Abortion abolitionists

A group with no affiliation with the university, Justice for All, occupied the Free Speech Area Tuesday and plans to hold a discussion Wednesday.

The Wichita, Kansas-based organization showcased displays featuring graphic images of aborted fetuses. Representatives said the group is aimed at training people across the country to believe that the idea of abortion is "unthinkable."

The group also passed out leaflets that compared abortion to genocide and animal testing.

The group’s representatives said they plan on having an open mic session today in the free speech area hoping to foster productive dialogue on the issues of abortion.

The group primarily visits college campuses around the nation in order to promote their beliefs that abortion is an injustice.

The representatives for Justice for All said they were invited to the campus by Fresno State Students for Life, a campus-based club.

Undocumented students less than 1 percent

By Christian Beltran

Less than 1 percent of students who attend California public colleges and universities benefit from Assembly Bill 540, which allows them to pay the same as citizens regardless of immigration status.

The data comes in part from a University of California (UC) annual report after both Republican gubernatorial candidates, Steve Poizner and Meg Whitman, threatened to repeal the bill, stating undocumented immigrants are a burden on taxpayers and further harms California’s struggling economy.

Edgar Jimenez, an undocumented Fresno State senior under the Assembly Bill (AB) 540 waiver pursuing a double major in civil engineering and mathematics, said the bill has been an enormous opportunity for him.

“My parents are farmworkers,” Jimenez said. “I was brought to this country at age 15. If the law is changed, many students like me would not be able to attend college.”

Lawmakers approved AB 540 in 2001 with GOP support, which requires applicants, including citizens, to have attended a California high school for at least three years and graduated. It is estimated that a majority of the 65,000 undocumented high school graduates resides here.

The report highlights that documented students account for more than two-thirds of AB 540 recipients every year at the University of California’s (UC) 10-campus system where the program’s introduction, graduate students comprise more than 90 percent of the total each year.

Also, 1,941 students were AB 540 recipients of all 226,000 enrolled for the 2007-2008 school year. Also, 581 could be undocumented, and only 267 are Latino.

In the California State University’s (CSU) 23-campus system there were 3,633 students under the AB 540 exemption of all 433,000 students enrolled for the 2008-2009 cycle. It is unknown how many are undocumented since the CSU and community college do not divulge immigration status.

In the case of community colleges, there were 2.8 million students enrolled in 2008-2009, 657,758 were Latino. Across its 110 campuses, 12,134 are covered under AB 540.

“It is already expensive enough for me to pay $26 per unit here at City," said Fresno State biology major Vanessa Cantu who takes elective courses at Fresno City College.

“I’m paying all my fees out-of-pocket.”

“I wish I could just go to school for free,” Cantu said. “I don’t even care about extra financial aid. I can afford my materials, but tuition is outrageous even with AB 540.”

At Fresno State, nonresident and foreign students are required to pay $372 per unit in addition to the mandatory registration and course fees if not under AB 540. So, an undergraduate student taking 12 units must pay $4,465.60 on top of the regular $2,336.50 tuition.

Undocumented AB 540 students are ineligible for state and federal financial aid and scholarships sometimes require citizenship.

According to Whitman’s official website, as governor, Meg will support policies that will not allow undocumented immigrants admission to state-funded institutions of higher education, such as UC, CSU and community colleges."

Whitman’s GOP rival has similar postings on his website.

“Ending in-state tuition for illegal immigrants at California’s public colleges and universities,” is bulleted in Poizner’s immigration plan at stevepoizner.com. It further...
Time to fix the budget

Jerry Brown is even less serious in his treatment of the crisis. All his website gives is placid fluff about how he is “fighting for you.” Thanks, governor, but fight all you want. I just want to be out of debt.

The LA Times gives us the chance to play the part in their “state budget balancer.” It is here where you can see that it is harder than it looks. Being the ant-constitutionalist that I am, I tried to close the budget gap by simply cutting spending and without increasing taxes (without cutting education spending, of course). The problem is, if we eliminated all discretionary spending sans education, one-time fixes and that which is of questionable legality, we are still left with a $14 billion deficit. Whoops.

