Firefighters fired up about council decision

Alicia Freeman
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The San Luis Obispo City Firefighters Association, IAFF Local 3523, challenged a city council decision to remove the right of unions to have a third party arbiter make the final decision on labor disputes — called binding arbitration — on Feb. 23. The decision would also remove a city charter section requiring voter approval on an upcoming August ballot to reduce retirement benefits for public safety organizations like the Firefighters Association and the Police Officers Association.

The city council passed the measure with a 4-1 vote Feb. 22, causing the Firefighters Association's attorney, Stuart D. Adams, to send a letter to City Attorney J. Christine Dietrick.

In the letter, Adams stated the San Luis Obispo City Council's actions are illegal because the central had not contacted public service employees first.

Though voters approved binding arbitration in 2000, with budget issues in both San Luis Obispo and California, the council must consider ways to balance the budget. Yet, in Adams' letter, Section 1107 "is designed to resolve disputes over wages, hours and terms and conditions." If the repeal measure were to be passed and then approved on the ballot, both the San Luis Obispo Police Officers Association and San Luis Obispo Firefighters Association would presumably lose the right to negotiate.

However, Dietrick said IAFF's frustrations were a misunderstanding. She said the council did not finalize its decision to put a repeal on the ballot; rather, it asked Dietrick to draft an ordinance for the special election in August as well as draft the "language for proposed measures."

"I would disagree with Adams' assessment that the action they took was illegal," Dietrick said. "They didn't take any action to put it on the ballot yet, and they didn't make an ordinance for a special election (yet)."

In a response letter to Adams and Local 3523, Dietrick wrote, "The city values very highly its employees and our culture of open communication and collaboration in working through difficult issues" and the city council purposefully did not pass the measure because they wanted to "accommodate time for discussion with employee groups to occur well before any deadlines for such action."

City councilman Andrew Carter see Firefighters, page 2

Cal Poly shows its good will

Cal Poly students were surprised yesterday when they woke up to find the "P" on the hill changed to read "philanthropy," for Cal Poly's annual "Days of Philanthropy." The event is put on by the Student Philanthropy Council, and takes place today from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the University Union Plaza. Free food and free T-shirts are available.

MANON FISHER MUSTANG DAILY

"Business has not been going well for both of my parents and I definitely know a few people who have lost their jobs," mechanical engineering junior Danny Breslow said about the sluggish economy in California.

Recent closures leave trust in economy shaky

Amanda Sedo
AMANDASEDO.MD@GMAIL.COM

The recession has officially been over for more than a year now, but economic problems continue to plague the city and surrounding areas of San Luis Obispo.

Over the years, many local businesses have been forced to go out of business. Most recently, the Office of Thrift Supervision closed the San Luis Trust Bank on Feb. 18.

According to the press release, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) was appointed as the receiver of San Luis Trust Bank. The FDIC then entered into a purchase and assumption agreement with First California Bank, meaning it will take control of liabilities from the bank, including all of its deposits. Past members of San Luis Trust Bank are now automatic members of First California Bank.

Jan Marx, mayor of San Luis Obispo, said although her role is limited when it comes to the economy, she thinks San Luis Obispo can expect things to turn around sooner rather than later.

"There were more car sales here than last year and you can see a generalized economic recovery," Marx said.

While banks are closing, food aid is soaring — another tell tale sign of economic problems in the county.

Joyce Fields, from the San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services, said within the last year or two the applications for CalFresh Programs have gone up.

"We really want to do outreach about (CalFresh) because there are a number of people out there who could potentially benefit from the program but don't know about it," Fields said.

To be eligible for CalFresh Program (the program formerly known as Food Stamps), a household of...
History department to add new faculty member

Patricia Berg
SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG DAILY

The history department will soon have a new starter to add to the facul­ty lineup, which means the relievers covering General Education (G.E.) classes will get a break.

"I love teaching G.E. classes, my colleagues would say that as well," history professor James Tejani said. "I look forward to the day when we're less short-handed."

History professors are responsible for G.E. Area D1: The American Ex­perience courses, said Andrew Mor­ris, the history department chair.

"We have found ourselves short in offering the same classes to the same number of students, particularly in American history, which is our big­gest demand," Morris said.

History professors that are not usually part of the American his­tory curriculum are asked to teach these courses.

However, faculty members were ready to pick up the slack, Tejani said.

"People are willing to fill in," he said. "We want to provide classes for students. It's a service to the univer­sity and to the students." Most students are usually re­quired to take a course from G.E. Area D1, Morris said.

