to say goodbye the day you went away," Ikobert Ikodriguez wrote about his son’s passing. "We think of you in silence, we often speak your name. All we have are memories, and your picture in a frame. If tears could build a stairway and heartaches make a lane, we would walk the path to Heaven to bring you home again... bly well sweetie, till we meet again."

"He always believed in this: ‘knowledge is power,’” Ikobert Ikodriguez said. "He always liked to treat others the way he liked to be treated. He always said, ‘never assume’ or ‘never judge.’"

A church memorial service took place on Aug. 23 in Westlake Village. Ikodriguez would have been 20 this November.

**Starkey**

Continued from page 1

a non-profit organization called With Carson, to help educate students about alcohol. A bill was also passed in Texas, Starkey’s home state, called the Carson Starkey Alcohol Awareness and Education Act.

Labor said that they have not asked for any money in the suit at this time.

Labor also said that other fraternities have been sued over wrongful deaths successfully in the past.

"The national fraternities do not take charge," he said.

There is no outside supervision in these organizations; teenagers are supervising teenagers, he added.

Scott and Julia Starkey hired two different law firms, one from Washington D.C. and one from San Francisco. Both have experience in litigation involving fraternities.

"We will continue to honor Carson by doing everything we can to end widespread misconduct in fraternities," said Scott Starkey in a press release. "By bringing this lawsuit, we hope to bring attention to the dangers of hazing, cause fundamental change in fraternities and prevent other families from suffering as we have."
"Older people typically have more risk factors that can complicate sur-
genery, including hypertension, dia-
betes, obesity and arteriosclerosis. But they generally are not ruled out for
transplant solely on the basis of age.

"We're not sure whether it's someone releasing them or not," said San
Diego exotic species coordinator for the Florida
wildlife commission. "It's enough to be concerned. We are sending our
people to look through the area to determine the extent of it."

Experts say the danger to people is remote, but there have been
fatal attacks. A 10-year-old boy was killed by an exotic snake from Africa
in 2002 in South Africa. And in 1999 a pet African rock python escaped
from its enclosure and strangled a 3-year-old boy. A more realistic
danger is to South Florida's environment, where non-native species can
complicate the balance of native predators and cause unpredictable changes to already stressed wildlife.

Lt. Lisa Wood, of the Miami
Dade Fire Rescue Venom Re-
sponse Team, found two of the
snakes. One night in late May,
investigating a report of a giant
snake on the road, she found a
female about 9 feet long
with a BB gun, still bulging from
its broken neck.

"She made it across the
road, there would have been quite
a lot of babies hatched," Wood said.

In August, in another worrisome
indication the snakes may be
breeding, Wood found a 28-
inches-long juvenile that had
been shot with a .44 magnum, still hanging from a recently
received gas tank.

The African rock python is found
in Africa, revolutionizing the
import of exotic pets. The snakes
are large and they get very large,
attaining an average length of
16 feet are more typical. Al-
though this places it below the
Burmese python in the pet trade.

In the past five years, 3,158
African rock python have been
imported into the United States
for commercial sales, according to
the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This makes the snake far less
popular than other constrictors, such as the smaller, mid-sized Burmese python, of which 619,488 were imported, or the Burmese, of which 19,817 were brought in.

"We're talking about a breeding population, you're talk-
ing about large snakes," he said.

"When they're large enough to be breeders, they're going to be
seen."

There's a chance the Burmese and African rock pythons could
become the next alligators, he said, which have been
produced of origin in captivity, said Bill Turner, a biologist with the
Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. Such a hybrid could be a
tougher animal than either of the pure
due to the genetic mix,
said. But it would
against the danger to people is remote, but there have been
throughout South Florida's environment, non-native species can
cause unpredictable changes to already stressed wildlife.

"The primary reason (for using these kidneys) is to try to get the
most use of the organs that we have, but another factor is that transplanta-
tions to locates," said Adam Caplan, director of medicine at University
Pennsylvania. Medical concerns about using less-than-
standard kidney is a higher risk of or-
duration of kidney function. Ciaicedo said a transplant
emigrated to the U.S. fixini Ecua-
from a deceased donor in the
U.S.; two received kidneys from
department side, and it's not
that I think lies in the medical and
environment is how health care ex-
the down-side of taking an ex-
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U.S.; two received kidneys from
China, U.S. promise bold steps to safeguard climate at U.N. summit

Warren P. Strobel and Renee Schoff

President Barack Obama and Hu Jintao of China — the leaders of the two countries that emit the most greenhouse gases — pledged at a United Nations summit Tuesday that their countries would take bold actions to protect the Earth's future climate from irreversible damage.

Obama and Hu listed what their countries already have done to reduce emissions of heat-trapping gases and acknowledged that much more would be needed, although they didn't specify what new steps they'll take to reduce emissions, a step short of making mandatory reductions.

Another area of dispute is how much the world's wealthy nations will pay to help poorer ones reduce emissions and adapt to unavoidable climate change. Any general agreement probably would require more work after the Copenhagen talks to fill in details.

"Success in Copenhagen will have positive ripple effects for global cooperation on trade, energy, security and health," Obama said, "Failure to reach a broad agreement in Copenhagen would be morally inexcusable, economically shortsighted and politically unwise." Obama warned that unless the world's nations act "boldly, swiftly and together, we risk consigning future generations to an irreversible catastrophe." He added, "No nation, however large or small, wealthy or poor, can escape the impact of climate change," which includes rising seas, more frequent droughts and more powerful storms and floods.

