Bridging gap between homemade and factory

Ellery White

Cal Poly's Steel Bridge Team will decide this month if "homemade" will be the recipe for success at this year's national collegiate competition.

The Steel Bridge Competition requires teams to build a 21-foot long bridge that can carry 2,500 pounds.

Ellery White, civil engineering senior and fabrication senior captain Riley Jones, in 2009, the team finished in 33rd place in the nation. Last year, the team finished in 12th place.

During last year's national competition, the team used another school use modified connectors in its bridge construction. Connectors are the pieces in the bridge that act as a bolt and nut, holding the different parts of the bridge together.

At the beginning there was a learning curve as we tried to fine tune the press to suit our needs," Johnson said.

"I run the press to produce the Mustang Daily and other UGS projects," Nowlen said. "We have a printing facility now that is second to none in an educational setting ... it's the perfect embodiment of Cal Poly's "Learn by Doing" philosophy," Johnson said.

"Robots are basically advanced sex toys but are they healthy?"

— Patrick Lin

Director of the Ethics + Emerging Sciences Group

"Connections are what will make or break your bridge in a competition," Hoffman said.

Unlike the other team that manually filled the threads from the old one, but definitely not the same.

At the beginning there was a learning curve as we tried to fine tune the press to suit our needs."

With help from professionals and department faculty, Nowlen said the press has been modified to perform efficiently. The Mustang Daily benefits most from the new press because the color range is much greater and page count can be higher.

Levenson said the press upgrade was undertaken exclusively for the journalism department. Paul Bittick, general manager of the Mustang Daily, approached Levenson more than a year ago about the prospect of improving the quality of their publication.

"We have a printing facility now that is second to none in an educational setting ... it's the perfect embodiment of Cal Poly's "Learn by Doing" philosophy," Johnson said.

"I run the press to produce the Mustang Daily and any other jobs we get for newspaper-like publications," Nowlen said. "It's been an experience ... the new press is similar to the old one, but definitely not the same."

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Bridge

continued from page 1

connectors, the team uses machines that de-thread the connectors to extract measurements. "Making our connectors, it’s never been done in such a precise way," Jones said. "As Cal Poly students, we are fortunate to be able to access these machines to be able to do the work we have been building.

The team is using a CNC Lathe Machine. A lathe is an electric tool that rotates a piece on its axis along with making symmetrical cuts.

The machine takes off the threaded tracks in each connection, one by one. The connectors are cut to bare metal on two opposite sides, one-fourth part of the cylinder, leaving the other two, opposite one-fourth parts with their threading.

The result of shaving threads off parts of the connectors makes snapping the pieces together quick. The normal connectors must be screwed together like a nut and bolt, which takes valuable time.

It takes each connection 13 minutes to be adjusted to the partially ribbed design.

The machines need one of the captains to direct it by typing in dimensions, and setting up the pieces in the machine.

"This year the machines are going to make the biggest difference for us in the competition," Hoffman said.

The team members began their designs three weeks before school started in the fall.

They attended a program over the summer to begin analyzing the different structures of the bridge. The designing was finished by the first week of October.

Connections are a critical part of the bridge’s structure, but not the only ingredients.

"The welding takes up a good 20 hours a week," Daniel Lister, a civil engineering senior and welding captain, said.

The team gets 3-foot steel tubes. Team members then weld seven steel tubes to create the skeleton of the bridge.

Both groups have boundaries, whereas the runners can’t be too close to the building area and the builders can’t be near where the displaced building is going.

The regional competition is on March 23 through March 26 at California State University, Los Angeles. This year the team is looking to place nationally by doing its own welding, making its own connections and spending more than 30 hours a week on the project, Hoffman said.

"We want to begin building the program this year," Hoffman said. "The regional competition is on March 23 through March 26 at California State University, Los Angeles. This year the team is looking to place nationally by doing its own welding, making its own connections and spending more than 30 hours a week on the project, Hoffman said.

"We want to begin building the program this year," Hoffman said. "The regional competition is on March 23 through March 26 at California State University, Los Angeles.

The runners have to carry the pieces over to the builders. The builders manually construct their bridge.

Sex Robots

continued from page 1

Printing

continued from page 1

color and capacity and page numbers, Lev-

eman said.

"Paul was confident making those improvements would make the paper more appealing, especially to advertisers," Lev-

eman said. "I was happy to do what I could to help, so I began con-

necting people I knew in industry to assist with the upgrades via donations."

The added capabilities of the up-

dated press have been beneficial to the Mustang Daily Press.

"Having more color capacity does not necessarily mean we are surely selling more, but," Jones said. "This ap-

peal comes from the flexibility we now have — we can offer more color ads, there are more options for advertisements and that’s the real draw."

Levenson estimated the Dow Jones and Company Web Printing Laboratory involved about a $500,000 upgrade, he said. The Dow Jones Foundation came forward first to help

about to take off and their machines

will be everywhere eventually.

"This lecture is an amazing op-

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Ad rift Fuad, a computer science junior, said the topic is an interest-

ing and controversial one.

"Although personally, with my Christian background, I don’t know how I feel about robots and sex, this is an issue that is interesting to dis-

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"There have been some rather strange proposals like sexual ser-

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...
Recent study discovers additional threats from Type 2 diabetes

By Thomas H. Maugh II

LOS ANGELES — People with Type 2 diabetes are also more likely to die from kidney disease, liver disease, pneumonia, infectious diseases and even intentional self-harm, according to an international study of more than 820,000 people published in the New England Journal of Medicine. The study, which was conducted by the Emerging Risk Factors Collaboration, based at the University of Cambridge in England.