The new faculty member will concentrate on D1 classes, he said.

"They'll be teaching two sections each quarter of HIST 206 American Cultures (G.E. D1, USCPR) or HIST 207 Freedom and Equality in Ameri­can History (G.E. D1, USCPR) and then the third class would be an up­per-division (300 or 400 level) U.S. history course of his (or her) choos­ing," Morris said.

The HIST 206 and HIST 207 classes have about 50 students a section. The new faculty member may teach anywhere between 120 to 150 G.E. students per quarter. The upper-division course of their choosing will have fewer students.

When professors start their career in the department, they teach G.E. courses before moving to specialized courses, Morris said. A new professor has more stu­dents to teach than tenured profes­sors, Tejani said.

After they are here for a few years, they can move onto classes that are part of their specializations. They may range anywhere from political media or U.S. foreign relations.

"That will add diversity to our cur­riculum because we don't offer those classes very regularly," Tejani said.

They can be intellectually chal­lenging for professors who are used to their specialized American courses. Some find it fun to teach it that way, Tejani said.

Coming from the department chair's perspective, history profes­sors must be flexible to teach these courses, Morris said.

"The chair said there are possible course positions that need to be filled with assistant professors. "Dr. Morris works very hard to make sure that everyone is teaching what they want to be teaching," assistant history professor Lewis Call said.

The D1 classes allow professors to teach a macro-perspective of Ameri­ca, Morris said.

"When you have a new junior colleague it's fun socially, and it's nice when new people show up and add a new perspective, new ideas and new classes," he said.

The College of Liberal Arts and the history department have put a lot of time into reviewing applications as well as conducting phone interviews.

"We are now in the position which effect (sic) terms and condi­tions of employment without meeting and conferring with Local 3523..."

"...and our public employees." Baskin said if the City wants to change binding arbitration, they should do so with the same signature collecting techniques that public safety employees had to use 11 years ago.

Baskin said, "We feel that binding arbitration is a fair negotiation process for public safety employees who don't have the rights to strike." Baskin said.

"However, we are facing litigation; this is essentially a legal dispute between the city and our public employee as­sociations," Ashbaugh said.

"What I can say is that the city intends to meet fully its obligations under applicable state law with respect to the issues that currently divide our council majority and our public employees." In Dieterick's letter to Adams, she wrote the council wants to discuss the matter with Local 3523 before the ballot measure is pursued fur­ther. Yet, Dieterick said she affirmed Adams would most likely follow through with his threat if the mea­sure did go through.

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Economy
continued from page 1

four people must have a combined income under $1,835 a month.

Fields said the number of people who currently receive CalFresh bene­fici are at a medium level but numbers have increased since the recession hit.

"Obviously, the economy would cause more people to utilize pub­lic service programs like CalFresh," Fields said.

Despite applications for CalFresh going up and businesses struggling, Marx said the local government is doing all it can to help with econom­ic development in San Luis Obispo.

"We have been concerned most with attracting tourism and trying to reduce operating costs," Marx said.

Through specialized taxes like the Transient Occupational Tax, the City of San Luis Obispo is attempt­ing to create a revenue to continue making the city a tourist destination.

Even with the taxes, however, the city government is well over budget. Marx said hearings throughout April will help determine the direction of the city and how it plans to balance the budget.

"Cuts will be done in a public hearing," Marx said. "I want to invite the public and especially Cal Poly students to attend the meetings. The cuts will be sensitive to the priority of the community and residents."

Indeed, students have been feeling the effects of the economy.

Daniel Breslow, a mechanical engi­neering junior, said he bikes to class to save money, and is feeling the effects on his education, in addition to his family and friends.

"Obviously the budget cuts throughout the state are affecting the price of our education," Bres­low said. "It is harder to graduate on time because classes are being cut. Business has not been going well for both of my parents and I definitely know a few people who have lost their jobs."

Marx said she acknowledges it is a tough time to be a student, but she hopes the city and Cal Poly students can work together to improve the situation in San Luis Obispo.

"Cal Poly is a tremendous asset to the city," Marx said. "Although the city is still hurting financially, having all the students here is a good thing."

Marx said even though officially the recession is over it is not quite showing yet in San Luis Obispo.

"Housing hasn't really recovered, but all of this is just a challenge — it's not an emergency," Marx said. "Compared to other cities in California we are really in pretty good shape."

Good shape or not, students, business owners and residents are still concerned.

"Eventually I'd like to be able to get a job, but it's not looking good," Breslow said.

