Large decrease expected for student loan interest

By Lyndsay Lundgren MYSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

At last students are getting a break. The mountain of debt that many students acquire during their college years will be lightened as student loan rates are cut to record low.

Student loan interest rates dropped from 8.49 percent to 5.99 percent during the process. Several types of federal student loans can be combined with various types, and loans after this date have a fixed rate.

The drop in rates will help students pay back their loans. According to the Web site, loans must be paid back even if students do not complete their education, can't find a job or didn't receive the education they paid for. Students must begin repaying loans six months after leaving school and usually have ten years to pay back the money.

"I have to pay for my loans and pay back my parents' loans," said Renee Shadforth, journalism junior. "I have $10,000 a year, and $2,000 is a lot of money."

"This is the lowest rate I can remember," Hurd said.

The rate drop could save students thousands of dollars. A student who accumulates a $16,000 debt by the end of college can save $2,000 during the lifetime of the loan. Before calculating their savings, students need to round the interest rate to the nearest percent and consolidate their loan, Hurd said.

Consolidated loans are designed to help student and parent borrowers simplify the loan repayment process. Several types of federal loans can be combined with various payment schedules to make one loan. Not only does this consolidation make the payment schedule easier for the borrower, but consolidated loans often have lower interest rates.

By law interest rates on student loans cannot rise above 8.25 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Education Web site. In 1998 Congress changed the law to regulate student loan interest rates. Loans filed before Feb. 1, 1999 have a variable interest rate and loans after this date have a fixed rate.

"I'm here entirely on loans," said Jacob Jackson, journalism freshman. "I have $10,000 a year, and $2,000 is a lot of money."

An Associated Press report contributed to this story.

Walking a fine line

Pablo Paster, manufacturing engineering junior, walks a tightrope near the climbing wall behind the University Union Tuesday. Students often do this to improve their balance for climbing.

Mardi Gras parade may be cancelled

By Katriona Corey and Adam Jarman

Mustang Daily, last year's parade drew a crowd of about 18,000 and yielded 84 arrests and 90 citations.

Some Cal Poly students said they felt that discontinuing the parade would be a loss to the community.

"It's a tradition ... just a lot of fun," said Tara Yamanishi, agricultural business freshman.

Keith Bormuth, art and design sophomore, agreed.

"I just think it would be a great loss," he said.

Bormuth said that he thinks the community needs to respect the college students who make the event possible.

"I think Cal Poly is practically the only thing this town has," he said.

"Every event with Mardi Gras is the same minus the parade at this time," she said.
INTERNship
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"I grabbed the application because it sounded exciting," Bertao said. "I had little time to put my application together, but in the end it looked like a binder full of information."

Both applicants had to put together a cover letter with a resume explaining why they wanted the internship. Bertao and Carter had to include recommendations from professors as well as include their transcripts and write an essay. They also had an option to include writing samples, Bertao said.

"I put in some of my writing samples that I had done in my journalism classes," Carter said. "I kissed my information goodbye and hoped I would be picked because they mentioned that it was a competitive internship to get into."

Carter and Bertao will be working in separate programs but will live in the same housing.

"We'll be living at the university apartments," Carter said. "Since I used to live there, I've seen them and they're really nice."

PARADE
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These events include the ball, festival and coronation of the king and queen. Anderson said San Luis Obispo's Mardi Gras tradition will continue even if the parade is canceled.

"The festival is a fun, daytime event strongly focused on families and children," she said, pointing out that not all of Mardi Gras is intended to be for the entire family.

"The parade is designed for adults even though people do bring their children," she said.
Seasonal suffering strikes again

By Dena Horton

Sometimes in the beginning of April, animal science sophomore Cathy Ayers eyes began to water. The next thing she knew, Ayers was waking up with her eyes swollen shut. After finally prying them open, her eyes were bloodshot and her vision blurry. Then came the inevitable stuffy and running nose, the incessant sneezing and the dry, scratchy throat.

