Poly takes heat as Pollan speaks

Tim Miller

The Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Center has been getting a lot of un­anticipated attention for its annual fundraiser featuring noted au­ thor and journalism professor Michael Pollan, but not for the right reasons.

Cal Poly has been criticized by members of the agricultural community for hosting Pollan, who they say has controversial views on farming and food pro­duction.

Pollan, who will be speak­ing today at the Peter Bent Art Center as part of a panel, has written a number of books about food and the way in which it is produced including, “The Omnivore’s Dilemma A Natu­ral History of Four Meals” and “In Defense of Food: An Eater’s Manifesto.” Pollan has spoken all over the country and helped to set SARC raise money at a
dinner and give a free speech to pay expenses.

Pollan has been an outspoken critic of large-scale farming that in his view is raising too many natural resources. Pollan warns against food production with a large carbon footprint because of processing, packaging or ship­ment. He only supports farming operations that have free range farming and animals are fed their natural diet. His views on farming and raising livestock have garnered a large amount of criticism from traditional large­scale food production compa­nies. This criticism has also been aimed at Cal Poly for hosting his speech.

Hunter Frants, the program associate of SARC, said it is agreed to pay Pollan to speak at the din­ner, which was expected to net $50,000 for SARC by charging guests $150 a plate at the event.

In order to help pay for the initial expense of hosting the dinner and to pay for Pollan’s speaking fee, SARC recruited several local organizations to sponsor the event. These organi­zations include the New Times, Heart Ranch and several organi­zations affiliated with Cal Poly.

The most notable of these or­ganizations is Cal Poly’s College of Agriculture, Food and Envi­ronmental Resources (CAFES). David Wehner, dean of CAFES, said that Pollan’s total speaking fee was $20,000. SARC is made up of fac­ulty members within CAFES but does not report directly to Wehner. SARC is “sort of inde­pendent” from CAFES, Wehner said. This will change next year. As SARC is slated to become more involved in the college.

The issues that Pollan talks about are controversial and re­ceived a lot of concern from the agriculture community. Francis said. But having Pollan speak is a rare opportunity to hear the views of someone who has had such influential books, he added.

The New York Times named “The Omnivore’s Dilemma” one of the 10 best books of 2006, as did the Washington Post.

Pollan was asked to speak in order to raise money for SARC, Wehner said.

“If you were gonna raise money for the baseball team you wouldn’t invite the Cuesta coach, you would invite the manager of the L.A. Dodgers,” Wehner said.

However, there were res­ervations among the CAFES de­partment heads about Pollan because of some of his views about (conventional farms), so it was decided that there would be a panel to discuss different views on sustainability. Wehner said.

At that time it was uncertain what that panel would be.

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Rain dampens students, spirits

Katie Koschalk

The squeaking of galoshes could be heard throughout the hallways of the Cal Poly campus on Tuesday as hoards of poncho­clad students yielding upturned umbrellas scurried into sheltered hallways with a communal look of “this sucks” spread across their rain-splattered faces.

San Luis Obispo started the rainy season early, receiving an abnormally amount of rain for the month of October.

Many students found that with the storm came various incon­veniences during the school day in­cluding trouble getting to school, difficulties navigating around campus, and obstacles such as street flooding.

Julia Fiere, a social science ju­nior, decided to drive to school and pay the five-dollar parking fee rather than enduring a walk through horizontal sheets of rain.

“It was buckets yesterday,” she said. “It took me like 15 minutes to find a parking spot and I had to park way in the back in that parking lot by Poly Canyon. I didn’t really care though. I was not about to walk in that rain,” Fiere said.

Rather than searching for a parking spot or walking to school, Jackie Woods, a communications junior, decided to take the bus.

“There are two bus stops by my house and the first bus that came was too packed so I had to wait for the next bus. It was a lot more crowded than usual,” Woods said.

Other students, including Carla Gliberson-Lamb, a nutrition sophomore, did not have time before class to wait for the next bus.

“It was completely full so ev­erybody that was waiting started walking. I really didn’t want to so I tried to flag down cars. This like 60-year-old man pulled over and I asked him if he was going to see Rain, page 2
Pollan continued from page 1

...continued from page 1

grants within the community.

The most backlash came from Cal Poly alumnus Dave Wood, the CEO of Harris Ranch Beef, which is a large meat processing company, and a large contributor to CAFES. Wood sent a letter to Cal Poly President Warren Baker telling him that he was reconsidering a $500,000 donation towards a new meat processing facility on Cal Poly’s campus.

The letter stated that he was upset at the direction that CAFES was taking.

"The first problem that Wood ref

erenced was that Pollan’s speech was scheduled for 9 a.m., NOT the noon among the facilities in the Animal Science Department at Cal Poly,” the letter said. “Can you provide me with any assurance that the personal views are NOT being taught to the students that attend his classes?

Can you explain to me why Professor Pollan is the only faculty member in the department teaching issues in Animal Agriculture, which is a required course of all Animal Science students?”

Issues in Animal Agriculture is still a requirement on the 09-11 course catalogue for agricultural science majors, but the New Times reported that the faculty recently voted to eliminate the course as a requirement.

President Baker wrote a letter back to Wood that offered a compromise to have Pollan answer questions from the audience and then have a panel discussion with other industry professionals.

Baker also said that Pollan did not speak for the university but defended his right to voice his opinions.