I want to invite the public and especially Cal Poly students to attend the (city budget) meetings.

— Jan Marx
San Luis Obispo mayor

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SANTA ANA (MCT) —

California police chiefs Tuesday that curbs on their pensions may cause the supervisor who made the decision to fire a worker did so for some limits on investigations at the high traffic area. She also made it clear that the investigators decide that some valid reasons. If other supervisors are not shielded by the high court opted for the broad approach.

"An employer's authority to re- ward, punish or dismiss is often allocated among multiple agents," said Justice Antonin Scalia. "The high court has not ruled on the constitutionality of the federal laws that forbid discrimination based on race, religion, sex or national origin. Both statutes are triggered if the illegal bias was a "motivating factor" in the employer's decision.

The complaints reached the hosp- ital's vice president for human re- sources. She looked into comments that Staub was "abrupt" with others and was sometimes missing from his work location. She decided to dismiss him.

Staub sued, relying on the Uni- formed Services Employment and Reemployment Act of 1994, which forbids discrimination against em- ployees because of their military duties. Scalia said this law is "very similar" to the other federal civil rights laws that forbid discrimination based on race, religion, sex or national origin. Both statutes are triggered if the illegal bias was a "motivating factor" in the employer's decision.

When a jury ruled for Staub, the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Ap- peals in Chicago threw out the verdict. Its decision discounted the evidence of his direct supervisors and said the vice president for hu- man resources acted on her own.

The employer is at fault, he said, if the "discriminatory animus" of one of its supervisors "was intended to have a motivating effect," said Justice Antonin Scalia. "The one who makes the ultimate deci- sion does so on the basis of perfor- mance assessments by other supervi- sors." The decision restores a $57,640 jury verdict in favor of Vincent Staub, an Army reservist who was fired from his job as a medical tech- nician at the Proctor Hospital in Peoria, Ill.

He contended two of his super- visors were biased against him be- cause he was absent on weekends because of his military duties. They said he put a "strain on the department," and other employees had "to bend over backwards to cover" for him.

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Cybersecurity is a high threat for the nation

Julie Mianecki
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

Cybersecurity is a potential “nightmare” for the Department of Homeland Security in the years ahead, as well as concerns about homegrown terrorists and intelligence sharing, officials said Tuesday at a seminar at Georgetown University marking the department’s eighth anniversary.

“The nightmare that the DHS has,” said Stewart Baker, a former head of policy at the department, “is that a very sophisticated hacker, perhaps working for Hezbollah, manages to infiltrate our electric grid and so bring down power to a portion of the United States, not for an hour or two, but for days or weeks. This would create a major humanitarian crisis.”

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said the rapid pace of change is now the biggest issue with technology.

“The problem with cyber is almost by the time you’re talking about something, they’re on to the next thing,” Napolitano said. “It is really a fast-moving field that, quite frankly, probably none of us are as good at understanding as somebody 20 years old, so this is an area where we’re trying to hire people.

“And if there are students in the audience that have any cyber interest, I would ask them to see me after.”

Napolitano’s predecessor, Michael Chertoff, said he was most concerned about terrorists born in the U.S.

“Most notable are homegrown terrorists,” Chertoff said. “What you see now is greater emphasis on recruiting Americans who are residents in the U.S. to become operatives, and that is challenging the model that we use for security.”

And Tom Ridge, the first Homeland Security secretary, focused on the problems of intelligence gathering.

“The department is a consumer of information, which is a major challenge when facing such threats, he said.

“The agency can only act based on the information it’s given,” Ridge said. “I still think, eight years later, one of the big challenges is making sure that the Department of Homeland Security has enough information.”

Napolitano said one of the department’s achievements that helps to lessen the threat of terrorist attacks is increased public participation in the security process, particularly civilians who report suspicious behavior or observations to authorities.

“When you talk about Faisal Shahzad, what a great example of citizen involvement,” Napolitano said, referring to the attempted car bombing in Times Square in 2010. “A street vendor sees smoke coming from a vehicle he doesn’t recognize... he immediately notifies law enforcement and we go from that notice, in 53 hours, to the apprehension of Shahzad.”

Napolitano also cited improving international sharing of flight information as another departmental success. She said the U.S. and the European Union share information about passengers as soon as tickets are purchased, rather than after the plane has already taken off, as was the case when Ridge was secretary.

Baker agreed that improved cooperation has been a key success.