Allergy season had hit and there was no sign of relief in sight.

For many people, allergy season is not only dreaded, but also widely suffered. There is no exact time when allergy season begins in California, said Dr. Burt Cochran from the Cal Poly Health Center.

"The most common (time) would be March 15 through June 15," Cochran said. "This year nothing happened in March. We had a late start this year with allergy season."

For kinesiology senior Wade Meyer and Ayers, the past two allergy seasons have been the worst and have lead to asthmatic problems.

Recreation administration sophomore Emily Meyer also suffers from allergies.

"I have seasonal allergies with the watery eyes, headaches and head congestion," Meyer said.

More common symptoms of allergies include "all types of irritations of the eyes, nose and throat," Cochran said.

For allergy sufferers, there are a number of medications available. Cochran said. This includes over-the-counter medications, prescription medications and allergy shots.

Finding the right remedy is really a "trial and error," Cochran said. "Sometimes very carefully finding out how symptoms respond to the medications is the best."

The Health Center offers nonprescription allergy medications including Benedril, Chlor-Trimetol, Dimetapp, Oxine Gold & Allergy, Nasacort (a nose spray), Opcon-A (eye drop) and Tussion I.

"Nonprescription drugs carry with them the baggage of side-effects," Cochran said. "Most often those side-effects are tendencies to make people feel groggy or down. It's really not a great choice for someone who is carrying a full load of classes and has to stay alert."

Meyer and Ayers said they have been taking the prescription drug Allegra, which hasn't caused them any drowsiness and has provided some relief.

"I've tried Claritin, but it doesn't work at all," Ayers said.

Besides Allegra and Claritin, another prescription allergy medication is Allegr.i, which hasn't caused them any drowsiness, nor does it make them feel groggy or down.

The principle of the allergy shots is that they are a series, usually once a week, but sometimes twice a week for a number of months during the allergy season, Cochran said. "It's a long-term treatment for serious cases."

As for allergy shots, Cochran said that they are arranged on an individual basis depending on what factors cause allergic reactions.

"The principle of the allergy shots is that they are a series, usually once a week, but sometimes twice a week for a number of months during the allergy season," Cochran said. "It's a long-term treatment for serious cases."

With the end of the predicted allergy season approaching, allergy sufferers like Ayers, Meyer and Tillotson can look forward to the sneeze-free days ahead ... but there is always next year's allergy season to look forward to.
Opinion

Got questions for Christians? Here are the answers

In many ways, the Christian world (and the representative Cal Poly population) does not do justice to the faith it so deeply embraces. We come off as a bunch of bickering, argumentative wankers who agree on nothing, least of all the meaning of the very texts we hold at the core of our beliefs. To those of you who have noticed this hypocrisy in our behavior, you are not alone.

But let me make one thing clear: Hindrances to the recognition of truth will always exist. As someone who has painstakingly encountered them all, let me offer my personal reconciliation to a few of life's great theological stumbling blocks.

1) Judging the message by the messenger: Christians have been misinterpreted countless times throughout history, and plenty of things have been done in the name of Christ that have not been pleasing to God. Whether consciously (as a result of pride) or unconsciously (due to the fallibility inherent to being human), each of us will at some point misrepresent that which we cherish. Though we are fallen and flawed, God is neither. Do not take men's imperfections as an indication of an imperfect or faulty God.

2) Bad things happen to good people (or the philosopher's dilemma of the "Problem of Evil"): God is infinitely wise, and we cannot presume to fully know or understand His ways. The best analogies that I have heard to this unsatisfying, perceived cop-out of an explanation is the woman laboring example. All of us know that, though temporarily causing pain and suffering, childbirth is a beautiful thing, the start of a new life. Just so, we labor in the world of sin as having the two-fold limited perspective of being human and only being able to see a short period of time. 

