WASC to review Cal Poly's accreditation status

Rhiannon Montgomery

A team from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges will visit Cal Poly to report on the university's capacity to educate students and achieve the goals of its self-study on Feb. 12. The visit is part of the accreditation process done every 10 years and necessary to receive federal funding and value of the school's degrees.

A six-member group made up of peer university administrators and faculty will spend two days meeting with the president, provost, deans, faculty and students to determine if the school has the capability to meet its mission objectives. The visiting team will be led by Samuel Smith, president emeritus of Washington State University. Other members include professors from University of Redlands, University of California-Davis, CSU Sacramento and the chief financial officer from CSU Los Angeles.

David Conn is co-chair of Cal Poly's WASC steering committee and previously served as part of an accreditation team for University of California, Riverside and CSU Fresno. He said the accreditation team is looking at buildings, the library, faculty, staff and funding.

"They look at Cal Poly's resources and make a recommendation to WASC from their findings," Conn said.

They have also been instructed to consider the current budget crisis in the CSU system and the impact on the school, he added. The visit is part of the association's three-phase process for universities to receive accreditation.

The organization's visits are used to collect evidence that students are learning at Cal Poly. Conn said accreditation is voluntary, but Conn and his fellow co-chair Bruno Giberti of the steering committee said it is required to receive federal funding, including Pell grants, and gives credibility to the institution's degrees and credits.

"It's a big stick the federal government wields," Giberti said, adding that schools wouldn't be eligible for Pell grants without accreditation.

Conn said it doesn't make sense for a large institution like Cal Poly to not be accredited through the association because of the financial consequences.

WASC is one of six non-governement, regional organizations recognized by the Department of Education to confirm that schools provide an education worth something to their students. The accreditation was formed in 1949 and endorses schools in California, Hawaii and Pacific U.S. territories. It is broken into three committees serving elementary schools, community colleges and universities.

The organization's Web site said the accreditation for senior colleges and universities is in charge of the process for schools offering a bachelor's and post-graduate degrees. Every see WASC, page 2

Mental health campaign launched in SLO County

Megan Hasler

A documentary aimed at changing the perception of mental illnesses in San Luis Obispo County was released Feb. 4 at the Supervisor's Chambers at the County Government Center.

Cal Poly graduate and documentary director Alex Ramsey said the people he knew suffering from mental illnesses influenced his project.

"While I was at Cal Poly, 50 percent of the subjects I explored in my art, were dealing with mental illness," he said. "It's definitely something that spoke to me personally."

The documentary is part of a campaign funded by San Luis Obispo County Behavioral Health Services and was completed by Transition Mental Health Association and 20/20 Creative Group. It explores three mental illnesses: depression, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia.

This partnership was formed to show that mental illness is not an unsolvable problem, Hannah Brown, a representative from Transition Mental Health Association, said. Even if people have some experience in or try to out something completely different that they've never ever heard about and get a beginner's education in that,"

Animal science senior Daniel Plus, chairperson of the conference College Conference will be hosted at Cal Poly for the first time in the event's 20-year history. The event will be coordinated by the Cal Poly Pride Center and will feature speakers, workshops and discussions aimed to teach guests about the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

At least 17 UC, CSU and private colleges across California are registered to participate. Campus organizers are expecting at least 600 people to attend, approximately 400 more attendees than in 1996 when numbers were first recorded. The event, which began on the UC Davis and the UC Santa Barbara campuses, will present speakers and hold 31 workshops for supporters and members of the queer community about sexual health, coming out, religion and LGBTQ+ education.

The theme for this year's conference is "Honor the Past, Impact the Present and Define Our Future."

With the theme, Pride Center Coordinator Erin Pfau said event organizers want conference attendees to reflect on the history of the same-sex community such as their civil rights struggles, the hurdles they face now and ways to improve the future.

"Each workshop is listed as a different track so if health issues were of interest to you, you could go to a health workshop in almost every session," Pfau said. "Our goal was to give people an opportunity to learn about topics that maybe they already seen before but never really had a chance to start LGBT outreach programs. One thing that's most looking forward to is meeting LGBTQ+ members from other schools.

"I'm expecting to spend a week-end with like-minded people and get a chance to meet other queer students from California," Pfau said. "Here at USC we have been working more with L.A. colleges so it'll be really cool to meet with other colleges outside of the Los Angeles area."

The three-day event will also feature lectures and presentations from former gay and lesbian Alli...
people are not directly affected by mental illness, they need to be informed too.

People are not directly affected by mental illness, they need to be

inform

ed.

The nine documentary subjects are local[s] found through personal recommendations and a Craigslist advertisement.

Curtis Poppelbarn suffers from depression; he was asked to participate by a friend involved in the project. He has shared his illness with some of the people close to him, and the remaining part of the project meant sharing with the public.

"I get up in the morning and I take the first five minutes of every day and I ask, 'God, what do you want me to do?" Poppelbarn said.

Being involved in SLO the Stigma was one of the opportunities he has taken because he asked this question, he said.

The participants know that being a part of this project would mean sharing their illnesses with a large audience. Amanda Nelson, who suffers from bipolar disorder, said when she lived in a big city it was easy to disappear into the crowd, but it is different in San Luis Obisco County.

