New club addresses women’s issues

By Kristy Charles

I want women to be informed, to be confident and stop doubting ourselves, to accept and support each other — and I want to stop the detrimental competition among women that leaves us feeling like we don’t add up,” said Haley Myers, an English senior and founder of the Cal Poly Women’s Awareness Club (CPWA).

Myers started CPWA last quarter with the purpose of providing an outlet for the discussion of issues concerning women, such as nutrition, self esteem, self-abusive behavior, racism and sexism.

The idea for the club originated from a Women’s Studies class, called Feminist Theory, taught by professor Mary Armstrong. Myers said she enrolled in the course to pursue various within her English major. Often she and her classmates found themselves wishing to further discuss issues brought up in class. After asking around and realizing that no such club existed, Myers made the decision to start her own.

“At first I didn’t have a lot of support,” Myers said. “This was a surprise. Some of my closest relatives and friends told me that nothing like that would catch on at Cal Poly, or basically that it was an empty pursuit and a waste of my time.”

Myers continued to pursue the idea despite the lack of support, and she eventually found a place to hold her meetings — at the Cal Poly Women’s Center. There are now around 15 students who regularly attend meetings, as well as 40 people Myers keeps in touch with via e-mail.

Susanne Kelley, coordinator of Women’s Programs at Cal Poly, was Myers’ first contact at the Women’s Center. Kelley said that the purpose of the club fits perfectly with the mission statement of the center, which is to create a healthy and safe environment for women and encourage leadership skills.

“We’ve always had a variety of clubs at the Women’s Center, like Take Back the Night, the Remember club, NOW and VOX,” Kelley said. “We’re more aware of women’s issues because we’re a minority on campus and the university has taken steps to support us.”

see WOMEN, page 2

Awards luncheon honors women, celebrates history

By Sarah E. Thien

Outstanding women at Cal Poly were honored Wednesday at the Women’s History Luncheon.

The event was sponsored by the Cal Poly Women’s Center and held in Chumash Auditorium. The highlight of the program was the presentation of the Woman of the Year awards. Two awards were given, one for faculty and another for staff.

Lorraine Donegan, a professor in the graphic communications department, was the recipient of the Woman of the Year award for faculty. Donegan has been teaching at Cal Poly for four years and in the last fall 2001 Donegan graduated from Cal Poly and is especially attached to the school.

“It helps me in my teaching,” she said. “I can really identify with my students (Because) I know exactly what they’re going through.”

Donegan was nominated by student Hae Ma. In her letter, Ma said that Donegan “creates a very friendly environment when you approach her about anything.”

Andreine Kiawi-Lenting, assistant professor of Student Life and Leadership, was chosen as the Woman of the Year for staff. Kiawi-Lenting was also nominated last year, but this was the first time she has taken home the prize.

“I was among a lot of amazing women,” she said. “It was an honor just to be in the same category as these women.”

Kiawi-Lenting has worked at Cal Poly for eight years and is in charge of Week of Welcome and Open House, and co-chair of the summer advising program — anything that has to do with new students.

said. “Kiawi-Lenting is in a great position to recruit new students because she also graduated from Cal Poly and, like Donegan, she has a special affinity for the school.

Woman of the Year award recipients are chosen by a panel of four students who work in the Women’s Center, said Erica Meza, luncheon coordinator. Students submit nominations for the panel to judge based on merit and the effect they have had on that student’s life. Haley Myers, Woman of the Year coordinator, said that it doesn’t matter how many nominations a person gets, but how sincere the nomination is.

Every nominee was honored at the luncheon with a plaque, and excerpts from their nomination letters were read.

Myers said that the Women’s Center often receives repeat nominations.

“We can’t choose them again to win the next year,” she said, “but it’s good that we can still honor them because they’re making a huge impact in student’s lives. They need to know how important they are.”

see AWARDS, page 2

Lawyer referral service makes finding help easier

Local bar association offers nonprofit program available to SLO County residents

By Matt Szabo

Many people will get into legal trouble at some point in their lives, but with the cost of legal advice, few can afford fair and adequate representation or services. The San Luis Obispo County Bar Association is trying to change this paradox with a new nonprofit program called the Lawyer Referral and Information Service (LRIS).

“There’s a community need to find legal assistance and legal help,” said Karatina Hunt, LRIS director.

“The bar association and the court are fulfilling a community service to find attorneys.”

