Recession, enforcement drives illegal immigrants out

Marisa Taylor
HARRISBURG, Va. — For 10 years, Francisco Morales and his wife, Lupi, feared that their lives as illegal immigrants in America would be discovered.

One spring evening two years ago, it finally happened. Immigration agents detected Francisco working illegally at a local glass company and ordered him deported to Mexico. Left on her own, Lupi packed up their few belongings and prepared their four children, ages 8 through 15, for the journey to a country they hardly knew. Back in their colonial town in central Mexico, the couple now struggles to support themselves.

"We would like to go back to the United States," said Lupi, 36, by telephone. "But I'm not sure it will ever be possible." In many places across the country, a demographic shift is underway: Illegal immigrants not only are returning to their homelands in response to more intense government scrutiny, but they're also staying there once they've returned. As word spreads that jobs are harder to come by in the U.S. because of the recession, others are deciding not to come in the first place, slowing an unprecedented flood of immigrants that's lasted more than a decade.

U.S. employers, meanwhile, are hiring fewer undocumented immigrants because they have a bigger pool of un­employed legal workers to choose from and because they fear tighter immigra­tion laws, immigrants and experts say.

"When you start taking away the work force by cracking down on illegal immigration, it scares the bejesus out of employers," said Mark Reed, a former immigration official who once oversaw such measures. "Their mental­ity changes.

The estimated 12 million immi­grants believed to be living in the United States are likely a lot more, according to most independent estimates. When the government revised its 2005 headcount, it estimated there were 12.2 million people in the U.S. illegally. By 2010, that number is likely to be significantly higher.

"There is no way the government will ever know how many are in here," said Francisco, who works at a paper mill in suburban Richmond, Virginia. "But I know I'm not the only one. I've seen them at work every day." Francisco said he's heard from friends living in the U.S. that they're now more likely to return to Mexico because enforcement efforts like APIS have made it harder to come across.

"We have a lot of respect for this law," said Lupi. "But it's not fair to us. We want to return to our home, but we can't." In many ways, this is the story of the recession, Mick Eusebio, a former immigration official who lives in Newport News, Virginia. Enforcement efforts are now more intense than in years past, and the government can't afford to turn a blind eye.

"The recession made things worse," said Eusebio, who was once the director of the My Cal Poly Portal. "But this is also a result of the government's enforcement efforts. They need to get rid of illegal immigrants, and they're doing their best to make that happen."
Regardless, a presidential candidate requires 51 percent of the voter turnout in order to be elected. Currently there are no official write-in candidates because they still need to fill out the presidential packet and pay the application fee.

Rice said the recent buzz surrounding the candidates has created an interesting time for Cal Poly.

"The campus climate is really conducive to making change because they still need to pay the application fee and what they want their president candidates is that people were really interested," she said. "I think to what's up," she said. "I think the ID of voting, the ID of the voter turnout in order to be elected. Rice said she is excited about the recent buzz surrounding the presidential candidates, but has abandoned them as the incumbent with a county that was evenly split, "but when we arrive, we realize it doesn't exist." It's not just the economy. Immigration enforcement has had a chilling effect on hiring.

Under federal law, employers are only required to ask for proof of immigration status, not verify that the IDs are real. Hence, they will be fined or even prosecuted if the federal government can prove they "knowingly" hired undocumented workers.

For years, the federal government did little to go after the employers who did. Then the Department of Homeland Security stepped up work site raids after President George W. Bush failed to get immigration overhaul legislation through Congress and angered his conservative base.

While the Obama administration has scaled back those raids, it has stepped up scrutiny of companies' immigration paperwork. The number of employers fined for knowingly hiring illegal immigrants has risen dramatically as well. In 2006, no employer was fined. In 2008, ICE fined 18 employers; in the first five months of this fiscal year, ICE has fined 63 employers or issued almost $5.9 million in fines.

James Spoto, a deputy assistant director for ICE, said agents are focusing on employers rather than the illegal workers.
A great white shark swims in 2006 in Isla Guadalupe, Mexico, a popular diving destination. Its age is unknown. Great whites cause the majority of attacks. Researchers at the Marine Conservation Science Institute have also used satellite tagging studies that help inform about swimming depths, migratory patterns and temperature changes. They’ve found that sharks are traveling much longer distances than originally predicted, many to the middle of the Pacific.

“Those same sharks go to Baja and Hawaii,” Long said about sharks in the northeastern Pacific. Since sharks (great whites specifically) move further north in fall, research also indicates that when ocean water heats up the shark populations can rise.

By Katie O. Grady
SOUTHERNFRIEDSCENE.COM

“Sometimes you see things and your mind plays tricks on you,” said Kevin Dean, a Cal Poly alum­-nus and an avid local surfer. “As a surfer, you’re constantly scanning the waves.”

He’s referring to sharks.

This conditioned awareness of the swift movers below the waves in the chilly Central Coast waters isn’t a new phenomenon.

George Burgess, director of the Florida Program for Shark Research at the Florida Museum of Natural History said being out on the open ocean creates a unique dynamic between people and nature.

“Living in a caverman world, watching out for predators ... the only place you really see that (now) is if you’re a surfer on the Central Coast of California,” Burgess said.

The primary attackers of humans include great whites, tiger sharks and bull sharks, all of which are large in size and go after large prey items. These are mostly involved in “bump and bite” attacks, as Burgess describes in the International Shark Attack File. Smaller species of sharks are more likely responsible for the “hit and run” type of attacks. Surfers attest to accounts of these attacks on the Central Coast.

Just last weekend, a surfer at Shell Beach motioned he was bumped by something in the water.

“I heard an ‘Oh, shit’ and saw a kid scrambling to get back on his board with a scared look on his face,” said Judd Andolina, a surfer visiting the area for the week­-end. “The guy said something just bumped him.”