"I know more people when I walk down the street," Nelson said. "This community is great, as long as we can get rid of the stigma, it can be even better."

Ramsey shared the stories of the students who are directly affected like his own.

"We want this to be something that is talked about normally without fear of labeling," he said. "As soon as we get rid of the stigma, we can make a dialogue, then more people will come forward."

Everyone in the room was at one point choked up. I was honored to know that kind of impact I would have with the documentary.

―Alex Ramsey

SLO the Stigma Director

Conference

continued from page 1

once Against Defamation executive director Joan Gary, poetess Buddie Wakefield and Andrea Gibson and a keynote address from Rick Jacobs, founder of the Courage Campaign, an organization that promotes the No on Prop 8 campaign and same-sex marriage.

"Wakefield and Gibson both identify as members of the LGBTQ community and they have something to say to those that in spite of their illness.

"People are not affected directly by mental illness, they need to be informed as well,

..."

--Kate McIntyre

mustangdailynews@gmail.com

Monday, February 8, 2010

WASC

continued from page 1

10 years, the university is evaluated for "educational effectiveness." Conn said it's a multi-year improvement review and not just a checklist.

Schools propose a plan for approval and host two site assessments. The self-study is used to see what the university needs to do to enhance the education and experience for students.

Giberti said the university also has to meet benchmarks related to its purpose, integrity, compilation of student body and educational standards for accreditation. The process started for Cal Poly in spring 2007 when a committee of administrators, faculty and students was formed to create a proposal and carry out the study.

Giberti and Conn head the WASC steering committee, working with members such as Linda Halisky, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and Anna Gold, associate dean for public services at Kennedy Library.

The committee focused on defining what it means to be a comprehensive polytechnic university and the "learn by doing" philosophy, Halisky said. They also looked at continued education for instructors and how to be a part of the entire learning experience students get while at college, Conn said.

"The aim now is that all Cal Poly students are polynomial and to accomplish that we have to be new, something that strikes you on here at Cal Poly that just might say, 'This is interesting,'" Echols said. "And an opportunity to meet people of other campuses too to help promote the idea."

The conference, which is open to the public, kicks off Friday, Feb. 19 at 9 a.m. and runs until Sunday, Feb. 21. Tickets can be bought at the door in the University Union or through the conference's Web site, www.conncocount.org.

The ULO were formed from the last accreditation review in 2006. She said she expects the university to be the premiere comprehensive polytechnic school.

Halisky said it will likely lead to a more balanced mix of units in science, engineering and architecture, major programs and art programs and vice versa for science, engineering and architecture majors. It will also add a more concrete definition of what learning-by-doing means for each college.

A survey by the committee showed students think learn-by-doing is associated with the major rather than the university.

"There are no set requirements for this type of learning are amazing and include "problem solving, research, hands-on design, leadership, budget and service and creative work." The committee also considered the balance needed between teaching and research time for faculty.

"To be a great teacher, it's important to be involved in scholarship or the faculty member may become out-of-date," Conn said.

The study calls for further support and education of the importance of research so instructors can provide the highest quality education. Giberti said the WASC team will observe and report to the board on the University Learning Objectives (ULO); Halisky said Gal Poly will have a 7.5 percent graduation rate the best in the GSU system.

WASC="Western Association of Schools and Colleges".

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Five dead in Connecticut power plant explosion, many more injured

Edmund H. Mahony, Eric Ger- shon and Daniela Altinari

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. — A devastating explosion that was heard and felt for miles destroyed a power plant Sunday morning as workers pumped a natural gas piping system, killing at least five and injuring many more, emergency response officers said.

Homeowners miles away said the 11 a.m. EST explosion at the Kleen Energy Systems power plant created a shock wave so intense they mistakenly thought the central part of the state had experienced an earthquake. Rescue officers worked through the day in an effort to prepare a casualty list. Middletown, Conn., officials confirmed at least five dead and dozens injured at 5:30 p.m. just before a press conference about the accident.

Hours after the shocking blast, which blew out windows and cracked foundations of neighboring homes, state police with specially trained dogs continued to poke through the rubble of twisted steel, looking for victims.

Middletown Councilman Ronald P. Klattenberg said late Sunday afternoon that five people were missing, but the number of injured is not as large as initially feared.

"There are bodies everywhere," witnesses said in the hours immediately after the explosion. Later in the afternoon rescue personnel said victims may still be buried in rubble.

Middletown Deputy Fire Marshal Al Santostefano said there were "confirmed fatalities" but he did not know how many. He said there were probably no more than 50 construction workers on the site. Initial reports were that as many as 150 workers may have been at the site.

"It was a massive explosion" Santostefano said. Eddie Reilly, president of building trades council in Hartford, Conn., confirmed there were about 50 tradesmen on site Sunday morning.

The plant, which has been under construction for years, was nearing completion. It was designed to generate electricity by burning natural gas. Neighbors said they believed the explosion was the result of an operating test.

Santostefano said the explosion was related in some fashion to natural gas, but that the cause was still under investigation. He said the explosion appears to have occurred when operators attempted a "blow down" of natural gas pipelines, a procedure that involves the purging of gas from the pipelines.

