Reported cases of cheating at UC Berkeley dramatically increase

By Helen Hwang

(U-WIRE) BERKELEY, Calif.

Cheating, plagiarists and all categories of academic dishonesty have experienced dramatic spikes in recent years at University of California, Berkeley.

Earlier this year, an entire midterm exam was tossed out because of widespread cheating.

Reported cases of cheating alone have more than doubled at the university, from 61 in 1999 to 148 last year.

The increasing numbers reflect a corresponding rise in cheating at universities across the nation, said a UC Berkeley official responsible for upholding the code of student conduct.

The accessibility of the Internet has been a significant factor in the rise, making it easier for students to download, purchase or plagiarize term papers, said Neal Rajmaira, UC Berkeley student judicial affairs director.

The national trend is troubling, in part because it may cause students to apply, cheating can inflate students’ grades and make it more difficult to get into the major.

“Admission to the major is based on lower division grades, and students are essentially competing against each other for places,” Harvey said. “Cheating is significant because it raises the bar for getting in the CS major.”

The midterms in question were graded before the cheating was discovered. Although the average was only slightly higher than expected, the test scores later in life,” he said. “There are plenty of ways this can become problematic, especially as a computer programmer.”

Harvey said he will not change his policies about test-taking, saying he believes this was an isolated incident. Nothing is more important than cheating, the crisis for cheaters.”

People build habits of behavior through their every action, Harvey added.

“You learn to cut corners as a student, you are preparing yourself to cut corners later in life,” he said. “There are plenty of ways this can become problematic, especially as a computer programmer.”

Harvey said: “I’m concerned about the effect on the reputation of the university.”

“Cheating is simply one thing many among many that you have to consider in a large class like mine,” Harvey said. “I’ll put my focus on meeting the needs of students who want to learn rather than devote lots of energy to those who don’t want to learn.”

Neal Rajmaira

UC Berkeley student judicial affairs director

Cheating can affect how students perceive the value of their education.”

Harvey said. “It’s the long run it’s true, especially in a course like mine, which is a core class for the major. If you can’t

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FBI to reorganize

WASHINGTON — The Director of the FBI, Robert Mueller, is expected to announce on Monday that FBI will reorganize to better deal with international crime and terrorism. The FBI has been criticized for its slow response to the September 11 terrorist attacks and for its slow progress in the investigation of the anthrax attacks.

The FBI reorganization is part of an extensive war-time restructuring of the Justice Department that was announced this month by Attorney General John Ashcroft. The FBI will now focus on more terrorist acts and less on solving other crimes that local police agencies are capable of handling.

The terrorism investigation for the Sept. 11 attacks and the anthrax cases is the largest criminal probe in the history of the FBI. The FBI is expected to announce a reorganization soon.

Mustang Daily does analysis and threat assessments of terrorist acts in the history of the FBI. The anthrax cases is the largest criminal investigation for the Sept. 11 attacks and the anthrax cases is the largest criminal probe in the history of the FBI. The FBI is expected to announce a reorganization soon.

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The two ends of Poly's political rope

By Jacob Jackson
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Progressive Student Alliance and the College Republicans Club, the two prominent political organizations on campus, share a passion for activism and social awareness in government. But that’s where the similarities end.

“Our groups are just plain fundamentally opposed,” said Brent Vann, president of the College Republicans Club. “They’re socialists and we’re capitalists.”

PSA and the College Republicans Club represent entirely opposite views on the political spectrum, and their opposing views on the war in Afghanistan have created a growing tension between the two organizations, illustrated by a pair of public demonstrations in the past month.

PSA demonstrated its anti-war stance with a “Die-In” in early November in front of the administration building. More than a dozen members laid down in front of the building for 10 minutes, simulating the effects of a bomb.

PSA co-director Sarah Elliot acknowledged that PSA’s startling demonstrations are intended to grab attention.

“Our group tends to be even more left-wing than they are right,” she said.

The “Die-In” represented PSA’s fundamental opposition to the war. “We can’t advocate the killing of innocent people,” said Jesse McGowan, co-director of PSA. “The problem with this war is that the people who are directly responsible aren’t being punished, and many innocent people are.”

PSA co-director Clayton Whitt made a local analogy.

“If you have a murderer in San Luis Obispo, you don’t bomb San Luis Obispo,” he said. “You punish the individual responsible.”

The PSA event, which drew the ire of the College Republicans Club, took place three weeks ago at Farmers Market. Members of PSA participated in a peace-walk candlelight vigil, and crossed paths with several members of the College Republicans Club. The two groups engaged in a heated argument and the San Luis Obispo police were called to mollify the dispute.