The data are especially concerning in light of the rapidly expanding incidence of diabetes in the United States, fueled by the growing spread of obesity. An estimated 25.8 million Americans now have diabetes, 10 million more than just two decades ago.

Researchers knew that diabetes could shorten lifespan, "but this really says many years of life may be lost and to what causes," said Dr. David M. Kendall, chief scientific and medical officer of the American Diabetes Association, who was not involved in the study.

The report also shows that those who have what is known as pre-diabetes — in which blood glucose levels are higher than normal, but not high enough to be classified as diabetes — are at risk of many of the same causes of death, he noted. An estimated 79 million Americans have pre-diabetes.

"Diabetes is often seen as condition rather than an illness, something you can live with," Kendall said. "In fact, what this shows is that it is associated with a significant risk of both morbidity and mortality.

"The Emerging Risk Factors Collaboration is an international group of researchers that has previously studied the association of cholesterol, lipids and inflammation-promoting proteins in the blood with cardiovascular disease and other causes of death. In 2009, the group decided to extend the study to diabetes, focusing on 97 large studies that tracked subjects for an average of 13.5 years and had adequate information about fasting blood glucose levels, the diagnosis of diabetes and other medical conditions. None of the subjects had cardiovascular or other diseases at the beginning of study.

The group reported that diabetics were 2.32 times as likely as non-diabetics to die from cardiovascular disease during the course of the study and 25 percent more likely to die from cancer. Diabetes was moderately associated with death from cancers of the liver, pancreas, ovary, colon and rectum, lung, bladder and breast. Diabetics were, however, less likely to die from prostate cancer.

Those findings are in general agreement with a recent statement issued jointly by the American Diabetes Association and the American Cancer Society. That document noted that it is unclear whether the cancers are caused directly by the high blood glucose levels or whether both diabetes and cancer are a result of underlying biological factors such as an inability of the body to properly respond to insulin or overproduction of insulin.

That document also noted there isn't enough evidence about whether Type 1 diabetes, in which the pancreas stops producing insulin, is linked to an increased risk of cancer.

According to the new study, diabetics are also about three times as likely to die of kidney disease, 2.4 times as likely to die of infections (including pneumonia), 2.3 times as likely to die of liver disease, 70 percent more likely to die of falls, 54 percent more likely to die of mental disorders, 58 percent more likely to die of intentional self-harm and 27 percent more likely to die of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

"It's surprising that everything under the sun was associated with diabetes," said Dr. Spyros Mentis, an endocrinologist at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York, who was not involved in the research. It is clear there is a link between diabetes and cardiovascular disease, he said, "but when it comes to non-vascular disease, it's a little more difficult to understand why there is an association." For some of the causes of death, reduced immune function and impaired defense systems of the body are clearly playing a role, he added. But for others, "more studies are needed to somehow make these associations plausible."

Diabetes is often seen as ... something you can live with. This shows that it is associated with a significant risk of both morbidity and mortality.

— Dr. David M. Kendall

Chief scientific and medical officer of the American Diabetes Association

By law, ASI cannot transfer funds, in order to obtain your (HEP) . Besides automatic inflation, the only other way the ASI and UU fees can increase results from a student vote. Also, ASI and UU fees increase on a yearly basis.

The reason for this is not for ASI to have a larger operating budget but is due to the natural inflation that exists from the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI). Besides automatic inflation, the only other way the ASI and UU fees can increase results from a student vote.

Finally, another question we received during our outreach who provide funds for the Recreation Center. Let us explain the breakdown.

On Feb. 27 and 28, 2008, 75 percent of student voters approved an increase to the UU fee fund to finance the expansion and renovation of the existing Recreation Center. The Recreation Center planning and design was funded through revenue, and construction is being funded from bonds that will be repaid from future student fees. When the renovated Recreation Center opens in January 2012, the UU fee will increase by $65 per quarter per student. Specifically, this will help pay for the construction, operation and maintenance of the renovated facility.

While the Recreation Center will be closed from June 2011 to January 2012, students will not pay the $65 increase but will pay the amount when the center is in place. Since the ASI and UU fee are mandatory, ASI can continue to provide diverse programs to enrich student life at Cal Poly and be every student's connection to the ultimate college experience.

Subject to change due to unforeseen construction delays.
WASHINGTON D.C. (MCT) —
cally in eight padents. June, who has
Call June presented data from nine
precise alteration has been achieved
cold medicines to get them off the
market because they have not been
proven safe and effective.

Some of the targeted drugs are la-
defied HIV infection in all nine pa-
cells to make them resistant to HIV
of about 500 unapproved cough and
colds might feel the same about West-
ed through the speech and protests on "matters of
public import on public property (conducted) in a peaceful manner
and in full compliance with local
officials.

An 8-1 vote, the justices threw out a lawsuit against Fred
Phelps and the Westboro Baptist
Church from Topeka, Kan. Phelps has gained national attention —
and also stirred deep anger — for
using solemn military funerals to spread an anti-gay and anti-mili-
tary message.

He was sued by Albert Snyder, a Maryland father whose son died
in Iraq. Phelps and his family pick-
eted at Matthew Snyder's funeral
by a 2008 FDA advisory that warned
marking of unapproved cough and
colds might feel the same about West-
ed through the speech and protests on "matters of
public import on public property (conducted) in a peaceful manner
and in full compliance with local
officials.

A jury awarded the father $11
million in damages on the grounds that
he suffered emotional distress, but
the Supreme Court said that
vendett could not stand.