“Until very recently, we didn’t know if somebody who was presenting himself to enter the United States was a convicted criminal or not in his home jurisdiction,” Baker said. “The integration of data systems so that it is risky for terrorists to try to get across our borders is, to my mind, the single success of DHS.”

Baker listed the separation of the FBI from Homeland Security, an overabundance of grants leading to funding issues and the lack of sufficient technology at the Mexican-U.S. border as major shortcomings of Homeland Security over the last eight years. Ridge also mentioned technology as a failing in the context of airport checkpoints.

“President (John F.) Kennedy in ’62 said, ‘We’re going to the moon.’ We got to the moon in ’69 — that’s seven years. It’s 10 years after (Sept. 11, 2001), and we still haven’t figured out the right piece of technology in our airports,” Ridge said. “So apparently it’s easier to go to the moon than come up with a piece of technology to be a little bit less invasive.”

Word on the Street

What’s something you plan on doing differently next quarter?

“Spend more time in the library.”
— Armando Marquez, animal science junior

“Get more involved. I’d like to join some clubs.”
— Rebecca Roberts, English freshman

“Focus more on studies and be better at prioritizing.”
— Travis Vant-Hul, architecture freshman

“Balancing my time better between extracurriculars and studying.”
— Samantha Pete, landscape architecture freshman

“Study more and devote more time to school.”
— Eric Mendonca, dairy science sophomore

“Work harder, not put off homework and start studying earlier.”
— Carly Bach, business administration freshman

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Violence in Libya increases as conditions grow worse for citizens

Hannah Allam  
Nancy A. Youssef  
McClatchy Newspapers

Living conditions worsened in Libya and aid groups warned of a growing humanitarian crisis Tuesday as the battle between rebels and forces loyal to leader Moammar Gadhafi shut down transportation, kept businesses closed and forced people to stay in their homes.

Conditions were particularly dire in rebel-held Zawiya, a city west of Tripoli where anti-Gadhafi protesters have fought back bloody government counterattacks for nearly a week. Residents reached by phone said pro-Gadhafi forces had set up checkpoints on the city's east and west sides, halting the flow of food and medicine.

A Zawiya resident who gave only his first name, Tarek, for his own protection, told McClatchy Newspapers by telephone that baby formula and other vital items were in short supply. "They're trying to starve us to death," he said.

Aid workers also reported dismal conditions at Libya's borders, especially among migrant workers stuck at the western border with Tunisia. TV footage from the Libyan-Tunisian border Tuesday showed hundreds of weak­ened refugees clamoring for handouts among migrant workers stuck at the city's east and west sides, halting the flow of food and medicine. Conditions were particularly dire in Libya's borders, especially among migrant workers stuck at the western border with Tunisia. TV footage from the Libyan-Tunisian border Tuesday showed hundreds of weakened refugees clamoring for handouts among migrant workers stuck at the city's east and west sides, halting the flow of food and medicine.

"You would have to remove the air defense capability in order to establish the no-fly zone. So it — no illusions here — it would be a military opera­tion," Marine Gen. James Mattis, the commander of U.S. Central Command, told the Senate Armed Services Committee. "It wouldn't simply be telling people not to fly airplanes."

Clinton cautioned that the out­come in Libya is anything but clear.

"In the years ahead, Libya could become a peaceful democracy or face protracted civil war or descend into chaos. The stakes are high," she said.

In Oman, thousands of people waving flags and wearing red and green scarves marched around the Grand Mosque in the capital, Muscat, in an emotional parade of support for their 70-year-old leader, Sultan Qaboos bin Said, after days of unprecedented riot­ing and civil unrest in the tiny sultan­ate on the Arabian Peninsula.

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Nostalgia time. Remember way back in high school, telling your friends that you and that person you've been into forever finally hooked up? Never mind the vagueness of the phrase "hooked up," your friends wanted to know the dirty details. As they eagerly leaned forward to hear about your rendezvous, they asked, "Did you get to second base?"

I remember the first time I was asked about bases, mostly for the confusion it invoked. I remember thinking, "What the hell does baseball have to do with making out?"

I quickly caught on to the idea though, and spent many late nights with friends debating over which aspects of foreplay belong to third base and which aren't even on the same field. So, dear readers, I have for you my definitive guide to the hookup bases.

Lining up to bat
Get your bats ready, ladies and gentlemen. You're warming up for the play.

You two are definitely sitting too close to be just friends. There is a palpable tension in the air, and it's not from the horror movie you thought apt to watch. Your fingers are winding together; maybe an arm is thrown over the other's shoulders. So far, everything is PG. A light kiss — mouth closed — surely qualifies.