Andolina said the friend he was surfing with spotted the shark a few minutes earlier and identified it as a five-foot-long leopard shark. All involved paddled out of the water with the next set of waves. Andolina said.

According to the International Shark Attack File at the Florida Museum of Natural History, there have been 96 confirmed, unpro­-oked shark attacks resulting in eight fatalities in California since 1926. Seven of those attacks and all of the eight fatalities were in San Luis Obispo County.

San Diego County and Monterey County are the only others with as many fatalities, the most recent happened in San Di­-ego in 2008. Great whites are esti­-mated to make up 76 percent of these attacks.

The two fatalities in San Luis Obispo County began with Cal Poly student Peter Savino in 1957 at Morro Rock followed by Debo­-rah Frantman in 2003 at Port San Luis in Avila Beach.

Burgess said each decade sees more attacks than the previous one, in part because of the growing human population and because “we are putting more people in the water every year,” he said.

“The evolution of wet­-suits, we can put more people in (the ocean) where the great whites live,” Burgess added.

Surfers are the number one target group. In the 1950s, the major­ity of shark attack victims world­-wide were swimming in the ocean. The next 40 years saw a complete transition when surfers began to make up the greater proportion of attack victims from the 1980s on.

That said, there’s a surprisingly low fatality rate for surfers from shark attacks in California. Bur­-gess said surfers have a board, they are typically better swimmers and their buddies are normally there too.

“They are smart guys when it comes to the ocean,” he said.

In February on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, leading white shark researchers gathered for an Inter­-national White Shark Symposium to discuss conservation policies and modern threats.

Listed as a threatened species in the Pacific, great whites have been on the protected species list in California since 1992. Douglas Long, chief curator of natural sci­-ences at the Oakland Museum said researchers have a tentative count of white sharks in the northeastern Pacific through long-term track­-ing.

“Over the years, (they) count the number of individuals ... how many are new and how many (they) keep seeing,” Long said.

This comes to an estimated 200 to 300 white sharks at any given time.

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See Sharks, page 4

PHOTO BY TERRY GONS
A great white shark swims in 2006 in Isla Guadalupe, Mexico, a popular diving destination. Its age is unknown. Great whites cause the majority of attacks.
Sharks
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"An El Niño year or a warm summer can increase numbers because more sharks move up north," he said.

This is mainly because their prey (elephant seals, harbor seals and smaller sharks) head north.

Greg Weisberg, chief harbor patrol officer for the Port San Luis Harbor district, said they get reports of anywhere from two to four sightings each year. This includes filling a two-page questionnaire that the harbor patrol decides as being credible or not. It includes questions like how they swim, the shapes of the fin, the color and how far away the person was from the shark.

"Most are non-credible as far as a white shark," Weisberg said.

He explained that lifeguards will often get people asking about sharks and if there are any in the water. If a credible sighting or an attack does occur, the harbor patrol will post warning signs for three days as more of an educational period than an indication of time before it's safe again.

"(The postings are) to educate the public that it's a wild and dangerous environment and that there's sharks out there," Weisberg said. "It really doesn't have to do with whether the water is safe or not. The shark could leave and come back again."

Weisberg also said it’s pretty common to see sea lion and seal carcasses washed up on the beach with obvious attack wounds, one of which came up on the dock last summer, hosting a "pretty big bite" according to Weisberg.

"We see about three to five every fall," Weisberg said.

He did point out that a sea lion can get bitten by a shark and travel hundreds of miles, often surviving the attack, citing a biologist at the California Department of Fish and Game.

In his 18 years of working for the Port San Luis District, Weisberg said he has never seen a great white, but has witnessed a few thresher sharks.

"I'm a pretty avid surfer and ocean swimmer ... If I knew there was a big white shark I would get out of the water," Weisberg said.

Kevin Dean spotted what he thinks was a white shark in November just before Thanksgiving Day. He was surfing at Montano de Oro to the right of Spooner's Cove on an outer reef break about 100 yards out. He said he saw a shark fin as he was coming up a wave about 40 feet beyond his friend. Dean said he knew it wasn't a dolphin due to the shape of the fin.

"When you see a dolphin fin you know, and I've never seen a shark before," Dean said.

The two waited for the next wave and rode in. Dean explained it

See Sharks, page 6
Containment dome arrives at oil well site, but weather lull may end

Geoff Pender, Jim Wyss and Jennifer Lebovich

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Weather forecasters warned Wednesday that shifting winds could drive a massive oil spill across islandshundreds of miles from the Mississippi waterway. Even as British Petroleum officials announced they had succeeded in shutting off one of three leaks opening crude into the Gulf of Mexico.

Coast Guard officials said they had taken advantage of the weather's lull to set fire to some of the drifting oil, and BP officials said they would begin Thursday wresting a 125-ton dome into place they think is the best hope of stopping the oil's hemorrhage from the larger of the two remaining leaks.

The push and pull of good and bad news kept emergency managers from Texas to Florida working madly to head off the worst effects of the unfolding environmental disaster triggered by the April 20 explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig and its sinking two days later. Eleven oil workers were killed.

The oil hasn't yet hit shore, but winds that had died down Wednesday were expected to pick up on Thursday, and currents were expected to push the oil slick to the west near islands in Louisiana. Weather models suggest the bulk of the oil won't make landfall before next week, officials said.

"If there is impact, it's not going to be in the form of one giant oil slick — it's going to be in the form of residual from the spill," said Capt. Tim Clooc, the commander of U.S. Coast Guard Sector N. Pennsylvania. "Luckily, we're referred to as 'patties,' a darker, thicker, gooier sticky mess, but not one great sheen."

