Student goes fast and furious in national racing competition

Katelyn Swogart
KATELYN Swogart @UOYOMAIL.COM

Mechanical engineering junior Sean Johnston's older brother took him to his first race when he was 7. His favorite driver, Alex Zanardi, won the race and did donuts right in front of him in victory.

"The sort of intensity in the air you can feel," Johnston said. "I mean, it's just sort of electric that there's so much — I don't know, it's almost indescribable.

It was that moment, in the thrill of having cars whip past him at 200 mph, that he said he wanted to be a professional race car driver.

Originally from Mt. Shasta, Calif., Johnston, got into Cal Poly as a mechanical engineering major, driving a green Plymouth Voyager minivan with no wars in the back. His dream took a step further when he listened to a junior engineer for the Le Mans Pro Cup, challenge race car with Performance Tech Motorsports.

Mechanical engineering professor John Fabijanic has worked in the racing industry and said Johnston is smart and knows what he wants.

"He's laid out a plan and multiple ways to achieve that goal. Fabijanic said. "He's worked for groups that prepare race cars and he's found that on his own. That's what you have to do, you have to make contacts, you have to network and find people in the industry so when the opportunity arises they think of you and give you a call.

But Johnston was told that even with all of his professional connections, he would have to raise $120,000 for the opportunity to drive.

Fortunately for Johnston, his big break came in an unexpected way. Earlier this year, Johnston became a part of the best North American GT Academy competition, sponsored by Nissan and Sony Entertainment. It's a nationwide racing video game tournament, originally held in Europe. Anyone with a PlayStation 3 video game console and a copy of the game Gran Turismo 3 could compete.

"I put the collars on 130-something cows and we rotate them through the herd," Nutcher said. "The collars measure activity, movement and chewing as well as other things like temperature....

Senior creates new system for monitoring cow pregnancy

Amanda Sedo
AMANDA.SEDO @UOYOMAIL.COM

Trevor Nutcher, a dairy science senior, implemented new technology at the Dairy Farm on campus to help increase cow pregnancy rates.

Nutcher's adviser, Stan Henderson, gave Nutcher the idea for the project and got him in contact with Micro Dairy Logic — the developer of the technology Nutcher used for his project.

"Micro Dairy Logic was looking for a university to demonstrate this technology," Henderson said. "When I heard this, I asked (Nutcher) to come in and run the idea by him and it went on from there."

Nutcher created a collar, one of the first models in the United States, that helps students, and farmers tell when the cows are ready for artificial insemination. "We put the collars on 150-something cows and we notice them through the heat," Nutcher said. "The collars measure activity, movement and chewing as well as other things like temperature. All of these things help in determining when the cows are in heat."

Traditionally, dairy farmers use a combination of different techniques to determine when the cows are in heat. Nutcher said. Measuring the temperature of the cows and also marking the cows with chalk to see if another cow has mounted them — continue when
On Saturday, May 28, San Luis Obispo residents converged to walk throughout the city in the Slutwalk. The annual event is meant to inform victims of sexual assault that they are not at fault. They chanted slogans such as "2, 4, 6, 8. No more date rape," "Sexual assault has got to go, hey hey, ho ho," and "However we dress, wherever we go, yes means yes, and no means no," throughout the walk. Marchers walked at 3:30 p.m. from the corner of Los Osos and Buchon streets, through downtown, and ending at Mission Plaza at 5 p.m.

Cows

Continued from page 1

cows are in heat — determine when the best time to artificially inseminate the cow.

The collars are a more thorough way to do what traditional techniques currently do. They can log all types of activity, Nutcher said, so they will continue to be used at the Cal Poly dairy as an extension of Nutcher's project.

Henderson said the multitude of information the collar brings in will be used in other students' senior projects next year.

Although the technology is not widely used at this time, Nutcher said the collars can cause big improvements for dairy farmers because it is a good tool to make sure the cow is as healthy as it could be.

"Obviously, if you are very diligent about checking cows using traditional methods you'll have great results, but with the collar we saw great improvement at the Cal Poly dairy," Nutcher said. "With the influx of new students working the dairy every quarter, the collar is a more foolproof way to get good results."

Henderson said the collars are suited for dairies the size of Cal Poly instead of larger dairy farms because the price of the collars can be hefty.

"In addition to traditional methods, it is a good extra system to take better care of the animal," Henderson said. "(Nutcher) goes out every week to check on the collars and it is a great deal of hands on learning."

Hands-on learning is what the senior project is all about, Henderson said.

"This project has been a good example of something that includes academics and applying that to what's useful on a farm," he said.

