Students ponder possible AP changes

New academic probation policy targeted at identifying students with problems in their earlier years

By Kristy Charles

Cal Poly officials and ASI presi­dent Angie Harker held an audi­ence-less forum Jan. 17 to discuss a proposal to change the university’s current academic probation and disqualification policy. Any changes to the policy could be implemented as early as next fall.

For Cal Poly, adoption of the proposal would change the way in which academic disqualification, or the level at which a student is eligible to be expelled from the university, is calculated. The policy discussed was sent to all California State University campuses for feedback.

“This change, although seeming­ly minor, could affect Cal Poly stu­dents struggling to make grades.

Currently, Cal Poly uses quality points to calculate academic disqualification. The proposed policy would use a student’s cumulative GPA (on a 4.0 scale), both at Cal Poly as well as any other institu­tion of higher education, rather than quality points to calculate academic disqualification. But many wonder what this policy change could mean for students.

“One, in practice, they’re making the standards more strict,” said David Conn, vice provost for acad­emic programs and undergraduate education.

Currently, a student can be con­sidered for disqualification if they receive a 2.0 grade point average or less in two cumulative quarters. For disqualification to be mandatory, they must have a certain number of quality points below a 2.0, which varies with class-standing.

If the new policy is adopted without any changes, as soon as a student is on academic probation and has or her cumulative GPA falls below a certain level for their class standing, they can be expelled. For example, a first-quarter student could have less than a 2.0 one quarter and be on academic probation. If they fall below a 1.75 during the next quarter, they can be expelled.

The new policy would primarily affect freshmen and sophomores, since it would be stricter on students with 90 units.

Conn said that the purpose of this policy is “to identify students that will have problems at Cal Poly earlier.” These students can then leave Cal Poly, go to junior col­lege, strengthen their academic records, and return to Cal Poly later, he said.

“It’s a diagnosis and attempted cure for whatever problem they have (in succeeding in school),” Conn said.

Marcus Friedman, records process manager at Cal Poly, said the new policy would also make it easier for the whole campus to cal­culate whether students are eligible for academic disqualification.

“It will be real cut and dry,” she said.

Besides being stricter for stu­dents in their first few years, the new policy will also be harder on seniors.

“This (current) system favors you the less far you’ve gone toward your degree,” Conn said. “The fur­ther you go in a program, the hard­er it is to recover if you fall behind. It’s an obscure system.”

With the current system, he said, it is possible for students get­ting close to graduation to fall behind and not be disqualified. They can keep taking classes, only to realize that graduation is out of reach because they don’t have a 2.0, which is a requirement at Cal Poly. The policy will encourage students getting close to gradua­tion to catch up or stop taking classes at Cal Poly when a degree is not attainable.

Because the policy appears to make it easier for students to be disqualified, the use of discretion in deciding who will be disquali­fied was a concern discussed at the forum.

Robert Derweiler, interim vice president for student affairs, said

see AP, page 2

But still, every January, there’s a jump in gym memberships, and new methods of self-improvement pop up everywhere. Recent phenome­nas, such as the Web sites mygoals.com and instapark.com, offer on-line assistance in picking goals, from the basic “lose 15 pounds,” to the more obscure, “pimp your inventories.”

Local marriage and family ther­apist Alisa Piette said she believes Americans practice this annual ritual as a structured way to deal with the pressures leading up to a new year.

“(Resolutions) become a motiv­ational force of hope renewed for the see RESOLUTIONS, page 2

It will be a sail or fail battle as 72 architecture students try to design new skills at the Cardboard Boat Regatta in the Cal Poly Rec Center pool on Sunday at 10-30 a.m.

With only two 4-by-7-foot sheets of cardboard, reinforced paper tape and waterproof­ing, the students of four, funda­mentally different classes, have created full-sized boat-like con­traptions.

Students will be required to use the handmade boats to navigate across the narrow end of the pool and back. If the boats fail, so do the students, said architecture professor Howard Weisenthal.

“The project is worth a very small percentage of their grade,” he said. “However, the success of this project is important emotionally to the stu­dents. They want to know that they can do it and that they can solve the problem creatively.”