“We have a different agenda than College Republicans,” Vann said. “After Sept. 11, the only thing college Republicans care about is America.”

The College Republicans Club celebrated its pro-war stance with a pro-American rally earlier this month. Members of PSA attended the event and protested the war side-by-side with supporters, further fueling the tension between the two groups.

“They’re wasting their time,” Vann said of PSA’s efforts. “Ninety-five percent of this campus supports the war effort, and we’re on the right side.”

McGowan said that despite their differences, the groups shared a certain respect for the other.

“Apathy is a terrible thing, and unfortunately, many students don’t care about the issues affecting them,” he said. “One thing you can say for these two groups — they take a stand for what they believe in.”

“Two groups (College Republicans and Progressive Student Alliance) are just fundamentally opposed.”

Brent Vann
College Republicans Club president

While McGowan expressed concern over the views and opinions of the College Republicans Club, Vann said he was indifferent to the actions of the PSA.

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“The war has brought a lot of tension between us and College Republicans (Club) to the surface,” McGowan said. “But we’ve never resorted to violence.”

McGowan said he was disappointed by the content of fliers being distributed at Farmers Market over the past month by the College Republicans Club. One flier showed a five-day calendar, and on the fifth day, a picture of Afghanistan up in flames. McGowan said other fliers stereotyped all Arabs as terrorists.

“They’re making fun of a situation where people are dying. They aren’t taking the war seriously,” McGowan said.

McGowan also characterized the College Republicans Club’s Web site, calpolygop.org, as “scary,” pointing to pictures on the Web site of members of PSA with crosshairs on their heads, and the reference to PSA as “The Enemy Within.”

McGowan also said that a month ago PSA would have loved to debate issue of war with the College Republicans Club, but after their conflicts in the past month, the possibility is unlikely.

Vann dismissed McGowan’s concerns.

“It isn’t personal, it’s just business,” Vann said. “Fundamentally, I respect them for having an opinion.”

“Overall, the College Republicans Club is America.”

Brent Vann
College Republicans Club president

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Top, a Cal Poly College Republican Club sign at the recent “Support the Troops rally” displays its definitive pro-war view on the current conflict in Afghanistan. Above, many students with other political groups, such as Progressive Student Alliance, voiced their anti-war views at a rally in the midst of the many College Republican Club pro-war signs.
In the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, the public has largely returned to the daily routine of life as it was before. News reports are injected with news of a war-on-terror or attempts to bolster national security, but as life as we know it - the ins and outs of our daily experience - has maintained a similarity to our existence in pre-terror America. Yet as the American public continues to engage in their daily routines, the principles that define the individuality of the American way of life are being transformed in order to bring about some form of justice.

Now let me set a few things straight. I support military action against terrorist organizations and support pre-emptive action in order to keep domestic life terrorism-free. But more importantly, I also support the Constitution, the document upon which the principles of this nation firmly rest. Any abuse of these principles represents not merely a change of face in policy, but a corruption of American ideals.

Times of war often produce astronomical public support for the government's actions. This is no exception. But times of war also may create a sort of moral blindness within the public - a passive acceptance of government actions. When the end result is a crushing defeat of the enemy, Granted, I find it hard to blame the average person for thinking this. Natural human responses to tragedy are not worth the price that we may eventually have to pay in turning a blind eye to justice. Pentagon officials have stated that trials could possibly occur on military ships at sea, far away from the public eye, and the only information that may be released are the defendant's name and charge.

Central to an American understanding of a just trial is the Sixth Amendment, which states: "In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury.

Of the facets of this new tribunals system is that closed proceedings are permitted (i.e., they may not be public). In fact, the best we can hope for is that trials will be "an open as possible," an extremely subjective statement. Additionally, Pentagon officials have stated that trials could possibly occur on military ships at sea, far away from the public eye, and the information that may be released are the defendant's name and charge.

The manner in which these trials may be conducted is also very different from public and military trials. Sentences can be imposed by only a two-thirds vote of the tribunal, whereas public and military trials require a unanimous vote. However, though it is strictly limited in other trials, may be admitted as long as it has a "probative value to a reasonable person," another sub-judicial statement and one that clearly holds the sole purpose of proving guilt and not justice. Another conspicuous example contained in the president's order is that defendants may not be permitted to select their own lawyers, which, as the Pentagon will explain, is one of the other judicial principles in this nation.

Nick Sesnak is an English sophomore.

U-WIRE LEXINGTON, Ky. — Sport utility vehicles - kings of urban chaos, leaders of the concrete jungle, commanders of soccer moms' worlds - oh, how I loathe these beasts. One can only imagine my reaction to my dad's proposal to trade one of our vehicles in for one of these monstrosities.