Anna Dean, an animal science freshman, said this senior project is the epitome of the "Learn By Doing" motto at Cal Poly.

"He took what he has learned in his classes here and used that to help better the school," Dean said. "Also, by putting in as much work as he had to at the dairy, that really is 'Learn By Doing.'"

Nutcher will present his senior project at the American Dairy Science Association meeting in New Orleans this summer at a professional association and undergraduate competition.

He took what he has learned in his classes here and used that to help better the school... That really is 'Learn By Doing.'

— Anna Dean

Animal science freshman
made racing chair. He had his priorities straight... he passed onto the next round, just barely, and got a 2.00 (GPA)." Petrossi said. "He budgeted his time perfectly between school and that. He had to sacrifice a lot of school-work to get onto the next round."

Johnston made the top 32 cut and upped his gameplay to around five hours a day, racing online with competition he was going to see again in Florida. Then he flew out during spring break, where he spent several days in Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge and the ESPN Wide World of Sports complex, competing with the fastest virtual racers in the country. He was given a video camera to blog about his experience of the whole trip. Last Friday, he was on a plane heading for Silverstone. Johnston had placed No. 15 in the competition and is now behind the wheel of a race car in the UK, speeding towards his dream.

Erma Stauffer, Johnston's communications professor last fall, noticed the quality of his work slipping during the competition. She said his last speech in her class was about finding your passion and taking the risk to do it. He went to her for advice about how to handle his academics and his dream, and she told him it wouldn't be the end of the world if he left Cal Poly.

"He has really sort of worked in both keeping himself grounded in reality and trying to allow himself to dream and to think about possibilities," Stauffer said. "He is so clearly passionate and he really believes that if he trusts that passion and goes for it fully, that it will materialize the way he wants, and that's great."

--- Sean Johnston Mechanical engineering junior

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It doesn't matter how much money you have, it doesn't matter who you know. It's a competition based purely on potential.

--- Sean Johnston

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#### Racing
continued from page 1

From 54,000 initial registrants, only the top 32 of the online competitors would make it to nationals in Orlando, Fla. Then, the top 16 would fly to the UK's Silverstone Circuit where those would be put into a racing boot camp, trading in simulators for real practice time behind the wheel of a race car.

A panel of judges will determine the best racer not only in terms of speed, but also marketability and charisma. The winner of the competition will receive four months of formal racing training in the UK, a shot at getting an international racing license and a chance to be a professional race car driver. The winner would also be a part of a reality television series airing on Speed TV.

"This competition, the GT Academy, it doesn't matter how much money you have, it doesn't matter who you know. It's a competition based purely on potential," Johnston said. "They take the fastest people in the nation in a racing simulator and put them behind the wheel of an actual car. I mean, it's just unprecedented. There's really nothing else like this competition in the entire world."

The winner of the 2008 European GT Academy, Lucas Ordonez, is a perfect example of how the competition can make dreams happen. He is racing in the Le Mans series this year, after his humble GT Academy beginnings. Johnston's main dream is to race in the 24 Hours of Le Mans, an endurance sports car race held every year in France, just like Ordonez. Like the name suggests, the race is non-stop for 24 hours, with drivers switching out through the night as they try to fit as many laps in as they can.

"It's the ultimate test of a team of people and a machine," Johnston said. "It's what I truly love. I mean, Formula One is awesome, but the races are only an hour and a half long."

Johnston's roommate and friend, industrial engineering junior William Petrossi, said Johnston joined the triathlone team to keep himself in shape. Racing requires a certain level of physical fitness, especially for endurance racing like the 24-hour Le Mans. Petrossi said he also follows a strict diet regimen. Johnston even stopped drinking any alcohol after the competition. He is the most focused member of their circle of friends, and his life revolves around his passion of racing. His and Johnston's roommates often watched him race. Johnston averaged three hours a day in his home-made racing chair.

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Anti-Taliban commander killed, German NATO general injured by bomber

Hashim Shukoor

A suicide bomber claimed the life of one of Afghanistan's most renowned anti-Taliban commanders Saturday in a strike that also killed a provincial police chief and two NATO soldiers in northern Afghanistan.

The explosion, which also wounded the governor of Takhar province, took place at about 4 p.m. as the men were leaving what the governor's spokesman described as a high-level security meeting in the governor's compound.

Afghan Gen. Daud Daud, who commanded the U.S.-allied Northern Alliance forces in the last major battle against the Taliban regime after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attack in New York and Washington, died instantly in the explosion, the most prominent Afghan official killed so far since the Taliban launched its spring offensive.