While some students will struggle to stay afloat, others will be cruising their way from start to finish. The boats that succeed will advance to the final round where six to eight finalists will race for the Cardboard Cup Award, which is a trophy made, fit­tingly, of cardboard.

Before they could begin designing, the students did preliminary work, including an afterward by Weisenthal, problem solving and materials analy­sis. They then had one week of in­class time to work on the boats.

“When they first get the project, they thought it was impossible,” Weisenthal said. “They thought there was no way they could do it, but after they spent some time dealing with pro­cessing and prob­lem solving, they think ‘we’re gonna do it now.’”

It’s amazing that within one week they did a 180 degree turn.”

Kevin Donahue, an architecture sophomore, said the main challenge for the students came when they had to address all the factors that go into building the boat.

“On the one hand, you have to design something that will have to hold your weight and get you across the pool, and on the other hand, you want it to look good,” Donahue said.

“You want it to have both elements of utility and aesthetics.”

Though some boats work better than others, Weisenthal said that there is no single design standard set in stone.

“T here is a lot of variety, and there see REGATTA, page 2

Resolving not to make resolutions

By Bryan Dickerson

It’s a familiar scene: Every year in early January, brown Christmas trees wait on collection on neighbor­hood curbs, while inside, lists of New Year’s resolutions hang from refrigerators.

Now, at the close of the year’s first month, some students are stick­ing to their manifestations of self­improvement while many others are trying to forget they ever made commitments in the first place.

If a person has failed in his or her resolutions already, they aren’t alone. Research shows that most people do not stick to their New Year’s resolutions.

By Andra Coberly

Losing weight, trash fast food and quitting smoking are common New Year’s resolutions. A local therapist said that self-imposed goals can have a negative impact on people.

Marcia Friedman, records process manager at Cal Poly, said
Speaker looks at ‘U.S. world domination’

By Audrey Amara

It is a clear, dark night in January. Up in the sky, millions of bright stars light a path to the almost full moon. To Bruce Gagnon, co-coordinator of the Global Network Against U.S. Military and Nuclear Power and Weapons in Space, the peaceful sky is something that he can rely on to always be there — or is it?

A candlelight walk for Peace Cause Week started Sunday at San Luis Obispo Mission and ended at Cal Poly’s Business Rotunda, where Gagnon spoke about his views on the militarization of space.

His main goal is to try and build people’s awareness on the issues behind the militarization of space before it is too late.

“It’s all about expanding people’s consciousness,” he said.

Gagnon tries to educate people on this cause by giving speeches all over the world. He is on the road most weeks out of every month, and he has spoken in 27 countries, including France, Japan, Germany and England.

Gagnon was raised in a military family in which both of his parents were Republicans. He served in the Air Force in the Vietnam War, and then became a peace activist.

“I’m living testimony people can change,” he said.

He tried to leave the military as a conscious objector, he said, but the only way it seemed he could leave was if he was a Quaker, so he became one.

He spent a few years in college, but later dropped out and started working on social justice issues. Gagnon said he started to get concerned when the U.S. government started cutting money in the social justice area to have more money for the military.

“Once there, and especially lately with the onset of war, Gannon has been learning more and more every day about the militarization of space. ‘The U.S. Military Defense is a Trojan horse,’” he said, as he supplied his resolutions usually come from a non-native place, they don’t work and then one feels bad about themselves,” Piette said. “There’s pressure when there’s a ‘should’ — ‘l should do this, I haven’t been able to do this.’ It can be a non-native pressure.”

Civil engineer freshman Jake Braninsky said his resolutions usually come from a non-native place, they don’t work and then one feels bad about themselves.” Piette said. “There’s pressure when there’s a ‘should’ — ‘I should do this, I haven’t been able to do this.’ It can be a non-native pressure.”

And while support is always helpful, “It’s silly to wait a year to make resolutions every year.”

Faced with the need to find fault in himself and beg for charity. Wiesenfeld said.

“It has to be at every level if we want to expand peoples consciousness to begin to look at the consequences,” he said.

Achieving this means more debate in classrooms, forums, and newspapers so people can think about this issue, he said. Then the debate has to follow up to the politicians.

