The decision of whether or not to keep a seventh school at Cal Poly was finalized Monday afternoon when deans and administrators agreed to phase out the School of Professional Studies.

The School of Professional Studies will be phased out come fall quarter, rather than in three years as was proposed during last year’s budget cuts.

The school houses the graphic communication, home economics, industrial technology, liberal studies, military science, physical education, recreation administration, and psychology and human development departments. The individual departments will be retained and moved to other schools.

Robert Koob, vice president for Academic Affairs, said that phasing out the school was a result of last year’s budget cuts.

“The School of Professional Studies) took a 30 percent cut and can’t be a stable school with those cuts,” Koob said.

Koob said the reorganization will give students and faculty a stronger environment to work in.

The phase-out could have taken up to three years, but Koob said that “there was nothing to say that it couldn’t happen this soon.

“The decision removed uncertainty that was created for both faculty and students,” Koob said in reference to when the actual phase-out would occur.

A proposal has been drafted that states where the departments will go, but Koob said it wouldn’t be finalized for a couple weeks.

Harry Busselen, Jr., dean of the School of Professional Studies, is the only individual whose job is directly affected, Koob said.

“He has the opportunity to return to the faculty or reapply somewhere else,” Koob said. “It’s up to him.”

Koob said, in light of the decision, Busselen behaved very professionally.

“He’s done a marvelous job,”

See PHASE-OUT, page 12

**Public Enemy rescheduled for Saturday**

By Peter Hartlaff

Editorial Staff

The Enemy is back.

Rap group Public Enemy, who canceled its scheduled performance Sunday, will play in Matt Gym on Saturday at 8:30 p.m.

The original show was canceled after Public Enemy missed their flight out of New York.

ASI Concerts Chairman Steve Miller said that ASI did their best and the Saturday rescheduling was the all that could be done.

“It’s good news in the sense that the students of the school are what we’re representing and about 2,000 people bought tickets,” Miller said.

“This wasn’t ASI’s fault and we still want people to see the show.”

Miller said the concert was moved an hour later than the Sunday time because of an African-American Student Union meeting on Saturday night. In addition, a men’s volleyball game scheduled in Matt Gym was moved to another location at ASI expense.

The ASI expenses did not end there.

Miller said while it was too early to know, the See PUBLIC ENEMY, page 12

**Poly scientists make history**

Biologists remove preserved bee from ancient sap pouch

By Mark Marden

Staff Writer

One night last October in a quiet lab in the Fisher Science Building, a Cal Poly biology professor and a student pulled off a scientific first.

With an Austrian documentary film crew taping the event, Ruud Cane and biochemistry senior Hendrik Poinar managed to remove a preserved bumble bee from its prehistoric tree sap preservative.

For 25 to 40 million years, this familiar-looking bee had been almost perfectly preserved in the sap, which is called amber.

Until now, no scientist anywhere in the world had been able to free this type of prehistoric specimen from its amber casket without contaminating it in some manner.

To the scientific world, the uncovering of a pristine specimen will allow microbiologists to extract DNA from ancient insects and small animals, opening a window to prehistoric life and possibly adding another link to the evolutionary chain, Poinar said.

Cal Poly’s bee-in-amber story may achieve worldwide recognition, he said.

Within the last few weeks, the BBC and producers from public television’s “Nova” series have contacted Cane about the project, he said.

Insects trapped in amber are also the subject of an upcoming Steven Spielberg motion picture of Michael Crichton’s novel “Jurassic Park.” The book recently spent three weeks on the New York Times bestseller list, Poinar said.

The theme of the book is that DNA extracted from dinosaur blood sucked by biting insects, then entombed in the globes of tree sap, can be used to clone killer dinosaurs.

“The cloning part is not very likely right now,” Poinar said. But, he said, the DNA extraction is becoming possible due to his and Cane’s experiments.

The Cal Poly bee-in-amber story began last fall when Poinar enrolled in Cane’s molecular genetics class.

