Diversity Series: Part Two

Asking tough questions about disability

Erin Hurley
MUSTANGDAILYWIRE0GMAJL.COM

When on campus, walking to class, listening to a lecture or reading a PowerPoint presentation in class seems simple enough. But for some Cal Poly students, these tasks and others can be difficult parts of their daily routine.

The number of students with disabilities on campus is not large which can make their difficulties harder for the rest of the campus to see and understand. However, people involved in serving these students believe the school is generally understanding and willing to help.

At any one time on the Cal Poly campus there are between 450 and 600 students with temporary or permanent disabilities, said Disability Resource Center Access Specialist Chris Parker-Kennedy. Up to 90 percent of those students have disabilities that are not obvious to the public, or "invisible" disabilities.

"These students want to fit in," said Access Specialist Vanessa Dominguez. "They don't want to be labeled as 'disabled' — they are students who have disabilities."

One concern for the DRC is upholding students’ confidentiality, Dominguez said.

"Students are often worried about their disability being revealed in their classes, so we work with professors to emphasize the importance of confidentiality," Dominguez said. "Most do a great job."

Dominguez said some students with disabilities don’t hear about the services the DRC offers until a few years into their education at Cal Poly. They tell her they wish they had found out sooner. But Parker-Kennedy said some don’t come out of fear of being discovered.

"Many students are concerned if they come into the DRC it may go on their permanent record, so they may not come in at all," Parker-Kennedy said.

Cal Poly’s Universal Design initiative began three years ago and pushes for professors to use and offer materials in class that are accessible to everyone, such as captioned PowerPoint presentations. The response from professors who receive training on the initiative is great so far, Parker-Kennedy said, and sets the tone for the way students with disabilities are treated in classes.

To find out how students with disabilities feel about how responsive the campus is to their needs and how
Armstrong continued from page 1

overwhelmed with the responsibilities he will take on. Rather, Armstrong plans on using the "talented individuals" the university possesses to help him accomplish goals and get work done.

"Cal Poly boasts some of the highest quality individuals who are the best in (their) business," Armstrong said. "I am not afraid to delegate work to someone (their) business," Armstrong said, "I am so impressed that students at Cal Poly are the people here at Cal Poly, and I have not seen the cynicism and negativity apparent at other universities here," Glidden said. "Everyone's happy — it's the happiest place in the U.S. didn't you hear?" Armstrong seconds Glidden's feelings. He said there has been an organized and concentrated effort to facilitate a smooth transition, but he also said it's been a learning process because there hasn't been a new president in 30 years.

Part of that learning process will involve dealing with Cal Poly's most pressing issues, and at the forefront is the California State University budget. Business administration senior Patricia Ashabi said the budget is something that cannot be ignored by the new presidency. Glidden said it will not be an easy battle because students don't always understand that the blame doesn't rest with the president just because he's in charge.

"Most of the budget problems are out of (Armstrong's) control," Glidden said. "Learning on the advice and expertise of past leaders enabled Armstrong to feel more comfortable and prepared for his upcoming role and will help him deal with tough situations. "I feel really lucky," Armstrong said. "I have not one, but three people to draw advice from: ( former president) Warren Baker, Provost Kooi and Dr. Glidden. Each person has served as president for a university before — they're sort of seen it all."

Armstrong said he plans to "keep things simple," be transparent and unfraid of admitting he does not know the answer because "that's the only way to earn people's trust."

"Everyone has (fairly) consistently given me the same advice: don't make things overly complicated, and appreciate and enjoy the transition process."

"Whether it's a money management issue that the president can directly control is (somewhat) irrelevant," Ashabi said. "Students need to feel like the new president is on their side... fighting to keep costs down and working to find a solution."

Glidden also said the budget would be one of the toughest issues Armstrong will deal with during his presidency. Glidden said it will not be an easy battle because students don't always understand that the blame doesn't rest with the president just because he's in charge.

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Fraternity booths defaced

Victoria Billings
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Vandals targeted the rush booths of four fraternities over the weekend.

The IFC statement also said the vandalism was misrepresentative of Cal Poly's community.

One person is dead and another hospitalized after a semi-truck hit aerry crash on Highway 101 Monday morning, according to California Highway Patrol Officer Toby Adriance.

One person is dead and another hospitalized after a semi-truck hit a three-vehicle collision on Highway 101, according to California Highway Patrol Officer Toby Adriance.

The driver of a semi-truck, Jose Hernandez Estrada from Santa Maria, was able to exit his vehicle before suffering any major injuries. He was rushed to Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center and treated for minor injuries. He was rushed to Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center and treated for minor injuries.

The northbound fast lane was reopened at 11:34 p.m. to through traffic. The other two lanes remained closed with the vehicles unmovwed as investigators worked. All lanes were open again by 1:52 p.m., Adriance said.

It was also unknown if drugs or alcohol played a role by time of press, and although the semi-truck was carrying automotive products in the truck trailer, Adriance said it does not appear this played a role in the collision or the aftermath.

There were quite a bit of damage just from the collision, and once the fire started it was a pretty mess scene," Adriance said.

Erik Vlackevich is a local mountain biker who drove up the grade often to bike in the West Cuesta Ridge area.

Cuesta Grade crash results in fatality

Karie Prazak
KARIELPRAZAK.MD@GMAIL.COM

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Homeland Security fed up with attitude of public officials toward U.S.–Mexico border

Brian Bennett
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

Battling the widespread perception that U.S. border cities have become increasingly more dangerous, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano on Monday called on public officials to stop exaggerating the violence occurring on the U.S. side of the Mexico border and "be honest with the people we serve."

In a speech in El Paso, Texas, Napolitano cited FBI crime statistics that show violence crime rates in Southwest border counties are down 30 percent over the past two decades and are "among the lowest in the nation."

Napolitano's effort to change the public's mind about crime along the border follows a heated campaign season last fall that saw candidates in border states frequently emphasizing the impact of illegal immigration on their communities.

Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer was criticized during last year's campaign for saying that headlines bodies were being found in the Arizona desert, a statement she later retracted after local coroners could not confirm her claim.

A handful of mayors in the region said they portrayed the towns as dangerous places to live and work has hurt their towns economically.

"Let's stick with the facts," Napolitano said. "We need to be up front and clear about what's really happening along our border."

Even as the drug war has escalated just south of the U.S. border in Mexico, crime rates in Arizona border towns have remained essentially flat, said Napolitano, who linked the public safety gains to the addition of manpower and technology in the border region.

Also, the number of illegal immigrants apprehended at the border — an indication of illegal cross-border traffic — has dropped 36 percent over the past two years, Napolitano said.