“It has to be at every level if we want to expand peoples consciousness to begin to look at the consequences,” he said.

Gagnon said that whoever controls space will win all the wars below. The U.S. may only have 5 percent of the world’s population, but it wants to deny others the use of space to have military control, he said.

Gagnon added that Cal Poly plays an important role in the fight against militarization of space because it is a “Polytechnic school,” which gives students a knowledge of the world’s population, but it wants to deny others the use of space to have military control, he said.

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National Briefs

U.S. Taliban fighter appears in court


Lindh said that he understood the charges against him and that, if found guilty, he could face life in prison. Charges against him include engaging in conspiracy to kill Americans in Afghanistan; providing material support and resources to foreign terrorist organizations; engaging in prohibited transactions with the Taliban; and providing goods and services to and for the benefit of the Taliban.

Lindh was represented by four attorneys in the courtroom. Attorney General John Ashcroft said Lindh had signed a statement that waived his right to an attorney before he had signed a statement that waived his right to an attorney before he

In New York, Tron started a fight with Lewis that escalated to a 20-man brawl. He has since apologized.

"I am not a role model or Mr. Politically Correct," a boxer and from now on I will let my boxing talk for me," he said, "I.databinding myself as i

Fighters and the discovery of15irfed weapons smuggled to Pakistan and battled mediation efforts by Anthony Zinni, a retired Marine general. Zinni has made two unsuccessful attempts to rescue a cease-fire, and he is expected to try again. He remains on hold in Washington.

Associated Press

Tyson may face sexual assault charges, again

LAS VEGAS — Las Vegas prosecutor have been asked by police to file charges against former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson. The investigation is based on claims that he raped a Las Vegas woman in his multi-million dollar Las Vegas mansion last September.

Investigators say they have collected evidence for a case against Tyson and that there is probable cause to believe a crime occurred. In 1997, Tyson was convicted of sexual assault and is serving a three years for rape. He has also been accused of sexually assaulting a woman near Los Angeles in July 2000. In June 2000, Las Vegas police investigated claims that he assaulted a former reporter.

Tron is also wrating a memoir on how he will be allowed to fight British world champion Lennox Lewis April 6. Tyson lost his license recently for a piece of Evander Holyfield's ear during a fight. In a news conference Tuesday in New York, Tyson started a fight with Lewis that escalated to a 20-man brawl. He has since apologized.

"I am not a role model or Mr. Politically Correct," a boxer and from now on I will let my boxing talk for me," he said, "I.databinding myself as i

IN CALCIT:— BBC News

Meningitis may be spread by parties

NEW YORK — Three healthy men, aged 18 to 20, may have developed meningitis at a party, investigators said. The investigation is based on claims that meningitis is an infection of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord, and can be fatal. On the men died, the other two recovered.

Dr. Rebecca Finn of the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and colleagues described their findings and hypotheses in a recent issue of the Southern Medical Journal.

The incidence of meningitis was uncommon among adolescents and young adults before the 1990s. Findings suggest that binge drinking and smoking, which have been identified as risk factors for infection, could be behind the increase.

But patronage is associated with the disease due to a combination of factors that could facilitate transmission, the authors wrote. Factors include crowding, poor ventilation, active and passive smoking, smoking-associated coughing, and the sharing of glasses and cigarettes. Upper respiratory tract infection and crowding have long been known as risk factors.

The three men contracted the disease in May 1999. They had attended the same party and were infected with an identical strain of Neisseria meningitidis, a meningococcal disease that causes meningitis.

— Reuters

International Briefs

Europe

MOSCOW — Thousands of Russian mothers will release from prison after a proposed amnesty approved Thursday by Vladimir Putin.

A similar pardon in November freed about 23,000 women and children under 16, but included only those who were pregnant, disabled, over 50, or single mothers. It excluded those convicted of serious crimes.

The new measure would extend the amnesty to include women who had committed serious crimes. Each case will be examined individually.

Russia has roughly one million inmates — one of the world's largest prison populations. Anamisties are granted frequently to help keep the numbers down.

