Students battle for breast cancer research in annual beach volleyball tournament

Cal Poly students and local residents competed in the third annual Battle for Boobs beach volleyball tournament on Saturday and Sunday. Hosted by the Cal Poly Beach Volleyball Club, all of the proceeds benefit the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

Alexandria Scott
alexandria.scott@mustangdaily.com

Cal Poly students and local residents competed in the third annual Battle for Boobs beach volleyball tournament at Pismo Beach on Saturday and Sunday.

Broken water main shuts down Johnson Avenue

Mustang Daily Staff Report
mustangdaily.com

A water main break deprived the French Hospital Medical Center and nearby residents of water Tuesday. It closed Johnson Avenue from Loma to Ellia streets, but one lane was planned to open the morning of June 2.

The 16-inch main blew around 10:20 p.m. Monday, city utility officials said. The break was repaired early yesterday afternoon; city workers are now pressurizing the new pipe and testing the water quality.

Despite losing water, French Hospital Medical Center remained fully operational even though elective surgeries were postponed yesterday, according to several news sources.

As of 2:56 p.m., water was restored but residents may experience reduced water pressure for the next 24 hours, according to the San Luis Obispo Utilities Department website. City officials said other areas of San Luis Obispo, including Tank Farm, Orcutt and Sinshirner, reported low water pressure.

Drivers were expected to have one-lane access on Johnson Avenue at approximately 1 a.m. this morning, although road work may last through the week, according to the website. A map of the affected area can be found at https://www.dowc.org/utilities/index.asp.

Civil engineering professor Eugene Jud put the project in motion last year. He said his class is very enthusiastic about creating new ways of alternative transportation in San Luis Obispo.

We really want to emphasize the importance of using transportation other than cars, and this is a way for the students to get real experience in civil engineering projects,” Jud said.

see Bike path, page 3

Engineering students showcase plans for SLO-Morro Bay bike path

Erin Hurley
erin.hurley@mustangdaily.com

Students from Cal Poly’s Sustainable Mobility civil engineering class presented proposals for a new bike path from Cal Poly through Cuesta College and Chorro Valley to Morro Bay.

The public graded each of the four groups’ proposals at an exhibition at the San Luis Obispo County Library on Friday.

Obama launches criminal investigation of oil spill

Erika Bolstad and Lesley Clark
mcclatchynews.com

NEW ORLEANS — Responding to criticism that it hasn’t been forceful enough in its response to the largest oil spill in U.S. history, the Obama administration on Tuesday announced a criminal investigation into the deadly explosion and installed a non-military Coast Guard admiral as the public face of the response, instead of BP.

The effect of the April 20 spill, including “oil for miles and miles” in the Gulf of Mexico, is “heartbreaking to see,” Attorney General Eric Holder said Tuesday afternoon during a visit to New Orleans. He also pledged not to forget the 11 lives lost in the explosion.

The nation has an obligation to “investigate what went wrong and to determine what reforms are needed so that we never have to experience a crisis like this again,” President Barack Obama said after meeting with the White House with the two men he had appointed to head an inquiry into the blast.

“If our laws were broken, leading to this death and destruction, my solemn pledge is that we will bring those responsible to justice on behalf of the victims of this catastrophe and the people of the Gulf region,” Obama said.

The threshold for a criminal investigation on the part of the Justice Department has “certainly been passed,” Holder said, although he wouldn’t disclose the exact targets of the probe. However, prosecutors are looking at possible violations of the Clean Water Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Endangered Species Act and the Oil Pollution Act.

Two companies, their employees and their practices are almost certainly at the heart of the investigation: BP which owned the well and is responsible for the spill, and Transocean, which owned and operated the rig that exploded, caught fire and sank to the bottom of the sea.

see Oil spill, page 3

Fishing closure

The area closed to fishing due to the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico measures 75,920 sq. mi (196,633 sq. km), slightly less than 31 percent of Gulf of Mexico federal waters.

see Oil spill, page 3

IN ARTS, P. 9

Beer Snob signs off with black and white beers.

IN NEWS, P. 5

Supreme Court loosens up on right to remain silent.

NFL linebacker Chris Gocong reflects on his Cal Poly career.

IN SPORTS, P. 16

mustangdaily

volume LXXIV, number 190
Tuesday, June 2, 2010

www.mustangdaily.net
Tournament

continued from page 1

raised by selling T-shirts for a total of around $1,300.

"Everyone has been directly affected
by breast cancer," biology sophomore
and next year's club co-President Eric
Smith said. "It's rare to have a tourna­
ment on a unified cause."

The club was approved by Student
Life and Leadership as an official entry
this spring but has been forming, and
has had members since Fall 2009.

"The club is nonprofit," graphic
communication junior Josh Holland
said. "We don't need money to do any­
thing except send people to Assoeia­
tion of Volleyball Professionals (AVP)
events." Battle for Boobs with the club
brought a lot more people to the tour­
ament this year, he said.

The tournament was organized for
both doubles and mixed teams of four
competing in pool play with the top
three teams of each pool advancing to
single-elimination playoffs. Club pres­
ident and founder Mike Smith said he
was surprised at the competitive level
of play during the advanced doubles
this year. He ran and organized the
first Battle for Boobs tournament as a
sophomore.

"I wanted to put on a volleyball
tournament for a cause, and I saw how
many people are affected by breast

cancer," Mike Smith said. "My friend
Mike Delich thought of the name and
that was the deciding factor for me
to jump into organizing the tourna­
ment."

Mike Smith is graduating this spring
of C'alifornia Beach Volleyball Assoeia­
tion (C'BA) could work with Cal
Pab's club to run competitive large
tournaments and rent more courts,
Mike Smith said.

...continued from page 2

Mike Smith is graduating this spring
with a degree in recreation, parks and
Tourism Administration and will be in­
ternship are perfecth aligned with
Mike Smith said. "It could have been
way bigger, but Pismo only lets us rent four courts," he
said.

"Beach volleyball is an entertain­
ment sport that people love to watch
and play," he said. "The peak age of
professional players is 30. It's awesome
for people who want to go to school,
get their master's and still go pro."

This year's tournament reached full
capacity, Mike Smith said.

"One major integrate well with
other majors is hospitality," Smith said.
"I believe it's a great interdisciplinary
major."

This year's tournament reached full
capacity, Mike Smith said. "It could have been much bigger,
but I only get to rent four courts," he
said.

"It could have been way bigger, but
Pismo only lets us rent four courts," he
said.

"Beach volleyball is an entertain­
ment sport that people love to watch
and play," he said. "The peak age of
professional players is 30. It's awesome
for people who want to go to school,
get their master's and still go pro."

This year's tournament reached full
capacity, Mike Smith said.

"One major integrate well with
other majors is hospitality," Smith said.
"I believe it's a great interdisciplinary
major."
Bike
continued from page 1

Each group presented plans on how to create a bike path that would be easy to ride as well as respectful of the land boundaries of Camp San Luis and the California Men's Colony. The goals of the proposals were to increase options for alternative transportation in Chorro Valley, create a path that would be conducive for commuting and recre-ational purposes and follow National Park Service guidelines for reducing California's greenhouse gas emissions to the 1990 level by 2020.

Each team's proposal followed the same basic route, beginning at Cal Poly's Alex G. Spanos Stadium to the Cuesta College campus and ending at South Bay Boulevard in Morro Bay. The groups differed on the details — some placed their path close to Highway 1 and others placed it farther away, and one group even proposed a "bike station" with showers, a cafe and a repair shop for bikers.

"Chorro Valley has several sites that would be able in determining what kind of a bike path we can put on, and we all tried to come up with a plan that would really encourage more people to ride," class president and civil engineering senior Naoki MacInnes said.

"We heard the public's concerns, the public heard each group's proposal and graded them on their ideas for the alignment of the path, their Powerpoint presentation and how clearly they presented their proposal. David Flynn, a representative from the San Luis Obispo County Public Works, said he was impressed with all four proposals.