"Everybody has their own stats about whether crime is going up or going down," said Matthew Benson, spokesman for Brewer. "The issue is there are tens of thousands of people being murdered immediately across the border in Mexico by the cartels. The cartels know who the victim is by the cartels will begin spilling across the border."

Napolitano's view of public safety has improved in the border region, "don't mock the stuff she was saying when she was governor of this state," Benson said. Napolitano was Arizona governor from 2003 to January 2009.

For Arizona cattle ranchers, the day-to-day reality of drug and human smugglers traversing their property is "far more impacting" than Napolitano's comments, said U.S. Rep. Ben Quayle, R-Ariz.

"Statistics and averages might mean something to government bureaucrats and analysts in Washington, but try telling the people who deal with these realities every day that the violence along the border has subsidized," said Quayle, who won his congressional seat in November.

Napolitano's talk points about security on the border "has more to do with political pivoting for the 2012 elections than it does with what is happening on the border," said Paul Babeu, sheriff of Pinal County, 35 miles outside Phoenix.

The country covers an area larger than the state of Connecticut, has the highest concentration of humans and drug smuggling traffic in the U.S., and Babeu says, pursuits of criminal suspects and drug arrears are at their lowest levels.

But Angela Kelley, an immigration policy expert at the Center for American Progress in Washington, argued that there is "a pretty big disconnect" between the public perception about safety along the border and what the statistics show.

"When you have politicians stirring the pot and running up the heat on people's emotions and fear levels, you don't have a constructive debate on what to do," she said.

Washington releases new rules for healthy living

Andrew Zajac
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

In a new attempt to help an overweight nation slim down and improve its long-term health, the government released new dietary guidelines that called on Americans to eat less, cut down on salt, bulk up on fruits and vegetables and try water instead of sugary soft drinks.

The guidelines, part of an every-five-years re-examination of the nation's diet, generally paralleled past recommendations by the government and outside groups, but this time it put special emphasis on salt as a special dietary culprit.

It recommended reducing sodium intake by more than half for all people 51 and older, all African-Americans and everyone with high blood pressure, diabetes or kidney disease — all together about half of all Americans.

The guidance was addressed to a U.S. population in which one-third of children and a majority of adults are overweight or obese and seemingly impervious to warnings about unhealthy eating.

Many of the new recommendations are stronger in tone than the 2005 guidelines, aimed at awakening the public to the links between unhealthy eating habits and such chronic killers as diabetes, cancer, stroke and heart disease.

And this time the government emphasized the economic and the medical price of unhealthy eating.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, who unveiled the guidelines with Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, said three-quarters of every health care dollar is spent on chronic diseases related to diet — imposing a huge financial cost on business, governments and household budgets.

Past guidance has been "opaque ... and there has been not much focus on how this impacts us as a nation," said Sebelius, whose department co-authored the guidelines with the Agriculture Department.

Some nutrition experts, while lauding the guidelines overall, said that their impact would be blunted because of an unwillingness to name specific foods to be avoided or consumed in smaller quantities.

Vilsack underscored the magnitude of the communications challenge, saying, "I must admit personally I never read the dietary guidelines until I got this job."

The advice on sodium was perhaps the most drastic recommended diet alteration.

Americans consume an average of about 3,400 mg of sodium daily, well above the 2,300 mg recommended daily upper limit.

The new guidelines recommend that the half of the U.S. population in a risk group lower intake to about 1,500 mg.

That likely will be hard to do amid warnings to consumers, because about 90 percent of a person's sodium comes from restaurant or packaged food, not the salt shaker.

"You have to look at a label or a (food) company website," said Margo Wootan, nutrition policy director for the American Institute for Science in the Public Interest.

Wootan praised the guidelines for straightforwardness that she said will help consumers understand what they need to do.

For example, Wootan said, the new document may refer to a fruit in the series dating back to 1980 to state the obvious: "eat less — and to offer an image rather than a measurement of a proper portion: "make half your plate fruits and vegetables."

"It's so clear," Wootan said.

The guidelines also advocated simply urging consumers to eat nuts or fat-free milk and directly discouraged consumption of "added sugars or caloric sweeteners."

Previous beverage guidance urged the selection of "beverages with little or no added sugar" and increasingly"chowed" and "enjoyed." The most useful thing they could do is name specific foods to be avoided.

Nurtitionist Marion Nestle said the new guidelines are a substantial improvement over earlier versions, because she said the government pulled punches by failing to name foods to be avoided, in deference to powerful food lobbyists who don't want their products passed over by consumers.

Nestle said the guidelines use the acronym "SOFAS," which stands for solid fats and added sugars.

"Why don't they just say what they mean: eat less meat, sodas, snack foods?" said she teaches at New York University. "The most useful thing they could do is name specific foods to be avoided.

While purely advisory, the dietary guidelines influence decisions in school food programs. Meals on Wheels, and directly discouraged consumption of "added sugars or caloric sweeteners."

And the Food and Drug Administration is working with food producers to improve nutrition information on food labels and with restaurants to add nutrition information to menus.

when news breaks... we've got it covered
Disability (continued from page 3)

accommodating their professors are, the DRC conducts a yearly questionnaire as part of the CSU Quality Improvement Program. Dominguez said the results show four out of five students surveyed said they were satisfied with their treatment at Cal Poly.

The DRC also stresses the importance of making the school’s website accessible to students with visual disabilities. In December 2010, a study by the Chronicle of Higher Education reviewed the websites of 183 universities across the country for accessibility. Cal Poly was ranked as having the third most accessible website.

Despite the high ranking, Dominguez said there are still some areas of the campus that could be improved for students with disabilities.

“Transportation is still an issue,” Dominguez said. “The van service ends at 4:30 or 4:45 every day, and students still have class after that. The construction makes the campus hard to navigate as well.”

According to the Cal Poly Facilities website, there are 31 DRC tram stops on campus. A document released in March 2010 by the University Police Department reports that there are 183 handicapped parking spots on campus. As of January 2011, there are 152 state-maintained accessible restrooms on campus, according to a report by Facilities.

Dominguez, member of the Inclusive Excellence Council along with Vice President of Inclusive Excellence (IE) David Cona, said the scope of IE includes students with disabilities, and its goals fit with those of the DRC as well.

The Center for Teaching and Learning supports academic development by offering resources and building events to help faculty learn more about effective teaching methods. Center director and architecture professor Bruno Giberti said he thinks the campus tries to do the right thing when it comes to students with disabilities, but he’s not sure the same is true with individual knowledge.

“The campus has made investments like the DRC, but there will always be people who are more or less sensitive to the issue,” Giberti said.

For instance, faculty are hired based on their expertise in a certain discipline, not for their expertise in how to deal with students with disabilities, Giberti said.

“It’s asking them to stretch a bit, and the reaction will vary,” Giberti said. “There’s always room for improvement.”