Russian prisons have been condemned by human rights campaigners who say more prisoners live in squalid, disease-ridden conditions.

— Reuters

Africa

GOMA, Democratic Republic of Congo — A second volcano on Mount Nyamuragira has erupted, sending molten lava into a national park. There are no reports of casualties.

The nearby volcano Nyiragongo erupted last week, claiming more than 50 lives and engulfing 14 villages before reaching the city of Goma.

Powerful earthquakes, registering up to five on the Richter scale, have been shaking the Goma area ever since. Seismologists believe that the small earthquakes poses no immediate danger to the people of Goma, but the tremors have already destroyed 1,500 houses and several schools in DR Congo and neighboring Rwanda.

A United Nations spokesman said that virtually all 500,000 residents of Goma would need humanitarian assistance over the next few weeks.

— BBC News

Europe

WARSAW, Poland — Medical workers have allegedly traded human corpses and even poisoned patients in order to receive 450 bribes from undertakers, Polish police and investigators said Wednesday.

A newspaper report, confirmed by police, said that funeral parlors in the city of Lodz paid the bribes when medical professionals notified them of a death. Some medical professionals may have even facilitated deaths to get the reward. The investigation has taken several months.

In Poland, the social security system akens 97% for funeral expenses upon death. Undertakers were still able to make a profit after paying their informants.

A former ambulance service chief said he was more of the sales of informatin about recently deceased patients, but that the accusations of were not true. He said lawyers are trying to determine whether selling the information about death is a criminal activity.

— Reuters

Asia

TOYO — Japanese scientists said Thursday that they produced healthier pork by breeding pigs with implanted spinach genes.

It is the world's first successful breeding of mammals and plant genes, said research team leader Akira Iritani, a professor of genetic engineering at Kinki University. No healthy problems have been observed in pigs, the first of which was born more than three years ago.

Iritani said that pigs could be made to be more healthy than regular pork, but it is too early to determine if it is as healthy as spinach. They also said that the significance of the experiment is more academic than practical.

The group said they put spinach genes into the fertilized egg of a pig and planted it into the mother.

— Reuters

Confinement of Arafat support

WASHINGTON — Israel's confinement of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat at a West Bank compound was endorsed by the White House Thursday. Spokesman Ari Fleischer told reporters President Bush believes it is up to Chairman Arafat to demonstrate the leadership to combat terrorism, and that it is inimical to Arafat to "do more, take more steps, and show with action that he is committed to eliminating terrorism and combating it wherever it exists."

Arafat has been under virtual house arrest for nearly two months. Israeli soldiers are posted nearby. He was telephoned by Secretary of State Colin Powell Wednesday in order to urge him to curb attacks on Israel in light of the threats the Islamic militan­

tary Hamas group has made to attack Israel.

During the hearing he was not present when it was signed. They plan to challenge the statements for the benefit of the Taliban.

Lindh's long hair and heard have long been known as risk factors.

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The three men contracted the disease in May 1999. They had attended the same party and were infected with an identical strain of Neisseria meningitidis, a meningococcal disease that causes meningitis.

— Reuters

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Anne Guilford.
I cried, I laughed, I covered my eyes, I reached a few times, then it ended. Just in time too, before the stress of watching "Black Hawk Down" gave me a nervous breakdown.

Before everyone becomes angry with me, I did not dislike this movie; in fact, I thought it was extremely well done. Director Ridley Scott, who directed "Gladiator," is known for his stunning visuals. "Black Hawk Down" was no exception. I have little to no interest in any of the machineries, including helicopters, but when the Black Hawks were flying over the water I thought, "Wow!"

According to his fan Web site, Scott developed a talent for visuals through years of experience as a set designer.

In my opinion, Scott's coup (pun in this case) in this movie was the explosions. I have had tons of explosions, but I never lost track. There was even a humorous explosion, thought I won't tell you why.

Speaking of humor, I loved Ewan McGregor as Company Clerk John Grimes. He provided some of the only comic relief. Toward the beginning of the movie, a new recruit asks Grimes why he never goes on missions. He replies: "I have a rare and serious skill that prejudices me from going on missions again." Also, bravo to McGregor for taking a role in a war movie - he needed the testosterone boost after starting in "Meulon Rouge" and singing "We should be lepers!" at the top of his lungs.

