Architecture student wins design competition

Architecture senior Dion Dekker integrated shipping containers for the Modular Building Institute's Miami Beach Hotel student design competition.

Erin Hurley
erinhurleydesign@gmail.com
Cal Poly architecture senior Dion Dekker designed a North Miami Beach hotel built partly of shipping containers to win a Modular Building Institute (MBI) student design competition.

Last quarter, Dekker's architectural design class submitted modular designs to MBI for the hotel, which will be built in North Miami Beach, Florida. A jury of architecture authorities evaluated the submissions for innovative ideas that would reinvent the modular design industry.

Dekker was awarded $7,225 at a ceremony at NextWorld, MBI's annual convention and tradeshow. Two other Cal Poly architecture students, Thomas Paul Shroyer and Michael Charter, both won honorable mentions.

see Design, page 5

Ponytail drive to benefit cancer patients

Cal Poly liberal studies junior, Cassie Klawson, gets her hair cut by Ariel Shannon, owner of Bluebird Salon, during the ponytail drive at the UIU Plaza Monday. The hair donated from the drive will be given to the American Cancer Society.

Tim Miller
creativemindsgmail.com
Cal Poly students and San Luis Obispo community members came together in the University Union Plaza to donate their hair for a good cause Monday. It was the second ponytail drive put on by architecture students Alma Padilla-Friarte and Alicia Ginsberg, who both work for Student Community Services. Stylists from Bluebird Salon volunteered to give free haircuts to anyone who wanted to donate at least 8 inches of hair. More than 25 people donated hair, which will go to the

see Ponytail, page 4

Obama nominates Elena Kagan to United States Supreme Court

Steven Thomma
and Michael Doyle
McClatchy Newspapers
WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama on Monday nominated Solicitor General Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court to replace Justice John Paul Stevens, who's retiring.

"Elena is widely regarded as one of the nation's foremost legal minds," Obama said, with the woman he called his friend at his side in the East Room of the White House.

He said Kagan "embodies that same excellence, independence, integrity and passion for the law" as Stevens does. He called Stevens a "giant ... with fidelity to the constitutional ideal of equal justice under the law."

"I am honored and I am humbled," Kagan said, calling it a "special honor" to be nominated to take the seat that Stevens holds.

Kagan, 50, would be the youngest justice on the nine-member court. Her age probably was a key factor in her nomination, because it could mean a long tenure and a long-lasting imprint on the court for Obama.

She'd be the third woman on the court — the most ever — joining Justices Sonia Sotomayor, whom Obama named last year, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, whom Bill Clinton named in 1993.

Kagan would be the first person

to join the court without previous experience as a judge, something that could be an issue in her confirmation hearings.

She also would be the third Jewish member of the court.

Democrats lauded the pick.


Republicans promised a fair hearing.

"Now that the president has nom-
Are you going to attend any of the events during Pride Week?

"I don't know."
-Alice Meitzer, social sciences freshman

"I would totally attend if I could."
-Reed Morse, computer science senior

"I would go if I was going to be here this weekend."
-Laura Dellanno, architectural engineering freshman

"I would really want to go to prom, but I am not going to be here."
-Liz Bilson, theater freshman

"Probably not, I am overwhelmed with school work."
-Patel Krikorian, food science and nutrition sophomore

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Word on the street

Are you going to attend any of the events during Pride Week?

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asi.calpoly.edu

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By 5:00 p.m.

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(HEY, IT'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO TALK TO MOM ABOUT.)
Ponytail continued from page 1

Pantene Beautiful Lengths program and be turned into wig for the American Cancer Society.

Architecture junior Nina Idzerda was the first person to donate her hair. She said she was nervous about cutting off a foot of her hair, it is now the shortest she has ever had it.

"I feel like I need a new wardrobe," she said. "My hair is really double now. I need it to be more casual. I feel like Lady Gaga status now.

Idzerda said despite her nervousness, she had no regrets.

"This is something that you can do to step beyond yourself and do something for another person," she said.

The idea of the ponytail drive started last year when Ginsberg was looking for a place in San Luis Obispo to donate her hair and couldn't find anywhere to do it.

"It was a selfish idea really," she said. "I donated my hair in high school in order to get a free hair cut as well as help a good cause."