For the last eight months, Daud had been the top police commander in northern Afghanistan and previously had been the country's assistant interior minister in charge of anti-narcotics efforts.

He was a key Northern Alliance commander during the group's campaign against the Soviet occupation in the 1980s and was a close ally and bodyguard of anti-Taliban commander Ahmad Shah Massoud, who was killed in Takhar province in a suicide attack just two days before Sept. 11, 2001.

Also killed in Saturday's attack was Sha Jahan Noori Takhar, the police chief in Takhar province, which is generally considered one of the most peaceful provinces in Afghanistan.

The International Security Assistance Force, as the U.S.-led coalition is known, declined to identify the NATO members dead by either name or nationality.

But a statement issued from President Hamid Karzai's office said he had ordered his defense minister to stop the ISAF from conducting night raids in the country.

"The president is seriously concerned by an increase in the number of uncoordinated operations by foreign troops in various parts of Afghanistan," a statement released by President Karzai's office said. "Continuation of such attacks causes civilian casualties and (increases) people's dissatisfaction with the government."

The statement said that "Afghan forces should carry out night raids."

Kazai has clashed with Western forces repeatedly about the night raids, in which U.S. and NATO forces raid a suspect's home in the middle of the night.

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State lawmakers want to decline from federal immigration enforcement program

Many of the people booked in local jails end up in state prison or go on to commit crimes in other counties or states.

— Governor Jerry Brown

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Tuesday Tunes

What are you listening to?

“King Without a Crown” by Matisyahu
— Jake Williams, construction management junior

“Sorrow” by The National
— Tim Markon, chemistry senior

“Somewhere Over the Rainbow” by Israel Kamakawiwo’ole
— Elizabeth Cramer, child development sophomore

“You Can’t Catch Me” by Lindsy Daven
— Chris Polls.

“Fighter” by computer engineering sophomore

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Obama names new head of Joint Chiefs of Staff

Richard A. Serrano
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

President Obama announced the appointment of Army Gen. Martin Dempsey as his new chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The president chose Memorial Day to put the finishing touches on his new national security team and start what the administration hopes will be a U.S. drawdown from the Afghanistan.

In a Rose Garden presentation, the president said that he was moving Dempsey from the position of Army chief of staff to the higher government post overseeing all Pentagon and military operations. Obama said he had selected Dempsey because of his past two tours in the war in Iraq. His appointment now awaits Senate confirmation.

"We have much to do," Obama said, being mindful not only of the country's military presence in Afghanistan and Iraq but also the ongoing NATO operations in Libya.

The president also noted that Dempsey will be in oversee some "difficult budget choices" in the country's military spending that are likely to come up in the months ahead.

Navy Adm. James A. Winnefeld was chosen as vice chairman of the joint chiefs. Army Gen. Ray T. Odierno, like Dempsey an Iraq war veteran, was named to replace him as head of the Army.

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LMFAO brings party rock style to Avila Beach

Karlee Prazak
KARLEEPRAZAK.MUSTANGDAILY.COM

LMFAO came to party rock the sold out crowd at the Avila Beach Party on Friday night, and that is exactly what the duo and their Party Rock Crew did.

The Avila Beach Golf Resort outdoor venue has a capacity of 3,000 people, and it appeared as though every person in the all-ages crowd — from the groups of young girls who got dropped off by parents to soon-to-be graduating college students — was there to party. From when the doors opened until the concert ended at approximately 10 p.m., people danced and sang along.

Concert-goers Zoe Koutoumanos and Cynthia Terry, who attend Cuesta College and University of California, Santa Barbara respectively, said the crowd made for an entertaining atmosphere, although some were having a little too much fun.

The pair said they saw at least two people get removed from the crowd for being "really drunk," one of which was seen fighting back and had to be removed from the concert completely.

The scene of friends taking care of each other on the outskirts of the crowd was common throughout the night, and there were an unfortunate few who were driven out of the concert completely.

Despite these exceptions, the crowd brought the energy people would expect to see at a concert, Terry said.

"There are a lot of girls, and it's getting pretty rowdy," Terry said, before the concert started. "It is a young crowd, so people are getting pretty drunk. But it is really fun, and I am just excited for LMFAO to come on."

Before LMFAO took the stage, co-headliner Shwayze and opening acts Chris Young the Rapper and Audibl got the crowd singing and dancing.

The acts played until the sun started to set, and for some attendees, such as Nick Bea, they proved to be better than the closing act.

"(My friends and I are more into Shwayze," Bea said. "He did really, really awesome. LMFAO is a little more electric. You can get into it, but Shwayze is like, you have to be a little more talented."

