**Electronic loan checks a ‘convenient service’**

By Marina Castillo

Now you see it. Now you don’t.

Backpack thefts are on the rise; and Ray Berrett, University Police investigator said, “either lock it or lose it!”

In the last 11 weeks, there have been 27 reported cases of backpack thefts, Berrett said. “That’s an average of one every three days.”

University Police started noticing a drastic increase in the theft of backpacks last quarter.

“The Recreation Services facility tops the list as the No. 1 spot for reported thefts of backpacks,” Berrett said.

According to the University Police news release, the biggest mistake is students leaving their backpacks in or on top of unlocked lockers in the gym.

The most recent victim (student) at the recreation facility left his backpack in a cubby box, unlocked, next to a water fountain, Berrett explained.

Ninety-nine percent of these people leave their belongings in open view.

But not all of the stolen backpacks were left unsecured. The investigator said locks are being broken off lockers in the middle of the day.

“Backpack theft is an ongoing problem both day and night,” Berrett said. “It also occurs at Mott Gym.”

University Police had a sting operation in place at Mott Gym and Berrett disclosed, “We were able to catch the perpetrator after he managed to break the padlock securing the locker,” he said.

The Lighthouse and El Corral Bookstore rank second and third for the location most likely to be hit by backpack thieves.

According to another crime report, a student placed his backpack on top of the lockers at the entrance to the Lighthouse — only to find it missing when he returned.

“The reported loss was approximately $447,” Berrett said. “But the contents were not just books; there was clothing, cash, apartment keys, a Swiss army knife, a checkbook, student identification, credit cards, a calculator, class notes and the JanSport backpack.”

Berrett wants to remind students that monetary valuables are not the only thing at risk of being stolen.

“Often more valuable to the student,” Berrett said, “are class notes. One student lost his entire senior project.”

Ranking fourth and fifth on the location hit-list is the Kennedy Library and Vista Grande Restaurant.

“Recently, at the library, a girl left her backpack unattended while she went to the bathroom,” Berrett said. “When you go off, lock your backpack.”

On-campus counseling free to Cal Poly

On-campus counseling free to Cal Poly

By Justice Fredericksen

Stress is an all-too-familiar part of life, especially the life of a Cal Poly student. However, when the stress of classes, coupled with personal problems, become unbearable, on-campus help is readily available — for free.

Psychological Services, in the Student Health Center, building offers a variety of confidential counseling free of charge for students, faculty and staff. Help with relationships, depression and other problems is offered to individuals, couples and groups in one- or two-hour sessions.

“We’re here to help,” said Joe Diaz, a counselor at Psychological Services, “and there is a way we can help you.

Students and faculty comprise the majority of students come in with relationship problems.

“Boyfriend/girlfriend relationships and depression — these go hand in hand,” he said.

When couples come in for counseling, the help provided hinges upon how much the couple is willing to work with the counselor, and with each other, Diaz said.

“It depends on the cooperation of the students,” Diaz said, “and how much they want it.”

Diaz said students needing help coping with school-related problems is also common.

“A lot of times we get students who have difficulty concentrating and learning or they are dealing with parental issues and other stresses,” he said.

“We teach them relaxation skills, and how to study,” Diaz said.

Students with more severe problems, like acute depression or problems requiring medication, are usually referred to a doctor or faculty off-campus, Diaz said.

“We are a brief therapy unit,” he added. “We provide from six to 15 hour-long sessions, depending on the problem.”

The most important step, however, is to get in the door.

Too many people are scared or ashamed to go to counseling, Diaz said.

A Cal Poly Student who used the personal counseling services on campus and wished to have her name withheld, agreed that the potential embarrassment of needing help keeps many people away.

“I think people are ashamed to go to counseling, but the counselors can help,” she said. “It just depends if you’re open to it or not.”

“I needed to go,” she continued. “It was good — it made me realize things I didn’t want to admit.”

It is also important, she said, to find the right counselor.

