President Baker attends Israel seminar

Alexandria Scott
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Cal Poly president Warren Baker and other American university leaders visited Israel and Palestine for an intense week-long educational seminar called Project Interchange Seminar in Israel for university presidents that focused on complex issues facing Israel and the region.

Over the course of the week, the 13-member delegation met with Israeli President Shimon Peres, Palestinian National Authority Prime Minister Salam Fayyad and U.S. Ambassador to Israel James B. Cunningham. The seminar was sponsored and overseen by Project Interchange, an educational institute of the American Jewish Committee.

The mission of Project Interchange is to foster a community of highly influential global leaders informed about the various dimensions of Israel, including the work of their professional counterparts, said Project Interchange spokesman Amit Katzir.

"A primary goal of the university presidents seminar in particular is to encourage bilateral academic collaboration and exchange at the undergraduate, graduate and faculty levels," he said.

The delegates learned about an association of the American Jewish Committee.

Teen killed by train near California Boulevard

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Oscar Gonzalez, 17, was struck and killed by an Amtrak passenger train near the corner of California Boulevard and Foothill Boulevard last Thursday around 3:50 p.m.

Gonzalez and two of his friends had left Santa Rosa Skatepark to meet friends on the other side of town and used the railroad tracks as a shortcut, said Chris Staley of the San Luis Obispo Police Department.

"He was walking ahead of his friends and had his headphones on," Staley said. "The train engineer tried to alert him but he didn't hear the whistle."

Once the train engineer realized Gonzalez couldn't hear him, he hit the brakes, but trains take a considerably long time to stop, he said.

Gonzalez was struck by the front of the train and died from the collision, Staley said.

"The trains are pretty quiet in the front and when you're traveling you often don't hear them because most of the noise is distributed to the sides and the back," Staley said.

Gonzalez was listening to music as well as playing with his phone when the accident occurred, Gonzalez's uncle Sergio Rodriguez said.

"His friends called his name and he couldn't hear them and when he saw the train it was too late," he said. "His friends were the only ones who actually saw what happened."

Police encourage pedestrians to use controlled intersections not only because of the dangers but also because it is a misdemeanor to trespass on railroad property.

Facebook groups and pages have been created in his memory. Donations can also be made to the Gonzalez family at any Rabobank under the Oscar Gonzalez Benefit Account.

Gonzalez's mother, Maria Gonzalez, said her son liked to have friends over and most of the time when he was home he was with them too. "I miss him a lot," she said.

Anna Gonzalez, Gonzalez's sister, said his friends have said he was always making jokes — and a very outgoing person.

"He never had problems with anybody," she said. "He was smart in school too and was going to graduate early from Pacific Beach High School."

The service for Gonzalez will be held today at the Reis Family Mortuary from 2 to 7 p.m. On Friday a mass will be held at Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa at 10 a.m.

A gathering will be held at Santa Rosa Skatepark and at the burial at the Old Mission Cemetery.

Cal Poly wins gold at competition

Sarah Parr
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Two Cal Poly wines won gold at the Orange County Commercial Wine Competition in Costa Mesa last month.

Cal Poly entered wines for all six categories: Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Syrah, Red Blend, White Blend and Port. The two winners were the 2008 Mustang Red and the 2008 Poly Royal red dessert wine.

Both were made by Cal Poly wine and viticulture graduates, Michael Horton, in 2008. Orcutt Road Cellars also aided in the creation of the wines through a mentoring program.

The competition, established in 1977, is "the biggest, most comprehensive tasting of commercial wines in California," said Adrienne Ferrara, manager of Cal Poly Wines.

The wines were judged by a panel composed of different people such as winemakers and media.

"The beauty of (the competition) is that it's a blind tasting done by industry peers," Ferrara said. "It allows objectivity to a competition with a ton of producers. It doesn't get any more pure than that."

The Mustang Red is a medium-bodied wine with a more robust taste, Ferrara said as she tasted it. "It's a great food wine, with spicy and rich flavors of red and black fruits."

On the other hand, the Poly Royal red dessert wine is a dessert wine "made to be drunk at the end of the evening," Ferrara said. "It has rich, red fruits that are packed with flavor."

The wines were made during the first year of Cal Poly's pilot winemaking program.

"It was difficult because the grapes were bad," Horton said in a phone interview. However, "Orcutt Road Cellars was really influential and beneficial in the making of the wines."