OK, let’s pretend I’m a bleeding-heart liberal, and want to raise all of our taxes to pay for our social welfare. Congratulations, libs, you did better than those of us who still will a billion dollar deficit, not to mention the fact that your already crumbling state would be stifled to the point where most of our state’s jobs would leave the state in order to find more favorable conditions.

The answer is you require begrudging compromise from both sides of the aisle. We will have to raise taxes and cut spending. If you say you will do only one or the other it is be unersien.

There is no simple solution. After an hour on the budget balancer, I could not erase the deficit without privatizing the crisis which was satisfactory (although, I don’t know if there is a satisfactory way to do this). It’s going to require some difficult solutions, some hard pills to swallow.

And we, the citizens of California, deserve it. The time for partisan bickering has come to an end. If California goes bankrupt, the consequences could be dire. And it will affect every common person, not the politicians, who will be the ones taking the fall.

GOING LINDY

By John Opdyke

The Census Bureau is making recruiting a concerted effort to fully include young people — ‘witness’ Commerce Secretary Gary Locke’s recent appearance on ‘The Daily Show.” Census takers will be knocking on door to door to see who is crashing on the couch, but regardless of how thorough they are, they will miss out on one dramatic population migration: “Millennials” are registering to vote and will soon affiliate with a political party.

Fully 50 percent of young voters aged 18 to 29 identify with independents, and the percentage of the electorate under 30 is growing at the rate of 250,000 to 300,000 new 18- to 29-year olds accounted for 21 percent of the electorate. By 2015, estimates are that 20-29 year olds will account for 33 percent of all voters.

But the millennial generation finds itself confronted by an electoral system designed and for, and by “the ‘I hate college’ crowd.” Party politics dominates. Election districts are gerrymandered to serve party interests. Many states require poll workers to be registered Democratic or Republican. The California Voter Participation Commission is comprised of three Democrats and three Republicans, rendering it both structurally imperfect and blind to the concerns of independents. And most significant, primary elections are off limits to independents in 17 states.

In Oregon, where independent registration has grown from 9 percent in 1996 to 32 percent today, voters have the chance on June 8 to enact Proposition 11 and create an open primary system, in which all the voters and all the candidates, regardless of their political affiliation, participate in first round elections, with the top two candidates going on to the general election. This non-partisan approach to state elections is being opposed by every political party — major and minor — in California.

America has thrived because we recognize the importance of the new. We cherish the rule breakers, the out-of-the-boxes, the innovators. We all know that Washington is broken; let’s fix it with a new coat of paint. The time has come for structural reforms that will empower a new generation to knock on the door and incentive to them participate. Young people are the generation we can’t afford to waste. We need to listen to them.

John Opdyke is a graduate of University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He is the current Chief Staff for IndependentVoting.org, national association of independent voters with organizations in 40 states.
CONCERT REVIEW

By midday, attendees already had a lot to talk about—DJ Lance Rock from TV’s “Yo Gabba Gabba!,” performed alongside the show’s dancing cast members in the Sahara Tent. Escape Plan guitarist Jeff Tuttle dove head first with his guitar into the crowd; adding even more wear to his already tattered Ramones shirt. Puerto Rican hip-hop duo Calle 13 spoke very little English, but tried their best to express their anguish over the immigration policies and acceptance of all types of people.

The stakes were set high, but the night’s headliners did not disappoint.

Gil Scott-Heron, a legendary street poet turned underground sensation with the song “The Revolution Will Not Be Televised,” performed his first album in 16 years “I’m New Here.” While Scott-Heron’s performance won over the crowd, it was English electro-pop act La Roux that had the audience members overflowing out of the tent.

The Fans who arrived early braved the desert sun to catch early sets by rock band RX Bandits, metal band Porcupine Tree and English artist Frank Turner. Those who weren’t ready for the heat caught a spoken word performance by cult director John Waters, who spoke of his work with actor Divine, his blockbuster movie “Hairspray” and his life in Baltimore.