It's about time I mention Josh Hartnett so that I don't lose my female audience. Hartnett plays Staff Sergeant Matt Eversmann, the new promoted leader of his ranger platoon. Chalk Four Eversmann is idealistic, and he actually cares about the "skinnies," the name

that the rangers give to the Somalians. He is the type of leader every war movie must have. He blames himself every time one of his men is injured.

One thing that I definitely disliked about this movie was the term "skinnies." I'm sure the director was trying to be realistic, not politically correct, but I still cringed every time the description was used.

Hartnett, though labeled a "heartthrob" by many media outlets targeting teens, was still one of the best actors in the movie - not bad for a guy coming off "Pearl Harbor" - will blame his agent for that one. And as opposed to "Pearl Harbor," "Black Hawk Down" is not a "drool over Josh Hartnett" movie, so don't let your boyfriend drag you to the film if that's your movie. There's too much gore to check anyone out, and even Josh Hartnett can't make that military haircut look good.

The true war-movie buff will spot some inaccuracies in this film. I learned about (from the Internet Movie Database) the names on the helmets. Scott said he wanted them there to help the audience keep track of the characters, but the military stopped that practice years ago. I didn't find it too helpful, but others may agree. Also, watch for the moment when the flag on Josh Hartnett's shoulder is backward. I don't know how or why it happened, but it's there.

I appreciate "Black Hawk Down" for what it is—a great war movie. However, I know that I will not be seeing this movie again. If you are into war movies, this is a must-see. If you know you're going to see it, please do not go see this movie; your excessive cringing and whimpering will bother the rest of the audience.

Cinema

The true war-movie buff will spot some inaccuracies in this film...

Role playing ‘in the bedroom’ is film’s only virtue

By Sarah E. Thiem

There are two kinds of sadness in this world—regret and unbearable grief. The film "In the Bedroom" confronts the latter, showing how average American citizens react to grief. However, the movie fails miserably in an attempt to recreate the "American Beauty" plot.

"In the Bedroom" is a dark film about family tragedy and human nature. Even with the great performances from its seasoned cast, it leaves one wanting more and questioning what just happened.

The film takes place in Camden, Maine, and centers around a middle-aged couple and their 21-year-old grad school-bound son. Although this family doesn't appear emotionally close, their love for each other is what keeps them together.

The movie stars Sissy Spacek ("Carrie") as Ruth Fowler and Tom Wilkinson as her husband, De Matt Fowler. The film begins at a family barbecue at the Fowler's home with their son, Nick (Nick Stahl), who takes great pride in showing off his older girlfriend, Natalie (Maria Tomei).

It's obvious from the beginning that Frank's mother strongly disapproves of their relationship, although his father supports it. His mother rarely says a word about the relationship, but her feelings show through her lack of verbal communication. Ruth remains silent for most of the film.

Frank works on a lobster-hunting boat and contemplates putting off graduate school to stay with Natalie. He is ultimately searching to find his place in the world, to find himself, since every decision will affect the rest of his life.

Frank is suddenly killed, including all his dreams. A tragedy hits when he is suddenly killed by Natalie's disgraced ex-husband during an argument. Everything in the film stops when Frank is suddenly killed, including all developing storylines.

The film deals mostly with the grieving parents, since once Frank is murdered, Tomei's role is practically finished. Wrapping up the story is lost. Artsy shots of cars, lobsters and vases aren't significant to the plot; they're just there.

The film is directed by actor-turned-director, Todd Field. Maybe he should stick to acting. He emphasizes too many unimportant moments and fails to captivate his audience with this approach.

Field's style makes the audience feel like they're getting acquainted with the minor quirks of the characters and the town, but the depth of the story is lost. Artistic shots of cars, lobsters and vases aren't significant to the plot or the mood of the film.

"In the Bedroom" badly misses its mark, leaving the story meaningless and incoherent.

