Breaking the silence
Cal Poly students organize to demonstrate alternatives to war

By Carrie McGourty
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Cal Poly was alive yesterday as student protestors waved the American flag with peace signs instead of stars, and chanted "black, Latina, Arab, Asian, white, no more war, no more protect our civil rights.

About 50 students and other protestors gathered yesterday to voice their opposition against the United States' decision to go to war.

The peaceful protest, organized by the Progressive Student Alliance (PSA), began on Dexter Lawn and moved through the University Union as students handed out flyers and information on what students could do to let their voice be heard.

"We want to demonstrate that there are alternatives to war. For those who have the same feelings as we do, that we shouldn't go to war, our walk will show that students have power - a voice," said Clayton Whitt, a co-director for PSA.

One of the protest fliers stated that "Islam is not a type of terrorism; it is a religion that has nothing to do with terrorism."

Protest members brandished green bands on their arms, an idea inspired by protestors from University of California, Berkeley. The green signifies peace in the religion of Islam, and the PSA members wore them to represent unity across all ethnicities.

One of the protest fliers stated that "Islam is not a type of terrorism; it is a religion that has nothing to do with terrorism."

The Peace Walk broke the silence of student protests at Cal Poly. The last protest on campus was comprised of faculty members, who were unsatisfied with their salaries. The protest was also the first for PSA in its existence, since it was established a year and a half ago. The PSA is comprised of 35 members and has three co-directors: Clayton Whitt, Sarah Elliott and Jessie McCourian.

Protestors were escorted by police officers, who were there to make sure there were no uprisings on campus. "I think it's a good thing for them; we're just here to keep peace in the community," said Sgt. Lori Hasham, a police officer.

There were no disturbances in the protest, as surrounding students see MARCH, page 8

Recording industry raises up to fight pirating

By Malia Spencer
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

In the wake of Napster and other file sharing technologies, the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) is hoping to fight fire with fire.

The industry is instituting the help of various technology companies to develop ways of securing digital music. The biggest development has been the creation of a digital watermark.

"One thing that people are thinking about is trying to stop what they call piracy, what some of us might call fair use," said Fred Von Lohmann of the Electronic Frontier Foundation in an interview with Tech TV.

This new technology is raising many eyebrows. It has brought up both questions of consumer fair-use and privacy.

"There are legitimate arguments on both sides, but how far (it) appropriately are to go before you go over the line," Lohmann said.

However, Verance sees other uses for the technology as well. The company has developed another service called ContentMedia that will monitor and track all usages of the music that has been encoded.

According to the Verance Web site, the source content is encoded during the production process, the encoded content is then stored and the encryption is picked up by various monitoring stations in major markets that will be monitored 24 hours a day. The information is compiled and then ready for download by the content owner.

This new technology is raising many eyebrows. It has brought up both questions of consumer fair-use and privacy.

"Consumer has the right to know that we're just here to keep peace in the community," said Sgt. Lori Hasham, a police officer.

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Clayton Whitt, co-director of Progressive Student Alliance, chants pro-peace slogans along with the approximately 50 other marchers that joined in the peace march Thursday. The group hoped to spread anti-war awareness while still showing pro-America sentiment.

The biggest development has been the creation of a digital watermark.

According to the Verance Web site, "The watermark was created in accordance with the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, Section 1201(a)(1)(A) states, "No person shall circumvent a technological measure that effectively controls."

Ammonia spill closes schools, Hwy 1 exits

By Stephen Harvey
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Morro Bay High School and the city's elementary school woke to an unexpected surprise Thursday. Due to an ammonia spill, classes were cancelled and schools closed.

The anhydrous ammonia spill originated from Brebee's Seafood Processing Plant - a closed fish processing plant on the 200 block of Beach Street - sometime between 3:45 and 4:30 Wednesday afternoon, said Kevin Olson, battalion chief with the Morro Bay Police Department.

This was the cause of the school closure, Olson said.

