Cal Poly, SLO face new laws

Legislation provides meter calibration

By Steve Noone
Mustang Daily

County residents concerned about getting fined can park with ease downtown as new laws provide for the testing and calibration of San Luis Obispo’s 1,550 parking meters.

"It provides for a program to be set up to test the meters for accuracy," said Keith Opalski, parking manager for the city. "Now the county can go out and test the meters after they get a complaint."

But Opalski said the meters downtown should already be accurate, as many were replaced last year.

"The older mechanical ones would wear out over time, but we went through and replaced them all with electronic meters last year — the only thing that could happen to those would be if a circuit board burned out," he said. "But for now, if people think a meter is inaccurate, they can call our office and we’ll pull it out and have it calibrated."

The parking-meter program is just one of the effects of the hundreds of new laws that went into effect Jan. 1. Also approved was $2.5 billion for construction and improvements at California State University campuses.

Elena Stern, press secretary for the California Speaker’s Office, said the money will be used for technology and building upgrades over the next four years.

"The money comes from Proposition 1A, which was approved by voters," she said. "It’s earmarked for higher education. Most of the money is going into K-12 programs. But $2.5 billion is going toward the state (university) system to modernize labs and libraries and provide for new buildings and upgrades."

Of this money, Cal Poly will be receiving $10,742 this year to fund the Engineering and Architecture Renovation, and then $15,379 in the 2001-2002 school year for a Telecommunications Infrastructure upgrade project.

"Also of importance to students is the Higher Education Affordability Act, which conforms the state deductions on student loans to the federal level," Stern said. "Students should see lower interest rates on their loans, because the rates in California are usually higher than the federal rates."

"Another hill was approved that guarantees a place at the (University of California) or CSLU system to every community college graduate who meets the transfer course and GPA requirements," she said.

Voters also approved a number of laws regarding student withdrawals.

For $20 fee, students can change grade from ‘U’ to ‘W’

By Joellen Smith
Mustang Daily

Cal Poly students can change an unofficial withdrawal (U) grade to a withdrawal (W) grade for a $20 fee.

The Academic Senate passed the U to W bill and the Academic Senate, after a series of complaints from students receiving U grades, the senate passed a bill which allows a student to get a U when he or she signs up for a class, and for one reason or another never attends," said Marcia Friedman, assistant director for the Office of Academic Records.

"(A U grade is) kind of an unofficial withdrawal that affects your grade point average like an F."

The W grade issued in place of the U has no bearing on a student’s GPA.

Students can only change one U during their entire enrollment at Cal Poly.

Some students receive a U when they accidentally enroll in a class by pressing the wrong button during CAPTURE, or they just forget to drop a course that they originally see GRADE, page 3

Work forces classrooms to evacuate

Removal of water chiller fills building with smoke

By Chris Hoffman
Mustang Daily

Cal Poly’s computer science building was evacuated around 9 a.m. Monday after a cutting-torch project filled the building with hazy smoke and a burning stench.

"We kind of smelled things before we saw things," computer science office manager Dave Goldman said. "Then I got to thinking my glasses were dirty ... that’s when the smell started getting really bad."

Administrative assistant Ellen Stier arrived at the building shortly after the evacuation and knew something was wrong. "I arrived and found a note on the (office) door saying the building had been evacuated," she said. "A lot of empty classrooms."

Bob Pahlow, assistant director of facilities services, said the smoke and odor was caused by workers cutting apart an old water chiller with torches. The work was being done in a mechanical room at the west side of the building where three fans are located which supply the building with air.

"It did give off an awful lot of smoke, and it had an odor to it," said Pahlow. "Some of it managed to get into the fans."

Stier said no alarms went off during the incident.

Goldman said she and computer science chairman Jim Peng went to classrooms and told students "it was a good idea if they left."

People began returning around 10 a.m. when the smoke mostly cleared out.

Pahlow said the water chiller had not been used in eight years and was being removed as part of a project to connect the building to Utilidor’s cold water loop.

"We had no idea (the contractor) intended to cut it into small pieces and get it out this way," Pahlow said.

Some people in the building, such as Stier, think the smoke involved other chemicals besides cutting times. The environmental health office is investigating and should have results in a few days."

Cal Poly police Sgt. Bob SchenActual said there was no damage, and nobody reported injuries. Stier, however, said some people in the building complained of headaches.