So, if you're deciding whether to spend $6.50 to see this flick, take this advice and stay in your own bed-room.
By Andy Morgan

The UTAH STATEMENT (UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY)

((U-WIRE) LOGAN, Utah — This year's Sundance Film Festival — the pre-Olympics extravaganza in Park City — was my third going to the highly touted merely exhibition of independent film. Without sounding bratty, this year's road trip to Utah has been better than last year, but like sludge compared to the festival of the new millennium.

Perhaps celebrities were still afraid to fly after Sept. 11th's terror attacks, or maybe they were petrified by the abundance of art galleries, ski shops and bars. Somewhere along her trail, she made her way through the overcrowding, window-shopped, posed for photographs and signed autographs as the A-list stars. Maybe it was the lack of an actress, especially the more naive, but I'm not ready to be that cold.

Actually, it was me saying that most of the time. Marilyn Moore, if you don't know, is a pop singer with Britney Spears-like aspirations. She is 17, which makes her younger than everyone at this school. How's that for an ego boost? Also, like Britney and her male counterparts, "SNYNC," she hails from Orlando, Fla., making me feel more ashamed to be from these every day.

"The lines 'I'm sorry you didn't get a miracle,' I did. It was you."

The answer: All of the above.

As the ads have promised, this is an awful, awful movie. The audience was split between cooing preadolescent girls and people groaning and derision, your cynicism, your scorn, your derision, your cynicism, your scorn, your derision, your cynicism, your scorn, your derision, your cynicism, your scorn, your derision, your cynicism, your scorn, your derision, your cynicism, your scorn.

"What the hell?" The film exposes us to all the melodrama and weeping of a terminal disease, but then lets us off the hook when it comes to the actual pains and suffering? You know, the parts that make it so hard in real life? For anyone who has had cancer or even a friend or relative with it, this movie is a slap in the face. Cancer is a deadly, serious matter, and this movie uses it as a way to market a person as a perfect, tooned-down angel. That aside, "A Walk to Remember" falls into that beloved "drinking game" category. Every situation is so full of lapses, ridiculous plot turns, and bad dialogue that you could amused yourself by keeping score. It's certainly better fodder for home video or late night cable than for theaters. It's sort of fun to shout things to the big screen, but it's like panning money to shoot monkeys in a burrow. With a paintball gun. And the monkeys are already dead. From despair.

Does Marilyn Moore have a career ahead of her? She's no more or less talented than any of the other teenyboppers, and at least she picked a project that didn't have the usual ugly, sickly dialogue. However, the movie goes in way too many directions and takes itself awfully seriously.

"It's no '200 Miles to Graceland,' but it ain't no good."

Surviving Sundance

Teenybopper flick doesn't leave audiences wanting Moore

By Taylor Shann

The Mustafa Daily

Mustafa Daily

(COURTESY PHOTO/WWW.JIMMIESBROTHER.COM)

Pop singer Marilyn Moore stars in 'A Walk to Remember,' a film based on the novel by Nicholas Sparks. Sparks also wrote 'The Horse Whisperer,' which was made into a movie in 1998.

Local Showtimes

Framont

Kung Pow: Enter the Fist (5:00), 7:30, 9:40

The Count of Monte Cristo (3:15), 7:00, 10:15

Black Hawk Down (3:30), 6:45, 10:00

The Mothman Prophecies (4:15), 7:15, 9:50

DownTown Centre 7 Cinama

A Beautiful Mind (4:00), 7:00, 9:00

Costard Park (3:15), 6:45, 9:40

Lord of the Rings (3:30), 7:30

A Walk to Remember (3:15), 5:45, 8:10, 10:45

Orange County (5:45), 7:30, 7:45, 10:15

The Royal Tenenbaums (2:30), 5:00, 8:00, 10:35

Snow Dogs (2:15), 6:45, 7:50, 9:50

Sunset Drive-In

San Luis Obispo

Black Hawk Down / Ocean's Eleven (7:00), 9:35

Palm Theater

San Luis Obispo

Amidla

4:00, 6:00, 9:15

Innocence

4:00, 6:00, 9:15
Letters to the editor

You decide if it's necessary

Editor,

Continue this new college-based fee for the next 10 years? I refer to the editorials from last quarter. Don't pay enough money for my education already?