Obama announced that at the Group of 20 meeting Thursday in Pittsburgh he'll propose phasing out fossil fuel tax breaks and money can be directed to climate protection.

The United States has been the subject of increasing complaints from Europe for not doing more to set strict limits on carbon emissions. In his speech, Obama said that since he took office in January, "The United States has done more to promote clean energy and reduce carbon pollution in the last eight months than at any other time in our history.

Energy and climate legislation is moving slowly in Congress, however, taking a back seat to Obama's priority of health care restructuring.

China's Hu said his country would cut carbon dioxide emissions as a percentage of economic output by a "notable margin" by 2020, but he didn't specify an amount. China's overall emissions are expected to keep growing through this period. This is a new goal and "the clearest signal yet that China is willing to take on responsibilities that are commensurate with its resources and global emissions impact," said S. Jay Oliva, a senior policy analyst at the Center for American Progress, a nonpartisan research institution that supports Obama's initiatives.

Wang said that Hu's statement implicitly committed China to measure and report its emissions in a way that international observers could verify. A plan for how that would work for all countries remains to be decided.

Hu's statement followed other policy actions by China's leadership in recent years that reduce the rate of increase of the country's emissions.

"Quite frankly, China is making great strides in many areas," Energy Secretary Steven Chu said in an interview Tuesday with McClatchy Newspapers.

President Barack Obama delivers remarks at UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's Climate Change Summit, held at the United Nations headquarters in New York City on September 22.

President Chu said it was possible to keep temperatures from rising by 3.5 degrees Fahrenheit, the level that world leaders and scientists have agreed shouldn't be crossed.

"This goal, which is an ambitious goal, is achievable, but we'll have to work very hard to get there," he said. "Having said all that, the thing we've got to do is get started. We've got to realize the dangers of what would happen" if temperatures increase by 11 degrees Fahrenheit or more, as scientific studies have shown could happen if no limits are put on emissions.

"At all costs we want to avoid entering into that region, because it would be a very different world," Chu said.

China, India and other large developing countries have said it's impossible for them to put a binding cap on emissions.

India announced last week that it would make voluntary emission cuts through greater efficiency and more use of renewable energy.

Obama's Mideast talks fall short of expectations

Warren P. Strobel

President Barack Obama, expressing impatience with stalled Middle East peace talks, told Israeli and Palestinian leaders Tuesday that "it is past time to talk about starting negotiations — it is time to move forward."

His meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas was the highest-level Middle East diplomacy of his presidency, but it fell short of expectations. As recently as a week ago, U.S. officials had hoped it would yield an announcement of renewed formal negotiations on an Israeli-Palestinian peace accord.

However, Obama special envoy George Mitchell was unable to secure a deal in which Israel would freeze construction of West Bank settlements in return for Arab states taking small steps toward recognition.

Obama and his aides seemed to be switching gears after seven months of frustration, as they played down the settlements issue and emphasized the need to begin talks right away.

"Permanent status negotiations must begin, and begin soon," Obama said, referring to talks on the fundamental issues that divide the parties, such as borders, the status of Jerusalem and the settlements.

The meetings at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel — Obama met Netanyahu and Abbas separately, and then brought them together — produced no breakthroughs. The only apparent progress was a commitment by both sides to send negotiating teams to Washington next week, and a general agreement that peace talks should restart quickly.

Mitchell, who repeatedly shuttled across the Middle East, said the Obama administration has made significant progress in narrowing the differences between the two sides. But he added: "We knew this wasn't going to be easy."

Tuesday's talks were "blunt" at times, Mitchell said, with the Israelis and Palestinians reiterating their positions and Obama beseeching them to "get things done."

Netanyahu, at the helm of a right-center coalition, has steadfastly resisted efforts of the rival Arab-Israeli peace accord.

President Obama delivers remarks at UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's Climate Change Summit, held at the United Nations headquarters in New York City on September 22.
Mideast
continued from page 4
which would not include construc-
tion in Jerusalem.
Obama appeared to acknowledge that his early calls for a settlement freeze have fallen on deaf ears, Israel, he said, has only offered to "restrain" settlement activity.
The Israeli offer "is not every-
thing we might have wanted. But it
certainly a significant step," said a
senior U.S. official, who spoke on
condition of anonymity under White
House ground rules.
Aaron David Miller, a Middle East
negotiator for six secretaries of state,
that Mitchell has been working on.
confidence-building measures trade
passe, after seven months of working
"There is absolutely no change in
our focus," he said. "We want to
get negotiations re-launched, and ev-
erything we have said and done in
this period has been in an effort to
achieve that objective."
Obama promised during the
presidential campaign that he would
make Middle East peace a priority, criti-
cizing what he said was Bush's
insufficient attention to a problem
with worldwide ramifications. He
appointed Mitchell, a former Senate
majority leader, as Mideast envoy on
his second full day in office.
But Miller said that Obama will
soon have to calculate how much
time and capital he wants to devote
to the conflict. "The decision point is
rapidly approaching for this admin-
istration. How important is Israel-
Palestinian peace for this president?"

