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 race war, no more, 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 a power — a voice,” said Clayton Whitt, a co-director for PSA.

Protest members, brandished green bands on their arms, an idea inspired of student protests at Cal Poly. The last protest on campus was over 18 months ago. The PSA is comprised of 35 members and has three co-directors: Clayton Whitt, Sarah Elliot and Jessie McCouran.

The Peace Walk broke the silence of student protests at Cal Poly. The last protest on campus was composed 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 composed of 35 members and has three co-directors: Clayton Whitt, Sarah Elliot and Jessie McCouran.

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 wises 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.

This watermark is inaudible information that is encoded into the music, according to the Tech TV Web site. Future music players will be able to read the watermark and then determine whether or not the user has the right to play the music.

People who try to burn CDs or store songs on a computer will no longer be able to do so unless they pay to get the proper license. Record labels and many artists are hoping this new technology will put an end to piracy.

Companies that are developing the watermarks, such as Verance, see a benefit to consumers as well material will have the best assurance of their legitimate rights to copyrighted material.

However, Verance sees other uses for the technology as well. The company has developed another service called Conviva that will monitor and track all uses 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.

“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.

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“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.

“Basically, (to) stop consumers from copying their music, or sharing it with we’re seeing signs that the record industry doesn’t want you to be able to make copies, even for your own personal use. Hilary B. Rahn of the RIAA would not admit before Congress, when Sen. Hatch questioned her, that it was OK to make a copy of your CDs that you legitimately purchased.”

Political science professor Philip Tetter said that with this new technology, pirates, privacy issues are a legitimate concern and there needs to be clarity in what is happening. Tetter specializes in civil rights and civil liberties issues.

“Are there legitimate arguments on both sides, but how far (is it) appropriate to go before you go over the line?” Tetter asked.

He also went on to add that if usage is going to be monitored, then the consumer has the right to know that that is part of the deal.

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
Save a friend by phoning a friend

By Kat Corey
Mustang Daily Staff Writer

It plagues 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, it is a survivable disease, according to the American Cancer Society.

CellulatOne, a local wireless phone dealership, has joined forces with the American Cancer Society and Breast Cancer Early Detection Program to help 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, the firm 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 Prueset, vice president and general manager of CellularOne. "It is our job as a member of the community."

Breast cancer has touched home for the community. Prueset said this prompted them to do something to help the community become more aware.

CellulatOne 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.

Prueset said many of the volunteers are breast cancer survivors.

"They have had firsthand experience fighting the battle and understand the benefits of early detection," he said.

Volunteers from last year's event contacted 128 women and 82 of them scheduled mammograms, Ruiz said.

"We were really happy with last year's event, and this year, we are going to reach even more women," she said.

Ruiz said she expects more than 100 women to sign up for a mammogram as a result of Tuesday's effort.

She said the main reason they are investing so much time and effort is because 25 percent of women who have had mammograms do not because they were asked by family or friends.

"Having a doctor tell you isn't as effective as having a friend tell you," she said.

Andrea Brauninger, director of women's health at the Health Center, has seen a lot of students whose mothers had breast cancer.

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

Brauninger also said that despite 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, CellulatOne 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 543-1461, ext. 3.

CSU's look into use of SATs

By Rosa Rivera

(UWIRE SACRAMENTO, Calif. — High school students studying for the Scholastic Aptitude Test may want to think again after California 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 Celene 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 Whaley said it would not make a difference which test he had to take.

"One test or another, who cares?" Whaley said.

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

Marilyn Harte, a sophomore, entry student, never had to take aptitude 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," Harte said.

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National and International News

Friday, October 5, 2001

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" who should be punished.

In addition, in a highly unusual move, 41 members of Congress filed a brief asking the 9th Circuit to rehear the case, warning that the decisions will spawn further violence at abortion clinics.

The court's action means that the March for Life, which supports the Parenthood vs. American Coalition of Life Activists, which was a major victory for militant abortion foes, 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 PBS

HOLLYWOOD — NBC's White House drama "The West Wing" delivered a message 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 terrorism, Muslim extremism and the U.S. response, as various characters took turns discussing the issue with President Josiah "J. C.

"Killing yourself and innocent bystanders is not just a sick, evil, murder," the edict, President Josiah "J.C.