“I would recommend it, but be sure to find the kind of counselor you work with — it’s the same as dating.”

Lastly, Diaz said, it’s important to come in before a problem.

“We want to move towards prevention,” he said. “If we can prevent problems, it makes our job easier. Unfortunately, however, that’s not always going to last the minute.”

To make an appointment for counseling, call Psychological Services at 756-2511. Appointments are available Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Beginning kayaking lessons are being offered every third Wednesday at 8:15 a.m. in Avila Beach. Lessons cost $10 and include helmets, kayaks, wetsuits and personal flotation devices. Students must sign up for classes in advance.

MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 1996

**Today's Weather:** mostly sunny, coolest night of the year

**Upcoming Events:**
- The Spanish Club film festival presents "Belle Epoque" Jan. 22 at 7 p.m. in building 33, room 286.
- Betty LaDuke, artist, author and professor who has traveled to more than 20 Third World Countries, is lecturing at the Offices of the Central Coast Women's Political Committee at 6 p.m. Jan 22. The event is free and begins with a potluck. For more information, call 756-2600.
- The College of Business is having a club fair Jan. 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the business building breezeway. Free food and information is available for anyone who attends. For more information, call Ryan Azus at 541-6077.

Today's High/Low: 50°/30°. Tomorrow's High/Low: 50°/40°.
8-year-old enjoys life at Cal Poly

At age 5, he could do algebra, Jenny said. Tom was taught the fundamentals of math, which made it easier for him to progress. He didn't just memorize his times tables, he learned the reasoning behind them.

Church is taught at home by Jenny, who has a bachelor's degree in history from Cal Poly. Jenny said she feels home schooling doesn't hurt Tom intellectually or socially because his home-school group interacts with other groups. It's an advantage, she said, because interaction with different age groups is more like everyday life.

She said Tom "interacts well with people his own age," and she tries to make sure he isn't put into an uncomfortable situation.

Tom agreed that he isn't missing out on anything.

"I'm getting a lot more things (out of home-schooling), except for school activities and field trips," he said. Although Tom displays amazing intelligence, his 8-year-old side is not lost.

"Tom may be quick academically, but like many of us, he isn't quite as eager to tackle housework and clean his room. And, she said, he doesn't like to brush his hair.

Church argued intelligently and had legitimate facts to back up his arguments, Griffin said.

The Math 100 class is "ideal because of the way it's structured on the computer," she said.

In Church's class, each student has a specialized disk so students can move along at their own pace.

"I don't believe that if he can take a college course, he should," she said.

A government class, where they discuss mature issues, wouldn't be appropriate for Tom on a social or academic level, she said.

"Physically, Tom looks like an ordinary child, but intellectually, 'It didn't take long to figure out he wasn't normal,'" she said.

He read spontaneously, and learned the alphabet at age 2. He was able to put letters into groups, but it took him a while to form real words, she said. By age 4, he was reading Bobby-Bob Twins books and Encyclopedia brown books at age 4.

Tom's mom first realized his mathematical skills when she mentioned to him she was reading a 914-page Tom Clancy novel.

"He's one of the brighter kids I've run into," Griffin said. "My biggest confirmation (on his ability) came when we had an argument whether linear interpolation is a reasonable way of approximating a logarithm."
Another day, another doubt

It’s the start of another quarter here and I always get to thinking: What the hell am I doing here? Why do I waste so much time with school and rules and assignments when I should be out there doing something else? Sometimes I think I’m not a natural writer or even a good student. My classes seem alright. My friend Clarissa asked me why I’m an English major when I want to be a singer. Maybe because I don’t want someone forcing more than tolerance. At Cal Poly, as in each community throughout the state we serve, we depend on trust and civility. We depend on the responsibility of each person to respect the personal dignity of others. The community of Cal Poly can and should insist on that respect by every member.

We cannot require, of course, that everyone will like every person he or she meets here, or accept everything that he or she hears here. We can insist, through the campus and the city’s ability and the administrative machinery itself. This kind of reasoning is expected on Ricki Lake, but not in a college newspaper. Well, if we must eliminate the king-servants, at least from sight, what are we left with?

