Marijuana pervades Poly campus

By Malia Spencer

Jane, whose name has been changed upon request, smokes marijuana three to four times a day. She desires the mellow feeling and euphoria she receives when high. She said she concentrates better and as a musician can feel the emotion in the piece she is playing when high.

This second year Cal Poly student is not alone in her illegal habit. Marijuana is the most prevalent drug used on campus, said Mary Peracca, alcohol and drug-use specialist at the Cal Poly Health Center. Peracca added that students might experiment with harder drugs, but with the nature of Cal Poly’s academic system, students who become addicted to those drugs usually drop out.

Ashley, whose name has also been changed, is a third year agriculture student. She said she used marijuana frequently last year but not only uses it socially.

“I started freshman year of college because I was curious, but I just don’t like it anymore,” Ashley said. “If I do smoke (marijuana), it’s usually with alcohol.”

Every year a Core survey is taken of 800 randomly selected students at Cal Poly as part of a national study. In the 2000 survey, 41 percent of the students

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The daily dose of stories about Cal Poly news and events, sometimes the overall picture of college life is lost in the pile of routine campus activities. For this reason, the Mustang Daily staff decided to devote an entire week to five specific issues that affect the lives of not just Cal Poly students but college students in general. The goal is to provide the reader with a mixture of local and national articles that illustrate current trends. In this particular issue about drugs, Malia Spencer writes about marijuana, the most predominant drug at Cal Poly; National stories include; Chico State's abundance of drug referrals; the consequences of mixing sex and drugs; and the nationwide rise in heroin use.

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By Jennifer Babulsky

Heroin use on rise nationally

By Jennifer Babulsky

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said they used marijuana at least once in the past year, said Martin Bragg, health and counseling services director. He added that 4.8 percent said they used marijuana five times or more.

Nationally, there are 55,226 students who are surveyed from 132 different universities, and 33.6 percent said they had used marijuana once within the year 2000.

Peracca attributes marijuana's popularity at Cal Poly to its relatively cheap price and easy accessibility. Marijuana is readily available in San Luis Obispo as well as its paraphernalia, with pipes being sold in many stores with the intention of being used with tobacco.

"In general (marijuana) is more accessible than alcohol (in San Luis Obispo)," Ashley said, "because you don't always have someone who is 21 years old around." Jane said that although she currently smokes marijuana heavily, it wasn't something she did regularly until college.

"I had never seen pot before my senior year of high school," Jane said, "and even then I rarely did it. I didn't smoke heavily until fall of this year." Jane gets her "hook-up" from a variety of sources, usually someone who is a friend of a friend who deals. She estimates that she personally knows about ten dealers.

"It's word of mouth, the more people you know who smoke, the more people you can know who deal," she said.

When drugs are used for that purpose, Peracca said it can be difficult to quit or cut back because the drug serves its purpose. There are many myths in today's society, mostly from the 1960s, surrounding marijuana that Peracca said contribute to its further use. She said people think it is better than harder drugs because it is a natural herb that produces non-violent results.

"What people don't understand is that today's pot is six to eight times as strong as pot that was used in the 1960s," Peracca said. "Pot used to have a 3 percent THC content and now there is a stronger THC content and it is easier to get addicted. THC stands for tetrahydro..."
Chico ranks nationally for referrals

By Loryl Nicolson

(UC) CHICO, Calif. — California State University, Chico, was recently named as having one of the highest numbers of on-campus drug referrals in the country. A Feb. 1 article in the Chronicle of Higher Education collected and compared on-campus crime data from 1999 and 2000.

According to the Chronicle, drug and alcohol referrals at colleges nationwide had gone up 10.2 percent from 1999 to 2000, and Chico State ranked fifth in the numbers for on-campus drug referrals nationwide.

Data of murders, sex offenses, robbery and burglary, aggravated assault, motor-vehicle theft, hate crimes, weapons, liquor and drug arrests and referrals from 6,269 educational institutions, which were released in January by the U.S. Department of Education, were used in the study.