“The development of M ichael C rich’s novel ‘Jurassic Park’ is becoming possible due to his and Cane’s experiments.

According to the filing period to run for ASI president, chairman of the board and board of directors.

Certain eligibility requirements, stated in the candidate filing packet, must be met by candidates before running for office, said Linda Lee Thoresen, ASI executive secretary.

“They have to have a 2.3 cumulative Cal Poly GPA,” Thoresen said.

According to the filing period to run for office, candidates must also have been enrolled at Cal Poly for at least two of the last four quarters.

ASI opens filing period for spring staff election

By Tracey Adams

Staff Writer

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**Insight...**

Some frustrated students enrolled in Poly’s English as a Second Language program feel it is lacking.

Page 5

**Human rights...**

A “Wall of Hope” attempts to promote awareness of human rights violations around the world.

Page 7

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China praises Bush for vetoing trade bill

BEIJING (AP) — China praised President Bush Tuesday for vetoing legislation that would have attached conditions on the renewal of favorable trade status for Beijing.

"President Bush's sensible attitude of giving most-favored-nation status to China with no conditions is appreciated," said a spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying, "We welcome and appreciate President Bush's decision," the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Both ministries said extension of most-favored-nation status to China would help improve the two countries' relations. U.S.-China relations have been at their lowest point since normalization in 1979 following the bloody 1989 suppression of the pro-democracy movement and a variety of trade disputes.

Last week, the U.S. Senate voted 59 to 39 to attach conditions to the annual renewal of China's most-favored-nation status, which allows the lowest available tariffs for Chinese goods.

Police battle against gang in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP) — Police arrested the alleged boss of Hong Kong's top organized crime family on April Fool's Day five years ago.

Meet Heung Wah-yin, referred to in police circles as head of the Teflon Triad. Police officials say Heung leads one of the world's biggest crime syndicates with an estimated annual turnover of $2 billion.

Heung and his wife divorced him, Vernon Montgomery, a machinist in 1988, then his mother died and Darryl Montgomery, 30, lost his job as a machinist in 1988, then his mother died and his wife divorced him, Vernor Montgomery said Monday.

The younger Montgomery also suffered a mental breakdown and is now in a psychiatric hospital.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The administration is getting contradictory views on the effectiveness of the economic embargo against Iraq as it grapples with Saddam Hussein's stubborn refusal to destroy his country's deadly arsenals.

An independent study commissioned by the Defense Department says the sanctions are greatly appreciated and stay open if all rules are obeyed.

Recent concerns about Poly Canyon have led ASI's Ad-ministrative Commission to increase awareness about problems and solutions regarding student behavior in the canyon.

Poly Canyon has been reopened for some time. Mice could cause, however, tighter enforcement of rules. Strict penalties, fines or permanent closure of the canyon are possibilities if abuse should continue.

Responsible behavior and respect for the safety of others are necessary in order to keep Poly Canyon open to mountain bikers.

In addition, peer policing and any reports of misconduct are greatly appreciated and strongly advised.

Signs stating the rules of the trails are being placed at nine designated locations throughout the canyon. We ask that all bicyclists respect the purpose of the signs and abide by the rules accordingly.

Together we can keep Poly Canyon open and make it a safe and enjoyable place to ride, jog and walk.

Attention all juniors interested in summer internships and seniors interested in career positions. Macy's West will be interviewing on campus March 12 & 13, 1992. Please attend the information session on March 11, 1992 at 7:00 p.m. in Staff Dining Room "C."

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Panel of gay men share trials of 'coming out'

By Kelli Harris

A panel of gay Cal Poly men who talked about the troubles they have faced when they finally "come out" gave students who haven't "come out" a chance to see what the experience was like. About 60 people attended the Parents the Friends of Lesbians and Gays meeting last week.

Presenters at the meeting were college students supporting their gay or lesbian parents and parents looking for support because of their gay or lesbian children.