Clean up started at around 11:00 p.m. Thursday and was expected to take five hours. "We think the winds were draining the spilled ammonia into a local septic system," he said. "Anaheim is a fertilizer in small quantities and it's hoped that it will dissipate when drained, Olson said.

"Cleanup is going better than expected," Olson said.

At the request of local police and fire departments, CalTrans closed the two main off-ramps into Morro Bay. Morro Bay Boulevard and Main Street were closed around 7 a.m., said John Burke, public information officer.

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Save a friend by phoning a friend

By Kat Corey
SACRAMENTO BEE (AP) - Today's date is October 5, 2001.

It plays more than 180,000 victims a year. One in every nine women will get it. Someone you know could have it.

The statistics are staggering when it comes to breast cancer, but the good news is, if detected early enough, there is a good chance it can be cured, according to the American Cancer Society.

CellularOne, a local wireless phone dealer, has joined forces with the American Cancer Society and Breast Cancer Early Detection Programs to encourage women in the community to get help before it is too late.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and in honor of the month, this year will be conducting their second annual Tell A Friend Phone-A-Thon on Tuesday at the San Luis Obispo CellularOne office from 4 to 7 p.m. The Phone-A-Thon is still accepting volunteers to come to the event with a list of five friends or family members over the age of 40 — the most susceptible age group.

"We feel very strongly about breast cancer awareness and are proud to participate in this event," said Dave Pruett, vice president and general manager of CellularOne. "It is our job, as a member of the community."

Breast cancer has touched home for everyone at CellularOne, because a member of the team has been affected, Pruett said.

He said this prompted them to do something to help the community become more aware.

CellularOne will provide the cell phones, free airtime and space while the American Cancer Society provides the volunteers.

Thirty volunteers have already signed up for the Tell A Friend event, said Sombra Ruiz, director of Community Services at the American Cancer Society in San Luis Obispo. They will then call these women and encourage them to get a mammogram, the best way to find cancer at its earliest stage, she said.

Pruett said many of the volunteers are breast cancer survivors.

CSUs look into use of SATs

By Rosa Rivera

Sacramento State University officials recently asked the state Board of Education to develop an assessment and placement test that could eventually replace the famed — and sometimes feared — exam.

The new test would include a writing portion, something not seen on the multiple choice-only SAT, said CSU Spokeswoman Colleen Bentley Adler.

This could provide a better insight into whether students who take the test are prepared for college, she said.

"It's a good writing component to prepare students for college," Bentley Adler said.

The test would be administered to high school students during their junior year.

Though the test is in its early stages of development, Bentley Adler said it could go into effect as early as next year. It could possibly replace the SAT exam for admission to the CSU's 23 campuses.

The CSU currently accepts the top one-third of all high school graduates. But students must still pass writing and math placement exams and score a combined 550 out of a possible 1600 on the SAT's verbal and math portions.

It's still too early to tell what the passing score would be for this particular test, Bentley Adler said.

Sacramento State students, many of whom have taken both the SAT and the CSU's current placement tests, had mixed reactions to the idea of having one comprehensive placement exam. Freshman John Wheatley said it wouldn't make a difference which test he had to take.

"One test or another, who cares," Wheatley said.

Student Susie Dixon thinks having one exam is a good idea, saying some of the exams that she had to take didn't pertain to what students have to study in college.

Muriel Hintz, a sophomore re-entry student, never had to take a prerequisite test in high school due to her 3.2 GPA.

"I didn't have to take the SAT to come here, so for people like me it's no big deal," Hintz said.

"Having a doctor tell you isn't as effective as having a friend tell you," said Andrea Brauninger, director of women's health at the Health Center, said she has seen a lot of students who have had breast cancer.

"It is important to learn about breast cancer to get your mother aware," she said.

Brauninger also said that even though breast cancer is not that common in younger women, it is important to learn how to do self breast exams as early as possible to know what "normal" is. She encourages women to make appointments at the Health Center to learn how to do self exams.

In addition to the Tell a Friend Phone-A-Thon, CellularOne is donating $20 from every activation in the month of October to the Tri-Counties Breast Cancer Early Detection Program, which offers free mammograms for uninsured women.