BP had used remote operated vehicles to install a valve late Tuesday on one of the smaller leaks at the end of a broken drill pipe, allowing them to shut off the oil there.

"Hope to shut off the remaining flow, however, rests with a still more complicated solution — the placement over the larger of the leaks of the giant containment dome, which engineers hurriedly designed to fit like a hat over the gushing oil."

The dome was placed aboard a barge Wednesday and towed 60 miles to the leak, where officials hoped to begin lowering it into place Thursday. A process that could take three days or longer, depending on the weather. It likely won't be working until sometime early next week.

"If this works — hallelujah," said Dr. Paul Bonner, a petroleum engineering professor at the University of Texas at Austin.

The use of the containment isn't a sure bet. Similar domes have succeeded in stopping leaking oil wells — most recently in the gulf after Hurricane Katrina damaged rigs — but only a few times and only with smaller leaks in shallower water — not on a gusher 5,000 feet below the surface.

In 1979, Perini, Mexico's oil company, tried similar technology when the Ixtoc-1 well blew in the Bay of Campeche, said Eric Smith, the assistant director of the Tulane Energy Institute. However, that effort only captured about 15 percent of the leak, Smith said.

In contrast, BP engineers hope to collect as much as 85 percent of the oil in the dome and then pump it into a ship, the Deepwater Enterprise, before moving it to a storage barge.

BP Chief Operating Officer Doug Suttles acknowledged the difficulty of the operation. "This has not been done before," he said. "It is very complex and it will likely have challenges along the way."

Officials are hoping the containment efforts will help avert further disasters until a relief well can be drilled to stop the leak permanently. That could take about three months.

Meanwhile, emergency managers pressed ahead with their plans — laying more boom to contain the oil, training fishermen to intercept oil, and volunteers to clean birds, and looking for ways to head off an onslaught that could damage an ecologically sensitive region headed into its biggest tourist months.

In Biloxi, boat owners met with BP representatives to figure out how their vessels could be used in oil cleanup efforts. Several hundred people attended the four-hour session, which provided information about equipment and possible hazards and BP scheduled two more sessions this week.

Scientists also announced it appeared unlikely the oil was behind the deaths of dozens of endangered sea turtles whose bodies have been found in the last week along the Mississippi coast.

"Based on careful examination, NOAA scientists do not believe that these sea turtles are related to the oil spill," said Barbara Schroeder, the national sea turtle coordinator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "Without visible clues of oil on the turtles, lengthy necropsies were conducted on some of the turtles Monday and more are scheduled for later this week."

Scientists reported that they found no evidence on the turtles that they'd been in contact with the oil.

The fate of seabirds in the Chanderle Oil Islands off the Louisiana coast also was discussed.

The Audubon Society noted Wednesday that Chanderle is the first of 25 important bird areas in the region where birds have been exposed to the oil.

David Ringer, with Audubon's Mississippi River Initiative, said the group is still trying to determine how island birds have fared, including the once-endangered brown pelican. He said even if the birds aren't heavily coated with oil, he's concerned exposure to the oil might cause them to suffer later and die.

On Wednesday, at least, the barrier islands south of Gulfport, Miss., appeared relatively unsathed. Bill and Will Sernen, father and son businessmen in Gulfport, accompanied by a reporter, took a ride to the islands in their 28-foot open boat.

About 33 miles due south of Gulfport, the Sermens encountered what appeared to be oil broken up by the dispersant that disaster responders are spraying from the air and underwater.

The island beaches and sand appeared to be clean, however. Pelicans noted behind boats placed around one spit of marsh.
Sharks

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want the same feeling he thought he would feel after spotting a shark. 'I thought I'd be freaked out and start hyperventilating. Dean said. 'It was more of a feeling of disbelief. There's no way it can't be.'

Despite the shark encounter, Dean went back to check the surf at Spooners the very next day. 'The shark had wanted to eat us, he could have,' Dean said. At the same spot Dean was surfing, 30 years earlier, Legendary Can­

ni Palahiki was bumped and had a bite taken out of his paddleboard by a great white. In the same year, 1982, John Buchanan, 17 at the time, had a similar attack at 'The Rock' in Mono Bay.

A few ways to reduce the risk of a shark encounters, posed by Burgess on the International Shark Attack File, include: avoiding entering the water if it's dark because sharks have a 'competing sensory advantage;' you're bleeding or menstru­ating and if you're wearing jewelry because reflected light can resemble fish scales. He also encourages stay­
ing in groups and not assuming that purposefully bathing means a lack of sharks since their prey is similar.

State

SAN LUIS OBISPO (MCT) — Two San Luis Obispo police officers who pleaded guilty to a fed­

eral misdemeanor charge of transporting misbranded prescription pharmaceuticals across the Mexi­
can border into the U.S. remain on paid administrative leave.

City Attorney Christina Chierichetti said the city is con­ducting a separate personnel inves­tigation consistent with the procedural requirements of Police Officers' Bill of Rights, which governs the investigation of ad­

ministrative charges against peace officers. The length of that inves­tigation has not yet been deter­

mined.

SAN FRANCISCO (MCT) — U.S. Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski has asked in to try to regulate the Internet in an ef­

tive to preserve so-called Net neu­

trality, a cause FCC officials said Wednes­

day.

The commission will now seek to regularize Internet lines by ad­

justing rates originally written for traditional phone networks, in order to prevent service providers from hindering traffic, and block­ing access to certain Web sites.

Genachowski is expected to make a related announcement Thursday.

National

KANSAS CITY (MCT) — A young woman who, beginning at age 12, was trained and used as a sexual dominatrix gave an impassioned account of her torment.