State
SACRAMENTO (MC-
CLATCHY-TRIBUNE) - By
2030, California will need to
train almost 1 million more
health-care workers, according to
a report released Tuesday.
These workers, also known as
health-care workers, are people in
health care who aren't doctors or
nurses. They form the backbone of
the industry, described by
many as the "hidden healthcare
workforce."
The report, funded by the
California Wellness Founda-
tion, said the 15-county area
surrounding Sacramento would
need approximately 214,000 to
253,000 new health workers.
The need for new workers
comes from population growth
in California, and people retiring
or leaving the field. California will
grow by 10.2 million people by 2030,
with the population of
over-65 residents doubling to
9 million, the report projected.
Occupations in highest de-
mand are nursing aides, medical
secretaries, medical assistants,
licensed practical and licensed
vocational nurses, home health
aids, dental assistants and dental
hygienists.
The group includes up to 50
job classifications and comprises
about 60 percent of the health
care work force.

Briefs
National
CHICAGO (MCCLATCHY-
TRIBUNE) - After a microscop-
ic look at several famous marriages,
author Christopher Andersen takes
his pen on some argues, a hatchet-
to the Obamas in his latest book,
"Barack and Michelle: Portrait of an
American Marriage."
He describes a reluctant groom-
to-be, sometimes-stormy union,
and woman sick of emrying his
overwhelming about-and being
shut out by his ambition. He says
the crutches of battling infertility,
helping to nurse daughter Sasha to
health after meningitis, and coping
with early political debt (and
debt), the Obamas survived-and
thrived. By the inauguration they
were "indispensably the First Couple
not only of America but of the
world."

International
URUMQI, CHINA (MC-
CLATCHY) - China's leader-
ship says it has calmed this city
after almost 200 people were
stabbed, bludgeoned or beaten to
death in July riots and more vio-
Ient protests this month forced
the removal of top officials.
Despite the assurances from
Beijing, however, Urumqi
remains on edge less than two
weeks before the 60th anni-
sary celebration of China's com-
munist regime. The region's
main ethnic groups, Han Chi-
nese and Uighurs, Turkic-speak-
ing Muslims, are locked in a
cycle of violence in this enclave
of more than 2.3 million people
near China's western border.
Hundreds of soldiers with
automatic rifles and riot shields are
stationed on street cor-
ers. Pickups zoom through
the streets blaring propaganda
from loudspeakers, exalting the
government and demanding
cooperation.
Urumqi (pronounced uram-
cchee) is supposed to be a
testament to China's unstop-
pable progress, the ability to
take an ancient trading post into
more than a dozen ethnic com-
nunities and erect them over a
modern city of glittering towers
dedicated to commerce and

Word on the Street
"How does it feel to be back
to school?"
Compiled and photographed by Jennifer Ticcomb
"It's pretty overwhelming; getting
back into the swing of things with
work and classes and everything."
-Julie Rudd, Journalism junior
"It feels good. I was
going bored."
-Gonzalo Chavez, ethnic studies senior
"It feels kind of long and
draining. But it's
exciting and bit-ter-
sweet."
-Sadie Jones, liberal studies junior

These Are Your Times.

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Pick up your copy at the Robert E. Kennedy Library.
Due to recent economic conditions, the complimentary New York Times Readership Program at Cal Poly will no longer be available.
However, the low education rate of just $2.25 per week (Monday through Friday) will still be available to students and faculty. The Kennedy Library at Cal Poly has provided a pick-up point for those who wish to receive the daily paper on campus. Off-campus home delivery will continue to be available at the same education rate.
All subscriptions for on-campus delivery through the library, or off-campus home delivery, can be ordered via the toll-free number below or online.
Subscriptions for on-campus delivery to the library will be accepted through Friday, 10/9 for the Fall 2009 term.

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Senate panel takes up health care, but final bill may be months away

David Lightman  
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

The Senate Finance Committee Tuesday began the law, and so far the most crucial, piece of writing legislation to overhaul the nation's health care system... and quickly demonstrated how tough a task lawmakers face.

Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., revised key elements of the carefully crafted compromise that he announced only a week ago. The 13 Democrats and 10 Republicans took more than three hours to make their opening statements, expressing their views. Committee members offered 57 amendments.

Sometimes, they seemed almost awed by their mission. "This is our opportunity to make history," Baucus said. Other times, they expressed concern about a wide variety of issues, notably whether middle- and lower-income consumers could afford the coverage they'd be required to buy under his bill.

The committee, which hopes to finish its work by the end of this week, is the latest stop in a months-long process that still lacks a clear finish line. Everything done in Senate Finance may be changed again on the Senate floor, or later in a House of Representatives-Senate conference committee. Any final legislation is months away.

So far, three committees of the House and the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee have produced their versions of health care legislation, all written largely by Democrats. Each includes a government-run alternative to private health insurance coverage, or a "public option.

House leaders are trying to merge their three bills into one, and a floor vote is expected soon. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has said that the public option will pass the House, setting up a likely showdown with the Senate, where many think a public option can't pass. The Finance Committee is expected to back cooperatives, or nonprofit, member-run companies, as an alternative to a public option.

Once Senate Finance is done, its work will be combined with the Senate Health Committee's measure, and the full Senate will consider a single bill, subject to amendments. If that passes, a House-Senate conference, or negotiating committee, will write a final version. It then would go to each chamber for final passage. If each chamber approbates the final version, it would need only President Barack Obama's signature to become law.

It's a single word station on a very long road, yet the Finance Committee is being watched closely because Baucus and two other committee Democrats negotiated for months with three Republican members in search of bipartisan compromise. Though those talks broke down last week, hope remained Democrats can find some GOP support.

Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa, the committee's top Republican and one of the six negotiators, indicated that would be difficult. "The cry of impatience has worn out," he said. However, Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, another negotiator, sent strong signals Tuesday that she's still willing to talk, listing a series of concerns but indicating a desire for compromise. Afterward, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., called her remarks "brilliant."