The case of Snyder v. Phelps be-
came a major test of the limits of
free speech. Lawyers for the Sny-
der family said the lawsuit should
be upheld on the grounds that the
speaker and morality. As he said, the West-
ed through the speech and protests on "matters of
public import on public property (conducted) in a peaceful manner
and in full compliance with local
officials.

As a nation we have chosen a dif-
ferent course — to protect even
hurtful speech on public issues to
ensure that we do not stifle public
debate. That choice requires that
we shield Westboro from tort lia-
bility for its picketing in this case.

Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. dis-
sented alone. He said Snyder was "not a public figure," yet he was
subjected to "a malevolent personal
attack" at a time of deep pain and
anguish. "Our profound national
commitment to free and open de-
bate is not a license for the vicious
verbal assault that occurred in this
case," he wrote.
**Word on the Street**

What's something memorable you did or that happened to you this quarter?

"I started kickboxing — I love it."
— Meghan Bishop, agricultural business sophomore

"I got a new surfboard and my first 'B' on a college test."
— Nick Theis, crop science freshman

"I drove on the wrong side of the road by accident — I was trying to rush."
— Annabelle Sorensen, animal science freshman

"It was a pretty normal quarter for me — I do more exciting things in fall and spring quarter."
— Anthony Lipscomb, computer engineering junior

"I made a breakthrough in some of my pretty tough classes."
— Kelsey Miller, bioresource and agricultural engineering sophomore

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**THURSDAY**

**MARCH 10, 2011**

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California Year, College Where, Stephen Olsen
Irish Hills Housing, Student Housing, Berlin Muller
Almond Self Storage, Park Lake Village Apartments
Mustang Village, Pacific Gardens, Western Village
College Station, 1416, 1414, 1410
Cal Poly Housing
Stafford Commons, Spencer Apartments
Murray Village, 1713, 2419, 2413, 2415
Farrell Smyth, UCPA, Campus Services & SLO
Regional Admissions, Buffalo & More
Fox News suspends contracts for Republicans who want to be president

Matea Gold
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

The 2012 presidential campaign may not have officially kicked off yet, but the Fox News primary is already off and running.

Under scrutiny for its employment of four potential GOP candidates, the top-rated cable news channel announced Wednesday that it had suspended the contracts of two contributors, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, because they have indicated they are seriously considering a presidential bid.

At least two possible Republican candidates remain on the air at Fox News: former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, who has his own weekly show on the network.

“As soon as each of them shows some serious intention to form an exploratory committee, we would take the same action,” said Diane Brandi, the network’s executive vice president of legal and business affairs.

Fox News’ crowded bench of top Republican politicos speaks to how the network views media as a key role in the 2012 nominating contest. Palin in particular has used the network as her go-to forum, along with Facebook and Twitter. But the presence of potential candidates on its payroll presents the network with a bevy of legal and ethical questions about its independence. While there are no laws prohibiting federal candidates from being employed by a television network, the Federal Election Commission could view their time on the air as an in-kind contribution. The network also could be forced to provide equal air time to other White House hopefuls under Federal Communications Commission regulations.

Gingrich is expected to announce the plan to run, or their contracts will be officially terminated. Jumping in the race means walking away from lucrative contracts. Santorum has been making a little under $100,000 a year at Fox News in a three-year deal set to expire in 2013. Gingrich — who has worked as a contributor for the network since 1999 — was getting nearly $1 million a year as part of his latest two-year contract, which would have expired in 2013.

Huckabee receives around $500,000 a year in a deal that goes through 2012, while Palin makes $1 million annually in a three-year agreement that extends through the end of 2012.

Fox News suspends contracts for Republicans who want to be president
Government will stay open for two more weeks, but lawmakers still concerned

David Lightman
William Douglas
McClatchy Newspapers

While Wednesday's Senate vote assuaged fears that the federal government will have enough money to stay open through March 18, lawmakers and analysts expressed little confidence that a longer-term agreement on spending can be reached in time to avoid a shutdown.

Pressure began to mount on both sides to stick to their guns — from interest groups, which are running ads and holding rallies, and from both political parties, each eager to tar the other as fiscally irresponsible.

The Senate voted 91-9 Wednesday to fund the government through March 18 and to cut spending by $4 billion in that time. The House of Representatives approved the measure Tuesday, and President Barack Obama signed it into law later Wednesday. Its passage satisfied no one, since it only postponed the partisanship that neither Democrats nor Republicans in Congress came to­tgether and passed a plan that will avoid a shutdown.

The immediate issue is what level of spending can be agreed on to keep the government running through Sept. 30, the end of the 2011 fiscal year, but the talks could expand beyond that. Sometime this spring, the government will hit its $14.3 trillion debt limit. Unless Congress raises it, Washington then will be unable to borrow. In addition, by Oct. 1, lawmakers will have to adopt a fiscal 2012 budget, at least a temporary one. Each deadline poses risks of a shutdown.

The high-level talks are ex­pected to include ideas for compromis­ing on painful choices over taxes and entitlements, programs such as Social Security and Medicare whose benefits qualified people are legally entitled to receive.

"As far as we’re concerned, ev­erything is on the table," said Sen­ate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.

But reaching a bipartisan com­promise — particularly in two weeks — will be very difficult, if not impossible.

"I think they will come up with some sort of compromise, but nobody knows how this will play out," said Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a watchdog group.

The public is split over whether or not to balance the budget.

"Call Congress and tell them: ‘Protect the American dream. Stop the Republican war on the middle class,’" the ad says.