Campus officials offer several explanations of why drug referrals are high.

"The numbers generally speak for universities around the nation in arrests and violations, and have gone up," said Kelly Clark, interim chief of police at University Police.

Clark said a referral is a crime arrest or an institutional policy violation. He said the numbers for 2001 are being processed and are federally required to be released before Oct. 1.

The article said some college officials attributed the rise to a more casual attitude toward drugs, particularly marijuana.

But that's not necessarily so in the case of Chico State, said Lizanne Leach, coordinator for student judicial affairs.

"In my experience and with every year I've seen, it's not a case of increased drug use," Leach said. "It has a lot more to do with reporting and confronting." Leach said response to reporting referrals has increased, but that drug referrals are still difficult to approach.

"It's a difficult thing to confront because we're going on smell alone," Leach said. "All our drug referrals are marijuana because it's very difficult to detect other substances."

The hiring of only juniors and seniors as resident advisors and adding staff in the residence halls are measures the university has taken to keep on eye on drug and alcohol use.

"I think that in residence halls there were a lot of people monitoring other people their own age," said Shewna Quinn, project manager of Campus Alcohol and Drug Program at University Center. "When they close in at the end, enforcement is hard. I think you're checking older RA's but they make a big difference."

Quinn said resident advisers and resident directors receive more training in identifying marijuana and ecstasy use and said these are the two most common drugs being used by students.

She said realizing there was a marijuana problem on campus led to changes in the CADEC program.

"There were no teeth in the enforcement," Quinn said. "Our CADEC class was focused mainly on alcohol violations, so we made changes in the program." Quinn said alcohol is still CADEC's number one referral for violations. "But now every other Saturday CADEC has a class that focuses solely on drug violations. The class deals with GHB (gamma hydroxybutyrate), ecstasy, methamphetamines, marijuana, LSD (lysergic acid diethylamide) and cocaine, which Quinn said has increased in use.

The class focuses on the legal impact of doing drugs on state property, health consequences including respiratory and immune system problems, and drug costs.

"It's really expensive. And is this really how you should be spending your or your parents' money?" Quinn said. "Basically you're smoking up your hard-earned money."

Because of the increase of drug and alcohol referrals, in November CADEC adopted the online AlcoholEd program. Instead of sitting through videos and lectures, students in the program now sit at a computer and read through six chapters and answer questions on the computer.

"I wanted to try something new," Quinn said. "It's because we had too many students coming through. It's really not effective to do classes of 50-60 students at a time."
Students and alcohol: always a pair

Cal Poly students don't stand for intelligence and excellence; at best they are a bunch of underachievers who barely get by relying on their wits, waiting for Thursday or even Wednesday to get drunk once again.

This is by no means how I see Cal Poly students, but it is how some of the San Luis Obispo community and police department are feeling about the student body. Both the community of San Luis Obispo and its police department constantly refer to Cal Poly students as a burden and menace to the community. The police department looks to the amount of arrests and citations given to Cal Poly students for abusing their drinking privileges, while the community moans and groans about the noise in their neighborhoods.

Is San Luis Obispo too conservative, and is the community in which we live set in its old-fashioned values? Of course they are. The answers to these questions are simple, but one point I would like to put forth is the fact that San Luis Obispo's straight-edged lock is no different than any other small town in California, or America for that matter.

There is a set of unspoken rules in small towns by which the community stands, and the youth within that community has an obligation to disagree with them. Coming from a small town, I can relate to these rules and can remember back in high school doing my best to break them.

Maybe it's because in these small towns like San Luis Obispo there is nothing else to do but go to school during the week and get drunk on the weekends. To some, this weekend habit starts on Thursday, and to others it is a daily affair. Now, should it really come as a shock to the people of "Old San Luis Obispo" that there are drunken college kids roaming their town? If it is, they have been living in denial for the past several years or decades. It does not take a rocket scientist (even though we do have future rocket scientists at Cal Poly) to figure out there is alcohol abuse in San Luis Obispo.

