2010 ASI presidential campaign kicks off with open forum Tuesday

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Associated Students Inc. gave candidates a chance to present their platform to students Tuesday in the yet-to-be-completed University Union.

Plaza.

Four candidates took the stage, while one who didn’t almost stole the show.

First up on the microphone were two newcomers, roommates and political science sophomores Lindsey Meredith and Jessica Bruno who are both running for ASI Board of Directors. They both spoke about nation’s bikes, sustainability and smoothinng out communication between students and government. Both are ambassadors for the College of Liberal Arts and are campaigning as a package deal. The tandem’s speech was short and sweet; students hardly had time to look up before it dissipated into thin air. Nevertheless, the women showed they care about their possible roles on the ASI Board of Directors.

Next, Kelly Rugani, chair of the ASI Board of Directors, spoke. She vowed to continue representing Cal Poly students as she hopes to be re-elected for a second term on the board. “I believe students have the right to be heard and no time is better than now to voice concerns — for whatever.” Rugani — chair of the board of directors

Under heated questioning, Goldman executives deny wrongdoing

Chris Adams, Greg Gordon

WASHINGTON — Goldman Sachs traders who helped the firm rack up billions of dollars in profits from secret bets against the housing market told a Senate investigating panel Tuesday that they had done nothing wrong.

Among the four present and former traders was Fabrice Tourre, the 31-year-old Goldman vice president accused by the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 16 of fraudulently helping a Goldman client rig an offshore deal that cost two European banks $1 billion.

“I am saddened and humbled by what happened in the market,” said Tourre, a Frenchman who took time off last week from his London-based job. “But I believe my actions were proper.”

Dan Sparks, the former head of Goldman’s mortgage department, told the panel that his team had no legal duty to tell investors that it was betting against its own products.

“Regret to me is something that you did wrong, and I don’t have that,” Sparks said. “That doesn’t mean we didn’t make mistakes. ... That doesn’t mean we didn’t do deals that didn’t turn out the way we hoped they would. ... These deals performed horribly.”

“You’ve got no regrets? You ought to have plenty of regrets,” Michigan Democratic Sen. Carl Levin, the chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, told the four witnesses.

During what was shaping up to be a darkeying hearing, Levin and other panel members confronted the witnesses with more than 170 subpoenaed e-mails and documents intended to show that the firm safely exited the subprime mortgage market before the housing crash and simultaneously made billions of dollars from negative, or “short,” bets.

The bets Goldman took out involved purchasing exotic instruments called credit-default swaps. They work

see Goldman, page 2
Goldman continued from page 1

like an insurance policy, with a buyer being compensated if the underlying deal goes sour.

Beginning in December 2006, Goldman began a strategy to reduce its subprime risks by selling off its dicy securities and secretly making exotic bets against the market and the products it was selling to its clients.

Levin, who cited the witnesses' recalcitrance in sworn testimony as another reason for regulatory reform, pointed to an Oct. 5, 2007, Goldman response to an SEC inquiry as evidence debunking the company's proclamations that it made major bets against the housing market. In it, Goldman's chief financial officer, David Vinar, said that through most of 2007 the firm "maintained a net short subprime position and therefore stood to benefit from declining prices in the mortgage market."

Former Goldman trader Joshua Silverman, who testified at the Senate hearing, said that in 2007 the firm's personnel performance review showed he could capitalize on the "flavor of a coming mortgage market collapse to reap profits for the firm."

Because "the world would think Goldman would continue to invest in the mortgage market for the long term, he won't," the firm should "flip our risk," wrote Birnbaum, who left Goldman in 2008.

Held before a packed, standing-room-only Senate room, the hearing was classic Washington theater: complete with protesters in prison uniforms demanding that Goldman executives do jail time and dozens of camera-trailing witnesses as they walked into the room.

"We could use that fear to our advantage if we could flip our risk," Levin said.

Holden asked Sparks about the "sh*tty" deal as follows: "boy that timberwolf deal.

Cioldman also sold billions of dollars in offshore deals. Security experts told McClatchy at the time that the practice might have constituted fraud because investors might have opted not to buy the securities if they knew that Goldman was betting on their collapse.

The hearing was often contentious, with senators of both parties chastising current and former Cioldman executives to testify — they quickly learned that nobody from senior management told him to make an overall "directional bet" against the subprime market, but simply to reduce risk overall. He said he's "very proud" of his tenure at Goldman.

Comparing his panel's investigation to inquiries into the causes of the Great Depression, Levin said that nobody from senior management told him to make an overall "directional bet" against the subprime market, but simply to reduce risk overall. He said he's "very proud" of his tenure at Goldman.