"Professor Pollan’s freedom of opinion is a piece of academic freedom; academic freedom, a pillar of American democracy, should not be dependent upon the faculty as to what should be taught in the classroom,” Baker said in the letter to Wood.

Teaching students about sustainability is an important goal of the university for all Cal Poly students, Baker said in the letter.

"A professor’s freedom of opinion is an important goal of the university for all Cal Poly students,” the letter read. "Clearly, for our agriculture students, sustainability is a huge issue. If we do not involve our students in the sustainability debate, we set them up to be blindsided when they embark on their careers."

Wood then sent the final letter in the exchange that approved of the forum, but still chastised the university for hosting Pollan.

"It is truly unfortunate that decisions made by faculty members do not consider the impact of the decisions made by others within the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFS) to bring a semblance of balance to the Michael Pollan event to be held on campus Oct. 16th, the letter said. "It is truly unfortunate that decision makers at the university did not have the foresight to provide students both sides of the debate when this event was first being organized."

Wood also included some quotes from Pollan that he found offensive. "At the very least, we would like to provide a small sample of the many negative quotes attributable to this radical U.C. Berkeley journalism professor."

To keep the animals healthy on that corn diet, you have to give them lots of antibiotics, they won’t survive otherwise.

To me, going on feed lot, chicken and beef operations, it has changed the way I can’t go through those places without being changed. You lose your appetite for certain kinds of food,” the letter quoted.

"Given the choice of having a panel after his speech or participating in a panel, Pollan decided to be a part of the panel. Gary Smith and Melia Goodman will also speak at the panel with Pollan."

"Pollan is currently the meat science Mooifort Endowed Chair at Colorado State University. Smith has been a leading expert in meat science for more than 40 years and has published 334 full-length articles in refereed scientific journals, according to his Web site at Colorado State University.

"Smith along with her husband founded Earthbound Farm, one of the largest organic farming companies in the country. Pollan, an advocate of organic farming, criticized Earthbound Farm for the amount of fossil fuels that they use to ship and process their products.

I am not familiar with many of Michael Pollan’s books and think he is an incredibly intelligent man and a very creative and persuasive writer,” Good

"Man said in an e-mail. “I had a hard time understanding how he portrayed Earth

bound Farm as ‘industrial organic’ in the Omnivore’s Dilemma,” I think his case was too focused on our fossil fuel usage…”

Goodman was invited to speak for the panel on Oct. 5. Since Pollan Smith rec

ceived his invitation several weeks ago.

"I saw at least five people waiting around the bookstore carrying their umbrellas. My friend got all embarrassed because her little, pink umbrella turned completely inside out. It just folded in half and all the wires broke, and it ended up just throwing it in the garbage,” Fiore said.

Fiore also was welcomed by an unfortunate event involving transportation after returning to her car.

“ I left my window down in my car so the good ol’ dog pull

dle in my seat. I literally opened the door and water flooded out my car and even ran down. Not like I wasn’t already drenched,” Fiore said.

Since the school posed a dilemma for some, students noticed that there were more
H1N1
continued from page 1
be isolated and concluded to be a result of the vaccine.
However, due to the pressing issue the clinical trials for H1N1 were done on thousands of people. Side effects might not have been shown up in the population tested.
Shari Roan of HealthlandSurviv­
com brings up the pandemics of the decade and how they relate to the current situation. This re-
sumes some of the swine flu scare of 1976 when days after the vaccine was released it was found to
be fatal. Ever since the result of the vaccine.
This is when the immune sys-
tem attacks the nervous system and can cause temporary paralysis and can be fatal. Ever since the result-
ning deaths resulting people have become wary of vaccines. Roan also said that about 500 people de-
veloped the syndrome and 25 of them died.
This was shown recently in comments. Talk show host Bill Maher wrote on Twitter that any-
one who received the vaccine were “idiotic.” He also said he “did not believe that healthy people were
capable of dying from the H1N1 virus.”
Linda Berghold of the Huff-
ington Post said, “Maher said he
didn’t think pregnant women
needed to get the vaccine. He is
BRO*N. Lives could be lost over
this unscientific “opinion” of Bill
Maher.”
His statement also contradicts the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Con-
trol and Prevention’s release, which
didn’t include mainly “crowd control”
and the bulk of students who want it,”
Director of Health and Counsel-
ing Services Dr. Martin Bragg said.
“If we think even we are just going to get
people a shot who wants a shot.
Health care and emergency medical services personnel are in-
cluded in the top five populations to receive the vaccine. The Health Center staff will be provided with
the vaccine as well. This is similar to the seasonal flu shots provided for staff in the past years.
When the vaccine arrives in the next few weeks 12 to 15 staff members will be administering the vaccine. The training leading up
to the release of the vaccine will include mainly “crowd control”
from the paperwork that must be done prior to receiving the vac-
cine and the crowds they expect at the release of the vaccine.
In order to accommodate the large-scale vaccinations to be ad-
ministered the Health Center will have to alter operation for about two weeks.
According to the San Luis Obispo County Health Depart-
ment during the week of Oct. 1-8
there were six hospital cases
and “at least 37 persons have had
PH lab results consistent with in-
fected with the H1N1 virus.”
Rain
continued from page 2
empty seats in their classes than usual.
“As in my morning class there
were a lot of people missing, but
not in my afternoon class because
we had a midterm. The rain just
makes people want to sit at home
and watch movies,” Fiore said.
Beside the inconveniences
that students might face in try-
ing to get to school or navigating
around campus, the Cal Poly cam-
pus also faces some complications
due to heavy rain.
Scott Loosley, the assistant di-
rector of operations for landscape
services, feels that Cal Poly is pre-
pared, however, to deal with big
storms.
“Prior to the rainy season, we
get out and make sure all the catch
basins are cleaned out. We try to
prevent in advance by staging
sandbags in areas that are really
prone to flooding to make sure
that water doesn’t get into build-
ings,” Loosley said.
Areas that have had issues
with flooding within the past year in-
clude Grand Ave, and the area by
the Nataratorium, where the street
curves downward, Loosley said.
While the catch basins were
cleaned out prior to Tuesdays
storm, facility services received
one complaint yesterday that
Grand Ave. was flooding by the
Vista Grande Restaurant.
“We went out there and saw
that some water was overflowing
into the street. The drain wasn’t
clogged. It was just that the drain
was completely filled up. It’s just
the design of the street. Some-
times on parts of the road that are
really old, the pavement is uplift-
ed,” Loosley said.