Ginsberg told Padilla-Iritome that she had two jobs to put together an event not only to allow themselves to donate their hair but to let others do the same. They sent out letters to all of the salons in town soliciting help. Bluebird, a relatively new salon then, was the first to respond.

Kelly McCrudden, a stylist for Bluebird, said the salon gets to help out a worthwhile organization and market itself as well.

Ariel Shannon, the owner of Bluebird salon, said students who donated their hair at last year's event have come into the salon to get their hair cut.

Padilla-Iritome, the co-director of Senior Services for Student Community Services, said while cancer sufferers might have more serious concerns, a person's hair is an important part of them.

"We both know people that have been affected by cancer," she said of herself and Ginsberg.

Padilla-Iritome and Ginsberg both donated their hair last year for a total of 2 feet. Padilla-Iritome said she decided not to donate her hair this year so that it had a chance to grow back.

Ginsberg and Padilla-Iritome were nervous that not enough people would sign up to get their hair cut. Only 12 people had signed up by last Thursday, Ginsberg said. So in order to get the word out to the community, some of the volunteers for the event put on different colored wigs at Farmers Market.

"I'm not sure how many people came in because of it, but I wanted to make sure that we had done everything possible to make this successful," Ginsberg said.

With 10 walk-ins on Monday, only 12 appointment times were filled and more were added.

While it was her first year doing the event, McCrudden said she heard last year was much more hectic. This year there was a much greater focus on the donors.

Hutch of Utah, the senior Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"I will examine Ms. Kagan's entire record to understand her judicial philosophy," he said. "My conclusion will be based on evidence, not blind faith. Her previous confirmation and support for her in that position, do not by themselves establish her qualifications for the Supreme Court or my obligation to support her. I have an open mind and look forward to actively participating in the confirmation process.

Kagan had been considered one of Obama's safer choices for a number of reasons.

She survived the confirmation process only last year for her current post. Because she's never been a judge, she has no judicial record for critics to parse. She's been on record as supportive of indefinite detention for terrorism suspects, which could scare many Republicans.

If timing is everything, though, Kagan's past service on an advisory board for Goldman Sachs — the moral injustice of the first order, Obama has said he intends to end the policy.

Kagan's confirmation could invite debate about academic elitism on the court. As a Harvard Law graduate and former dean of the law school, she'd replace Stevens, a Northwestern Law graduate and the only remaining member of the court who wasn't trained at Harvard or Yale Law. Although Ginsburg finished law school at Columbia, another Ivy League school, two-thirds of her training was at Harvard Law.

Kagan has relatively little courtroom experience. She worked less than three years in a law firm in the nation's capital before entering academia. However, she has many years of legal experience and government experience as well as close White House ties.

In addition to attending the same law school as the president and clerking for one of his important Chicago supporters, Abner Mikva, she previously worked as a special counsel to Vice President Joe Biden when Biden served on the Senate Judiciary Committee. She also advised the Clinton administration on tobacco regulation and social welfare policy.

Kagan has argued half-a-dozen cases before the Supreme Court as solicitor general, including one she lost in which the court overturned limits on corporate campaign spending.

She was one of four names on Obama's final list, along with three appeals court judges: Merrick Garland of Washington, D.C.; Sidney Thomas of Billings, Mont.; and Diane Wood of Chicago.

CALL FOR DISTINGUISHED LECTURER AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Cal Poly chapter of the California Faculty Association (CFA) is seeking nominations from students, faculty and staff for the "Distinguished Lecturer Awards." The awards are given annually to Cal Poly lecturers from any department or program.

Criteria: teaching excellence is the primary criterion, but if the nominee has engaged in professional development activities and service as well, these items should be mentioned.

Please provide specific examples that support your nomination and include the name of the nominee and department as well as your name and department and contact information.

Nomination Deadline: May 21, 2010

To nominate someone send your nomination through campus mail to:

Dorothy Pippin
CFA Office
Building 38-141
or email to:
dppipin@calpoly.edu

Award winners will receive $500.00 and a plaque. These awards will be presented at the CFA and of the year barbeque to be held at Cuesta Park during finals week on Monday June 7th.
This year, the contest was administered by the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS). Fowler directed the competition and oversaw the jury.