"The meetings are open to the public," said Danny Griebe, secretary of Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals United (GLBU). "Cal Poly students are here for them selves or because their parents or friends are gay also. The level of acceptance here is phenomenal," he said.

At the request of the group, some names have been excluded to protect the privacy of the members and of those who have not "come out" yet.

The meeting opens like a business meeting. The gathering then breaks up into separate gay groups, then regroups for general discussion, Griebe said.

The meeting began with participants introducing themselves and explaining their reasons for being there.

Then the panel of gay Cal Poly men spoke. One student on the panel said, "You have to deal with your immediate family first."

Another student said, "My father thinks I am just going through a phase. So, one night at a restaurant when we were talking about it, I said in a loud voice I am gay and then I said, "See, Dad, no more cares, and it felt good."

PFLAG meetings give homosexuals an opportunity to get support and be adopted by a "family" here until their real families accept them for what they are, said one of the members.

"I am afraid of what the reaction will be by my parents. My stepmother is very narrow-minded, and I am afraid she won't communicate," said one Cal Poly student.

One parent encouraged students who were afraid of coming out to their family to do so.

"As parents we want to hear that you're happy. When you're happy, it's music to our ears."

Children of gays and lesbians gave their support to their parents and others who were in the same situation.

"The unconditional love that parents have for their children is what they will have for you," said one of the members of PFLAG.

PFLAG meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of every month at the United Methodist Church on Fredricks Street in San Luis Obispo.

For more information about the organization, call 544-6830 or 595-2840.

From page 2

Voters convicted of running an illegal or ganization have been freed to run a colony's highest court, allowing them 7 1/2 years in prison.

A year later, the case was not because it was not a maxim um security at Stanley Prison.

About 60 people attended the meeting.

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From page 3 are eating, allowing Iraq to import food and export oil and gold. Patrick Clawson, the consultant who wrote the study, suggests Iraq's growing dependence against destruction of its ballistic missiles is linked to the weakening of the economic sanctions.

Government officials, however, say the embargo is crippling Iraq and exacting a severe toll on its people. The political fortunes of Saddam. Since the Gulf War ended with Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait a year ago, the United Nations has used economic sanctions to force Iraq to destroy its vast stockpiles of non-conventional weapons.

But Baghdad is refusing to cooperate further with this demand unless it gets a Security Council promise that its cooperation will result in a phasing out of the embargo.

The United States, however, plans to push for implementing the economic sanctions until Saddam is forced from power by his impoverished subjects.

But Clawson, using U.N. and other data, said daily life for Iraqis is improving. He said Iraq was now getting 75 percent of the amount of food it was importing before the sanctions were imposed. Iraq was almost fully reliant on food imports even before the war.

Overall imports are about 25 percent of their pre-war totals, said Clawson, who is a Middle East and economics specialist with the liberal Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia.

In addition, Iraq has exported $500 million in oil, and similar amounts of gold and agricultural produce such as dates, he said.

This money has enabled the Iraqis to buy things abroad — food and other items — in addition to the $500 million in food and medical aid it has received from international charitable groups, Clawson said.
The campus should take control of the situation and hold Cal Poly students and living on the campus.

I would say yes, Cal Poly should take charge and discipline them.

They are probably middle-class white boys who have never experienced what it's like to have to survive. If they are here on campus and they are living on campus then yes, Cal Poly should press charges.

If Cal Poly didn't get involved then I would think something would be wrong.

If the act was against the university then I think they have a right (to punish students), but if the act didn't involve university facilities and didn't involve the university other than that they were students then I don't think they have any jurisdiction. I think that sets a dangerous precedent.

If the school feels it is a criminal element in the university then I think that is bad for the university but I don't think the university has the right to punish anyone above and beyond the law.

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By Kelli Harris
Staff Writer

Can you imagine attending the Sorbonne in Paris after studying only a few years of French? You've taken an entrance exam, passed it and you are told "we want you."

You get to the university and find that they don't offer any classes that will help you to learn to read, write or speak French.