Rain
continued from page 2
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Taliban strength in Afghanistan nears military proportion

Jonathan S. Landay and Hal Bernton
WASHINGTON — A recent U.S. intelligence assessment has raised the estimated number of full-time Taliban-led insurgents fighting in Afghanistan to at least 25,000, underscoring how the crisis has worsened even as the U.S. and its allies have beefed up their military forces, a U.S. official said Thursday.

The U.S. official, who requested anonymity because the assessment is classified, said the estimate represented an increase of at least 3,000 fighters, or 25 percent, over what an estimate found last year.

On Wednesday, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Karl Eikenberry assured Afghans that America would continue to fight until "extremists and insurgents" were defeated in the war-torn nation.

The new intelligence estimate suggests such a fight would be difficult. Not included in the 25,000 tally are the part-time fighters — those Afghans who plant bombs or support the insurgents in other ways as return for money — and also the criminal gangs who sometimes make common cause with the Taliban or other Pakistan-based groups.

The assessment attributed the growth in the Taliban and their major allies, such as the Haqqani Network and Hezb-e-Islami, to a number of factors, including a growing sense among many Afghans that the insurgents are gaining ground over U.S.-led NATO troops and Afghan security forces.

"The rise can be attributed to, among other things, a sense that the central government in Kabul isn’t delivering on services, increased local support for insurgent groups, and the perception that the Taliban and others are gaining a firmer foothold and expanding their capabilities," the U.S. official said.

"They (the insurgents) don’t need to win a popularity contest," said Michael O’Hanlon, a military analyst at the center-left Brookings Institution in Washington. "They are actually doing a good job in creating a complex psychological brew. The first part is building on frustration with the government. The second part is increasing their own appeal or at least taking the edge off of the hatred that people had felt for them before. But on top of that they are selectively using intimidation to stoke a climate of fear. And on top of that they have momentum.”

James Dobbins, a retired ambassador who served as the first U.S. special envoy to Afghanistan, said.

A ceremony was held honoring Afghanistan’s war dead at the National Assembly in Kabul, Wednesday, October 14.

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WORD ON THE STREET

“Did the rain change your routine yesterday?”

“Not really, because I had class all day. I didn’t go running or anything.”
-Lisa Banke, animal science senior

“No, (it was) no different from a regular day.”
-Andy Siver, aerospace engineering junior

“It did. I had to walk back and forth a lot changing classes.”
-Dana Harlan, food science and nutrition senior

“Not really, because I still drove to class and walked to class.”
-Michael Mobley, aerospace engineering junior

“I went to all of my classes, got my books wet. But I loved the rain. It was amazing.”
-Tricia Harlan, animal science junior

“I worked all day in the library, so no. I was hanging out with Bob K.”
-Alicia Mooradian, business administration senior

Afghanistan

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the new estimate shows how the war, which entered its ninth year this month, has been intensifying. “It tells you that things are getting worse, and that would suggest that the current (U.S.-led troop) levels are inadequate,” Dobbins said. “But it doesn’t lead you to a formula that tells you what the adequate troop levels should be.”

The estimated increase in the insurgents’ ranks occurred as the numbers of U.S., British and other Western troops also increased, possibly suggesting the growth in international forces is bolstering an impression among many Afghans that they’re under foreign occupation.

The new estimate comes as the Obama administration debates its new strategy for Afghanistan amid public divisions between senior officials and military commanders.

Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the U.S. commander in Afghanistan, is seeking as many as 45,000 additional U.S. troops, which would bring the number of U.S. soldiers to more than 100,000. There are 39,000 forces from other countries and an effort is under way to double the size of the Afghan army to 134,000 by 2011.

Administration critics of McChrystal’s assessment — led by Vice President Joe Biden — are promoting a more limited strategy that would require far fewer U.S. troops.

Eikenberry’s remarks came at a ceremony honoring the more than 600 Afghan police and soldiers who have died since the war began.

“We will continue to stand side-by-side, shoulder-to-shoulder with you and the brave members of your security forces,” said Eikenberry at a wreath-laying ceremony in a courtyard of Afghanistan’s National Assembly. “We will fight with you."

see Afghanistan, page 7
The Talks will also focus on "the US administration's efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, foremost the Palestinian issue, through serious and direct negotiations between all parties and at all levels, aimed at achieving a comprehensive peace in the Middle East on the basis of the two-state solution and in accordance with the Arab Peace Initiative," the official said.