CIoldman documents show that one of the testier exchanges thus far was between Sparks of Goldman and Levin. It surrounded one of the offshore deals Goldman peddled called "Timberwolf," which included securities backed by subprime mortgages that were most at risk if the housing market dropped.

Goldman documents show that the firm's sales force was told to make selling Timberwolf a priority. In 2007, Goldman sold about $380 million of Timberwolf securities to a hedge fund that collapsed later that year. A senior Goldman executive later described the deal as follows: "boy that timberwolf (sic) deal was one sh*tty deal."

According to the subcommittee, 94 percent of the securities in the deal were from other offshore deals.

When the four men took seats at the witness table — the first of seven witnesses for evading their questions the witness table — the first of seven witnesses for evading their questions

Many people lost money in their pension funds.

Goldman chief executive Lloyd Blankfein is scheduled to testify later Tuesday.
SANTA CLARA (MCT)—A single sigmoidoscopy between ages 55 and 64 can reduce deaths from colorectal cancer by at least 43 percent, British researchers reported Tuesday.

The results from the first large randomized trial of sigmoidoscopy show that it is a more effective tool than mammography for breast cancer, or PSA tests for prostate cancer, and conform current U.S. guidelines suggesting regular sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy to screen for colorectal cancer.

“If sigmoidoscopy can yield these results, colorectal cancer should extend beyond random results,” because it explores the entire bowel, said Dr. Eric Furlan, a gastroenterologist at UCLA's Reagan Medical Center.

“We don't often use the word 'breakthrough,' but this is one of those rare occasions when I am going to use that word,” Harpal Kumar, chair executive of Cancer Research UK, said in a news conference. "It is extremely rare to see the results of a clinical trial which are quite as compelling as this one.

The test not only identifies tumors in their early stage of development, when cure rates are about 90 percent, but also identifies and allows removal of polyps that may later grow into tumors. “That's a really good double benefit,” Kumar said. Currently, only about 13 percent of all tumors are detected at that stage. And when symptoms develop, the cure rate is less than 50 percent.

Colorectal cancer is the third leading cause of cancer in the U.S., diagnosed in about 147,000 people every year and killing almost 50,000. But only about half of colorectal cancer patients survive five years because the disease was not detected at an early stage, or treatment is refused.

To find tumors at the earliest stage, doctors recommend annual sigmoidoscopies, or colonoscopy for high-risk patients, starting at age 50. But, the tests are expensive, uncomfortable and not all patients are willing to undergo them.

The new study offers hope that a simpler, easier and less expensive test could replace the colonoscopy as the standard test for colorectal cancer screening.

The test is called Visual Heptest, a new contrast agent designed to give patients a more comfortable test than colonoscopy. The test is given through a tubing that is inserted into the rectum, and looks for abnormalities in the lining of the rectum and lower colon. The test is said to be comfortable and does not require sedation.

In the study, nearly 6,000 people ages 55 to 75 were randomly assigned to receive either a Visual Heptest or a colonoscopy. After three years, the researchers found that 2 percent of people who had the contrast agent test had colorectal cancers, compared with 4 percent who had colonoscopies.

The study was sponsored by the National Cancer Institute and the National Institutes of Health. The results were reported in the New England Journal of Medicine.

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Cancer

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the eligible U.S. population takes advantage of screening tests for it, according to the American Cancer Society.

"There has never been clinical trial evidence that removing polyps prevents cancer," said Dr. Wendy Atkin of Imperial College London, lead author of the new study, which was reported online in the journal Lancet. "There's been lots of indirect evidence, but this will be the first direct evidence."

Beginning in 1994, Atkin and her colleagues enrolled about 170,000 men and women at 14 centers in Britain. About two-thirds were assigned to the control group and the rest to undergo sigmoidoscopy. An estimated 71 percent of those assigned to the intervention actually underwent the procedure, in which a flexible tube with a small camera is inserted through the rectum to examine the lower third of the bowel, where more than half of all bowel cancers occur.

Polyps, fleshy protruberances that are often precursors of tumors, were snipped out with a special tool inserted through the tube. After 11 years of follow-up, the incidence of colorectal cancer in those who actually underwent the procedure was reduced by 16 percent and deaths by 21 percent. So far, Atkin said, "there is no sign that the effect of the test is wearing off. She expects the decline in deaths to continue to grow as they monitor the participants for longer periods.

That is because most people have virtually all the polyps they are ever going to have by the time they are in their mid-50s, she said. "The test just takes a few minutes, and the benefit may last a lifetime."

At least three other large studies of screening by sigmoidoscopy are in progress in the United States, Norway and Italy. Results from the U.S. study, which gives repeat sigmoidoscopies every three years, are expected in the next year or two.