Bea said the crowd was an interesting mix, but overall the girls were "sweet," and the concert was "awesome."

After the opening acts performed, the electronic-dance duo made up of OJ Redfoo and SkyBlu stormed the stage to ask the crowd one question: "Who came here to party?" Then, after making the "sexy ladies" and "player pimps" make some noise, LMFAO opened with the first song "Get Crayy."

From that point on, LMFAO had the crowd shuffling all night long to hits such as "Party Rock Anthem," "Shooting Star," "I'm in Miami, Bitch" and "I Am Not a Whore."

In the midst of the set, the duo proved to the crowd that they can simultaneously sing, dance, take beer bongs, get concert-goers to "show some titties" and crowd surf, which didn't take the Party Rock Crew member far from the stage despite chants of "take him to the back."

LMFAO called Shwayze back to the stage to close with the crowd favorite, "Shots" long after the sun set on Avila Beach. They signed off by saying, "We love you San Luis Obispo, bitch."

For Jessica Riconscente, a Cal Poly business administration junior, this marked the end of an exciting evening and an even more exciting concert.

"It was amazing — so enthusiastic," business administration junior Jessica Riconscente said. "They are just so good. They are artists you know — they are true artists, and they know how to please the crowd. It was a great crowd."

Editor's note: Check out a video of the event at mustangdaily.net.
Every Monday cut out this refrigerator to find out what deals are happening around you!

Check out all the deals from 05/30/2011 to 06/5/2011

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Way back in the day there was a song produced by Baz Luhrmann titled, "Everybody's Free (To Wear Sunscreen)." Done in spoken word and set to a fairly catchy remix sample, the song recites, almost verbatim, a 1997 column from the Chicago Tribune by Mary Schmich titled, "Advice, like youth, probably just wasted on the young." Those familiar with the song, or maybe even Schmich's column, can recall the various pieces of advice doled out: floss, stretch, drink plenty of calcium and — most importantly — wear sunscreen.

With summer fast approaching, before you grab your towel and make your weekly romp over to Pirates Cove — because at Pirates Cove all you need is a towel — it's time for the obligatory column on protecting yourself from the sun, or better yet, why you should protect yourself from the sun. While in her 1997 column Schmich chose not to go into the details of why wearing sunscreen is important, the numbers do a pretty good job of speaking for themselves.

According to the American Cancer Society, while unprotected skin cancer rates of about five new cases per 100,000 individuals each year during the 1999 to 2007 time period. The next closest groups were American Indians and Hispanics with skin cancer rates of about five new cases per 100,000 individuals each year during the same time period.

To help protect you from skin cancer, institutions like the CDC and the American Cancer Society suggest avoiding the sun and to seek shade between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Yeah OK, maybe if we all lived in Ohio where the only thing to do during the day is play Xbox. More realistically, according to the American Cancer Society, if you have to venture outside, the next best thing you can do is keep your shirt on — even though you've been working out all spring for the ladies — throw on a hat and sunglasses and wear sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15. All of which seems like brainers, but there is no magic bullet in protecting yourself from the sun.

According to the American Cancer Society, if you want to come back to school in the fall looking fresh-faced and pasty pale.

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According to the American Cancer Society, while unprotected and/or excessive exposure to ultraviolet radiation is a major contributor to non-melanoma and melanoma skin cancers, other factors that can act alone or compound your risk include a family history, atypical moles and a fair complexion.

This seems to be supported by a survey completed by the CDC for the years 1999 to 2007. The CDC survey found that Caucasians had a skin cancer rate of about 25 new cases per 100,000 individuals each year during the 1999 to 2007 time period. The next closest groups were American Indians and Hispanics with skin cancer rates of about five new cases per 100,000 individuals each year during the same time period.

To help protect you from skin cancer, institutions like the CDC and the American Cancer Society suggest avoiding the sun and to seek shade between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Yeah OK, maybe if we all lived in Ohio where the only thing to do during the day is play Xbox. More realistically, according to the American Cancer Society, if you have to venture outside, the next best thing you can do is keep your shirt on — even though you've been working out all spring for the ladies — throw on a hat and sunglasses and wear sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15. All of which seems like brainers, but there is no magic bullet in protecting yourself from the sun.

Thanks to recent advances in science, aerosol — or "continuous spray" as it's sometimes called — sunscreen is now available. While it unfortunately ends the practice of asking strangers to put sunscreen on your back, you can literally be covered in seconds. What's even better, brands like Coppertone and Banana Boat have aerosol sunscreens that are sweat-proof, fragrance-free and provide SPF 250,000 protection.

Now you have no excuse to not come back to school in the fall looking fresh-faced and pasty pale.