Later, people packed into the Mojave Tent to catch sets from some of the festival’s up-and-coming bands—Dirty Projectors, Shooter Jennings and Gossip. Others went to the Outdoor Theatre to hear Edward Sharpe & The Magnetic Zeros, Coheed and Cambria and Hot Chip.

One of the night’s most anticipated performances ’90s alternative rock band Faith No More, who re-formed after breaking up in 1998. Vocalist Mike Patton, known for his offbeat performance, walked off stage to the front of the crowd where he performed a cover of Michael Jackson’s “Ben” followed by the notable Faith No More track “Epic.”

Muse headlined the Coachella Stage as LCD Soundsystem, who opened for Jay-Z, and ended the set with the words “I’d never thought I’d get to say this in my life, but Jay-Z is up next.” The lights dimmed and Jay-Z arose from a trap door on stage. He performed hits stretching his entire career like “Hard Knock Life,” “99 Problems” and “Empire State of Mind.” Jay-Z surprised the crowd toward when he introduced his wife Beyonce to perform the song “Young Forever.”

On April 15, 75,000 people flocked to Empire Polo Field in Indio, Calif., for the Coachella Music and Arts Festival. More than 130 bands performed throughout the three-day festival.

The venue grounds had five main stages: Coachella Stage, Outdoor Theatre, Gobi Tent, Mojave Tent and the Sahara Tent. New arrivals braved long lines upon entrance of the campground. Once inside, campers pitched tents, mingled with neighbors and traded beer for forgotten toiletries.

Here is a day by day rundown of the festival:

Day One
By midday, attendees already had a lot to talk about—DJ Lance Rock from TV’s “Yo Gabba Gabba!,” performed alongside the show’s dancing cast members in the Sahara Tent. Escape Plan guitarist Jeff Tuttle dove head first with his guitar into the crowd; adding even more wear to his already tattered Ramones shirt. Puerto Rican hip-hop duo Calle 13 spoke very little English, but tried their best to express their anguish over the immigration policies and acceptance of all types of people.

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The night’s headliner, Jay-Z, humbled acts throughout the day as many of them gave shout outs to the rapper LCD Soundsystem, who opened for Jay-Z, ended the set with the words “I’d never thought I’d ever get to say this in my life, but Jay-Z is up next.” The lights dimmed and Jay-Z arose from a trap door on stage. He performed hits spanning his entire career like “Hard Knock Life,” “99 Problems” and “Empire State of Mind.” Jay-Z surprised the crowd toward when he introduced his wife Beyonce to perform the song “Young Forever.”

Day Two
The Fans who arrived early braved the desert sun to catch early sets by rock band RX Bandits, metal band Porcupine Tree and English artist Frank Turner. Those who weren’t ready for the heat caught a spoken word performance by cult director John Waters, who spoke of his work with actor Divine, his blockbuster movie “Hairspray” and his life in Baltimore.

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Day Three
Fans arrived at the tents in the morning to check out Local Natives, Mayer Hawthorne, Matt & Kim and a solo set by The Strokes frontman Julian Casablancas. Others camped out at the Coachella Stage and Outdoor Theatre to see established acts like De La Soul, Yo La Tengo and the newly reunited ’90s outfit Sunny Day Real Estate. As the sun began to set, Phoenix
CONTINUED from page 4

Matt & Kim and a solo set by The Strokes frontman Julian Casablancas. Others camped out at the Coachella Stage and Outdoor Theatre to see established acts like De La Soul, Yo La Tengo and the newly reunited ‘90s outfit Sunny Day Real Estate. As the sun began to set, Phoenix served as a co-headliner at the Outdoor Theatre. However, the night belonged to this generation’s neo-rock legends.

Stockton-based band Pavement played its first United States show in more than 10 years as die-hard fans shouted lyrics to their favorite songs. Radiohead frontman Thom Yorke played his first high-profile performance with his new band, Atoms for Peace, which includes Red Hot Chili Pepper’s bassist Flea. After Yorke ended the set with two Radiohead songs, headliners Gorillaz began its set in front of the festivals largest crowd.

While the Gorillaz were the most popular act of the entire festival; it was Sly Stone who created one of the most memorable performances.