Snowe's vote could be needed badly. Democrats now control 59 seats in the 100-member Senate, and 60 votes are needed under Senate rules to break procedural deadlocks. While Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, a Democrat, is expected to fill the seat of the late Sen. Edward Kennedy soon, 91-year-old Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W. Va., suffered a setback Tuesday when he fell at his home and was taken to a hospital.

The key committee's progress Tuesday involved affordability, as senators from both parties signaled that unless they can go home and assure their constituents that their health care costs won't skyrocket, this bill is going nowhere.

Health insurance costs have been soaring. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, during the past 10 years, the average health care premium for family coverage has gone up 131 percent, to $13,375. The average worker contribution has soared 128 percent, to $3,515.

"We have to do better on affordability in this bill," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.

Baucus' revised plan, which allows amendments offered mostly by Democrats, takes a number of steps aimed at easing those concerns.

He originally wanted to impose a 35 percent excise tax on insurance policies costing more than $6,000 for an individual and $21,000 for families. His change would raise the tax to 40 percent and increase the limits for most retirees and people in high-risk jobs to $8750 for individuals and $23,000 for families.

Baucus also proposed making it easier for low- and middle-income families to get tax credits that would help them buy coverage, and would cut in half to $1,500 the penalty for high-income families who don't buy insurance. Virtually all Americans would have to buy coverage.

The revenue loss by his amendment would be made up from the bill's projected $49 billion budget surplus over 10 years, Baucus said. The bill's total cost $774 billion, paid for by taxes fees and projected savings, notably from Medicare.

Any of those concerns remained. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., whose bipartisan "Healthy Americans Act" alternative health care bill would promote competition in the private marketplace, said that the Baucus bill doesn't do enough to promote competition.

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5 top selling textbooks for Fall Quarter 2009.

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<th>LOCAL COMPETITOR</th>
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<tr>
<td>Beer</td>
<td>Mechanics of Materials</td>
<td>$82.50</td>
<td>$132.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wade</td>
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<td>Phelan</td>
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<td>Beyond Words</td>
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<td>Young</td>
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Prices were obtained on Wednesday, September 17th.

Where will you buy your Textbooks?
Congress considers extending Patriot Act provisions

David G. Savage
TRIBUNE-WASHINGTON BUREAU

The Patriot Act, a favorite of the Bush administration's fight against terrorism, is set to expire later this year as the Justice Act at the hands of congressional Republicans.

But law itself, including its controversial provisions that gave FBI agents more leeway to search computers and bank records, is likely to survive, albeit with some changes to limit who can be searched.

"Security and liberty are both essential in our free society," Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said Tuesday. "We must protect the nation while protecting our constitution and our civil liberties against any terrorist threat .

As a senator from Illinois, Barack Obama is also a critic of the Patriot Act. Last week, however, the Obama administration asked the House and Senate to extend its three expiring provisions.

"The Administration is willing to consider the law (for modifying the law), provided that they do not undermine the effectiveness of these important programs," Assistant Attorney General Ronald Welch said in a letter to Congress.

This small concession was greeted by House Democrats Tuesday as a "refreshing break" from the Bush era.

The House subcommittee on the Constitution held its first hearing on extending the Patriot Act Tuesday, Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., its chairman, said the law has "amassed a great deal of controversy and concern," but it nonetheless "remains a useful tool in investigating and prosecuting terrorists.

But many liberals are still upset by the far-reaching search authority, and they are not ready to back the extension, even in a now-Democratic administration.

The law was pushed through Congress after 9/11, "said House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers, D-Mich.

When an Obama administration lawyer testified in support of extending the law, Conyers stopped him short. "You sound like a lot of people who came over from DOJ," he said, referring to the Department of Justice under President George W. Bush.

Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., the lone opponent of the Patriot Act in 2001, served notice he will lead an effort with other Senate liberals, including Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., to make "tires" in the Patriot Act. Their bill, he called the Justice Act, would also allow lawsuits against telecommunication firms that cooperated with the Bush administration and supplied information on their customers.

Most controversial than the three provisions about to expire is the FBI's use of "National Security Letters" to obtain financial records and computer information, and without the approval of a judge.

Both Leahy and Nadler said Tuesday they will not seek to repeal, but they will press for changes. Elopement of the law "would require the FBI to include a statement of facts articulating why the information it is seeking is relevant to an authorized investigation."

He also said he planned to seek a change that would call for disclosing these searches in some cases after 21 days. The Obama administration said it had not decided on whether it would support or oppose changes in this part of the law.

The most controversial of the three expiring provisions allows the FBI with a judge's approval, to obtain an order to get business records, financial data, computer information or even library records that are believed to be "relevant" to a terrorism investigation. These searches are not announced in advance, for example, are not to notify the customer.

Leahy and Nadler said they will seek a change in the law that would require investigators to show a clear link between the records searched and an actual terrorist.

On Tuesday, an Obama administration lawyer dismissed concerns from the ACLU about library books in testimony before the House subcommittee.

"At the time of the USA Patriot Act, there was concern that the FBI would exploit the broad scope of the records bureau authority to collect sensitive personal information on constitutionally protected activities, such as the use of public libraries. This simply has not occurred, even in the environment of heightened terrorist threat activity," said Todd M. Hinnen, a deputy assistant attorney general.