"I thought that the groups did a great job working around the land constraints and coming up with alternatives for commuting and recre-ational purposes and following National Park Service guidelines for reducing California's greenhouse gas emissions to the 1990 level by 2020.

The survey is available online at http://www.surveymonkey.com/FFBFBKMQ.

Oil spill
continued from page 1

"There are a wide range of positive conditions under the right stat-utes, and we will closely examine the actions of those involved in this spill," Holder said at a briefing in New Orleans. "If we find evi-dence of illegal behavior, we will be forceful in our response. We will not rest until justice is done."

The White House also worked to change the perception that "we're taking the hydrocarbons that could be released in its next effort to con-tain the flow, the administration moved Tuesday to put an official face on the response. Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, the national in- cident commander for the spill, said that the move "which harked back to the matter-of-fact style of Army Gen. "Stormin' Norman" Schwarzkopf during the 1991 Persian Gulf War — got high marks from Amy Gen. "Stormin' Norman" Schwarzkopf during the 1991 Persian Gulf War — got high marks from Army Gen. Allen.

"I was impressed by how the students dealt with the limiting factors while still accomplishing their mission," Davis said. "They developed great support from the SLO city supervisors, the city council and the San Luis Obispo Bike Coalition, attended the exhibition and said the bike path would make the area more livable."

"I think there's a pretty good level of confidence that one of them will go on and we'll be able to contain some oil," he said. "But as we've said all along, we continue to break new ground and we're going to have to wait and see how it comes out."

He also warned that there will be a period of time, estimated at about 72 hours, when the pipe will become wide open and a higher level of oil and gas will flow out before they can cap the well.

"We're not talking about cap-ping the well anymore; we're talk-ing about containing the well," Allen said. "There's a difference be-tween capping the well, absorbing the pressure and being able to hold that until the relief well is com-pleted. Where we are now is we're containing the well, which means we're taking the hydrocarbons that are coming up, bringing them to the surface and actually producing oil and flaring off natural gas."

Crews worked on two separate cuts to a pipe on the ocean floor Tuesday, using remotely operated vehicles to create a path that would he conducive for commuting and recre-ational purposes and follow National Park Service guidelines for reducing California's greenhouse gas emissions to the 1990 level by 2020.

"I think there's a pretty good level of confidence that one of them will go on and we'll be able to contain some oil," he said. "But as we've said all along, we continue to break new ground and we're going to have to wait and see how it comes out."

He also warned that there will be a period of time, estimated at about 72 hours, when the pipe will become wide open and a higher level of oil and gas will flow out before they can cap the well.

"We're not talking about cap-ping the well anymore; we're talk-ing about containing the well," Allen said. "There's a difference be-tween capping the well, absorbing the pressure and being able to hold that until the relief well is com-pleted. Where we are now is we're containing the well, which means we're taking the hydrocarbons that are coming up, bringing them to the surface and actually producing oil and flaring off natural gas."

Crews worked on two separate cuts to a pipe on the ocean floor Tuesday, using remotely operated vehicles to create a path that would be conducive for commuting and recre-ational purposes and follow National Park Service guidelines for reducing California's greenhouse gas emissions to the 1990 level by 2020.

"I think there's a pretty good level of confidence that one of them will go on and we'll be able to contain some oil," he said. "But as we've said all along, we continue to break new ground and we're going to have to wait and see how it comes out."

He also warned that there will be a period of time, estimated at about 72 hours, when the pipe will become wide open and a higher level of oil and gas will flow out before they can cap the well.

"We're not talking about cap-ping the well anymore; we're talk-ing about containing the well," Allen said. "There's a difference be-tween capping the well, absorbing the pressure and being able to hold that until the relief well is com-pleted. Where we are now is we're containing the well, which means we're taking the hydrocarbons that are coming up, bringing them to the surface and actually producing oil and flaring off natural gas."

Crews worked on two separate cuts to a pipe on the ocean floor Tuesday, using remotely operated vehicles to create a path that would be conducive for commuting and recre-ational purposes and follow National Park Service guidelines for reducing California's greenhouse gas emissions to the 1990 level by 2020.

"I think there's a pretty good level of confidence that one of them will go on and we'll be able to contain some oil," he said. "But as we've said all along, we continue to break new ground and we're going to have to wait and see how it comes out."

He also warned that there will be a period of time, estimated at about 72 hours, when the pipe will become wide open and a higher level of oil and gas will flow out before they can cap the well.

"We're not talking about cap-ping the well anymore; we're talk-ing about containing the well," Allen said. "There's a difference be-tween capping the well, absorbing the pressure and being able to hold that until the relief well is com-pleted. Where we are now is we're containing the well, which means we're taking the hydrocarbons that are coming up, bringing them to the surface and actually producing oil and flaring off natural gas."

Crews worked on two separate cuts to a pipe on the ocean floor Tuesday, using remotely operated vehicles to create a path that would be conducive for commuting and recre-ational purposes and follow National Park Service guidelines for reducing California's greenhouse gas emissions to the 1990 level by 2020.
**State**

LONG BEACH (MCT) — During a ceremony at a local elementary school, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Tuesday signed a state application for federal education aid that could provide tens of millions of dollars to the Long Beach Unified School District.

If California is selected as one of the state winners, it could receive up to $700 million, including perhaps tens of millions for the Long Beach Unified School District, officials said.

The state’s application includes plans for school reforms required to qualify for the program, which was part of President Barack Obama’s stimulus package.

**SACRAMENTO (MCT) —** Democrats state Sen. Red Wright has introduced legislation to make California the first state to legalize Internet poker, proposing that firms bid for the right to operate three state-sanctioned games.

Wright’s bill would require the firms to share at least 20 percent of their gross revenue with the state, potentially bringing tens of millions of dollars into state coffers.

However, SB 1495 is expected to face opposition from several Indian tribes that operate casinos in California and that have argued in recent months that Internet poker would be a violation of exclusive gambling pacts they have with the state.

**Briefs**

**National**

CHICAGO (MCT) — An attorney who once represented a man allegedly tortured by former Chicago Police Cmdr. Jon Burge testified Tuesday that Burge once said electro-shock “leaves no marks.”

Attorney Cassandra Watson, testifying at Burge’s federal trial, said that in the early 1980s she spoke with Burge many times, often sarcastically, about allegations he and his detectives were using a device to shock criminal suspects during interrogations.

Burge is charged with obstruction of justice and perjury for allegedly lying in a 2005 lawsuit in which he gave written answers denying his use or knowledge of torture.

**WASHINGTON (MCT) —** U.S. auto safety regulators have opened an investigation into 2010 Ford Fusion and Mercury Milan sedans over three complaints of all-weather floor mats trapping accelerator pedals — a problem behind part of Toyota’s recent recall.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said the probe of 249,801 sedans does not include any complaints of accidents or injuries. One of the complaints came from Dan Edmunds, director of testing for automotive site Edmunds.com, who made a video in April showing how the rubber mat stacked on top of a regular floor mat could trap the pedal down.

**International**

BRAZIL (MCT) — Brazil’s police continue to kill too many people, while citizens in poor areas live in the shadow of gang violence, a United Nations human rights expert said Tuesday.

“Daily life for too many Brazilians, especially those living in favelas, is still lived in the shadow of killings and violence by gangs, militias, death squads and the police,” according to Philip Alston, the U.N.’s independent expert on extrajudicial executions.

Between 2003 and 2009, some 11,000 people were killed by police in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro in so-called “resistance killings,” a term used by law enforcement officials when referring to acts of self defense.

**AFGHANISTAN (MCT) —** Thousands of police have fanned out across Kabul as the Afghan capital prepares for Wednesday’s opening of a national assembly that President Hamid Karzai hopes will give him a mandate to pursue talks with the Taliban.

While the three-day assembly isn’t expected to produce any dramatic breakthroughs, Karzai and his Western allies are banking on the gathering to provide a psychological boost for the Afghan president as he prepares for a potentially pivotal summer.

**Word on the street**

**What did you do for Memorial day weekend?**

“I went home.”