Many foreign students at Cal Poly find themselves in a similar situation. They speak English as a second language — but not well enough to get them through the English and writing requirements they need to graduate.

Incoming English as a Second Language freshman who do not pass the EPT (English Placement Test) are required to complete English 111, 112 and 113 before they can go onto English 114.

But Cal Poly offers minimal ESL classes according to Janice Foerster, lecturer in the English department and instructor for ESL.

These classes are impacted, and it is difficult for the students to get them, she said.

Victor C. Gomez, an agriscience freshman who is enrolled in the ESL program says, "ESL works. It helps with writing, but there are not enough classes offered. I tried to get some ESL classes last quarter, but I couldn't. There needs to be a couple more classes offered. I still have to take two more (ESL) classes before I can begin English 114."

Most ESL students say the program is a helpful and very necessary service.

Jesus Pudilla, an electrical engineering freshman, was born in the United States and moved with his family to Mexico after the fifth grade. He had to relearn everything when he returned to finish high school in Southgate, Calif.

"We do need ESL. I'm here learning English. When I came back to the United States from Mexico it really messed me up. I had a hard time; my best friend helped me with my English. ESL is filling my needs. It's helping me write reports," he said.

Psey Chhay, an environmental engineering freshman, said he's frustrated that ESL students can't get the classes they need to take.

"There should be more than 15 students allowed to take the classes. I don't understand it. I really like Cal Poly, and I love living in the dorms. The friends are great, but I don't like the food. I'm learning English from the dorms and class about equally.

"The students who are enrolled in the ESL classes write nine essays, which are then reviewed. After the review, students are told whether they are ready to progress to English 114. If not, then we have to stay in these classes," said Pudilla.

And there is an even bigger need among transfer and graduate students who speak English as a second language, Foerster said.

The minimal classes that are open for ESL students are not usually available to non-freshman transfers and graduate students, she said.

These students can take a conversation class sponsored by the tutors in the University Writing Lab, said Jim Hawkins, a graduate student and tutor in the writing lab.

"This class is offered once a week and lasts for two hours. There aren't any other opportunities for the students. However, everyone is welcome to participate in the conversation class," Hawkins said.

"But there aren't any units offered for the class so attendance varies." Students who transfer or enter Cal Poly as graduate students take a standard entrance exam. If they can pass the test and fulfill Cal Poly's requirements, they are accepted, and Mary Kay Harrington, coordinator of the writing lab.

Then, when the Graduation Writing Exam rolls around, she said, the foreign transfer students who entered Cal Poly thinking they could graduate find they have real difficulties passing the test.

School of Agriculture
See ESL, page 9
HELP!

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Best Student Hangout
Best Faculty/Staff Hangout
Best Kept Secret in SLO
Best Place to Take Your Parents
Best Grocery Store
Best Place to Go on Your 21st B-Day

□ Student □ Faculty/Staff □ Other

No photocopied ballots - One ballot per person, please

ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 6th
Amnesty ‘Wall of Hope' urges release of Myanmar woman

By Julie Pacheco
Staff Writer

Walking through the U.U. Plaza Tuesday, passersby may have noticed a sheet with the signatures of students and faculty draped across a wooden wall.

The ‘Wall Of Hope,' sponsored by Amnesty International, was erected by students to create awareness about human rights violations against women around the world.

The sheets will be used to help free a woman named Aung San Suu Kyi who has been held under house arrest in Myanmar. Aung San Suu Kyi was arrested in 1989 because of her affiliation with the National League for Democracy.

According to pamphlets handed out by Amnesty International, the NLN won 80 percent of the votes for the 1990 elections in Myanmar. But military authorities, who staged a coup to control the country in 1988, maintain power despite NLN's victories.

The signed sheets and petitions for the release of Suu Kyi will be sent to Myanmar to pressure the government there to comply with the request.

"The purpose of this wall is to create awareness and to help push for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi," said Teresa Wright, a biology senior working to get signatures on the sheet. "Writing letters to the heads of state can make a difference."