For $20 fee, students can change grade from 'U' to 'W'
LAWS
continued from page 1
governing safety and security on the Internet, including the expansion of existing laws into cyberspace.
Stalking and telephone harassment laws now cover contacts made through computers, whether via chat or e-mail.
Lawo also were into eff€ct restricting taxation of the Internet and prohibiting unsolicited advertising by e-mail.
Police officers are now required to receive training in high-technology crimes, and a feasibility study for a state-operated center on computer forensics will be conducted by the Office of Criminal Justice Planning.
Other new laws include:
AB156 — Personal Information: Makes identity theft (when a thief acquires the ID and assumes the identity of the victim) a crime. This bill also imposes restrictions on credit approval to combat the ability of a thief to assume another's identity.
SB 1780 — Contest Advertising, Sweepstakes: Prohibits solicitation mailings, containing sweepstakes entry materials, from claiming that the recipient has already won a prize unless they have, in fact, won a prize.
AB 1926 — Sex Offenses: Provides that the way the victim of a sex crime was dressed is not admissible as a method of proving consent.
AB 1104 — ATM Point-Of-Sale Fee Disclosures: Requires the notification of ATM users of any fees they may accrue before they make a transaction.

Students should see lower interest rates on their loans.”
— Elena Stern
California Speaker's Office

Society of Women Engineers announce

Sign-ups for Evening with Industry

Sign-ups for members start 6 pm
in Chumash Auditorium on January 12, 1999

Evening with Industry • Embassy Suites • February 19, 1999

$8 for SWE members
$15 for non-SWE members
$10 for faculty

Sign-ups will open to everyone on January 19, 1999 in Bldg. 40, Rm. 120

Sign up for the following companies attending EWI:
Anderson Consulting, Cisco Systems, Deloitte and Touche Consulting,
Fluor Daniel, Bechtel, Hewlett Packard, Intel, Lawrence Livermore,
Northrop Grumman Corp, Lockheed Martin, Qualcomm, Stryker
Endoscopy, Sun Microsystems, Boeing, and many more.

Guest Speaker: Bonnie Dunbar, NASA Astronaut
planned to attend, Friedman said. The U to W appeal is designed to teach awareness so students do not receive a U grade again.

Many students are not even aware that this policy exists or just do not come forward to make an appeal, Friedman said. Each quarter, between five and 90 students file an appeal, compared to the several hundred U grades that may be assigned to a quarter.

―I never even heard about it,‖ said Nicole Hayden, a fruit science junior. ―But if I was in the situation where I needed to withdraw, but I don’t want an F, I think it would be great if I could (appeal).‖

Hayden said she is in favor of the policy, because the U grade can only be changed once. She added that a student should try to drop the class before the withdrawal deadline.

―If the grade-change appeal form is submitted after the seventh week of the quarter following the course, the student must obtain the signatures of the course’s department head or chairperson and the dean. There is a one-year deadline to make the appeal. Since the appeal was passed, Friedman has found that most of the faculty is supportive of the grade-change policy.‖

―The idea of changing one U to a withdrawal seems reasonable,‖ said Thomas Hale, mathematics department chair. ―If the instructor approves the grade change, then I will approve it.‖ Hale said that certain instructors differ about when to issue a U grade.

―Some faculty feel that if a student does not come for class half of the quarter, and keeps someone else from getting this class, then he or she deserves the F,‖ Hale said.

Laura Freherg, chairwoman of the Instruction Committee in the Senate and associate professor in the psychology and human development department, agreed that some faculty members vary in their approaches to the U and F grade.

―Academic Records does a really nice job of communicating (grade) policies out to the faculty. But the bottom line is that it is the faculty member who is assigning the grade, Freherg said.‖

―It all relates to getting a job after­wards, because (employers) look at those transcripts,‖ Dills said. ―If they see too many U grades on there, it says something of the character of the individual. But then that is true of W grades, too.‖

Dills said that she still is in favor of the policy, because there are some students who have a legitimate reason for not being able to come to class.

Some students argued about the $20 processing fee for changing a U to a W. Friedman suggested withdrawing from a class by the end of the add/drop deadline, the second week in the quarter. Students should also list their classes during CAPTURE and check their records on the Mustanglink web page at http://miservites.calpoly.edu/prod.html

A grade-change form can be picked up at the Office of Academic Records, located in the Admissions building, room 222.
Conservative viewpoint

An issue of world security

Left quarter, in my column, the tempestuous position currently occupied by Iraq was discussed. I suggested that we ought to attack its weapons facilities and eliminate potential danger to Israel, Middle Eastern and European nations. Hopefully, with something to the tune of a host of cruise missiles and then some... we did, approximately 320 missiles and air attacks to boot. We wiped out the majority of its suspect weapons development facilities, we killed a good number of its elite soldiers and it is rumored we put an end to the lives of Iraq security officials. And all of this with civilian casualties in the thousands or forties.