On the other side, Crossroads Grassroots Policy Strategies, an advocacy group with ties to GOP operative Karl Rove, has been run­ning a radio ad in 23 Democratic congressional districts.

It starts with former President Ronald Reagan saying, "Government is the problem," and goes on to criticize Democrats for voting to "continue the failed spending policies of Pelosi and Obama," referring to House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California.

Two party loyalists were also unhappy. The two-week exten­sion, said Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., still spends too much. "At that rate, we will never get our nation’s fiscal house in order. Unless we are willing to make cuts to every major piece of legislation, we will never get close to balancing the budget," Paul said.

The survey was conducted Feb. 21-28, after the House had passed its $61 billion in cuts. The margin of error was plus or minus 2.3 percentage points.
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March 14

Let the wine flow
Student starts business to ‘upcycle’ used glass bottles

Kelly Cooper
KELLYCOOPER.MD@GMAIL.COM

San Luis Obispo has its fair share of resources. And sometimes, people can find a way to incorporate them all. Take Taylor Engen, for instance.

The political science junior and co-owner of Glassed Over has tapped into the wealth of resources and ideas in the San Luis Obispo area and funneled them into his recently launched business. Glassed Over takes used glass bottles and redesigns them into drinking glasses and candles.

With the prevalence of the wine country, push for sustainability and focus on small businesses, one would think this idea had already been employed in the San Luis Obispo area. But Engen didn't look at it that way, at least initially. In fact, he really just wanted to create.

A while back, Engen helped a friend move into her apartment when he spotted her set of cups made out of wine bottles which he'd found at a swap meet. Engen was intrigued by the idea, he said, so he looked up how to cut wine bottles in half and tried it out.

From there, Engen tried over and over to get a clean cut. After a few weeks, he finally got it right.

"At first I did it because I thought it was fun," Engen said. "I think glass is cool, so I just made sets for our house. That's how it started."

Engen and co-owner Ted Olson, a long-time friend and student at California State University, Dominguez Hills, also started to notice how frequently glass bottles come and go, whether they're recycled or just thrown in the trash.

So Olson and Engen collected 100 pounds of glass bottles and took them to a recycling center to see what kind of money they could get. The grand total? $7.50.

"We realized that there has to be something better you can do with glass," Engen said.

Now, with the recycling idea in...
their back pocket, the boys started piecing the puzzle together — "up-cycling" used bottles (and taking note of artistic wine labels) and making them into something usable again.

Over winter break, the company started to take shape. The first step was perfecting the cut.

Engen said he practices "scoring the line" as a means of cutting the glass.

"I take a glass cutter and scratch a line in the glass," Engen said.

"Then I'll take boiling hot water and put it all along that crack, then put it in cold water. And the temperature change makes it crack."

Engen said at this point he probably gets a clean cut nine out of 10 times.

"I'd say just time is what's allowed me to get it all down," Engen said.

Currently, the two have an up-and-running website complete with an ordering system created voluntarily by a boyfriend of a cousin of a girlfriend ... of Olsons.

"He just offered to do it for free," Olson said. "So that just fell into our laps."

Olson and Engen also received help with the logo design from Engen's girlfriend, psychology junior Megan Hoffman, and friend, graphic communication junior Michaela Tutor.

Tutor, a long-time friend of Engen's, said the logo design has been in the works since last quarter.

"It's definitely been a long process," Tutor said. "As we started to realize how popular it was becoming, we really started coming up with identity."

Hoffman said she's impressed with Engen's hard work and love of the craft.

"It's really cool to be a part of and see it get off the ground and see the hard work he's done," Hoffman said. "A lot of people think of these ideas, but to actually try it and perfect it — this is something that him and Ted have been working on for months."

Since the company's debut, Engen and Olson have circulated the buzz, not only to friends, but also to small businesses and wineries. Engen has been in contact with local shop Hands Gallery as well as La Belle Winery in Morro Bay.

"The frontier I really want to get into is working for wineries and cutting their own bottles," Engen said. "That's really exciting because there's so many wineries around here."

However, that frontier has been somewhat difficult for the two to explore, mainly because of the distance. Olson said communication is the hardest thing to manage at this point. However, it also acts as way for the company to expand across Southern California.

"He is up in SLO and I'm down here in L.A., so it's kind of based out of two cities," Olson said. "So if we were both here, things would be easy, but there are a lot of small businesses and shops in SLO, and he can get into that market which is a big benefit."

As far as managing their money, Engen said they are learning as they go. Engen is pursuing a minor in agricultural business and said he's turned to professors for financial advice. One monetary surprise was the cost of quality candles. Both Engen and Olson said they were astonished at the regular prices of candles on the market.

"We had no idea — we thought five to 10 bucks," Olson said. "And people looked at them and they said, 'That's it? That's how much you're selling it for?'"

However, the current price range seems to suit demands, considering the bottles are hand-cut and the scented soy-based wax is hand-poured.

"I want to charge lower prices, but the truth is, it's all handmade," Engen said. "We really try to emphasize that."

At this point, the duo has it figured out, but are still pursuing new prospects because of the initial drive behind the project — enjoyment.

"I have the resources now, I have the time now and I decided that this is the time to go for it," Engen said. "This is an example of something that's thrown at you, and you don't necessarily know where it's going. But I'm just going to continue trying to enjoy it."

Bottles
continued from page 8

mustang daily is now accepting applications for the 2011-2012 editor-in-chief.