The "college-based fee" is a proposed institutional fee that will be added to your tuition each quarter. It will be somewhere between $100 and $300, and it is up to your college to decide how much to ask for. You will have the opportunity to vote for or against this fee before the quarter ends.

This fee is different as the ASI passed last quarter. The ASI goes directly to ASI, related to the CUSA USI, the Rec Center, ASI Events and club support services. The college's fee will work toward "program enhancements," with more classes or specialized educational equipment at our disposal.

I guess we don’t pay enough for our education, or else we wouldn't be asked to vote to increase our tuition. State funding comes to our campus on a per-student basis, where each student is considered equal regardless of his or her major or course load. The amount per student is set at or below the lowest cost per student in the state. This means that an engineer who costs $5,000 per year to a university and a physics major who costs $4,000 per year or the same in the state’s eyes. With a disproportionate amount of high-cost students at Poly, simple math shows that we are underfunded. Hence students are asked to pay more for their technical programs.

So is a college-based fee the answer to our funding shortfall at Poly? Will it really be up to students to produce these new funds Poly needs?

Andrew Hunt is a computer engineering senior who questions whether taking a quarter off will help "prepare" Mr. McCormack to attend school for any length of time knows that it is all for the sake of a degree and that "no matter how much to ask for. You will have the opportunity to vote for or against this fee before the quarter ends."

Loyalty makes writer biased

Editor,

I would like to begin by commending Megan Leise for her demonstrated loyalty to her friend Ron McCormack ("I do fear a fellow student," Jan. 24), but I believe that her loyalty has clouded her judgment. She is correct in her assertion that he is biased because he is a good friend to her.

Leise begins by stating that she was eclipsed by the flurry of disgruntled letters written about Mr. McCormack’s saga. The only disgruntled letter I have read on this subject was Mr. McCormack’s original one ("CA study in getting disgruntled," Jan. 18). She continues to state that all of the replies reflect a lack of understanding of the ultimate issue at hand. This is where I believe she is sincerely mistaken; I believe it is the one who doesn’t understand the issue, and I feel that she is responding to Mr. McCormack (with an unbiased eye) so that she may learn.

She questions whether taking a quarter off will help "prepare" Mr. McCormack to attend classes again and that the "thinks not." I have to say that the only thing that will help prepare him to return to classes again is Mr. McCormack aspiring to make improvements that will help him improve his GPA during his hiatus. Granted, he has a learning disability and has taken only one class that counted for the fall quarter, but he shouldn't have to attend community college and try to improve his GPA during his hiatus.

Leise states, "anyone who has quit attending college for any length of time knows that it is all for the sake of a degree and that "no matter how much to ask for. You will have the opportunity to vote for or against this fee before the quarter ends."

Kevin Cumbrillidge is a physics senior.

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Letter policy

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

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Deadlines for Letters to the Editor: 4 p.m. Wednesdays.
**State counties to use old voting machines for 3 more years**

By Jamie Holung

(Daily Bruin)

The Los Angeles County registrar and recorder has decided not to retire the punch card machines it has relied on for over 20 years. The catch? The machines must be replaced if they fail another certification test next year. The decision comes after a survey conducted annually by the National Center for Education Statistics revealed that women earned 57 percent of bachelor's and master's degrees that year, while men earned 56 percent of doctorates.

According to California’s Constitution, counties are responsible for establishing and maintaining the election system. In 2002, the state legislature passed Senate Bill 1400, which required counties to transition to a new voting system by 2010. However, the county registrar and recorder of Los Angeles County decided to continue using the punch card machines due to their reliability and cost-effectiveness.

David Olsinski, the county registrar and recorder, said in a statement, "We believe the punch card system is secure, transparent, and reliable. It has been used in California for over 20 years, and we have a lot of experience with it."

Kristin Heffron, chief deputy for the registrar and recorder of Los Angeles County, said, "We believe the punch card system is secure, transparent, and reliable. It has been used in California for over 20 years, and we have a lot of experience with it."