"The modular architecture industry has become very stagnant and focused on utility rather than innovation," Fowler said. "This competition really encourages students to show how they think modular design can evolve, which is exactly what the industry is looking for.

The Miami Beach Hotel competition required students to come up with a sustainable design for a modular structure. This means a design for a room or small part of a building that can be repeated throughout the whole building, which allows a construction company to save money and build the components off-site.

Fowler said that when giving the assignment a few weeks into winter quarter, architecture professor Thomas Fowler, who said he looks for national architecture competitions that relate to what his students are learning, Fowler chose the MBI contest last quarter because he said it challenged the class to think outside the box. He also added his own twist to the competition requirements.

"I changed the parameters of the competition for the class this quarter by making older shipping containers one of the required components. They're so common today and have so much architectural potential, especially for sustainable construction," he said.

Fowler said the inspiration for his design was the idea of an exoskeleton made out of the shipping containers that would surround the hotel rooms and restaurants.

The MBI jury found the idea ingenious as a modular component and environmentally friendly. They were also very impressed with Dekker's exoskeleton design.

"We wanted to create a design that was different throughout the hotel, but the basic room structure would only need to be altered slightly," Dekker said. "I thought the idea of an exoskeleton would allow for that, but did take a while to really narrow down the story."

Students electronically submitted their designs along with a narrative description. Fowler said electronic submission required students to be a lot more creative with their work.

"Because the jury decides winners by looking at the submissions online, students really have to be able to tell the story of their design with whatever they submit," Fowler said. "Don't submission was very compelling and convincing, which I think really impressed the jury."

Focks said designs like Dekker's make it clear how much more effort architecture students are putting into their designs.

"Today's architecture students seem to be doing a lot more research and focusing a lot more on the details of their designs," Focks said. "Fowlers in the architecture industry are pleased to see designs like Mr. Dekker's."

Dekker said he's just happy to be able to put the award on his resume and is already moving on to another competition. Last week he submitted a reconstructed version of his design for a competition that requires students to explore the possibilities of steel in architecture.

"It's obviously a really great honor to win a competition like this but, there's always something new to focus on -- another competition, another project," Dekker said.

International
IRAQ (MCT) — An Iraqi boy set on fire while playing outside his Baghdad house in 2007 has been granted asylum to stay in the U.S., his attorney said Monday. Yousif, his parents and his younger sister applied for asylum last year because they feared they would be killed if they returned to their home country. Yousif, who has had more than a dozen surgeries, is also still undergoing treatment at the Grossman Burn Center in Los Angeles. The brutal attack occurred in January 2007 when unidentified assailants doused 5-year-old Yousif in gasoline and set him ablaze.

NEW YORK (MCT) — Food-processing plants will have to cut back on the incidents of chicken and turkey carcasses that test positive for the unincorporated salmonella and campylobacter under new rules aimed at preventing tens of thousands of food-borne illnesses each year.

The new standards, unveiled Monday by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, are projected to result in 39,000 fewer cases of campylobacter infection and 26,000 fewer cases of salmonella poisoning, Secretary Tom Vilsack said in a telephone call with reporters.

Brian Mahy, a spokesman for the USDA, acknowledged that Monday's action will not put a huge dent in salmonella poisonings.

WASHINGTON (MCT) — The oil industry, not the federal agency that regulates it, plays a crucial role in writing the safety and environmental rules for offshore drilling, a rule critics say reflects cozy ties between an industry and its regulations that needs to be stopped.

Following the massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar sent a letter to the Minerals Management Service in May announcing the agency had suspended a license for the offshore operations of the offshore oil company that had the Deepwater Horizon rig explosion and whether the Minerals Management Service should issue permits to the company to drill in future areas.

The letter is on the board's consent agenda, which is reserved for noncontroversial items and acted upon in a single vote for multiple items.

STOCKTON (MCT) — Melissa Hackett pleaded guilty Monday to kidnapping and murdering 8-year-old Sandra Cantu. In exchange, prosecutors took the death penalty off the table and dropped all other charges against her.

She could have faced the death penalty had a jury convicted her of killing Cantu, whose body was found April 10, 2009, in a suitcase in a Tracy, Calif., irrigation pond. Instead, Hackett, 29, will spend the rest of her life in prison without the possibility of parole, after she is sentenced June 14 in Stockton.