“I went to a UFC party this weekend.”

Neil Cronan, civil engineering freshman

Ashlee Mikes, construction management sophomore

“I went to Shell Beach.”

“I went to Six Flags.”

Matt Reffing, construction management sophomore

Ashley Beschell, civil engineering sophomore

“I went home and saw ‘I went home.”

Lucas Hunter, biomedical engineering sophomore

Robyn Bayless, economics freshman

**Do you suffer from Menstrually Related Migraines?**

If you are female, 18 years of age or older and have a history of migraines during your menstrual cycle for the past 3 months, you may qualify for participation in a clinical research study currently underway. Qualified participants must be on an acceptable form of birth control.

Enrolled Participants May Receive:

- Investigational Study Drug
- Study Related Physical Examinations
- Laboratory Tests
- Compensation for Time and Travel

If you are interested in possibly participating, please call:

Coastal Medical Research Group, Inc. 549-7570

**COMPiled and photographed by Jessica Barba**
Supreme Court loosens Miranda rule or right to remain silent

David G. Savage

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court backed off Tuesday from strict enforcement of the famous Miranda decision and its right to remain silent, ruling that a crime suspect's words can be used against him if he fails to clearly tell the police that he does not want to talk.

In the past, the court had said the "hardcore version of the government," as it shows that a crime suspect has "knowingly and intelligently waived" his rights. Some police departments still officers not to begin questioning until a suspect has waived his rights, usually by signing a waiver form.

But in Tuesday's 5-4 decision, the court shifted the balance in favor of the police and against the suspect. It said the suspect has a duty to speak up and to say he does not want to talk. Moreover, the police are "not required to obtain a waiver" of the suspect's "right to remain silent before interrogating him," the court said.

"Yes," Thompson said, and looked away. He refused to sign a confession or to speak further, but he was convicted of first-degree murder, based in large measure on his one-word reply. The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned Thompson's conviction and then warned a suspect of his rights only after he asked to speak to a lawyer. Thompson said he understood, but did not sign a form.

For about two hours and 15 minutes, Thompson said almost nothing in response to questions. The detective asked the suspect if he believed in God and then said: "Do you pray to God to forgive you for shooting that boy down?"

"Yes," Thompson said, and looked away. He refused to sign a confession or to speak further, but he was convicted of first-degree murder, based in large measure on his one-word reply. The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned Thompson's conviction and then warned a suspect of his rights only after he asked to speak to a lawyer. Thompson said he understood, but did not sign a form.

The court then said it would have invoked his right to cut off questioning, joining him to the form the majority were Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and Justice Antonin Scalia. Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito Jr.

Kennedy has played a key role in the past decade in preserving the core principles of law that will be consistent in practice. "Criminal suspects must now unambiguously invoke their right to remain silent — which, requires them to speak," she said. Joining him in dissent were Justices John Paul Stevens, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen G. Breyer.

The majority ruling is line with the positions taken by the Obama administration and U.S. Solicitor General Elena Kagan. In December, she filed a brief on the side of Michigan prosecutors and argued that "the government need not prove that a suspect expressly waived his rights."

June 6, 2010 Saturday 8 p.m.

End of the Year Customer Appreciation Sale! SAVE 30%

- on all Cal Poly gift merchandise -
- on all regular priced general books -
- on all student supplies -
- on all seasonal gifts -

sweatshirts, tees, glassware, license plate frames, jackets, polos and more!
dictionaries, foreign language, campus authors, fiction, study guides and test prep.
art, office and school supplies!
- on all seasonal gifts -

Stationery, greeting cards, stuffed animals and more!

Customer Appreciation Sale! SAVE 30%

- on all student supplies -
- on all seasonal gifts -

Bedford, Washington, D.C.

One day only: Thursday, June 3

Includes computer department, textbooks, photo department, sale items, special orders, magazines, rainbow sandals, food, health & beauty, graduation caps, gowns and tickets

El Corral Bookstore

A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION SERVING CAL POLY SINCE 1933

www.elcorralbookstore.com

For more information, call 805-756-3494 or visit http://www.elpoly.edu/ELC
Israeli raid on aid flotilla traps U.S. between two close allies

Sheera Frenkel and Margaret Talev

WASHINGTON - The U.S. hoping to avert an armed clash between two close allies, Israel and Turkey, and the collapse of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, Tuesday urged caution on the international community as it endorsed a U.N. condemnation of "acts" that led to the deaths of nine international activists on an aid flotilla that was attempting to break Israel's blockade of Gaza.

Israel's commandos rappelling from helicopters attacked the Mavi Marmara, a Turkish passenger vessel leading the aid flotilla in international waters early Monday and were assaulted by some of the passengers. In the melee, at least nine passengers were shot to death and dozens were injured. Israel is now holding the ships in the port of Ashdod along with some 700 passengers.

The crisis, which threatens to escalate, has the U.S. caught between two longtime allies: Israel, its closest partner in the Middle East, and Turkey, a member of the U.S.-led NATO alliance and a Muslim democracy that has largely supported U.S. goals since the Cold War. The crisis is one of the latest examples of how the U.S. military alliance with Israel is progressively becoming a burden on the United States.

The White House press secretary Robert Gibbs read reporters the text of the White House statement, which criticized the Israeli attack on the flotilla and condemned the attack.

Maurice R. Clunies-Ross, a former adviser in the administration of President Barack Obama, accepts Obama's explanation of events. The flotilla, called Israel's attack on the flotilla, was shot to death and dozens were injured. The Israeli government has been an important ally. And we are greatly supportive of their security. It's not going to change. The Israelis said they had the right to break the blockade of Gaza, a source that the U.S. supports an attempt to break the blockade. The United States, which has blockaded Gaza since 2007 when Hamas took power, had said it would not allow the ships to reach Gaza. The United States is one of the few major powers that haven't condemned the Israeli raid.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met for more than two hours Tuesday with Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, who publicly suggested that the Obama administration had to break the flotilla, which set sail from Turkey, because it had been too weak. After the meeting, Clinton emphasized that the U.S. supports an Israeli investigation into the death of the ninth passenger on the ship. The Israeli government denied the Israeli soldiers' claims that the passengers were heavily armed. The Israeli soldiers did not have advance knowledge of the Israeli military operation, and refused to go as far as calling Israel a brand.

No. Let me be clear here, he told reporters. The United States and Israel, as I have said on countless occasions, we have a trusted relationship. They are an important ally. And we are greatly supportive of their security. That's not going to change. Aides to Netanyahau said he had been in regular contact with Washington, indicating U.S. officials with information about the flotilla that supports the Israeli claim that activists on the ship attacked commandos with metal rods and batons.

Officials close to Netanyahau said he was "regularly updating," the U.S., and that the Israeli government was "sensible" that it could lose American support over the incident. Israel has kept more than 30 of the 700 activists in isolation in the port of Ashdod after they returned to embarkation barracks. The activists have refused to sign a document admitting that they entered Israel illegally.

At least 11 Americans were among those being held. Israeli news media reported that one American might be among the injured being treated in Israeli hospitals.

Norman Par, a German MP, returned to Berlin, where he told reporters that he considered the Israeli operation a "clear act of piracy" because it was conducted in international waters. He also denied reports that the activists were heavily armed.

"Personally, I saw two and a half wooden batons that were used. There was really nothing else. We never saw any knives," Par said.

While the activists weren't successful in reaching Gaza, they did bring international attention to the Israeli-led blockade of the territory. Par said speaking from their hospital beds in Israel, naval commandos who took part in the raid termed the operation an attempted lynching.

One officer, identified only as "R," said he was one of the first to rappel from a Black Hawk helicopter onto the ship. He said he was armed with a paintball gun, but didn't manage to remove it before he started receiving blows from passengers wielding batons and metal rods.

"They knew they were peace activists," he said. "Though they wanted to break the Gaza blockade, we thought we'd encounter passive resistance, perhaps verbal resistance. Everyone wanted to kill us." He explained that a group of activists managed to get the rapping rope to the ship and were attempting to bring down the helicopter. At that point, the Israeli commandos cut the cord, leaving them stranded aboard the ship.