President Martin Sheen said, adding in reference to martyrdom versus terrorism, "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 window for a possible military strike in Afghanistan is growing smaller as U.S. armed forces hope to avoid the region's coming winter, a six-month span that renders much of the nation uninhabitable by troops and military equipment, analysts said.

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

"Some of the overcrowded prisons early next month would affect any prisoner transfers, but defense officials said that would not, by itself, halt the timing of a U.S. strike."

The EoA-1, a high-frequency, long-range radar, is being used to monitor potential targets in Afghanistan. The device sends out radio waves that are reflected back to a station on the ground. The technology is part of the U.S. war plan for Afghanistan.

The plan will be used to track the location and movement of enemy forces and provide early warning of potential attacks.

Los Angeles Times

New Alabama law lets prisoners out early

Alabama law changes sentence options for nonviolent offenders

By Ross Moore

The Auburn Plainsman

(C)ieur AUBURN, Ala. — Alabama Gov. Don Siegelman signed into law Monday a bill that reduces penalties for some nonviolent crimes.

Siegelman said the measure would relieve taxpayers and overcrowded prisons.

Sen. Jack Biddle, R-Gardendale, sponsor of the legislation, said that there are more than 26,000 inmates in the state prison system, state officials said. An average annual cost per inmate is $9,190 a year.

"Some of the overcrowded prisons can be alleviated with truth in sentencing and by drug courts and alternative forms of sentencing," Smith said.

Los Angeles Times

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

Suzanne Smith

Attorney General Fill Pryor press secretary

Pryor also wanted to look at the results of the sentencing commission that is now reporting to the legislature.

"I don't think there are a large number of people on probation who have a perceived problem.

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

Supporters of the bill claim it was needed to help taxpayers and overcrowded prisons.

"There is a federal order to get

Mustang Daily
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 dim-witted 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 perfume, 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 creation and self-absorbedness are placed at the brunt of his way of life. You can't help but laugh at the movie's obvious association with the world of Runway and Icon. He begins to wonder if there is more to life than, in his own words, "being really, really, really good." Jitterbug. You will love and appreciate this scene for its comedy that, at times, is overwhelming.

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.

parading through New York City rocking out to Wham's "Jitterbug." 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 leotard-clad, hair-gelled scenes, making for amusing movie soundtrack.

In the midst of Zoolander's depression, fashion designer Jacobim Mugatu (Will Farrell), who carries a poodle whose hair matches the designer's own extreme style, plans to use brainwashed male models as hitmen so he can continue to use child labor factories to create his unique designs. Our hero Zoolander 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 zany 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 by 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.

Above, male supermodel Derek Zoolander (Ben Stiller) shows off his look "Blue Steel." Below, fashion designer Mugatu (Will Farrell) and his assistant (Nathan Lee Graham) watch Zoolander stroll down the runway in a fashion show.

A different Breed of SUPERHERO

By Autumn Zernich
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

"I like... the twisted plot, but the laughs filter out gradually with an infusion of slap-stick comedy that, at times, is overwhelming."
‘Don’t Say a Word’ screams winner

By Jude Seymour
THE OBSERVER

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 the information out of a catatonic patient in his old ward. Dr. Conrad aims to exchange his young daughter, who has been kidnapped by a group of criminal masterminds lead by Patrick Koster (Sean Bean, "Patriot Games").

The patient, Elisabeth (Brittany Murphy, "Clueless"), is coping with post-traumatic stress disorder and is blocking Dr. Conrad’s attempts to elicit the information from her memory. To make a difficult situation almost impossible, Conrad has eight hours to retrieve the number before the kidnappers kill his daughter.

In “Word,” Douglas seems to have combined two of his more recent roles into one performance. His tough-edged, sometimes maniacal attitude from "Traffic" is blended with the softer sensibilities of his character from "Wonder Boys."

This is seen especially in his playful interaction with his 8-year-old daughter, Jessie (Skye McCole Bartusiak). Douglas’ performance is convincing even in these tiny moments — if only every child could experience the loving parental nature of Nathan Conrad.

Indeed, Douglas’ performance is the catalyst for “Don’t Say a Word,” which plays much like a detective story. Conrad has been thrust unwillingly into the role of an investigator. He may have the academic intelligence of a Sherlock Holmes, but his deductions about the clues are coming far too slow for his 5 p.m. deadline.