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Anieca Ayler
ANIECAAyLER.MD@OMAIL.COM

A karaoke event featuring popular Latino songs will be held today by the Cal Poly Multi/Cultural Center (MCC). "Karaoke en Español," is an opportunity for students to sing along to popular Latino songs with a microphone in hand. Coordinator for MCC programs Renova Campbell said the event is a learning experience for attendees.

"Music is one of the universal languages," Campbell said. "During this event, the words, the feelings and meanings of the songs will be explained. Our guests will have the opportunity to have fun and learn a little Spanish with the hope of increasing appreciation of another language."

The night of the event, attendees will be briefed on the history of Latino music and the importance and power of language. They will also discuss the prevalence of the Spanish language in California, the problems that come with it and language barriers.

"Karaoke en Español" will be the fifth event part of the Latino Heritage Series, which aims to give the students something fun to do but also to educate them on Latino culture and heritage, Buddan said.

Past MCC events featuring Latino culture this school year included a Latino fashion show, a movie night, a Latino culture this school year included a Latino fashion show, a movie night, a Latino cultural event every quarter.

That way, it doesn't tax the student staff or our guests as it relates to their studies, gives everyone more variety and brings a more holistic approach of the 'Heritage Series' during the entire year," Campbell said.

Latinos made up 12.1 percent of the student body in the fall, according to the Multi/Cultural Center, which creates an intimidating atmosphere for some students.

Ethnic studies sophomore Isabel Montenegro, who also helped plan the event, said she felt very uncomfortable during her first year at Cal Poly. Montenegro said she found a safe haven at the Multi/Cultural Center, where she first came in just to study. "The "home away from home" mantra of the center became true for her and she eventually applied to become a part of the Latino Heritage Series.

"I could come here and be with people like me," Montenegro said. "Unlike in my classes where I'm usually the only Latina."

Montenegro said she loves being involved with the center because she can show people her heritage and how it important it is to other Latinos.

"Karaoke en Español" will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. in the University Union (UU), room 204.

For more information about the "Karaoke en Español," the Multi/Cultural Center or Student Life and Leadership, visit MCC's events page, or stop by the Multi/Cultural Center office in the UU, room 217.

Horoscopes

**THURSDAY, MARCH 3**

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) — You'll be reminded of the importance of doing what you're told in certain situations. Sometimes, taking the initiative can be hazardous.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) — You may have the opportunity to prove yourself in a more favorable light than usual. Evening hours bring a sweet surprise.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) — You mustn't be factional to share what you know with others, especially if they are working toward the same goals as you are.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) — You can keep things moving in a swift and positive fashion; keep things light, and don't let one bad apple spoil the whole barrel.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) — The quality of your work must not be allowed to suffer, even if you are going through an emotional difficulty. Stay on task.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) — Those who know you best may be surprised to learn that you have been keeping something from them for quite some time.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You may feel as though you are being slowly pushed out of a position of authority, but by day's end you'll realize this is just an illusion.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Consider a change, but not the sort that is too sweeping or dramatic. Just a small, subtle shift in thinking can make a big difference.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Unlike your Libra neighbor, you may have to make a dramatic change in order to get yourself out of a current rut. Think big.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You aren't likely to receive a warning before something happens that does alter your plans — permanently, perhaps.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — The creative climate is conducive to all kinds of work at this time, but what you are imagining may be a bit too unconventional just yet.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Erratic behavior needn't affect others in a negative fashion; indeed, you can be customarily unpredictable in most situations.
Miley Cyrus makes her way back onto the big screen

**Susan King**

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Miley Cyrus has been going through some real growing pains of late. The 18-year-old has been criticized for her bad fashion choices at various award shows, including the recent Grammys. And the viral video of her reportedly smoking the herb salvia in December had some of her young fans — and their parents — raising their eyebrows.

Cyrus will once again be presented to the public in a new way when her new action comedy hits theaters.

The Weinstein Co. announced Wednesday that it acquired the U.S. distribution rights to "So Undercover," another movie in which the star breaks away from her wholesome image, and will release it in October ("when schools are back in session," a company statement said). Cyrus plays a street-smart private eye hired by the FBI to go undercover at a college sorority, where sorority-like hijinks no doubt ensue.

Directed by Tom Vaughn ("What Happens in Vegas"), the movie also stars actors Jeremy Piven, Mike O’Malley and Kelly Osbourne.

"We’re excited to be working with Miley Cyrus as she transitions from child phenomenon to grown-up star," said the Weinstein Co.’s David Glasser in a statement. "She’s got charisma and talent to burn, and "So Undercover" shows her to be a deft comedic actress."

Cyrus most recently starred in "The Last Song," a romantic drama that grossed $89 million at the global box office.

Singer/actress Miley Cyrus plays a role in the film "So Undercover," which will be released to theaters in October.
Developing democracy in Arab countries

Doyle McNamara is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

A basic tenet of the U.S. war against terrorism under both George W. Bush and Barack Obama has been the need to "drain the swamp"—to eliminate the conditions that drive young Muslims toward extremism. Now, in much of the Arab world, the inhabitants of the swamp have pitched in courageously to drain it themselves. Are we ready to help?

The Obama administration says yes, but in some cases, it's been slow to take action. And most members of Congress say yes too, but they're caught up in a frenzy of budget cutting that's likely to reduce the money available for the job. The first step, of course, is helping democratic revolutions succeed. After some initial hesitation, President Obama pronounced himself fully on the side of the demonstrators in Tunisia, Cairo and Tripoli. Critics have complained that the administration could have done more; administration officials promise that, once the dust settles, we'll learn that they did more than was publicly known. For example, one official suggested to me, the administration and allied governments have tried through back channels to persuade Libya's air force to ignore orders to fire on demonstrators.