Israeli officials said that despite the criticism, the same naval unit would likely participate in any future operation against ships attempting to breach the blockade of Gaza.

Greta Berlin, a spokeswoman for the Free Gaza Movement, which organized part of the flotilla, said two additional boats already had set sail for Gaza and that one was carrying a "large group" of Americans. She added there are plans for another flotilla to sail in July.

One top Israeli naval commander told the Jerusalem Post newspaper that Israel would use more aggressive force to prevent other ships from breaking the blockade.

"We boarded the ship and were attacked as if it was a war," the officer said. "That will mean that we will have to come prepared in the future as if it was a war."
Gun rights pose problem for Supreme Court nominee Kagan

James Oliphant

WASHINGTON — In her first weeks as dean of Harvard Law School in 2003, Elena Kagan put the warring sides of the gun-rights debate in a room and let them fight it out.

The debate between gun-control advocates and 2nd Amendment purists was sponsored by the law school's target shooting club, and Kagan showed her support by moderating the exchange. But her own views on gun rights went unaired.

With her Supreme Court confirmation pending, those views now have become of extreme interest to pro-gun groups such as the National Rifle Association. The NRA is already skeptical it can support Kagan — and in Washington, when the NRA gets worried, senators become nervous.

"There are serious problems," said Andrew Arulanandam, public affairs director for the NRA. "We will work with senators to make sure tough questions are asked during hearings."

A converted effort by the NRA to scuttle Kagan's confirmation could prove problematic for Republicans and moderate Democrats who fear falling from its good graces.

There appears to be enough evidence to stake the NRA's concerns. Kagan worked in the Clinton administration for four years, first as a lawer in the White House and later as a senior domestic policy advisor.

Gun-rights advocates already have locked in on a 1997 Kagan memo that paved the way for an executive order banning dozens of semiautomatic weapons as an example of the nominee's anti-gun views.

They also point to Kagan's background working for judges, such as federal Judge Abner Mikva, who later brought Kagan into the White House to serve as his deputy and who once likened the NRA to a "crooked-crimelobby."

But Kagan more recently has pledged her fidelity to the Supreme Court's 2008 decision in the case, District of Columbia vs. Heller, which found a constitutional right to own a handgun for personal protection. The White House maintains the imposition of a justice differently from that of a policy-crafter in the Clinton White House.

"As a White House aide, Elena Kagan provided legal advice and evaluated policy proposals for President Clinton, whose views on these issues was well established," said Ben Ledbel, a White House spokesman. "In her confirmation hearing for solicitor general, Ms. Kagan made clear that she considered Heller to be settled law, and the upcoming hearing will present the opportunity for further questions about her views of the law to be asked and answered."

Clarity on where Kagan stands personally on the issue could be answered by the thousands of documents the Senate wants from the Clinton Presidential Library in Arkansas, where Kagan's White House records are housed.

Until those memos come to light, the gun-rights community has focused on the order Kagan worked on while at the White House. The order banned the importation of dozens of types of semiautomatic weapons — military rifles that were modified, the White House said, to escape the ban that was in place on assault weapons in 1994. The NRA and others said the weapons were simply modified to be used for shooting competitions and other shooting events.

The assault-weapons ban came on the heels of the 1993 Brady Bill, which required background checks on firearm purchasers for the first time. As gun-rights advocates viewed it, there was one clear message: The Clinton White House wanted to remove as many guns from the market as it could.

At the time of the import ban, Jose Corda, who worked in the domestic policy shop run by Kagan and her boss, Bruce Reed, said: "We are taking the law and bending it as far as it can to capture a whole new class of guns."

"For the Clinton administration, it was about pushing the envelope," said Stephen Halbrook, a lawyer who litigates gun-rights cases. "They didn't like firearms and wanted to restrict them as much as possible."

He said Kagan's role in the crafting of these policies should be established. "You're responsible for who you work for and what you say," Halbrook added, "Whether that's her agenda or not, she certainly went along with that." 

The gun-rights community has concerns that extend beyond the import ban. Other documents from the Clinton Library suggest Kagan's support for child-safety trigger locks on handguns. Another is a letter to Kagan written by a San Francisco city attorney, Owen Clements, seeking the White House's assistance in a municipal lawsuit filed against gun makers. Kagan passed it on to Reed, calling the letter's author "a friend."

Kagan's mere association with a White House viewed as hostile to gun rights could draw opposition from the NRA and other industry groups. "They abhorred the Clinton White House. They demonized the Clinton White House every way they could," said Dennis Henigan, executive director of the Brady (safety to Prevent Handgun Violence. "I don't think they're going to forgive her for that."

After working for Mikva, Kagan clerked for Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens, and gun advocates have seized upon a short memo Kagan prepared for the justice in which she urged him not to hear the appeal of a man convicted of having an unlicensed firearm. The man's sole contention is that the District of Columbia's firearms statutes violate his constitutional right to "keep and bear arms." Kagan wrote: "I'm not sympathetic."

But the Supreme Court ruled otherwise in 2008, and today many within the Democratic Party view gun control as an issue that chases support for child-safety triggers as it could.

The man's sole contention is that the District of Columbia's firearms statutes violate his constitutional right to "keep and bear arms." Kagan wrote: "I'm not sympathetic."

But the Supreme Court ruled otherwise in 2008, and today many within the Democratic Party view gun control as an issue that chases support for child-safety triggers as it could.

The man's sole contention is that the District of Columbia's firearms statutes violate his constitutional right to "keep and bear arms." Kagan wrote: "I'm not sympathetic."

But the Supreme Court ruled otherwise in 2008, and today many within the Democratic Party view gun control as an issue that chases support for child-safety triggers as it could.

The man's sole contention is that the District of Columbia's firearms statutes violate his constitutional right to "keep and bear arms." Kagan wrote: "I'm not sympathetic."

But the Supreme Court ruled otherwise in 2008, and today many within the Democratic Party view gun control as an issue that chases support for child-safety triggers as it could.

The man's sole contention is that the District of Columbia's firearms statutes violate his constitutional right to "keep and bear arms." Kagan wrote: "I'm not sympathetic."

But the Supreme Court ruled otherwise in 2008, and today many within the Democratic Party view gun control as an issue that chases support for child-safety triggers as it could.

The man's sole contention is that the District of Columbia's firearms statutes violate his constitutional right to "keep and bear arms." Kagan wrote: "I'm not sympathetic."

But the Supreme Court ruled otherwise in 2008, and today many within the Democratic Party view gun control as an issue that chases support for child-safety triggers as it could.

The man's sole contention is that the District of Columbia's firearms statutes violate his constitutional right to "keep and bear arms." Kagan wrote: "I'm not sympathetic."

But the Supreme Court ruled otherwise in 2008, and today many within the Democratic Party view gun control as an issue that chases support for child-safety triggers as it could.

The man's sole contention is that the District of Columbia's firearms statutes violate his constitutional right to "keep and bear arms." Kagan wrote: "I'm not sympathetic."

But the Supreme Court ruled otherwise in 2008, and today many within the Democratic Party view gun control as an issue that chases support for child-safety triggers as it could.
Sound design students gear up for annual RSVP show at PAC

Rhiannon Montgomery
rhiannonmontgomery@calpoly.edu

Cal Poly students studying sound design are gearing up for the 15th annual, and "always mysterious," RSVP show this week in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center.

"Chiaroscuro," the show's title, means 'dark-light' in Italian and adds to the mystery that has surrounded the annual event. The reference is to the bold lighting contrasts from Italy's Renaissance painters and reflects little of what students and professor are revealing about the show.

Music professor Antonio Barata has been the man behind the annual event. He said this is part of what makes the annual performance a reality with everyone has multiple jobs to complete 10 weeks to pull off a completely original show, Banfield said.

The annual performance is the final product of a class offered through the music department, where students and professors become collaborators by working together to create a show.