But not everyone is convinced. "I don't think the punch card system is secure, transparent, and reliable," said Mary Smith, a registered voter in Los Angeles. "I've heard stories of voter fraud and machine malfunctions."
Baseball kicks off home season today

By Eric C. Rich
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Bagger Street will be roaring this weekend as the Cal Poly baseball team makes its 2002 debut in front of the home crowd this Friday for a three-game series against the University of Utah.

The Mustangs face an formidable opponent in Utah, a well-balanced team similar to Cal Poly. The Utah finished third in the Mountain West Conference, Utah carries some big hats, as they ranked second in the conference with a 314 batting average and led the conference with a 529 slugging percentage.

"Am ime you play a school with a national reputation like Utah, you know they're going to have great athletes," said head coach Ritch Price.

The Utahs possess immense talent at the corners, both offensively and defensively. Third baseman Mike Westfall had an excellent rookie campaign, earning him a trip to the Louisville Slugger Freshman All-America Team in 2001. Westfall hit .341 with 50 RBIs and nine home runs. He is joined by first baseman Nate Wieser, a four-year starter at Utah. Wieser posted a .304 batting average with 22 doubles and 93 runs home runs.

"They've always been a good all round team, with quality pitchers and physical harners," said lead-off hitter Bremer, a four-year starter.

The Utah coaching staff has developed a group of pitchers that will keep the Mustangs busy. Right-hander Jason Wilie is the ace of the staff; he went 5-3 and struck out 46 in 58 innings of work. Junior Mas will come out of the bullpen and become a part of the starting rotation this year for Utah. Mas finished with a 2-2 record, three saves, and an impressive 3.26 ERA in 2002.

"They attack hitters aggressively and can throw a great slider," Price said. "We were impressed with their arms. They can long hit in the mid-80s and have good placement."

The Mustangs come into the series against Utah on a roll after winning three games and tying one against Hawaii-Hilo last weekend. Despite setbacks due to torrential rains, Cal Poly opened up its 2002 baseball season Sunday with two big wins in a doubleheader by scores of 10-2 and 10-4 at Simmons Field at the Cal Poly Veteran Athletic Complex. The games were moved from Hilo to Kor a due to the rain.

Cal Poly wanted no time in the first game, jumping out to an early lead in the first inning courtesy of a three-run blast by first baseman Tony Alcantara. Aaron Escobedo added a two-run single in the third inning and left fielder Brian Haskell finished the job with a three-run double in the fifth inning. The game was called to an end after four innings due to a 10-run mercy rule. Kevin Correa was the distance for the Mustangs, throwing for two strikes and scattering three hits.

"I thought for the first time out, we swung the bat really well," Price said. "It was switched because a 1-4 batter with nine runs in the final four innings of the second game. Catcher Kyle Wilson led an offensive barrage with a solo homerun in the sixth inning and added two singles. Quinn McGinnis picked up the win after three innings of work, striking out three and walking one.

Cal Poly finished the series at Hawaii by winning a run and a tie Monday at Simmons Field. The Mustangs won 9-2 on the account of strong pitching performances from Greg Bech and Frank McLoughlin. A homerun in the final inning tied the game at 8-8, preventing Cal Poly from winning a fourth game. The game was called after eight innings due to time constraints.

"We got some game experience, which is a good tune-up for us," said ace right-hander Kevin Correa. "It should really help us start the season strong."

The games against Hawaii-Hilo were important because they are exempt under NCAA regulations. Each baseball team may play no more than 50 games a season, unless traveling to Hawaii. The NCAA allows those games to be exempt due to the cost and hassle of traveling. So in essence, the games are like spring training, allowing the team to prepare for the season ahead.

The Mustangs play Utah at Bagger Stadium today at 5 p.m., Saturday at 1 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m.

Mr. Burns is running the major leagues

By Chris Arns
MUSTANG DAILY SPORTS EDITOR

If you love the Simpsons, then you must love baseball. How can you look alike, they act alike and they pull the same kind of shenanigans that endear them to fans everywhere. I have no doubt of dubious moves. This is a man who appreciates tor his crafty system.

Cal Poly baseball player Kyle Wilson prepares to tag an opponent during a game last season. The Mustangs head into this weekend's home series with a record of 3-0-1.