Belief in God is a "crutch" for the weak. In reality, it is an admitted reliance and dependence on Him who created us and knows all things. Do we condemn the trees for relying on the rain to survive? Do we curse our bodies for needing food? God has created us to be in constant relationship with Him, and the greatest limitation of human existence cannot be attained until we realize this design. He promises us everything we could ever desire (including peace, hope, love, joy, rest, redemption and provision) if we would just surrender our pride and recognize His presence in our lives.

4) Searching for something or someone that can prove the existence of God: Faith is not based on scientific proof, nor was it designed to be. If you are someone who uses your knowledge of Christianity or the Bible to win arguments and abash Christians (as I did), let me tell you from experience that no one will ever have all the answers necessary to convince you of truth. But I can guarantee that there is an answer out there. If you are seeking to know about God, ASK GOD. He has promised that all those seeking will find it, only if you are humble enough to admit we don't have all the answers. God stands at the door knocking in our job to let Him in.

A friend once told me "the purpose of life is to find it." I would add that we must know where to look and realize that it may not come in the form we expected. We need to recognize our limited understanding as human beings and also wonder the existence of something greater than ourselves. Our eventual conclusion is the most important decision we will ever make, and may require a paradigm shift of eternal proportions.

Jenny Rosner is a political science senior.

Commentary

Commencement ceremonies are just around the corner here at Cal Poly. Graduates, it's time to look back to your college career and bask in the glory of your many accomplishments. During the winter, commencement ceremonies, individuals are actually recognized for what they have achieved. Each graduate gets a handshake, an announcement and a picture as he or she walks across the stage. It's not a lot, but it's something.

The spring commencement ceremony, however, is nothing more than a "mass cattle call." All the students in each of the colleges are asked to stand up, then sit down again. Students should be recognized for their individual successes, lumping them into a mass of black robes and colored tassels does nothing but create a crowd of drowsy ex-students who just want to get on with their lives.

In light of these harsh realities, spring commencement ceremonies are, for lack of a better word, pointless. Individuals are not recognized for a job well done. Nobody actually receives a diploma until weeks after the event. The ceremony itself is too long and boring. Nobody wants to sit through speaker after speaker in the blistering sun for hours. Sifting through those ultra-acute rays in a black robe – which holds in all the heat – doesn't sound like much fun.

Although I will not be personally going through commencement ceremonies, I've had the misfortune of having to sit through plenty of ceremonies in the past. For one thing, it's nearly impossible to find someone or family member in the sea of humanity that converges at Mustang Stadium, unless you happen to have a Supermans vision or a high-powered telephoto lens.

If so you decide to attend commencement ceremonies, just be sure your friends and family are able to find you during the event. One option is to make him or her decorate the standard mortarboard in a very distinctive fashion. The wunder the look, the better the chance of actually being able to find someone. You may even want to try to borrow a pair of binoculars and then hope you can get a good seat.

To help your graduate friend find you, you can carry a large, striped umbrella or invest in a cheap set of walkie-talkies.

Also, make sure you arrive at the stadium before the ceremony begins. The guest speakers never have anything good to say, and they always want to tell the audience their life stories. My suggestion for speakers is to get their speeches over with so the graduates can get on with their celebrations, parties and other festivities.

For those of you who are interested, U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman will speak at the morning ceremony, and history professor Daniel Krieger will speak at the afternoon ceremony. Now don't get me wrong, I'm not against graduation, the only thing I have a problem with is the antiquated ritual called commencement.

Up with graduation! Down with commencement.

Raul Vasquez is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Letter policy

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"Category of Business, Economics, and Public Administration"
3rd Place Student Research Paper
Technical Association of the Graphic Arts International Research Competition

Drew Lepis
Graphic Communications
1st Place CSU Research Competition
1st Place Human Powered Vehicle Road Race
2nd Place Human Powered Vehicle Sprint
American Society of Mechanical Engineers

AERO’s Engineering Team
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1st Place Fuel Economy Event in 12th place overall
Formula SAE Championship Competition

Micro Air Vehicle Team
3rd Place Cargo Division
4th Place Surveillance Division
Micro-Air Vehicle Contest

Society of Environmental Engineers
2nd Place “Wastewater Treatment from Your Kitchen Competition”
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WATER POLO
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the team, so it will remain comprised mostly ot veteran players.
"We all have the skills (Walker) taught us and we should do just as well," Kirkland said.