Although the service is available to anyone who lives in San Luis Obispo County, Don Ernst, attorney and president of the SLO County Bar Association, said it is especially relevant to Cal Poly students.

“Cal Poly students have an immediate need for small-claims and landlord tenant information,” he said. “Cal Poly has needed services for a long time. They are part of the community.”

When a person calls the LRIS hotline, an LRIS representative will listen and try to answer the person’s question. If an attorney referral is requested, one will be set up with an attorney within 10 business days.

The first half-hour of consultation with an attorney costs $30, unless the matter pertains to traditionally free areas like criminal defense and personal injury. Hunt said. In those cases, the consultation is free. In any case, the $30 does not go to the lawyer, but instead to the LRIS to help cover its costs.

After the initial half-hour meeting, the patron can become the attorney’s client or simply walk away.

Another aspect of the LRIS is that if the question doesn’t require speaking with an attorney, the LRIS will consult with various community services to try to find an answer to the person’s question at no cost.

“The Lawyer Referral and Information Service is designed to furnish the community with information.”

see REFERRAL, page 2

Students see light at end of tunnel

By Matt Szabo

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“The Lawyer Referral and Information Service is designed to furnish the community with information.”

see REFERRAL, page 2

Steve Saude, an architecture junior, puts together his ARCH 352 design project Wednesday. He is designing a recycling center. The class focuses on a single project in which students design several versions of models that increase in detail and scale throughout the quarter. Toward the end of the quarter, students begin sleeping in their design labs to make sure their projects get finished.
It's back to white for symbolic Poly 'P'

By Andrea Coberly
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Two days after the attacks on Sept. 11, members of Running Thunder climbed to the "P," which overlooks campus, and painted it to resemble an American Flag.

This Sunday, nearly six months after the national tragedy, Running Thunder will once again climb the hill, but this time to repaint the "P" and light it at sunset. Scott Barton, industrial technology sophomore, is the public face person and "P" keeper for the Running Thunder. Barton said although the tragedy will stay with people for awhile, it is time to move on.

"It is the six-month anniversary, and as a community it is time we took the flag off the "P," he said. "If we waited till the year anniversary, it would feel unpatriotic."

Running Thunder is Cal Poly's spirit club that maintains and protects the "P," as well as Cal Poly pride and spirit. The group will host a ceremony at the base of the "P" beginning at 3 p.m., and the event will include a free barbecue, music and an opportunity for prayer or meditation. The event will end at 6 p.m. with the lighting of the 50-foot "P." Associated Students Inc. President Angie Hacker, Cal Poly President Warren Baker and San Luis Obispo Mayor Allen Sertle are all scheduled to speak at the ceremony.

The local police and fire departments and the ROTC will attend the event in full uniform. The ceremony will give Cal Poly students, staff and the San Luis Obispo community a chance to remember how they are connected and how they came together during the tragedy, said Travis Ervin, city and regional planning senior and president of Running Thunder.

"The community has made it through the mourning stage and it is now time for growth," he said. "We came together as a nation. Now, we need to focus on who we are as a community.""The community has made it through the mourning stage and it is now time for growth. We came together as a nation. Now, we need to focus on who we are as a community."

Travis Ervin
president of Running Thunder

"The "P" represents the unification and the mourning caused by the attacks," Sertle said the "P" in general has become a symbol of what Cal Poly is as a part of the local community and part of higher education.

"The campus is an integral part of the community," he said. "It also represents the polytechnic and learning by doing part of Cal Poly."
Greenspan told the Senate Finance Committee that the economy had been growing much faster in the last three months of 2001 than previously believed. But the "dimensions of the pickup remain uncertain," Greenspan said. He is also encouraged by the level of consumer spending. In his presentations to both houses, Greenspan indicated that the proposed "economic stimulus package" would probably be unnecessary.

But, there are still some elements that could dampen the recovery, including the burden of debt held by consumers, rising unemployment, and the drop in the value of stock investments.

Greenspan said the current recession was caused by "sharp cutsback" in capital spending by companies, which "interacted with and were reinforced by falling profits and equity prices." — BBC News

NOAA predicts El Niño — A warming trend in the Pacific Ocean last month provided additional evidence of an imminent El Niño this spring, said representatives from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. They emphasized the intensity of the weather phenomenon remains underestimated, as does its possible effects on weather in the United States, but it is expected to continue until early 2003. El Niño is an abnormal warming of the waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean. It generally occurs every two to seven years. The last El Niño was during 1997-98, and was blamed for droughts and flooding in North and South America and the South Pacific. It caused $4 billion in damage worldwide and displaced 6 million people. It has also been blamed for 24,000 deaths.