"It's been fun, and it's a good way to be creative personally," Barata wrote.

"Cdiiaroscuro," the show's title means 'dark-light' in Italian and adds to the mystery that has surrounded the annual event. The reference is to the bold lighting contrasts from Italy's Renaissance painters and reflects little of what students and professor are revealing about the show.

Music professor Antonio Barata has been the man behind the annual show this week in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center.

"Chiaroscuro," the show's title means 'dark-light' in Italian and adds to the mystery that has surrounded the annual event. The reference is to the bold lighting contrasts from Italy's Renaissance painters and reflects little of what students and professor are revealing about the show.

Music professor Antonio Barata has been the man behind the annual show this week in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center.

"Chiaroscuro," the show's title means 'dark-light' in Italian and adds to the mystery that has surrounded the annual event. The reference is to the bold lighting contrasts from Italy's Renaissance painters and reflects little of what students and professor are revealing about the show.

Music professor Antonio Barata has been the man behind the annual show this week in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center.

"Chiaroscuro," the show's title means 'dark-light' in Italian and adds to the mystery that has surrounded the annual event. The reference is to the bold lighting contrasts from Italy's Renaissance painters and reflects little of what students and professor are revealing about the show.

Music professor Antonio Barata has been the man behind the annual show this week in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center.

"Chiaroscuro," the show's title means 'dark-light' in Italian and adds to the mystery that has surrounded the annual event. The reference is to the bold lighting contrasts from Italy's Renaissance painters and reflects little of what students and professor are revealing about the show.

Music professor Antonio Barata has been the man behind the annual show this week in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center.

"Chiaroscuro," the show's title means 'dark-light' in Italian and adds to the mystery that has surrounded the annual event. The reference is to the bold lighting contrasts from Italy's Renaissance painters and reflects little of what students and professor are revealing about the show.

Music professor Antonio Barata has been the man behind the annual show this week in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center.

"Chiaroscuro," the show's title means 'dark-light' in Italian and adds to the mystery that has surrounded the annual event. The reference is to the bold lighting contrasts from Italy's Renaissance painters and reflects little of what students and professor are revealing about the show.

Music professor Antonio Barata has been the man behind the annual show this week in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center.

"Chiaroscuro," the show's title means 'dark-light' in Italian and adds to the mystery that has surrounded the annual event. The reference is to the bold lighting contrasts from Italy's Renaissance painters and reflects little of what students and professor are revealing about the show.

Music professor Antonio Barata has been the man behind the annual show this week in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center.

"Chiaroscuro," the show's title means 'dark-light' in Italian and adds to the mystery that has surrounded the annual event. The reference is to the bold lighting contrasts from Italy's Renaissance painters and reflects little of what students and professor are revealing about the show.

Music professor Antonio Barata has been the man behind the annual show this week in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center.

"Chiaroscuro," the show's title means 'dark-light' in Italian and adds to the mystery that has surrounded the annual event. The reference is to the bold lighting contrasts from Italy's Renaissance painters and reflects little of what students and professor are revealing about the show.

Music professor Antonio Barata has been the man behind the annual show this week in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center.

"Chiaroscuro," the show's title means 'dark-light' in Italian and adds to the mystery that has surrounded the annual event. The reference is to the bold lighting contrasts from Italy's Renaissance painters and reflects little of what students and professor are revealing about the show.

Music professor Antonio Barata has been the man behind the annual show this week in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center.

"Chiaroscuro," the show's title means 'dark-light' in Italian and adds to the mystery that has surrounded the annual event. The reference is to the bold lighting contrasts from Italy's Renaissance painters and reflects little of what students and professor are revealing about the show.

Music professor Antonio Barata has been the man behind the annual show this week in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center.

"Chiaroscuro," the show's title means 'dark-light' in Italian and adds to the mystery that has surrounded the annual event. The reference is to the bold lighting contrasts from Italy's Renaissance painters and reflects little of what students and professor are revealing about the show.

Music professor Antonio Barata has been the man behind the annual show this week in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center.

"Chiaroscuro," the show's title means 'dark-light' in Italian and adds to the mystery that has surrounded the annual event. The reference is to the bold lighting contrasts from Italy's Renaissance painters and reflects little of what students and professor are revealing about the show.

Music professor Antonio Barata has been the man behind the annual show this week in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center.

"Chiaroscuro," the show's title means 'dark-light' in Italian and adds to the mystery that has surrounded the annual event. The reference is to the bold lighting contrasts from Italy's Renaissance painters and reflects little of what students and professor are revealing about the show.

Music professor Antonio Barata has been the man behind the annual show this week in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center.

"Chiaroscuro," the show's title means 'dark-light' in Italian and adds to the mystery that has surrounded the annual event. The reference is to the bold lighting contrasts from Italy's Renaissance painters and reflects little of what students and professor are revealing about the show.

Music professor Antonio Barata has been the man behind the annual show this week in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center.

"Chiaroscuro," the show's title means 'dark-light' in Italian and adds to the mystery that has surrounded the annual event. The reference is to the bold lighting contrasts from Italy's Renaissance painters and reflects little of what students and professor are revealing about the show.

Music professor Antonio Barata has been the man behind the annual show this week in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center.

"Chiaroscuro," the show's title means 'dark-light' in Italian and adds to the mystery that has surrounded the annual event. The reference is to the bold lighting contrasts from Italy's Renaissance painters and reflects little of what students and professor are revealing about the show.

Music professor Antonio Barata has been the man behind the annual show this week in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center.

"Chiaroscuro," the show's title means 'dark-light' in Italian and adds to the mystery that has surrounded the annual event. The reference is to the bold lighting contrasts from Italy's Renaissance painters and reflects little of what students and professor are revealing about the show.

Music professor Antonio Barata has been the man behind the annual show this week in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center.

"Chiaroscuro," the show's title means 'dark-light' in Italian and adds to the mystery that has surrounded the annual event. The reference is to the bold lighting contrasts from Italy's Renaissance painters and reflects little of what students and professor are revealing about the show.

Music professor Antonio Barata has been the man behind the annual show this week in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center.

"Chiaroscuro," the show's title means 'dark-light' in Italian and adds to the mystery that has surrounded the annual event. The reference is to the bold lighting contrasts from Italy's Renaissance painters and reflects little of what students and professor are revealing about the show.

Music professor Antonio Barata has been the man behind the annual show this week in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center.

"Chiaroscuro," the show's title means 'dark-light' in Italian and adds to the mystery that has surrounded the annual event. The reference is to the bold lighting contrasts from Italy's Renaissance painters and reflects little of what students and professor are revealing about the show.

Music professor Antonio Barata has been the man behind the annual show this week in the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center.

"Chiaroscuro," the show's title means 'dark-light' in Italian and adds to the mystery that has surrounded the annual event. The reference is to the bold lighting contrasts from Italy's Renaissance painters and reflects little of what students and professor are revealing about the show.
Directly after their father’s funeral, the pair is sent, along with their mother, to live in the Appalachian Mountains of Virginia with Jack’s grandmother, the setting that provided the inspiration for Jack’s famous novels. The area is rural in the extreme, but Baldacci writes of life on the hill with such simple, beautifully crafted prose that you can almost picture waking at five in the morning to milk the cows — and maybe not even minding.

Life is hard on the hill, but Lou and Ot adjust to the backbreaking work and simple life with a startling swiftness. Easily the most traditionally educated people among the mountain farmers, they have a lot to learn about the way of the land. But, resilient as children are, they waste no time in blending right in to the way of life on the hill.

Though Appalachian culture is different from any in the world, it’s still easy to relate to each of the characters. Each character is depicted with lovingly detailed descriptions so that even in the face of tragedy that strikes is equally heartbreakingly. Though each mishap is beautifully written, and though it does involve a clever legal battle and a few unexpected surprises, for the most part it is about nostalgia.

It’s about a way of life based on hard work, few luxuries and big-hearted, quiet love. Love for the entire community of farmers, love for family and a deep-seated love for the land. Lou and Ot find a way to fit in with these core values without delay, and those closest to Louisa’s heart find no difficulty in embracing them just as briskly.