But once a dictator has been toppled, there's much more work to be done. In countries such as Tunisia and Egypt, there are constitutions to write or revise, elections to be organized and monitored, voters to be registered. In past years, some grass-roots democratic groups in the Arab world may have hesitated to accept American aid because they, or their potential voters, saw the United States as an enemy, not a friend.

I don't think there's a problem now," said Kenneth Wallack, president of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs. "There's great pride in all of those places that these protest movements were indigenous.

Luckily, the United States already has programs available to provide the kind of advice and training that Arab democrats may want—a legacy, in part, of the George W. Bush administration, but one the Obama administration has continued.

The State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development, the foreign aid agency, are already designing a proposal for a package of "transition assistance" to newly democratic countries in the area. But that's likely to be a slow process. Tunisia, for example, overthrew its dictatorship more than a month ago, but it has yet to receive any new help from USAID.

More promising vehicles, in the short term, are the nimbler non-government organizations like World Violence, which can launch small projects quickly. His National Democratic Institute, sponsored by the Democratic Party and funded by a combination of U.S. government and private donations, has sent an expert to Yemen to serve as an unofficial conduit between the government and opposition leaders.

International Republican Institute, the GOP counterpart, has already launched a public opinion poll in Egypt to show budding politicians what their potential voters think.

Once elections are held and new governments installed, there will still be work to do to make sure the fledgling democracies succeed. One crucial aspect will be economic aid to help improve the lives of millions of people who live in poverty even as their elites—and neighboring countries such as Saudi Arabia—live in opulence.

Why is this important? Democracies that fail to deliver material progress don't always stay democratic. And that's where Congress comes in. The spending bill for the rest of this year that the Republican-led House passed last week cuts foreign economic aid by about 17 percent worldwide; it would cut the National Endowment for Democracy, the organization that funds those nimbler democracy institutes, by 6 percent. And House Republicans have made it clear that they plan further cuts next year; some freethinkers have even proposed eliminating foreign aid entirely, or eliminating it for every country except Israel.

In the short run, the Senate—and common sense—is likely to save U.S. democracy promotion efforts. But in the long run, if foreign aid is slashed overall, even the little democracy-promotion agencies will feel the squeeze.

Here's a modest proposal: The administration and Congress should choose a country to turn into a real success story, and make sure it gets all the help it needs.

For years, one of the problems of promoting democracy in the Arab world has been the shortage of positive models for others to follow. It's still a problem today: As unelected kings and presidents look at the troubles around them, do they see any examples of smooth, successful transitions they might be tempted to emulate? Or will they see chaos, and conclude that repression is still the better course?

Among the wealthy monarchies, the administration already appears to have settled on Bahrain, where a reformist crown prince has taken on the challenge of negotiating with the opposition.

Among the other countries, the United States will need compelled to help Egypt, because it is so big, and Yemen, because a branch of al-Qaida is operating from its mountains. But Egypt and Yemen are desperately poor countries that will take years to turn around.

But there's at least one country that deserves special attention because it holds such promise as a potential model for success: Tunisia. It's relatively small (about 11 million people). It's a middle-income country, with a per capita national income of about $9,500. Its population is relatively educated; one reason for the revolution was that too many college graduates were unemployed. Its revolution was largely peaceful; it suffers from no major ethnic or sectarian conflicts.

The people of Tunisia were the ones who started this wave of democratization. Now we should help them strengthen it.

While Obama and his aides have used the upheavals in the Arab world as a pretext to ask the authoritarian government of Iran, which has attacked demonstrators in Tehran even as it praised them in Cairo. But the best way to promote democracy in Iran—or Syria or Saudi Arabia—is to help democracy succeed in Egypt, Yemen and Tunisia.

Luckily, the United States already has programs available to provide the kind of advice and training that Arab democrats may want.
Michael Smerconish writes a weekly column for The Philadelphia Inquirer.

Harry Reid just called for "an adult conversation" about prostitution. OK, I'm in.

A few years ago, he published a memoir, "The Good Fight." When it was released, I interviewed the Senate majority leader about gambling in Searchlight, Nev., a town he said that then had "13 brothels and no churches.

"I learned to swim in a boddie-swimming pool," he told me with a laugh. I couldn't resist responding, "Today they call that a Jacuzzi, senator." (I spared him my joke about the backstroke.)

He's no longer in good humor about the oldest profession and seeks to ban it in Nevada, the only state where it is legal in some areas. (It's banned in counties with a population of 400,000 or more.)

"Nevada needs to be known as the free place for innovation and investment — not as the last place where prostitution is still legal," he said.

Reid mentioned that an unnamed businessman contemplating a move to Nevada had expressed dismay that one of the biggest businesses in his prospective new home was a brothel.

"If we want to attract business to Ne­vada that puts people back to work, the time has come for us to outlaw prostitution," he said.

Ho, ho, close it forever, exercise out­side. We live in the most beautiful place in the world. Go outside. We are not hummers in a cage running on a treadmill. Close the gym and save the majority of students on this cam­pus who do not use the gym money.

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In response to "Recreation Center closing until January 2012." I find it interesting that you concede that unions are the source of many worker protection laws, then immedi­ately deny them as such. The evi­dence seems to suggest that workplace conditions have historically been such that influence of workers unions were necessary. I don't see any convincing argument that conditions may not need improvement in the future.