Unusual effects on the United States include light rainy seasons in the Southwest, warmer weather in the Pacific Northwest, and heavier rain and snowfall in the East Coast and Gulf states.

The NOAA has said there is a 50 to 60 percent chance that an El Niño will occur this year. They said there is a 25 percent chance it will occur in any given year.

— Reuters

Seats sought by sisters for first time

LOS ANGELES — For the first time in history, sisters may be serving together in the U.S. Congress. Democrat Linda Sanchez and her sister Loretta Sanchez both won Tuesday's primary election. Loretta Sanchez is running for re-election in Orange County, and is the front-runner. Linda Sanchez is expected to win a seat in November for southern Los Angeles County.

The two sisters are doing some apt campaignmg, but have said that they will be pre-occupied by their own elections. Linda Sanchez said that she would be her own person in Congress, and that she and her sister are qualified in very different ways. Loretta Sanchez is running on a family theme, whereas Linda Sanchez is a lawyer. They have both said that they will be pursuing different political agendas. — Associated Press

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Student loan breaks pushed to encourage federal careers

By Stephen Barr
THE WASHINGTON POST
(WIRE) WASHINGTON — A bipartisan group of House members introduced legislation Thursday that would permit the government to offer tax-free loan forgiveness as a way of encouraging students to pursue federal careers.

The bill would essentially pay the government the same footing as educational institutions and other nonprofits that link repayment of student loans to public service.

Greenspan acknowledged the importance of an independent press in a democratic society, and that private ownership of media that operate in a responsible and constructive manner would receive all official information that is made available to the state-run media. — Associated Press

Europe

DUBLIN, Ireland — A proposed amendment to Irish abortion laws was narrowly rejected by voters, Prime Minister Bertie Ahern said Thursday.

The Protection of Human Life in Pregnancy bill would have allowed a woman to get an abortion if her life was at risk, but the use of thera piy by suicide as a means for an abortion would have been banned. The bill was defeated by 50.42 percent.

The measure also would have imposed criminal punishments of up to 12 years in prison for those seeking abortions when there was no danger to their health.

In Ireland, the people have voted twice before on abortion issues, including in 1983 when a bill was barred from ever broadly legalizing abortion. They also voted in 1995 to nationalize the ritual of Irish women to receive information on foreign abortion services and to travel there.

About 7,000 Irish women had their pregnancies terminated in England last year. Recent studies say that almost 10 percent of Irish pregnancies end in an English abortion clinic.

— Associated Press

Briefs compiled from various news services by Mustang Daily contributor Anne Guilford.
Although I appreciated watching the vivid battle scenes, after an hour of watching tragic deaths, it was time for the show to end.

Galloway's photographs and in the articles he subsequently published about his experience in the front lines. The family unit was also emphasized, especially in scenes with Moore and his five children and Geoghegan with his baby girl. To accentuate the bleakness of the war they would face, the film took a few extra minutes to show the difficulty the men had in leaving their homes. Although Gibson effectively shows that he truly cares for his men and accurately portrays the steadfast Army general, his morose characterization of Moore is saved by the occasional comic relief of Sgt. Major Basil Plumley, played by Sam Elliott.

Although I appreciated the vivid battle scenes, after an hour of watching tragic deaths, it was time for the show to end. This film is definitely not for the weak stomached, and although I think it is an important film to see for the historical background, it won't be one I'll pay to see again on the big screen.
The Benjamins: all about the formula

By Kevin B. O'Reilly
THE COLUMBUS CHRONICLE

(U-WIRE) CHICAGO — Who would have thought that the man who wrote "F— tha Police" would star in a film where he's in charge of a movie where the Confederate flag-draped window. is turned into a sexual symbol. But Rappers Ice Cube and Mike Epps are in charge of a film where they can't even arrest poor old Anthony Michael Hall, but he is a Miami bounty hunter with a tenuous hold on right and wrong.

We know right off the bat that Cube's character, Bucum, has a penchant for getting into trouble. He can't even arrest poor old Anthony Michael Hall, trailer-park trash who wrote "F— tha Police" would be able to charge "Johnny Be Good."