So what is to be done about the constant battle between Generation "X" and generation "almost forgotten?" What these judgmental residents of the San Luis Obispo community don't understand is that the same kids they are pointing the finger at now for making too much noise and getting drunk every night are the same people they will be coming to for help in a couple of years.

Unfortunately, I don't have a plan or even a solution for the constant struggle at hand, but what I can do is speak for the student body when I say that we (the students) come to this town from all over the state, and some from across the country, for a solid education. We don't come to Cal Poly because it is known for great parties and a constant flow of alcohol. It is the educational reputation that attracts students like myself to this area. And yes, alcohol is a problem on our campus — this is no mystery. But it is a problem on every college campus. Whenever you have a large population of college students in a condensed area like San Luis Obispo alcohol consumption and abuse is inevitable.

This has always been a struggle for as long as Cal Poly has been in San Luis Obispo. I can remember my dad telling me stories about when he went to Cal Poly and the San Luis Obispo community got upset and complained about the college kids getting drunk all the time and causing havoc, just as we are today. "I can remember my dad telling me stories about when he went to Cal Poly and the San Luis Obispo community got upset and complained about the college kids getting drunk all the time and causing havoc, just as we are today."

Cory Dugan is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.
Cigarettes made with tobacco, bioengineered to be very low in nicotine, might soon be on the market. Nicotine is the ingredient in cigaretes that gets people addicted, so the idea is that these new cigarettes would keep people from getting hooked.

The tobacco is genetically altered so that the production of nicotine is blocked in the plant's roots. This may sound like a mar- velous idea, but I wouldn't be so quick to jump on the bandwagon.

The thinking behind this new product is good, but the effects could be negative. People who would never have smoked a cigarette because they feared addiction may now pick up the nasty habit. Just because these cigarettes are not physically addictive does not mean that people can't get hooked on them just the same. Marijuana is supposedly not addictive either. But tell a pothead to go a month without smoking, and I guarantee it will be a struggle if he or she can do it at all. The downfall of attracting many new smokers may outweigh the benefits of the nicotine-free cigarettes.

Although the cigarettes would lock nicotine, that doesn't mean they are going to be a healthy alternative by any means. Nicotine-free cigarettes could still deliver high levels of harmful toxic substances.

Frankly, though, I am not too worried about it. I'm sure Phillip Morris and a few other tobacco companies will have the situation under control before long. I can only imagine how much money the tobacco industry is going to put into tearing this initiative apart. The lure to low addictive cigarettes must be a huge threat to their business, which already loses thousands of customers to lung cancer and emphysema. I'm not sure if they can afford another big loss in consumers.

In the meantime, these new cigarettes are going to make the market, the maker, Vector Group, parent company of Vector tobacco, is going to have to put up a fight. I'm sure, however, if they succeed and make a decent profit, the public may see a revolution in the tobacco industry.

Other companies all one day might carry a nicotine-less version of their cigarettes. Cigarettes with nicotine will never totally disappear from American culture because so many Americans are addicted to nicotine, and these new cigarettes will not do the job or give them their fix. Nicotine addiction is a deadly problem, but cigarettes without nicotine are not an answer.

Katrina Teifer is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Prescription drugs can deal deadly dose, too

"Depending on the drug, other risks include difficulty breathing, brain seizures and heart failure."

J.J. Trevino, The Battalion (Texas A&M U.)
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has increased 63 percent, from
574,000 in 1991, to 934,000 in 1998.

Wilbur said there is a difference
between heroin users and cocaine
users.

"Heroin is the type of drug that
people use on an everyday basis," Wilbur said. "Most people use cocaine
on the other hand because it is not
normally used every day and is seen as
a club drug that is saved for parties."

Wilbur said cocaine users typically
buy a certain amount of cocaine and
save it for a few parties while heroin
users buy their supply and use it quick-
ly.