Another section authorizes a "no-wire" warrant of suspected terrorist or foreign agents who moves around and makes phone calls to avoid detection. These wiretaps must be approved by a judge. An Obama administration lawyer said it has been used about 22 times per year since 2001.

The third provision allows the government to target a foreigner who is suspected of terrorism under a "lone wolf" with no apparent connection to a group such as al-Qaeda. Prior to 2001, the law allowed the FBI to spy on terrorists or foreign agents in this country, but only if they could be linked to some terror group or foreign government. Congress law makers have never used this provision of the law, but urged that it be extended in the event a similar situation arises in the future.

Republicans said the Patriot Act helped prevent a terrorist attack in this country, but said the provisions would be extended as they are.

"The clock is ticking," Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., said Tuesday. An ACLU lawyer said much of the current law is "unconstitutional" and should be repealed or revised. "The time for the Patriot Act reform is long overdue," said Mike German, an ACLU lawyer and former FBI agent.

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

www.mustangdaily.net

California scales down plan to close state parks

Paul Rogers
STAFF WRITER

Calif. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger will cut far fewer than 100 state parks, and has dropped plans to release a list this month, as his administration previously planned.

Appearing back to an issue that has prompted growing concern about terrorism and the environment, the governor's office has asked the state Department of Finance to find other cuts in the state parks budget to accommodate the number of parks closed, the governor's office said Tuesday.

"The 100 number isn't something to hang your hat on," said Jeff Macedo, a spokesman for Schwarzenegger. "We wanted to find a way to keep as many parks as possible open. We are still working with the parks department to find other ways to save sides closing parks.

Macedo did not rule out the possibility that all state parks might reopen, although he said it was not likely.

"If there's some way we can work it, it would be great. But with the cuts in their budget that may not be feasible," he said.

When will the closure list come out, if there is one? "It doesn't look like we have a specific time line," he said.

Faced with a $24 billion deficit amid plummeting tax revenues, Schwarzenegger proposed eliminating more than 100 existing state parks and creating an additional $6.2 million through a line-item veto, for a total of $14.2 million.

State parks director Ruth Coleman raised entrance fees and searched for partnerships with counties and cities, without much luck. She announced there was no other way to make ends meet but to close as many as 100 parks, and the governor's office did not overrule her.

Further, the official state budget summary Schwarzenegger's office released July 28 declared that the cut "will result in the closure of probably more than 100 parks."

California's shut state park system is "like ancient redwoods on shores of Lake Tahoe, glistening "Baywatch" beaches and historic sites like Sutter's Fort.

In recent weeks, the prospect that Schwarzenegger would become the first governor in the 108-year history of the state parks department to ever close a state park to save money has prompted protests, letters from the public, critical newspaper editorials and requests from Republican lawmakers in rural districts that their state parks not be closed because of the loss to tourism.

Schwarzenegger's staff tried Tuesday to downplay that the changing policy was a major shift in the governor's position. Last Monday, however, Schwarzenegger was asked at a press conference about closing parks, and did not mention that his staff would be re-evaluating the plan to close 100.
Write a letter to the editor!

Send your letter in 250 words or less to mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com. Or submit it at mustangdaily.com

$14.99 SHOE SALE

Crazy Jays
767 Higuera Street
Downtown $10

picture of the day
"Back in Gear"

New Restaurants & Menus on Campus

Located at Dexter Lawn, the new Dexter Subs & More is home to the $4 foot long sub sandwich. Grab an entire meal (sub, chips, drink) for only $6!

This new mobile restaurant brings breakfast grub, grilled sandwiches, specialty fries, and late night favorites to you around campus. Find out where Curbside Grill will stop next at www.twitter.com/polydeals.

Check out the new salad & soup bar, teriyaki bowl station, local coffee & espresso drinks, grilled paninis, and more at Campus Market. You're guaranteed to find something tasty!

Try one of the many new desserts and ice cream sensations at Sweet Destination, located inside 19 Metro station.

WHAT'S NEW THIS FALL
A Clear Blurr is the clear choice for Blink 182 faithful

Soie Kopecky

The band was originally formed in 2005, when the first three members, Kenney, Pearson and MacDonnell, were high school freshmen. They have since graduated and switched gears to focus on their music careers.

"Tom and Kevin knew each other since elementary school. As did Karl and Cole," guitarist Nicotera said. "The band kind of fell apart soon after it started. Cole joined a new band, and slowly, a Clear Blurr came into play again, but only with Tom, Karl and a new drummer."

From the very first track, one is hard-pressed not to recall the height of the '90s pop punk craze and kings, Blink 182. Nicotera named other major musical influences, including New Found Glory, Boys, All Time Low, "Motion (dity"

"I think Fall Out Boy came into the scene a little too late to be a major influence," Nicotera said.

He explained that the band works together to come up with new songs. Nine times out of 10, the members "will just get together and start working up some kind of idea with hopes of turning it into a song. Over time we'll pick it apart and change things here and there."

Nicotera credited Kenney with imagining up lyrics and MacDonnell with creating many of the guitar riffs. The success the band has received over the years has been met with modesty and humility from their standpoint.

"We don't look like the kind of kids that would be in a band, and we don't drink or do drugs," Nicotera said. "We're the normal kids you would see in high school. We are friends with everybody and everybody can relate to our music."

For those traveling to the East Coast soon, A Clear Blurr can next be seen on Sept. 25 at the Fall Fest at Ednor, N.J.