Her mother, a former Blue­

Springs, Mo., resident, was sen­tenced Wednesday in U.S. Dis­

ctrict Court in Kansas City to 15 years in federal prison after plead­ing guilty to commercial sex traf­

ficking of a minor. Her name is not being printed to protect her daughter's identity.

The woman was ordered to pay $200,000 in restitution to help pay for the counseling her now­

adult daughter will need. The money will be garnisheed from any wages she earns in prison and after her release.

MICHIGAN (MCT) — A new plan of attack against the spread of Asian carp into Lake Michigan calls for a second round of chemical poisoning, this one in the Calamus-Sag Channel.

That will cause closure of the waterway to bow and barge traffic for at least five days beginning May 20, officials with the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee announced Wednesday.

Fish biologists will use the chemical, selenium, over a near­

now 2-mile stretch of the channel downstream from the lock and dam.

International

CANADA (MCT) — A 63­

year-old Canadian man, arrested in England in 2008 after a global manhunt, admitted to federal court in Newark, N.J. Wednesday that he ran a brothel out of his home in Bedford that catered to pedo­

child tourists, including a man from Ocean City, N.J.

John Woodward said U.S. Dis­

trict Judge Dennis M. Cavanaugh will provide him under the age of 12 and is young as it is for sex to an in­

ternational clientele of men that included at least three U.S. citi­

zens.

RUSSIA (MCT) — A Russian trawler was sailing around the kid­

napped crew of a Russian owned armed trawler beached the day before he was beached at more than $50 million, according to a Russian maritime source.

The MV Moscow University academic had left Sudan and was bounded for the West Bank when piracy struck the 160-foot vessel about 350 miles off the Somali island of Socotra.

The same crew of pirates seized a Liberian flagged, but is owned by Novorossiysk Shipping Car­

ried and earned a crew 23 Russians.

Maritime authorities say bands of have attacked hundreds of ships in recent years and have negotiated ransom estimates to be between $100 million to $200 million.
Obama plans to land man on an asteroid by 2025

Mark K. Matthews and Robert F. Service
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL
WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's grand plans for NASA appear in big trouble.

Three weeks after Obama told an audience at Kennedy Space Center that he wants to land astronauts on an asteroid by 2025, Congress remains unconvinced, largely because Obama's proposal also puts commercial rocket companies in charge of getting astronauts to the International Space Station after the space shuttle is retired this year.

Few Democrats have publicly endorsed the entire plan, while opponents such as Alabama Republican Sen. Richard Shelby, who looks after the interests of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, continue to blast the proposal as "unrealistic" and "detrimental.

NASA itself also appears to be hedging its bets that the president's vision might not pass muster with Congress. NASA officials and contractors, under direction from Johnson Space Center and NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden, are pressing ahead with plans for test flights of a multibillion-dollar Ares 1 rocket that Obama wants to cancel.

Meanwhile, big aerospace companies are trying to sell members of Congress a new $8 billion rocket that could be fashioned from pieces of the space shuttle, which is supposed to be retired later this year. Last week, a group of contractors led by aerospace giant Boeing Co., met Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., to push the new rocket idea. Nelson previously has backed more Ares test flights.

Although there is little unity in Congress on what to do next, top experts agree it could stall — or even derail — White House aims to retire the shuttle and to cancel NASA's long-standing plans to return astronauts to the moon.

"Purgatory is exactly the right word," said John Logdon, a space expert at George Washington University. "The White House can't mobilize support to quickly pass the new NASA policy, while opponents have been unable to get enough traction to kill it outright.

"The only thing... is that purgatory was a waiting period with a guaranteed outcome. The people in purgatory were going to go to heaven," said Logdon, who noted the Obama space plan does not come with a similar guarantee.

At this point, the new NASA policy has to be ratified in Congress and could remain so until the end of the year, according to Capitol Hill aides and industry sources. In the meantime, lawmakers and NASA officials are busy studying alternatives.

Democratic U.S. Rep. Suzanne Kosmas, whose Florida district includes KSC, wants NASA to "slow the flight rate of the remaining (three) space shuttle missions" and add at least one more shuttle could fly through 2012, according to a recent letter she sent to media. Although described as a "great champion" by Obama when he visited the center, Kosmas still isn't satisfied with his plan.

Key is what to do with Constellation, a spacecraft program that has consumed more than $50 billion in federal funds during the past five years. When first conceived, NASA had planned on using its Ares rockets and Orion capsule to return astronauts to the moon by 2020. But financial and technical woes have made that goal impossible, and Obama wants to cancel all Constellation programs this year without congressional approval.

Not only has that sentence prevented NASA from quickly switching to Obama's new plan, but it also has given Congress time to kill his proposal and save Constellation.

Instead, the tactic, proven to be effective that lawmakers loyal to Constellation are considering a similar move in upcoming spending bills. That possibility has bureaucrats on both sides of the issue combing through thick pages of appropriations measures to ensure that the other doesn't gain ground.

With such scrutiny, the issue may not be decided until Congress ultimately approves its 2011 budget — which may not happen until the winter holiday season.

Still, the president isn't entirely helpless. If Congress wraps most or all of its spending bills into one package, as it has done in recent years, then he could lean on top-kadens in the House and Senate to give cover to his space plan.

White House officials, however, said Wednesday that any such attempt to make headway in convincing Congress to support Obama's space plan and went optimistic. "We will continue to work closely with NASA and the Congress in the weeks and months ahead so that we can work as swiftly as possible to advance this bold and ambitious new space policy," said Moshe Mack, White House spokesman.

Matthews reported Washington and Block from Cape Canaveral, Fla.