Though the plot does a fair job of holding interest, it is not the novel’s best attribute. Something about Baldacci’s quiet, simple prose keeps the pages turning, which makes this red-letter day. Louisa’s way of life is an entirely different life from any in the world, but in the end it is just as strong, the faithful grit of the Cardinal family.

As mentioned before, “Wish You Well” is a clear departure from Baldacci’s usual style. This novel is far more character than plot-driven, and though it does involve a clever legal battle and a few unexpected surprises, for the most part it is about nostalgia.

It’s a story about a way of life based on hard work, few luxuries and big-hearted, quiet love. Love for the entire community of farmers, love for family and a deep-seated love for the land. Lou and Ot find a way to fit in with these core values without delay, and those closest to Louisa’s heart find no difficulty in embracing them just as briskly.

Though the plot does a fair job of holding interest, it is not the novel’s best attribute. Something about Baldacci’s quiet, simple prose keeps the pages turning, which makes this red-letter day. Louisa’s way of life is an entirely different life from any in the world, but in the end it is just as strong, the faithful grit of the Cardinal family.

As mentioned before, “Wish You Well” is a clear departure from Baldacci’s usual style. This novel is far more character than plot-driven, and though it does involve a clever legal battle and a few unexpected surprises, for the most part it is about nostalgia.

It’s a story about a way of life based on hard work, few luxuries and big-hearted, quiet love. Love for the entire community of farmers, love for family and a deep-seated love for the land. Lou and Ot find a way to fit in with these core values without delay, and those closest to Louisa’s heart find no difficulty in embracing them just as briskly.

Though the plot does a fair job of holding interest, it is not the novel’s best attribute. Something about Baldacci’s quiet, simple prose keeps the pages turning, which makes this red-letter day. Louisa’s way of life is an entirely different life from any in the world, but in the end it is just as strong, the faithful grit of the Cardinal family.

As mentioned before, “Wish You Well” is a clear departure from Baldacci’s usual style. This novel is far more character than plot-driven, and though it does involve a clever legal battle and a few unexpected surprises, for the most part it is about nostalgia.

It’s a story about a way of life based on hard work, few luxuries and big-hearted, quiet love. Love for the entire community of farmers, love for family and a deep-seated love for the land. Lou and Ot find a way to fit in with these core values without delay, and those closest to Louisa’s heart find no difficulty in embracing them just as briskly.
Movies under fire for hiring white actors for ethnic roles

Chris Lee
Los Angeles Times

Since its release, the video game franchise Prince of Persia has become notable for the acrobatic grace of its dagger-wielding, balloon-pants-wearing hero as well as for what the games didn't do: affront gamers of Middle Eastern and Muslim descent with stereotypical depictions of people from the region as terrorists or religious zealots.

Independent filmmaker and blogger Jehanzeb Dar, to name one such player, remembers his favorable first reaction to the swashbuckling action game, which is set amid the sands and ancient cities of Persia (as ancient Iran is known) and follows a hero with a magic sword caught between forces of good and evil. "You could see clearly the protagonist had distinct Middle Eastern features and darker skin," said Dar, 26, who pens the blog Muslim Reverie from Langhorne, Pa. "People could develop some respect for that culture instead of seeing it vilified."

So when Disney studios announced plans for a live-action adaptation of Prince, Dar held out hope it would be a "serious story that would dispel a lot of stereotypes and misconceptions." Then came the bad news regarding "Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time" (the movie that arrives in theaters on Friday). None of its principal cast members are of Iranian, Middle Eastern or Muslim descent. And playing Dastan, the hero and titular heir to the Persian throne in the $200-million tent-pole film, is none other than Swedish-Jewish-American prince Jake Gyllenhaal.

"My first reaction was, 'Really?!'" Dar said. "It's insulting that people of color — especially Middle Easterners or South Asians — are not allowed to portray ourselves in these roles. That's a big problem a lot of people in the community are having with this film."

Of course, Hollywood has a rich history with this kind of thing: John Wayne playing Genghis Khan in "The Conqueror," Peter Sellers' bumbling Indian character in "The Party" or even more notoriously, Mickey Rooney's buck-toothed Mr. Yunioshi character from "Breakfast at Tiffany's," the grandfather of all "Yellowface" stereotypes.

Although these portrayals took place decades ago, their legacy lives on. Even now, in the age of Obama — when the newly installed Miss USA Rima Fakih is Lebanese-American, Will Smith is the biggest movie star in the world and Sonia Sotomayor became the first Latina to sit on the Supreme Court — the movie industry can still seem woefully behind.
It's insulting that people of color—especially Middle Easterners or South Asians—are not allowed to portray themselves in these roles.

— Jehanne Bar
Independent filmmaker and blogger

The movie's detractors have spoken against the film at six college campuses, including M.I.T., New York University and UCLA, also setting up booths at events such as San Francisco's WonderCon pop culture expo to publicize their discontent. At last count, the group's Facebook group had 123 supporters and attracted petitions against the movie's casting in 55 countries. The cast itself perceived "Airbender" from blooming into a lucrative three-part franchise via negative word of mouth.

"It's unfortunate that it's come to this," said Racebending.com co-founder Jehanne Bar, a writer for the group. "The last time I heard a movie like this was the original 'Bender' that was screening at the New York Times in 1999. This is a direct attack on Asian American actors, not so much a "whitewash" of multi-cultural characters, but a practice that is known as "race-bending."

In addition to Gyfenlhalten and British actress Gemma Arterton's Asian characters — put a finer point on the boycotters' concerns. "If 'The Last Airbender' doesn't make it, there's no reason for us to continue in this campaign according to a 50-year-old Asian American who went on to生殖性 discrimination against Asian Americans, we work and movie studios for a decade.

"Airbender" has taken a series of泣rous steps to not seem insensitive to — or out of touch with — the minority constituencies represented in their respective films, its Disney or Paramount executive who would comment for this article. Not only did they "cast" the producer "Prince of Persia," J.J. Bruckheimer or 'Airbender's "Kate Heidly and Frank Marshall. "Diese people, a mixture of both, have marred the film's identity and feel that such rationalization provides a convenient excuse for keeping the prevailing system — a glass ceiling for actors of color in major movies — firmly in place. "The film is a failure, and that's not malicious intent," said Aoki. "It's unfortunate that it's come to this."

The film's detractors have spoken against the film at six college campuses, including M.I.T., New York University and UCLA, also setting up booths at events such as San Francisco's WonderCon pop culture expo to publicize their discontent. At last count, the group's Facebook group had 123 supporters and attracted petitions against the movie's casting in 55 countries. The cast itself perceived "Airbender" from blooming into a lucrative three-part franchise via negative word of mouth.

"It's unfortunate that it's come to this," said Racebending.com co-founder Jehanne Bar, a writer for the group. "The last time I heard a movie like this was the original 'Bender' that was screening at the New York Times in 1999. This is a direct attack on Asian American actors, not so much a "whitewash" of multi-cultural characters, but a practice that is known as "race-bending."

In addition to Gyfenlhalten and British actress Gemma Arterton's Asian characters — put a finer point on the boycotters' concerns. "If 'The Last Airbender' doesn't make it, there's no reason for us to continue in this campaign according to a 50-year-old Asian American who went on to生殖性 discrimination against Asian Americans, we work and movie studios for a decade.
President Obama always seems to hide from the public eye at times when he should be attacking issues head-on. The past two months have exposed some significant faults in the way Obama handles the most pressing concerns of the day.

First, there was the Arizona Immigration Bill. Faced with Arizona’s abrupt illegal immigration reform, the Obama Administration immediately jumped to the side of minority special interest groups (his political allies) and condemned Arizona for overstepping its bounds. According to CBS News, the president denounced the bill as “misguided” and “poorly conceived,” but failed to produce any alternatives for border enforcement.