You make a move to heat up the kissing, essentially letting the bat make contact with the ball. And with that, you're on your way to first base.
Playwright brings Ireland to San Luis Obispo

Anieca Ayler
ANIECAAYLER.GMAIL.COM

When David Wallace drives along the California coast, he isn't looking at the cold, crashing waves of the Pacific Ocean or craning his neck hoping to see whales on the horizon. He's looking at the land: the stretches of grassy hills, the jutting rocks, the trees. The local Scottish-Irish playwright of 40 years sees traces of Ireland in the coastal features almost 5,000 miles away.

"The green hills — that's the old dicht about Ireland," Wallace said. "The rolling park look as it moves into science fiction and vampires and stuff, so that you nearly say it's halfway."

Any similarities between the land and the sea that bell in his brain.

When Wallace is writing, he looks down to the sea just as he does when driving. "When David Wallace drives along the local imagery inspired Wallace to embrace his Irish heritage through the land: the stretches of grassy hills, the jutting rocks, the trees. The cliché about Ireland," Wallace said. "The green hills — that's the old dicht about Ireland." Wallace said. "The rolling park look as it moves into science fiction and vampires and stuff, so that you nearly say it's halfway." Any similarities between the land and the sea that bell in his brain.

The question the men face when they are on a pilgrimage to find a supernatural well with healing powers. That can peel off, that's the old dicht about Ireland. Wallace said. "The green hills — that's the old dicht about Ireland". Wallace said. "The rolling park look as it moves into science fiction and vampires and stuff, so that you nearly say it's halfway." Any similarities between the land and the sea that bell in his brain.

One of the venues for the 75-minute live performance at Tolosa. He said he had better connections in the local viticulture scene, including the events specialist at Tolosa Winery. He said he had better luck negotiating with wineries already familiar with him.

"When you're pitching the idea, you don't have to make them like you first because they already do," Hance said.

Two of the 10 pitches to wineries were successful. Tolosa Winery's marketing administrator, Katie Noonan, who booked the show, was welcome to the idea of having fun, lightheaded and live entertainment for members and could provide a stable audience base.

Fortunately for Expressivo, Hance has connections in the local viticulture scene, including the events specialist at Tolosa Winery. He said he had better luck negotiating with wineries already familiar with him.

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Cal Poly Symphony showcases soloists

Kelly Cooper
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This Sunday, the Cal Poly symphony will accompany four solo musicians in Harman Hall in the Christopher Cohen Performing Arts Center (PAC) — a dream come true for any aspiring musician. Traditionally, the music department selects a small group of soloists to perform at the symphony's annual winter concert. The students, who audition in front of a group of faculty members, must play the piece they would play in Harman Hall.

If selected, they are put in the spotlight, accompanied by the symphony in the background. So what talent did the music department choose this year? Cellist and materials engineering senior Jake Wise, trombonist and music senior Maritza Spicller, vocalist and child development and music senior Theresa Rihogrante and vocalist and music senior Patricia Rosas make up the talented four who were selected.

Symphony conductor David Arrive said the standards for selection to perform are straightforward. "We figure out, firstly, is it something that works with the symphony, and will they sound great on that solo," Arrive said.

Arrive said the faculty has selected different numbers of soloists throughout the years. When it comes down to it, it all depends on those auditioning can sell the performance.

"We had quite a few people around 20 people," Arrive said. "And out of that, we thought these four will do a fantastic job. The bar is kind of high. Many people sound good, in fact many sound great, but to sell a performance in the PAC, that bar is pretty high."

Patricia Rosas, who had auditioned every year for the soloist showcase, recalled her experience. "I put on these pants and this ruffly shirt and a vest and really dressed the part," she said. "I thought that would help calm my nerves a little bit. So I walked in and gave it all I could. And I walked out knowing I did the best I could."

Rosas will sing a German aria "Chacun à son goût" from Johann Strauss' "Die Fledermaus" and said the piece is often referred to as a "pants role."

"I'm the voice type that's called a mezzo-soprano, and that's generally the lower range of the female voice," Rosas said. "Back in the day, they used to castrate men, so the voice would have the high notes of a young singer but the strength of a male voice. So they've reassigned mezzo soprano to women singers singing these "pants roles."

Rosas said she's ecstatic to sing with the symphony. "This is my first time singing solo with symphony with the see Symphony, page 11
PAC," she said. "So this is like a life accomplishment. I'm beyond thrilled.