Commentary: those of things in life that arises from "an-nerd:" Lawn ornament, bottled water and Ethel, the singing fish, also come to mind as items in this category. Personally, I just blame it on an accounting method. It could carry tons of stuff, go through cargo space and weight capacities, but at the same time discard the leftovers, while at the same time buying canned goods for God's Pantry.

I don't understand this logic, but perhaps I'm just practical. A bigger car better for some odd reason? If all cars, including trucks and SUVs, consumed an equal amount of some fuel-cells and didn't require a single drop of oil but biodiesel, you'd see me in some sporty compact laughing at those major oil producing nations. What do we imagine the SUV driver to be? A manly man - or a middle age man with four children? I often wonder if anyone ever channel to these "indestructible" vehicles.

In reality, cargo space and weight capacities were sabotaged on the parts of car companies; they only made them larger. The next thing you'll see are Ford Exponentials carrying used Beetles strapped on top to the roof as spares.

They're not employed to the current generation, but they're employed to the current generation. Unfortunately, enough to prove beneficial to you, and many more will follow. Meanwhile, I think that I managed to persuade my dad against buying an SUV. For now, he has stopped talking about it and instead bought me a new tennis racket.

Alan Chan. Kentucky Kernel (U. Kentucky)

Opinion

Mustang Daily

Tribunals should not ignore U.S. ideals

In the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, the public has largely returned to the daily routine of life as it was before. News reports are injected with news of a war-on-terror or attempts to bolster national security, but as life as we know it - the ins and outs of our daily experience - has maintained a similarity to our existence in pre-terror America. Yet as the American public continues to engage in their daily routines, the principles that define the individuality of the American way of life are being transformed in order to bring about some form of justice.

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Nearly 10 percent of Princeton undergrads report sexual harassment

By Julie Kestenstein

(U-WIRE) PRINCETON, N.J. — Nearly one in 10 Princeton University undergraduate students who responded to the April 2001 Core Alcohol and Drug Survey reported that they were in some way sexually harassed on campus.

"We know that there are issues on college campuses. To us, it is not a surprise that students are having some difficulties in their personal, social and other types of activities," said Janet Finnie, the associate director of Health Services.

Monday, Finnie will present the data of the Core survey to President Christopher L. Eisgruber.

Dr. Thomas Bryant, the coordinator of Sexual Harassment/Assault Advising, Resources and Education, said she thinks the survey allows students to tell the real story of what it is like to be a student at the university, especially regarding sensitive subjects like harassment.

"As opposed to coming out to seek help or counseling, when you are responding to a survey, it is a little less threatening," Bryant said. "You have this anonymous opportunity to say, Yes, this did happen to me."

The problem, though, with the data about harassment is the varying definition of what sexual harassment is.

"In terms of the survey, language makes a big difference," Bryant said.

The 9.3 percent of undergraduates who said they were sexually harassed may not have the same idea of harassment as those who said they were sexually harassed.

"It is surprising in a sense that I know there are more people who are assaulted," Bryant said.

Finnie also addressed the validity of the data. "Different people will have different interpretations of the data," she said.

The survey had a 20 percent response rate, which may seem like only a representation of a small portion of the Princeton undergraduate community.

"But both Finnie and Bryant said awareness of harassment, its definition and its implications on campus are important results of the surveys. It helps understand what the lives of students like on campus," Finnie said. 

"What is happening to the students outside the classroom has a huge impact on their lives inside the classroom." 

SHARE offers free confidential counseling for victims and perpetrators in addition to their friends and residential advisors.

Bryant and the rest of the SHARE staff run prevention and peer-education programs in residential colleges, eating clubs and local middle and high schools.

"It is a big part of people's recovery process to have an opportunity for activism," Bryant said.

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Braving the Grade

Cars head south over the Cuesta Grade on Monday afternoon. Construction on the Grade came to a halt this past weekend due to construction worker strikes. The strike has since been settled. Look for the story in tomorrow's Mustang Daily.

HOUSING
continued from page 1

There are many other advantages of having parents as landlords. Velloti said. Students can decorate the place how they want, being aware of their roommates, be sure they are comfortable with the living arrangements and how their parents take care of house repairs. "It's a lot more comfortable knowing that if something goes wrong, I deal with my parents rather than a company," Velloti said.

Although there are numerous advantages to living situation, Shires said some things might be hard to manage. Because Shires' parents live in the Bay Area and aren't in San Luis Obispo very often, she has had to deal with the maintenance of the house, such as the gutters, painting and roofing, she said. If the students are the problem with the house, she consults her parents to find the best way to fix it.

"In a sense, have been the house manager, which could be difficult when you're living with friends," Shires said. "If things go wrong, they come to you first because you're the direct link (to your parents)."