Acclaimed winemaker Christian Roguenant was Horton's mentor during his stint at Orcutt Road Cellars. Horton worked at Orcutt Road Cellars for the Northern Hemisphere Vintage in 2009. Vintage winemaking uses grapes that were grown in a single certain year.

"Michael is a very smart guy with the right frame of mind for winemaking," Roguenant said in a phone conference. Of working with Horton, Roguenant said, "It was a very good experience. We made delicious wines together."

Roguenant and Orcutt Road Cellars allowed Horton to be independent by letting him do what he wanted to do in the creation of his wines, Horton said.

This also helped him in his post-college endeavors.

Recently, Horton worked the 2009 and 2010 Southern Hemisphere
important part of the world and the opportunities for U.S. higher education, Baker said. The seminar focused primarily on efforts to ensure a more peaceful world by people getting to know each other better and collaborating.

“A lot of people think informal approaches at a grass roots level could benefit from more exposure to the unique pro-

pects depends on perceptions and reality of security.”

Peaceful coexistence is probably easier than solving all the issues, he said. Everyone is in favor of academic collaboration; it’s just a matter of how it gets done. The Middle East’s role is important to the world and non-Jewish students could benefit from more exposure and historical perspectives, he said. It’s important for Cal Poly to open doors internationally,” Baker said. “It’s a part of the globalization that’s occurring and it’s important that we don’t isolate ourselves.”

— Warren Baker
Cal Poly President

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Florida Republican blocks offshore drilling ban

James Oliphant
TRIBECA WASHINGTON BUREAU

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — It took Republicans in the state House of Representatives here less than an hour Tuesday to drop-six an effort by Gov. Charlie Crist, a Republic-

Crist called a special session of the legislature this week to consider a ballot measure that would amend the constitution to ban offshore drilling in state waters, a practice that is already prohibited under Florida law.

Republicans, who control the statehouse, groused they were being used as a political prop. “This is about making something that’s illegal more illegal,” said state Sen. Mike Haridopolos, the incoming Senate president, in an interview.

Florida is a state that has long resisted basing its economy on oil, preferring to rely on tourism.

Just a year ago, however, the Florida House voted to overturn the drilling ban, which has been cited by “BP Republicans,” a term that describes a reason why a constitutional amend-

ment is necessary. The Obama administration is insisting on instituting a six-month ban on deepwater drill-

ing in the Gulf has placed Demo-

crats in the awkward position of criticizing the president.

Sen. Mary Landrieu of Louisi-

ana was particularly disappointed that “BP Republicans” are crops nationwide. While the spill has emerged as a central issue in the Senate race here, it’s also pitted the Republican’s insistence on instituting a moratorium for spill victims a “slush fund.”

Democratic candidates for Con-

gress have been even harsher.

“This made-for-TV moratorium won’t just kill jobs in the oil industry, it will bankrupt retail stores, restaurants, car and boat deal-

ers, grocery stores,” said Ravi Sangisetti, who is running for an open House seat in Louisiana.

Meanwhile, the GOP, led in Louisiana by Gov. Bobby Jindal and in Mississippi by Gov. Haley Barbour, has found traction with another tactic: attacking the ad-

ministration’s response to the spill as inadequate and overly bureau-

cratic.

The Democratic Party, in con-

trast, has kept its fire trained on oil giant BP, which appeared to finally have capped the gushing well last week.

The party launched a website called “BP Republicans,” which calls for a $20 billion aid fund for spill victims a “slush fund,” and Rand Paul of Kentucky, who led a critical hearing of BP’s “un-American.”

e-mail this story @ www.mustangdaily.net
New bill that could extend jobless-benefits passes Senate vote

Lisa Mascaro
WASHINGTON WASHINGTON BUREAU
WASHINGTON — Democrats on Tuesday voted to extend jobless-benefits legislation to the House, as President Barack Obama pressed Congress to act on more proposals to create new American jobs and strengthen our economic policies that will lead us out of this mess, and press Congress to act on more proposals to create new American jobs and strengthen our recovery, including a small-business jobs bill, aid for struggling states to prevent layoffs, and tax cuts for middle-class families,

The other side stood in the way for so long," said Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., the majority leader, after Tuesday's procedural vote. "It shouldn't have be a vote that helps millions of Americans," Gooden said afterward.

Unemployment aid had stalled since June as most Republicans in the Senate repeatedly blocked bills they believed would add unnecessarily to the national debt.

Most Republicans want to pay for the jobless benefits by using unspent funds from the economic recovery bill and don't need a funding source. Democrats blocked three previous attempts to approve unemployment aid.