INTERNATIONAL
Azerbaijan (MCT) — The Azerbaijani Parliament on Monday approved a bill that would allow for the establishment of the country's first television network.

The new legislation, which was passed by a vote of 89-1, will allow for the creation of a public service television network that will be funded by advertising and subscription revenues. The network will be a public service network, similar to the BBC in the United Kingdom, and will be controlled by the Azerbaijani government.

The bill was introduced by the ruling Democratic Party, which has a majority in the parliament, and was supported by all of the opposition parties in the country.

The bill was voted on by the parliament on Monday, with 89 votes in favor and 1 vote against. The bill now goes to the Azerbaijani president, who is expected to sign it into law.

The new network will be the first public service network in Azerbaijan and will be a welcome addition to the country's media landscape. It will provide the Azerbaijani public with a wide range of programming, including news, current affairs, and entertainment programs.

The network will be funded by advertising and subscription revenues, and will be run by a board of directors appointed by the government. The network will be required to provide 30% of its programming in the Azerbaijani language, and will be required to comply with a number of regulations relating to content and programming.

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Central Coast Fashion Week brings local talent into spotlight

Kelly Cooper
KC.STUDIO.MANAGEMENT@GMAIL.COM

The Native Lounge was illuminated with flashing lights as models draped in the latest local fashion designs strutted down the runway Friday night. The first show of Central Coast Fashion Week's month-and-a-half-long fashion event titled Haute Couture featured collections from local designers Nancy Westfield and Melanie Renee. Haute Couture, comprised of six shows scheduled over the next five weeks, features a mass of local talent shows scheduled over the next five weeks.

First show of Central Coast Fashion Week was born.

"My whole concept with Central Coast Fashion Week is to use it as a platform to expose designers who have never shown and are new to the fashion world," Kennedy said.

The two-month-old company marketed the event to a broad range of fashion-lovers, rather than solely focusing on the usual party-goers. Business administration senior Jillian Bove acquired the position of marketing director for the event as part of her senior project. Bove said she's been using multiple types of advertising that she's studied in classes, such as print media, social networking and public relations.

"One of the biggest methods of advertising that we've done has been print advertising. It works really well for Native's events in the past, and that's definitely something that we utilized," Bove said.

Having a first-hand look at the newly emerging art and fashion wave in the Central Coast, Bove said San Luis Obispo's fashion scene is in a state of transition.

"It's an old mission town and it has that feel of a small town, but the consumer — the residents that live in San Luis Obispo — those ideas are changing and evolving, and I think it's important that we listen to the consumer and listen to their needs, and I think this is our event, and we do it again, and his idea is to use the event as a platform for up-and-coming designers."

Johnny Kenny, promotional director at Native and founder of Central Coast Fashion Week, came up with the concept for fashion events in San Luis Obispo after spending nine years in New York. After taking a break after Fashion Sessions in 2008, he said he felt it was time to do it again, and his business Central Coast Fashion Week was born.

"We acquired the position of marketing director," Kennedy said.

The play follows her nightmare journey into the war zone as she searches for peace, sanity and hope in a world gone awry, De La Rosa said.

Though free of the play's six roles will be played by theater majors, the lead role of Mariisol will be played by kinesiology senior, Anna Acuna.

"I was definitely shocked when I found out I got the role, because I was auditioning against some very experienced theater majors," Acuna said. "It was one of those 'Pinch me, I'm awake!' moments." Acuna said the last role she played was Tiny Tim in a fifth-grade performance of "A Christmas Carol." Though she has always loved theater, upon entering Cal Poly she had to choose between drama and sports, and she chose sports.

Four years into the kinesiology program, one of Cal Poly's biggest

see Mariisol, page 7

Joe Salk's dark play 'Marisol' comes to Spanos for six shows

Dave Meyers
DMMEYERS.MIDWAYMAIL.COM

Cal Poly's theater and dance department will be presenting an original stage production of acclaimed Latino dramatist Jose River's dark and surreal play "Marisol." The play is generally understood as an undulating reflection of contemporary society and current events.

"Most people are so consumed by their own lives, it is difficult to acknowledge all the external problems in the world today," advertisement manager and theater freshman Yefany De La Rosa said. "One of the big messages we are discovering in this play is the theme of waking up. People can either sit back and watch things happen, or wake up to the world and do something about it."

