Students wary of prowlers

Local residents reveal unsettling encounters with suspects near their homes

By Sarah Doubb

Irene Charnell, a psychology junior, was in her room getting ready for bed one night when she turned off the lights and saw a shadow. At first she thought it was just someone walking by, but then she heard the bushes under the window rustle. "I quickly pulled up my blinds and there was a man running away," she said. "I immediately called the cops, but I figured it was just a one-time thing.

Three weeks later Charnell was sitting with her back to the window talking to her boyfriend. Although the blinds were closed, her boyfriend could see that someone was outside. "He told me to stay still and then he snuck outside," she said. "My boyfriend chased the guy, but didn’t catch him."

Charnell lives in the University Gardens apartment complex. The first time she noticed the man outside her window was in the middle of January. "Everyone needs to take this seriously," she said. "They think it’s just a fluke, that it’s random, but it can happen to anyone.

This type of incident occurs more often than people think, said San Luis Obispo Police Lt. Dan Blanke. Many times it goes unreported. "Peeping toms and prowlers are a fairly common problem," he said. "There are locations around town where they have had a rash of them."

Lt. Dan Blanke
San Luis Obispo Police Department

Kelly, a junior who wishes to remain anonymous, lived on the same street as Charnell last year. She said she saw a suspicious-looking man sitting in his car in her parking lot on numerous occasions. "This guy would sit in his car for hours at random times during the day," she said. "I would go out there and see him all the time. One day I went out to move my car and we made eye contact. It really scared me."

Kelly informed the fire department, which was nearby, and the man disappeared for two months before he came back. Kelly said she then called the police. After that, the man showed up a few more times and then left for good. "Nothing happened," she said. "It wasn’t like he was stalking me or anything, but I felt really insecure. This guy doesn’t have any reason to be here for hours at a time. Whatever it was, it was really scary to me."

There are things people can do to minimize the chance that they would be spied on, Blanke said. "You should call the police because the cops told me that they would patrol more around here," Charnell said. "Also, people should get curtains because people can still see through the little slits in the blinds when they are closed."

Many times people feel too safe, which often results in unsafe actions, such as leaving the door unlocked or only partially

see PROWLERS, page 2
Students may miss major news online

By David Olszewski

ProWOLFRS

continued from page 1

The experiment-involved dividing the students into three groups. The first group did nothing but answer questions, the second group was taken to a computer lab to read The New York Times online, and the third group read the actual print version of The New York Times. The study was conducted over the span of a week. The professors of speech communication at the University of Illinois, conducted a study involving 144 college students reading The New York Times — both the regular paper and using the Web site. The purpose was to determine if and why online readers seem to read fewer hard news stories than print news readers do.

"We noticed that we were reading The New York Times online differently than we were reading the print version of The New York Times, and we wanted to research this behavior," Althaus said.

The two professors found that online readers are less likely to read international, national and political stories than those who read the actual newspaper. On one of the days of the study, the front section accounted for nearly two-thirds of the stories read for the print readers, but only 41 percent of the news read by the online readers. Teckbrary and Althaus gave several reasons for this difference.

"The big difference is that an online reader is less likely to read international, national and political stories than those who read the actual newspaper," Teckbrary said. "Along the way, a big headline or some stories you are looking for."

"I have had to knock on a few doors and inform them that behavior isn’t safe."

Closing the shades, Blank said. "Even if you feel this is a relatively safe town, and it is, you can never be too careful," he said. "Peeping toms find places where things are open and they know they can get a show from time to time, sometimes they’ll learn the schedule of the household."

Prowlers haven’t been reported on campus this year, but there have been incidents in the past, said University Police Sgt. Lori Hashim.

"There have been times during patrol when it’s dark and a woman is changing in front of an open window with her lights on," she said. "I’ve had to knock on a few doors and inform them that behavior isn’t safe."

While these prowlers may be difficult because they usually keep in windows later at night, Blank said. Not only is it dark, but the neighborhoods are quiet, making it hard for police to surprise them.

"Police cars make noise that would tip off a peeping tom, so we have to park a block away and sneak up on them," he said. "Sometimes a boyfriend will chase them." Prowlers may have been caught looking repeatedly, he said.