For more information, call the American Cancer Society at 543-1481, ext. 3.
New Alabama law lets prisoners out early

Alabamaw law changes sentence options for nonviolent offenders

By Ross Moore
The Associated Press

(C U R B I N E) Millionaire, Ala. — Alabama Gov. Don Siegelman signed a law Saturday that could lead to early release for state prisoners who committed nonviolent crimes.

Inmates serving life sentences for nonviolent crimes such as burglary, writing bad checks and selling drugs may benefit from the law.

The plan would allow convicts, with the approval of the sentencing judge, to have a chance to appear before the Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles.

Former governors Jim Folsom Jr. and Fob James killed similar bills by vetoing them.

The plan passed the Legislature overwhelmingly during the special session, but was vetoed by Siegelman.
Pryor said he is against the plan.

"It's bad news for victims and law enforcement and good news for repeat offenders," said the state's attorney general, Don Siegelman.

Siegelman signed the bill, which became law Aug. 19, 2004.

"Some of the overcrowded prisons can be alleviated with truth in sen­ tencing laws, eliminating parole and drug court and alter­ native forms of sentencing," Smith said.

|| It's bad news for victims and law enforcement and good news for repeat offenders.

Suzanne Smith
Attorney General Tallapoosa Pryor
press secretary

Pryor also wanted to look at the results of the sentencing commission that is to report to the Legislature next year, said the district attorney, Woolford Mitchell.

"We've been tough on crime, now it's time we act smart," he said.

Supporters of the bill claim it was written to help taxpayers and over­ crowded prisons.

"There is a federal order to get National and International News

Friday, October 5, 2001

Japan kills about 500 Minke for consumption a year. (Minke are the smallest of the great whales and can reach 20 feet in length.)

— BNB

Latin America

MEXICO — "We are living in the worst economic situation since World War II," said Carlos Slim Helo, a prominent Mexican busi­nessman Thursday.

He added that Mexico is not appreciating on its economic down­fall, but explained that the situation could worsen if the right measures aren't implemented to reactivate the national market.

— La Jornada

Africa

RWANDA — Rwanda is mobiliz­ ing to speed up genocide trials by electing 240,000 community mem­ bers and training them as judges.

Since the 1994 genocides, when hundreds of Tutsis and Moderate Hutus were killed, there have been oversights with awaiting trials.

— BBC

Briefs compiled from various inter­ national news services by Mustang Daily managing editor Sonja Slutskii.

National Briefs

National Briefs

Court reviews free speech and abortion

WASHINGTON — A federal appeals court on Wednesday agreed to review a decision that declared free speech an Internet site and posters identifying abortion providers as "baby butchers" which should be punished.

In addition, in a highly unusual move, 43 members of Congress filed a brief asking the 9th Circuit to rehear the case, warning that the decision could spawn further vio­ lence at abortion clinics.

The court's action means that the Minneapolis-based National Parish­ enthood vs. American Coalition of Life Activists, which was a major victory for animal rights advocates, is now void and cannot be cited as precedent by the 9th Circuit or any federal district court in the 9th Circuit, which spans nine Western states including California.

— Los Angeles Times

Terrorism, prejudice dissected on TV

HOLLYWOOD — NBC's White House drama "The West Wing" delivered a powerful lesson on the history of terrorism as well as a morality play on issues of prejudice and tolerance during its special one-hour episode broadcast Wednesday night.

The program used a security breach during a visit by a group of high school students to explore issues surrounding the roots of ter­ rorism, Islamic extremism and the U.S. response, as various characters took turns discussing the issue with President Josiah Bartlet.

"Killing yourself and innocent people is just as sick, if not ed­ dier, the murder," observes former president Bartlet, played by Martin Sheen, adding in reference to martyrdom versus herosim, "A hero would die for his country, but he'd much rather live for it."

Los Angeles Times

Weather may delay military strike in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON — The win­ dow for a possible military strike in Afghanistan is growing smaller if U.S. armed forces hope to avoid the region's coming winter, a six-month period that renders much of the country uninhabitable by troops and military equipment, analysts said.