Whether or not it was an attempt of our politically embattled president to move attention away from himself is left to consider. But for all intents and purposes, impeachment trial or not, Clinton made the right decision.

Here's why: Iraq, no matter what our humanitarians would like to think, is a nation that would like to hurt our nation very badly. In fact, Iraq would like to hurt/torture invade more than just a few nations. Iraq already tried to invade and occupy Kuwait; we stopped it from doing so. Iraq is developing biological, and more importantly, nuclear weapons. If Iraq, a nation which wishes to inflict damage upon its neighbors and us, achieves nuclear capability, and, God forbid, long-range nuclear capability, the world is at peril.

But why, you might ask, would Hussein use a nuclear weapon when he must know that his nation would be immediately retaliated against and possibly reduced to a province of a superpower nation? I would in turn ask why he would even think to invade a nation allied with NATO, like Kuwait, when he would surely be overrun by the United States' superior military? Because he is not a rational decision maker, in the sense that rational, is applied to the world's nation-states. Hussein demonstrated this through his invasion of Kuwait and his constant misbehavior--his refusal to allow weapons inspectors into sensitive areas. In sum, Saddam Hussein has left the United States no choice, no other acceptable recourse, but to disable his country's ability to develop biological and nuclear weapons. Their potential use on Israel, neighboring countries, and Europe, and perhaps us, mandates that we take action. This action, in light of the weapon inspectors' expulsion, took shape, and probably will take shape again, in the bombing of Iraq. War is, indeed, hell, but sometimes it is necessary. Clinton realized that necessity, not surprising, and implemented Desert Fox, the inevitable attack.

Let us hope Hussein will rethink developing doomsday weaponry. God knows he has given the CIA a new birthright, no doubt our intelligence agencies are watching him like a hawk, but I am sure we have not heard the last from Hussein.

Aron DeFerrari is a political science sophomore who thinks Edward Drake is an all right guy even though he is wrong sometimes.

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Reading views & opinions

Liberal viewpoint

The spin on the war against Iraq

Back when the Gulf War was just a political pie in the sky, the United States maintained relations with Iraq via ambassadors. One ambassador, by the name of April Gillaspie, was approached by Saddam Hussein and was informed of Iraq's intentions to invade Kuwait.

After conferencing with the appropriate authorities, Gillaspie informed Iraq that its aggression would be considered an internal Arab matter. The not-so-historical invasion of Kuwait quickly dissolved any notions of a diplomatic resolution, and the United States decided to bring Saddam Hussein to the bargaining table.

We should have known from the beginning that Saddam Hussein is a thug, a dictator, a man who would pay any price to achieve his ends. From his invasion of Kuwait to his constant misbehavior, Hussein has shown time and time again that he is a despicable leader.

The recent attacks on American interests in Saudi Arabia and Iraq have only served to underscore the fact that Hussein is a despicable leader. We should not allow him to continue his aggression, but rather, we should bring him to justice.

Eddie Drake

mustangdaily.calpoly.edu

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Opinion

Letters To The Editor

Second class treatment for first class fans

Editor:-

This is a letter concerning the athletic department and Cal Poly in specific, and my personal disapp­

proval and disgust with their actions taken, with regards to Saturday's ESPN2 basketball game vs. Idaho.

I feel that the band and the cheer squad were treated with the same level of enthusiasm as any other fan groups. Both were treated very poorly and I feel that they both deserve a ser­

ious apology and assurance it will never happen again.

Saturday's game was a first in Cal Poly history. We found ourselves watching television. Naturally, a good many people wanted to be a part of that history. I was one of the woodwork fans, and so many of those "fair-weather fans" hoping for a chance to be on

history, so out of the woodwork fans' hoping for a chance to be on

away at the door once that number

were given second-class treatment.

were turned away at the door once that number

was exceeded. (As those who attend­

ed the game know, the stands were

full from tail.) The cheer squad —

after putting in hours of practice

for a halftime dance routine —

was denied its allotted time. Instead, we watched fraternity boys shoot

loops the entire 15 minutes in some

sczctch contest. When questioned

about why the dancers were replaced at the last minute, Cal Poly's

response was, "The fraternities are

really getting into basketball." No

Baker, the fraternities were being

waken up on television. Wake up.

who makes their way to every

and put their hearts into

cheering and supporting the team for

the entire game, whether we are up

by 20 or down by 50? Cheer and

band and do. Who are the first to

get screwed over as soon as Cal Poly

finds itself on national television.