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—John Logdon
Space expert at George Washington University
Villa San Luis offers a superior investment, quality construction, excellent location, breathtaking views, secure community, and virtually maintenance free. These brand new high-end Tuscan style townhomes can comfortably accommodate 4 occupants per unit. Each townhome offers an open floor plan with 2 large bedrooms, den/office, large loft, 3 full bathrooms, large interior laundry room with cabinetry and utility sink, private porch and balcony, oversized 2 car garage, common area with BBQ grill, picnic table, and benches.

The architecture and design of the community and floor plans create a comfortable living environment in a design that is a real show piece. Granite counter tops and solid alder wood cabinetry throughout, tankless water heaters, CAT5 wiring, Milgard windows, stainless steel refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, and stove. Amazing views of Bishop Peak and Cerro San Luis from each unit. Sale prices will start at $499,000.

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The architecture and design of the community and floor plans create a comfortable living environment in an A+ location. Granite counter tops and solid alder wood cabinetry throughout, tankless water heaters, CAT5 wiring, Milgard windows, stainless steel refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, and stove. Amazing views of Bishop Peak and Cerro San Luis from each unit. Sale prices will start at $499,000.

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“Death Wish,” “Gran Torino,” “Taken.” These vigilante crime thrillers that all depend on their effectiveness of proving that some aging actors can still use their skills to entertain exciting carnage on the big screen. In these three films, Charles Bronson, Clint Eastwood and Liam Neeson, all legends of the acting craft, seek out revenge on those who have wronged them or their loved ones. The latest addition to the group is the feature film debut of Academy Award-nominated short film director Daniel Barber, “Harry Brown.”

While “Death Wish” is a personal favorite of mine, I think “Gran Torino” and “Taken” received more praise than they deserved, despite my love for Eastwood and Neeson. As a result, and despite my admiration for someone as skilled as Michael Caine, I wasn’t sure what to expect from a film that had already been lauded by many critics in Europe as a new classic. Fortunately for me, “Harry Brown” proved to be a riveting social commentary that further cements Caine’s status as a badass grandpa.

Caine plays an elderly ex-Marine whose wife is on the brink of death. He lives in an apartment building in London that has been claimed by drug gangs and is now being used as a platform for dealing drugs and terrorizing innocent citizens. Daily occurrences like beatings and robberies have become all too familiar for Harry, but he sees no point in starting a war … yet.

At a nearby pub that has remained seemingly untouched by gangs, Harry and his old friend Leonard (David Bradley) share stories over games of chess. However, Harry can see that something is changing in Leonard. The poor old man is becoming fed up with the thugs tormenting him, and shows Harry the gun he has recently acquired. One night, after again being harassed for no reason, Leonard confronts the gang in its own territory. Harry must later learn from a young police inspector named Frampton, Ben Drew, Charlie Creed Miles, David Bradley, that the police have no control over the area, there is only one solution to the problem: revisit his violent past in order to seek out true justice. This is a realization that requires excessive violence and action, requirements that will obviously please anyone watching the story of “Harry Brown” unfold.

The police investigation of the murders of the local thugs is masked with corrupt political motives. Frampton is rather confident that he knows who is behind the killings, but cannot persuade his colleagues or superiors to hold a hearing. The police also begin to show signs of embarrassment when they must accept the fact that an old man is doing a better job than they are of cleaning up the streets.

Caine is one of my favorite actors of all time, simply because he is always great. He is one of the most impressive examples of a working actor, especially because of his age. Not only does the 77-year-old succeed in smaller British films like this, but he is also a familiar face in ground-breaking projects like Christopher Nolan’s massive Batman film franchise and Alfonso Cuaron’s “Children of Men.” He never breaks character, whether that character boasts Caine’s excellent sense of humor or his familiar intimidating presence.

The film looks messy and certainly achieves its goal in making Harry’s surrounding environment look dangerous. The dynamic use of the camera, particularly in hand-held scenes, brings with it adrenaline and fear into this urban ghetto. Barber’s design of this movie emphasizes irritating blandness, whether it be the hangouts of the criminals or living conditions of the elderly. The filmmakers behind “Harry Brown” create a London so pitiful that it’s no surprise even in the film, including Harry himself, wishes to burn it to the ground.

Alex Petrosian is a biological sciences sophomore and Mustang Daily movie columnist.

**Michael Caine a badass in new film ‘Harry Brown’**

**Harry Brown (2010)**

**Director:** Daniel Barber  
**Starring:** Michael Caine, Emily Mortimer, Ben Drew, Charlie Creed Miles, David Bradley

**“Death Wish,” “Gran Torino,” “Taken.” These vigilante crime thrillers that all depend on their effectiveness of proving that some aging actors can still use their skills to entertain exciting carnage on the big screen. In these three films, Charles Bronson, Clint Eastwood and Liam Neeson, all legends of the acting craft, seek out revenge on those who have wronged them or their loved ones. The latest addition to the group is the feature film debut of Academy Award-nominated short film director Daniel Barber, “Harry Brown.”

While “Death Wish” is a personal favorite of mine, I think “Gran Torino” and “Taken” received more praise than they deserved, despite my love for Eastwood and Neeson. As a result, and despite my admiration for someone as skilled as Michael Caine, I wasn’t sure what to expect from a film that had already been lauded by many critics in Europe as a new classic. Fortunately for me, “Harry Brown” proved to be a riveting social commentary that further cements Caine’s status as a badass grandpa.

Caine plays an elderly ex-Marine whose wife is on the brink of death. He lives in an apartment building in London that has been claimed by drug gangs and is now being used as a platform for dealing drugs and terrorizing innocent citizens. Daily occurrences like beatings and robberies have become all too familiar for Harry, but he sees no point in starting a war … yet.