Pentagon planners are weighing how the onset of Afghan winter early next month would affect any potential military action, but defense officials said that would not, by itself, halt the timing of a U.S. strike.

The U.S. military is also waiting for the results of the sentencing commission that is to report to the Legislature next year, said the district attorney, Woolford Mitchell.

"We've been tough on crime, now it's time we act smart," he said.

Supporters of the bill claim it was written to help taxpayers and over­ crowded prisons.

"There is a federal order to get
picture this: five-foot-seven-inch Ben Stiller (‘There’s Something About Mary”) as the most sought after male model in the industry.

I know, highly implausible, but Zoolander is able to string along a line of demure-limbed one liners in a unique spin on the fashion industry.

Ben Stiller plays pretty boy Derek Zoolander, a conceited, intelligence-lacking model who graces billboards, stars in cheesy commercials for perfumes, and perfects his internationally well-known pose “Blue Steel” on runways as a daily way of life. You can’t help but laugh at the movie’s obvious sarcasm toward so-called fashion trends. We’ve all seen it before: the plastic wrap for a skirt or tin foil shoes. Asinine.

The three-time “Male Model of the Year” for the VH-1 Fashion Awards, Zoolander goes through some intense self-introspection after he is ousted for this year’s title by new male model Hansel (Owen Wilson). This sparks the shallow, simplenminded Zoolander to search for the meaning of life, feeling betrayed by the industry for which he was once a posterboy and icon. He begins to wonder if there is more to life than, in his own words, “being really, really, really good-looking.”

Surprisingly, Zoolander returns to his fellow misguided model friends, who suggest a joy-ride to lift his spirits, which include brandishing orange-mocha Frappuccinos and comedy that, at times, is overwhelming.”

Corroborating through New York City rocking out to Wham’s “It’s Your Life.” You will love and appreciate this scene for its in-your-face mockery of dolled fashion trends in sync with a classic George Michael hit. Other classic songs from the 1980s are also incorporated into the film’s ridiculous lap-dance-clad, hair-gelled scenes, making for amusing movie soundtrack.

In the midst of Zoolander’s depression, fashion designer Jacobbi Mugatu (Will Farrell), who carries a nozzle whose hair matches the designer’s own extreme style, plans to use a long line of assassinations (including that of former president Abraham Lincoln) in which he uses brainwashed male models as hitmen so he can continue to use child labor factories to create his unique designs. I did like this aspect of the twisted plot, but the laughs filter out gradually with an infusion of slap-stick comedy that, at times, is overwhelming.

In time, the plan to assassinate the Malaysian prime minister is discovered by a Time magazine writer (Christine Taylor). When Zoolander and rival Hansel eventually recognize, putting their male-model egos aside, they attempt to thwart Mugatu’s scheme at a fashion show.

Farrell shines in this scene with his undeniable tarty style, classic facial expressions and physical comedy that parallel “Dumb and Dumber.” however, “Zoolander” does follow suit of “Dumb and Dumber” by not claiming or pretending to take itself seriously.

Go into this movie with no expectations and you will be satisfied. If you are in the mood for fluffy comic entertainment, watch this movie. “Zoolander” does a good job at portraying the preconceived stereotype that what models lack in intelligence they make up for in beauty and make it funny. Bottom line though ... It’s a renter.
"Don't Say a Word" screams winner

By Jude Seymour

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Movies within the kidnapping genre often try to play up tension while their plots meander in predictability and their endings gleam with happiness. The genre is limited by two of Hollywood's oldest conventions: The kidnappers must be brought to justice and there needs to be a resolution.

"Don't Say A Word," the new Michael Douglas thriller, recycles the plot of Mel Gibson's 1996 film "Ransom," a movie for which it was easy to blame the constraints of the genre. However, "Word" will impress many audience members as it reinvigorates the tired ransom plot, adding multiple sub-plots and creative situations to, of course, bring the kidnappers to justice.

Douglas plays Dr. Nathan Conrad, a psychiatrist who must pry creative situations to, of course, bring the kidnappers to justice.