This is the film’s first twist from the typically hackneyed kidnapping plot. While "Ransom" tried to focus on the psychological strategies of the Gibson character, "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 Felder 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, adding more tension, requiring a fair amount of suspension of disbelief. The movie ignores practicality, instead focusing on producing greater tension.

"Don’t Say a Word," like most movies in the kidnapping genre, requires a fair amount of suspension of disbelief. The audience never has the chance to drop out of the action, keeping the pacing of the movie very fluid.

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How can the U.S. best respond to terrorist attacks?

How much should the political establishment be involved in making the decision?

Join a distinguished panel in asking the questions and seeking the answers.

POLITICS and TERRORISM

TUESDAY, 8 p.m. OCTOBER 9
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

FREE ADMISSION
STUDENTS, Faculty and Staff are especially invited
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: "Nothing is fallible as those who are sure they're right."

This quote is a warning beacon to anyone who thinks they have the answer(s) to how we should respond to the tragic events of Sept. 11. The impulse to strike back quickly is a natural one. The desire to achieve justice as well as pragmatism? 1 must deal with the problem. Can anybody tell me that killing bin Laden isn't the right thing to do? He's just the profile for our Satan of the moment. If we could just get rid of him, we would feel as if we had dealt with the problem. Can the acts of the terrorists be justified? Not in my opinion. In this situation, as in almost every situation, it is important to respect the points of view of others when they don't attempt to shout down opposing points of view. As an aside, the little book I mentioned at the beginning of this note is available at the Cal Poly bookstore for $4.95. For anyone who is interested in learning about democracy with clarity, this would be an excellent investment. The book is short and well written, containing just enough anecdotes and index, which facilitate its use as a reference. For purposes of illustration it uses excerpts and examples, the like with which I began this note. It is written in a usable but entertaining manner, so it can actually be read straight through with very little pain.

Bob Digan is the director of Fiscal Services

Bin Laden is just a convenient target Editor,

We can have Crusades. We can have our own jihad. Bin Laden can have our own righteous revenge. But it will not do so on any good whatsoever. Osama bin Laden isn't the real problem. He just fits the profile for our Satan of the moment. If we could just get rid of him, we would feel as if we had dealt with the problem. Can anybody tell me that killing bin Laden isn't the right thing to do? He's just the profile for our Satan of the moment. If we could just get rid of him, we would feel as if we had dealt with the problem.

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 Thursday's paper. I don't like waking up early to write in the morning. I don't want to get out of bed. Yes, I could rind of my laughter no matter how hard I tried.

Randy Reynoso is an architecture alumus (1984).

Pacifist ways aren't meant to please others Editor,

In response to Ashley Campbell's letter "Patriotism only means supporting the cause" (Sept. 26), once again my opinions about patriotism are pulled apart and misrepresented with a dash of sarcasm. First of all, my so-called "pacifist ways" aren't a question of pleasing you. I am simply expressing my feelings and opinions about patriotism. If you feel the need to label me as a "pacifist" because I lived in a good cause, then I war, oh well. But please don't twist my words around by comparing innocent people to "the deviant criminals." The "innocent people" I am referring to are those who have and will be killed as a result of war.

This is our moment to make the world a more rational and open-minded place. It is time to stop the mindless following of the path that the political correctness of the day requires for us to walk. The world is a crazy place and I don't see any way to change it to "black or white," "gay or straight," "American" who bleeds "red." However, I don't bleed "blue" or "white."

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

Lesson in logic explains argument Editor,

I have attended Cal Poly for five years, and this is but the fourth letter these little notes have been written in the last week. I typically let opinions Dialogue go without comment. However, when I saw the comments of the PSA on Sept. 26, I felt that I must write an argument out. I took a direct quote from the PSA and it constitutes my entire argument. These quotes were shockingly similar, constituting the logic needed to refute that the statements of the PSA on Sept. 26 are damaging to the cause of the Taliban. These quotes were shockingly similar, constituting the logic needed to refute that the statements of the PSA on Sept. 26 are damaging to the cause of the Taliban. I constructed the following logic statement in my head: "All people who speak like the Taliban are anti-American." Using the comparison stated earlier, I then logically constructed the following logic statement in my head: "The PSA is anti-American." (Phil 255: A 4 B C = A is therefore C is B.)