The measure passed Tuesday was a scaled back $33.9 billion unemployment package, short of earlier domestic spending proposals. The bill would extend benefits through November.

The newest senator, Carrie Goodwin, cast her vote minutes after being sworn in by Vice President Joe Biden as West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin's appointee to replace the late Demo­cratic Sen. Robert Byrd.

The 36-year-old is the chamber's youngest member, and is expected to hold the seat only until a special election later this year. Manchin is ex­pected to run for the seat, and was on hand to watch Tuesday's proceedings.

"I could not feel more privileged than I do to cast my first vote as a member of the United States Senate to retain control of Congress and have pressed Obama to back them up in their legislative agenda.

"I will continue to fight for eco­nomic policies that will lead us out of this mess, and press Congress to act on more proposals to create new American jobs and strengthen our recovery, including a small-business jobs bill, aid for struggling states to prevent layoffs, and tax cuts for middle-class families," Obama said after the first Senate vote.

"Americans who are struggling to find a job and get back on their feet deserve more than the same political game-playing and failed policies that helped cause this recession."

Among the next priorities for Con­gress is approving legislation to fund the $37 billion troop surge in Afghan­istan, a bill that has stalled after the House added $10 billion to protect 140,000 teachers nationwide from layoffs this fall.

That bill appears unlikely to have the 60 votes needed to advance in the Senate.

Rep. John Boehner of Ohio, the House minority leader, took aim at the agenda and the president's foray into election year politics.

"The American people continue asking, where are the jobs?" Boehner said Tuesday. "All they continue to get are attacks on Republicans."

State of joblessness
Congress is finally poised to extend federal unemployment benefits. Unemployment rate, by state, June 2010:

3.5%-7.5% 7.6%-9.5% Above 9.5%

U.S. average 9.5%

NOTE: Alaska and Hawaii are not to scale
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

State of joblessness (cont'd)
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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www.mustangdaily.net
Reggae-punk band Pepper visits Mid-State Fair on Friday

Hawaiian-bred, reggae-punk trio Pepper will be playing at the California Mid-State Fair in Paso Robles Friday. The band is on tour with alternative rock group 311 and punk rock band The Offspring as a part of The Unity Tour 2010. The band will play on the Grandstand as a special guest. This marks the third time Pepper has toured with 311.

The Unity Tour package was booked for the Mid-State Fair because there is "clearly an audience for great rock bands like 311 and Pepper. Unlike Aerosmith (who is also playing at the Mid-State Fair), they have a harder-edged, but still solid rock-n-roll sound," concert promoter Ron Pateras of Jam Productions said.

Jam Productions, an independent concert and special events producer which operates in Chicago, was chosen to book the Mid-State Fair acts.

"We needed to book a diverse mix of genres. It's a state-run fair so we needed to address the area's tastes," Pateras said.

Pateras said 311 and Pepper fit the mold of the laid-back rock-n-roll many people of the Central Coast admire.

"We didn't have other bands that fit that style," Pateras said.

Pepper, hailing from The Big Island of Hawaii, has been working on new material which is being released from their own label, LAW Records. The label, which the band started in 2007, also manages popular Santa Barbara-based band Iration, who also hails from Hawaii. The band hopes to finish up building a studio for all of the bands to use once Pepper is done taking time off from touring. The label also wants to tour Hawaii in mid-December with Pepper as the headliner.

Pepper started playing its first shows in Santa Barbara while hanging out in Isla Vista with friends who lived there.

Now, whenever the members are in the area, "they hang out with their peeps." Their good friends include guys from the reggae-rock bands Sublime, Iration and the Mid-Caddies, Williams said.

In addition to other past shows on the Central Coast, Pepper also played at the end of Week of Welcome in September 2008.

Wine and viticulture junior and fan Marissa Monarrez attended the show.

"People were crowd-surfing. It was pretty intense. It was packed, it was super hot and people were really into it so they were standing up and moshing," Monarrez said.

"Pepper was so full of energy. They had good crowd interaction." The fans give Pepper its constant on-stage energy. Pepper drummer Voodo Williams said.

"If it wasn't for them giving us the energy, we wouldn't have that energy. It's an exchange," Williams said.

Monarrez said the popularity of this genre with Cal Poly students is a part of the Californian coastal lifestyle.

"I think being close to the beach and that kind of scene helps a lot. It's so laidback," Monarrez said.