The kidnappers must be brought to justice.

The genre is limited by two of Hollywood's oldest conventions: The kidnappers must be brought to justice.

"Ransom," a movie for which it was easy to blame the constraints of the genre, "Don't Say a Word," pits Douglas as a willing participant in the kidnappers' game. But tension exists because Dr. Conrad is just no good at playing it.

For two hours, "Word"'s detective story grips the audience, creating nervous anticipatory moments and suspenseful chase sequences.

However, director Gary Fleder is apparently unsatisfied, adding two additional subplots to his sleek visuals.

These subplots involve Conrad's impaired wife (Famke Janssen, "X-Men"), who broke her leg in a skiing accident, and a bright New York City cop (Jennifer Esposito, "Summer of Sam"), whose excessive search for clues in her own case leads her unknowingly into the kidnappers' scheme.

Both the main plot and these two subplots are fortunately well written. The audience never has the chance to drop out of the action, keeping the pacing of the movie very fluid.

"Don't Say a Word," like most movies in the kidnapping genre, requires a fair amount of suspension of disbelief. The movie ignores practicality, instead focusing on producing greater tension.

If audiences can accept the parameters of the "rules" established by the film, then they will easily find
Letters to the editor

Opinion

Take caution when verbally striking back Editor,

I recently came across the following unattributed quote in "The Elements of Style" by William Strunk and E.B. White: "None are so fallible as those who are sure they're right.

This quote is a warning beacon to anyone who think they have the answer(s) to how we should respond to the tragic events of Sept. 11. Impulse to strike back quickly is a natural one. The desire to achieve peace is laudable, and one with which few would argue. The problem is that the situation is extremely complex, and judging the actions of others is not so cut and dry.

Nancy E. Kapp is a political science senior.

History is full of horrible causes Editor,

I would like to thank Brian Orion for his contribution to this Thursday's paper. I don't like waking up early to pack up and head to class or an anthropology class, then straight through with very little pain. Bob Dignan is the director of Fiscal Services

An example is the "innocent children" who have suffered because of United States sanctions on Iraq. I am talking about a war that has been going on for over the world. I too am a "Real American" who believes "red," however, I don't bleed "blue" or "white."

Bill McGurr is a chemistry junior, not a political science senior.

Lessons in logic explain argument Editor,

I have attended Cal Poly for five years, and this is but the fourth letter I have written to Mustang Daily. Three of these letters have been written in the last week. I typically let opinions digest before writing another opinion. However, when I saw the comments on the PSA on Sept. 26, I felt that it was time to write my own. I took a direct quote from the PSA and contrasted it with a quote from Talmud: These quotes were shockingly similar, constituting the logic behind the argument for winning the war.

"This is our moment to make the world whole again..." The Talmud. "Some day..." The PSA.

Nothing has changed since 9/11. Instead of attacking the enemy, we have attacked ourselves and the world. We have killed those who were innocent, and we have allowed the innocent to be máquina.

Stephen Metrulas is a mechanical engineering senior.

Letters to the editor

Letter policy Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanity and length. Please limit letters to 250 words. Letters should include the writer's full name, major and class standing.

By mail: Letters to the Editor, Building 26, Room 226 Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo CA 93407
By fax: (805) 756-6784
By e-mail: MustangDaily@hotmail.com

Don't send letters as an attachment. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.

Opinion

Fight America's obsession with opposites

If you have taken a linguistics class, or an anthropology class, then you have probably heard of the term "binary opposition." It describes one of the basic tenets of human language. "Hot and cold," "soft and hard," "big and little" are examples of binary oppositions.

Whoever has lived outside of the United States for an extended period of time, or is from another culture, will feel frustrated with me in saying that Americans tend to take this concept of binary oppositions to another level. Instead of being "black and white," Americans change it to "black or white," "gray or straight."

As a culture, we are so extreme. It is either one way or the other, and those who do not agree have invalid opinions. There is no room for gray area or compromise. I say this from firsthand experience because I lived in Europe, and I was quickly singled out as closed-minded and narrow minded and asked to view other people's opinions as possibly valid.