"The ones we do catch have done it before," Blank said. "It’s sort of an addiction — they get their kicks from it."
Police halt Seattle Mardi Gras parties after bombs, bullets

SEATTLE (AP) — Police in riot gear used pepper spray, rubber bullets and concussion bombs to break up Mardi Gras festivities early Sunday in the second straight day of violence tied to the celebration.

Police said several people in a crowd of about 2,000 threw bottles, rocks and firecrackers at officers who were moving in after bars closed at about 1:30 a.m. A half-dozen people were arrested, most on assault charges. One person was injured in a stabbing, and a police officer suffered a broken arm.

Some in the crowd smashed car and store windows and tried to turn over a bus, police said. Police said the violence grew worse after they arrested a man suspected of armed robbery.

A day earlier police used pepper spray and rubber bullets because revelers were throwing rocks and bottles. Officers beefed up their forces after the first night of violence, and removed garbage cans and newspaper boxes from a popular party area for fear that people would throw them.

Organizers had no immediate plans to cancel Mardi Gras events scheduled through Tuesday night, but police said they would continue to prepare for large crowds and people drinking.

Last year’s Mardi Gras celebrations in Seattle had similar disturbances. It came within months of the protests that shut down a meeting of the World Trade Organization.

The English Peak Pluton, 8 PM

ST. FLORIAN TRIO RECITAL, 7:30 PM

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS, 8 PM

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Don't mistake musings for calls to action

By have I received a lot of advice the last two weeks. First, my roommate told me to "write at a fourth-grade level" so readers wouldn't misunderstand my columns. She said they would be more effective, although I have no idea what she thinks my columns were ever supposed to effect.

Then my girlfriend told me "writing is thinking" as I promptly dismissed as some kind of catchphrase. She's right again. Anyway, the thought I began to think: Simultaneously, I said, "Ahah!" and "Damn, she's right again.

Actually, this isn't a new phenomenon for me. I almost always have nothing to say, and since I can't use my column to espouse any of the world's important issues about which I don't care, I usually just write a sarcastic rant designed only to confuse and annoy, and which generally lacks any underlying message. That way, I get to jump inside your head, pull open the cerebral file cabinets, and throw the papers all over the floor. It's really very recreational.

The first time I wrote in this style was for my high school senior anthology, to which I submitted an obscenity-laced essay decrying the stupidity of my fellow classmates. It was riddled "idiot, Idiot," and concluded, as I recall, with the derisive line "I hate man, but I love mankind.

So I'm sure it all sounded very revolutionary at the time.

But now I take much less pleasure in writing the actual columns than in waiting for somebody to misunderstand them and write back an opinion letter calling me a bigot or homophobe. Indeed, my picture is supposed to effect. But I've cleverly stepped aside to avoid the philosophical order to decrease my chance of being lynched by people who can't read very well.

Sarcasm is known as the lowest form of humor, which must be highly insulting to readers who can't even tell when they're reading it. This leads me to a second thought: Eminem must feel the same way.

Let's face it, I get to write this column only because my words are more interesting than yours; Eminem gets to record albums for the same reason.

Neither of us is required to say something important or even heartfelt. So, we fume with much style and no substance. I'm sure he feels as I do; it's all very recreational.

People expect artists and authors to have strong motivations and sincere messages. This is no longer always the case, and while pre-teens can't tell the difference, there is no excuse for the rest of you. In the imminent absence of any important world events, the natural language of the new century will be sarcasm, spoken by artists with or without causes. Hearing their recreational musings as calls for action will be your greatest mistake.

Ethan Pratt is a physics senior.
Letters to the editor

Clinton has no 'get out of criticism free' card

Editor,

I'm writing in response to Eddie Drake's column ("A quick word on ASI, more about Clinton," Feb. 22).

First of all, I'm going to defend Bush after Drake's attacks. You say he's not clever, who was the president of modern history some 92-year-old legend, Ronald Reagan, when he can't even remember what he had for breakfast? That's just not true. He hasn't been at his office because of Alzheimer's. Give the greatest president of modern history some credit where it's due. These are just a couple of low blows that the Republicans keep dodging. That's the good-old Democrat way, though.

You are so hypocritical. First, you and the Democratic party lay into John Ashcroft, a religiously moral figure. Then, you come back and tell us to lay off of Clinton. What does he have, some kind of pardon not to get picked on? If I were Bush, I'd have said, "Let's put it to rest." Then, former president Carter, a Democrat, spoke out against Clinton's actions. So don't ramble on about how poor Clinton is getting picked on. If you can't take the heat, get out of the kitchen.