The Center for Teaching and Learning will host a workshop this month to educate faculty on how to address diversity in classes that don’t regularly encounter those issues, including the issue of students with disabilities. Giberti also said the Center holds ongoing workshops on teaching faculty about the Universal Design initiative.

Vice President for Student Affairs Conal Morton said he sees the Cal Poly faculty as very responsive to accommodating students with disabilities, and he hasn’t received reports of any outright resistance to supporting these students. He said he is pleased with how faculty and staff come together from different parts of the school on behalf of students with disabilities.

“It’s not smooth sailing all the time, but students served by the DRC are served by a willingness to help,” Morton said. “A lot of it has to do with transportation, the cost of new resources and asking whether we have the best ways to serve the students.”

Connecting people to the resources they need is one of the most important things that can be done to support students with disabilities on campus, Parker-Kennedy said. Dominguez said he hopes the DRC can do more to get its name out.

“We really want to encourage people to think globally,” Parker-Kennedy said. “We encourage incorporating teaching techniques that appeal to all people.”

Crash (continued from page 3)

Vukcevich said he makes a left turn where the sedan crossed over into the southbound lanes to park before he rides. He said it is dangerous at times because it isn’t possible to see around the corner while making the left, and “it is one of the steepest roads in the area.”

Since semi-trucks don’t reach the same speeds as smaller cars, he said he usually isn’t worried when driving by them up the grade and was surprised to hear about the accident.

“I think the crash is a tragedy, but I’ve never heard it happen before,” Vukcevich said. “I think that left turn needs to be there. I hope they don’t wall it off so you have to go to the next road and turn around.

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Briefs

State

SANTA CRUZ (MCT) — Three cars were spray-painted with swastikas and other graffiti over the weekend in what deputies are investigating as a hate crime, the Sheriff's Office reported.

The crimes were reported Sunday morning at and near an apartment complex on Chanticleer Avenue near Muriel Drive, said Sgt. Dan Campos, spokesman for the Sheriff's Office.

A white Dodge truck had a derogatory term, plus a swastika, painted on the driver's side of the truck in black spray paint, Campos said.

An orange Smart Car had a swastika painted on its windshield, he said, while a red Honda CRV had black paint on it which was indecipherable.

Campos said such graffiti is rare.

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SACRAMENTO (MCT) —

The Sacramento County Office of Education is preparing overflow rooms for Tuesday evening's Board of Education meeting, where a proposal for 10 charter schools will be presented and possibly voted on.

The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. at the county Office of Education at 19674 Mather Blvd. Proponents of Margaret Fortune's charter schools have flooded the county Board of Education with 471 postcards and 46 letters of support.

Trustees from Sacramento City Unified and Twin Rivers Unified have voiced opposition.

The schools will aim at closing the African American achievement gap, but will be open to any student, regardless of race.

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ILLINOIS (MCT) —

Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn on Monday signed into law a measure legalizing civil unions for same-sex couples for the first time in the state.

"We believe in civil rights, and we believe in civil unions," Quinn said. "We believe in liberty and justice for all."

The measure, approved last month during the General Assembly's lame-duck session, lets gay men and lesbians use civil unions as a way to enjoy several of the same rights as people who are married, ranging from sharing a nursing home room to being involved in dramatic end-of-life decisions.

The law takes effect June 1. It also applies to heterosexual couples.

The lengthy bill signing ceremony took place at a packed Chicago Cultural Center.

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MICHIGAN (MCT) —

The Plymouth-Canton school district has opted to allow Sikh students to wear a small, religious dagger to school.

The decision reverses a ban put in place in December after a fourth-grade boy at Bentley Elementary School in Canton was found with a dull 3- to 5-inch kirpan, a dagger and a religious symbol that baptized Sikh males are expected to carry.

In Sikh tradition, the kirpan represents a commitment to fight evil.

The school board instituted a ban because of concerns from parents and conflict with prohibitions against bringing weapons to school.

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NEW YORK (MCT) —

Plans by Mexico's once-dominant Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, to score a comeback in next year's presidential elections stumbled Monday when vote-counting showed that its candidate had lost a key gubernatorial race.

PRI candidate Manuel Añorve won just 42.6 percent of the vote in the race for governor of Guerrero state, home to the violence-ridden Pacific resort of Acapulco.

The winner in Sunday's bal­loting was Angel Aguirre, who headed a coalition of leftist parties and received 56 percent of the vote, election officials said.

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International

SOMALIA (MCT) —

At least 17 civilians were killed and 56 injured in the Somali capital of Mogadishu on Monday when a soldier fired an anti-aircraft gun into a crowd, witnesses and officials said.

Soldiers had killed a plainclothes policeman, triggering a tense standoff as his heavily armed colleagues came to confront the troops.

A soldier then triggered the anti-aircraft gun mounted atop a truck, although it was not clear if it was accidental or intentional.

Abdihakin Mohamed Fqi, Somalia's Defense Minister, visited the wounded and promised an investigation.

"We are very sorry for what happened, but we should bring to justice those responsible for the incident," he said.

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Florida judge calls Obamacare unconstitutional in court decision

Noam N. Levey
David G. Savage
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

A federal judge in Florida dealt President Barack Obama's health care overhaul another legal blow Monday, ruling the entire law unconstitutional because of provisions mandating that Americans get health insurance starting in 2014. U.S. District Judge Roger Vinson's closely watched decision delivered the most sweeping blow to the landmark law since Obama signed it last March and could complicate implementation in some states even though the Florida ruling is not binding anywhere.

The Washington lawyer who represented the 26 states challenging the law said the ruling frees them from complying from all its provisions, including requiring states not to cut people from their Medicaid programs as some governors have said they want to do.

"For the 26 states that were parties to this suit, the entire statute is dead," David B. Rivkin jr said. "Ihe decision has immediate force, and it means all the new Medicaid stuff is gone."

Obama administration officials disputed Rivkin's analysis Monday and indicated that they would appeal the ruling and might seek to stay Vinson's decision.

"We don't believe this kind of judicial activism will be upheld and we are confident that the Affordable Care Act will ultimately be declared constitutional," Assistant to the President Stephanie Cutter said in a White House blog post.

In Arizona, a spokesman for Republican Gov. Jan Brewer, who is pressing the Obama administration for permission to cut people from its Medicaid rolls, said the state would not abandon those efforts.

"We are not going to back down unsubstantially," said the spokesman, Matthew Benson. Arizona is among the states represented in the Florida lawsuit.

More broadly, there is agreement that with lower federal courts now evenly divided on the law's constitutionality, the legal fate of Obama's signature domestic achievement will ultimately be decided by higher courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court.