The wall of hope is the last event held for Amnesty International's ongoing women's campaign which began fall quarter.

The wall-signing is one event of "A Week in Celebration of International Women's Day," sponsored by the Center for Women and Ethnic Issues.

"Ninety percent of all refugees in the world are women, and women make easy targets for the violation of human rights," said Donna Cargill, a history senior working at the wall.

"If writing a letter can free or help someone, it's worth the little effort it takes," said Cargill.

Workers at the wall said half of the Cal Poly students asked to sign the sheet were not receptive.

"Some students are a little unsure about signing because they're not sure what it's going to be used for," said Cargill.

The members of Amnesty International expect to obtain about 150 signatures for each of the two sheets they plan to send out.

"Amnesty International is a nonpolitical organization trying to free prisoners around the world," said Cargill.

"We never condemn governments but do condemn the violation of human rights," said Cargill.
Nearly 100 apply for athletic director

By Neil Pascale
Editorial Staff

With 11 days left in the filing period, close to 80 people have applied or been nominated to become Cal Poly's new athletic director, said Charlie Crabb, interim associate vice president for Academic Resources.

The filing period for applications or nominations will end March 15. Crabb said he expected 190 applications before the deadline.

From there, a 15-member Consultative Committee will review the applications and narrow the number down to approximately 15, Crabb said.

At that point, three to five finalists will be chosen by the committee.

Those finalists will be invited to Cal Poly and will spend time with a variety of different groups, from coaches to students to faculty, Crabb said.

The committee will then provide input on the finalists to Robert Koob, vice president for Academic Affairs, and President Warren Baker, who will make the final decision.

The committee includes Crab, Hazel Scott, vice president for Student Affairs; Frank Lebana, interim vice president for Business Affairs; Dwight Head, physical education and recreation administration department head; Steve Reisman, men's sports representative; Larry Cummins, women's sports representative; Michael Wenzel, English professor and faculty athletic representative; Laura Freberg, Academic Senate representative; Phillip Bailey, dean's representative; Larry Smith, Mustang Booster representative; Kristin Burnett, student representative; Michael John Paul, student representative; Rich Johnson, Rec Sports representative; Anna McDonald, director of Affirmative Action and Jan Popier, director of Personnel.

Crabb said the new athletic director should be announced sometime in July before current Athletic Director Ken Walker's term ends.

Walker resigned on Dec. 16.

Cal Poly's polo team wins regionals

By Neil Pascale
Editorial Staff

Cal Poly's women's polo club team won the Western Regional Championship, the first ever for Cal Poly.

At Riverside Ranch in Petaluma, Poly began the tournament with a convincing 29-1 victory over USC in the preliminary round. Poly then beat Stanford, 18-6, in the finals.

The team travels to Dallas, Texas, on April 2 to face Skidmore College of New York in the United States Polo Association National Intercollegiate Competition.

Skidmore was last year's Reserve National Champion. The polo team includes team captain Jen Smith, graphic design senior; Brent Null, animal science sophomore; Martin Pena, ag business senior and Terri Labell, mechanical engineering junior.

"They are one of the most talented collegiate teams to come west in many years," said Head Coach Sus Calendar. Those interested in joining the team may call 543-8602 or 549-8756.

The Cal Poly polo team wins regionals

Cal Poly polo team wins regionals

The Cal Poly polo team, which will host the Association of Western Forestry Club's 53rd annual Logging Sports Competition.

The competition, known as the conclave, will be held from April 2-4 at Beamer Creek Road.

The conclave features traditional logging sports including the ox throw, bucking events using old-time cross-cut saws, pole climbing and log rolling.

It also provides an educational opportunity for participants to expose themselves to the forest resources management characteristics of the host's region. For more information, call the natural resources management department at 756-2702.

"Men's volleyball

The Cal Poly men's volleyball club team will host two foes this weekend at Mott Gym.

The Mustangs play UC Santa Cruz on Friday at 7:30 p.m. and then compete against UC Berkeley on Saturday at 9 p.m.