Sly Stone has always been one of music’s biggest mysteries due to frequently missed shows. The performance was highly publicized, but immediately brushed off by fans. Sly and the Family Stone was postponed twice. Four-hours after the band’s scheduled performance Sly walked on stage to a mere crowd of 300 attendees. Camera flashes went off everywhere as people stood in disbelief over the sight of the entire band together on stage once again. However, Stone was anything but ready to perform. He began the set by telling the audience he had been kidnapped and could not get through a full song. The band was halfway through “I Want To Take You Higher,” when Sly walked off stage, leaving both the band and the audience confused. Some were disappointed over the performance, others were excited to witness one of the most rare and memorable performances in Coachella’s history. If there was anything to be learned at this year’s festival, it was to be sure to keep your eyes peeled. There were definitely surprises on each stage.
CONTINUED from page 1

Skeen, an English professor of poetry at Fresno State.

“This event encourages the appreciation and study of creative writing, especially important when public schools are cutting support of the arts,” Nichols said. “Fresno is an area that has a rich history of producing great writers. The WYC is an excellent opportunity for high school students to get a taste of university life as well as a chance to get feedback on their writing. In addition, teachers of writing are able to network with other teachers from both the high school and university levels.

states that, “this practice must end and, as governor, I will make sure that it does.” Jose Chavez, a business major at Fresno State, said his family migrated here from El Salvador illegally when he was 3 years old, but has not been able to obtain legal status. “I have been living here my whole life,” Chavez said. “I did not choose to come to another country and face so many obstacles. I contribute to my community, I pay taxes and I deserve to go to school like everyone else.” He added that finding a job to afford school is already a burden. “I get no financial aid,” Chavez said. “If given the opportunity, undocumented students can make a difference in California’s economy. We are a qualified, but ignored workforce.”

Students like Chavez have no way of obtaining citizenship since the U.S immigration system requires applicants to be sponsored by an immediate relative who is a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident. At Fresno State, scholarships are available to all students who are incoming freshman, continuing or transfer including out-of-state students, undergraduate or graduate students regardless of immigration status.

AB 540: Students are exempt from paying out-of-state charges

CONTINUED from page 1

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By Kimberly Sheard
The Collegian
To celebrate the 40th annual Earth Day, Fresno State students and faculty will participate in service project entitled Generation Green, this Saturday April 24th.

The Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning has collaborated with the Sierra Foothill Conservancy and the Rotary Storyland to allow students and faculty to create a lasting impact on this national service day. The special events and projects coordinator for the Richter Center, Renee Delport, said that this was the third time Fresno State students and faculty have worked with the Sierra Foothills Conservancy and Rotary Storyland. At the Sierra Foothill Conservancy, students and faculty will help create a hiking trail in the McKenzie Table Mountain Preserve, a project that was started last October by Fresno State students and faculty.

“There was no trail at all and Fresno State volunteers [last October] broke the trail down the side of a mountain, cutting trees, and raking up dirt,” Delport said. “Without these hiking trails, we could cause damage to nature.”

The Sierra Foothills are a hidden gem of the Central Valley, said Fresno State student Leah Rath. It means

To read the rest of the story on Earth Day visit: http://collegian.csufresno.edu

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New NFL Draft format

Coaches are always looking for more time, but when is it too much time to collaborate about players left in the draft?

By Paul Domowitch
McClatchy Tribune

New York Giants general manager Jerry Reese was asked the other day for his opinion on the new format that will spread the draft’s seven rounds over three days.

“It just gives us more time to overanalyze what we have already overanalyzed, basically,” Reese said. Nobody does overanalysis better than the NFL. It spends millions of dollars and countless man hours scouting prospects, then allows itself to be swayed by how a kid looks without a shirt on or how many times he bench-presses 225 pounds at his Pro Day workout.

The NFL is the only league where coaches feel the need to work 18-hour days and sleep on their office couch preparing for a game, then lose track of how many timeouts they’ve got left or what down it is.

This week, Reese and the rest of the league’s GMs and coaches will have another golden opportunity to overanalyze when, for the first time in history, will feature the first round and think it will give teams an opportunity to recalibrate their draft boards and plot a better second-round strategy.