"The question remains whether performing the test more frequently might lead to more impressive decreases in mortality," said Dr. Durado Brooks, director of prostate and colorectal cancer for the American Cancer Society. "The main message here is that there is a benefit to screening. It can potentially be lifesaving."

— Dr. Eric Esrailian

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Word on the street

What do you think ASI does on campus?

"I am sure they do a lot of stuff. I am just not sure what they do exactly."

—Amanda Knudson, nutrition senior

"They have a leadership role on campus."

—Bryan Bognenda, agricultural systems management sophomore

"Provide a better college experience by making fun things for the college students."

—Stephan Teodosescu, biomedical engineering freshman

"Make fun things to do."

—Ashley Stutts, animal science junior

"Puts on all the events."

—Ryan Swenson, architectural engineering senior

"Put on entertainment shows."

—Annie Nowel, business administration sophomore

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COMPiled and photographed by Jessica Barba

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Paid sick leave pushed for low-income workers

Tony Pugh

WASHINGTON — Fresh off passage of a sweeping health care overhaul, the Obama administration is supporting legislation to provide mandatory paid sick leave for all workers, including those who are covered by collective bargaining agreements.

The measure would require companies that have 15 or more employees to provide one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked or up to seven sick days a year for a full-time worker.

Both HHS, HR 2460/S152, are stuck in committee and haven’t yet faced a vote. In fact, most legislative activities center at the state and municipal level.

In recent years, California, Ohio, Maine and New Jersey have considered bills requiring paid sick leave. San Francisco and Washington, D.C., have passed laws that require it for private-sector employees. New York City is debating a similar measure.

Tony Chao, a White House official, voiced their support for the federal proposal this week in separate appearances with women’s and family rights advocates who have gathered in Washington to lobby for the bills.

Mr. Chao is a member of the White House Policy Research and the National Partnership for Women and Families says the proposal would provide an overdue measure of economic and workplace justice.

Only 25 percent of low-wage workers have paid sick leave, which makes it a financial hardship for them to get sick and miss wages. Those who do stay home to care or tend to a family member’s illness fear that they could lose their jobs if they miss too many days.

At a briefing Tuesday morning, Terrell McSweeny, domestic policy adviser to Vice President Joe Biden, called the proposal a “middle-class economic security” for struggling families.

Business groups such as the National Federation of Independent Business and the Employment Policies Institute oppose the measure. They say a government mandate on sick leave — especially during the recession — would hurt the very people it’s intended to help because employers would offset the benefit by curtailing positions and workers’ hours.

“With the labor market still recovering, we must ensure that the focus should be on creating not on eradicating benefits growth job instead of enacting mandates that drive up operating costs and reduce hiring and entry-level employment,” said Michael Salomon of the Employment Policies Institute.

Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis disagreed.

“Everything has to be on the table,” Obama said after meeting with the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform at its first session.

Despite his own campaign promise not to raise taxes on anyone who makes less than $200,000 annually, Obama said that it was a political game to try to get a president to rule things in or out when facing a crisis.

“An old Washington game, economic times are hard, but right now we have never seen so much productivity on behalf of our work force, so I don’t buy that argument,” she said. “I think there’s something unreasonable about that. In my experience, I know that people will actually put their country on a more secure fiscal footing,” she said in the White House Rose Garden.

“So my message is simple: We’re not playing the game.”

Obama agreed in private with a Republican demand that the health care law be open to possible changes, according to commission co-Chairman Alan Simpson, a former Republican senator from Wyoming.

Several Republican commission members said during its session whether the president’s charge to put everything on the table meant they could possibly agree on the benefits of health care law, spurting Sen. Rich­ ard Durbin, D-Ill., to react.

“This really should be a forum for revising the greatest hits of the latest health care reform debate,” Durbin said. “Parts of the decisions made there have to be reconsidered here. I’m sure, but I think we need to get beyond that.”

Opening remarks by members of the panel suggested that those options might be ruled out before the commissioners’ Dec. 1 deadline. To make bipartisanism, it can make only recommendations to Congress that 14 of its 18 members support.

Democrats signaled that they would resist reducing spending for cherished programs such as education and health, and some Republicans warned that they’d find it difficult to endorse any tax increases.

“Balancing the budget and reducing the debt, in my mind, are not ends in and of themselves,” said Rep. Jan Schakowsky, D-Ill. “We can’t afford to skimp on our children’s education, ensuring access to quality, affordable health care, retirement security, achieving energy independence, investing in our infrastructure, supporting medical research, creating more jobs.”

Commented Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho: “Our country is spending far in excess of our capacity and … a significant portion of the solution will be found on the spending side of the ledger.”

One area of possible agreement: Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., sug­ gested that the panel focus on cut waste and fraud in spending and to collect more in taxes already owed. He said that the Internal Revenue Service had estimated that it failed to collect $354 billion a year in income taxes owed, either because people re­ ported too little income or took too many deductions.