Set in a dark and cold New York City, this near-apocalyptic world is a fantastical place where people have gone extinct, men give birth, flesh disintegrates and the color blue has ceased to exist. The world is presented through the life of Mariisol Perez, a Puerto-Rican publishing assistant in her mid-20s, who finds herself abandoned by her streetwise guardian angel, who has left to wage a war against a seelie god.

The war in heaven spills over into the apocalyptic wasteland of New York City, where the moon has not been seen in months. With Mariisol's world flipped upside down, the play follows her nightmare journey into the war zone as she searches for peace, sanity and hope in a world gone awry, De La Rosa said.

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see Mariisol, page 7

O ONE YEAR LEASES STARTING

see Marisol, page 7

O ONE YEAR LEASES STARTING

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Theater productions sparked Acuna's interest, and she decided it was now or never. She needed to audition for either the role of the angel or Marisol, but had to choose one. "I said, 'My one chance,'" Acuna said. "I had to go big or go home.'"

Acuna and the rest of the cast have been rehearsing for "Marisol" for more than 23 hours a week since the start of spring quarter. They have been diving deep into research on current topics such as environmental, political and financial issues. They also looked into New York City itself, apocalyptic literature and concepts as well as a variety of other cultures and ideas to adequately prepare for their roles. The production has also employed the various talents of nearly 40 other Cal Poly students from across the university.

The actors and actresses in the play will stick to Rivera's screenplay, but the originality will be manifested in the cast's interpretation of the characters as they develop their roles with director Virginia Anderson. Anderson joined the department faculty in fall of 2009 and "Marisol" will be her premiere production at Cal Poly.

"Anderson is very innovative," De La Rosa said. "She has been really working hard with the cast to get them to know their characters and discover their own interpretation."

Another key role in the play is Marisol's friend June, who will be played by theater sophomore, Jade Whitman. June is very ambiguous, yet representative of Marisol's last glimpse of hope. Whitman said her character is defined by being undefined.

The role of June's brother Lenny was landed by theater sophomore, Ryan Austin. Austin said his character is very committed to his ideals, and his visions of fixing the world's problems.

"Lenny's character seems to respond the play's main theme and demands that people wake up to the injustices happening in the world around them," Austin said.

The character of the angel, played by theater sophomore, Ellen Jones also requires the actor to be focused on the "waking up of people to the injustices of the divine realm," Austin said.

The two remaining members of the cast are theater sophomores, Kyle McCord and theater freshman, Katie Matten.

Set designer and theater and dance department chair Tim Degan has created a collage of a disintegrating New York City. Faculty member Thomas John Bernard's costumes contribute to the complacency, whiny and urgency that compromise the journey of Marisol. Students designers, Thomas Schneider on lights and Eric Toussaint on sound, will contribute to the world of the play through rich, kaleidoscopic evocative designs.

"Cal Poly's six showings of Josè Rivería's dark and surreal comedy are designed to challenge the mind of the audience in a way most plays do not," De La Rosa said.

The performances begin at 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and repeat on the 20 through the 22 the following weekend.

"Marisol is not just a play to entertain," Austin said. "But to teach; to give a dose of medicine."

Tickets are $15 for general admission and $12 for Cal Poly faculty and students.
Fashion
continued from page 7

of 19-year-olds who busted out of high school, started a business within the first six months of being out of high school, then had a runway show,” Westerfleld said. “It feels freakin’ amazing. It’s cool to have people that are supportive of the youngsters showcasing.”

Westerfleld met Kenny through a modeling casting and mentioned that she was a designer. Kenny said she was a perfect fit for the showcase.

“She showed me three pictures of her dresses, and I was like, ‘That’s amazing.’ That’s what we want — we want a young-up-and-coming designer who doesn’t have any exposure. Imagine showing Coco Chanel before anyone knew her. I don’t know. I mean Nancy in five years could be the hit person of the fashion world, you know?” Kenny said.

Post show, Westerfleld said she was exhausted, and at one point didn’t think she could make it through the final day of preparation.