The power plant site, carved into a rocky bluff over a bend in the lower Connecticut River in Middletown, Connecticut, on Sunday.

An aerial view shows the aftermath of an explosion at the Kleen Energy Systems power plant where five were killed and more injured. The plant is located along the Connecticut River in Middletown, Connecticut, on Sunday.

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The power plant site, carved into a rocky bluff over a bend in the lower Connecticut River, consisted of numerous structures. But Santostefano said he believes the explosion occurred in the largest, a massive, square steel structure known as the power block building.

Klattenberg said the explosion blew out all sides of the power block building.

"Parts of the walls are just flapping in the wind," Klattenberg said.

Santostefano said "They are taking the building apart, piece by piece. If they do find anybody, they would be under the rubble." He said rescue workers were "search and rescue mode."

"Farts of the walls are just flapping in the wind," Klattenberg said. He said authorities believe many of those on the site at the time of the explosion worked for O&G Construction, the general contractor building the plant, which was more than 95 percent complete.

Darling, you make me jump for joy — J-Baby

Flirtatious, you make me jump for joy — J-Baby

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Protesters amass ahead of Olympics

Kim Murphy

VANCOUVER, Canada — While past Olympics have been magnets for protests over issues such as Aboriginal rights in Australia and oppression in Tibet, the Vancouver Winter Games are preparing to host one of the biggest displays ever of organized opposition to the Olympics themselves.

Building on years of disruptive activity, the protests in the weeks leading up to the Feb. 12 opening ceremony are intended to be nonviolent: noisy demonstrations, street marches and possibly attempts to block spectators and competitors from reaching the venues.

An array of groups with individual agendas will descend on Vancouver, many of them hoping to make their presence felt amid the Olympic pageantry. North American Aboriginal groups that claim the games are being hosted on unceded "stolen" land; conservationists alarmed at the construction of the 62-mile Sea-to-Sky Highway connecting the city to the skiing venues at Whistler; opponents of tar sands and oil development in northern Canada; and anti-poverty activists who say the games are costing Vancouver residents' reservations and other federal lands, which were effective in several incidents, including La Canada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Acton, Tujunga and Sierra Madre.

Other hillside residents in the region were affected by the storm. In the Hollywood Hills, Susan Morris, 42, was roused at 5 a.m. by a ten­dency rainstorm flooded La Cacey, while the others were scattered elsewhere in La Canada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Acton, Tujunga and Sierra Madre.

Of the 43 homes that were dam­aged, 31 had mud or other debris down, threatening the crew. By night­fall, more than 50 homes were major structural damage. About 60 homes were operating on weather forecasts with the U.S. Geological Survey.

As they watched, a firefighter said. "It looked like the Niagra Fall was coming down the street," said Rickard, who lives nearby. She said she saw firefighters scramble out of her neighborhood's house up­hill when a burst of rain poured down, threatening the crew.

The wrath of the mudflow twist­ed and turned, killing four people, disintegrating walls of sand­bags and knocking over 4,000-pound concrete barriers that lined the road to divert water away from homes. About 25 vehicles were damaged, flowing down the street and smash­ing up against walls, trees and each other.

Despite the damaging mudflows, there were no reports of deaths or serious injuries reported. By night­fall, more than 100 homes were under mandatory evacuation or­ders, which were effective in several communities, including La Canada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Acton, Tujunga and Sierra Madre.

Of the 43 homes that were dam­aged, 31 had mud or other debris entered the house, while 12 suffered major structural damage. About 50 were located in Paradise Va­ley, while the others were scattered elsewhere in La Canada Flintridge and La Crescenta. Elsewhere in the Los Ange­les region, the rainstorm flooded freeways and caused numerous ac­cidents, caused several mudslides in hillside neighborhoods, and washed out portions of at least two mountain roads — Angeles Crest Highway and Ortega Highway near Idylwild.

"It was a higher intensity than we have gotten yet this year," said P . Michael Freeman, chief of the Los Angeles County Fire Depart­ment, acknowledged that crews were operating on weather forecasts that turned out to be incorrect. "I think it's imperative that ev­erybody understand the unpredict­ability of predictions," Freeman said.

By Saturday night, the precipita­tion had largely cleared out of the Los Angeles area. Forecasters ex­pected dry and warmer conditions Sunday and Monday, but there is a chance rain can return on Tuesday.

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have a lot more negative impact than positive," Harshawalia, a spokesperson who might have been helped by the money being spent to host the Games. According to the Vancouver Organizing Committee, the official operating budget is $1.65 billion, with a total venue construction cost of $542 million. But that doesn't include the $825 million cost of expanding the Vancouver convention center, which will serve as the media headquarters; the $748 million spent on the Sea to Sky highway; and the 11.8-mile, $1.9 billion new light rail line from Vancouver International Airport, a portion of which was paid for by a private partner.

Those projects, government officials said, were planned anyway and will be long-term resources for the province.

"Think goodness that we have such a spectacular facility that will drive economic activity for years into the future," British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell said during the convention center's grand reopening in April. There have been other estimates, including one recently undertaken by the Vancouver Sun newspaper, that put the total Olympic price tag at closer to $5.6 billion.