Not only do we as Americans do this at a personal level, but our country is so fervent to control other people's lives at all costs. Christian fundamentalists insist on trying to put up the Ten Commandments in the public schools because they want to use the public schools to enforce their personal values upon their students, which would end up enforcing women's bodies and forbidding the basic civil right of committed homosexuals to declare a legal union.

Can't they lead their lives the way they want them to, insinulating their perception of good values upon their kids at home, and let the rest of America have their right to freedom, too?

At a more local level, our very own Associated Students Inc. feels the need to try to control us by not allowing us to wear shirts without sleeves in the exercise room of the gym. They say that the rule is intended to be "more inclusive." Well, I don't know about you, but the last time I checked, it is not even exclusive to exclude any students from the picture. But, it is not about being inclusive. They are trying to enforce these values upon us, and refuse to accept the idea that not everyone is bothered by seeing some skin, let alone the suggestive nature and sexy region of the shoulder and upper arm.

It is time that Americans start being more rational and open-minded about life. It is time to stop the mindless following of the platform of any political party. Think for yourselves, question and analyze everything you know and everything you believe. You will be surprised that most of what you make up of nothing but chaotic programming, and the extreme views you can see most likely will be traced back to our own good binary oppositions. Be logical and rational, and support diversity and the body of mind. In opinion, I should be "black AND white," not "black OR white."

Rodney Wallwork is a modern languages and literatures senior.
LSU amendment forces students to register for draft

By Edmund Sanders

WASHINGTON — Responding to growing concerns about aggressive telemarketing tactics, the chairman of the Federal Trade Commission on Thursday called for the creation of a national “do not call” list that would allow Americans to easily block all unwanted telephone sales pitches.

The proposal was among several ideas unveiled by FTC Chairman Timothy J.Muris, who vowed to make privacy a top priority during his tenure.

Muris also confirmed that he had decided against pursuing tougher federal legislation, reversing the policy of his predecessor. Instead, he plans to beef up enforcement of existing laws and introduce more consumer-friendly programs, such as the do-not-call list and assistance for victims of identity theft.

“We need more enforcement, not more laws,” Muris told a gathering of business and privacy group leaders in Cleveland, but he left the door open for future legislation.

To support his new privacy agenda, Muris plans to outline details of existing rules and policy-related programs by 50 percent, to 25 full-time employees, up from 35. Most of the jobs will come from new hires authorized by Congress as part of the FTC’s 2002 budget, a spokeswoman said.

The mandatory, national do-not-call list would replace the voluntary system operated by the Direct Marketing Association and federal rules that require consumers to notify each telemarketer individually that they do not wish to be contacted.

About 25 states have also created regional do-not-call lists.

Muris said the FTC might also give consumers a “middle option” that would permit telemarketing calls but limit them during certain hours.

“One of the problems with the list has been that it’s all or nothing,” said J. Howard Beall III, who heads the agency’s bureau of consumer protection. The FTC hopes to have the do-not-call list up and running within a year, he said.

Officials at the Direct Marketing Association, which has administered a do-not-call list for 20 years, questioned the need for government intervention.

“We don’t see that this is a problem that needs to be solved,” said H. Robert Wientzen, president of the association. “The private sector has been doing an appropriate job in this area and can continue to do so.”

He said the organization’s do-not-call list has about 4 million telephone numbers, or about 2 percent of consumers.

Privacy advocates say federal oversight is long overdue.

“It’s like having the fox to protect the chickens,” said Jason Carlett, president of Junkbusters, which helps consumers reduce telemarketing calls and junk mail. He said government-sponsored do-not-call lists have had much higher response rates. A state-run list in Connecticut has signed up half the population, he said.

The Direct Marketing Association has also been criticized for failing to publicize its do-not-call list and making it too difficult for customers to sign up. Consumers must mail a letter to the association and may not sign up via telephone. Those wishing to sign up via the Internet must pay $5 for five years.