“I haven’t slept longer than 15 minutes in three days. I’ve consumed six 5 Hour Energy drinks. And at one point I was so concerned that I wasn’t going to be able to do the show, so I went to bed for 15 minutes, and it felt like the longest 15 minutes of my life — it was so hectic,” Westerfleld said.

The young entrepreneur said she’s excited to be a part of the bigger picture of the fashion movement on the Central Coast.

“We’re breaking new ground. Hopefully it’s going to stir up a fire that doesn’t ever burn out in San Luis Obispo,” Westerfleld said. “With any luck, this will be one of the bigger things that bring back a little bit of love and little bit of art back to the area.”

Also showing was established local designer Melanie Renee, whose fashions have been featured in C*H*R*L*E Next Door Bridget Marquardt’s show, “Bridget’s Sexiest Beaches.” Representing Renee was her production manager McKinley Gorton. Gorton said Renee’s second collection embodies fun and glamour.

“It’s about being flirty, showing off your legs, showing off your best assets, just being a girl and loving it. Whether you’re a size 2 and 5-foot-9 or size 10 and 5-foot tall, it looks wonderful on you and it makes everybody feel beautiful,” Gorton said.

For the span of Haute Couture and the future of Central Coast Fashion Week, Kenny said he hopes to not only bring a glamorous event to San Luis Obispo that one would experience in Los Angeles or New York, but to also emphasize the new designs.

“We want show designers not just to have a show and have a party — we want people to see the clothes for what they are,” Kenny said. “So if we can achieve that goal of making the clothes the star, that’s what we’re really ultimately going for.”

The next five shows will be held on May 14, 21 and 29, and June 4 and 10 at Native Lounge and will each feature fashions from a local designer and boutique. Pickets will be $10 for general admission and $15 for runway seating. Doors open at 9 p.m. with shows starting at 10 p.m. Attendees must be 21 or older.
Thunder strikes in Oklahoma City

Baxter Holmes

OKLAHOMA CITY — This city was branded 15 years ago by a madman who drove a rental truck carrying nearly 5,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate fertilizer to a federal building and in a fuse.

Because of him, when people said “Oklahoma City,” the word that followed was “bombing.” To “many, it still does. “That’s the first thing I thought of,” said Bryan McSween, a FEMA employee who recently moved here from Northeast, Calif.

New York and New Orleans have catastrophes, but they had celebrated identities, too. Oklahoma City didn’t. If people thought of it at all, they thought of tornadoes. Not that, the Dust Bowl.

“We had allowed ourselves, through years of neglect, to be branded a tragedy,” said Oklahoma Mayor Mick Cornett.

The region has begun to change through sports, which has strong roots in a state that produced Jim Thorpe and Mickey Mantle, but had almost none in this city until this year, when natives Blake Griffin and Sam Bradford were selected first overall in the NBA and NR.

But disaster plays a role in that new

progress.

Case in point: The cool night was sold with celebration after the Thunder beat the Lakers 110-97 in Game 6.

As morning arrived, estimated 23,000 people lined the street alongside the bombing site, six days after the city solemnly marked the 15th anniversary of the attack.

They were there to run in the 10th annual Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon.

Thunder strikes in Oklahoma City

What I said was slightly taken out of context and a article fails no mention that all of the crap taken out against Ryan was all Storelli. She was the reason that he was suspended and that his rights were taken away. When you think about it, it is really both insane to freedom of speech and civil liberties, and Ryan, for a brief while, had this leftover from him.

If Miss Storelli is really interested in getting into politics, she needs to realize that people are going to oppose her, people are going to disagree, people are going to have their own opinions. Instead of taking his criticism with stride, she sought back and hid. Get used to it: with politics comes criticism. Be thankful that your student body has people who care, instead of just being composed of a mindless group of goddamn lemmings.

The election asks clearly state that all “physical campaign material” must be removed by the day following the elections, yet www.VoteStorelli.com continues to taint the Internet with its insidious presence more than three days after polls closed.

There can be no denying that these regulations were intended to be interpreted in this manner. To call the website unphysical or

imation and events in the community. The crowd was now deafening, the Ford Center shaking.

It’s kind of a motto for the city,” said Bryan McSween, a FEMA employee who recently moved here from Northeast, Calif.