Of course, few, if any, local boosters appear to have miscalculated the bonanza they expected to spin off from the Games. On the eve of Vancouver's successful 2003 bid, Campbell predicted that the Olympics would bring $10 billion in economic benefits to the province, including 228,000 jobs. Officials have persisted in predicting at least $4 billion in benefits, including tourism.

But a PricewaterhouseCoopers study in November found that, through the end of 2008, British Columbia had seen at most an $884 million increase in its gross domestic product, including 20,780 jobs.

According to the resistance network's Web site, activists plan to kick off their "anti-Olympic convergence" with a series of workshops Wednesday and Thursday, followed by a "take back our city" demonstration on the day of the opening ceremonies. On Feb. 13, an ominous titled event: "Heart Attack: Street March to Clog the Arteries of Capitalism" is planned. It promises to "respect diversity of tactics and ... disrupt business as usual" on the first day of the Games!

"It's hard for people to grasp," said Sara Jennings, a Wharton native who is helping organize the demonstrations there. "You grow up with the idea of the Olympics being a wonderful thing, you watch it on TV and you think it's all about the athletes and all about the world coming together. But the reality is it's become more of a corporate creation whose primary rooting is greed. And the people that need the most support are the people that get trampled on when things like big corporate-sponsored events come to town."

**Olympics continued from page 4**

**State**

SAN LUIS OBISPO (MCT) — County agricultural officials are dealing with a second infestation of the light brown apple moth, an invasive pest.

Two adult male apple moths were found in September in a canyon off Zeron Way in Nipomo. The discovery prompted state and county farm officials to establish a quarantine area there.

The quarantine applies to farms, nurseries and other businesses that could spread the moth. Growers in the quarantine area are required to undergo regular inspections, said Marty Settevendemie, deputy county agricultural commissioner.

Officials are planning an eradication effort in the Nipomo area. The effort involves placing thousands of twist-ties containing the moth's pheromone in shrewberry.

**National**

CHICAGO (MCT) — The U.S. economy was front and center on the talk shows Sunday, with administration officials past and present expressing guarded confidence it's in a recovery mode.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, appearing on ABC News' "This Week," said he thinks the economy is back in growth mode, and, "We're seeing some encouraging signs of healing" following better-than-expected unemployment data released Friday.

Still, Geithner added, "This is going to take a while, and it's going to be uneven, but there are encouraging signs in this report."

WASHINGTON (MCT) — Sarah Palin said Sunday she might run for president in 2012 if she decides it's good for her family and country.

Fresh from a speech to conservative activists at a "tea party" gathering in Nashville, the former Alaska governor said President Barack Obama could be defeated in 2012, that she's been "bumping up on foreign and national policy and that she would run if it felt right.

"I would," she said on Fox News, where she's a paid contributor. "I would if I believed that that is the right thing to do for our country and for the Palin family. Certainly, I would do so."

**International**

Machu Picchu (MCT) — The watchback railroad used by 90 percent of tourists to reach Machu Picchu will be closed at least two months for repairs, spoiling the travel plans of thousands and affecting the economy of the area of southeast Peru that depends on tourism.

Late last month, the last of 3,900 tourists, who were stranded in Machu Picchu after torrential rains and mudslides swept away parts of the Transandino Railroad, were evacuated. The rail line was damaged in eight places. The Inca Trail, the walkway hikers use to approach the site, was also destroyed in places.

About 500 Americans were among those stranded. One Argentine tourist and his Peruvian guide were killed.

**Kiev, Ukraine (MCT) —** Viktor Yushchenko, the former mechanic who just six years ago was shunned as a pro-Moscow stooge, declared victory in Ukraine's presidential election Sunday after early exit polls showed him leading by a slim margin.

Three exit polls showed Yushchenko leading by 4 to 5 percent in a runoff election that threatens to deepen political instability in the contentious former Soviet state. His opponent, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, refused to concede.
Marti's Bar and Grill transformed into 'Local' which features locally-produced food and later hours than most downtown restaurants. Corporate chef Shane King, 30, said the makeover will advance the restaurant from typical to unique.

"I like to describe it as upscale bar food with local prices," King said.

With the addition of late kitchen and bar hours, as late as 1 a.m. and 2 a.m., King anticipates attracting college students who want a downtown hangout and to eat and have free WiFi, even study. King, who grew up in San Luis Obispo, said while he was in school, wished downtown had a place to eat and socialize at night to take a break from studying.

"Local" is what I wanted - good food late at night," he said.

He envisions students getting out from a late movie during the week, in want of good food and a modern, comfortable setting to eat, talk and drink wine.

Along with the new hours, Local's draft system includes six beers on tap, mainly from California breweries — the component general manager Brad Sturgis, 25, is most excited about.

"It's a new concept to this town," Sturgis said.

In accordance with its name, "Local" uses food from all local vendors including grass-fed beef and meat from Hearst Ranch in San Simeon and green vegetables from Windrose Farms in Paso Robles.

Local remained open during the construction that started about four weeks ago and had its first official "soft" opening last Tuesday night that brought close to 150 customers to its new painted doors.

After a total of only six weeks and $30,000, Sturgis plans to have Local fully operational by Valentine's Day or soon after.