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Burger joint hosts super-sized contest

Atascadero resident Doug Drees won the Sylvester’s Burgers five-pound burger eating contest on Sunday with a time of 8 minutes, 32 seconds.

Josh Friedman

Eating sensation Doug Drees called his own shot at the annual five-pound burger-eating contest held at Sylvester’s Burgers in Los Osos on Sunday.

“I am proclaiming victory,” Drees said before demolishing 5 pounds of beef, bun, cheese, lettuce, tomato, onion, pickle and Thousand Island dressing. “It’s food, and I’m fat.”

Though Miller faced a dramatic size disadvantage, her presence in the contest posed a considerable challenge to the heavyweights. Miller entered the competition with a qualifying time of 12 minutes, 17 seconds.

Drees, an Atascadero resident, took home the $1,000 grand prize by finishing his mountain of a burger in the day’s fastest time: 8 minutes, 32 seconds.

After devouring the final bites of Thousand Island-covered lettuce and pickles, Drees raised his orange-red hands in excitement. Though Drees still needed to hold down the food for 15 minutes to officially claim the crown, the massive eater chose to keep doing what he does best.

Drees said if the five-pounder was used as a warm-up, his appetite was still satisfied with her performance. “I think I did good,” Miller said.

“I did my best.”

Despite Miller’s compelling story, another contestant was the crowd favorite. John Rossi, a mechanical engineering senior, boasted the largest and loudest cheering section.

Rossi’s pose, who sensed early on that their eating hero was outmatched, encouraged him to strive for the free Bud Light awarded to the losers.

Rossi compiled gratefully and upped the pressure of the contest while washing down his giant burger with beer.

“It was tough man,” Rossi said. “I tried to hold it down for Cal Poly. Those guys and that lady are all animals. I guess my technique is inferior.”

Rossi, the only contestant who ate in a conventional manner (burger inside bun, two-handed grip at all times), said, though, that he had fun and would party in celebration of his effort.

To the delight of his fans, Rossi also said that he might make a return appearance at next year’s contest.

If Rossi intends on overtaking Drees, he will have his work cut out for him.

Though Drees is getting married on July 15, the Sylvester’s champ sees his victory as merely the beginning of his competitive eating career.

Drees, who has also eaten a two-pound burrito in three minutes, said he plans to compete in next year’s event.

But, Drees is setting goals that stretch far beyond Sylvester’s in the world of competitive eating. Drees said he is shooting for an eventual appearance at the Nathan’s hot dog eating contest at Coney Island on July 4.

After finding the remains of a contestant’s burger on the corner of 11th Street and Santa Ynez Avenue, Drees said if the five-pounder was still in his belly.

“I’m holding it down, and I’m ready to go have some dinner with my family,” Drees said.

Burger joint hosts super-sized contest

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Don’t worry about when, live for now

Leonard Pitts Jr. is a columnist for the Miami Herald.

So it looks like we’re doomed. Again. Having found the world intact on May 21, the day he’d said the world would end, Harold Camping, an 89-year-old radio preacher from Oakland, Calif., has revised his estimate. Oct. 21, he says now. That’s the last day for planet Earth.

One hopes the people who gave away their money and possessions in anticipation of Camping’s first last day can find somebody to spot them a meal or two. One hopes the fellow who drove his family from Maryland to California budgeted enough gas money to return — though why he considered Cali a better bleacher from which to view the end of the world is anybody’s guess.

Not for nothing, but this isn’t the first time Camping has gotten it wrong. Back in 1994, he got a lot of people verklempt over another doomsday prophecy that didn’t pan out. He says he is getting these predictions that frighten and he makes predictions that frighten, perhaps, because he is getting these predictions that frighten some gullible people and provide fodder for others to crack wise.

One hopes the people who gave away their money and possessions in anticipation of Camping’s first last day can find somebody to spot them a meal or two. One hopes the fellow who drove his family from Maryland to California budgeted enough

reminder after brutal reminder of the fundamental frailty of human structures, the profound mortality of human lives. And perhaps this is just a trick of perception, but such reminders seem especially plentiful lately. From the tornadic winds whipping across this country to the ground heaving and breaking in Haiti to the ocean smashing down upon Japan, we have been repeatedly and catastrophically instructed in the capriciousness of death and the precariousness of life.

Given that the only certainty in the latter is the eventuality of the former, it is perhaps unavoidable for a rational mind to wonder how things end. Robert Frost wondered. “Some say the world will end in fire,” the great poet wrote. “Some say in ice.” Martin Luther King wondered. “Every now and then I think about my own death and I think about my own funeral.” he mused, two months before an assassin’s bullet cut him down.