“If we can put a man on the moon, if we can think about land­ ing an astronaut on Mars, we can collect more of the taxes owed,” he said. “We should not cut one dime of federal benefits or raise one dime of federal taxes until we have done everything we can to collect the taxes that are already owed.”

However, none of those wins will get the job done, budget experts advised the panel. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke summed up their advice:

“The reality is that the Con­ gress, the administration and the American people will have to choose among making modifications to en­ titlement programs such as Medi­ care and Social Security, restraining federal spending on everything else, accepting higher taxes or some com­ bination thereof.”
Armed with a mixer, laptop and turntables, DJ Donk is making a name for himself in the blossoming San Luis Obispo DJ scene.

With weekly residencies at Mother's Tavern on Wednesday and Saturday nights and Downtown Brewing Co. on Thursdays, the 21-year-old DJ is slowly wrapping his hands around the downtown nightlife.

A San Luis Obispo High School graduate, DJ Donk, whose real name is Patrick Grow, has been dreaming of spinning since he was young. While some 10 year olds may fantasize about being a firefighter or an astronaut, Grow was watching DJs spin on MTV's Spring Break.

"I was like, 'Dang I want to do that.' And like ever since I was young, even when I would go to my friend's house, I wanted to listen to my CDs. I never wanted to listen to what they were listening to. So I always wanted to be in control of the music, one way or another," Grow said.

Never forgetting his goal, Grow had the opportunity to buy some used DJ equipment at a garage sale when he was 15. From there, he teamed up with a high school rap group, the 40 oz. Frakes, and began making the beats for their songs.

"That kind of was what I did for awhile. We were opening up for about almost every hip hop show at Downtown Brew," Grow said.

Soon after, Grow began playing at fraternity and sorority exchanges, and quickly became a name in Greek system house parties. Within six months, his nightly pay tripled. And, after running up with Obsession Entertainment, a local management and production company, Grow was booking weekend parties up until 2009.

His career took a big step after his 21st birthday last May, when he had the chance to play at Mother's Tavern.

"When I turned 21, I started DJ'ing down at Mother's Tavern — my buddy was the promoter there at the time. That was the first club I DJ'd at. So it was kind of a challenge for me, but it was a big step for me because they offered me a residency like right out of Thursday. And then Thursdays turned into Saturdays," Grow said.

Laf Olsen, the general manager of Mother's Tavern said Grow earned his residency because he enjoyed his sets.

"We had him spin for us a couple times and he did a really good job so we decided to put him on," Olsen said.

As Grow's career began to develop, so did the local DJ community. However, because today's college students are all equipped with MacBooks and a large iTunes library, Grow said a lot of people are trying to take on the profession without any direction.

"That's what everyone thinks, like at the beginning. But there's so many things you need to know about music in order to be able to DJ that most amateurs don't know," Grow said. "There are some that know what they need to do. But just cause you have, you know, a bunch of music in your iTunes Library doesn't mean you can be a good DJ."

Olsen said he has also noticed the rise in local DJs. And with few nightclubs in San Luis Obispo, residencies are difficult to come by.

"There's four clubs that have DJs on Saturdays, and there's more than four DJs in town," Olsen said.

Grow earned his Thursday night spot at Downtown Brew after winning the Central Coast DJ competition last November. General manager Monte Shaller said the competition was based not only on their mixes, but the network the DJ brought to the table.

"There were three judges, and it was based on crowd support too. He definitely had the biggest network that came in during his set," Shaller said. "It was very much based on performance as well as networking. A lot of that goes hand in hand. It's like a band on stage — they feed off that energy I think the crowd worked in his favor."

Grow said the victory has been the biggest wake-up call in his career.

"It was a big challenge for me," Grow said. "There were a lot of very talented DJs there, and I definitely don't think I was the best. I just feel like I executed my game plan and it worked out in my favor."

Grow's networking skills are also working out in his favor. Business administration senior Alex Lee, also a local DJ, said social connections differentiate the successful DJs from the struggling ones.

"There's a ton of DJs out there nowadays — everyone wants to be a DJ. He's definitely better than a lot of them because he has really clean sets and he's very good with scratch ing," Lee said. "But if you see DJ, page 7"
Russian River Brewery (needs to) deliver the goods

What if I told you that one of the world’s most regarded breweries was a mere four-and-a-half hour drive from San Luis Obispo, yet its beer was completely foreign to us?

Unfortunately, this scenario — which I call the doomsday scenario — is true.

The Russian River Brewery, based out of Santa Rosa, makes some of the most tasty artisanal beers.

In fact, its signature brew, called Pliny the Elder, is rated as the sixth best beer in the world by Beer Advocate.