Whether the bill is the Arizona Immigration Bill, Faced with Arizona’s abrupt illegal immigration reform, the Obama Administration immediately jumped to the side of minority special interest groups (his political allies) and condemned Arizona for overstepping its bounds. According to CBS News, the president denounced the bill as “misguided” and “poorly conceived,” but failed to produce any alternatives for border enforcement.

The current administration attempted to gain public opinion by manipulating this sudden action to its favor, and it is ultimately backed. Instead of tightening our border security from the beginning, Obama delayed around and frustrated border states by his prolonged inaction.

And for those who oppose any form of border enforcement, I bring you Exhibit B — the BP Oil Spill in the Gulf. Numerous times, the Obama administration argued they addressed the Gulf Oil Spill from “day one.” In reality, Obama did not take the situation seriously until word got out about the severity of these damages (about a week later). Of course, he was far too busy entertaining the Yankees at the White House to be concerned with the welfare of the environment and residents of the Gulf region.

When Obama finally held a press conference on May 27 to address this devastating crisis, he told America he was “not going to rest ... or be satisfied until the leak is stopped at its source, the oil on the ground is contained and cleaned up, and the people of this region are able to go back to their lives and their livelihoods.”

These are some powerful words from our commander-in-chief — if only they were true. As the oil started making its way to the shore, Obama’s “superpowers” image gradually pattered out and revealed a reversion back to politics as usual.

As Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal said, “I think there could have been a greater sense of urgency.”

According to Jindal, one of the affected coastal regions only received half of the booms he requested, and deployment of this protective tool was significantly delayed due to bureaucratic intervention (as reported on ABC News). Likewise, according to the New York Times, Jindal was given the go-ahead because of one sand barrier to prevent the shore after state officials requested 24.

Jindal is not the only one complaining. Some of Obama’s top supporters — Democratic strategist James Carville and former Secretary of State Colin Powell — have criticized the administration for not utilizing all of its resources to contain the spill and limit the damages. We have seen the images of the Louisiana wetlands smothered in oil and the petroleum-coated sea life washing ashore. All of this could have been prevented if the Gulf states were given the proper tools to defend the coast.

After hearing the voices of national criticism for his lack of involvement in this crisis, Obama has since said he takes “responsibility for solving this crisis” and has pledged to the Gulf region that they “will not be abandoned.” His proposals for action come too late, as the oil has already reached the shore, and left its mark on the Gulf Coast. At this point, the only thing the president can do is to try and salvage the rest of the coast. The rest is too late.

Obama needs to learn his lesson from these two unprecedented events. Immediate action does not simply mean holding a press conference after the fact. The president always has access to the latest information, and should by this time take action. During times of crisis, the states need a helping hand.

After hearing the voices of national criticism for his lack of involvement in this crisis, Obama has since said he takes “responsibility for solving this crisis” and has pledged to the Gulf region that they “will not be abandoned.” His proposals for action come too late, as the oil has already reached the shore, and left its mark on the Gulf Coast. At this point, the only thing the president can do is to try and salvage the rest of the coast. The rest is too late.

Obama needs to learn his lesson from these two unprecedented events. Immediate action does not simply mean holding a press conference after the fact. The president always has access to the latest information, and should by this time take action. During times of crisis, the states need a helping hand.

As California students, we are all too familiar with the government’s tendency to delay action on important issues until it’s too late. Election seasons bring waves of promises to hopeful Californians, and yet the broken promises, unbalanced, our education system gradually worsens and our potential employers continue to flee for the state. Our leaders need to grow spines and re-prioritize.

Empty words of reassurance never quite make up for lost time.

*Editor’s Note: This opinion page is an English sophomore and Mustang Daily political columnist.
Facebook makes wise privacy move

Hooray. Facebook saved the Internet! OK, so maybe that’s making too much of the privacy controls Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg unveiled Wednesday. But if the company hadn’t addressed the uproar over its ever-changing privacy policy, there was a real possibility that Washington would have stepped in with new rules that would have applied to all social network operators, or even all websites. And we’d like to keep the nanny state away from the Net as long as possible.

That’s not to defend what Facebook has been doing. The company operates the world’s largest social network, with more than 600 million registered users. Collectively, these users pour data about themselves onto the site faster than BP spewed oil into the Gulf of Mexico. But people flock to Facebook in order to share information with a select circle of friends, not necessarily with the entire wired planet. Contrary to their expectations, Facebook has gradually exposed more and more of their profiles, photos and other postings to the public at large. It also launched a program to share personal information with other websites unless users instructed the site not to do so.

Its behavior has sent groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union and the Electronic Privacy Information Center running to lawmakers and regulators for help. The center filed a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission, arguing that Facebook’s evolving privacy policy amounts to a bait and switch users post information to the site under one set of rules for disclosure, then Facebook changes the rules to allow more disclosure of the posted material. Four Senate Democrats recently sent Zuckerberg a letter, urging him to make specific changes in the company’s handling of user data. And two House members have been circulating a draft bill to regulate how Facebook and other websites collect information about their users and share it with advertisers.

By deciding voluntarily to let users control more of their personal information, and by giving them simpler tools to do so, Facebook vented some of the pressure building up in Washington. That’s a relief not just to Facebook users but everyone on the Web. It’s one thing for the Federal Trade Commission to hold companies to the promises they make to their users; it’s another for lawmakers to try to design privacy policies for sites whose technical capabilities are constantly advancing, along with their users’ demand for services and attitudes about privacy. As Zuckerberg has noted, Facebook triggered outrage when it started sending users’ updates automatically to all of their friends. Now that kind of “news feed” is a central feature of just about every social network. What looks like a threat today might prove to be an asset tomorrow.

There may come a day when Washington has to craft new rules to stop websites from preying on defenseless users, but we’re not there yet.
Baseball struggled to find consistency in 2010 season

Patrick Leiva
 Patrick Leiva.Poly@gmail.com

The 2010 Cal Poly baseball team experienced a roller coaster ride of highs and lows throughout their 2010 season.

The bar was set high after last season’s upset victory over the first regional bid program in history. Instead, the Mustangs struggled out of the gates going 10-27 in their first 37 games of the season, including a 4-21 stretch after being 6-6. In the final month of the year, the Mustangs were able to finish strong by winning 13 of their last 18 games to conclude their season with a record of 23-32.

Senior outfielder Luke Yoder said the best word to describe the struggles was “frustration.”

“It was really frustrating because we put so much hard work in the fall, waking up and going to weights early and working hard at practice, so I definitely think that would be the word to sum it up best because we weren’t reaping the rewards of all our effort and hard work prior to the season,” Yoder said.

Looking back on the season, head coach Larry Lee said the team fell short in many different areas, but especially on the mound. He said injuries, pitching depth, and the lack of solid pitching depth are two high-end pitchers that give you a chance to beat anybody. Lee said, “When you aren’t at full strength pitching-wise, it’s really difficult at this level to think that you are going to be able to overcome everyone.”

Lee said the team had to piece together their pitching staff by having bullpen pitchers come in as starters. Also, Lee said the offense struggled out of the gates, which put even more pressure on their pitchers.

“It was disappointing the way we started out because we thought we had the ingredients to put together another good season and it just didn’t work out that way,” Lee said. “I thought we should’ve been much better offensively, and it was just an instance of players not able to step up right away and become leaders from an offensive standpoint.”

Following the disappointments of the early season, the Mustangs were able to rebound down the stretch. Yoder, who led the Mustangs with 15 home runs this season, said the team turned things around when they hosted the Barons last May.

The Mustangs responded by going 13-3 in the month of May. Yoder said the team turned things around because they never gave up on the season.

“It’s perseverance by not letting the way the season started out for us put a damper on things,” Yoder said.

“We just set that goal for ourselves and came out to practice and continued to work hard and get better each day.”

At the end of the season, the Mustangs were on a tear offensively. Lee said offense is contagious and that happened with his team at the end of the year. The Mustangs hit .351 over their last 19 games and scored almost 10 runs per game. In contrast, they were only hitting .277 and were scoring only six runs per game over their first 36 games.