And I honestly do not understand your point about employers not hav­ing a monopoly over job openings. Employers, as a group, by necessity have a monopoly over job openings. Since any person offering employment is by definition an employer and those not offering employment are not em­ployers, all employers have a monopoly over job openings. It is true that most employers are not colluding with each other to keep the worker down, but that you go.

You also seem to gloss over the fact that workers are generally at a disad­vantage because, in general, there is a surplus of labor, especially in unskilled or quickly trained fields. Unions pro­vide a measure of protection against an employer acting in a naively rational manner.

What does the employer want? To maximize profits. How does he do that? By cutting costs, and labor is a cost. Unions can protect against an employer who seeks to use labor surpluses to take advantage of the rela­tively powerless worker.

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In response to "Labor unions have the potential to spark debates." I'll be the first to admit that labor unions were, at one time, a great idea in theory. However, history has shown that labor unions have been a disaster. Also, labor unions are com­pletely unnecessary in today's mod­ernized western nations.

Then there's the bit about my experience as an industrial engineer, which has shown me the harm labor unions often cause.

---

In response to "Labor unions have the potential to spark debates." Well, to be fair, anyone who called Galileo Galilei a kind of high school education (at least the vast ma­jority of us) has learned about STDs. We've had it drilled into our heads.

What they didn't teach in high school was how to have a healthy sex life. We're a part of animal life, and as it happens, we are animal life, so it's in our nature to engage in sexual activity. It's about damn time someone addressed the question of how to do it well.

Your puritanical hangups have had their time, but they've done nothing for human health, happiness, or safety on the whole. We, and you, need to abandon them and go bold­ly into a future of openness, accept­ance, and exploration in all facets of life, sex most definitely included.

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Austin Mella
In response to "Fela: his mind with a classic biggie." A quick, but important, clarification; "Fela" was the first musical on Broadway to explicitly address the AIDS epidemic. There were several musicals written about the AIDS crisis throughout the 1980s and 1990s, but none made it all the way to Broadway prior to "Fela!"

In fact, one of the earliest pieces written about the epidemic, "The A.I.D.S. (Artists Involved with Death and Survival) Show," produced by San Francisco's Theater Rhinoceros in 1984, was heavily musical in its con­tent. Music has played an important role in how the arts have responded to the AIDS crisis and I want to give proper credit to the practitioners whose work came before "Fela!" Thank you.

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Matthew
In response to "Labor unions have the potential to spark debates." The Obama administration predict­ably is taking heat from conservatives about its restrained response to the crisis in Libya. There are even calls for a U.S. military response to hasten diction­ator Muammar Gadhafi's departure. While well meaning, these critics seek short-term action that ignores sub­stantial-longer-term consequences.

The administration's initial re­sponse was appropriately designed to protect American lives.

Hundreds of Americans could be evacuated, the administration re­asoned that tough talk against Gadi­hafi could put lives in danger. We need only recall Iraqi dictator Sad­dam Hussein's kidnapping of several hundred Westerners in Kuwait in 1990 to understand the ease with which unscrupulous gamelanetarchs will put innocent lives on the line to press political pressures. Gadhafi is certainly no exception.

Given the oil wealth, volatility and precarious reputation America has among Arabs, like comments from Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona still carry weight with them. Un­der Obama to "get tough," McCain stopped short of calling for deployment of ground troops but endorsed enab­ling a no-fly zone over Libya to pro­tect pro-Gadhafi military from aircraft on fire to pro-active.

No-fly zones are useless unless en­forced militarily. McCain should need no reminding, after the 1995 "Black Hawk down" incident in Mogadishu, that American military intervention al­ways carries the risk of escalating out of control.

Besides, in none of the Arab uprisings so far have we seen a notable cry on the streets for American assis­tance. The U.S. must not disregard the strong sense of pride among pro­testors and enemies alike, which are likely is taking heat from conservatives about its restrained response to the crisis in Libya. There are even calls for a U.S. military response to hasten diction­ator Muammar Gadhafi's departure. While well meaning, these critics seek short-term action that ignores sub­stantial-longer-term consequences.

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TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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11. out (relax)
14. Cow or
15. Yemeni neighbor
16. Buzzard
17. Another
18. "Laugh'n" cohort
19. Authorize
20. Bean or Welle
22. Turn inside out
24. Theilly maid of —
28. Shamelessly
29. Arrow parts
30. City near Canton
32. Dogie
33. Larger
35. College focal point
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70. On both feet

DOWN
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PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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59 Oi both feet
52 Square
53 Mosque
54 Sonata movement
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56 Scream and shout
57 Oi both feet
58 6 Pamplona
58 U2 producer
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The question I keep getting is "OK, why are you looking at Cal Poly?" said Chisholm, who graduated from UC Santa Barbara with a degree in economics. "And at the end of the day it is because I spent 13 years in the Central Coast area. I love it. I love the people and I felt like I at least needed to look into the opportunity."

Under Chisholm, the Vikings' volleyball team tallied their 16th straight 20-plus win season in 2009 and, on the football field, the Vikings won the Big Sky Conference in 2007 and 2009. A key component of that success is Chisholm's ability to select the right coaches for the appropriate jobs, he said.

"I feel really good about my ability to hire coaches. I've hired nine head coaches at Portland State and five of them have already won conference championships," said Chisholm, who has also had three different coaches earn Big Sky Conference Coach of the Year honors. "I would anticipate trying to do the same thing at Cal Poly."

But one of the main issues at Cal Poly, some argue, is the lack of attention the smaller programs receive, which may arguably be Cal Poly's best. Men's cross country boasts 11 Big West titles, wrestling is starting to compete for Pac-10 supremacy and volleyball was an at-large bid away from making the NCAA Tournament last season.