Willis said both teams look forward to meeting and beating Michigan State, their biggest rival, next season.
"It's just a matter of time," she said.
"We'll get them."
The team is as strong in diversity as they are in their game, she said.
"It's such a variety of personalities and skill levels," she said. "It's endless fun."
The team is keeping an upbeat perspective for next year, Lawrence said. At this time, they have been scrimmaging twice a week and plan on continuing with their highly competitive tradition.
"We absolutely expect to win nationals next year," Lawrence said.

VOGELTI
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We just started going up to the lake a lot, and it was really fun," he said.
Another of his recent conquests in extracurricular sports is field hockey. Since he began playing when he was only 11, this sport is not as new to him as the others.
During the summer of 1998, Vogelti was goalkeeping in a tournament for a Los Angeles club team. The coach of the men's national field hockey team was present and approached Vogelti about being a goalkeeper on his team. Vogelti agreed to try out and was selected to the team for the spring 1999 season. In March, the team toured Europe, playing some of the best teams in the world.
"It was the fastest hockey I've ever seen," he said.
In August 1999, Vogelti was chosen to play for the Pan American Games in Winnipeg, Canada. He said playing such intense hockey helped him prepare for the water polo season.
"It's easier to play water polo when mentally you know you've played against the best players in the world at something," he said. Vogelti's hockey days came to a conclusion with a win over the Pan American Games, which appropriately ended right before the 1999 water polo season. With Vogelti's help, Cal Poly's men's water polo team won nationals that year. The team placed third this year, and Vogelti was named Offensive Player of the Year.
"It's cool seeing yourself playing like the people you've looked up to," he said.
Bret Lawrence, a business senior, is a good friend of Vogelti's through water polo and their fraternity, Sigma Phi Epsilon. Lawrence said Vogelti's talent and drive contributes to his success in all these sports.
He's determined," he said.
"He keeps doing something until he accomplishes what he wants to.
But aside from all these activities, Vogelti said he is aware of his commitment to school. Last year he was president of his fraternity, and he is part of the engineering honor society, Tau Beta Pi.
While Vogelti admitted that his involvement can be overwhelming at times, he said it is a matter of staying focused.
"You have to be smart enough to know you can't go out if you're busy," he said.

FINALS
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Another key matchup is at the guard position. Bryant and Iverson should entertain us all while cancelling each other out, but Derk Fisher will not keep up the high scoring he had against the Kings and Spurs. Anton McKie, an accomplished defender, should do a better job of shutting Fisher down and getting a few points of his own, too. Look for McKie, Bell and Eric Snow to get open jump shots after Iverson penetration. Those shots need to be made if the 76ers are to have any chance.
Los Angeles must have the right mindset. Don't play for the undefeated playoffs, play for the championship. Overconfidence won't help against the 76ers, who are battle-tested and have no shortage of confidence.
For the Lakers to lose, O'Neal and Bryant both have to play below average, and I don't see that happening. But the 76ers should win at least one game, and I like the Lakers to win their second consecutive championship in six games.
Just keep thinking "Indiana Pacers, Indiana Pacers," in your head -- it makes you a lot more humble.
Matt Szabo is a journalism sopho-
more and Mustang Daily staff writer.
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Sports

Taking involvement to the next level

Mechanical engineering senior John Voegli plays water polo, field hockey and more

By Janelle Foskett
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

As John Voegli entered high school, his parents encouraged him to get involved in many sports so his college applications would be lined with substantial extracurricular activities, as well as academic successes.

Little did they know that their son's intense involvement in sports would become a staple of his college years.

Voegli, a mechanical engineering senior, has been a devoted contributor to the Cal Poly men's water polo team for five years. In this time, he also managed to involve himself in many other club sports and play for a U.S. national team in yet another sport.