The chips keep stacking—you know "Slick Willie" is going to crumble sooner rather than later.

James Malta is an industrial engineering sophomore.

Don't swallow USDA food propaganda Editor,

The other day, I was walking, and I found a button on the ground. It said, "Don't believe everything you're told." This is a valuable message to keep in mind when heeding the government's dietary guidelines.

Recently, PCRM filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture because of the meat, dairy and egg industries' heavy influence in the creation of federal food policies. PCRM is a nonprofit organization, comprised of doctors and laypersons, who promote preventative medicine primarily through a vegan diet. PCRM pointed out that six of 11 members of the committee who would draft the Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2000 are financial partners with the meat, dairy and egg producers. This is absolutely outrageous.

Why? Contrary to what "Got Milk?" and "Beef - it's what's for dinner" advertisements would have consumers believe, there is overwhelming evidence that diets centered around animal products contribute to obesity, heart disease, diabetes and cancer. It has been proven over and over again that a meat- and dairy-heavy diet is the main contributor to the plethora of Americans' diseases of affluence, yet our government continues to assert that four to six daily servings of animal products are necessary for good health.

Another disturbing aspect of the Food Guide Pyramid is, despite the fact that most African, Asian and Hispanic Americans are lactose-intolerant and feel sick when they consume dairy products, it declares that milk and dairy products should be included in Americans' diets every day. Does the government not know that many of the world's inhabitants do not drink milk and are perfectly healthy without it?

The popular notion that milk is necessary to prevent osteoporosis is the result of the brainwashing efforts of the dairy industry. In fact, countries with the highest rates of osteoporosis, such as the United States, England and Sweden, consume the most milk. In China, Japan and Africa, people eat less protein and dairy, and there are low rates of osteoporosis. It is well established that low consumption of animal products will yield lower rates of disease. Study after study continues to confirm the cancer-fighting power of plant foods.

Why isn't the government passing on this information? Money has been the driving force in the government's dietary guidelines. Hopefully, because PCRM won the lawsuit against the USDA, Americans will finally receive sound, unbiased nutritional advice.

Meredith Rogers is a nutritional science senior.

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Should student fees be adjusted to keep pace with inflation?

Read the following objective statement, financial analysis, pro statement, and con statement. You will have nine opportunities to attend a forum to voice your opinion or ask any questions. By attending any of the forums, you can voice your support or non-support of the proposal. Questions? Call the ASI Student Govt Office at 756-1291 or come by UU 202, M-F, 8am-5pm.

Objective Statement

The establishment of campus-based mandatory fees have been based on the desire to provide programs and services not ordinarily funded through the General Fund allocation process. These fees were established without consideration for price inflation and the collateral effects on the services and programs being provided. The result is that fixed fees, without the benefit of a price indexed increase, gradually erode the quantity and quality of programs being provided. The Inflationary Fee Adjustment Proposal would provide a mechanism under which campus based mandatory fees could be adjusted annually to compensate for the effects of inflation on price increases. Price indexers are used to measure the rate of inflation affecting the buyer. People are most familiar with the Consumer Price Index which measures the changes in prices paid by consumers for food, clothing, shelter, transportation, and other common goods and services. The University of California, Division of Educational Programs began research to create the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) to measure the effects of inflation on the current operations of colleges and universities, using a basket of goods and services relevant to higher education institutions. The Inflationary Fee Adjustment Proposal proposes use of HEPI in calculating the annual adjustment of campus mandatory fees.

Campus mandatory student registration fees are “fees that must be paid in order to apply to, enroll in, or attend the university”. Campus mandatory fees include the Campus Academic Fee, Health Services Fee, Health Facility Fee, Instructionally Related Activities Fee (IRA) fee, Campus Service Card fee, and the University Union fee. The revenues from these fees provide funding for programs and services that benefit the student body at large.

Financial Analysis

The Inflationary Fee Adjustment Proposal seeks to neutralize the impact of inflation on the University’s ability to provide quality programs and services to students. Inflation is the increase in prices for the same goods and services that occurs without the perceptible change in either quantity or quality of the items involved. The table below shows the inflation rate, as measured by the Higher Education Price Index, over the past nine years.