Harold Camping wonders. And so he gets his calculator and his Bible and he makes predictions that frighten some gullible people and provide fodder for others to crack wise.

But the tendency to focus on the end is like looking through the wrong end of a telescope. It suggests mortality is a thing to be feared.

Granted, one would never think this, much less say it when death breaks hearts and overflows eyes, when it strikes without warning or lingers above a sickbed, when it takes away the very young and the very loved, but a case can be made that mortality is really a gift of sorts. The understanding that life is finite lends a bittersweet urgency to this business of living. Seasons change, years pile upon years, hair turns to silver and then to memory and in all of it, there is an undercover: get done what you came here to do, give the gifts you meant to give, do the good you’re able to do, say what you need to say, now, today, because everything you see is temporary, the clock is ticking and the alarm could go off any second.

Camping had it wrong in more ways than one. He told people to get ready for the end. Better they should live ready for the end.

The key word there being “live.”

Presumably, this would be the same Bible that says (Matthew 24:36) “No one knows about that day or hour...” — Leonard Pitts Jr.

Miami Herald columnist

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Medicare issue potential for GOP downfall

Mike Lachinie Newmar

Dick Polman is a columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

The conservative ideologies in Washington discovered Tuesday night that their fond dream of privatizing Medicare is political suicide.

This should not have come as a surprise. Back in early April, when the tea-partying House Republicans were preparing to vote yes on a plan to eradicate guaranteed health care for millions of senior citizens, popular government programs of the last half-century — their own smug insistence that privatization was a good idea — was nuts. Their internal polls showed that a majority of Americans liked Medicare just the way it was.

But ideologues are not swayed by such trifles as factual reality. They swim far from the American mainstream, animated only by their own beliefs. Conservatives have always been hostile to the concept of Medicare — in 1961, aspiring political Ronald Reagan said it was an attack on freedom — and so it came to pass, six weeks ago, that the House Republicans voted to turn back the clock 50 years, to replace Medicare with a privatized voucher plan that would further empower the insurance companies and force future seniors to pay more money out of pocket.

Republican strategists had reportedly warned the lawmakers, "You might not want to go there." Now we know why. Check out what happened Tuesday night in a conservative congressional district in Upstate New York. The voters basically told the Washington ideologues to keep their mitts off Medicare. They sent this message by electing a Democrat to fill a congressional seat that has been solidly Republican for the last century and a half. (The seat was vacant because its previous Republican occupant, Internet sex cruiser Christopher Lee, had fled to the buff plucksuit, quite in February.)

The Republican debacle near Buffalo is a tale of before and after. Before the House GOP voted to kill Medicare, the cinch winner was to be Republican Jane Corwin. But after the vote, Corwin began to slide, and her token Demo­ cratic opponent, Kathy Hochul, began to rise. Corwin insisted that privatization would actually "pro­ tect" Medicare, but she was trumped by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, which concluded that the out-of-pocket expenses for seniors would be almost 40 percent higher with private coverage under the GOP plan than they would be with a continuation of traditional Medicare.

Panicked Washington Republicans and their conservative special­ interest allies pumped in a ton of TV money, in the hopes of reversing Corwin's slide. They ultimately out­ spent the Democratic camp, 2-1. At the eleventh hour, Corwin did a flip-­flop — she said she wasn't "mar· ried" to killing Medicare — thereby admitting that the plan was a po­ litical loser. She wound up losing by four percentage points.

It's hard to fathom why the House Republicans didn't see this coming: after all, landslide public support for Medicare has long been

George W. Bush eked out his narrow reelection win, they were convinced that he had won a mandate to push forward with their conservative agenda. But the more Bush talked up the idea of the stimulus in 2005, the worse it polled. Certain programs remained immune, however.

Now, the Republicans will head toward the 12 campaign having de­ nied their voters a potent rhetorical weapon to use against the opposition party. Rest assured that the Democrats, armed with ac­ tual evidence, will paint the GOP as the enemy of Medicare in senior­ heavy swing states like Florida, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Even some conservatives seem to realize what this does to their party's blunder; as one key interest group, Karl Rees's American Conservative, ac­ knowledged Wednesday, "What is clear is that this (New York) elec­ tion was a wake-up call for people who thinks 2012 will be just like 2010. It's going to be a tougher environment than expected."

How refreshing it is, for once, to read the truth without the spin.