At a nearby pub that has remained seemingly untouched by gangs, Harry and his old friend Leonard (David Bradley) share stories over games of chess. However, Harry can see that something is changing in Leonard. The poor old man is becoming fed up with the thugs tormenting him, and shows Harry the gun he has recently acquired. One night, after again being harassed for no reason, Leonard confronts the gang in its own territory. Harry must later learn from a young police inspector named Frampton, Ben Drew, Charlie Creed Miles, David Bradley, that the police have no control over the area, there is only one solution to the problem: revisit his violent past in order to seek out true justice. This is a realization that requires excessive violence and action, requirements that will obviously please anyone watching the story of “Harry Brown” unfold.

The police investigation of the murders of the local thugs is masked with corrupt political motives. Frampton is rather confident that he knows who is behind the killings, but cannot persuade his colleagues or superiors to hold a hearing. The police also begin to show signs of embarrassment when they must accept the fact that an old man is doing a better job than they are of cleaning up the streets.

Caine is one of my favorite actors of all time, simply because he is always great. He is one of the most impressive examples of a working actor, especially because of his age. Not only does the 77-year-old succeed in smaller British films like this, but he is also a familiar face in ground-breaking projects like Christopher Nolan’s massive Batman film franchise and Alfonso Cuaron’s “Children of Men.” He never breaks character, whether that character boasts Caine’s excellent sense of humor or his familiar intimidating presence.

The film looks messy and certainly achieves its goal in making Harry’s surrounding environment look dangerous. The dynamic use of the camera, particularly in hand-held scenes, brings with it adrenaline and fear into this urban ghetto. Barber’s design of this movie emphasizes irritating blandness, whether it be the hangouts of the criminals or living conditions of the elderly. The filmmakers behind “Harry Brown” create a London so pitiful that it’s no surprise even in the film, including Harry himself, wishes to burn it to the ground.

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In conjunction with Cal Poly and the city of San Luis Obispo, the Foundation for the Christopher Cohin Performing Arts Center will present Elia Kazan’s screen adaptation of Steinbeck’s literary masterpiece, “East of Eden.” The fundraising event will capture the old-fashioned “fullest of iden.” The fundraising event will capture the old-fashioned "fullest of iden.”

The movie night affords a rare opportunity that you don’t get to experience," he said.

Linda Halisky, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said the event is a chance for the community at large to support the Performing Arts Center, which is a “rich, rich resource for the campus” and will conjure some “food for thought.”

We have a chance to review ("Eden") according to contemporary standards — how does the directing, acting, cinematography etc. hold up? Especially for students interested in new media, film, theatre, literature, this is a wonderful opportunity to explore the possible continuities between the past and present," Halisky said.

Jules Hock, the coordinator of the event and a member on the Board of the Foundation for the Performing Arts Center, said his concept for the event is based on the assumption that watching movies in modern theaters lacks substance and said he wants to bring the memories of his youth to life for the community he now calls home.

"Movies back in my day were an adventure. I’d go to the movie theatre every week," he said.

Despite the thousands of classic films from which to choose, Hock said he chose "Eden" because it was filmed locally in Monterey and Salinas.

"I'd go to the movie theater every week," he said.

Although heading toward traveling and work in the nonprofit sector, the women said they feel confident art will hold an importance in whatever they do.

I think everyone’s pretty loose in what will happen next," Reid said. "I think that art will always be in our lives, in some form or another."

Art

Other supporters in the studio art department are excited for the women to branch out. Studio art seniors Clayton Beltran said he’s excited for the outside community to witness the group’s talent.

"The University Art Gallery does put on a lot of shows and it’s reaching out to the community more, but it is also nice to see students actually going out into the community as opposed to asking the community to come to campus," Beltran said. "I think that’s great that they’re doing that."

Beltran said it’s great that they’re doing that.

As far as the women’s paths post-graduation, they’re unsure of how art will influence their lives.

We've got plenty to distract you from those textbooks.
Art and design seniors showcase work at Linnaea's Café

Kelly Cooper

Graduating art and design seniors Julia Reid, Karolin Ivarsson and Lana Dow will put on their senior show at Linnaea’s Café Friday evening.

The show, entitled “Spaces in Question,” is both physical and psychological spaces with human interaction. The event is held in association with Art After Dark, Aus Luís Obispo’s monthly downtown art event.

Although the art and design department can no longer fund senior projects for the studios art concentration, the women decided to do so anyway. In doing so, they happily dodged the rundown paper accompanying the project. Lana Dow said she feels they’re not missing out too much.

“That’s sort of what ended up this year — we were like, ‘Well, we don’t have to write a paper’? And nothing really changed for us,’” Dow said.

Because they didn’t find out about the program cut until after they had taken preparatory senior project courses, the women were still ready to put on a show. Reid said they had to show something for themselves as artists.

“Since our senior project got cut due to the budgets, we decided we would put on our own show because it’s kind of important for art. I mean, what else do we have to show other than our body of work? So we decided to try to make it happen,” she said.

After planning their would-be senior project back in the spring and later starting their bodies of work in the fall, Reid contacted Marianne Orme, the owner of Linnaea’s. In September to apply and interview for a slot in the café’s monthly art showcase. Orme said she was excited to give the women an opportunity for their first show.

“Julia came in and spoke with me about doing a senior show here, which we’ve done before in the past. And these girls really wanted it,” Orme said. “I feel like our café is the place where somebody can have an introduction to showing their art.”

Yet, after securing the May spot, the women still had to invent a theme that tied all of their collections together. Dow said they had trouble coming up with a cohesive idea.

“Spaces in Question came as a sort of a long series of trying to figure out what our work had in common besides the fact that they’re paintings. So I guess we realized that all of our paintings had spaces in them, whether it was actual physical space or psychological space,” Dow said.

The theme, Orme said, includes multiple pieces the women have individually created over the past school year.

Orme said although the women have different styles, their collection still has consistency.