The outside of the Higuera Street restaurant is painted an orange color that emphasizes the dark wooden accents and furniture, the entire visage reminiscent of a Mediterranean theme.

The sets of long tables and stools forecast a style of communal eating King says is integral to the new concept of Local; the "mix, mingle, and share" is the target interaction King, Sturgis and owner Billy Lales want to see in their restaurant.

Their policy of "no hostess, no reservations" was designed to make the atmosphere more engaging. Consequently, money that would be spent employing hostesses and servers are instead transferred to food costs, maintaining low prices and high quality.

"There really aren't any restau­rants you can get this quality of food with no servers," Sturgis said.

And by playing artists like Thievery Corporation whose mellow music can be played unnoticed in the background, the atmosphere is easily conducive to conversation despite King's and Sturgis' obvious enthusiasm and optimism about the restaurant's anticipated success, the upscale does come with downside: Marti's was a good concept, Sturgis said, but inadequate for their desired clientele.

"Some people still want it to be Marti's, but with the times chang­ing, we had to adapt," he said. "It was time for a face lift and a con­cept change."

King acknowledges the slight backlash they have received and may soon get, but also feels the change was much needed.

"It's still a bar, we just serve great, great food," he said.

Local is open Tuesday and Wednesday 4 p.m. to 2 a.m., with the kitchen closed at noon; Thursday through Saturday 4 p.m. to 2 a.m., kitchen closed at 1 a.m.; Sunday 4 p.m. to 11 p.m.

**Marti's Bar and Grill**

**Formerly Marti's Bar & Grill**, new restaurant 'Local' features food from local vendors and will remain open later to cater to busy students.

**Anieca Ayler**

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR**

**CASSANDRA KEYSE**

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

**Monday, February 8, 2010**

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR: CASSANDRA KEYSE**

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**Poet reads from latest book on racial complexities**

**Patrick Leiva**

**MUSICAL DAILY**

Called one of the most underrated poets in the country by one of her contemporaries, Wendy Barker, read from her latest novel in prose poetry entitled "Nothing Between Us: The Berkeley Years" to an audience of more than 60 people in Phillips Hall Friday.

The poetry she writes addresses many different universal themes including gender relations, race, sex and love. Even though the story took place during the 1960s, the issues addressed apply to today's world.

Prose poetry is a form of poetry which does not incorporate the normal line breaks associated with poetry and includes many metaphors throughout.

"Prose poem is a hybrid form that cuts through boundaries," Barker said. "It's neither all poetry nor all prose. Some of the pieces are hard to pigeon hole. One of things I'm saying through the book is that race is hard to pigeon hole as well."

Barker's latest book, her fifth full-length manuscript, is a fic­tional story based on her personal experiences of living and teaching in Berkeley during the 1960s. The story centers around a young, white-female English teacher and her relationship with a Black physical education teacher.

Barker moved to Berkeley from Phoenix in 1968 to teach in a pub-

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**CAL POLY COUNSELING SERVICES**

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**Poet, page 7**
Poet
continued from page 6
lic school that was set in a primarily
African-American neighborhood. She
did it was quite a different ex-
perience for her in teaching in a new
setting.
"It's one thing to say we are go-
ing to do something," she said. "It's
another thing to then be dealing
with the range of deep feelings that
people have."
Barker said she enjoys how po-
etry allows for ambiguity and cut-
through the usual kinds of judg-
mental characteristics which peo-
ple make. She said the writing itself
is her greatest personal pleasure and
loves sharing poetry of all kinds
with others.
Barker said she wrote this book
to try to make sense of the time for
herself since it was such a tumultu-
tions period. She hopes the book
will move people and cause discus-
sions regarding the complexities of
the time period and today.
"For Cal Poly students, I would
hope the book would cause a lot
of contemplation about sex, gender
and race," Barker said.
Donald Ryujin, the acting de-
partment head chair for ethnic
studies, said prejudices towards in-
terracial relations will still remain as
long as some racism exists. He said
people are not meant to be mean
or evil, but that their culture instils
stereotypes in them because of the
differences which exist.
"Some of it is non-conscious," Ryujin said. "It is hidden in the
fabric of the culture that one group
is a little less humane towards the
other group."
Barker was invited to read at Cal
Poly by her good friend, professor
Kevin Clark. He said her latest book
is very provocative and interesting
since the rhythm and flow of the
poems are created by the sentence.
"It's really remarkable how she
weaves the races and two people
together," Clark said. "Each poem
comments back and forth on each
other to create the story."
Barker's reading is sponsored
by a program called WriterSpeak
which has brought numerous rec-
ognized poets and writers to Cal
Poly for more than two decades.
Clark said the program is run by
Cal Poly Arts and financed by the
College of Liberal Arts and the
English Department.
"The purpose of the program is
to expose students at Cal Poly to the
best poets and fiction writers of
the era," Clark said.
Clark incorporates Barker's lat-
est book into his advanced poetry
class. He said his advanced poets
learn from her book through class
and benefited from hearing the
work presented in her own voice.
One such student who apre-
ciated hearing Barker's story was
English senior Elise Denes.
"Her book is an impressive use
of prose and chronicle of the time
period," Denes said. "Racial barri-
ers still hold true today."
Another English senior was
also impressed with Barker's read-
ing. Amy Thrash said it absolutely
makes a difference in hearing a
poet read their own work since
they know how it is supposed to
sound. She said she enjoyed how
Barker offers no answers regarding
racial relations.
In the future, Barker said she is
excited to get back to work and
already has another manuscript in
progress.
"I'm eager to get back to new
poems," Barker said. "There are
lots of new poems in the hopper."