Vinson could render a decision on the law as soon as next year.

In two separate lawsuits, two other federal courts have already ruled that the law's insurance mandate is permissible under the so-called Commerce Clause of the Constitution.

A third federal judge in Virginia ruled last month in another suit that the mandate is unconstitutional, though he stopped short of invalidating the whole law.

Vinson's stinging rejection of the mandate as an overextension of government power appears certain to further energize GOP efforts to dismantle the law, which are now proceeding in the courts as well as on Capitol Hill.

In often colorful language that drew on the original Boston Tea Party, Vinson, an appointee of President Ronald Reagan, categorically rejected the Obama administration's argument that Congress' broad powers to regulate commerce allowed lawmakers to require Americans to buy a product like health insurance.

"The existing problems in our national health care system are recognized," Vinson wrote in his 78-page decision. "There is widespread sentiment for positive improvements that will reduce costs, improve the quality of care and expand availability in a way that the nation can afford. Regardless of how laudable its attempts may have been to accomplish these goals in passing the Act, Congress must operate within the bounds of the Constitution."

Vinson warned that if Congress could mandate health insurance, Congress could decide for Americans "whether and when (or not) to buy a house, a car, a television, a dinner or even a morning cup of coffee."

"It is difficult to imagine," Vinson said, "that a nation which began, at least in part, as the result of opposition to a British mandate giving the East India Company a monopoly and imposing a nominal tax on all tea sold in America would have set out to create a government with the power to force people to buy teas in the first place."

The insurance requirement in the health care law was designed to spread risk more broadly and control insurance premiums, enabling the federal government to offer consumers other protections like prohibiting insurers from denying coverage to patients with pre-existing medical conditions.

Without a mandate, healthy Americans would be able to avoid buying insurance until they got sick.

That phenomenon, which has occurred in several states that have -guaranteed coverage without any insurance requirements, has helped drive up premiums.

"People who make an economic decision to forego health insurance do not opt out of the health care market," said Cutter at the White House. "As Congress found, every year millions of people without insurance obtain health care they cannot pay for, shifting billions of dollars in costs onto those who have insurance and onto taxpayers."

But the mandate remains the most unpopular feature of the health overhaul and has helped galvanize a nationwide Republican attack on the new law.

Nineteen states joined Florida on the suit last year; Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Indiana, Idaho, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and Washington.

And in January, six more states joined the lawsuit after new GOP governors took office.

These include Ohio, Kansas, Wyoming, Wisconsin, Maine and Iowa.

Except for Louisiana — which is represented in the lawsuit by its Democratic attorney general — the states are represented by Republican attorneys general or governors.

Several dozen leading consumer groups, medical associations and patient advocates have joined the Obama administration in defending the new law.

These include the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network; the American Diabetes Association; the American Heart Association; the American Nurses Association; the American Medical Association; the American Hospital Association; the Catholic Health Association of the United States; the National Breast Cancer Coalition; Families USA; Consumers Union; and the March of Dimes Foundation.
Erik Hansen is a graduate student pursuing a Master of Public Policy and the "When I Was a Mustang..." columnist.

I caught a news story over the weekend about a young man who was "strong-arm robbed" — which is a technical term for mugged — on Foothill Boulevard Saturday morning. This occurrence coincides well with the fear that has been going on ever since Oprah named San Luis Obispo as the happiest place in the Milky Way Galaxy last week.

What kind of persons — I won't give them the honor of calling them men — would do such a thing? When I read the news story, it said the two persons who mugged the young man stole his shoes — WTF. What kind of person would want to steal another person's shoes? I'm digesting though.

While pedophiles, rapists and murderers are at the bottom of the barrel, thieves, thugs and assholes don't always fare all that much better in my book, and they are the ones who we are most likely to cross paths with in everyday life. Ideally, one should be able to just shrug off petty crimes as a consequence of living in an imperfect world. However, something still boils inside me when I hear about a crime like the one that occurred last Saturday, even when it has no connection to me or anyone I know personally.

While we could take this article in one direction and try to establish what Charles Bronson would do in real life, going full Chuck Norris on an assailant should only be reserved for when all your chips have been played and there is no other course of action to take.

The other direction we could go in is to call and get an interview with the San Luis Obispo Police Department, where they will tell us the best thing to do is to simply hand over your possessions and get a description of the perpetrators. Then file a police report.

That's nice. Thanks for the interview. You guys are really keeping the city safe by hiding out and giving me that seachbats ticker over the summer, but you are nowhere to be found on Foothill Boulevard at 2 a.m. on a Saturday, where and when you know nothing good is going on.

How about we go neither direction, step back and take a pragmatic look at the situation, realizing that crime happens everywhere, even in the happiest place in the universe. Is this an increasing or decreasing occurrence? And I don't care about comparisons with other cities, or how the nation is doing on a whole.

Yes, according to the FBI's preliminary 2010 statistics, crime is continuing to decrease across the nation, even in this shaky economy. But how are we doing as a city?

Well, according to the FBI's latest complete set of crime statistics for the city of San Luis Obispo, from 2001 to 2009, we have seen a decrease in the reporting of most major crimes: aggravated assault (down 45 percent), burglary (down 18 percent), larceny (down 7 percent) and auto theft (down 49 percent). This could be due in part to the city's stringent enforcement of the California seatbelt law. However, there are two glaring categories that have seen an uptick in reporting during this same time period: rape (up 30 percent) and robbery (up 129 percent). While in no way discounting the horrendous crime of rape, in light of the latest occurrence just this last weekend, it's disappointing to see such a steep increase in robberies reported in our city.

I am sure some people with a more conservative bend in their thinking have their reasons why this type of crime is increasing, and how we could fight it, just as those with a more liberal point of view have their own reasons why this type of crime is increasing, and how to best handle it. Someone else can handle that discussion. The point of this column is to make you aware of the facts, as the numbers don't lie or have an opinion of their own.

Without the intent of trying to scare anyone, as San Luis Obispo is still an extremely safe place to live and have fun in, use common sense and weigh those numbers before you place yourself in a vulnerable situation — one of the best ways to prevent yourself from becoming a victim is to take away the opportunity for a criminal to victimize you. Walk home in a group, don't carry anything expensive with you if you don't have to and be cognizant of your surroundings. All of these things are no-brainers and were probably pounded into everyone's first week at Cal Poly during Week of Welcome.

While in a perfect world, everyone would be home safe and sound, there are moments to stumble home drunk, stoned or completely sober whenever they damn well please, we don't live in a perfect world... even if we do live in the happiest place in the nation.