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But disaster plays a role in that new
a lack of confidence. Suddenly, he had an epiphany: contract to justify. And now, after working on the new delivery all winter, he found himself back at square one on the second day of spring training.

Anyone would be lost.

It took him two years to emerge from the wilderness, and contrary to what the numbers look like this season, it didn’t happen all at once.

He reestablished his long-toss program after the 2008 season, leading to an uptick in fastball velocity from 84 to 87 mph. He lowered his arm angle, making him feel fresher while allowing him to throw inside to right-handed hitters. And he transformed his slider from a fringe fourth pitch he began messing with in 2005 to a staple he can throw for quality strikes in any count. The slider both sets up and works off his signature curve, which is ridiculously effective again.

Zito credits Righetti and bullpen coach Mark Gardner for helping him refine the slider and being open to the arm slot idea. But mostly, he credits them for being patient and positive.

"I’m sure they were frustrated because they knew I wasn’t doing what I was supposed to be doing," Zito said. "I wasn’t executing certain things. But they never showed it to me."

Righetti isn’t a self-promoter. While well respected in the game, he doesn’t have the miracle-worker reputation of St. Louis Cardinals pitching coach Dave Duncan. Again, Duncan isn’t on his third manager. Righetti is, and so is Gardner.

"That should tell you something," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "I don’t know if there’s a better pitching coach out there than Dave Righetti. I certainly haven’t seen one. That’s how much I think about him."

"Dave does not get down on these guys, ever, and they know that. When you get a pitcher of Barry’s stature that comes over, they may not agree on some things. And sure, that may have been the case early. But they spent the time. They worked out some things in Barry’s delivery and the way he approaches hitters."

Righetti knew Zito’s big-breaking curveball would be there for him. But he also knew the pitch wasn’t designed to be put into play. Batters either took it or swung through it.

"So he needed another pitch," Righetti said.

He needed to pitch inside, too. But he kept getting pounded.

When Zito looked at film and realized how extremely over the top his arm angle had become, he approached Righetti and asked his thoughts about dropping down.

"He said yeah, he did that and he felt more fine," Zito said. "He’s been through it, so he understood."

"In my opinion, when you talk about pitching coaches, there are two guys. There’s feel guys and then’s the guy who has, like, a lot of intellectual knowledge of stats and numbers and biomechanics and all that stuff. Rags is a feel guy. He knows exactly what it takes to succeed. And I think the people who haven’t succeeded at the big league level try to make up for a lack of feel, of pure pitching at the best level, with that intellectual knowledge. Rags doesn’t need that."

Righetti didn’t bombard Zito with mechanical changes or advice. As a veteran with a successful track record, Zito had earned his space and role.

And he used plenty of it while becoming a cautionary tale and a public punching bag.

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"Dave does not get down on these
Outfielder Bobby Crocker has his eyes set on the pros

Jessica Barba

Last season, outfielder Bobby Crocker worked his way to a .323 batting average as a freshman. As a sophomore, with his .319 average, Crocker looks to continue that success.

"I love the competition," Crocker said. "I have the competition." In his first season, the construction management sophomore started in 31 games and hit five home runs. "I want to be a clutch player all around," he added. "I just feel the one-on-one competitiveness of pitcher versus hitter is really appealing to me." Crocker said.

Success aside, he said when he first came to Cal Poly, he realized he was no better than anyone else — all the players were standouts. By working with other players hit or pitch, Crocker said he was able to learn the keys to being a better player. "I'm really working on 'pivotal situations' or how to strategize in-game, were some of the main things I focused on to get better last year. The lessons he learned didn't just come from his teammates.

He admits it is the competitive and mental aspect of baseball that got him hooked. In his hometown, Aromas, located near Santa Cruz, his parents enrolled him in tee-ball. Since then it has been his dream to go pro. Or be a race car driver, Crocker said, laughing.

"My parents just threw me into a sport and supported me, just like they have supported a lot of other things. I think baseball was something that just hung onto me a little bit more and I wanted to make it a lifestyle," Crocker said.

Even now, his parents and grandparents come to every game to cheer him on. Aside from family, Crocker said he always wanted to surround himself with better players who would challenge his skill, and — at least on paper — it paid off. During his senior year at Aromas High School, he hit .387 while also pitching a 3.88 ERA.