Baker and band. Are. Does that seem

to anyone besides Chris Baker? I

The EPA is not ruining

our environment

Editor:-

I am writing in response to Justin Rhule's letter entitled, "The EPA is pro-environment, but Anti People."

Mr. Rhule, do you think you are

being ridiculous. This country is not going broke. It all. The truth is the economy is doing what it was designed to do. It is true that in any given quarter, there may not be enough seats for all students who would like to take a particular class (i.e., it takes several terms for all freshmen needing ENGL 14 to be accommodated). We know the college deans are aware of high-demand classes and do their very best, with available resources, to offer as many sections as the budget allows.

Our primary objective in writing this letter is to clarify the purpose of priority registration. A number of years ago the policy was changed from graduating-senior priority to a term of priority - before they are needed. We no longer have senior priority, but rather a priority system that is based on class standing. This system allows seniors to use a priority term. So, we no longer have senior priority, but rather a priority system that is student-controlled/unlimited to serve each student's particular situation.

We encourage students to manage their enrollment priorities to make registration as efficient as possible.

Thomas L. Zuer is as the registrar in the Office of Academic Records.

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300 TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1999

Letters to the editor must be no longer than 600 words and must be accompanied by a telephone number and an email address for verification of authorship. Letters will be published at the discretion of the editors. Letters exceeding 600 words will be given preference. The Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit any letter. Letters will reflect the views of their authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Mustang Daily.
BASKETBALL
continued from page 8

career-high 11 points. 
Carolina Rocci, grabbed 14 rebounds on Friday against Boise State (7-6, 1-0), and 12 rebounds and eight points on Sunday.
The Vandals (8-6, 1-1) were led by Susan Wood with 25 points, eight rebounds, and seven steals, and Alii Nieman with 19 points and seven rebounds.
Head coach Faith Mimnaugh predicted the weekend’s games would be challenging which proved true.
“We knew it was going to be difficult,” Mimnaugh said. “We played well (this weekend), and the team knows it.”

Kristie Griffin, who had nine points and four rebounds against the Vandals,
said, “We’re not discouraged. We know we are a strong team; we know where we made mistakes, and we have room to improve. We can only get better.”

In Friday’s game, Griffin had 15 points, and Sheryl Friner had 14 points, while Boise State’s Stephanie Block had 20 points. Boise State was picked to win the Big West East Division in the pre-season poll, conducted by the media and coaches.
“We played against the two strongest teams in the (Eastern Conference). They’re disciplined and experienced, and we’re trying to emulate them,” Mimnaugh said.

The Mustangs’ next game is Friday, Jan. 15 against North Texas, in Mott Gym at 7 p.m.

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SPORTS
NFL coaches were on the move again Monday.

In the latest installment, Marty Schottenheimer was out at Kansas City; Andy Reid was in at Philadelphia and Ray Rhodes stepped in at Green Bay to replace his former boss, Mike Holmgren.

Schottenheimer’s resignation came after a 2-10 season, his first losing cam-

paign since he became an NFL coach in 1984. Considered a Super Bowl con-
tender when the season started, Kansas
City was beset by injuries and also
became the NFL’s most penalized
team.

“After 10 years it’s time to give some-
one else an opportunity to implement
their plan,” said Schottenheimer. 10-1
with the Chiefs. “I’ve decided to


take a break, to take some time and


dead.”

There was no immediate word on


Schottenheimer’s successor. Reid


coached with Holmgren and are close


friends.


Ray Rhodes stepped in at Green Bay to


replace his former boss, Mike Holmgren.


Philadelphia Eagles back on the map,”


Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie said twi-


weeks after he fired Rhodes following


Philadelphia’s 3-13 record — the Eagles’


worst since 1972.


“Today the turnaround begins,”


Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie said two


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SPORTS

ESPN game lives up to hype

By Trisha Thorn
Mustang Daily

Saturday's men's basketball game in Mott Gym may not have had the ideal outcome, but the "ESPN experience" was all that could have been hoped for. According to ESPN, basketball analyst Leo Rautins, Cal Poly's loss was a surprise.

"If anything, based on everything, I would have expected it to be the other way around," Rautins said. "I would have thought Cal Poly would come out ahead.