When it comes time to graduate, Shires' and Velloti's parents can decide whether they want to sell their place or keep renting it out to students who are hungry for housing.

ARAFAT
continued from page 3

administration did not mention that the weekend attacks had been preceded by the Israeli assassination of the last month of a top Hamas commander, Mahmoud Abu Hanoud.

The latest bloody incident appears to have solidified the view among administration members that the Palestinian leader has brought Israeli retaliation upon himself, while undermining any U.S. plan to pressure Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

"The burden clearly is on Chairman Arafat," Feinberger said. "Yasser Arafat is capable of doing much more than he has ever done before.

Even people sympathetic with the Palestinian cause and critical of Israel's policies have been trying to convince Arafat of the importance of this moment.

"There are many options, however, the Palestinian leader has to deal with terrorism seri-ously."

Monday, Feinberger school language Bush has used in talking about terrorism. "It's important now for Chairman Arafat to show that he does represent peace and does not harbor terrorists," he said.

Abington said the bombings also came just as the administration was asking Arafat to give them something to work with so it could present Sharon.

"These bombings essentially undercut anything (Bush) people were trying to do vis-à-vis Sharon in terms of him exercising moderation," Abington said. "How can the president, when these terrible bombings take place, ask Sharon to act with restraint?"

He continued, "You don't have any urging of restraint any more... People in the administration are just tired of dealing with these constant bombings. They feel this is a watershed, Arafat's got to exercise leadership and take some decisive action.

At the same time, Abington pointed out that months of Israeli incursions by the Palestinian Authority had undermined its ability to respond.

A senior administration official said the Bush administration will now seek new ways to undercut Arafat, though he would not say how. Hamas is on the State Department list of terrorist organizations and recent executive orders have directed financial institutions in the United States to freeze assets connected to the group.

Though Israeli leaders increasingly discuss whether the death bombings will be an end to the conflict or hurt Israel's interests, most U.S. and Israeli officials see few palatable or viable alternatives to the Palestinian leader.

"Confidence in him is steadily declining, but we have to deal with him," said a former Clinton administration official.

As a result, U.S. and Israeli efforts still focus on persuading Arafat to cooperate, albeit through increasing shows of force, Monday's Israeli attacks on his helicopter and Israeli troopsposed menacingly near his Ramallah compound.

There was little sense of optimism that would work, however. Two weeks ago, the administration said Zinni would remain in the region until he reached an agreement. Monday that looked like a long-term assignment.

CHEMICALS
continued from page 1

expected to operate within the same emission levels as an industrial plant. Diane Wolfe, an official at the Environmental Protection Department at Vandenberg, was unavailable for comment about the chemicals used for test launches and the regulations in place to limit their dispersion.

"You can see the smoke in the air after launches... the different colors (are pollutants)," said Shellas Baker, a crop science senior.

Baker is one of a number of concerned citizens in San Luis Obispo that contacted the MTP to mediate with the military. The goal was to come to an agreement on the levels of chemicals released, and to find a way to clean up existing toxins. The goal of her coalition is to clean up the existing mess on toxic sites and prevent further emissions. Baker began working with Taylor a year and a half ago, after attending a seminar in San Diego that discussed cleaning up military pollutants.

The MTP has dealt with military toxins throughout the United States. Most recently, the MTP was at Fort Ord, near Monterey, looking into large amounts of pollutants on the University of California, Santa Cruz, campus. Taylor said there were unexploded ordnances and toxic chemicals, such as arsenic and lead, only 200 yards from student housing.

"It's interesting," Taylor said. "The college is actually right next to one of the areas that are contaminated with unexploded ordnances."

Along with contacting the military and trying to change the current conditions, the MTP also helps connect community groups with others that have similar problems. This makes it possible for the groups to help themselves in solving their own problems. Also they work with lawyers and legislators to improve the regulations on military bases to balance security issues with waste production clean-up. Much of the current legislation is working toward acquiring more military funding for specific purpose of environmental protection. The MTP can be contacted at (805) 783-5091. Vandenberg Air Force Base can be contacted at 608-1110 or www.vandenberg.af.mil.

RELAY
continued from page 1

Wells is hoping to participate on the planning team if he gets his senior project idea approved by his college's dean.

"The planning team is a wonder-

v

"Additionally, the funds raised through the relay fund programs to provide for substance abuse, prevention and intervention. Ultimately, the students are able to maximize their academic success."

Mila Vujovich-Labarre
last year's co-director

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All of these committees are necessary for the relay to continue being a fun money-raiser. "It has been a joy to allow the school community to celebrate in a way that can be a money-raiser," Vujovich-Labarre said. "There is also an on-going need on the health and safety committee."

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