Ira Waxberg is a city and regional planning graduate student.

Paul J. Zingg
Interim vice president for Academic Affairs
Professor of history

I have found the employees at this university to be immensely patient and friendly, especially considering the throngs of students who demand their services as if it were their birthright.

us “blank looks” and infuriate us by slowing us down and generally making our lives as students more difficult. Ms. Pillsbury might consider whether the “blank looks” of her “unknown” servant-bureaucrats have any connection with what she perceives to be substandard treatment by her “servants.” Perhaps the gap in class, intelligence and sophistication the author sees as separating herself from her “servants” is perpetuated to keep them at a distance.

Although there are many values critical to the functioning of a university (academic freedom and rational inquiry, among them), none are more important to a university truly being a community than civility and respect. The worth of the individual, and the recognition thereof, are the premises for both of these values. Reason, one hopes, precludes appeals to bigotry, but the best traditions of this academy — and its community — require more than tolerance. At Cal Poly, as in each community throughout the state we serve, we depend on the respect of each person to the personal dignity of others. The community of Cal Poly can and should insist on that respect by every member.

I would hope, at some point, that Ms. Pillsbury chooses to help Cal Poly reach its potential rather than undermine it.

Paul J. Zingg
Interim vice president for Academic Affairs
Professor of history

The editorial commentary, “Off with the rat’s head” by Dawn Pillsbury (Jan. 18) smacks of a kind of vicious condemnation that I find appalling as a college newspaper and inexcusable coming from the paper’s opinion editor. Ms. Pillsbury suggests that we should be fed up with our “servants,” which she defines as “maintenance workers, garbage men, welfare workers, social workers, administration bureaucrats of all varieties, police officers, school teachers, DMV drones and thousands of others.”

In grumpily holding together all service and administrative employees as government workers and labeling them “rat,” Ms. Pillsbury shows that she is ill-informed about the behavior of rats as she is about people. Ms. Pillsbury feels we ought to be fed up with these “rats” according to her, they “identify us” having “blank looks” and infuriate us by slowing us down and generally making our lives as students more difficult.

Ms. Pillsbury might consider whether the “blank looks” of her “unknown” servant-bureaucrats have any connection with what she perceives to be substandard treatment by her “servants.” Perhaps the gap in class, intelligence and sophistication the author sees as separating herself from her “servants” is perpetuated to keep them at a distance.

If Ms. Pillsbury grows up to be a mature adult, she will learn that respect must be earned. If she tried treating people as equals instead of “servants,” maybe she would rise to their level. Maybe the “DMV drones” wouldn’t give Ms. Pillsbury such “blank stares” if she were less impatient and arrogant with them.

Take a breath, look around and ruminate upon the reasons why you are in this school, why people build a government around themselves and why you sneer at government employees. Contrary to your experience, I have found the employees at this university to be immensely patient and friendly, especially considering the throngs of students who demand their services as if it were their birthright and then disparage them in return.

Step down from your soapbox, Ms. Pillsbury, and you will see that it is easy to lastly point the finger at one group or another and that there are often complex, generally requiring much subtler solutions than turning and feathering, as you suggest. Your concluding remark is telling. “We must consider it all our duty to keep these people from taking themselves and their jobs too seriously. Maybe then they’ll stop trying to make us pay them more for work that, frankly, any rat could do.”

Picture, if you will, a world where all these “rats” can sustain, with persevering joviality in the face of pious disdain, a world that makes Ms. Pillsbury happy. Ideally, you wouldn’t see the rats just as the English kings avoided the masses by running off to France in your weak example. Oh, but the kings are also bad servants in your rubber logic.

Ira Waxberg is a city and regional planning graduate student.

This kind of reasoning is expected on Ricki Lake, but not in a college newspaper. Well, if we must eliminate the king-servants, at least from sight, what are we left with?