Pretty sure if we all taught our fathers/­ brothers/­ sons/­ cousins/­ uncles/­ best friends/­ roommates/­ etc. to not rape and not to be sexually violent there would be a lot less cases of sexual assaul­ t. What do you want me to tell my daughter? ... Who was wearing jeans and a sweatshirt, who was so­ ber, who was with a group of friends, when she was sexually assaulted? She didn't make a "poor decision." Only rapists can stop rape.

— S Reiman
In response to "Fifteen years later, Cal Poly student still missing"

I notice a distinct lack of male pro­ nouns there. Women are just as capable of sexual assault as men.

My point is that the attitude that victims have no control over their life is a horrible mindset to be. When I go to parties with friends, I keep an eye out for them, do my best to keep them safe. If somebody at that party has assault on their mind, I'm going to make sure that they are going through me before they do any­ thing to my friends. That's what Me­ lin's point was, before Kim popped in with a totally undeserved "don't blame the victim." By working to­ gether we can turn sexual assault into attempted sexual assault.

— Melissa
In response to "Fifteen years later, Cal Poly student still missing"

North Dakota isn't SLO, buddy. Sig Ep and geek life at Poly is a lot dif­ ferent. But yes, in the new book and Call Poly's police force botched the case. Maybe a fund to help local law enforcement in their investigation — huh?

— Christina Puerta
In response to "Former student sues Call Poly after cow injures leg"

We may be going through budget cuts but that is no excuse for putting students at risk with unsafe equip­ ment and NO supervision. What happened is inexcusable! You're talk­ ing about greatly altering a hard working students future. I hope to God Cal Poly learns from this.

— Jason
In response to "Fifteen years later, Cal Poly student still missing"

I went to the talk about UPD about the term "intimidated and uncon­ scious." I was informed that the unconscious part meant that she was what is called black out. She is awake, but is not "aware of her envi­ ronment." You know where you are and what you are doing, but are still considered unconscious.

— Time
In response to "Student arrested in Sigma Phi Epsilon sexual assault case"

One could say that the higher your income is, the smaller the percent­ age of your income that you spend on food. Increase taxes on higher income bracketers then causes the relationship between income and quality of life to look a bit like a natural logarithm rather than a straight line. Continuing the natural logarithm analogy,

this also serves to put a lower limit on how bad any person's life can be by providing those at the lowest end of income with more goods and ser­ vices, rather than having quality of life plummet towards negative infini­ ty as income approaches zero.

One of the purposes of civilized society and government is to make it possible to do things like own prop­ erty without fear of it being taken from you by force. We have police officers, military personnel and other public servants whose job it is to protect you and your property from theft, etc. In a state of complete anar­ chy and lawlessness, your "property" consists of whatever you can take and prevent others from taking, presum­ ably by force. Therefore, those who have higher incomes actually benefit more from this protection afforded by our government because they stand to lose much more should the entire system fail.

NOTE: The Mustang Daily features select comments that are written in response to articles posted online. Though not all the responses are printed, the Mustang Daily print comments that are coherent and foster intelligent discussion on a given subject. No overcapitalization, please.
HELP WANTED

The Mustang Daily is hiring the following positions for the 2011-2012 school year:

• Section editors • Copy editors • Staff writers • Web editor

Design Editors

If you are interested in any of the above positions please send a resume and at least clips to kaytyleeslie.mdb@gmail.com or drop off in the Mustang Daily newsroom, Graphic Arts building 26 room 226. Job descriptions are available on MustangJOBS.

Cal Poly’s student radio station KCPR 91.3 is looking for a News Director. The News Director will lead and manage public affairs, information, and communication activities. The position reports to the General Manager. Responsibilities include planning, reporting, editing, and production, while closely working with the Mustang Daily, and other facets of Cal Poly Journalism. Responsibility and understanding of news planning, reporting, editing and production. All majors are encouraged to apply. Applications may be submitted to generalmanagers.kcpr@gmail.com or at KCPR on the third floor of the Graphic Arts Building (Bidg 2A), Room 301.

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THE BEST OF	TIMES AND	THE WORST	OF	THEM...^
Pickett advances to NCAA finals

Mustang Daily Staff Report
MUSTANGDAILYSPORTS@GMAIL.COM

Senior Jasmine Pickett advanced to the NCAA Championships for the second time in her Cal Poly career in the triple jump when she finished 12th in the first round of the NCAA Track and Field Regionals in Eugene, Ore., on Friday.

Pickett fouled on her first attempt, but advanced to the final on her second attempt when she hit 41 feet, 10 inches. She passed on her third attempt with her second attempt good for the finals qualifying 11th. She posted three successful jumps in the finals with the first, fourth overall, measured at 40 feet, 4.75 inches. On her fifth attempt she hit 41 feet, 2.25 inches and on her final attempt she matched her second attempt of 41 feet, 10 inches.