Possible ‘do not call’ list

FTC head proposes list to block telemarketers

By Edmund Sanders

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“One of the problems with the list has been that it’s all or nothing," said J. Howard Beall III, who heads the agency’s bureau of consumer protection. The FTC hopes to have the do-not-call list up and running within a year, he said.

 Officials at the Direct Marketing Association, which has administered a do-not-call list for 20 years, questioned the need for government intervention.

“We don’t see that this is a problem that needs to be solved," said H. Robert Wientzen, president of the association. “The private sector has been doing an appropriate job in this area and can continue to do so.”

He said the organization’s do-not-call list has about 4 million telephone numbers, or about 2 percent of consumers.

Privacy advocates say federal oversight is long overdue.

“It’s like having the fox to protect the chickens," said Jason Carlett, president of Junkbusters, which helps consumers reduce telemarketing calls and junk mail. He said government-sponsored do-not-call lists have had much higher response rates. A state-run list in Connecticut has signed up half the population, he said.

The Direct Marketing Association has also been criticized for failing to publicize its do-not-call list and making it too difficult for consumers to sign up. Consumers must mail a letter to the association and may not sign up via telephone. Those wishing to sign up via the Internet must pay $5 for five years.

Financial Times

Possible ‘do not call’ list

FTC head proposes list to block telemarketers

By Edmund Sanders

WASHINGTON — Responding to growing concerns about aggressive telemarketing tactics, the chairman of the Federal Trade Commission on Thursday called for the creation of a national “do not call” list that would allow Americans to easily block all unwanted telephone sales pitches.

The proposal was among several ideas unveiled by FTC Chairman Timothy J. Muris, who vowed to make privacy a top priority during his tenure.

Muris also confirmed that he had decided against pursuing tougher federal legislation, reversing the policy of his predecessor. Instead, he plans to beef up enforcement of existing laws and introduce more consumer-friendly programs, such as the do-not-call list and assistance for victims of identity theft.

“We need more enforcement, not more laws,” Muris told a gathering of business and privacy group leaders in Cleveland, but he left the door open for future legislation.

To support his new privacy agenda, Muris plans to outline details of existing rules and policy-related programs by 50 percent, to 25 full-time employees, up from 35. Most of the jobs will come from new hires authorized by Congress as part of the FTC’s 2002 budget, a spokeswoman said.

The mandatory, national do-not-call list would replace the voluntary system operated by the Direct Marketing Association and federal rules that require consumers to notify each telemarketer individually that they do not wish to be contacted.

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Muris said the FTC might also give consumers a “middle option” that would permit telemarketing calls but limit them during certain hours.

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News

TOURISM continued from page 1

But in the days after the attacks, at least seven conventions with 35,000 attendees canceled. When all is said and done, Anaheim Visitor & Convention Bureau President Charles Ahlers estimates that as many as 190,000 anticipated convention visitors may not show up, costing the city and businesses more than $220 million.

By comparison, the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority said Wednesday that to date, it has lost $98.7 million from conventions that would have brought 78,710 visitors.

As in Vegas, many foreign tourists have canceled trips that included visits to Disneyland and Anaheim. One tour operator, the Japan Travel Bureau in Los Angeles, said 3,500 tourists to Disneyland — with only one averaging 50 visitors — have been canceled.

"Every day I ask the hotels, 'Are people coming back?'" said Sam Kharbanda, whose photo business has been decimated. "But nobody can tell me. It's scary. I want to cry, but I can't." Mayor Tom Doh, who has overs­

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But Anaheim, a city of 329,000 with an annual budget approaching $1 billion, has unofficially imple­

mented a hiring freeze. And Doh himself has been calling convention groups, one by one, just to make sure they're coming.

"For business on the future here," he said. "I think this is a wake-up call, but we'll all in this together." City officials predict that the worst will be over soon. The convention center is still booking events, they said, and has 214 already confirmed for 2002, which, if everyone came, would bring more than $800,000 in annual revenue.

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The city and businesses have lost $98.7 million from cancellations alone, the city's convention bureau estimated.

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