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**Dates That Left You Dazzled!**

Be Mustang Daily readers, it's that time of year again — time to give away those Diamond Hearts. The Mustang Daily is giving away a Diamond Heart from All That Glitters to one lucky Mustang Daily reader! All you have to do is enter your name and email:

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**Horoscopes**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1**

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** — You can afford to be a little more demonstrative — in personal situations as well as professional negotiations.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)** — You won't be expected to do what others are doing, but you may be asked to come through with a few key promises.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** — You may have reason to celebrate before the day is out, but you don't want to show any sign that you think you are above anyone else.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** — Recreation proves essential to you at this time, and the more you explore certain outcomes, the greater your enjoyment — and benefits.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** — You do not achieve a lot of success before the day is out, but you don't want to show any sign that you think you are above anyone else.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** — Someone you've only talked to at this time, and the more you explore certain outcomes, the greater your enjoyment — and benefits.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** — You'll be taking care of more than your own, but the situation overall will empower you and have you feeling on top of the world.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** — Make a start, and the finish line will approach faster than expected. Don't simply wait for someone else to motivate you.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** — You're able to think a bit more like a rebel, and that will surely give you a distinct advantage when you meet face to face.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** — Now is no time to let an opportunity pass you by, even one that doesn't seem to promise much in the way of personal gain.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** — You want to show someone new in your life just what you're made of, but how far are you willing to go? Anticipate consequences.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** — Certain signs point to the solution that you've been looking for. These numbers may figure prominently in your thinking.
As a member of Cal Poly's "dancesport" team, you have to earn your team jacket. Team member Amy Leung earned her jacket after catching dance fever during a competition at San Jose State University.

"I was so nervous and scared," Leung said. "I didn't even have a partner. I was like, 'I'm just going to go watch my friends. I'm not going to compete ever.' I watched it and I was so hooked. I was like, 'I want to go dance.'"

Leung, left the sidelines and twirled her way on stage at the next competition to merit a jacket, a symbol of earning one's spot on the team.

The green dancesport jacket Leung and her teammates wear shows off their unconventional sport of choice: ballroom dancing. Just like the popular television show "Dancing with the Stars," this competitive style of ballroom dance showcases different styles and techniques. From the Cha Cha to the Waltz, each style of ballroom dance showcases a level and a dance style. The level ranges from "newcomer" to "open" and each level has certain dance techniques partners can use to earn points from the judges. Several couples dance on the floor at once and as the dance progresses, couples are cut from the floor until there are six couples. From there, they are ranked from first to sixth.

"The reason they call it a sport is because we actually train like athletes," Leung said. 

Though many of the couples on the dance floor will be college-aged students, Leung said competitive dance duos of any age can register to participate. For those who are not ready to participate but enjoy social dancing, there will be periods of free dance throughout the day at the Mustang Ball. Cal Poly students can watch for free with their ID card.

"Even if you've never danced before, we'll get you dancing," Elwood said. "That's how we give to the community — we teach them how to dance."

Many club members join with no dance experience. Such was the case of Leung and Nguyen. They started dancing for the ballroom club team last year with minimal dance experience. Since then, they have accelerated quickly into becoming advanced dancers.

"Amy and Khoa are our up-and-coming couple that's doing really well," Elwood said. "In the San Jose competition they did really well. They got a bunch of firsts."

At the San Jose State University Ballroom Classic competition in November 2010, the couple took first place in several of the bronze and silver categories.

Just like Nguyen and Leung, art and design senior and president of the dancesport team Jade Blessinger hadn't placed a toe on the dance floor before trying the sport.

"I was a waterpolo player and a rower and a jock in high school," Blessinger said. "I wanted to try something new. The reason I've been able to succeed faster is because I was in band when I was in high school. Attention to rhythm in music is a big thing you need to know when you're in dance."

What Blessinger is looking forward to at the Mustang Ball is the last dance number, which will feature "Dancing with the Stars" choreographer and world-renowned ballroom dancer Steve Vasco and his partner, Joanna Siekierska.

"We've had showcase couples that were outstanding but in terms of how high he is on the totem pole of dance he's just perfect," Blessinger said. "I'm so excited to see his performance. It's going to be awesome."
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Sorority and Fraternities!
We have a directory dedicated just for your needs.
Check out the Go Greek Directory on Monday!

The kumquat brings competition for candy

Heather Rockwood is a food science junior and Mustang Daily food columnist.

As a college student, I find myself busier than ever and in need of refueling. But as always, time is a primary consideration when determining which snack I will attack next.

College students like us need a convenient, quick and tasty snack to keep us going throughout the day. Sometimes I feel so busy (or lazy) that even peeling an orange or banana seems like too much work.

On days like that, I need something even simpler. On those days I grab a handful of olive-sized kumquats and pop the entire fruit in my mouth — peel and all.

In fact, the peel of the kumquat, which is primarily made up of essential oils responsible for the majority of the fruit’s aroma, is much sweeter than the flesh. As you sink your teeth into the flesh you will be met with a mild sweetness that lures you to keep eating, and then you hit the explosive center of sour sweetness. This flavor profile makes these delicious fruits nature’s own Sweet Tarts candy — with so many more benefits than those of the familiar Mr. Wonka.

The wide flavor range of kumquats allows extreme versatility in cooking and eating. Clearly, eating kumquats raw is the quickest no-hassle method. However, kumquats can also be candied and cooked to create wonderful jams, jellies and preserves that can be used to top breads and desserts. Cooking undercuts the acidity of the tart flesh and allows for kumquats to enhance meat dishes such as pork, chicken and duck. The small size of the fruit makes for colorful additions to barbecue skewers.

When selecting kumquats from the market it is very important to choose fruits lacking blemishes, with firm, brightly-colored skin that shows no sign of shriveling. The skin is a very important factor to consider for quality, especially since you will be eating it.

At home you can store kumquats on the table in a decorative bowl, a beautiful centerpiece of vibrant color — that is until they get gobbled up by your roommates. If you prefer to consume your fruit at colder temperatures, place the fruits in an airtight container and they will keep in the fridge for up to two weeks.

These small jewels originated from China, their name is derived from the Cantonese “gam gwat” meaning “golden orange.” Often associated with prosperity and wealth, these fruits are given as gifts of good luck to friends and family members on Chinese New Year.

Businessmen often debate about which family to place kumquats in because of its great similarity to oranges, and so they are often considered to be part of the Citrus family. However, some botanists have given kumquats their own family: Fortunella, named after the horticulturist who brought the fruits from Asia to Europe and later North America.

Don’t forget this Thursday, Feb. 3, marks the beginning of the year of the Rabbit and Chinese New Year. What a perfect excuse to make a trip downtown to Farmers’ Market and buy a basket of kumquats to give to your friends, professors, neighbors and anyone else you want to wish a prosperous new year.

HINT: “Killer Tofu” was one of their top hits.