Johnny Chugs

For more information, visit respectalobo.com

When future employers ask if you work well on a team, beer pong isn't what they mean.
Memoir reveals the hard knock life of an abandoned foster child

Imagine feeling as if you’ll never belong, as if you have no input whatsoever over what happens to you, that your life is spiraling out of control and you are being taken away from your home. This is exactly what happened to Ashley Rhodes-Courter when she turned 4 years old. She and her infant brother were taken away from their mother. It is a little vague as to why they were taken away, and it isn’t entirely clear why they were taken away to begin with. A vague reason is the stepfather being in trouble with the law, but in the beginning, it doesn’t seem as though her mother had done anything wrong.

This was an interesting moment of confusion for me — at first I thought Rhodes-Courter was leaving out some painful memories, but as you get to the end of the book, you realize that she hasn’t spared any other details, so why now? My guess for this lack of clarity about her mother’s role is actually a criticism of the foster care system. As you see later in the book, there is a serious incompetence on the part of the social workers and aides in charge of Ashley and her brother.

I think that she is hinting in the beginning that the foster care system did not actually have much reason to keep

the writing in this book is simple and easy to get through, but the content is so gripping that I had a truly difficult time putting it down.

It is her honesty and her ability to draw you in from the beginning that makes you care about what happens to this little girl when she is tossed so nonchalantly into foster care.

You are there with her when she is ripped from her mother, when she suffers abuses from foster parents and when she realizes that her mother is not going to come back. One of the best aspects of this book is that she writes in such a way that the reader can’t help but go along with her on an emotional journey — but it’s a trip that you actually want to take.

We've probably all heard the horror stories of kids who are shuffled around in foster care, but this girl actually lived it. Ashley Rhodes-Courter lived in 14 different foster homes in the space of only nine years. Before she turned 4 years old, she and her infant brother were taken away from their mother. It is a little vague as to why they were taken away, and it isn’t entirely clear why they were taken away to begin with. A vague reason is the stepfather being in trouble with the law, but in the beginning, it doesn’t seem as though her mother had done anything wrong.

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Personal touch lost with evolving hand-held technology

Bobby Bingle
The Heights (Boston College)

Personal technological advances such as the iPhone, BlackBerry, and iPod have changed the way we live on a daily basis. They have countless benefits. Their advantages outweigh any disadvantages, but I feel that with their existence we nonetheless have lost some valuable things.

Before I continue, I should make it clear that I'm not an expert on technology. In fact, I've often been described as technologically challenged. My dad and I once predicted that PDAs would be a fleeting fad because they were too big and had no color screens. Hell, I probably would have thought the wheel was a gimmick. With that in mind, take what I say with a grain of salt.

Iphones and Blackberries can do almost anything. You can check e-mails, make calls, surf the Internet. There's an app for finding a restaurant, budgeting your money, taking a shower, following a recipe, pleasing yourself, shopping for clothes, sending postcards and breaking up with your girlfriend.

But at some point, people become too interconnected in touch with the world and each other. We have almost unanimously given up a decent amount of our privacy. We've become walking Global Positioning Systems. How often do you go somewhere of some importance when someone doesn't know where you are, whether it is from a text, a call, or an e-mail message? Anyway, I doubt kids these days are able to just tell their mom they'll be home at five for dinner, hop on their bikes and spend the day going wherever they want.

Have you ever decided on Friday to just turn your phone off until Monday morning? Or have you ever lost your charger for a week and had no phone? I can tell you, it's exhilarating. It's not that you cut off, it's that you're drawn in. There are almost no outside distractions. Rather than texting or looking up who finished second in the N.E. East in 2006, you become engrossed in the present. Maybe I'm just ignorant because I've never owned an iPhone or a Blackberry. And as I said before, their benefits outweigh their drawbacks. But there are still drawbacks. And plus, they've ruined Trivia Night.

iPods are another development that has changed our lives completely. I truly do like iPods. You can keep your entire music catalog in your pocket. You can download hundreds of songs (free if you choose) in minutes and put them on your iPod. You can press a genius button which will choose a whole playlist for you to listen to that fits the style you want to hear.

However, the iPod has caused the loss of some important aspects of music. I'm speaking from the perspective of a kid growing up in the '90s and early 2000s. No, I'm speaking about the cassette and CD era. But I'll focus on CDs.

One thing that has been lost is the regularity of listening to a CD or album, in its entirety. Though this is still done, all the choices and options the iPod affords make it less frequent. Though I believe that people should listen to whatever they want whenever they want it, I still feel there is something to listening to an album in its entirety. (I used to think listening in its entirety was the only way. Then I came down from my shining, gold, high horse).

The artist or band didn't release just one or two songs. There was value to a whole album even if 10 out of the 12 songs are just fillers. There was still some time put into them and you may find gems you never would have known about otherwise. Or you may hear songs so terrible that your opinion of the artist or band may change. Finally, anyone who has listened to an album they love, from beginning to end, knows how satisfying it can be.

Before iPods, getting new music meant something more. If there was a CD you really wanted, you had to work to get it. Maybe you squirreled up birthday and Christmas money to get Flooded by Sugar Ray. Or maybe you begged your parents or did extra chores to get Britney's self-titled debut. You couldn't just click a few buttons and have a hundred new songs at your fingertips. This meant that when you had the CD, not only did you own a disc, but you possessed the music.

Also, there are really bad music anywhere. There are playlists on iPods, but they don't carry the same potency as the CD mix. A playlist can have over a hundred songs on it from your catalog of thousands. Depending on the length of a song, your CD mix could contain about 12-15 songs. This meant that at the time of your CD mix's creation, those handful of songs were the songs that you had found a way to get and truly enjoyed.