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Please Enjoy Responsibly
Hipster: The Magnetic Fields' latest album leaves us awaiting the next

The Magnetic Fields have just released a companion piece to their 2009 album, "Distortion." This new offering, "Realism," was intended to be the technical opposite to "Distortion's" reverse. The layers of amplified reverberation and screeching feedback that defined the last record have been completely stripped away, leaving voices and instruments unmolested. The production has gone from noisy to... well... folksy.

So, you might be thinking, "folk record?" Well, whether that means The Kingston Trio or Fleet Foxes (which amounts to the same thing), you're wrong. The Magnetic Fields have used "clean" production before, and "Realism" is a return to the baroque creations featured prominently on "69 Love Songs Volume 3." If you liked the Renaissance Fare sensibility that drove songs like "For We Are the King of the Boudoir," then you'll be happy to know this album is awash in mandolins, harpsichords and glockenspiels. But, in many ways, this approach makes for the most difficult and least accessible record possible.

Consequently, "Realism" is an especially difficult proposition for anyone who loved the chaos of "Distortion." Thankfully, the opening track, "You Must be out of Your Mind," serves as a soothing reassurance that all is in order, and that Stephin Merritt's songwriting remains both overly literal and overwhelmingly bitter: "I want you crawling back to me, down on your knees, yeah/Like an appendectomy, sans anesth..." One nice side-effect of the nearly-naked production is the easy discernability of the lyrics. Another plus is the prominence of the melodies; a good thing because there's some really pretty stuff here.

Arguably the prettiest song on the album, "I Don't Know What to Say," is an oxymoronically articulate description of utter inarticulacy (if that makes any sense). Occasionally, these pretty melodies are actually... uplifting. "Everything is One Big Christmas Tree" is a routing number that has a wonderful German singalong and encourages us to start drinking beer instead of reading books, while "The Dada Polka" similarly urges the listener to "Gyrate like a Gyroscope/Colide like a Kaleidoscope."

Even more fun, "The Dolls' Tea Party" is essentially "California Girls" moved backwards in time, attacking breezies from 1910 instead of 2010: "At the Dolls' Tea Party we fritter away the long afternoon of a long summer day/With extended pinkies and pink chinsome." The plinking, kitchy arrangement makes this song feel somehow more cutting than the open throat in "California Girls" to as down countless empty-headed blondes.

No doubt, there's a lot to like about this record. As befitting any Magnetic Fields outing, it's full of cleverness -- both musically and wordily. It's also a beautiful, beautiful exercise in sound production with no dirty tricks, allowing the real instrumentation to stand on its own real merit. But, as much as I enjoy this record, I can't wait until the next one -- wherein the band will revive their rich history with synthesized strings, thumping drum ma-
The doubt and dangers of anthropogenic climate change continue to climb

Aaron Berk

The Libertarian Torch

"The science is settled" has been a popular phrase when it comes to global warming, but that statement has come under fire, and even more recently. The question of whether or not global warming is anthropogenic (caused by humans) has huge ramifications for our environment, economy and our quality of life.

Before Nov. 17, 2009, it was unknown that data (including more than one thousand e-mails and thousands of other documents) had been stolen from a server at the Climate Research Unit, but on Nov. 17th that data was uploaded onto a hacked server of the RealClimate website with the message "A miracle just happened at RealClimate. Climate..." 

The Team had tampered with their own data so as to conceal inconsistencies and errors.

"They had implied dumity at the fact that, contrary to all of their predictions, global temperatures had not risen in any statistically significant sense for 15 years, and had been falling for nine years. They had admitted that their inability to explain it was 'a travesty.' This internal doubt was in contrast to their public statements that the present decade is the warmest ever, and that 'global warming' science is settled."

The incident was later dubbed "Climategate," but despite the information brought to light by it, many argue against impact on the theory of anthropogenic climate change.

The belief in anthropogenic global warming has opened the door to some dangerous political policies, which only increase the need to understand things properly when it comes to Earth's climate. The first thing that comes to mind is Cap and Trade, which is a huge energy tax that is supposed to curb our carbon emissions. If I don't believe me that Cap and Trade is a huge tax, believe the President who is a proponent of Cap and Trade when he says "under my plan of Cap and Trade system, electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket."

Furthermore, there have been proposed climate treaties that pose a threat to our sovereignty. To my knowledge none of them have been signed, but there was a lot of momentum for the U.S. to sign a treaty in Copenhagen, which would have made the U.S. accountable to foreign entities, and eligible for penalties if it did not meet the goals emanated in the treaty. This is ridiculous, we should not be signing up to be subservient to any foreign countries or groups.

We must be a leader in our own right and conduct ourselves according to our own sensibilities.