Candied Kumquats with a Kick

Ingredients:
• 1/2 cup roughly chopped kumquats (roughly 1-1 1/2 lbs.)
• 1 cup water
• 2 cups of sugar
• 1 teaspoon each nutmeg, cinnamon, ground allspice

Directions:
1. Roughly chop the kumquats.
2. Heat the water and sugar over high heat until it comes to a boil. Simmer for 4 minutes. Add the kumquats and spices and simmer for 10 more minutes.
3. Remove kumquats with a slotted spoon. Set aside. Reduce syrup in the pan by simmering for 5 more minutes. Take the syrup and add more spice according to taste.
4. Combine the kumquats and 1/4 cup of the syrup together, and enjoy!

Sorority and Fraternities!
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Check out the Go Greek Directory on Monday!

mustangdaily.net
It’s the best thing since sliced bread.
Another Type of Groove celebrates Black History Month

Katelyn Sweigart
KATELYNSWEIGART.MD@GMAIL.COM

Brutha Gimel, spoken word poet and co-founder of Da' Poetry Lounge in Los Angeles, will be the featured poet of Another Type of Groove for Black History Month. As a DJ, Gimel has been at the turntable for the holiday parties of the shows "The King of Queens" and "CSI: Miami," was a member of Seattle's National Slam Team and was a part of Roni Walters' "Backstreet Poets."

Generally, a lot of the featured poets are found on YouTube and invited to be a guest at Another Type of Groove (ATOG). This is Brutha Gimel's first ATOG, but he came to Cal Poly in 2008 during May Mayhem, which highlighted University Union programs. He also performed several love poems, coordinator of Multicultural Programs and Services Renoda Campbell said.

"He evoked a lot of positive emotions," Campbell said. "He has a spectrum of poetry he recites, or 'spits.' You spit spoken word."

While ATOG involves various forms of poetic expression — beatboxing, songs and basic poems — Gimel is known for his spoken word poetry. Marielle Cuison, lead advocate of ATOG, said while people hear 'poetry,' they always think it is like Shakespeare, but spoken word is for this generation — more upfront and a bit aggressive.

"It's like performance poetry," Cuison said. "It's meant to be said out loud."

The show will start off with an open mic session, followed by a set performed by Gimel. There will be a brief intermission and then a repeat, Cuison said she expects the guest poet to be good, since she has listened to Gimel on YouTube and his co-founders have been to Cal Poly before.

During open mic, people have a lot to say about a variety of topics. However, people come with an open mind and no one has become upset enough to yell at the performers, Cuison said.

"I would expect people would be kind of angry, like 'Why did they say that?' or 'How could they say that?"' Cuison said. "But at the same time we have to respect that. You can't call it open mic if it's not open."

Electrical engineering senior Adonna Anderson was not only an emcee, but also a participant in ATOG. Anderson said she attends the events as often as she can and thinks everyone should attend ATOG at least once to see if they like it.

The poets address a diversity of topics, including love, life, politics, diversity and their families, and the audience gets someone else's perspective on life in the form of a poem, which is "creative and always cool," Anderson said.

"Honestly, if people go to it and get something out of it, it's the best fulfillment," Anderson said. "I get inspired from going to it, so hopefully someone gets inspired."

While she hasn't heard Gimel, Anderson said she always expects ATOG guests to be great, as well as the open mic. The last time Anderson attended, someone performed a love poem, and was followed by another poet whose poem was about hating love poems.

"It wasn't really a conflict, but it was kind of ironic that they went right after each other," she said.

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Oh the dilemma of property rights

Eric Baldwin is an electrical engineering senior and Mustang Daily libertarian columnist.

Say you own a llama ranch, but I decide how it is operated, how the money is spent and whether or not to sell the entire operation to the alpaca cartel down the street. Which of us really owns the llama ranch?

Furthermore, say it may be on paper, the true indication of ownership is control. It entails the right of control, up to and including disposal. Ownership and rights are so closely related, they may be considered two halves of the same idea: to own something indicates the right to control it, to have a right something you use or dispose of something is to own it. To say I do not have the right to throw it at your head means that your head is not owned by me; it is owned by you. If you were feeling generous you might perhaps let me throw the apple at you, but that is your call, not mine. You can recite the Encyclopaedia Britannica from memory if you like, but if you're in my house I can tell you to stop — but I certainly can't stop you from reading it. Each of these cases is based on some form of property right. The physical apple is your property, your head is yours, the speech your mouth produces is yours, the thoughts you think are yours. It gets complicated, but every human conflict is a conflict over property — who has the right to make what decisions.

The word "property" paints a seemingly passive picture: to me, a rural landscape dotted with trees and lazy cows. But the interesting and significant part of property is all based on actions, real or potential. Who tends the farm? Who receives its produce? Who decides what to grow? Who speaks and who decides what is to be cooked? Who reads and who decides what is to be written? Who tends the farm? Who decides what is to be cooked? Who earns profits and who decides how that profit is spent? The ownership of a thing is the ownership of its actions, of what it can and does do.

There are any number of ways in which rights can be cut and categorized, but one of the most significant distinctions is between negative and positive rights. The existence and extent of positive rights is at the heart of many of our political conflicts and has been for hundreds of years. At the simplest, a negative right is a restraint on interference. To own an orange, I have the right to dispose of it as I see fit (say, with peanut butter or a thick slice of sharp cheddar cheese). To say I do not have the right to throw it at your head means that your head is not owned by me; it is owned by you. If you were feeling generous you might perhaps let me throw the apple at you, but that is your call, not mine. You can recite the Encyclopaedia Britannica from memory if you like, but if you're in my house I can tell you to stop — but I certainly can't stop you from reading it.

Each of these cases is based on some form of property right. The university. It's counterproductive to trample on the freedoms that allow this intellectual diversity to exist for the purposes of diversity.

— Andrew J. Musseman

In response to "Asking Cal Poly the tough questions about diversity"

To assume that intellectual diversity and ethnic diversity can't go hand-in-hand in my opinion is not valid. To think that "test scores," if that's what you're insinuating, is the only thing that holds back diversity then you might have to go in look deeper. As if people of ethnic backgrounds are running to Cal Poly in hordes. If the campus doesn't feel home to people of ethnic backgrounds because by sheer numbers they are the "other," then what's motivating people of ethnic backgrounds to come to Cal Poly? SLO is in the middle of nowhere. More advertising in more "dive" areas is what needs to be done. Give me a break. In my opinion both intellectual diversity and ethnic diversity can indeed go hand-in-hand and to both the boost the fear of loss of "intellectual diversity" is rather simplistic. And like you, I believe Cal Poly does lack a lot in many different kinds of diversity.