Sadly for us, the nearby brewery doesn’t deliver its bottled goods to anywhere on the Central Coast, according to its website.

I knew a little about Russian River Brewing for a long time but had never backed upon any of their beer until about a year ago at a bar in San Diego. I saw Pliny the Elder on tap and I about fainted.

It’s not often you get to try one of the top 10 beers of the world, let alone have it available on tap.

Pliny the Elder is a double IPA, or as I like to call it, the steroids-era Barry Bonds of IPAs.

Double IPAs are not for the weak of spirit. They are super hoppy, very strong drinks with burning flavor and Pliny, being a top beer of the world, was no different.

I thought I was going to be overpowered by the beer, but it was very balanced. It’s an 8 percent beer, but really isn’t too strong. The flavor is just right.

I loved every drop of it, but sadly it was my only brush with greatness, as my buddy wanted to get home. Being a visitor in a strange land, I was forced to head back with him.

It seemed a little premature for me to recognize the greatness of this brewery based on one beer so I did what any great writer would do when in peril — I asked my girlfriend, Sarah, who is currently living in Colorado, to taste for me.

Now, she’s not as beer snobish as me, but I wouldn’t date her if she didn’t like good beer, so you can trust her evaluation.

Russian River Brewery doesn’t send its beer to a lot of places, but for some reason, my girlfriend’s podunk town in Colorado has it at a local liquor store. Talk about random.

I recommended that she try a concoction they call Supplication. For any of you wine lovers out there, Supplication is aged in pinot noir barrels with sour cherries and wild yeast strains, a year before it is bottled.

“Something is so hoppyness to it, not like an IPA-hoppy but very dry tasting, almost like a dry champagne taste,” she said. "You can taste the sugar and molasses after you swallow.”

Huh, that’s a pretty succinct analysis. Maybe she should be the one writing the column. Anyway, she went on to say there are early tances of sour cherries and tartness in the beginning, but that it has a very pleasant aftertaste. She recommends it to beer and wine lovers alike for its uniqueness.

Sarah says she wouldn’t drink more than one of these at a time because they are so different.

So I know what you’re thinking, why are you telling me this if it can’t get the beer here.

Well, I’m organizing a letter writing campaign (i.e. pestering the owners of the brewery until they start delivering the beer here).

You can join me in sending an email to info@russiannriverbrewing.com. Please be nice to them, it’s a relatively small brewery and I want them to actually deliver the beer here, not blackball us from ever getting it.

Tell them this is a college town that likes more than just Natty Ice. We want their artisan brewing here. And we want it now.

Scott Silvey is the former Mustang Daily sports editor and a journalism senior. He spends most of his paycheck on beer and a lot of his time watching the Cubs lose on WGN.

 Dj
continued from page 6

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Fans and Hollywood question if Arnold Schwarzenegger will return to movies following governorship

Steven Zeitchik
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES — In the recently released trailer for "The Expendables," the action movie directed by Sylvester Stallone about a group of aging mercenaries on a mission in South America, big-screen graybeards such as Stallone, Bruce Willis, Dolph Lundgren and Mickey Rourke (along with the more action-ready Antonio Banderas and Jet Li) are plotting a coup when an unexpected face suddenly materializes.

Arnold Schwarzenegger, apparently taking a break from the budgetary troubles that have dogged him during his governorship, appears on screen with Willis and Stallone, uttering a crisply satirical line ("Give this job to my friend here — he loves playing in the jungle," he says about the "Rambo" star) and, as quickly as he appeared, turns and walks away.

As California's governor prepares to beat a retreat from Sacramento at the end of the year, the scene damned up a tantalizing possibility. Forget low approval ratings, tax hikes and an education crisis — fans and entertainment-business insiders are asking more pressing questions: Is the appearance in the Aug. 13 release "The Expendables" — a testosterone-drenched shoot-em-up summer movie, if testosterone-drenched shoot-em-up summer movies were cast in action-film retirement homes — an acting swan song before Schwarzenegger stalks off to a new political adventure (a post in the Obama administration, perhaps)? Or is it a trial balloon for another foray into Hollywood? Since landing in the governor's office nearly 6 years ago, Schwarzenegger has taken on a task that can seem as mercenary as any in "The Expendables." In fact, after all the political powder-keg legislation, Schwarzenegger has taken on a task that can seem as mercenary as any in "The Expendables." In fact, after all the political powder-kegs, legislative trench warfare and spray-and-pray news coverage, he may have wished they'd given this job to his friend. (Or his enemy.)

But Schwarzenegger is unlikely to let his work in the Capitol serve as our lasting impression of him. "When politicians leave office, they almost always try to re-inhabit themselves with the public they've inevitably disappointed," says pundit and Time magazine columnist Joe Klein, a frequent chronicler of the politics-celebrity nexus.