The two games are the first of four consecutive home games the Mustangs have in March. Poly, who was ranked in the nation's top 10 last year.

TWO PLAYERS HONORED

Two players honored

By Neil Pascale
Editorial Staff

Two Cal Poly basketball players were named to two post season teams.

Shawn Kirkley, Poly's 6-foot-8-inch center, was selected on the 1992 NCAA Division II All-West Region Men's Basketball Team.

Kirkley was one of seven players named from the California Collegiate Athletic Association.

During the regular season, the junior averaged 17.1 points per game.

Poly's Beth Nelson was named to the all-CCAA's second team.

The 5-foot-11-inch forward led the league in blocked shots with 22, or more than two per game.

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Dear Kristen,
My roommate just left for Rio. 15 members of his host family will meet him at airport! I'm off to the Amazon tomorrow. Archbishop Desmond Tutu just boarded the ship. Can't believe we will spend 10 days crossing the Atlantic hearing him lecture on South Africa and talking informally at dinner and on deck.

Com Amor,
Brian

P.S. Glad to hear you got your application for Seniorship of Excellence approved. Call me around 800-854-0195. Send it in now!
From page 5

graduate student coordinator Del Dingus said, "out of the group of students I work with, I've seen at least two students not graduate. A number of students struggle. It takes them a lot of time."

"One of the students is ready to graduate and has been offered a job, but the only thing he is lacking is a passing score on the GWR. He probably will turn down the job," he said.

"Some of the students finish all of Cal Poly's requirements for graduation, but have to attend a community college and come back, again and again, to take the GWR," said Drago.

Harrington said passing the GWR is a big problem for some ESL students. "We don't know the exact number of ESL students who don't pass the GWR and are unable to graduate. If they don't contact us we are unable to help them."

"Last year out of the 25 students who took the GWR from off campus, there were 10 who were ESL and did not pass," said Harrington.

The problem is not with the GWR itself, Dingus said.

"The GWR is a good requirement, but there just aren't enough good mechanisms to help those that need the help," he said.

Hawkins said, "the ESL students pay their fees and tuition just like other students. They should be able to benefit from the resources that Cal Poly has." Harrington, who coordinates Cal Poly's program, says ESL is in a difficult position.

"We're in tough budget times and we've been faced with problems because of our (state's) demographics," she said.

"The universities located in the inner cities, San Francisco and Fullerton, are dealing with 60 percent ESL students. They develop their programs to fit their students. We need to prepare for them (the changing student population) before the problem occurs," she said. But this is not happening, say frustrated ESL students.

ESL instructor Janice Foerster teaches an ESL class Tuesdays at 7 a.m.

HANS HEES/Mustang Daily

ESL students aren't getting the instruction in English they need to survive classes at universities, Harrington said. "Even if an additional class may help out the problem," said Drago.

Harrington's position is simple, "Whatever is done, it needs to be soon."

Kelli Harris is a journalism junior with a concentration in public relations.

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HELP!

YOUR BELOVED CAMPUS NEWSPAPER URGENTLY NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE IN CHOOSING MUSTANG DAILY'S "THE BEST OF SLO"

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- Best Ice Cream
- Best Music Store
- Best Pizza
- Best Sandwich Place
- Best Burgers
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Schaum's Outlines
Big day for candidates may shape race

By STEVE SCHNEIDER

Volunteers in seven states could begin to shape the confounding 1992 presidential race today as Patrick Buchanan seeks a Southern boost for his GOP insurgency and the Democrats battle across regional lines for national stature.

It's the biggest day so far in this year's campaign, an often confusing vortex for both parties as an electorate anxious about the economy and angry with government protest with their votes, which have already stirred Democrats and Republicans alike.

President Bush was the expected winner in all four GOP contests today — primaries in Georgia, Maryland and Colorado as well as a caucus in Minnesota. But Bush's strength will be judged by his margins against Buchanan. The conservative commentator endorsed Bush in New Hampshire and is counting on a repeat in Georgia, where he has sounded the religious and personal values themes of the right.