KHARTUM, Sudan (MCT) — The Sudanese government downplayed the significance of changes made to the new generation of Sudanese passports that practically allow immigration to Israel. Khartoum quietly removed a statement on the Machine Readable Passport (MRP), listing the validity of the document if used for Israel bound trips.
Dow closes above 10,000 for first time in a year

Kate Gibson
McClatchy Tribune

NEW YORK — As the U.S. stock market basked Wednesday in better-than-anticipated results from healthcare giant Merck & Co. and JPMe-
rgan Chase & Co., some embraced the notion that the market's worst fears involving disappointments in top-line growth might be past.

"Cost-cutting was necessary, but we need to see top-line growth for the market to take the next leg up," said Brett D'Arcy, chief investment of­
cer of CBIZ Wealth Management.

The near euphoria that came with the results from two components of the Dow Jones Industrial Average helped push the blue-chip index past 10,000 for the first time in more than a year.

"We'll start to see improvement on the top line beginning this quarter and some indication that this will continue in 2009," D'Arcy said.

The psychologically-important threshold could prove compelling to the "whole population of the people that walked away from Wall Street in the last couple of years, because of ev­
eerything that has happened," said Art Hogan, chief market strategist at Jef­
feries & Co.

The Dow last closed above 10,000 on Oct. 3, 2008, a day that had it fin­ishing at 10,325.40 only to fall more than 18 percent over the following five days. The index had set its all-time high of 14,164.53 a year earlier, on Oct. 9, 2007.

Financial shares paced the Wednes­
day gains as the major stock indexes surged higher, with the Dow reaching an intraday high of 10,027.7 before finishing up 144.90 points, or 1.47 percent, at 10,155.86, in its first finish above 10,000 since Oct. 3, 2008. The S&P 500 Index climbed 10.83 points, or 1.75 percent, to 619.02. The Nas­
day Composite Index advanced 32.34 points, or 1.5 percent, to 2,172.23.

On Tuesday, Johnson & Johnson's quarterly sales fell short of expecta­
tions, with results from the health­
care-products maker leaving investors with little to cheer.

But investor sentiment bright­
ened measurably after the market closed Tuesday, with quarterly results from chip maker Intel exceeding Wall Street's expectations.

"Johnson & Johnson is a shining example of what we don't want to see. Luckily, Intel has given us something to take our mind off," commented Hogan.

For equity analyst Ed Yardeni, chief investment strategist at Yarden Re­
search Inc., Intel's results prompted a joyful cry: "Tech is back."

Calling information technology his favorite of the S&P's 10 sectors, with semiconductors his favored in­
dustry in tech, Yarden declared his reasoning "embarrassingly simple" in a research note.

"I believe that the global econom­
ic recovery will be led by consumers, though not in the United States, but rather in the emerging markets. As they acquire some discretionary in­
come, their first purchases tend to be electronic gadgets such as cell phones, PCs and flat-screen TV's," he wrote.

The technology sector stands to be an "early-cycle beneficiary," of an economic turn, and its companies generally "aren't laden with some of the credit issues that others have," said D'Arcy.

Health care is another sector "not subject to the credit needs of finance and manufacturing, but it is certainly undervalued because of the legislative overhang," said D'Arcy of the move to reform health-care insurance on Capitol Hill.

Hogan, however, cautioned against reading too much into results from a limited field of companies — with the current week a relatively light one, earningswise, despite results from six Dow components, which "always make a splash," according to Hogan.

But the market this week bears only 29 companies among the S&P's 500, compared with 160 S&P's in­
sues next week.

"This may be the quarter where investors decide beating earnings es­
timated by cutting costs is not enough to keep us going," he said. "This is the week of the household names, but it's too small a sampling to say it's a vic­
ory."
CP Wheelchair Foundation raises money for its final donation

Miles Fairchild
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR: CASSANDRA NEYSE

She has short brown hair in the photograph. She's wearing a white dress that reaches past her knees and she's sitting in a new, red wheelchair — the first she's ever had.

The photo of the girl, a 2-year-old from Oaxaca, Mexico, who was paralyzed from birth, is part of the Mano a Mano, hand in hand, fundraising exhibit by the Cal Poly Wheelchair Foundation opening tonight at the San Luis Obispo Art Center.

The exhibit is one of the closing events for the Foundation, which has given more than 4,000 wheelchairs to impoverished people in Africa, Asia, South and North America in the past eight years.

Business administration senior Helya Naghibi has served as project manager for a year.

"I never thought I'd have the opportunity to impact someone's life as much and I'm very lucky to be part of it," she said.

The group began in 2001 when Kenneth Behring, founder of the Wheelchair Foundation, spoke to a group of Cal Poly students and offered them a chance to get involved.

Marketing area chair Lynn Metcalf of the Orfalea College of Business, was at the presentation and saw the benefit for the Cal Poly campus.

"It offered us the opportunity to make an impact on people's life," Metcalf said.

Metcalf started the Cal Poly Wheelchair Foundation with an initial team of nine students. In the eight years that the Foundation has operated, some 140 students have participated in raising money and delivering wheelchairs to poor communities.