University of California at Santa Barbara senior Ewen Hungerford describes Pepper's sound as similar to ska-punk-reggae band Sublime.

"They're like non-noon reggae-rock," Hungerford said. "It's not true reggae, or roots reggae, but they do incorporate it into their music."

Once in Paso Robles, the tour will wind down after a month-long run that took the bands through the states. The tour kicked off in Fairbanks, Alaska on June 18 and will come to an end on the West Coast.

"It's been great. It's a good way to get our feet wet because we haven't toured in eight or nine months," Williams said. Pepper plans on embarking on a longer tour later this year.

Even with all the traveling, the three bands find time to fire up their barbecues, light fireworks and hang out after a show before they visit a new city. Then they do the same thing all over again, Williams said.

"Pepper is promoting two new singles just recently released on iTunes, called "Wake Up" and "Mirrors." The two songs are available in a one-package deal for 99 cents. The band is planning on releasing more songs in a month or so," Williams said.

Pepper will also release a new full-length album sometime next year, Williams said. This will mark a follow-up to 2008's "Pink Crucifixions and Good Vibrations."

"Our sound is more unified. It's more collaborative," Williams said. "There's a better vibe all around."

Besides the laid-back grooves of Pepper, Mid-State Fair attendees can also expect performances by pop singer Justin Bieber, comedian and ventriloquist Jeff Dunham, alternative rock band Weezer, country artist Kenny Loggins, Keith Urban and Toby Keith, rocker Sammy Hagar, Aerosmith and more.

The Mid-State Fair ends Aug. 1. Tickets for the concert range from $25 to $70. The show begins at 7:30 p.m.

The Pepper trio, comprised of guitarist and vocalist kaleo Wassman, bassist and vocalist Bree Bollinger and drummer Ye-and Williams, started in Kailua-Kona on the Big Island of Hawaii in 1997. The band has become close with other Central Coast favorites Sublime and Iration.
Barry Koltnow
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Orange County, Calif., suffered a terrible blow to its growing reputation as a bad joke this week when "The Hills" aired its final episode after six seasons.

Yes, we still have "The Real Housewives of Orange County" to diminish our image in the eyes of the world, but "The Hills" was a classic piece of trash that will be hard to replace, although I assume some enterprising TV producer is already trying to come up with another concept to denigrate the county.

I would like to say that I was saddened at hearing the news that "The Hills" was going off the air, but that would presume that I watched it. Frankly, I couldn't tell you what night it aired if my life depended on it. In fact, I never even watched the show upon which it was based — "Laguna Beach: The Real Orange County."

Not watching a bad television program usually spares you from feeling its impact, but it was difficult to avoid "The Hills" and all the "gifts" it bestowed upon our celebrity-obsessed society.

For instance, many of you might not know that Heidi Montag and her ever-expanding breasts are associated with the reality show. What a delightful addition to our society she has been.

And, of course, where there's Heidi, there's Spencer. Yes, Spencer Pratt was on "The Hills" as well, and even though the show has ended, he is doggedly determined to stretch his 15 minutes of fame into at least 16 minutes. A day doesn't go by that the name "Spencer" does not appear in some writer's column. Guilty as charged.

Here's a personal confession: When I was forced to cover an appearance by Heidi and Spencer at a local bowling alley last year, I spoke to them without knowing that they had anything to do with "The Hills." I certainly knew all about them as a couple, but I thought they were a materialized out of thin air as tabloid celebrities. I was genuinely surprised to discover that they actually were connected to a TV show.

The same goes for Lauren Conrad, Kristin Cavallari and Audrina Patridge. I thought they were concocted by the tabloids simply because they were attractive and wore bikinis for no apparent reason. When I saw them on the covers of magazines, I always assumed that they were models. Who knew that they were actors?

To be fair, the cast members of "The Hills" are not the first to be chased down the street by celebrity photographers or featured repeatedly on gossip magazine covers. In the early 1990s, the casts of "Friends," "Beverly Hills 90210" and "Melrose Place" became instant celebrities when those shows started.

But it seemed to me that everybody knew they were actors. The same can't be said of the new tabloid celebrities, and this shift in the celebrity game can be traced to the introduction of reality television. Previously unknown "celebrities" pop up almost every day, and many of them come from the world of reality television, where acting skills are not as important as the ability to be noticed.

A show will replace "The Hills," and a new group of tabloid bimbos (I'm not limiting that to one gender) will replace Spencer, Heidi, Lauren, Kristin and Audrina. It's the nature of the beast. Tabloids and paparazzi need them in order to survive, and I hate to say it, but the public apparently needs it as well to get through another day.