In Schwarzenegger's case, that could mean a humanization role as a man inhabitated by former President Bill Clinton. Or it could mean an actual movie role.

Schwarzenegger, after all, has shown a remarkable capacity for reinvention over his more than three decades in the public eye. The Austrian immigrant made the unusual transition from bodybuilder to B-movie star before ascending to the A-list, then recast himself as a comedic actor, before finally making the leap from dominating the multiplexes to running the biggest state in the union. Along the way, he's incorporated parts of his earlier self: as governor, he's put his show-business experience to use by relying on catchy sound bites right out of a studio marketer's playbook. Since American loves a comeback, what would be a better move, for a man famous for promising he'll be back, than a return to the big screen, especially as he's been edged further out of a Tea Party-minded Republican mainstream? As Klein puts it: "Acting would be a way for Schwarzenegger to restore himself in the eyes of the public."

For years, celebrities who crossed from entertainment into politics (Ronald Reagan, Sonny Bono) didn't boomerang back to their former profession. And politicians who leave elected office to dabble in television celebrity are often just holdovers until they can return to the public sector (the Sarah Palin way, if she indeed returns).

More recently, however, entertainers who made the jump to politics leaped back when their political run ended. Jesse Ventura (Schwarzenegger's costar in "Predator," "The Running Man" and "Batman & Robin") left the Minnesota governor's mansion to become a radio personality and indie-film actor. After an ill-fated presidential run in 2008, former Sen. Fred Thompson returned to TV and movies and launched a radio career. A radio career may be a stretch for Schwarzenegger, who has been mummified on his post-gubernatorial life. (He declined to be interviewed for this piece and declines to talk about the subject generally — possibly because, as some in his inner circle say, he doesn't know his plans.) But those who've gone from politics back to acting say it can be rewarding.

"A saving politics and getting back into the business is kind of liberating," Thompson says. "You're used to dealing with a lot of people on your staff, and then you get to a situation where you're on your own and it's your own deal. And at the end of the day you can go home and forget about work until the next day."
The Tea Party movement is twisted and misunderstood

BRENDAN PRINGLE
THE CONSERVATIVE CALL

The Tea Party movement as nothing more than a group of angry, uneducated white guys protesting taxes in a revolutionary attitude. Liberal commentators label the movement as a racial protest that would never have even started if we had a white president. But why are liberals being so harsh on this innocent populist movement?

Well, the answer is quite obvious. It is a popular conservative-based protest and is a political vehicle for their heroes in Washington.

In the past, we have witnessed radicalism in so-called "peaceful" marches of liberal activists throughout the years, but the media seems to be immune to instances of violence and civil disobedience. Yet when formerly moderate individuals gather together in peaceful rallies, reporters seem to generalize the entire movement on the actions of a couple radicals. Even if these accusations are true, they are nothing but anomalies in this truly peaceful movement. I highly doubt that the National Guard will be breaking up Tea Party protests any time soon.

You have probably also seen the statistics on the demographic of tea party supporters — data that unsurprisingly seems to fluctuate depending on the source. While a recent New York Times/CBS News survey stated that 18 percent of adults supported the Tea Party, MyNNS reports that 26 percent support it. So much for accurate statistics.

And for those who think this is a racist-based protest, think again. This explanation is yet another invention of the media, and echoes the same simple-minded use of the race card that soiled American society. According to the National Republican Senatorial Committee, 32 percent of U.S. adults identifies as tea party supporters.

Tea Party members are truly a peaceful movement. It stands together in peaceful rallies, recognizing that the same simple-minded use of the race card soiled American society.

President Obama does not seem to realize the worries of tea partiers across the nation. On tax day, he said that he could not find a reason why tax protesters were not instead thanking him for the tax breaks pushed by his administration this year. Surely, the president isn't narrow-minded enough to believe that Americans will forget about the tax days of years to come. But this is where millions of Americans see the libertarian picture. Obamacare has not taken full effect, countless Americans are receiving unemployment and the bulk tax cuts haven't expired yet. The delusion of low taxes seems to be a reality now, but just wait until next year.

It is true that many tea party supporters think their taxes are fair this year, but the whole point of this movement is to prevent tax hikes in the future. What's wrong with preemptive action? These protesters are hardworking Americans that are not only looking out for their own future stability, but also the stability of their children and grandchildren — the ones that will be assuming the burden of our looming federal deficit.

Lastly, these are not rednecks carrying witty signs against taxes; these are educated individuals united for a common purpose — to preserve the American dream in what was once the land of opportunity. Approximately 37 percent of supporters have advanced college degrees.