Robert said that while heroin and
cocaine are two different drugs, the
reasons why college-aged people
begin to use them are similar.

"A lot of people who start using any
drug do so because of low self­
estem, peer pressure or the social
structure they are involved in," Robert said.

Robert gave an example of a
college student seeing people he knows
using cocaine or heroin and treating it
as the norm. To fit into his environ-
ment or to be in the norm, the college
student begins using cocaine or heroi-

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But our loads (getting in the sled) are probably the best in the world."

Other crews were ecstatic about the Americans' success.

"Friday night, we were a little wor­ried," said Mike Kohan. "We knew we had some time to make up but we stayed positive and came out and did what we had to do. It doesn't get any better than this. This is great for the American bobsled program. Two medals is huge."

The two medals helped the United States claim a final total of 14 medals at the Salt Lake Games, one behind Germany.

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"He's so big but he likes to pull out and hit jumpers," Sampson said of Clancy. "You have to play him like a guard."

Cal Coach Ben Braun was happy with his team's effort but noticed Sampson's contribution.

"It was our defense that let us win this game," he said. "But give a lot of credit to Jamal Sampson. I think this game demonstrated how hard it can be to stop him from getting to the basket. I think Jamal felt responsible for holding people down as this team's defensive center."

A first-half scoreless stretch of 8 minutes 15 seconds helped doom the Trojans as well.

A Granville three-point play tied the score at 24-24 with 10:52 remaining in the half. But USC would miss its next 14 shots while the Bears denied entrance passes to the post and embarked on an 18-4 run.

A buzzer-beating Clancy three-pointer from the right wing seemed to give the Trojans life entering halftime, the second three-pointer of Clancy's career pulling them within 42-31.

But Cal scored the first five points of the second half before USC began showing some semblance of offensive continuity. Granville sandwiched a pair of three-pointers around a Bluthenthal basket, and after Errick Craven converted a free-throw layup at the 15:13 mark, the Trojans were within seven, 48-41.

But they would get no closer as they blew a three-on-one opportunity when Craven and Dapiec crossed signals on the break and Granville threw the ball into the USC bench. A basket would have kept the Trojans within seven with more than 12 minutes to play.

"That just summed up the game," Craven said. "It was just horrible."
Trojans shrink in loss to Berkeley
By Paul Gutierrez
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

(USC BERKELEY) — With USC seemingly hitting its late-season stride, Trojan Coach Henry Bibby talked about how his team was beginning to smell victory. He said nothing, however, about the odor the 27th-ranked Trojans would emit at California Saturday afternoon.

USC sunk up the joint, playing one of its worst games of the season and falling to the Golden Bears, 83-64, in front of 12,000 at Haas Pavilion.

This less than 48 hours after the Trojans played perhaps their best game of the year in pounding Stanford by 19 points.

So what happened?

"We didn't make shots," Bibby said. "We missed layups and you've got to make the easy ones. I think we tried to do it ourselves instead of as a team. We don't need any heroes."

California, though, played the perfect villain to the Trojans, who must have fallen out of a first-place tie in the Pacific 10 Conference with the loss.

USC fell to 19-7 overall, 11-5 in the Pacific 10, while California, which swept USC for the fourth time in five years, improved to 20-6, 11-5.

A victory Saturday over Washington would keep Oregon in first place, a game ahead of USC, Arizona and Cal, with games at USC and UCLA remaining. Stanford and UCLA are tied for fifth. An Oregon win would create a four-way tie for first.

Against the Golden Bears, USC looked lost offensively against a much taller opponent. The Trojans shot 33.8 percent from the field, their lowest field percentage in Pac-10 play and third-worst all season.

USC's trio of senior starters struggled, with power forward Sam Clancy's run of 11 consecutive double-doubles coming to an end. He had 11 points and six rebounds.