Jake Wise will also perform and will play Gabriel Faure's "Elegy for Cello and Orchestra." Wise said he didn't originally plan on playing this piece, but his private teacher suggested playing it instead of his original pick.

"I had originally wanted to do part of a much larger piece—a full concerto, which turned out to be too much of a task just to get ready for this concert," Wise said.

Wise said learning the piece wasn't too hard to manage — it was the emotional strength behind the piece he had to tap into.

"It's a beautiful piece full of emotion, and it didn't take that long for me to learn — at least the technical skills involved weren't too advanced for me to learn in time," he said. "But learning how to put the emotion and passion into the piece — that was the real challenge.

Although the soloists are the featured players, the concert doesn't end when the last note is played or sung. Arrivée said the concert is almost two separate shows — one highlighting the soloists, and the other highlighting the symphony and Cal Poly Open House theme.

"For the remainder of the program, we try to tie into what the theme will be for Open House," Arrivée said. "The theme this year is Polywood, and that's such a no brainer. There's great movie music.

Arrivée has selected six iconic movie scores for the symphony. However, the movie scores won't be revealed until the night of the show. This is because the pieces are so recognizable, Arrivée is going to give out an in-concert quiz for the audience to guess the notable tunes.

Since Cal Poly Open House happens approximately three weeks after spring break, Arrivée said the symphony tries to use some of the same repertoire in the winter concert that they use for Open House due to time restrictions. Yet he said the preparation has seemed to run quite efficiently so far.

"This one has come together pretty smoothly," Arrivée said. "Most movie music does. When people are making the music, the orchestra is going to play it maybe twice. They'll also read it, then they'll record it and then it's done."

Arrivée said this year's winter concert is a pleasant change for the symphony, who played a more serious repertoire in the fall performance.

"I had the promise out there that we'd play more fun music in the winter," Arrivée said. "It's a nice change of pace.

The show begins at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 6. Tickets are $10, $12 for general admission, $8 and $10 for seniors and $6 for students and may be purchased online at pacol.org, at the Performing Arts Center box office or by phone at (805) 756-2787.

Monday might be the day you find your new favorite restaurant. Check out the Pub and Grub Directory!
The danger of blind American exceptionalism

Jeremy Cutcher is a political science senior and Mustang Daily liberal columnist.

The last couple weeks have been an historical time for the Middle East. With demonstrations from Tunisia and Egypt to Jordan and Libya, the region is experiencing a mass political uprising against the old regimes notorious for their corruption and oppression. Many have been mostly peaceful (notably Egypt), but some (notably Libya) have been brutal in their suppression of the demonstrations. The violence in Libya has led some to call on the president to take a stronger stance in support of the demonstrators, with neo-cons stalwart Bill Kristol calling on the president to use force "when force is used to kill innocent civilians."

Apparently, the blunders of the Bush years have not resonated with many in this ideological camp. And that is precisely the danger of blind allegiance to the ideology of American exceptionalism.

American exceptionalism is a quirky notion. In its most fundamental form it says that God created America to spread liberty and democracy across the world (others leave out God and just believe that America has a purpose to do so). Unfortunately, the ideology doesn't specify if we are to do so by our example and our aid or by force, and many seem to like the control the latter purportedly provides us in determining the outcomes.

We all participate in the ideology, some more extreme. It's kind of like we're Team America and we're rooting our team on. And it does seem like history will remember America in the founding of a new understanding of political relationships, where self-determination and inalienable rights become integral to who we are as individuals. The problem with any fundamentalist interpretation is that it leads to faulty conclusions that are not based on the reality of the situation.

Three ideas characterized the Bush administration: a fundamentalist interpretation of American exceptionalism, a firm belief in democracy across the world (others with neo-conservative Iraq War). The Bush administration believed war efforts could contribute to faulty conclusions that are not based on the reality of the situation.

One of the most notable problems of the Bush administration was a lack of understanding of political relationships. The latter half of the 20th century has seen a change in tone from the 1940s and 1950s, where self-determination and understanding of political relationships were seen as the key to world peace.

The change in tone has a couple causes. First, the Bush administration believed war efforts could contribute to faulty conclusions that are not based on the reality of the situation. Second, the Bush administration believed that the United States was the only country with the power to enforce democracy across the world.

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In its most fundamental form it says that God created America to spread liberty and democracy around the world.
It's time to find solutions to nation's budget problems

Edward Wasserman is Knittel professor of journalism ethics at Washington and Lee University.