Giving or receiving a CD mix was once a significant gesture. Those were songs that you had gone out of your way to get. And those were songs that you wanted someone to share. Maybe they were just songs that simply sounded good or maybe they had meaning to you. For example, I made a CD mix for a girl I liked in grade school that opened with On Broken Knuckles by Ber/Ali Men and closed with Cherry Pie by Warrant. As we made more and more gains in personal technology, there are feelings and moments that we lose. These dissolve in our brains under a cloud of apps and genius playlists. However, the things lost can be retained every now and again. Through the processes seem foreign, the result is more than refreshing.

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

MEMOIR
continued from page 10

Ashley and her brother away from their mothers. But after some meditated paperwork, they slipped off so far through the cracks that when something finally was done about it, their mother had become incapable of caring for them due to drug addictions and bad choices.

I don't think that she is actually blaming the foster care system for all of her time floating from house to house or for her mother going so far off the deep end, but she is definitely saying that the system contributed to it.

From hopeful beginnings to devastating disappointments, Rhode Courier reveals both the good and bad moments of her childhood. This book is much more than a complaint against her bad foster parents; it reveals the human side of foster care and shows that although it is hard, some children do make it through.

This memoir served as a reminder for me that there are people out there who will take advantage of a child, but that there are also people out there who will go to any lengths to be someone's savior.

Both a questioning of humanity and an affirmation of it, this book is a success in many ways. As for the "three little words" the book takes from title, they aren't the ones that you'd expect. Go read it yourself and discover what they really are.

Melinda Townsend is a graduate student in literature and a Mustang Daily book columnist.

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President Obama plans to make history Thursday by chairing a special, summit-level meeting of the U.N. Security Council. This will be the first time an American president has done so, and only the fifth time in the United Nations’ 64-year history that such a head-of-state meeting has been convened in that chamber.

The focus will be on nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament. The pressure will be strong for Obama to emerge with some sort of substantive outcome that can be hailed as a success. Beware. In the matter of making history there are some things worth doing, such as breaking the racial barrier to the White House or ending the Cold War. And then there are other instances, in which, if something has never been done before, there may be good reasons for not doing it now.

In the case of chairing the Security Council, there are plenty of reasons a president should not do it, ever. It demeans the U.S. of reasons a president should not do it, ever. It demeans the U.S.
Health insurance costs are putting U.S. companies out of business

In 1999, it cost about $5,800 to buy employer-provided family health insurance coverage. If premiums had increased at the same rate as inflation, that same policy today would cost $7,239. Instead, it costs $13,375. That’s an increase of 131 percent — more than five times the overall rate of inflation. Companies don’t provide health benefits out of the goodness of their hearts. They do it to attract the best workers and because healthy employees with healthy families are more productive.

But when insurance costs grow at five times the rate of inflation, it’s worth wondering how much longer they can afford to do it.

Since the early 1990s, the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation has been surveying U.S. businesses about the cost of health benefits offered to employees. Its latest survey, released this week, demonstrates why health reform is so urgent.

Let’s put premiums for family health insurance coverage into a human scale.

A person who worked full time at a minimum-wage job in Missouri would need his entire gross wages from January until the second week of November just to buy a policy — assuming he could get the group rate. For about $3,000 less, he could buy a new car; a base model Hyundai Accent sells for $10,665.

Employers pay about three-quarters of the premium for health insurance that they offer their workers. That means the minimum-wage worker’s company would be paying about $9,060 for his family’s coverage, a figure equal to about two-thirds of his annual salary.

The cost of covering just that worker, excluding his family, would equal about what he would earn for working about 17 weeks.

No wonder so few companies that employ mostly low-wage workers offer health benefits. The Kaiser survey found just 39 percent of companies with large numbers of low-wage workers offer health benefits.

About 46 percent of companies with nine or fewer workers provide health benefits.

The result is that millions of Americans have been priced out of the health insurance market.

About 41.3 million were uninsured in 2008. Current estimates based on the unemployment rate put that figure at about 55 million uninsured today.

Covering them is one of the key goals of health reform. But another is to shore up the current employment-based system of health insurance. The reform proposals would create a so-called insurance exchange — essentially a giant group market that would be open to small businesses, the uninsured and people who buy coverage on their own.

Propping up the current system is crucial to the 150 million-plus Americans who get coverage through their jobs. Because if health insurance premiums keep growing at a rate anything like their recent pace, many people who now get health insurance through their jobs would soon be uninsured.

Last year, consumer prices increased by 6.1 percent. Health insurance premiums jumped by 5 percent. That’s unsustainable.

If premiums keep growing at the rate they have over the last five years, family coverage will cost more than $24,000 in 2019.

If they grow at the rate they have over the past 16 years — an average of 6.7 percent per year — family coverage would cost nearly $31,666 in 2019.

If that happens, it won’t only be low-wage workers who are priced out of the health insurance market. Millions of middle-class Americans would find themselves uninsured, too.

the Mustang Daily needs

Job Description:
After 30 days with no food, Twinkie the Kid didn't like the looks he was getting from the rest of the Donner Party.
Jeff Miller

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

LOS ANGELES — Six weeks ago, he looked so good that he was the starting quarterback at USC.

On Monday, Aaron Corp was being ridiculed on a national radio show for his physical appearance.

Corp never was sacked in his starting debut Saturday at Washington, but he has been taking shots ever since, some cheaper than others. And some from very close range.