“Karolin’s work has beautiful colors but is very subtle, where Julia’s is a little more dramatic — she’s got subtle and she’s got muted, where Lana’s work is a little holder and a little brighter, but not enough to clash,” Orme said.

Although the women have been painting on their own, they have critiqued each other over the year. Reid said the constructive help has been a strong driving force.

“I think what really helps with the process is us working in the same studio together. Because we’re constantly giving each other feedback, as to what is successful in our paintings: and what is not,” Reid said.

The women have also found support within the department. Associate professor Daniel Dove, who has worked with them for three years, has also been a mentor in their senior show preparation. Dow said this first public showing is a vital step in the artists’ career path.

“In a positive sense, the pressure of the show makes one anticipate and also feel anxious about how others will perceive it. In a negative sense, the pressure of the show makes one anticipate and also feel anxious about what the entire cycle of making art — the entire loop of it — means,’” Dove said.

The group has already experienced a taste of the excitement — the women hung the show themselves on Sunday evening. Reid said she felt a degree of anxiety when putting up her pieces.

“It felt really vulnerable for me to put something that’s so personal out there for everybody to see. But now that it’s done, it feels really good,” Reid said.

However, in the few days the paintings have been on display, Orme said they’ve already received positive reviews.

“Everybody loves it so far,” Orme said. “People just really stop and look at it. It’s only been up two days and there’s already somebody asking about purchasing one of the pieces.”

see Art, page 10
The British Petroleum (BP) oil spill on April 20 reignited the decades-old controversy over offshore drilling — a controversy that was brought home last month by President Obama’s proposal to open offshore drilling in the Gulf Coast and off the shores of Alaska.

It is rather ironic that within a month after offshore drilling was proposed by the White House as a solution to our dependence on foreign oil, one of environmentalists’ fears, oil spills, should be realized. There are few novelists who could get away with such irony in a serious work of fiction.

The first major oil spill to spark action on the part of environmentalists was in 1969 off the coast of Santa Barbara. The oil spill released 200,000 gallons in 11 days, ruining 35 miles of coastline. According to a report on the spill made public by University of California, Santa Barbara’s geography department, 3,686 birds were killed as a result of the spill. Even after being treated, they only had a 30% survival rate. Dolphins and seals also washed ashore dead.

The report states that because of this oil spill, Earth Day was created, and many consider this spill to be the “impetus to the environmental movement.” I mention this because the failures that caused the 1969 oil spill are similar those in the recent BP oil spill. And I think the similarities of the causes of the spills will illuminate the path to the future of oil drilling — evil as it is. I see oil drilling as a wake-up call to the lack of imagination and greediness of our society.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey to cut corners and operate the platform with casings below federal and California standards. Investigators would later determine that more than 99% of oilSpain's report, "Union Oil's Platform A ruptured because of inadequate protective casing. The oil company had been given permission by the U.S. Geological Survey to cut corners and operate the platform with casings below federal and California standards. Investigators would later determine that more steel pipe sheathing inside the drilling hole would have prevented the rupture."

The causes of the BP oil spill are emerging, but BP, like Union Oil Co., in 1989, cut corners in its safety measures, one of the reasons being the cost of not doing so is greater than all other costs.

From financial institutions, to the health care industry and now the oil industry, regulation has been the topic of debate.

When we look at the historical example in the Santa Barbara oil spill and see that today the same problems of a lack of self-regulation and relaxed standards still exist and result in massive oil spills that harm our wildlife and environment, I think it is only logical to propose that the government step in and impose severe regulations on oil companies to prevent environmental disasters.

The reality of our world is that companies act in their own self-interests. Why should they pay extra for a device that would prevent a disaster when they operate under the pretense that everything will work properly — as BP did before April 20 — that was their own logic, and it is the kind of negligent, feckless attitude that government must correct by enforcing such regulations to be offensive — and hard to believe — given that oil companies are among the most lucrative businesses in the world. It’s interesting that BP itself was a major opponent to the new regulation.

The Wall Street Journal reports that oil industry critics have suggested that the problem with U.S. oil companies is that their standards are simply too lax — much like Union Oil’s standards in 1969. A more serious concern is that the oil companies control, at least to some extent, the amount of regulation that the government enforces, a very serious allegation. 

What we see, going back two decades, is an oil industry that has had too much sway with federal regulations. It seems as though the debate over large businesses and government regulation has permeated the discourse in American politics in this decade.

Please include your name, year and major!
I am sharing these few facts to help you recognize the power and influence the voice of these student-elected representatives, your voice, carries on campus.

So there is more power in casting your vote, your voice, than simply choosing to not vote because you disagree with the organization or the candidates. ASI is your organization. The name is Associated Students Inc., not you. By casting your vote for elected positions it signifies you want to be a part of something bigger and you believe in the future of Cal Poly.

ASI Elections does not only pertain to a certain portion of the campus or a selected number of students; every student's ASI fee money goes toward the campaigns of both FEW Board and Directors manages and oversees the alloca-

tion of your student fees — that's a huge responsibility.

The more you do to vote, the more you're speaking. Your vote is your voice. I know I am listening.

— Brian Richter
In response to "Vampire advocate to speak at Cal Poly"

Whether you want to believe it or not, there is energy all around you. It is mentioned in several cultures and is known by many different names, such as Chi. There are people who can manipulate energy. Few tingles on your skin when someone touches you? A psychic vampire is a person that doesn't have enough internal energy to keep them going. It's like when you've had a full night's sleep and a little later you're completely drained. The psychic vampire can pull external energy in to keep them going.

Don't badmouth things that you don't know about. It's not polite.

— Brenda
In response to "Vampire advocate to speak at Cal Poly"

Why can't I hear any voices?

Why should you vote in ASI Elections?