— Eric W. Staudenmayer

In response to "Asking Cal Poly the tough questions about diversity"

Keep in mind that despite the fact that our previous and current president are going to be making a lot of money, their affect on the university is several orders of magnitude higher than their pay. According to a time-line, Baker worked toward raising over 250 million dollars for Cal Poly between 2001 and 2005. The man was largely a ghost and made more money than just about anyone else in the university, but he spent that time convincing people to spend money on our university. We can only hope that the new president will be able to raise as much as the previous one has.

— MG

In response to "Armstrong's salary confirmed"

NOTE: The Mustang Daily features select comments that are written in response to topics of current discussion. Though not all the responses are printed, the Mustang Daily prints comments that are coherent and foster intelligent discussion on a given subject. No superscription, please.
Obama's message resembles those of previous presidents

Dick Polman is a columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Barack Obama's re-election recipe combines a heap of Clinton centrism with a dash of Reagan optimism.

His State of the Union speech — in essence, the opening salvo of the 12 election cycle — signaled the strategy. I heard so many echoes of Bill Clinton, circa 1995 and 1996, that it felt like time travel. It made me want to watch "Seinfeld" and dance the Macarena.

After Clinton's party was shellacked in the '94 midterms, he muted his most liberal ambitions and moved to the middle. In the parlance of the time, he "triangulated," working with Republicans as well as Democrats, without being hostage to either camp. He successfully seized the center by stressing modest, nonpartisan issues — while suggesting that his conservative foes were prisoners of their ideology.

Obama 2.0 is strikingly similar.

Let us count the ways.

In his address the other night, Obama called for "a government that's more competent and efficient." And here's Clinton, in his '96 State of the Union speech, calling for "a government that works better and costs less.

"Obama said that the federal government needs to be modernized for the information age, in his words, "We cannot win the future with a government that's too full of bygones." And here's Clinton, in 1996: "Our job is to get government back into the information age; in his words, "We cannot win the future with a government of the past." And here's Obama in 1996: "Our job is to get government back into the information age; in his words, "We cannot win the future with a government that works better and costs less.”

Obama's insistence that "the best education is out there for our children" — as he did in the '96 State of the Union speech, calling for "permanent tuition tax credit — worth $10,000 for four years of college" — is arguably as important as policy.

Obama acknowledged the need to cut programs and trim the deficit, "but let's make sure that we're not doing it on the backs of our most vulnerable citizens." And here's Clinton, in 1995: "Should we cut the deficit more? Well, of course we should — as long as the trimming doesn't unduly punish people who should not be punished.

But to really connect with swing-voting independents (the key audience), and perhaps so far as "the socialist canard, Obama needed to spin a folksy anecdote about government waste. Hence this passage: "There are 12 different agencies that deal with exports. There are at least five different agencies that deal with housing policy. Then there's my favorite example. The Interior Department is in charge of salmon while they're in fresh water, but the Commerce Department handles them when they're in saltwater. I hear it gets even more complicated once they're smoked."

Care to guess whom that sounds like? Americans of a certain age — for instance — can easily conjure the Gipper, framing that salmon story as an affable metaphor for big government. Indeed, the White House has deliberately telegraphed its intent to channel the Gipper's Great Communicator; over the holiday break, press secretary Robert Gibbs tweeted that his boss was reading a Reagan biography.

On State of the Union night, Obama's insistence that "the best thing we could do on taxes for all Americans is to simplify the individual tax code" was vintage Reagan. And one particular passage about federal red ink "Every day, families sacrifice to live within their means. They deserve a government that does the same" — harked back to the 1981 Inaugural, when Reagan vowed "to get government back within its means.

It can even be argued that Obama's campaign for cross-party cooperation ("governing will now be a shared responsibility") draws from the Reagan playbook. After all, Reagan's party took heavy losses in the '82 midterm, and his job-approval rating in that recessionary winter (37 percent) was far lower than Obama's rating today. Here was Reagan, in his '83 State of the Union speech: "Let us, in these next two years — men and women of both parties, every political shade — concentrate on the long-range, bipartisan responsibilities of government, not the short-range or short-term temptations of partisan politics."

Care to guess whom that sounds like?

But when you're conjuring Reagan, the music matters more than the lyrics. Reagan was irreplaceably sunny, bursting with confidence about America. Voters prefer that their leaders be upbeat; personality is argued to trump policy. Obama's line the other night about how we will "reach that better place beyond the horizon" was in the spirit of Reagan's "shining city on a hill," and clearly he hopes to lure voters with a vision of better days — in contrast to the Republican warnings of doomsday.

Most presidents, especially in tough times, tend to borrow from their predecessors. The house they live in is haunted; it seems natural to listen for the echoes. There's no guarantee, of course, that Obama can win a new lease by channeling Clinton and Reagan — joblessness may persist, foreign crises may intrude — and it's facile to assume that the past is prologue. But a sunny guy on center ground won't be so easy to bear.
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I'LL BET.

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ACROSS
1 Perfume holder
5 Behind
10 Diamond, splendidly
14 Large ear
15 Divide a file
17 Placed in Paris
18 Mugs
19 Tintype by Einstein
20 Roof topping
21 Takes the date
23 Naval groupings
28 Talk big
29 Take a dive
30 Mop
32 Eric Carle
33 Mords a toe
35 "Sproutled" address
36 Well-up
37 Checkers side
38 Mends a toe
39 Hurled
41 Quickly
43 California's — Woods
44 Thornfield governor
45 Mich. neighbor
46 Lift
48 Vaccines
50 The 'A' in RAM
51 Sail celler
54 Nobody's fool
55 Mountain's aid (2 wds.)
56 Greek letter
59 Look after
60 Nearing
62 Get on the horn
63 Moppet
64 Talk big
65 Talk big
66 "Naked Magi" artist

DOWN
1 Crooner Damone
2 Amex east
3 Yodeller's perch
4 Nertious extras
5 Butterly
6 Cubs extras
73 Look at the books
83 n
t43 Greek Letter
54 Nobody's fool
55 Mountain's aid (2 wds.)
56 Greek letter
59 Look after
60 Nearing
62 Get on the horn
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64 Talk big
65 Talk big
66 "Naked Magi" artist