But that's how we've evolved as a society; we've grown by shrinking, our attention spans to our persistence all shriveling because that's the easier path.

This much is certain: Age 20 is a lot older than it used to be.

Life isn't improving for Pete Carroll and USC.

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

supposed to win every game, and season.

Cirroll didn't play well in USC's 16-13 loss to the Huskies, a team the Trojans defeated last fall by eight touchdowns. His performance, in fact, led to the least productive passing game since Pete Carroll took over before the 2001 season.

Since this is USC, which is supposed to win every game, and since he plays quarterback, a position that's supposed to be manned by a Heisman Trophy candidate, Corp is being buried.

"The quarterback threw a pick that could have thrown a couple more," Carroll said Tuesday. "Those were more alarming to me, that we could have had two or three more interceptions in that game."

This, from a coach whose optimism usually is thick enough to pour over pancakes. Carroll later was more encouraging toward Corp, though the coach continued to leave little doubt just how far this sophomore has fallen in a month and a half.

Corp doesn't deserve praise, but does he really deserve this? After the start, his first since Dec. 16, 2000 Against Palo Alto High?

After just four quarters that also included his more experienced teammates fumbling four times and being called for eight penalties?

Let's start by remembering something everyone seems to have forgotten. Corp is still dealing with the affects of a broken leg. A broken leg!

He didn't suffer a thigh bruise last month or a cut on the pinkie of his non-throwing hand. He cracked his fibula. This was a rather significant occurrence, especially for a quarterback who relies on mobility.

"He needs to get back to full," Carroll said. "I don't think his arm strength is there. He's been playing with a broken leg for five weeks. He has compensated in a way where he's not at his best yet."

In a similar manner, Corp has been denied the chance to stand on two sound legs since Carroll and he came to USC from Matt Barkley bordering on comical. The couch even was asked this week if he has a crush on the freshman.

The atmosphere Carroll has established around his program surrounding Corp is being buried.

development of a second quarterback. For a guy who loves to encourage competition, Carroll has masterfully discouraged Corp numerous times.

Last week, even as Barkley went day after day of missing practice because of a sore shoulder, Carroll never publicly announced Corp would start against Washington.

It wasn't until trotting onto the field with the first team Saturday that Corp was sure himself.

And why, exactly, didn't Carroll officially back Corp even as he admitted "it was so obvious" who was going to start? That, once again, was for Barkley's benefit, to ensure his mental readiness.

"Specifically, it was to keep Matt alive in the process," Carroll explained. "Aaron knows more than Matt did. If you tell a guy, 'OK, you're not playing, it's really, really asking too much to have a guy hold that warrior mentality.'"

Recall that in naming Barkley as the starter in August, the same coach did so more than a week before the opener in order to allow Barkley to prepare his mind. Corp wasn't afforded a similar opportunity.

"That might have helped him. I don't know," Carroll said. "I don't think it would have helped him immeasurably."

Nor hearing his coach's words, what is Corp learning? The same thing we all are, that a healthy enough Barkley is definitely this team's starting quarterback.

From the sounds of it, the gap between the first- and second-stringers from Orange County isn't closed.

Corp, expertly has handled the abundance of talent he has recruited to USC the past nine years, finding ways to keep the majority of his skill-position players happy while still using just a single football!

With this quarterback situation, however, he has been ham-handed.

always-in-charge Carroll appeared this clumsy.

None of this is a knock on Barkley, who has done nothing more here than impress the heck out of his head coach. By the end of the season, maybe we'll all be seeing what Carroll already evidently has seen.

And Corp doesn't need anyone's sympathy. This is his third year in a program that forces its players to grow up quickly or be crushed.

It's just that we think he deserves better, deserves more. We know he certainly doesn't deserve this.

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ATHENS, Ohio — Cal Poly’s passing offense failed to produce in the 28-10 loss handed by Ohio, and its defensive miscues were much more evident in week two.

Senior quarterback Theo Scott passed for 236 yards and three touchdowns as Ohio defeated Cal Poly 28-10 in a matchup of a Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I-A) team against a Football Championship Subdivision (1-AA) squad Saturday night.

Scott completed 14 of 27 passes with no interceptions and was not sacked.

Ohio scored two touchdowns in the first 17 minutes of the game and never looked back.

Erik Eijke intercepted a Tony Smith pass and ran 20 yards for the first score of the game with about seven minutes left in the first quarter and Scott scattered a 42-yard field goal by Cdiris (Jarrett with 1:14 left before halftime.

Ohio built a 14-0 lead.

Scott scored his first points on a 42-yard touchdown pass early in the second quarter as Smith threw a pair of interceptions and lost a fumble to the Bobcats.

Linebacker Marty Mohamed recorded nine tackles, including 1 5 for lost yardage, to lead the Mustangs defensively. Safety David Fulkerson notched two pass breakups while end Karl Winkelmann recovered an Ohio fumble.

Cal Poly plays its second FBS opponent in as many weeks, visiting San Jose State for a non-conference game at 5 p.m. in Spartan Stadium Saturday.

The Cal Poly women’s soccer team evened their record at 4-4 with a 1-0 win over the Bobcats Sunday in San Jose.

Junior forward Haley Walker scored her first goal as a Mustang with a big goal for us.”

“Our legs were a little tiring,” said Cal Poly head coach Paul Holocker. “Our legs were a little tired, so we went with a different lineup.”

Mustangs return to action on Friday when the team travels to California for a non-conference game at 4 p.m.

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