We inherit a world buoyed by invisible “servicers” and governed by Pillsburys. Allow me to put forth a few mild suggestions to Ms. Pillsbury: Eliminate garbage service at home, educate yourself at a private university and buy a pet rat.

I hope that Ms. Pillsbury chooses to help Cal Poly reach its potential rather than undermine it.

Ira Waxberg is a city and regional planning graduate student.

Paul J. Zingg
Interim vice president for Academic Affairs
Professor of history
Gay marriages legal in Hawaii?

By Bruce Dunford

HONOLULU — A thorny issue facing Hawaii's reluctant Legislature could affect all 50 states: whether to allow men to marry men, women to marry women.

Prodded by a special commission's 5-2 vote last month urging legalization of gay marriage, Hawaii's lawmakers—who just over a year ago voted to ban same-sex unions—will soon address the question in this election year.

The timing is good reason why this vote in Hawaii is carefully watched by 49 other state legislatures—and by hundreds of thousands of gay and lesbian Americans. Heeding a clause in the Constitution, states generally agree to recognize each other's statutes—from driver permits and vehicle registrations to court decisions and marriage licenses.

Thus, in theory, two men or two women legally married in Hawaii would be considered legally married in any other state. Several states are already mulling ways to sidestep such recognition.

Hawaii legislators convened their 60-day session Wednesday and promptly predicted the issue might take another year to resolve.

Complex issues like this take time, said Senate President Nor- man Minzuchi. He also said the Legislature was more likely to consider the commission's secondary recommendation—to devise a comprehensive domestic partnership law.

Some lawmakers fear it might be a parallel immune system to combat the AIDS virus that is killing him. He will live or die. He has just gone through a painful bone marrow biopsy—"it feels like someone running a corkscrew through your head"—that will enable cells from a baboon to transplant themselves in his body, where doctors hope, they will begin to produce sexual orientation and the law.

Hawaii was pitched into the push-and-pull of one of the nation's most contentious social debates May 27, 1993, when its Supreme Court agreed with its lower court that marriage was solely the union of a man and a woman. The justices said the state had to show a compelling interest to ban such marriages and sent the case back for trial in a lower court.

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Budget cuts signed; Debt ceiling raised

By Jim Abrams

WASHINGTON — Contradicting other Republican leaders, House Majority Leader Dick Armey said Congress will refuse to raise the federal debt ceiling next month unless President Clinton agrees to GOP budget-cutting measures.

Armey's statements on NBC's "Meet the Press" put Republicans on a collision course with the White House that could bring the fiscal integrity of the country into question.

House Republicans in particular have been reluctant to pass stopgap funding measures for the 1996 budget and raise the debt ceiling until the White House moves closer to the Republicans' seven-year balanced budget plan.

Talks on the balanced budget broke down last week, and it's unlikely there will be any progress in settling the differences before President Clinton delivers his State of the Union address on Tuesday. Congress returns from a two-week recess on Monday.

"Let's not play games with the future of this country or the economy of this country," White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta said later on "Meet the Press," warning that Clinton would not accept a debt limit extension with strings attached.

Last week on the same news program, House Budget Committee Chairman John Kasich, R-Ohio, gave assurances that Republicans would extend the government's borrowing authority before Feb. 15, when interest due to bondholders would push the debt beyond the current $4.9 trillion limit.

"John Kasich's willingness to vote for it to the contrary," said Armey, R-Texas, "it's not coming through the House unless it carries with it something that is a substantial share of our agenda of decreasing the size and the intrusiveness of government.

"We have a House that is committed to getting this job done, and we're going to use every instrument we can to move the ball forward," he said.

Armey said he would support linking the debt limit increase to language terminating the Commerce Department, a top priority of the Republican Congress, and preventing the Treasury secretary from "ever again raiding the trust funds of federal workers' retirement programs."

After Clinton last November vetoed a debt ceiling measure with similar restrictions, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin twice tapped government trust funds to avoid exceeding the borrowing limit.