"Raising awareness has been a focus for the foundation and the group has looked to students and the greater community to spread the word. The photographs taken by two students from the foundation's trip to Oaxaca will be available for purchase at tonight's free exhibit. "I feel that by putting on this photography exhibit, we are spreading an awareness," Sara Tollefson, one of the photographers, said.

Tollefson, an art and design senior with a photography concentration, tried to capture the everyday experiences of the people.

"There are people with lives much different than our own. These people do not have the many luxuries we have, such as running water," she said.

Greg Smith, also an art and design senior with a photography concentration, is displaying 20 of the 40 photos in the exhibit. Smith said he was surprised by the poverty.

"Everything people owned was with them," he said, recalling a market the group visited.

The wheelchairs come in two versions, an all-terrain model with mountain bike tires and then a standard model with hard, rubber wheels. The students, recognizing the poverty of the people, also provided a repair kit.

"The chairs come with self-repair tools that can take care of minor problems, if necessary," Naghibi said.

The Foundation is planning a final trip to deliver wheelchairs. Money raised from donations and sales of prints will go to wheelchair donations in Panama, Naghibi said.

Even though the Foundation is ending, its impact and lessons will continue, she said. "It has changed countless lives, just because it is coming to a close at Cal Poly, doesn't mean it will be forgotten."
Step 1) Go to www.tshirtguy.net

Step 2) Enter your name, email, and Cal Poly Club Name

Step 3) Click Send

Step 4) You receive $25* off any future orders for your club & ensure a 10% discount for the rest of the school year.

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Mustang Daily
BLOG
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Mustang Daily
ARTS

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Mitchell park to transform into construction zone of culture Sunday

Nikol Schiller

Caution tape lines the windows of the Multicultural Center (MCC) in the University Union as club officers prepare for this year's "Culturfest: Construction of Culture" festival at Mitchell park on Oct. 8. Twenty Cal Poly student clubs and San Luis Obispo community diversity groups will be holding booths, serving food and putting on performances to promote both the ethnic and identity cultures and dissolution the common stereotype San Luis Obispo has of being a predominantly white community.

The Multicultural Center has put on Culturfest for 12 consecutive years, however this is the first year that the festival has been associated with Cal Poly's homecoming events. Rennda Campbell, coordinator of Multicultural Programs and Services, helps student leaders organize events and awareness campaigns that celebrate diversity on campus.

"We are honored that the Cal Poly Alumni Association is including us in the large scale events during this special time for the university. This is the first and hopefully not the last of our collaborations," she said.

Biology senior Ian Serrano worked with Campbell and served as the event coordinator for the festival this year. After putting in a year's work of collecting sponsor money and recruiting performers, he is looking forward to seeing his construction hardhat that Campbell ordered for club officers to play up the theme of the festival on Sunday.

Serrano wants students and community members to realize that there is diversity in San Luis Obispo, contrary to the common stereotype.

"A lot of people perceive San Luis Obispo as a very, very white community," he said. "You don't have to be of color to be part of a certain culture. What we're presenting at Culturfest is the type of culture that we have here in our community."

The interest groups participating in the event are not all ethnic or religious groups. The Bucket Busters, a group of young Central Coast drummers, will be banging on buckets at their Culturfest performance. Its group of percussionists identify with a culture of music rather than ethnic culture.

The cultural clubs on campus will also show their support. With three performances scheduled throughout the day, Cal Poly's Pilipino Culture Exchange club plans on having its dance team perform a traditional Pilipino dance called kasyahian and a modern hip-hop dance.

Culturfest originally was held on campus but since performances were held inside and club booths were set up outside, MCC decided to move to the Mission Plaza to make clubs feel more involved. Last year, MCC held Culturfest at Mitchell park because they couldn't reserve the plaza.

"It was a blessing in disguise," Serrano said.

The response was overwhelming last year. About 500 people attended throughout the day.

This year, the club has received a lot of attention and sponsorships from the colleges and the San Luis Obispo community. Fundraising for the event used to be one of the most difficult things about putting on the festival, Serrano said. But with the success of last year's festival came even more financial support this year. The top five sponsors donating $1,000 or more include the City of San Luis Obispo, the Cal Poly President's Office, Wild 106 Radio, Popolo Rotiserie Cafe, and The New Times.

Serrano hopes that Culturfest visitors will be surprised to find the variety of cultures within the city.

"I want them to see that there is something in SLO that they can enjoy in terms of culture. We have some culture here, damn it. You just have to look around and be open about it," he said.

We have some culture here, damn it. You just have to look around and be open about it.

—Ian Serrano
Culturfest event coordinator

ENDLESS DELIVERIES
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Guests reserve the right to edit commentaries for spelling, grammar, style, length and profundity.
Are you bored with general fruits and vegetables lately? Do you want something a little more interesting than the average apple or simple salad? Welcome to the world of unique fruits and vegetables, which offers you a great variety of hybrids and other fun foods. From a pomegranate to an artichoke there are so many out there that you should try them all. So stop peeling that orange, quit cutting that cucumber and expand your appetite to give your taste buds a real treat.

The pomegranate has its roots in the Middle East and India, and is a fruit whose seeds and pulp are the main attraction which makes it unique from many other fruits. Here's a little Jewish fact — they supposedly contain 53 seeds which represent the 613 commandments. For those who love tangy and tart, this is the fruit for you. The seeds and pulp can be eaten on their own or baked into a dessert.