It is evident from the chart that the buying power of these programs and services has decreased over the past ten years without the benefit of a mechanism for increasing revenues. Increases to the campus mandatory fees would be based on a rolling average of the previous 3 years HEPI. The averaging would moderate any spikes in the inflation index.

The table below shows the campus mandatory fees that students currently pay, and an estimated amount that students would pay under this proposal, effective Fall Quarter 2001. The estimated/increase is approximately $6 per quarter or $18 for the academic year. This proposal would generate a total of approximately $350,000 based on 1999/90 enrollment and would be distributed proportionately to the fee.

This fee proposal does not require a one-time financial aid set aside as there is no longer a requirement of the CSU fee policy. However an increase in these fees would be reflected in the packaging of financial aid so those students receiving financial aid would not be adversely impacted.

Pro Statement

Since California stopped additional funding for Cal Poly for its higher-cost polytechnic majors, the University has had to find cost-efficient and innovative ways of generating additional funds. Part of this effort included working with students to institute special fees, like those for the Health Center, for Instructionally Related Activities (IRA), and for increased faculty and innovative programming (Poly Plan). However, as costs have increased over the years, so have the costs of providing services and programs to Cal Poly students.

The Inflationary Fee Adjustment Proposal (IFAP) is an innovative approach to combating the effects of inflation on these fee-supported programs. Instead of demanding drastic increases in students’ fees, the proposal provides for reasonable movement that is tied to a national measure of inflation in higher education (recently 3.5%, or around 6% per quarter each year). By approving this fee indexing proposal, the students will be taking a big step to maintain the operations of the Health Center and to preserve the same quality of classes, instructors, and instructionally related activities that these fees currently support.

While academics will always be the primary focus, it is these programs and activities that provide the finishing touches to the people we become. The friends we meet, the relationships we build and the fun we have complete the college experience, as well as justify much of the pride we have in Cal Poly. Whether directly or indirectly affected by any number of the benefits in question, each and every student must appreciate the amazing and well-rounded atmosphere on the Cal Poly campus. It is these entities outside the classroom that truly unite our university.

Let’s face it: if we want Cal Poly to continue to be the best university in the CSU system, it is going to cost a little more. The Inflationary Fee Adjustment Proposal helps secure current programming without dramatic increases. It helps to maintain the excellent education for which Cal Poly is famous. Let’s keep Cal Poly as the most prestigious CSU campus. Let’s not shrink the level of programs that we, as students, have previously supported. Support the University’s proposal to continue Pol’y’s high excellence in education and say yes to the future of Cal Poly.

Con Statement

If you support tying our fees to a price index, as is being proposed, you risk endorsing a philosophy of constant fee increases. If you calculated the additional expense on a five-year term (Fall 2000-Spring 2005) at Cal Poly at the current level (3%) of the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI), a student would incur as a result of the indexed fees the following:

It will cost an additional $189.00 for your education vs. not having an inflation rider. That 3% easily became a 12.5% fee increase. It will continue to grow from there.

Remaining Open Forum Schedule

- **Monday, February 26**
  6 pm in UU 220

- **Tuesday, March 6**
  6 pm in Bldg. 33-286

- **Thursday, March 8**
  11 am in Bldg. 52-E27

Remember, you must attend one of the sessions for your voice to be heard! This is your opportunity... your voice... USE IT!
BASKETBALL continued from page 8

If the Mustangs finish tied with Idaho, the Vandals held the tie-breaker due to their earlier victory against No. 3 UCSB. Cal Poly, Idaho and Cal State Fullerton have all lost to the top two teams in the conference, so the tie-breaker goes to the team who has beat the No. 3 team. Fullerton, which is currently No. 9 in conference, also holds a tie-breaker over Cal Poly due to a 1-1 record against Cal Poly and Idaho.

This puts extra significance on the final two games of the season, both on the road against Boise State and Utah State.

With the loss to Idaho and the loss to UCSB last Thursday, the Mustangs are in a more difficult position than they wanted to be, but Bromley said he is more apprehensive about the team’s bench.

“I’m concerned about our depth,” he said. “It’s an uphill battle from here.”

Forwards Brandon Beeson’s knee injury that sidelined him last week was a void in the Mustang offense, both in scoring and rebounding.