When it comes to directing people's attention, there has never been anything as powerful as today's vast online search engines, and when it comes to search engines, nobody can touch Google, whose sites handle an estimated 88 billion queries a month, roughly two-thirds the world total.

Users don't have any idea how Google decides the order in which it presents its search results. If that ranking is the most consequential thing Google does. That's because search engines may look far and wide, but their users do not. If your company doesn't show up at or near the top of Google's results, it's invisible.

A survey last May by the online advertising network Chitika found that the No. 1 search result drew over one-third of all traffic to the results generated — twice as much as No. 2, three times the traffic of No. 3. Being on the first page of rankings was critical. Google does. That's because search engines are largely transparent. And what do these sacrosanct subsidies actually go for? Accelerating the annual flow of nearly half a trillion dollars in foreign oil, a number that bleeds our economy and endangers our security.

These steps are hard radical — and some are practically obvious. Indeed, they're practically obviou. But is any such plan being put forward? No. Instead we have a new Republican majority in the House congratulating itself for passing a series of tiny, meaningless cuts in a small sector of the budget — cuts that won't create any jobs or have any material impact on the budget deficit.

These same Republicans voted to repeal the health insurance program with its cost controls — one of the few programs that actually limits long-term spending. But they shy away from curtailing the $5 billion in tax subsidies to the oil companies. They savage family planning for the poor and take police off the streets — but these chest-thumping budget-cutters don't dare touch huge subsidies for some of the largest and wealthiest companies in America. To impose Social Security; and a modest tax on consumption to boost federal revenue. Now Google is incorporating one extraordinary instance, an SEO consultant who gamed the system by planting the keywords "area rug," "dresser," and "table clothes." Google even moved more traffic for "Sanborns on carry on luggage," a term Sanborns's own staff had no idea other party in Congress has put forward a serious 3- to 5-year plan to get us back on course and avoid the economic train wreck waiting if we do nothing.

We need to do what America has always done in the past when in trouble. We need to reach down for strong solutions, even if they're very difficult. We debate them, pound the table and yell at each other a while — and then we hammer out a compromise and pull up our sleeves and implement it. That's how America works its way out of trouble. But is any such plan being put forward? No. Instead we have a new Republican majority in the House congratulating itself for passing a series of tiny, meaningless cuts in a small sector of the budget — cuts that won't create any jobs or have any material impact on the deficit.

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First of all, you say that you researched for domestic issues. What about what is going on in Wisconsin, Ohio, and that region? Second, what happens in the Middle East is none of our business; if our oil supply and Europe's is disrupted, we care. These people are living in poverty and under corrupt governments for too long and when they finally get a revolution started, we have the nerve to basically say, do they deserve it? This country bought for what it believed in 200 years ago, let the Middle East fight for what they believe is right. The people of the Middle East should not have to live in poverty, in corrupt governments, or dictatorships for our own benefit.

Walter
In response to "The domino effect of revolution in the Middle East"

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Fischback
continued from page 16

back found out he tore cartilage in his chest, where the elbows meet the sternum. No surgery was required, but it did take some months of rehabilitation to get back to the field. When he was cleared to play, he immediately took the field again.

"If you could put a moment on it, that is when it happened," Fischback said. "I started throwing over Christmas break, just on a football field back up north in Walnut Creek. I long toss, playing catch probably about 100 feet."

In a matter of minutes, Fischback’s pitching career came to a screeching halt. After all the years he spent playing baseball, all the innings he pitched to get his Division 1 scholarship and all the hard work he put in to getting to this point, a torn labrum nearly wiped the slate clean. He underwent surgery, remaining optimistic his career would still be on track.

But as time went on, his arm said otherwise. "The doctor said nine to 12 months," Randy said. "If Steven was going to come back, he’d know in nine to 12 months. Well, nine months went by and he said ‘it’s still sore. I can barely throw’ and then 12 months went by and then he just said, ‘I don’t think I am going to throw again.’"

**Sservicable**

Randy recalls one specific conversation he had with Fischback, word for word. Close to the 12-month deadline his doc told him for him, his arm still felt sore. His fastball still registered in the low 80s and — at this point — a return to collegiate dominance looked far out of the picture. "Dad, I would just love to get back out on the mound and just be serviceable," Randy recalls his son telling him. "I would like to get back to the team and just give them some serviceable innings. If I pitched the 6th and 7th inning in a few games, it would just be so fun to get out there again."