My favorite way to have a pomegranate is to have it in a smoothie or a juice. It is loaded with vitamins and has that extra flavor kick that I am usually looking for. The actual fruit along with its juice can be found at most grocery stores and they make a delicious smoothie called Pomegranate Paradise at Jamba Juice.

Moving on to my favorite, the artichoke, a vegetable originating from Southern Europe and the Mediterranean. There are so many great ways to eat an artichoke. Try a great appetizer dip or add artichoke hearts to a salad to add some extra flavor. Many restaurants grill up artichokes and base them with olive oil or provide you with a dipping sauce.

My favorite way to eat one is to wash it and then steam it for 25 to 35 minutes. Then I sauté some butter with garlic and put it together, lightly salt and pepper the artichoke and dig in. The way to eat the petals is to dip the white fleshy side into the butter, place in mouth dip side down while gripping the other end, and pull through the teeth to remove the deliciousness. The heart can also be eaten but you should remove the fuzzy part called the choke and cut it up and dip it too. You can find them at most grocery stores and Farmers Market has a great deal for them as well.

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30% off all Cookbooks

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KOSHER IN THE KITCHEN
BETHANY ABELSON

Some of the most fascinating fruits are the hybrids — crosses between one or more types of fruits. For the citrus kick I recommend the tangolong, which is a cross between a tangerine and a pomelo or grapefruit and originating from Southern Asia. They are very juicy and have a thin skin which is easy to peel.

My favorite type of hybrid is one many students might not know: the oliveberry. This unique berry is a cross between the loganberry and the youngberry which are crosses between blackberries, raspberries and dewberries. It originated in the United States and has become more and more popular as the years go on. You can make it into a pie or syrup but my favorite is the jam. My fellow food science majors and I actually make the jam here on campus and sell it at campus market and El Corral and it's pretty good if you ask me.

Lastly I want to introduce the gripple, which is not a hybrid fruit but rather an externally flavored fruit product. It is an apple which has been specially treated to make the flesh taste like grapes. They're pretty good and I have seen them at Coors and other grocery stores.

I hope this has opened your eyes to some of the more unique fruits and vegetables out there. Sometimes they are a nice change to fulfill the recommended five a day. So the next time you are having people over and you don't know what to make for an appetizer or for dessert, instead of the usual chips and salsa or plate of cookies, try starting them off with an artichoke and ending the night with an oliveberry pie.

Bethany Abelson is a food science senior and Mustang Daily food columnist.
The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring community. We appreciate your readership and are thankful for your careful reading. Please send your correction suggestions to mustangdaily@gmail.com.

The Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, propriety and length. Letters, commentaries and cartoons do not represent the views of the Mustang Daily. Please send your corrections and length to the Mustang Daily. Rease limit length to 125 words. Letters to the Editor are limited to 400 words per author. Please send your letters and cartoons to the Mustang Daily e-mail at mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com. The Mustang Daily reserves the right to publish reader corrections. Failure to pass the International Bill of Human Rights is especially poignant during our current debate over public health care. While Clinton was in office, he wrote, "The Clinton Administration has not denied the nature of these rights but has not found it politically expedient to engage in a battle with Congress over the Covenant."

It is my great hope that at the end of this 44-year-long health care debate, neither the Obama Administration nor the Democratic Congress and Senate reverses that political decision. That echoes current Republican sentiments against the public option. And so, their 44-year-old argument has been and perhaps always will be that while other political rationalizations have decided that the right to health care is an important part of human rights, they simply view it as a good thing to have if it's something you can afford. The explanation Shiman gives for the Clinton Administration's failure to pass the International Bill of Rights is especially poignant for today's health care reform debate. While Clinton was in office, he wrote, "The Clinton Administration has not denied the nature of these rights but has not found it politically expedient to engage in a battle with Congress over the Covenant."
Transparency hits the Web: Online communicators livid with Federal Trade Commission's decision

Edward Wasserman

Online communicators of all stripes, whether they blog or tweet or befriended on social networking sites, are now supposed to tell you when they've received any money or freebies in connection with products they've tried out. After months of gathering public in-quiet, the Federal Trade Commission decided last week, "A dangerous federal intervention in social media" and "an attack on the marketplace of ideas," "The FTC will now have to monitor 27.9 million Americans." "The FTC is the principal regulator of the advertising industry," which "wants to compel bloggers to disclose freebies or be fined," and even Slate's Jack Shafer, who is normally right about most everything, denounced "the FTC's mad power grab" and declared: "Allowing these guidelines to take effect would be tantamount to the government a no-knock warrant to investigate hundreds of thousands of blogs and hundreds of millions of Facebook, MySpace and Twitter users for saying nice things about goods and services."

I don't know what's wrong with me, but I don't agree with these people at all. Let us bring up the FTC. The FTC is the principal regulator of the advertising industry, which "wants to compulsorily compel those of you who didn't know the ad industry had a regulator." Accordingly, it promulgates standards of truthfulness in commercial speech.

The challenge here is much the same. How on Earth is anybody going to police hundreds of thousands of possibly corrupt voices? For its part, the FTC has made it clear in its focus is not on bloggers but on advertisers, who are responsible for telling online commentators about these disclosure obligations. That puns the burden where it belongs — on the people who seek to gain from what is, essentially, deception.