The Benjamins: all about the formula

By Cory Dugan
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Being Catholic, I can remember having to give up certain things for Lent to prove my strong relationship with God -- like coffee, tea, and television. However, to attempt to give up sex with romantic devotion is mind and body. Making a movie about it is taking things too far.

I'll admit that I'm usually a sucker for films of the ten-year-old genre, but this movie is completely ridiculous. When striving to make a film to which teens will flock, there is certain formula that should be followed in order for the film to be a success. In my opinion, the two best films under the "teen" classification are "American Pie" and "American Pie 2." I loved them both. Despite an influx of corny lines, these films worked because of their outrageous humor. "40 Days and 40 Nights," however, did not have enough stomach-achingly, eye-watering laughter to save it from total cheesiness. The kind of sarcasm that "40 Days and 40 Nights" practices works best when the main character is a man uptight, arrogant, and otherwise immoral. In this case, the main character, Matt Sullivan (John Hartmann), is likable and reasonably normal, so all the belittling and embarrassment directed toward him makes director Michael Lehman's ability questionable. ("The Truth About Cars and Dogs") come across as petty and cruel. This approach is just fine if we're not supposed to care about a character, but because the filmmakers intend for us to sympathize with Sullivan, it doesn't work. It's impossible to laugh at someone you're supposed to be forming an emotional bond with.

This film might have had a chance if the overall premise of the movie wasn't so stupid. Giving up sex for Lent is fine, but how it was portrayed in the movie was over the top. Near the end of the film, when I thought the movie couldn't get any worse, it again strayed down the wrong path. On his last day of celibacy, Matt begins to have hallucinations of women walking around naked and riding the bus naked. Could this film dig deeper into the realm of improbability? I doubt it.

I accept that logic and intelligence are not among the primary (or, in some cases, desirable) traits necessary to enjoy a comedy. However, calling "40 Days and 40 Nights" moronic may be a gross overestimation. For audiences to enjoy it, the film needs to be a lot more amusing. If you're rolling in the aisles, convulsing with laughter, it doesn't matter how much the material is; but when the humor is flat and repetitious, as it is in this film, the audience is a credible story line becomes a major drawback. The level of comedy, which varies from crude to insulting, reminds me of the dirty jokes that fifth graders snicker about in bathrooms, when the mere mention of a four-letter word is a source of great amusement.

So, if you're desperate to give something with "Lent" in the title, make it movies like this one.
Mentally disabled deserve same fate

As courts consider a nation-wide ban on sentencing mentally disabled criminals to the death penalty, I can't help but ask why the idea even ever came to pass.

Is it not discrimination to treat the mentally handicapped any differently than the average person? To make distinctions between the treatment of the average person and a mentally handicapped individual would fall under the term discrimination. Why then is it acceptable to re-label a portion of society differently than if it was in their favor?

Punishment is only likely to be effective when it makes examples of criminals. In the rest of society to correct for the crimes of a group, we see and learn from.

Ideally, the rest of society will fear the punishment criminals receive and therefore be discouraged from committing crimes. This goal will be unattainable if we continue to make exceptions to the rules, even if those exceptions are for a small fraction of society.

Most of us are familiar with the phrase, "you do the crime, you do the time." Any crime that is severe enough to result in the death penalty should not be second-guessed by the mental capacity of the criminal. A mental disability categorizes how intelligent or mentally disabled he or she is.

It is quite clear to me that anyone who would commit a crime liable enough to deserve the death penalty is likely to have mental problems, whether they deal with intellect or with sanity. In any case, the crime and the ensuing punishment distracts the issue, rather than the mental state of the criminal.

The death penalty is most likely to be used in cases where the criminal is unlikely to be rehabilitated. If we do not think that a person with a normal intellect is capable of being rehabilitated, it is highly unlikely that a mentally disabled individual would be able to successfully complete a rehabilitation program after committing a crime of the same caliber.

Even if the mentally disabled were able to be rehabilitated, would the prison setting be a suitable and productive environment for a person with mental handicaps? It is likely that mentally disabled individuals would demand special care that prison employees may not be capable of providing. Would this create a need for special treatment for the mentally disabled and if so, where would the funding for such special training come from?