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LSU amendment forces students to register for draft

By Dieter Cougere

BATON ROUGE, La. — If fifth-year architecture senior Robert Wagner does not register for the Selective Service, he will not be able to schedule classes for the spring semester or receive an official university transcript from Louisiana State University.

Wagner is one of fewer than 400 students affected by the implementation of 2-year-old Louisiana amendment. According to the 1999 amendment to act R.S. 17:5315A, "...no person who is required to register for the federal draft under the federal Military Selective Service Act shall be eligible to enroll in any post secondary educational institution which receives any state or federal funds until such person has registered for such draft.

Robert Doolos, LSU registrar, said this means no eligible male can enroll at any state community college or university until he has registered with the draft.

"It's coincidental that we are starting to enforce this law and that Sept. 11 occurred," Doolos said.

The United States Selective Service System requires virtually all male U.S. citizens and most male noncitizens living in the United States between ages 18 and 26 to register for the draft.

Young men in hospitals, mental institutions and those not eligible to register until they are released. Young men serving in the military on full-time active duty also do not have to register.

Women do not have to register because the draft operates mainly to provide ground combat positions. Military policy originally did not permit women to serve in front line ground combat positions. Congress would have to change this law to draft women.

The male rules 18, federal law requires him to register with the Selective Service. In a national emergency, the government would use the list to call men to military service. Until now, there has been no state mandate to enforce this federal law.

"If it comes down to (not being able to register for my classes), then I'll register," Wagner said. "It should be a federal thing, it's not the state's business."

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Robert Doolos
LSU registrar

Before the amendment, students were required to register with the Selective Service by a certain date, a section on the university admission application. However, the amendment requires the university to verify students have registered with the draft.

Doolos said the university did not begin enforcing the new amendment in 1999 because the university management had to disseminate the rules and regulations of enforcement.

"Once the (management) board did that, we started working on coming into compliance with the law," he said. "We wanted on the board to tell us what we needed to do."

The Registrar's Office began working in April to ensure that every university male students were in compliance with the law. "After the 14th day of class, or Census Day in spring 2000, we selected students at the university that were male," Doolos said. "We then did some edits to that group and excluded those under 18 years of age."

The then-drafted men was that the remaining group of 14,999 male students at the university must be checked. It's an ongoing process.

Doolos said students need to tell the university after they register with the Selective Service that the university can lift the flag on their schedules.

"The Selective Service does not inform us of a student registering with them," he said.

The university checked new, eligible male students this past semester before they entered the university. "This is not a one-time thing, they will have to do it every year," Doolos said. "We will have to track students who are now 17 and will turn 18 to make sure they register. Also, any new or transfer students must be checked. It's an ongoing process."

Most students agreed males should register for the draft when they turn 18, but they disagreed over who was responsible for enforcing the law. "I don't think it's the university's responsibility, it's the individual's responsibility," said Nick Stein, a fifth-year architecture senior. "Either way, it's the government checking into people's personal business."

After checking against the Student Aid records, the university had more than 5,600 students left to notify their registration office. Doolos said he worked with the Selective Service during the summer to receive confirmation on the remaining students.

"They sent us a response last week," he said. "I was pleasantly surprised to find out that we have fewer than 400 male students that need to register. For us to have fewer than 400 is amazing."

Doolos said the university will send letters to unregistered male students this week telling them to register for the draft.

"Until students register, they will not be able to schedule courses for the spring semester, nor will they be able to receive an official transcript," Doolos said. "We thought this was a better option than not allowing them to register for this fall semester."

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Possible 'do not call' list

FTC head proposes list to block telemarketers

By Edmund Sanders
Los Angeles Times
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 unved 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 tough new laws on telemarketing, reversal of 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 meet with representatives of existing privacy-related programs by 50 percent, to 52 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 spokesman 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 cre-

regional do-not-call lists. Muris said the FTC might also give consumers a "middle option" that would permit telemarketing calls but limit them to certain hours.

"One of the problems with the list has been that it's all or nothing," said Howard Beales 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," 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 Calvert, 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 via telephone. Those wishing to sign up via the Internet must pay $5 for five years.