True, enforcement will be sporadic. But then, we support speed limit laws even though we know that only a tiny fraction of the people who exceed them will ever be ticked. The challenge here is much the same. To make sure that standards are posted and understood. In this case, the FTC has taken a reasonable step toward safeguarding the future of honest communication online.

Fine. But when an Internet-chat tech manualian praiseshould also have to mention that it was provided to her for free or charge, or by the way, that she won a free trip to a Vegas trade show so she could read-test it in a suitable setting.

You bet, said the FTC. Any time we're led to believe that the opinion somebody expresses is truly theirs and the credibility we attach to that person's words would be altered if we knew that she had gotten the product for free (or gotten something else of value from its producer), that's something we should know.

What's wrong with that? To be fair, the critics don't quarrel with the desirability of disclosure; they reverence transparency. But they're annoyed that the FTC treats a newspaper reviewer for a newspaper differently from a freelance blogger. The newspaper employee wouldn't have to say she got books for free while the blogger would. The Commission reasons that an employee of an organization with a culture of editorial independence deserve different treatment, but I think the critics are right. There's no principled reason for the distinction.

And they object to the sweeping oversight powers the Commission seems to be claiming: How on Earth is anybody going to police hundreds of thousands of possibly corrupt voices?

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Free speech should be encouraged in Pol Community

Guy Shani

Defense attorney

Edward Wasserman says this week's italicized Daily Finance blog on AOL, "A monument to unintended consequence, hideous, squat, fiery and vile, including feeble denunciations from some of the most influential and most respected voices on the Internet.

"A dangerous federal intervention in social media," and "an attack on the marketplace of ideas," "The FTC will now have to monitor 27.9 million Americans."

"The FTC is the principal regulator of the advertising industry," which "wants to compulsorily compel those of you who didn't know the ad industry had a regulator." Accordingly, it promulgates standards of truthfulness in commercial speech.

The commission was revising, for the first time since 1990, its general policies on product endorsements, so it lowered the bar to those of you who didn't know the ad industry had a regulator. Accordingly, it promulgated standards of truthfulness in commercial speech.

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The irony that the communication department is miscommunicating is hysterical. I do agree that getting less class for more tuition via tuition raises and mandatory furloughs are bad but the problem is that the professors are not getting any of this extra tuition we have been paying for, they're getting a salary cut.

—Jacob

Response to "How hard is it to earn an e-mail? Professors don't go out of their way to inform students."

Being a conservative writer is not easy; you will always be criticized, even if you say the sky is blue. Please improve your columns quickly or get an editor for another conservative voice to take you place. Alumni, such as myself, like to know their values are still represented on campus. Please keep this in mind as you write your future columns.

—Ian Nachreiner

Response to "Everyone should be equal under the law"

Shouldn't a college newspaper be discussing college football? Last I heard, those with an inch can still bet on college football. Doesn't it make you mad that odds aren't posted for FCS games, even when they are playing FBS schools?

—Anonymous

Response to "Tuesday Morning Quarterbacks Beat Beats Last Sunday"

I think people should be free to say what they want as long as it doesn't negatively affect others. That also means taking responsibility for your actions. For instance, people can say they are broke and they need money however they want — new cars, big house, tons of kids, fancy vacations — but don't come knocking on my door when they have no money left. Like uncle Ben says in Spiderman, "with power comes responsibility." If you want the power to make your own choices, you have the responsibility to deal with the consequences.

—Kate

Response to "Avoid Latent Lie: You Own Poison"

NOTE: The Mustang Daily features select comments that are written in response to articles that are published in The Mustang Daily. The comments are printed, the Mustang Daily prints comments that are edited, and after editing,gent discussion on a given subject.
David Lennon

So now the Dodgers will get a do-over against the Phillies in the first NLCS rematch since the 2004-05 seasons, when the Cardinals and Astros split their two late October meetings. This year, the Dodgers are seeking revenge for their five-game loss to the defending world champions while the Phillies are hoping to become the first NL club to win back-to-back rings since Cincinnati's Big Red Machine in 1975-76.

**Offense**
The Phillies' lineup is a minefield for opposing pitchers. Jimmy Rollins and Shane Victorino are speedy pros that clog the bases for one of the most dangerous slugging trios in the NL DS. The Dodgers will have to prove. EDGE: Dodgers.

**Bench**
No one had a bigger moment in the spotlight last October than the Phillies' Matt Stairs, who drilled a pinch-hit, two-run homer with two outs in the eighth inning to beat the Dodgers in Game 4 of the NLCS. Stairs swung for the fences every time he stepped to the plate, he had five homers in 62 at-bats as a pinch hitter in the NLDS with 36 saves in 42 chances. The Phillies were thrilled to see Brad Lidge come around with two saves in the Division Series, but their 'pen as a whole hardly has been lights out. Scott Eyre appears to be fine after taking a hard fall in Game 4, but 6-foot-2 as a pinch hitter in the NLDS with a strikeout. The X-factor off the bench could be Orlando Hudson, who could sit in favor of Ronnie Belliard. The Dodgers also have plenty of other reliable veterans with Juan Pierre, Mark Loretta and Brad Ausmus.