Rautins, however, had nothing but praise for the Mustangs and hope for its future performance.

"I think they're a fine team going through a funk right now," he said. "Unfortunately, it happens, but they'll come out of it. There's still plenty of time. The important thing to remember is they can't panic. From what I know of Jeff Schneider, he's doing the right thing and handling it well."

Rautins also commented on the virtues of Cal Poly as a school. "Cal Poly is a great place, a beautiful campus and a great facility," he said.

Sports information director Jason Sullivan, who oversaw ESPN's involvement with ESPN, heard similar comments from the station's crew members.

"They were happy with what we did," he said. "The information we provided, our hospitality, our facility... We were all nervous," Sullivan said, "but we gave them a first-class operation."

That's in turn, was impressed with the ESPN way of doing things. According to him, ESPN policy is to have their truck on location seven hours before the tipoff. At 3 a.m. the crew showed up and by 5 a.m. or 6 a.m. seven of Cal Poly's sports information staff were on the scene. The crew did a satellite test between 7:30 a.m. and 8 a.m. and then were out for breakfast.

"They were all ready," Sullivan said. "Not last minute. We got to see how a professional organization does it." Sullivan was especially impressed with ESPN's $10 million truck. "It was like NASA in there," he said. "It was the same one that did the World Series."

"Sullivan was excited about the crowd's reaction to ESPN's presence. "The crowd was excellent," he said. "The fans were all on the occasion with signs, painted faces, and the band was sharp. It was a first-class Division 1 atmosphere, and class too."

Although there were some empty seats here and there, the game was sold out on Monday. All of the student tickets were sold as well as season tickets. Several factors may have contributed to these factors, including the 6-4 game and the fact that people could watch the Cal Poly game from home. So, will ESPN make Cal Poly a regular stop-off in the future? According to both Rautins and Sullivan, the answer is "yes." ESPN would definitely agree to come back to Cal Poly should the schedule allow it.

Women's hoops drop first two league games

By Sara Harrington
Mustang Daily

After a strong preseason in which the Cal Poly women's basketball team (9-7, 2-2) matched last season's win total, a lot its second Big West game Sunday to the Idaho Vandals 65-64 in Idaho.

The Mustangs also lost their game Friday at Boise Star, 68-58. In Sunday's game, Cal Poly (6-7, 2-2) was led by Krsty Baker with 11 points. Jennifer Fawley with a career high 13 points in only 14 minutes, and Olesa Jerkins with a

see BASKETBALL, page 6

Joe Nolan

Mustangs can make up for ESPN debacle

The Mustangs' debacle Saturday on national television was unfortunate and yes, embarrassing for the Mustangs still have a great opportunity to redeem themselves.

First, they need to solve their problem with winning on the road. There are no more excuses. Top to the occasion and beat other good teams on the road.

It will be difficult Thursday against a good Utah State team, but Saturday's game against a top-five Oregon team is a must-win. Nevada team is a must-win, especially if the Mustangs are 0-3 going into the game.

Another thing they can do is perform well in the Big West Tournament. Right now, there are people across the country whose first and only impression of Cal Poly basketball is, as Head Coach Jeff Schneider said, "the poorest game we've ever played at home." Having success in the postseason, which will most likely be broadcasted by ESPN, should eliminate the early poor game from people's minds.

For the Mustangs to do well in the Big West Tournament, they must start playing defense.

The Mustang press is routinely beaten for easy baskets, which means the only way Cal Poly can win is in a shootout — something they can't do shooting 36 percent.

They also need to use a bigger lineup since they have a lineup that is not too good. They are loaded with 6-footers, but they're not getting the job done right now. And since the Mustangs aren't getting any second-chance baskets to get them going into the game.

Another reason to go to a bigger lineup is the solid play from 6-foot-6-inch Junior Shonka Mitchell and 6-foot-7-inch Brandon Benson.

The two of them under the boards will make Cal Poly look like a formidable force. It might mean the Mustangs couldn't use their longer bench, but it's something that might not be a bad thing.

The Mustangs need to relax, regroup and rethink their approach. They need to realize they were predicted to win the Big West Western Division deserved that recognition. If the Mustangs do get back on track, they can then redeem themselves on national television with a strong showing in the Big West Tournament.

David Wood/Mustang Daily

ABOVE: Leo Rautins (left) and Dennis Horton (right) cover the basketball game on ESPN2. BELOW: ESPN's $10 million truck is parked in Cal Poly's parking lot.

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