The offensive surge at the end of the year was highlighted during the final game of the season. The Mustangs exploded for a school record 32 hits, including a record nine doubles, in a 28-8 rout of visiting Cal State Bakersfield.

Lee said the turnaround occurred because the Mustangs received solid pitching, good defense and timely hitting at the plate.

“We just pitched much better for the most part and had a much better plan of attack,” Lee said. “Over the course of the year, we’ve learned and gotten better and played competitive games lately.”

Pitcher Matt Leonard, who was arguably the team’s best pitcher over the year despite his 2-7 record, said the team played over the final month of the season will be a good building block for next season.

“It just shows what we are capable of, and it gives us momentum going into next year,” Leonard said.

Despite the late-season surge, Yoder said the season was still difficult because they could have been better throughout the entire year.

“It is kind of heartbreaking seeing that we’ve played so well here late and really wish that we would’ve been able to play this well throughout the whole season, but it’s the game of baseball,” Yoder said.

Looking ahead to next season, Lee said many players were able to gain valuable playing experience this season, which will help for the future.

“We’ve gotten a lot of experience for some players that due to injury probably wouldn’t have gotten that opportunity,” Lee said. “It will definitely help us going into next year knowing what to expect from some of our role players.”

Lee said the Mustangs are adding a strong recruiting class and wants his returning players to understand their deficiencies so they can improve for next season and create more internal competition within the program.

The incoming players need to close the gap from where they are now to where they need to be at the first day of school so they can come in and compete for playing time,” Lee said. “The one advantage that the players in the program already have is that they’ve been through the instruction and the game experience for at least one year.

Also, he said it would be helpful to have everyone return healthy from injury this season.

“One of the strengths of our past players was quality pitching hides any weaknesses or deficiencies that you might have,” Lee said. “Offense is usually up and down during the course of the year, and we are going to lose some pretty good offensive players, but we should return enough offense to be competitive on that end.”

Being one of six seniors who will not be around next year, Yoder said the seniors wanted to leave a stamp on the program of hard work and determination. He said the team next year will be talented and capable of contending for the Big West title and another NCAA Regional berth.

“They definitely have the tools and capabilities to be able to go and succeed and have a good year next year,” Yoder said. “It’s going to depend on how much work they put in and not let tough times get down on them and try and succeed as well.”
Brains and brawn

Football schematics can often be challenging. When looking at play art, there can be so many signs and short hand that it looks more like hieroglyphics rather than anything comprehensible. With numerous Xs, Os, squares and circles, it seems coaches are often in search of discovering a new form of Pictionary as opposed to a standard play call.

Take all that, add a blitz-crazy playbook and a legendary defensive mind, and the task may seem nearly impossible for any individual to grasp—especially for a player picking up a position he had never played before.

Not for former Cal Poly defensive end Chris Gocong.

"He has a special mind. There are a lot of guys who have a special mind, but don't necessarily have the athletic ability that Chris has," former Cal Poly linebacker Kyle Shorwell said. "Then pair his intelligent mind to his incredibly athletic body and you get a specimen. That is what Chris is."

Gocong can thank his engineering degree and Cal Poly football experience for that.

"In the scheme he played for on the (Philadelphia) Eagles, they are notorious for probably being the most complex defense—schematically in the NFL," Shorwell said. "That fact that he was able to go out on the NFL in arguably the most complex defense and learn a completely new position to be able to do that takes an extremely bright individual. Not many guys can do that—Chris is one of those guys."

Don't let his mind deceive you.

The Cal Poly football legend wasn't all smarts. For years, he haunted the dreams of Great West quarterbacks. His intellect and knack for finding the quarterback earned him a Buck Buchanan award in 2005—recognizing him as the best defensive player in the country. After stepping off the collegiate field for the final time, Gocong ranked second all-time at Cal Poly with 42 career sacks, ninth all-time at Cal Poly with 42 single-season tackles and 10th in Cal Poly history with 212 career tackles.

But he hasn't always been that dominant.

Learning curves

It seemed as if no matter where he was on the field, Gocong got to the quarterback. Throughout the majority of his football career, he possessed the ability to torment quarterbacks anywhere on the defensive line and sometimes at linebacker. Yet, come national signing day, no college saw the potential in a high school Gocong.

"No one really recruited me for football," Gocong said. "I really didn't think I would ever play."

Ellerson glanced at Gocong's playing tape, but wasn't completely sold.

He started his football career in Carpinetia High School. Despite never playing football before high school, Gocong was a three-year letter-winner at quarterback and linebacker. He made 180 tackles as a junior, 150 as a senior, while scoring 11 touchdowns on defense and threw for four more as a senior. It didn't stop there; he was also a stand-out in track and field. The two-sport athlete set a school record in the discus and added two all-league honors in the discus and shot put.

But not even those stats landed him on Cal Poly head coach Rich Ellerson's radar. Entering his first season at Cal Poly, Ellerson was looking for an answer to turning around a team that had recorded three consecutive 3-8 seasons.

"At first, Gocong didn't seem like the guy our defense was going to turn around," Ellerson said. "But he is a natural position, defensive end, for a three-year starter out of high school."

Ellerson glanced at Gocong's playing tape, but wasn't completely sold.

"I thought he had the explosive nature and the potential to find a place. I didn't know where that place would be," Ellerson said. "I really didn't know what position he would end up playing. I just knew he was a versatile guy, and he was a versatile athlete. We started turning around a team, and he was a part of that." Gocong already proved himself at arguably two of the hardest positions on the football field in high school. In high school, he would tear defenses apart with his touchdown passes, then light up ball carriers at linebacker.

"I really didn't know what position he was going to end up playing," Ellerson said. "The only thing he was a specialist at was development of the pass rusher, but it pre­sent­ed a new task.

"I thought he had the explosive­ness and the potential to find a place. I didn't know where that place would be," Ellerson said. "I really didn't know what position he would end up playing. I just knew he was a versatile guy, and he was a versatile athlete. We would see when we got him." 

Gocong's explosiveness warranted him a spot on the defensive line—defensive end more specifically—but on paper, he didn't make much of a name for himself his first two years. He played his freshman season and recorded just six tackles, and the following season, he was redshirted and didn't play.

In his redshirt sophomore season, due to injuries, he was asked to move from an outside pass rusher to an interior defensive lineman.

It didn't give him a chance to be an explosive and disruptive pass rusher, but it presented a new challenge.

The three-point stance

Gocong already proved himself at arguably two of the hardest positions on the football field in high school. In high school, he would tear defenses apart with his touchdown passes, then light up ball carriers at linebacker. College, however, presented a new task.

"I thought he had the explosive­ness and the potential to find a place. I didn't know where that place would be," Ellerson said. "I really didn't know what position he would end up playing. I just knew he was a versatile guy, and he was a versatile athlete. We would see where we get him."

Gocong ranked second all-time at Cal Poly with 42 career sacks, ninth with 42 single-season tackles and 10th with 212 career tackles.

Ellerson didn't regret the decision. The three-point stance knew what position he would end up playing. Ellerson said.

"He didn't do anything too serious where they offered me a scholarship," Gocong said. "But I really didn't have a successful season."

Gocong finally landed himself a look from Ellerson.

"I thought he had the explosive­ness and the potential to find a place. I didn't know where that place would be," Ellerson said. "I really didn't know what position he would end up playing. I just knew he was a versatile guy, and he was a versatile athlete. We would see where we get him."

Gocong instantly hit the pro circuit and instantly hit the pro spot in the NFL. He was drafted by the Cleveland Browns and started his NFL career with 12 tackles four sacks and two forced fumbles in four years at the professional level. He was a third round draft pick of the Philadelphia Eagles in 2006.

Former Cal Poly defensive end Chris Gocong ranks second all-time at Cal Poly with 42 career sacks, ninth with 42 single-season tackles and 10th with 212 career tackles. Now a member of the Cleveland Browns, Gocong has tallied 129 tackles four sacks and two forced fumbles in four years at the professional level. He was a third round draft pick of the Philadelphia Eagles in 2006.