The whole global warming discussion seems to have turned into an issue of poor pressure, on an almost elementary-school level. It's far too common for people who express any sign of doubt of anthropogenic climate change to be met with charges of being a conspiracy theorist or, being bought and paid for by the oil companies. When there should be debates, there is instead name calling and blacklisting. In response to the saying that "the science is settled," I reply, with all due respect, that the science is not yet settled. In fact, the more people just claim that it is, the more they do harm to their own cause by not actually convincing anyone of the science. The less people explain things, the more skeptical of them I become.
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Tim Walsh bolsters 2010 roster with new recruits

Brian De Los Santos

A year after piecing together one of the most dominant seasons in program history, Walsh has added 127 pounds to the Mustang roster in 2009. The Mustangs racked up four consecutive losses for the first time in 26 years and were held to less than 200 yards. "It was a disappointment. I'm disappointed," head coach Tim Walsh said at a press conference at the end of last season. "It wasn't exactly the way we scripted it. But the reality of the situation is that we are where we are. We can bury our heads in the sand and try to ignore it or we can go back and we can readjust." Last week, Walsh announced a recruitment class last week that will help the Mustangs move forward.

"We had a great class," Walsh said. "We were able to pinpoint the young people that we feel are fit in our program and then had the opportunity to go get'em...With the addition of the 12 that we did sign, I think we will give us the opportunity to help us become who we want to become as a football program." This year's class consists of 12 high school players, two community college transfers and one four year college transfer: two defensive linemen, one defensive back, one wide receiver, three offensive linemen, two running backs and one defensive end. Of the group, two recruits hail from the Central Coast.

Santa Maria native K.C. Cusack rushed for 1,845 yards with 22 touchdowns as a 3A All-State selection at St. Joseph High School in Santa Maria. He carried the ball 134 times and averaged close to 14 yards per rush, helping fuel the Knights to a 12-1 record. Cusack produced eight games of 100 yards or more rushing, including four games where he breached 200 yards. "I don't know if we have a guy that is as talented as him," Walsh said. "Walsh will hit his third season as a head special assistant playmaker... It's just special." Coach's highlight tape resembles something that mirrors a Reggie Bush running style, but critical questions is his size. He is listed at 5-foot-9, 165 pounds. To Walsh, that is no problem.

"We know he is not the biggest guy...but he has the instincts in running back that I think you cannot teach," Walsh said. "K.C. is an explosive guy with the football and he is probably more physical than anybody will allow you to believe."

Another recruit that heads to Cal Poly from local ground is Kevin Britt. Britt caught 53 passes for 903 yards and 11 touchdowns at Nipomo High School. While Britt will be playing time on both sides of the ball, Walsh has re- cruited Britt to play defensive back.

"This man can run. He can flat run, and can make plays and he made plays against some high-quality opponents," Walsh said. Britt recorded 19 solo tackles among his 71 total stops in his sophomore year. Fresno State and San Diego State were among several other Division I schools showing interest in Britt.

"We can't find guys that are 5-foot-

6 or 6-foot at a safety like him," Walsh said. "I am not going to say that two years down the road he can't be a wide receiver, but right now he is a corner. We are happy that we have some height at that position."

Last year, Cal Poly's recruiting corps got help from UCLA transfer Dominique Johnson. This year, another FBS transfer is heading to Cal Poly to wear green and gold — former Western Virginia running back Mark Rodgers. Rodgers will have two years of eligibility left with the Mustangs. Last year he backed up Noël Devine and mostly saw the field as a kick return specialist. His most extensive playing time was a Mountainman came his freshman year when he rushed 15 times for 80 yards against Marshall. In high school he rushed for 4,819 yards and 50 touchdowns in his last two seasons at Leuzinger High School in Lawndale.

"He is a very exciting football player," Walsh said. "He is extremely strong and a very gifted young man that we think can be a difference-maker."

Other recruits include: defensive end Kyle Murphy; Cardinal Newman High School's Santa Rosa Junior College; Inbacker A.J. Cavalcin; Buchanan High School/Fresno Community College; wide receiver Lance Cataneda; Grace M. Davis High School; offensive lineman Jason Coleman; Moreau Catholic High School; defensive cardiovascular David Douglas; Oakland Senior High School; linebackers Nick D Newmar; Mission Viejo High School; defensive lineman Joshua Hines; Jesuit High School; inbacker Brandon Hower; Davis High School; defensive back Vonte Johnson; Edison High School; inbacker James Langford; Football High School; defensive tackle Chris Lawrence; De La Salle High School; offensive lineman Levi Lusignanes; Elk Grove High School. "The addition of the guys that we did sign I think will give us the opportunity to become who we want to become as a football program," Walsh said.
Cal Poly women’s basketball rode record-setting shooting in its lopsided win against Pacific Saturday night.

If there were any questions of the Mustangs (15-7, 8-2 Big West) falling victim to a trap game against the Tigers, they silenced critics with a record-setting 96-66 victory against Pacific (3-18, 1-9).

The Mustangs tied the program record for most home victories in a season. Cal Poly also set a program record for three-point percentage and tied the NCAA record for consecutive three-pointers.

Head coach Faith Mimnaugh was pleased with the way her team performed as the team on top in the conference. The Mustangs took sole possession of the number one spot with a victory over the UC Davis Thursday night.