**Manager**
Charlie Manuel has the most recent World Series title on his resume, leading the Phillies to the championship last season. But Joe Torre won four rings with the Yankees and still carries the aura of being, well, Joe Torre. The laid-back Manuel seems to get the most from his players with his grandfatherly style, one that instills confidence and leaves no room for panic. He also has won 14 of his last 18 postseason games. Still, it's hard to discount Torre in any matchup, now that he's showed that his success as a manager wasn't just a product of the Yankees' big checkbook. Getting the Dodgers to the World Series, and then beating his former team, would be the story of the decade.

**Prediction:** The Dodgers create some problems for the Phillies, and even won four of the seven head-to-head meetings during the regular season. But Philly is stocked with clutch players that know what it takes to win in October after last year's championship run. Joe Torre won four rings with the Yankees (1996, 1998-2000) and still carries the aura of being, well, Joe Torre. The laid-back Manuel seems to get the most from his players with his grandfatherly style, one that instills confidence and leaves no room for panic. He also has won 14 of his last 18 postseason games. Still, it's hard to discount Torre in any matchup, now that he's showed that his success as a manager wasn't just a product of the Yankees' big checkbook. Getting the Dodgers to the World Series, and then beating his former team, would be the story of the decade.

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Mustangs head home to face Southern Utah in Big West Conference opener this weekend

Brian De Los Santos

After a game in which the teams combined for 110 points a year ago, Cal Poly is set to host Southern Utah (2-3) in their homecoming game on Saturday in Alex G. Spanos Stadium.

Cal Poly, which defeated the Thunderbirds 69-41 last season, has battled through perhaps the most grueling four-game stretch in school history. In a gauntlet that included two teams from the Football Bowl Subdivision and two top-20 Football Championship Subdivision teams, the Mustangs have mustered a 2-3 record in their worst regular season start since 2002.

Despite the slight speed bump the Mustangs have faced to open the season, head coach Tim Walsh welcomes the challenge.

"This conference schedule has given us a great opportunity to know that we can compete in our conference and that's where it all begins this week," Walsh said.

The No. 19 Mustangs, who haven't lost a regular-season home game since falling at home to eventual national championship runner-up Montana last Sept. 6, have won seven in a row at home including a playoff loss to Weber State.

The Thunderbirds opened the year strong with a lopsided win against Dixie State in their season opener, 36-7. The following three weeks, including two FBS teams, led Southern Utah to fall to 1-3 but the next week at home, the Thunderbirds were able to complete a huge win against then-No. 19 Texas State on Oct. 3.

The Mustangs and Thunderbirds will meet for the 23rd time this weekend, with Cal Poly owning the series advantage, 16-6. Last year the two teams combined for 1,185 yards of total offense.

Cal Poly's offense, which hasn't been shutout since 1998, is rolling off its highest scoring performance this season, 25 points at Montana.

Last year the Mustangs led the FCS in scoring with 44.4 points and 487.3 yards per game.

This season it's been a tale of two stories — a good running game and a bad passing game.

The Mustangs rushing offense ranks 27th in the FCS in total yards (687) and 17th in yards per game (1.78-6) this season.

Cal Poly fullback Jordan Yocum led the ground attack last Saturday against Montana with 199 yards and a touchdown—the fourth time a Mustang running back has broken 100 yards in a game this season.

The Mustangs triple option ground attack remains the offensive workhorse, as it has been for years, but for every strength, there is a weakness.

Cal Poly's passing offense has struggled to find its consistency this year.

With the departure of record-breaking receiver Kames Barnes last season, the Mustangs have yet to find a true No. 1 receiver. Their leading candidates, UCDA transfer Dominique Johnson, looked to be on his way to establishing himself, but has been sidelined indefinitely with a shoulder injury.

Borden made 12 catches for 217 yards and two touchdowns last year against the Thunderbirds.

Johnson is just one name that highlights a packed depth chart — one that includes junior quarterback Tony Smith and slot back Jono Grayson.

In last year's contest, FOOTs had 16 receptions for 246 yards and a touchdown while Sitake added five grabs for 94 yards and a score.

This season, wideouts for 256 yards and three touchdowns last year against the Thunderbirds.

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In last year's contest, FOOTs had 16 receptions for 246 yards and a touchdown while Sitake added five grabs for 94 yards and a score.

Orchard Putnam of San Diego. Lamb has churned a total of 250 rushing yards. He counts seventh in the FCS in passing touchdowns (13) and 19th in the FCS for passing yards (1,275).

The top two receiving threats for Southern Utah, Feni Sitake and Tyson Poors, have combined for 62 receptions this year, more than the entire Mustang receiving corps combined. In last year's contest, Poors had 16 receptions for 246 yards and a touchdown while Sitake added five grabs for 94 yards and a score.

The Thunderbirds potent offense ranks 14th in FCS in scoring, led by senior quarterback Cade Cooper. Cooper has thrown for 250 yards or more in three straight games heading into Saturday's contest. He ranks seventh in the FCS for passing touchdowns (13) and 19th in the FCS for passing yards (1,275).

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Homecoming could mark an actual trip home for some Thunderbirds, 19 hail from California.

Lamb also returns west this weekend. Two seasons ago, he served as special teams coordinator for the University of San Diego. Lamb has channeled a 6-10 record overall since his second season as Head Coach. He is 0-1 against Cal Poly.

Kickoff is set for 6:05 p.m. with radio coverage available on KCPR beginning half an hour prior to kickoff.

Alex Kafch contributed to this article.