"All the way up to high school, I would just try to hit the ball the farthest I could. Now when there is a runner on third, you have to sacrifice yourself," Crocker said.

Crocker doesn't just learn from his teammates, he said helping them is one of his priorities on and off the field. Being a part of a good group of guys has made his experience at Cal Poly something he will never forget, he said.

Pitcher Steven Fischback has been on the team for three years and said Crocker has come a long way since they first played together. Fischback said Crocker has really elevated his play and has become one of the better players on the team.

"He is ready... to have a big year next year, but with a little bit more coaching and mental work he will be ready for the next level," Fischback said.

He said while this season has been tough, Crocker has become more of a leader to keep his teammates spirits high.

"He is a vocal leader. He will say things to keep the attitude up and positive, and that's definitely something we needed this year," Fischback said.

Crocker said that this year the team has all the talent, but that they have just undereached. He said losing has taught him a lot about working as a team. If his parents come to every game to cheer him on. Crocker said he has the strength to do new stuff, and I was not comfortable with Zito's question, you have to be respectful, to know the history. He put on a Giants uniform and threw with a completely new delivery that a player must to do help the team win, he said.

"It's a mental game and a game of failure. Places like (Cal Poly) have developed me into a hard-nosed player," Crocker said.

"So there is a lot of room for failure as well as for success."

Barry Zito, who finished year with a 1.49 ERA this season. Zito was a Cy Young award winner in Oakland in 2002 before signing with the Giants.

"I definitely never want to play on a team that's under .500 again. Winning brings a different atmosphere, and it's contagious amongst the team. This year things haven't gone our way and I really believe we'll finish strong," Crocker said.

With 12 games left in the season, he said the Mustangs will still have a chance to piece together a sprint to the finish line. Cal Poly will face off against Loyola Marymount today at 3 p.m.

"I am definitely not going to sit back and have my parents come to every game to cheer me on. Crocker said.

And with his hitting mechanics — something that took him five months to turn around.

"Now he is able to elevate the ball easier and utilize his power," Lee said. "He has a passion for the game. He brings a little bit of everything to the game, and the sky is the limit for someone like Bobby. Now is just him using those skills to fit right into the game."

Crocker, who first began playing baseball as a kid, said that until last year did he begin to understand the sacrifices someone has to make when playing the game. Baseball is not just about about success and batting average. For example, a sacrifice bunt to move a teammate to third in just one of the things he is learning that a player must do to help the team win, he said.

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 Relationships with coaches key to Barry Zito's resurgence

Andrew Baggary
SAN FRANCISCO — To realize how Barry Zito has come as a Giant, to understand how his relationship with pitching coach Dave Righetti turned from rocky to respectful, to know the answer to the "what's the difference from it?" question, you have to understand the lessons he learned didn't just come from his teammates. Zito reflects on his first day of school for a Giant. He knows he and Righetti couldn't have started out worse.

"It was definitely a little rocky because we were at odds," said Zito, who is off to the best start of his career at 5-0 with a 1.49 ERA in six starts. "But I understand in retrospect. I'm trying to do new stuff, and I was not conscious that I probably shouldn't come to spring training with a completely new delivery after the same one for six or seven years."

Back then, the origins of the delivery were secretive. Zito's answer were elusive. And two days later, when he went back to his familiar windup, the questions didn't persist.

But now the story can be told.

Zito had spent all winter under the tutelage of one of his lifelong pitching coaches, Dick Mills, who had recently come under the tutelage of an Australian sports scientist named Dr. Brent Rushall. A professor at San Diego State, Rushall had studied the biomechanics of cricket bowlers and swimmers.

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Mills had become sold on a completely different way to throw a baseball, called "momentum pitching," And he had a willing, high-profile pupil.

Zito was motivated to get more power in his delivery, knowing his statistics and velocity had been declining since his Cy Young award season in 2002 for the A's. Anonymous officials from the New York Mets and other teams pointed to those statistics and scouting reports while ripping Zito to their fans, explaining why they didn't pursue him harder as a free agent.

So Zito already was suffering from Barry Zito, who finished year with a 10-13 record and 4.03 record, has pitched his way to an undefeated record and a 1.49 ERA this season. Zito was a Cy Young award winner with Oakland in 2002 before signing with the Giants.

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