I hear a lot of people complain about their superficial celebrity culture (including me), but a lot of people continue to watch the train wrecks (including me).

There are any number of reasonable explanations for this phenomenon, not the least of which is that it is good escapist fun that helps to momentarily forget about the war, the economy, the oil spill, the government and gas prices. We read about these tabloid people and think better about our own lives. We used to envy stars and wish that we could live like them. Now, when we read about Heidi Montag, we think, "Things could be worse; I could be her."

As I said, some bright television executive is trying to come up with the next generation of useless plastic celebrities. They will no doubt be young, attractive and full of themselves. Their on-screen work will not impress us, but their off-screen foibles will fascinate us. They will be photographed in awkward situations, and their legal troubles will keep us entertained.

But is it too much to ask that their shows be based somewhere else? Is it too much to ask that their show not have the words "Orange County," "Laguna Beach" or "The O.C." in it? Is it too much to ask that the show make fun of some other country?

"The Real Housewives of Orange County" has a nice ring to it.
Kindness in death for Yankees owner; Steinbrenner remembered as baseball saint

The New York media's most reviled baseball tycoon, George Steinbrenner, hat-died, and I expected reporters to announce that he Dr. Van Halen would deliver the eulogy. But Steinbrenner, portrayed for decades as the ultimate demonic ma­

The New York Yankee period in the 1980s and the early 1990s, Wings said, "The day the Yan­
kees hit him."

"People don't realize that they stunk, and they didn't win a World Series. I had to change my opinion," said Wings. "It was embarrassing to be a Yankee fan."

"I don't think they should fire him. I have never seen anyone else.

"Wings was a Yankee-hating White Sox fan like me. He thought of the whole thing as nuts."

"Wings' favorite player was the Yan­
kees captain, Don Mattingly, called Donny Baseball. I showed Wings a quote from Mattingly after Stein­
renner's death."

"I was embarrassed to be a Yankee fan. They were the worst team in the league. The Captain was on the bench, and I blamed Steinbrenner for every­thing," Wings said.

"Wings had been a lifelong Yankees fan. Wings called to ask his dad about that last Steinbrenner straw the 1985 firing of Yogi Berra as manager.

"That one really sticks in my craw," Wings said. Thursday Stein­

The Mustang Daily is a student publi­cation at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

editor & staff

editor in chief: Leticia Rodriguez
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comments

As a software engineering student, I am very excited for this establish­ment. I feel that this will be a great opportu­nity for students and faculty to get real world hands-on experi­ences.

Matt Johnson's journey.

— Allison Hasler

In response to "Writing career takes off from Cal Poly"

If you are as entertaining as this ar­ticle, I wouldn't blame Craigslist. Boozin' in.

— Anonymous

In response to "Looking for summer love? Don't use Craigslist!"

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Thursday, July 22, 2010

Woo-Whoo Daily by Justin Suthezar

Opinion/Editorial

Kindness in death for Yankees owner; Steinbrenner remembered as baseball saint

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"it's good that he was nice to the boy," Wings said. "but that doesn't change the fact that he was a psychotic (bleeper)."

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Former football player dies

Haden to replace Garrett as USC athletic director

BY BILL DAEYE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES — Pat Haden will replace Mike Garrett as athletic director, beginning Aug. 3.

Garrett, the school's former Heisman Trophy-winning running back for the last 17 years, is expected to take the school's retirement package.

Garrett came under fire recently when USC was put on four years of NCAA penalties.

"He's a nice vacation," Radeke said.

Radeke's role in this season's "General Manager" is to get playing time with other collegiate players before entering Division-I play.

"It's less of a culture shock, you know," Radeke said.

"We need to meet new people and develop friendships, and take a break from their respective collegiate teams' dynamic," Howell said.

"He was USC's starting quarterback, and now he's an assistant coach," said Garrett, who played in nine games as a freshman in 2005, mostly on special teams.

"And when my wife agreed — "I've known him since my college days," said Garrett, a member of the USC track team.

"We need to get out there and fill it with J.K. McKay, an LA.

"My hope is that they understand their abilities and utilize them at the next level," Howell said.

"It's not a culture shock, you know," Radeke said.

"I've been working extensively with Hoo on all of the things he will need to be effective as a Cal Poly catcher," Howell said.

"We need to get out there and fill it with J.K. McKay, an LA.

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