Margaret Shepherd
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defies brain damage and makes

banks reluctant to make loans.

"If that happens," said Zandi, the problems for the economy are going to grow worse.

The national household average credit card balance ballooned to more than $8,100 last year from $3,000 in 1990, according to CardWeb.com.

For many borrowers, the Federal Reserve's interest rate cut this week won't help much. Even though the key Fed fund rate has been whittled down to a 39-year low of 2.5 percent, the average annual interest rate on the standard credit card still is more than 14 percent. On a balance of $9,000, that amounts to about $1,200 a month, just in interest payments.

Until recently, these rates didn't stop households from wielding their plastic. Even as the stock market shrugged and once plump retirement funds slumped down, many consumers remained quite optimistic about the future. Jobs remained secure, home values were rising.

Many felt no need to stop bor­

rowing and spending.

Many people were just doing what they thought made sense as they rapidly built up debt in the 1990s, said Dean Baker, co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, a liberal think-tank.

"Suddenly, they find themselves in a very right situation. 

They're way short of where they intended to be."

AARON LAMBERT/MUSTANG DAILY

mustangdaily.com

Israel won't sacrifice safety for coalition

By Peter Hermann

THE BALTIMORE SUN

JERUSALEM -- Refusing to bow to U.S. pressure to exercise restraint in the Palestinian conflict, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Thursday night that Israel will not sacrifice its safety for the sake of an anti-terrorism coalition that includes Arab states.

"Do not try to appease the Arabs at our expense," Sharon told reporters. "This is unacceptable to us."

It was a defiant warning to the White House, which has been trying to win support in the Middle East for a U.S.-backed campaign against terror by ending the fighting that broke out a year ago between Israel and the Palestinians.

Israel has been left on the side­

lines as American officials build a coalition that includes states which are hostile to the Jewish nation and upset by the yearlong Israel-Palestinian conflict. The fighting has killed more than 750 people and upset by the yearlong Israel-Palestinian conflict. The fighting has killed more than 750 people and escalated daily despite truces and cease-fire agreements.

Sharon's remarks are the strongest signs to date that Israel is frustrated at being sidelined by the United States for tactics used against the Palestinians. Israel does not like being sidelined while American officials court its enemies and talk tough about Osama bin Laden.

"All of our efforts to reach a cease-fire have been torpedoed by the Palestinians," Sharon said, indi­

cating that a truce entered into under pressure from the United States is over.

"The fire did not cease for even one day. Therefore, I have instructed our security forces to take all measures to bring calm.

"Transport Minister Ephraim Sneh, a member of the left-of-center Labor Party, went further, saying Israel is concerned about the type of countries the United States is court­

ing for its coalition, such as Iran, Sudan and Pakistan.

"To say that the U.S. is abandon­

ing Israel is untrue," he said. "But there is a danger of appeasing extremist elements in the United World, and this worries us.

"Those comments came hours after a Palestinian gunman dressed as an Israeli soldier opened fire at a bus stop in the northern city of Afula. Three Israelis were killed and 14 wounded. That followed Tuesday night's attack on a Gaza Strip settle­

ment in which two people died.

"Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who pushed for meetings with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat despite the violence, appeared to change his tone after meeting with Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erekat on Thursday. The meeting was described as tense and unpro­

ductive.

"Appearing on CNN Thursday night, the normally conciliatory Peres said the two terrorist attacks this week, which occurred despite a negotiated truce, left "no room for compromise."

"He said he wants to negotiate, but at this point: "It is either us or them. They leave us no choice. It is a game of murder."

Debt assumes greater risk as economy sinks

By Leslie Earnest

LOS ANGELES TIMES

As layoffs mount and the United States teeters toward a recession, consumers are worrying about their credit cards — have been for many American households since the start of the 20-year-long upsurge in credit card use. Even as many consumers remained quite optimistic about the future, jobs remained secure, home values were rising.

Many felt no need to stop bor­

rowing and spending.

Many people were just doing what they thought made sense as they rapidly built up debt in the 1990s, said Dean Baker, co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, a liberal think-tank.

"Suddenly, they find themselves in a very right situation. 

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A sharp increase in defaults and bankruptcies could make it hard for many consumers to pay their debt, according to CardWeb.com.

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