Fischback knew the history. Arm surgeries for pitchers pretty much act like brick walls. You either pick up enough steam to get past it, or you simply never do. Not even MLB stars like Mark Prior and Jason Schmidt could work hard enough to revive their careers after arm injuries. But digit by digit on the radar gun, Fischback aimed for a comeback.

"He went through weeks and months at a time where things didn’t get better and we had to shu him down and reevaluate his throwing program,” head coach Larry Lee said. "He got to a certain point where progress was very slow and limited."

And despite setback after setback, Fischback kept to it. Velocity remains the hardest thing to regain. Before the injury, Fischback would consistently clock a low 90 mile per hour fastball. During his recovery, he would sit in the bullpen during his recovery and — at best — scrape 81. Two years later, after hours in the bullpen, Fischback is back to an 86-89 mile per hour fastball, almost 10 miles per hour better than what he was throwing to the full field.

"He has worked really hard and he has been rehabbing," pitcher Kyle Anderson said. "He is definitely putting in the work and it is his time now, he deserves it."

Don’t call it a comeback

Pitching hasn’t been Cal Poly’s strong suit in recent seasons. With a staff ERA of 6.75, Cal Poly struggled to a 23-32 record last year. Injuries plagued the Mustangs on the mound, and with relievers failing in for starters, it was hard for Cal Poly to find success. With Fischback now healthy, some of his teammates are hoping they can turn that number around. The better Fischback can do, the better the team will do, Anderson said.

"I think those will correlate pretty strongly," Anderson said. "If he pitches real well, like I know he can, I feel like we can go a long way."

If Fischback does return to the pitcher he used to be, Lee will have a new weapon to work with. With Major Radke starring on Fridays, Fischback is expected to pitch Saturdays and provide a 1-2 punch Cal Poly hasn’t had for years.

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"He is a key component of having a good weekend starting rotation," Lee said. "We’re hoping that as the season progresses, he gets better with each outing. He’ll be a big part of our success, so we hope that he gets back to where he used to be."

After what seemed to be an improbable comeback to the field this season, Fischback is certainly on that path. Against Missouri, Fischback retired nine straight batters and posted three straight scoreless innings. He then went on to shutout Oklahoma State in three innings after giving up three runs in the first last Sunday.

"I think as the season goes on, there is no reason he can’t get back to what he was doing on the mound as a sophomore," Anderson said.

Still, after a comeback where Fischback showed everybody the things he can do, there are still things he can’t. But amidst all the negatives, Fischback sees positives. In the process of picking up the pieces of a shattered MLB dream, baseball has become less stressful. There are no more scouts to impress, and no more stats to pad.

Slowly, this game has become so much more than just a shot at a paycheck.

"Baseball has become a lot more fun," Fischback said. "I don’t view it as a future career anymore. I would welcome being drafted after this year, but it has become a lot more about just enjoying my last year and leaving everything on the table."

And for Fischback, that satisfaction is worth millions.

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Angels' Brandon Wood says he's more mature and confident

Kevin Baxter
LOS ANGELES TIMES

TEMPE, Ariz. — Brandon Wood says he's a more mature player this spring, and not just because he turns 26 on Wednesday.

He also got married three months ago, and then there's what Wood endured last summer when he batted .146 with more than twice as many strikeouts as hits.

No major league with as many as 200 plate appearances did worse.

"I learned a lot, so, yeah, I've matured," he said. "And my confidence level is higher than it was at any point last year."

Manager Mike Scioscia hopes so, because the Angels are out of options with Wood. That means they can't demote him to the minors without first offering him to other organizations.

Along with time, the Angels also appear to be running out of patience.

"There's a sense of urgency with Brandon," Scioscia said. "He knows that coming off of last season that he's a better player than he showed."

"The bottom line is this: the experience he had last year, if it doesn't make him a more mature ballplayer, a better ballplayer, then it's really a shame."

Wood gave reason for hope Tuesday, when, in his first spring training at-bat, he struck out. His swing, which has worked for him in the minors, isn't doing any math when it comes to figuring out his role on the team.

"I felt like I was coming in this spring training in a positive direction, more so than I was last year," he said. "I don't feel the pressure of trying to make this club. I don't feel the pressure of trying to make the starting lineup, or the utility role. None of that's in my mind. My mind is absolutely clear."

Fischback's back

After a two-season hiatus from the game, the fifth-year senior is back for a final season

Wednesday, March 2, 2011
www.mustangdaily.net

Brian De Los Santos
 Started in baseball at 14 years old.

Angels' Brandon Wood hit .146 with 14 RBIs in 81 games last season.