Others, like Reese, think it will just give teams more time to screw up. “Instead of rolling into the second round like we usually do, we’ll have a lot of time on our hands to sit there and look and say, ‘I can’t believe that so-and-so is still on the board right now,’” Denver Broncos coach Josh McDaniels said. “There’s probably going to be a couple of those players for each team. ‘I think we’re all going to be sitting there looking at that late that first night, saying, ‘Is this something that we want to consider doing because we can’t believe that guy is still on the board?’ I think time is always something that makes people think a little bit more about what’s left. There are quite a few teams, including us, that have multiple second-round selections.”

Certainly, you would think the Rams and the Lions, who own the first two picks in the second round, will be getting a lot of phone calls on Friday. But will the overnight break really prompt any more second-round trades than last year when there were seven different deals made in the second round on draft day?

“Normally, when guys have a lot of time at the end of the first day of the draft, they’ll go back and have a meeting, take a look at what happened, and see what they can do to climb up in the next round and get back into it,” said former Raiders and Bucs coach and current ESPN “Monday Night Football” analyst Jon Gruden. “I think you’ll see a little bit more aggressive-ness, possibly more trades, at the start of the second and third day.”

“Can I see it being approached more like the first round. In the past, you kind of rolled into that round. Now, to actually stop and have the whole night to sit there and think about it and talk to other teams and develop a new strategy, everybody did that in the past after the second round. But now we have two opportunities to do that.”

NFL Network draft analyst Mike Mayock is not a big fan of the new format. He thinks it will negate the advantage good-drafting teams currently have over their less competent competition.

“The teams that historically draft well and prepare well and trust their boards don’t like the new format because they feel like it’s giving an edge to teams that aren’t as well prepared and don’t react as well under pressure,” Mayock said. “If you think you’re pretty prepared and pretty good and have a lot of savvy veterans in your draft room, typically, at the end of that first round, things get quicker. Crazy things may or may not have happened. In the first round, boards can get decimated, and all of a sudden, the pressure is on in the second round. You’ve got less time to make decisions. You get a chance to put pressure on a team about a trade. I think that’s where the good teams historically feel they’ve been able to take advantage of that. ‘Now, the teams that might not be as good and might not trust their board as much and don’t react as well to pressure, they can go home and say, ‘OK, let’s regroup.’ “

Head coach of the Denver Broncos, Josh McDaniels, says their will be a lot of talk after the first day. When looking at players who are left, coaches will have plenty of time to debate if they should be considered in the next round.
March expansion

March Madness may get madder with the expansion of the NCAA basketball bracket to 96 teams.

By Megan Morales
The Collegian

Just weeks after the madness of March came to an end, the NCAA went into serious deliberation over expanding the men’s basketball tournament to a 96-team field.

The current 68-team bracket has proven to provide excitement, but the decision to expand is based on more than just good entertainment. The ultimate goal of adding more teams is to generate more revenue, which would result in more money for conferences.

NCAA vice president Greg Shaheen said no final decision has been made, but the expansion is definitely being worked on.

On April 1, Shaheen announced the logistics of the expanded tournament and included details about the benefits of the plan, and even how the revenue would be distributed.

The expansion could entail a positive aspect for conferences like the WAC. A bigger bracket would increase opportunity for teams like Fresno State to make it into March Madness.

According to a recent official sports report, Bulldogs head coach Steve Cleveland would welcome a 96-team field because of the possible opportunities for WAC schools.

However, the idea of 96 teams isn’t necessarily sitting well with everyone. CBS 47 sports director George Haberman agrees.

“If you’re expanding a tournament, then you should also increase the number of teams that have a chance to win the tournament,” Haberman said. “But this doesn’t do that. As it is, you have 12 teams or so in a given year that really have a shot — and that’s not changing with an additional 31 teams.”

The Division I Men’s Basketball Committee still needs to approve the idea which would then need to be approved by the board, but so far signs all seem to be pointing to yes on whether or not the plan will go through.

A meeting will be held April 29 to further discuss the matter.