While this all stemmed from his desire to have some off-season training for water polo, Voegli said he also wanted a change of pace from his primary sport.

"I got tired of just swimming all the time," he said. "Plus, most really good athletes don't only play one sport." Because of his desire to stay in shape without being confined to a pool, Voegli said he decided to challenge himself to see how many club sports he could get involved in before graduating.

The challenge was no fluke. For his first addition to the sports lineup, Voegli joined Cal Poly's wheelchair team in November 1999. He raced one season, but since he is currently completing his internship and is not signed up for 12 units, he could not legally race this season.

Voegli next joined the triathlon team. He said he initially became a member so he could participate in Wildflower, the annual marathon held at Lake San Antonio. While he did participate in the event last year, he decided not to continue.

"It was cool, but it's totally an individual sport," he said. "I like having more teamwork involved."

The next sport on Voegli's horizon is Cal Poly's water ski team, which was introduced to him by one of his fellow water polo play-

Water polo teams face life without Walker

By Lyndsay Lundgren
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The Cal Poly water polo teams are planning on duplicating their success next year, but they will no longer have their influential head coach.

John Walker resigned from his post as men's and women's water polo head coach in late April when he was offered the athletic director position at Cabrillo Junior High School.

Walker led the men's team to the Collegiate Water Polo Association (CWPA) national championship last year while the women's team placed third.

"Before Walker, the men's team was fairly decent," said Catherine Crump, assistant director of Rec Sports and head of the sport club program. "They made it to nationals once, but really not past it. They were more of a socializing club."

When Walker came to Cal Poly two years ago, the teams became more serious, Crump said. Not only did Walker intensify the program, but he also made it a worthwhile endeavor for the players, she said.

"He inspired us in polo, our lives and to coach," said Diana Willis, president of the Cal Poly women's water polo team.

Walker earned the coach of the year award for both men's and women's teams from the CWPA club division last season. After attending Fresno State, Walker coached high school water polo around California for nine years.

"He was banned in the Burn to leave the team," said Mike Kirkland, treasurer for the Cal Poly men's water polo team. "It was hard for him to go up after so many years of playing and coaching, but it was a great opportunity he had to take."

Walker wasn't just a great coach, he was also a great friend, Kirkland said. He will support the team, Willis said. She added that Walker spread his love and knowledge of the game by providing water polo camps to the schools, where some team members coached.

"We were devastated at first because we thought he'd stay until the freshman he started with graduated," Willis said. "But he said he's on the plane with us if we make it to nationals next year."

At this point, the team is looking for a new coach for next year. Willis hopes the team can find a coach that will carry on the same level of enthusiasm.

"Our level of play went up and our love of the game skyrocketed wherever he stepped on the deck," Willis said.

The team is looking at recruiting the national team coach from Turkey, said Brett Lawrence, incoming senior of Cal Poly's men's water polo team. Former team members Ryan Lehman and Matt Landre are two candidates for the head coaching position. Lehman played for Cal Poly two years ago and Landre played last year.

Only two seniors are graduating from the program. The team would like to play at least two more years.

Iverson will help Sixers avoid sweep

The Lakers won the Western Conference and went on to the NBA Finals to face a team from the "inferior" Eastern Conference last year, and while many experts and fans predicted a sweep, the Lakers won a six-game series that was anything but dull and predictable.

The 2000 NBA Finals against the Indiana Pacers provide a great, not-so-ancient example to those overzealous people who predict Matt Szabo

The Lakers were the first major league franchise to move to another team from the "inferior" Eastern Conference last year, and while many experts and fans predicted a sweep, the Lakers won a six-game series that was anything but dull and predictable.

The 2000 NBA Finals against the Indiana Pacers provide a great, not-so-ancient example to those overzealous people who predict

Please submit sports trivia answers to: musters@calpoly.edu.
Please include your name. The first correct answer received via e-mail will be printed in the next issue of the paper.