Last Down clue is 60

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SNACKEXPLORATIONS: FEAR OF THE PIMENTO JUST BEFORE A STUBBORN BAG OF CHIPS, NUTS, OR CANDY IS OPENED.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, YOUR BEST FRIEND WAS A TOUGH NEGOTIATOR.
I'LL BET.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Perfume holder
5 Behind
10 Diamond, splendidly
14 Large ear
15 Divide a file
17 Placed in Paris
18 Mugs
19 Tintype by Einstein
20 Roof topping
21 Takes the date
23 Naval groupings
28 Talk big
29 Take a dive
30 Mop
32 Eric Carle
33 Mords a toe
35 "Sproutled" address
36 Well-up
37 Checkers side
38 Mends a toe
39 Hurled
41 Quickly
43 California's — Woods
44 Thornfield governor
45 Mich. neighbor
46 Lift
48 Vaccines
50 The 'A' in RAM
51 Sail celler
54 Nobody's fool
55 Mountain's aid (2 wds.)
56 Greek letter
59 Look after
60 Nearing
62 Get on the horn
63 Moppet
64 Talk big
65 Talk big
66 "Naked Magi" artist

DOWN
1 Crooner Damone
2 Amex east
3 Yodeller's perch
4 Nertious extras
5 Butterly
6 Cubs extras
73 Look at the books
83 n
t43 Greek Letter
54 Nobody's fool
55 Mountain's aid (2 wds.)
56 Greek letter
59 Look after
60 Nearing
62 Get on the horn
63 Moppet
64 Talk big
65 Talk big
66 "Naked Magi" artist

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Men's basketball set for Northern Arizona in BracketBusters game

Last year, it was Hawai'i. This year, it's Northern Arizona. The Cal Poly men's basketball team (9-11, 4-4 Big West) is slated to square off against the Lumberjacks as part of the 2011 ESPN BracketBusters series on Feb. 19 in Mott Gym. The last time the two teams met was on Dec. 9, 2007, when Northern Arizona registered a 85-51 victory at home. The Lumberjacks hold a 6-4 advantage in the all-time series. This season, Northern Arizona is 11-8 (3-4 Big Sky). The Lumberjacks average 74 points per game and are shooting 49 percent from the field. The Mustangs have won five of their last eight games.

Lee continued from page 16

as she values mine."

Markhoff and Lee have been doubles partners since fall 2010, and in Markhoff's opinion, "work really well together," which is evidenced by their No. 63 national ranking.

Lee has the same feelings about the pairing.

"Amy is more intense and high energy," she said. "I keep more quiet and calm. It works for us."

Bream said the calmness Lee referred to is her greatest asset.

"Alexa is completely composed for 90 percent of the time, and the other 10 percent she fakes ... she knows she cannot afford to show her opponents her weaknesses," Bream said.

Lee's composure is what first attracted Bream to her when she was in high school. He recruited Lee from La Quinta High School in Bermuda Dunes, Calif. After watching her play and getting to know her and her family, Bream knew Lee would be a good match for the Cal Poly tennis team.

"So many things about Alexa impressed me, especially her level-head on the court," Bream said. "Then, the more obvious things of course — she was athletic ... great footwork and she hits a clean tennis ball."

For Lee, choosing Cal Poly was a decision she didn't take lightly. Although Saint Mary's, UC Irvine, University of San Francisco and Cal Poly all recruited Lee, Cal Poly stood out.

"I just love it here — the area, the school," Lee said. "In the end, I knew I wanted to be somewhere I would still want to be if I got injured, or if something with tennis went wrong."

Lee's tennis career is not going wrong, though; quite the opposite — it's soaring. But with great success comes great pressure and expectations. In Lee's case, however, she tries hard not to focus on the negatives.

"It would be awesome to be in the rankings, but I can't think about it like that," Lee said. "I have to take it one match at a time. Being the underdog isn't as scary as it is inspiring — it makes me work harder."

THIS WEEK IN CAL POLY ATHLETICS

THURSDAY
7:00 P.M.

CAL POLY vs. UC Davis
Men's Basketball

SATURDAY
7:00 P.M.

CAL POLY vs. Pacific
Men's Basketball

Admission is FREE for all Cal Poly Students. Like us on Facebook.com/calpolymustangs.
Women's tennis player Alexa Lee poised to have 'breakout season'

With the loss of Cal Poly's experienced seniors last season, Alexa Lee is looking to be one of the players to fill their shoes.

Alexa Lee comes from a family of athletes. Her mom played volleyball at Texas State. Her dad is an "all-around athlete." Her two brothers played tennis for UC Davis. It's fitting, then, that in a family of talented competitors, the Cal Poly women's tennis player would also shine in the sports arena.

Lee, a history sophomore, plays on the women's tennis team. Lee has the potential for a "breakout season," head coach Hugh Bream said. After losing a talented class of senior players last year, Bream knew other people would step up and take the lead — Lee was one of them.

"What's really neat about college sports is that when you lose senior leadership, it opens a door for the next person to step up," Bream said. "Alexa has really embraced the role of leader on the court — she's consistent and always positive."

Lee's evolution from an "uncomfortable" and "tense" freshman to an experienced college athlete has enabled her to take on a leadership role.

"Alexa worked hard and really built a great foundation last year," Bream said. "This season she's much more confident and comfortable on the court."

Lee agrees with her coach. She said as one of only two freshmen on the team last year, she often felt overwhelmed and afraid of making mistakes. Feelings of apprehension and uneasiness are not a problem for Lee this year, she said.

"I'm not the youngest on the team anymore — this year we have four freshman, and I have the chance to mentor them the way my teammates did for me last year. That's helped me loosen up and feel more comfortable," Lee said.

Lee also accredits her transformation as a player in part to the guidance of teammates. One such teammate is Lee's current doubles partner, senior Amy Markhoff.

Markhoff said she has more experience playing tennis at the collegiate level, so the role of mentor "makes sense" in that respect. Other than that, Markhoff doesn't feel as if she knows more than Lee just because of her seniority. "I value her opinion and game just as much as her experience and I learn a lot from her," she said.

Azevedo expected to step down from coaching job

Mustang Daily Staff Report

Azevedo, a former NCAA wrestling champion at Cal State Bakersfield in 1980, won all but two matches in college, and while compiling a 122-2 record and securing his place in the California Wrestling Hall of Fame.

He was on the 1980 Olympic team and may have competed if the United States did not boycott the Games, but he still went on to win a freestyle national individual title in 1981 and place fourth in the World Championships in 1982.

Azevedo coached wrestling at Cal State Bakersfield, Arizona State, Notre Dame and Wisconsin as an assistant. Then he moved on to a head coaching position at Cal-Vary Chapel High School in Santa Ana, Calif.

During his 12 years as a high school coach, Azevedo lead his team to 10 CIF-Southern Section titles and noted that he would not be surprised if he coached at the high school level again sometime.

Next year, Azevedo leaves Perry at the helm. Perry arrived at Cal Poly as an assistant coach in 2009, just two years after winning his second NCAA individual championship at the University of Iowa.

Perry has increased his role this year, taking over most of the coaching duties according to wrestlers on the team. Perry said this allowed Azevedo to guide him and help him adjust to a new role; a role Perry said he is excited to fill.