I think that writing for the Mustang Daily definitely counts as getting involved — who cares how? To each his own. I believe that student government is a part of campus and sometimes we agree and sometimes we don't. Deal with it, that's democracy in action.

— Sugy
In response to "Boycott ASI Elections: Several reasons not to vote"

I'm seeing a microcosm of the real world. This is the time to develop patterns of behavior that are important to share our lives. How we manage our time, the way we analyze and react to situations, eating and exercise habits are all examples of behaviors that modify and then carry forward throughout our lives. The act of voting is no exception to this list. By choosing to vote, it means you're showing up. You're showing up and doing more than just raising your hand or pointing a finger; you're speaking. Your vote is your voice. Voting in our ASI Elections is an expression of that voice.

There is more power in casting your vote, your voice, than simply choosing to not vote because you disagree with the organization or the candidates. ASI is your organization.
Baseball to play UC Irvine in nationally-televised game

Seniors

continued from page 16

only thank my teammates and my coaches for teaching me those things ... I really, honestly thank them for giving me this opportunity to play at Cal Poly,' Cary said.

Petra defined this upcoming weekend as "bittersweet."

"It's sweet in the sense that I have accomplished a lot for this program, and I have made a lot of friends and memories," Petra said. "It is also going to be sad to know that I am not going to be playing between those lines ever again."

Petra recorded a third-best 1.75 ERA in conference play as a freshman. As a sophomore, she allowed the fewest home runs of any Big West pitcher. In her junior year, she earned a 1.49 ERA — second-lowest in the Big West.

"I’ve had so much fun here," Petra said. "I’ve learned a lot on and off the field."

As for Kryza, she never received much support. After receiving multiple offers from different campuses across the nation, she decided to walk on the Cal Poly softball team.

"My dad was trying to get me to go here, my dad wants me to go here; I don’t want to go here," Kryza said. "But then I came up for a visit before I applied; it was just beautiful — 10 minutes from the beach — pretty, hilly campus, awesome softball complex and the academic reputation is prestigious as well."

With her decision, she had to walk on the Cal Poly softball team. As a sophomore, she allowed the fewest home runs of any Big West pitcher.

"I’ve had so much fun here," Kryza said. "I’ve learned a lot on and off the field."

"It’s really easy to feel like you’re not contributing just because you’re not playing," Kryza said. "I think that was one of the biggest things that I have learned here: Every person on the team contributes no matter whether they are playing or not. It takes 15 people to win or lose a ball game — but only nine are on the field."

Kryza, Petra and Cary will square off against the conference-leading Aggies, with a chance to nab the Big West championship with a series win.

"We were conference champions last year — and I can probably speak for (Petra) and Kryza as well — we just want to keep that championship in our hands," Cary said. "Just doing whatever we needed to do to hold onto that trophy — that (to) my goal."

Last weekend, the Mustangs were in a similar spot. Heading into the series, the Mustangs had a one-game lead atop the Big West, but after suffering two losses in their two-game series, Cal Poly coughed up its lead to UC Davis — who swept UC Riverside. A poor memory is the key to bouncing back this weekend.

"We just don’t think about it," Cary said. "That series is over with. We know what happened, we just didn’t make the adjustments for the first two games, but at this point, the first two games of the series are over and we just have to move on to Davis and play our game."

But postseason scenarios aside, the emotions will still be high this weekend. For the three seniors, it will mark the end of their collegiate careers — maybe the end of their softball careers as a whole.

"After this weekend, the next time I come to a softball game I’ll be in the stands," Kryza said. "I just think that as long as we do what we do best, and play Cal Poly softball, it will at least be a good weekend."

First pitch is set for Saturday at 12 p.m.

THIS WEEK IN CAL POLY ATHLETICS

BASEBALL

CAL POLY BASEBALL

THREE GAME HOME SERIES

Friday at 6:00 p.m.
Saturday at 6:00 p.m.
Sunday at 2:00 p.m.
* Televised Live as the College Baseball game of the week on ESPN

SOFTBALL

CAL POLY SOFTBALL

SATURDAY DOUBLE HEADER

Saturday at 12:00 p.m.
and 2:00 p.m.
Sunday at 12:00 p.m.

Admission for all Cal Poly Athletic Events is FREE for Cal Poly Students.
As a kid, senior Mustang first baseman Krysten Cary watched Division-I softball teams on television. She watched girls compete in a sport that she loved and promised herself that one day she would walk across a Division-I field, just like them. Years later, after a scholarship offer from Cal Poly, she got her chance.

“When I was younger, I watched teams like UCLA, Texas and Oregon — all those big name teams on TV — and I told myself I wanted to be like that,” Cary said. “When it actually became real, it was almost surreal being in that situation.”

Now, after three years of wearing a green and gold uniform, Cary — along with seniors Sara Kryza and Helen Peña — will play her final series at Bob Janssen Field this weekend in a three-game conference series against UC Davis (22-25, 11-4 Big West).

“The emotions will be hard to hold back,” Kryza said. “I think that every girl who plays softball in high school, their dream is to go to a Division-I school. It was definitely a dream of mine ... It’s going to be a really emotionally-powered series — at least for (Peña), (Cary) and I ... It’s a big deal.”

Cary came into her career at Cal Poly with no expectations. She had no idea what kind of player she would be molded into, but it didn’t show her freshman year. In her first year playing, she started all 56 games, hitting .282 with five home runs and was honored as a Big West Freshman Co-Field Player of the Year. In her junior season, Cary raised her home run total to 14 and boosted a .592 slugging percentage. Even if you took all the numbers away, her stay at Cal Poly has been rewarding, she said.

“Within the last four years, I have learned a lot of qualities to take out into the real world,” Cary said. “I can see