The Bush-Buchanan struggle highlighted with nasty attack ads as Bush has turned the Republican Party as conservatives and other

disillusioned Republicans rallied to the challenger's side. Buchanan camped in Georgia, while Bush sought to draw conservatives' support by winning the endorsement of the anti-abortion National Right to Life Committee.

A CBS-New York Times poll showed Bush's approval rating at 40 percent, but only 19 percent on economic issues, the lowest for a president in the New York Times poll since Jimmy Carter.

Bush gave a series of television interviews in Maryland and Colorado on Monday, saying, "The economy is going to turn around ... when people are hurting out there ... people are going to be concerned. But I think I'll be all right. I think I've been a good president.

Buchanan held a final rally in Georgia, where he was heckled by a group called the Coalition for Jewish Concerns, which accused him of bigotry and anti-Semitism.

Buchanan also launched a new ad Monday, one on racial politics. The ad took a more direct and positive than the nasty attack ads both Republicans featured last week.

The Democrats were holding primaries in Georgia, Colorado, Maryland and Utah, and caucuses in Washington, Minnesota, Idaho and American Samoa. All, 383 delegates to the party's July convention were at stake; it takes 2,314 to win the nomination.


Tsongas was the favorite in Maryland and Colorado heading into today's primaries there, and was competitive in Washington's caucuses as well.

"The criticism against me has been that my ideas are regional and that's why the Maryland and Colorado elections are important, to show you can compete in other parts of the country," Tsongas told voters in Maryland on Monday.

With a good day today, Tsongas would move onto the Super Tuesday states of Florida and Texas — for now Clinton's regional base but likely battlegrounds should the Arkansas governor appear vulnerable.

Clinton was running a close second to Tsongas in Maryland.
WASHINGTON (AP) — Reports of a big jump in the government's main economic barometer and a surge in new home sales suggested on Tuesday the economy has begun to perk up.

President Bush welcomed the reports, saying, "It's nice to have some encouraging news."

Analysts agreed that any recovery would be slow, unlike the robust recoveries that followed most other post-World War II recessions.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan cautioned that "extraordinary forces" still make the future uncertain.

The Commerce Department said its Index of Leading Economic Indicators jumped 0.9 percent in January after two straight declines. Seven of the 11 forward-looking statistics posted gains, led by soaring stock prices.

The index is designed to forecast economic activity six to nine months in advance. Three consecutive declines are viewed as a fairly reliable signal of an approaching recession.

The report also showed the November and December drops were not as sharp as previously thought. They were revised upward to 0.2 percent for each month from the 0.3 percent declines originally estimated last month.

For the year, the Bush administration and many economists are forecasting growth of just 1.5 percent compared with an average of 6 percent during the first year of recovery from other post-World War II recessions.

Greenspan cited the big jump in home activity as one reason he too believed the economy was beginning to show promise of mounting a sustained recovery.

He cautioned there was "an exceptional measure of uncertainty to the current picture" because of unusual forces such as high consumer and business debt growth.

Greenspan said the Fed's past rate cuts were "clearly working." But "what is not clear is whether what we are seeing at this stage will create a self-sustaining economic recovery," he said.

Greenspan once again said the central bank stood ready to do more if the expected economic rebound doesn't materialize.

He said he was not convinced that "we may not need some insurance" in the form of further rate cuts. Besides stock prices, other indicators boosting the leading index were increased orders for new plants and equipment, increased building permits, rising prices for raw materials suggesting increased demand, rising orders for consumer goods, stronger growth in the money supply and fewer initial claims for unemployment insurance.

Those were offset somewhat by a shorter workweek, a decline in an index measuring consumer confidence, faster delivery times, and a decrease in unfilled factory orders that suggested slack demands.

The various changes left the index at 146.5 percent of its 1982 base of 100.

The index has risen 0.6 percent from August through January, compared to 4.9 percent the previous six months.

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