As college students, we need to realize that the burden is on us. As Cal Poly architecture senior Nathan English observed, "Many students at Cal Poly will be the future leaders of America and have a moral investment in the path that government takes. This path can help create or destroy your opportunities for the future, as well as so many others that don't have the opportunity to voice their concerns."

English likewise is shocked by the responses of his professors. "One of my professors argued that these protesters were actually doing a disservice to the country by causing observers to doubt the stability of the United States," he said. "Based on that assumption, I would conclude that this is another argument telling the people that they should take life as is and go back to their complacency where they have no moral stake in its decision."

The Tea Party movement is a wake up call to all American taxpayers. Wait a few years, and the tab will be on you. What are you going to do about it?

Brendan Pringle is an English sophomore and Mustang Daily political columnist.
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The New York Times Crossword

Across
1 Go over the wall magazine
7 Asia's Trinity Range
11 "Great" creature
14 Pan Pan Las Vegas
15 Sensations of the moment
16 Either of two Al kids
17 Word after yes or no
18 Ancient concert halls
20 Don't ask Adamantium
21 Wagner's earth goddess
23 Conventuses at 40-Acroses
24 Revue bits
26 Nintendo's Super
27 Collapsed Max
28 Some tales
30 1936 foe of Franklin D.
31 Beaufort area above Florida

Down
40 One may stand in it
41 Two-time N.L. batting champ
42 Emmy winner
43 Former Wall St. letters
44 Thoroughly familiarize
45 Early seventeenth-century year
46 ___-pan band
47 Next in the order
48 Holiday visitor, maybe
49 Cafe aroma, say
50 Pulitzer headquarters in NYC's First Avenue
51 Part of B.V.O. 40-Acroses
52 Letter before T
53 1904 event at 40-Acroses
54 Madison Ave. cost
55 Creator of Roderick Usher
60 Sleep go with
61 Support to
62 Crew deck work
64 Always fresh, always the best
99 Yesterday, in the Yucatan
100 Juan Ponce's first wife
101 Narnia lion
102 S-Down and others
103 Russian former
33 Prickly plants
36 "Voice of Israel" author
40 City with a landmark spelled out by the circled letters, reading left to right
43 Former Wall St. letters
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

Photography by Stan Horsky

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Abreu continued from page 12

load it up early in the pitcher’s motion, to get that waggle with his hat, that rhythm, earlier.”

M entoring aside, Abreu has loaded up early and often over a 15-year major league career. His consistently impressive batting numbers may also turn out to be numbers that get him in the Hall of Fame, something not in the discussion when the Yankees said goodbye with nary a tear.

Examples, going into Monday’s game:

Abreu is 10 doubles shy of 500. When he gets there, he will join Mays, Barry Bonds, Rickey Henderson and Craig Biggio as the only players with 500 doubles, 2,000 hits, 250 home runs and 1,000 walks.

He is the only active player to have at least 350 stolen bases and 250 home runs.

His 100-plus runs batted in last year put him over that milestone for the seventh time in a row. The only other active players having done that are Alex Rodriguez and Albert Pujols.

He has 20-plus stolen bases in 11 straight seasons, the longest streak in major league baseball.

He is one of 14 active players with at least .550 stolen bases and one of 16 with at least nine grand slams.

These all read well on the statistical sheets given to Hall of Fame voters, and Scioscia nods in agreement when the point is raised.

“Let’s see, he has around 2,100 hits,” he says, acknowledging that 3,000 has been the magic number (for automatic admission. “But some of these stats about homers and stolen bases, putting him in the same company with all-time greats, that plays well with voters. And let’s say he has 180 hits or so each year for the next three. That puts him near 2,800.

“I think he will be somebody in the conversation.”

Abreu smiles at the topic, but doesn’t laugh it off. Asked which team cap he might wear on a special day at Cooperstown, he answers like a man who has thought about it.

“I have to be honest and say the eight years I had in Philadelphia would steer me that way,” he says. “But I love it here, and who knows how a nice finish here might feel when it is over.”

Angels fans don’t want it over soon. Like a warm blanket, Abreu has become their comfort zone.

Patton continued from page 12

But even thought the Mustangs are in first place now, they can’t ease up on the effort down the stretch.

“If we work hard, we can pull through,” Patton said.

With the championship in sight, Patton continues to work hard to continue her recent success. But even in the midst of all the winning streaks and headlines, she doesn’t forget to stop and take in all the emotions. So far, Cal Poly has been an experience that Patton cherishes.

“It’s been a lot of fun,” Patton said. “It’s been definitely been a really great experience I never would have imagined anything like this. Just playing with the team and the girls — it’s just fun. I have never ex-

Just playing with the team and the girls — it’s just fun.

I have never experienced anything like it.