“ Depths always factor into offensive rebounds,” Bromley said. “Who says that Beeson wouldn’t have gotten some of those rebounds?”

Bromley said the team also needs to work on its 3-point shooting. Guard Watende Favors went 0 for 5 from the 3-point range, and Cal Poly as a team went .11.

“You can’t shoot 2-18 3-pointers and expect to win games,” Bromley said.

Saturday night marked the last home game for seniors Bjorklund, Mayes, Favors and Michael Burris.

“I have mixed feelings,” he said. “I’m happy to see him play, but I’m sad that his college career is coming to an end. It’s both sad and exciting.”

Palm Poly travels to Boise State on Thursday and Utah State on Saturday. ESPN will air the Utah State game, which begins at 4 p.m.
disappointing loss ends home season

by michelle hatfield
mustang daily staff writer

the stage was set for a triumphant end to the men's basketball home season and the careers of four seniors, including all-time leading scorer chris byrklund. but the mustangs came out flat, and the university of idaho stole hall home season and the careers with weekend losses on 4-13-01.

even after byrklund scored a career-high 33 points, the team put itself in a precarious position—

with the loss to reach the big west tournament in anaheim, which is just two weeks away.

byrklund also had seven rebounds, and senior forward jeremiah mayes posted 15 points and 17 rebounds. the contributions from the seniors were not enough, as guard janual scott, who averages 15.7 points a game, scored only two points and fouled out after playing only 14 minutes.

idaho jumped out to a 32-18 lead in the first half, but the mustangs clawed back behind a 14-0 run and led at halftime, 36-34.

"we came out slow the first half," mayes said. "they got a good lead on us."

that lead was short-lived, as the vandals took the lead at 42-41 on an adam miller layup. the mustangs threatened to stretch their win streak to tour times in the fourth inning, three to the first.

but the mustangs were 0-1-1 in the big west head-to-head with the vandals, who had 22 points total, including three- pointers.

both teams shot nearly identical field-goal percentages, with idaho at 42.6 and cal poly at 40.0.

"idaho missed a lot of shots, but they were just tipping them in," head coach kevin bromley said. "we also gave them a couple of fast breaks."

idaho's biggest lead of the night was 14 points, while cal poly's was four.

the loss puts the mustangs at 9-16 and 3-11 in the big west heading into their last two games. cal poly needs to be in one of the top eight spots of the conference to go to the big west tournament. they are currently tied with idaho for seventh place.

see basketball, page 7

senior forward jeremiah mayes scored 15 points and pulled down 17 rebounds saturday night against idaho. it was mayes' last game at mott gym. the 17 rebounds was one of his career highs.

baseball falls to peperdine

mustang daily staff report

rain cut short the final two games of the series between cal poly and peperdine, and if the mustangs had their way, the first game would have been rained out as well.

the waves defeated cal poly 9-4 behind noah lowry's seven-inning, 16- strikeout performance. the mustangs handed out 12 walks during the game, including five to center fielder woody clift.

jared russell (4-1) took the loss for the mustangs, who drop to 7-3 on the season. lowry improved his record to 4-2.

cal poly put up three runs early on a phil thompson single that scored jason burninger. peperdine scored four times in the fourth inning, three in the seventh and two in the eighth to seal the victory.

along with thompson, designated hitter bram guilt and first baseman matt milew had rbi's for cal poly.

earnhardt jr. crashes during dura lube 400

rockingham, nc (ap) -- dale earnhardt jr. crashed on the first lap of the dura lube 400 on sunday shortly after a moment of silence for his father, who was killed in a week earlier.

the son was bruised but not seriously injured, lapsing away from the accident to an ambulance that took him to the track medical center. the crash into the concrete wall looked eerily similar to the one that killed dale earnhardt on the final turn of the daytona 500.

"somebody got into me," earnhardt jr. told his team over the radio. "i was really ready to go racing. we'll be all right, guys."

earnhardt jr., in his second full season driving on the winston cup circuit, started 25th in the 43-car field. the race was delayed 1 hour, 35 minutes by rain, and later was postponed until monday because of the weather. drivers completed only 51 of 393 laps.

moments before his crashed, earnhardt jr. was in a tightly bunched pack of cars heading into the third turn on the 1.05-mile north carolina speedway.