Small forward David Bluthenthal had eight points on three-for-10 shooting. Point guard Brandon Granville finished with 12 points and eight assists, but four turnovers.

"They collapsed down on Sam a lot and when we missed shots, maybe we started playing too fast," Granville said. "I think we had guys trying to lead by example but we should have been more patient."

The Bears, who beat USC on a last-second three-pointer in Los Angeles last month, didn't need any miracle baskets this time around.

Not with 6-foot-11 freshman Jamal Shaq's right hip.

"He was cavalier about the injury six weeks ago — is now talking about giving us a weakness. It turns out that the Los Angeles Lakers' Achilles heel is a toe — the big anorthotic one on Shaq's right foot."

The Lakers team that walked into Madison Square Garden Sunday afternoon for its only visit of the season had snared bruised and the most dominant player in the game. That's a far cry from the squad that went 2-3 this week against the Lakers.

"We know it's going to be a tough game," said Russell Westbrook. "The crowd is going to be loud and we're just going to have to play well."

The Lakers are 29-10 with O'Neal in the lineup this season and 7-6 without him. Those numbers are hard to ignore. So hard that Phil Jackson — who was cavalier about the injury six weeks ago — is now talking about giving O'Neal another vacation toward the end of the regular season.

If Jackson shelves O'Neal, it will be difficult for the Lakers to catch Sacramento for the Pacific Division title. Kobe Bryant just can't be a one-man show every night. In fact, the way Dallas and Minnesota have been playing — and trading — it's possible that together unimpeachable Lakers could be the fourth seed in the West.

Cal Poly sophomore Nick Carless reacts to a successful game with teammate Erin Carroll during their doubles match against Utah State on Saturday. The Mustangs won the overall match, 6-1.

By Sarah E. Thien
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Cal Poly men's tennis may have lost Sunday afternoon, but it made the University of Pacific fight for the win.

The final score of the long match was Pacific 6, Cal Poly 1. The Mustangs fell to 4-5 overall this season.

The Mustangs won its lone match when Nick Carless and Erin Carroll beat Jonas Jegers and Frederik Jeppesen. Playing as the No. 1 doubles team, Carless and Carroll won 9-7 and 7-5 in the tiebreaker.

The two teams battled through deuce after deuce, until Carless and Carroll took the set.

After the match, the players expressed concern about Pacific's skepticism.

"There was a lot of cheating going on out here," Carless said. "It was an ugly match but we've got to build on it."

In the No. 3 doubles match, Mike Marque and Greg Levi defeated Dietrich Haag and Gernot Kenibium 8-5 to seal the doubles point.

"University of Pacific has great doubles teams," said Cal Poly Coach Trevor Krombom. "The highest point of the match was winning the doubles point."

Three of the six singles matches went three sets, but Cal Poly lost every one.

"The first two were so ugly but we've got to build on it," Carless said.

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Bobsled team ends Olympic drought
By Tommy Hine
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

(WIRE) PARK CITY — The wild celebration began even before the winner raced. No matter what the Germans did, the United States had won its first Olympic medal in men's bobsled in 46 years.

In fact, it won two.

Texas driver Todd Hays won the silver medal and five-time Olympian Brian Shimer, a hard-luck story until Friday, took the bronze.

And on Saturday night, that was all that mattered. Not only were they too busy celebrating to watch Germany's Andre Lange win the gold. They didn't even care.

"Oh my God, what a drive. That was amazing," Hays said. "This is one of those events that is indescribable. We came out here wanting a medal of any color. It didn't matter. What an amazing ending. Fairy tales can come true.

Shimer had said there would be tears at the finish line no matter what the result, as this was his final race.

"Ending my career on American soil makes this so much more special," Shimer said. "The crowds have been great here the whole time. After Friday, we didn't think we had a chance, but our guys rolled up and it worked.

"Brian drove it phenomenally well," said Doug Sharp, one of Shimer's three crewmen. "Our starts weren't as fast as we would have liked."