If Chisholm is the next man in charge, the attention those programs receive will not be lost in the shadows of others, he said.

"You have to do a little bit of everything," Chisholm said. "In addition to the renovations we did around football (at Portland State), we also renovated locker rooms in softball, women's soccer, women's volleyball and improved the locker rooms for track and field ... If you give everybody the tools to be successful, then you have done your job as an AD."

Cal Poly's final candidate for athletic director — current San Diego State senior associate athletic director Don Oberhelman — will have his open forum March 8, at 11:30 a.m. in Mott Gym.

Sophomore Rebecca Patton was unable to find a rhythm versus ranked opponents, starting the season 1-8 with a 7.97 ERA.

Softball continues from page 16

freshmen. Since the team is so young, upperclassmen have stepped up to provide support and guidance for the younger members, Cahn said.

The age of the team has motivated Condon to take advantage of "teaching moments" in pre-game play. Westlund said such lessons have been crucial in the team's advancements.

"Before the Cathedral City Tournament we talked a lot about winning the first pitch ... not waiting for two strikes to go by before making an attempt," Westlund said. "In the Texas game we did much better with that."

In addition to teaching moments, veteran players are also playing a key role in the development of the young Cal Poly team. Sometimes the best advice on how to improve comes not from the coaching staff, but rather from fellow players, Sobezak said.

Condon agrees, and said the team as a whole has good chemistry. The freshmen are settling into their roles nicely, and the upperclassmen "aren't trying to manage (the younger players) ... everyone on the team has a voice, and that's what will make the team better, faster."
It's a recurring theme in Chisholm's past as an athletics director. He had no problem finding success for the Vikings. At Portland State, he was able to turn around a school — which had won five championships prior to his time — into a powerhouse which now boasts five conference titles and 10 regular season or conference championships, he said.

"I've had tremendous success in the places I have been," Chisholm said. "And I would think I would have the ability to do some of the same if I was here."

If he does come to Cal Poly, the Mustangs will be inheriting a man who has a very diverse resume. Prior to his current four-year stay at Portland State, Chisholm served as the associate athletic director for Development and Marketing at UC Irvine. He had no problem finding success places I have been," Chisholm said. "And I would think I would have the ability to do some of the same if I was here."

If he does come to Cal Poly, the Mustangs will be inheriting a man who has a very diverse resume. Prior to his current four-year stay at Portland State, Chisholm served as the associate athletic director for Development and Marketing at UC Irvine. He had no problem finding success.

For the Mustangs, Chisholm sees potential at Cal Poly as well.

"I've been able to observe Cal Poly from afar," Chisholm said. "I've already seen a lot of great accomplishments and I already see a lot of great potential as well."

“I’ve already seen a lot of great accomplishments and I already see a lot of great potential as well.”

— Torre Chisholm
Portland State athletics director

**Softball hopes tough, early competition pays off down the stretch**

The Cal Poly softball team has a tough non-conference schedule. Of the 14 games they’ve played, 10 have been versus ranked opponents. So far, the result has not been good for unranked Cal Poly.

The Mustangs have a 2-12 record versus ranked opponents. So far, the result has not been good for unranked Cal Poly. If he does come to Cal Poly, the Mustangs will be inheriting a man who has a very diverse resume. Prior to his current four-year stay at Portland State, Chisholm served as the associate athletic director for Development and Marketing at UC Irvine.

The team is working hard to learn from each game orchestrated by Condon, said Nora Sobezak, junior left fielder. Although the team’s record is not great, it doesn’t reflect what’s been happening on the field, Sobezak said.

"We’re not totally failing like our record suggests … sometimes we are losing in the last couple innings," Sobezak said. "Though it might not seem like it, we are improving each game, and the (nonconference matchups) have given us a solid base to work off of."

Kimberly Westlund, a freshman shortstop, said improvement is evidenced in the game Cal Poly played against Texas Feb. 25.

"Even though we lost, progress was there," Westlund said. "Our pitching was better … no homeruns were hit, and no runs were scored in the first inning. That’s what (nonconference) is for — learning from our mistakes so we don’t make them in league play."

In addition to the foundation being laid by the preseason, the lineup is also positioning the team for postseason success. There is a formula used in collegiate sports known as Ratings Performance Index (RPI) which is a ranking calculated based on a team’s win/loss record, as well as the quality of their competition.

Playing these ranked teams will increase Cal Poly’s RPI, making it higher than those of Big West opponents.

"The winner of Big West automatically gets a postseason bid, but the other bids go to the teams that have the highest RPI," Condon said. "Even though we’ve been projected to win Big West, I can’t bank on that. If we don’t take first place, I wanted to be sure Cal Poly still had the opportunity to compete in postseason play."

Postseason competition is on the mind of senior pitcher Anna Cahn. Cahn wants to make it to postseason "more than anything," and does not believe Cal Poly’s current record is any indication of what’s to come.

"Even not winning is preparation … sometimes losing is OK because we played to the best of our abilities and did good things," Cahn said. "We have a really young team, and we are using (this competition) to work out the kinks and make the necessary adjustments."

The team currently has a player breakdown of two seniors, two juniors, four sophomores and eight

**must be completed by Wednesday 3.9.11 to be eligible**

**We are improving each game, and the (nonconference matchups) have given us a solid base to work off of.**

— Nora Sobezak
Cal Poly left fielder

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**SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!**

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— Nora Sobezak
Cal Poly left fielder