“We sure did play well this week. I think that we did play championship-level basketball,” she said.

The shooting barrage was led by junior guard Rachel Clancy who went a perfect five for five from long range on her way to a team-high 23 points. Senior guard Ashlee Stewart (5) went 3-3 from beyond the three-point stripe against Pacific. She finished the game with nine points and a team-high six assists. Rachel Clancy led the Mustangs in scoring with 23 points.

In her last game at Pacific, San Diego State (15-7, 8-2 Big West) lost to Pacific (15-7, 8-2 Big West) 67-61, Cal Poly said this game was a step in the right direction.

“We did a good job of bunker- ing down, I think in the second half regaining that lead. Everyone did a good job coming off the bench, all the starters too, so it was a really good team win,” Clancy said.

The team turned from the hunter to the hunted after its victory against former leader of the conference UC Davis on Thursday night.

In a contest featuring the top-two teams in conference, the Mustangs ran away with a 69-48 win against the Aggies.

“We haven’t earned anything yet,” Mimnaugh said at the end of the UC Davis game. “If we have a let-down I will be sorely disappointed.”

In her last game at Pacific, Santiago had 27 points and a then career-high 13 rebounds. Feeling a little under the weather Saturday, she only played 23 minutes and scored two points while getting five rebounds and four steals.

“We definitely know we couldn’t take the teams lightly so we came out really hard, attacking and shot amazingly (well),” Santiago said.

Pacific was quick and aggressive on the defensive end; head coach Lynn Roberts had her team in a full court press for almost the entire game.

Helping out in the second half effort was senior forward Becky Tratter and junior guard Destay Johnston. Tratter opened the second half with back-to-back rebounds and a bucket to spark an 11-2 run. Then with 15 minutes to go Johnston almost nailed Pacific’s coffin. She first broke the press and pulled up for three-pointer. On the next possession she took the outlet pass and went coast-to-coast for the lay-in. She then added another three and assisted on a three for Clancy to effectively end the game.

“We did a good job of bunkering down, I think in the second half regaining that lead. Everyone did a good job coming off the bench, all the starters too, so it was a really good team win,” Clancy said.

Cal Poly head coach Joe Callero said. “Ninety percent doesn’t win at this level, or any level … We thought we’re going to win by just showing up.”

Saturday night that wasn’t the case.

As the Mustangs (8-14, 5-5 Big West) lost to Pacific (15-7, 8-2) 67-61, Cal Poly said this game was a step in the right direction.

“Generally, I have been very disappointed for the last two weeks,” Callero said. “But tonight’s performance was the best effort and most competitive that we have been in (our four-game losing streak).

Two of the last three losses were decided by 20 or more points. In all three games, one Cal Poly starter scored double digits.

“I think we finally hit rock bottom and we are coming up for air,” Callero said.

Against Pacific, junior Shawn Lewis scored a team-high 16 points, while senior Lorenzo Keeler, the leading scorer in the conference, added 13 for the Mustangs.

“Hist year was disappointing, but tonight we hit a wall. Tonight was the night where we said enough was enough, it was time to compete with the top team (in the Big West) on the road.”

Pacific opened the game with a 12-0 run before Keeler put the Mustangs on the board. The Tigers rallied on a three-point play by Allen Huddleston to give the Tigers a 19-9 lead with just under 11 minutes left in the half.

With the deficit at 20-9, Cal Poly was not ready to give up. Lewis and Hashim Hansot hit back-to-back threes to cut the lead to 25-23, forcing a Pacific timeout.

The Mustangs grabbed their first lead of the game when Hansot scored at the end of the first half. We let up a little bit, but we came back out in the second half re-energized and took it at them again.”

“We’re a team of great shooters. I feel like we feel it everyday. Sometimes it drops and sometimes it doesn’t and that just happened,” Callero said.

Four of Clancy’s three pointers came in the first half as the Mustangs came out of the gates hot, including a perfect seven for seven from long range.

“Sometimes when I make a couple early (bankers) I get extra confidence,” Clancy said. “So if I get off to a good start I kind of have more confidence to let it fly. And we were pushing so hard in transition that I felt wide open at times.”

Though the Mustangs were up 31-14 at one point in the first half, Cal Poly went through a bit of a lull as Pacific closed the gap near the end of the half to keep things close.

“Our mentality was definitely just keep attacking and don’t let up at anytime,” junior forward Kristina Santiago said. “We kind of did at the end of the first half. We let up a little bit but we came back out in the second half re-energized and took it at them again.”

“In her last game at Pacific, Santiago had 27 points and a then career-high 13 rebounds. Feeling a little under the weather Saturday, she only played 23 minutes and scored two points while getting five rebounds and four steals.

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Cal Poly men’s basketball head coach Joe Callero diagnosed his team’s effort in recent contests a product of “altitude sickness.”

“You think you’re playing hard, but you’re only playing 93 to 95 percent speed,” Cal Poly head coach Joe Callero said.

Senior guard Shawn Lewis scored a team-high 16 points, while senior Lorenzo Keeler, the leading scorer in the conference, added 13 for the Mustangs.

“We sure did play well this week; I think that we did play championship-level basketball.

—Faith Mimnaugh
Women’s basketball head coach