Senior LeAnne Fogg failed to qualify for the NCAA finals when she finished 22nd in the 3000m steeplechase with a time of 10 minutes, 25.33 seconds.

On Day 3 of the NCAA Regionals on Saturday, Whitney Sisler, Cal Poly's lone competitor at last season's NCAA finals, lost her chance to advance to the NCAA finals, when she lost a jump off for the final spot.

Sisler cleared her first two heights, 5 feet, 5 inches and 5 feet, 8.75 inches without a miss, but could not clear 5 feet, 10 inches. Sisler lost in a jump off with five other competitors and finished 13th, with the top 12 advancing to the NCAA finals.

In other events, junior Rebecca Paddack finished 23rd in the 5000 meters with a time of 16:39.36, improving on her previous personal-best 16:44.73 set at the Mt. SAC Relays on April 15. Sophomore teammate Jenny Bergren finished 41st with a time of 17:08.83.

The young Cal Poly 1,600 meter relay team of Mark Rodgers, Jamison Jordan, Harry Borthwick and Jarred Houston finished 19th with a time of 41:59.

Baseball
continued from page 16

Cal Poly lost its scoreless through five innings on Sunday, but in the sixth, Cal State Bakersfield's Cael Brockmeyer hit a RBI double to right field and put the Roadrunners up 1-0.

Cal State Bakersfield added one run in the seventh and eighth, before Cal Poly answered with its only run in the ninth, when infielder Matt Jensen hit a sacrifice fly to right. The Mustangs' fell short, as they lost 3-1 in their final game of the season.

Offensively, center fielder Bobby Crocker finished with the team's best batting average (.339). Crocker also had 13 doubles and five home runs on the year.

Mike Miller was the Mustangs' only other batter with an average above .300. He hit .306 with nine doubles and 23 RBIs.

As a team, the Mustangs hit .264, compared to last year's .304 average.

On the mound, all three weekend starters finished with an ERA under 4.00. Radeke finished with a team high 3.07 ERA, Fischback finished with a 3.33 ERA and Joey Wagman racked up a 3.62 ERA in seven starts.

Closer Jeff Johnson anchored the bullpen. He overpowered batters on his way to a 1.63 ERA and 40 strikeouts in 27 2/3 innings. He also held batters to a .158 average.
Baseball swept by Cal State Bakersfield in final series

The Cal Poly baseball team finished with a winning record for the first time since its record-setting season in 2009, but it was hardly the finish they imagined.

The Mustangs won their second game in a three-game series against Cal State Fullerton on April 22, clinching just the second series victory over the Titans in the last 38 years.

From there, it looked like the Mustangs would ride their newfound momentum to just their second NCAA Regional berth in program history. But Cal Poly faltered down the stretch, and rode a skid that most recently saw Cal State Bakersfield sweep the Mustangs in their final series of the year. Cal Poly closed the 2010-11 season with a 27-26 (15-9 Big West) record.

Overall, it was an up and down season for the Mustangs. They came out of the gates and lost their first six games of the season, before the Mustangs rode an offensive outburst to defeat Fresno State 11-4.

The Mustangs struggled through the rest of their nonconference schedule, racking up an 8-12 record during that stretch.

In conference play, the Mustangs found their stride. After taking two games from UC Riverside, and dropping two against UC Santa Barbara, the Mustangs swept Cal State Northridge and took two of three against Cal State Fullerton.

But the next weekend, they dropped two of three to Long Beach State and two to UC Irvine, handing the Mustangs a blow that almost certainly knocked them out of post-season contention.

Against Cal State Bakersfield, the Mustangs' bad luck continued. Starter Mason Radeke pitched for Cal Poly on Friday, but not even the Mustangs' perennial ace could help them win. He pitched seven innings and gave up five hits and one walk, while striking out four.

He picked up the loss in the 3-1 defeat, falling to 8-4, after Cal State Bakersfield scored two runs in the first inning and one in the sixth.

Cal Poly's only answer came in the sixth, when right fielder Mitch Haniger hit a sacrifice fly to center to score Evan Busby.

On Saturday, starter Steven Fischback gave up 11 hits and three earned runs in 6 2/3 innings. He left with Cal State Bakersfield leading 4-3 in the seventh.

In the eighth, Cal State Bakersfield broke it open. Against reliever Frankie Reed, the Roadrunners scored six runs off five hits to take a 10-3 lead. The score would stay that way as the Mustangs fell to Cal State Bakersfield for the second straight game.

The Mustangs were able to keep