— Rebecca Patton
Softball pitcher

SHARING IS CARING!

Hey, it’ll give you something to talk to Mom about.)
Patton looks to continue success against Cal State Northridge

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

After struggling through some rough patches early in the season, it seems freshman Rebecca Patton has put the pieces together. With her 3.02 ERA and (8-4) record, the freshman is arguably the best pitcher on the team. Although she was in high school just a year ago, she is making the first-year transition look easy.

But it didn't always look that way. Patton held a 0.59 ERA and (24-7) record in her senior season at Granada Hills High School, but once she got to Cal Poly, Patton struggled in her first pitching performance. In her collegiate debut against then-ranked No. 4 UCLA at the Stacy Wimsberg Memorial Invitational Feb. 19, she allowed seven earned runs in 4 2/3 innings and went 1-4 during the rest of the non-conference portion of the season.

Patton said her struggles made it harder to keep her head up.

“I never doubted my team,” Patton said at Monday's press conference. “There was a time when I really didn't believe in myself — that's when I struggled the most.”

But when the conference schedule started, she found her rhythm. It all started against UC Riverside. In the second game of the Mustangs conference-opening series, Patton pitched a complete game — allowing three hits and two earned runs.

“I felt like I did pretty well,” Patton said. “The experience I've been getting in every game has helped me get better.”

Her second conference start was nearly the same. The next weekend, against UC Santa Barbara she pitched another complete game — allowing only two earned runs.

From there it was a domino effect — Patton caught fire. Game after game, Patton struck out batter after batter en route to an undefeated record in the Big West. It seems her early season struggles have vanished. Patton now has two Big West Pitcher of the Week awards, a seven-game winning streak and an ERA that ranks fifth in the Big West to hang her hat on.

“I have gotten more confident and I am trusting myself and my pitches more and I think that is what is leading to my success now,” Patton said. Her success translates to the Mustangs' recent triumphs. She has helped her team rebound from an eight-game losing streak to victory of

Outfielder Bobby Abreu is the Los Angeles Angels' solid-state drive

Bill Dwure

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Bobby Abreu is like trucks on the freeway. He is always there.

He is consistent as your neighbor's barking dog, only less noisy. He is a given. The Angels play a game. Abreu will be in right field. A day without No. 55 in the lineup is also known as a day off.

Last season, Abreu played 150 games or more for the 12th consecutive season. The only others to have done that are Willie Mays, Billy Williams, Pete Rose and Cal Ripken. The only time Abreu would miss a day of work is for a death in the family. His.

It isn't as if he has been in Angels' red forever. It just feels that way.

He arrived to start the 2009 season, a free agent who became expendable to the Yankees when they signed some other superstar for $2 million a game, or some such nonsense. Abreu was merely a star.

"You can kind of get swallowed up in New York," says former Yankee (Derek) Jeter, "But I think that's what makes him what he is." 

The Angels also measure things other than numbers. That's why, at age 36, the veteran from Venezuela was re-signed through next season, with a club option for one more at

nine of its last 11 games.

"Bobby has done a great job for us," head coach Jenny Condon said at Monday's press conference. "She throws (her pitches) the best she can, to the spot she is supposed to and for the most part she has had great pinpoint precision." 

It is almost expected from someone who has been playing softball since she was 5 years old.

Growing up, softball was huge for Patton. She said her most memorable championship was taking nationals when she was 14 with the team she had played with for five years. Patton said when she's too focused on the work of softball, she goes back to that experience to find the fun in playing.

She said the majority of her time is dedicated to the game she loves.

"Softball is my life," Patton said. "The Mustangs will look to use the freshman's success against Cal State Northridge (24-20, 8-4 Big West), in a series that may ultimately decide the top dog in the Big West. Northridge is in second place in the conference, one game behind the Mustangs.

"We talk about it day in and day out, in this conference, anybody can win," Condon said. "It depends who shows up and who fights the hardest.

The Mustangs will have three more series to hold onto their lead atop the conference. Thanks to Patton, the goal of a conference championship is quite realistic. A title was something that looked nearly impossible after the eight-game losing streak in the middle of the season.

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MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

Freshman Rebecca Patton has been playing softball since she was 5 years old. At Granada Hills High School, Patton held a (24-7) record and a 0.59 ERA. Patton has a (8-4) record with a 3.82 ERA so far this season.

RYAN SIDARTO MUSTANG DAILY / COURTESY PHOTO

Bobby Abreu (above) is hitting .295 this season with 12 RBIs and four home runs in his second season with the Angels.

"I've been around for a while," Abreu says. "I like to share." He shares with Brandon Wood, who is struggling.

"He tells me to keep it simple," Wood says.

Abreu says, "I don't worry about his power. That's there. I tell him to