Rubin said last week that he would be forced to take further actions so the government can avoid default after Feb. 15 and suggested that this time finding appropriate accounting maneuvers might be more difficult. He said a legal review was continuing because proposals being considered did not as yet "fully pass muster."

Fear of Internet shopping is unfounded, experts say

By Elizabeth Weise

SAN FRANCISCO — You're hopping around the World Wide Web checking out cool sites and you stop in at one of the shiny new online malls sprouting up everywhere. There's that CD you've been meaning to get. You pull out your credit card, and you stop.

Technology hasn't stopped you, the technical part of making a purchase by computer was worked out long ago. The gods of commerce haven't stopped you; they've easier to sell through cyberspace.

What has stopped you is your own mistrust — the fear that by inputting your credit card number into a computer, you are opening yourself up to fraud. Perhaps, you think, some hacker will take your number and buy himself a new skateboard.

In fact, public fear of security risks on the Internet is stalling the boom many companies anticipated. But experts say sending your credit card number over the Internet is as safe as calling up L.L. Bean and ordering a sweater.

It's not that the computer security flaws are being discovered every other week by bored, graduate students — and trumpeted by the media — aren't problems. They're just not problems for the average user.

"If a person's standards are that they're not willing to send their credit card over the Internet, they probably shouldn't order anything by phone or from a store where they don't know the proprietor," said Rod Ruckers of Information and Interactive Services Report.

Says Douglas Barnes, who helps build secure computer systems for Electric Communities in Los Altos, Calif.: "Credit card information is given out to hundreds of thousands of low-paid clerks all over the country every day — it would be hard to imagine a less secure approach."

"Stories about wily hackers stealing thousands of credit card numbers have created the public perception that the Internet is a dangerous place to do business."

When the FBI's "most wanted hacker" Kevin Mitnick was arrested last year, one of the things he was credited with doing was for stealing a file from an Internet service in California that contained information on 30,000 credit card accounts.

Stories about wily hackers stealing thousands of credit card numbers have created the public perception that the Internet is a dangerous place to do business. When the FBI's "most wanted hacker" Kevin Mitnick was arrested last year, one of the things he was credited with doing was for stealing a file from an Internet service in California that contained information on 30,000 credit card accounts.

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MUSTANG DAILY
BASKETBALL: Cal Poly only grabbed eight rebounds in Friday's game. From page 8

"Any time a team gets momentum, that takes away the momentum from the other team," Carrillo said.

Cal Poly was sluggish reacting to loose balls, collecting only eight offensive rebounds in the contest, compared to the Matadors' 22.

This was a crucial part of the win for Northridge. Booker said, and Hoffman agreed.

"We made a lot of mistakes, we had turnovers that we shouldn't have had, we didn't rebound," Hoffman said. "That was our biggest problem ... If there is going to be something to nail it on, it's going to be rebounding, not turnovers."

Both teams were equally matched going into the game making the loss a disappointing one for Cal Poly.

Mustang team members were expecting to win.

"I think we're getting there and we just need to have faith in ourselves," said an emotional Hoffman. "We feel that we lost to the worst team in Division I. We had identical records and here we are losing to them."

Abraham agreed that it was a close match, but also pointed out that both teams are young, have first-year coaches and can still improve.

"In the end, when we get to the American West, we're not talking about the cream of the crop," Abraham said. "We're not a very good team all the time and Cal Poly has some weaknesses in their game."

"I think this will be one of the last times these teams at this level compete with each other," Abraham added. "I think both teams are going to take a major step forward, given the first recruiting season each of us have."

Abraham credited the emotion and the drive to the Matadors desire to win.

“Our kids fight as hard as anyone in the country does,” he said, and when you’re not as talented, having the taste of victory is a sweet taste.”

MUSTANG DAILY MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 1996 7
The women's basketball team headed into Mott Gym Friday night with the first chance it has had to beat a team in its own league -- a team that also had an identical losing record. But, Cal Poly lost to Northridge and has started...