According to an article by Associated Press writer Robert Tanner, 10 percent of inmates sought to get off death row due to mental handicaps in states where the death penalty is mandatory. If 10 percent of inmates were able to successfully complete a rehabilitation program after committing a crime of the same caliber, it would be unattainable if we continue to make exceptions to the rules, even if those exceptions are for a small fraction of society.

With 2,455 inmates on death row in 20 states that allow executions of the mentally disabled, that would mean 245 potential challenges if 10 percent sought reprieve, or 490 of 20 percent did. Tanner wrote.

Based on these numbers, would it be worth taxpayer's money to deal with that volume of appeals? Frankly, I think we do our share by contributing our tax money, paying for the court fees that funded all of those crimes on death row, and not contributing to the problem by becoming members of society who force other citizens to pay court costs.

Banning the execution of mentally disabled individuals would create more obstacles in the judicial system and would be counterproductive to achieving the greater good.

Whitey Robin is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Editor

Jesus was never insulting

Editor,

In response to Nairi Kalamo's letter "Turn is more offensive", on March 6, I feel very distraught over your choice to call people "politically correct double-dead." As a man that is religiously involved as Christ did, I do not remember ever reading in the Bible that Jesus called anyone an insulting name. I think he would probably say be nice to each other and not tear each other down each other. God loves everyone. Yes, everyone: the poor stump, the madman, etc. The reason is that He loves everyone, He gave up His only Son to come to earth and be hated, beat up, spit at, and nailed to the cross — it is amazing. I hope I helped read a band and I am so overwhelmed by His love and forgiveness that I just pray that everyone would take a minute to reflect.

Ketial Summers is a mathematics senior.

So many stupid people

Editor,

Everyone has the right to their own opinion. That is the beauty of the nation we live in. What annoys me is how people express this same right in the Daily. On March 4, a freshman wrote two letters that were printed about different topics. He said he didn't see much diversity around campus. Well, he hasn't been around much if he is a freshman. I grew a writer like that one red head, Barbara Fornaces, isn't allowed to be heart-ed about a topic like diversity. Lighten up, people. It annoys me when I see some letters written by the same person. With hundreds of people, but the majority say the same thing, I still probably write in about this very letter, calling me ignorant. One thing I have learned from reading these letters is that there are a lot of stupid people at Cal Poly. But there are also many students who can communicate in a clear and effective manner. I'll still be reading to the editor come tomorrow.

Megan Leitz is a journalism senior.

CFA should have asked us

Editor,

I am very disturbed to see the CFA advertisement in the March 6 Mustang Daily opposing the proposed college-based fee increase. I am especially upset that the CFA action was taken in executive committee without a poll of the entire membership. (I myself am a member, though that may not last.) The president, Phil Ferris, told me, "We can't put every serious issue out to the full faculty for a vote." But this is SERIOUS, not just serious, and the CFA has had several months to get it act together on this. The tenure-track faculty in my department voted 11-0 in support of the fee increase.

In the best of all possible worlds, we would not need to ask students to pony up. But politicians and CDS leaders have persuaded the people to keep footing feed artifi-cially low. My college has not had an equipment budget in years. Many of the micro-scoops used in the biology department are decades old. Equipment has failed and there is no money for resuscitation. When there is a computer problem in my department, we too often have to wait weeks because the technical support in my college are so overwhelmed with work. There is also no money specifically allocated for travel. So when my faculty want to attend a professional conference, they too have to take hundreds of dollars out of their own pockets to do so. And then there is the problem of preparing access to course materials, a direct result of lack of financial resources, though there are other difficulties as well. I am currently using every available qualified person in the county to teach statistics and still can't meet student demand. But do my dear colleague and friends, if the fee increase passes, it will help us to hire more tenure-track faculty that we so desperately need.

I imagine every one of us could identify some parts of this university that we might feel are not in the most efficient manner. The CFA is the very large orga-nization. But I think we would be spring ourselves by voting down the fee increase. At the moment I see it as the only straw available for grasping.

Jay Devore is chair of the statistics depart-ment.

Club's excuses don't apply Editor,

Throughout his letter, "See event for your­self," March 6, Brent Vann compares apples with oranges when defending the Cal Poly Republicans' actions toward speaker Reggie Jones.

In none of the articles, including my let­ter, did anyone both the Cal Poly College Republicans putting on the show. In the actuality, all of the articles praised Mr. Jones and his message. We only criticized the club's action and the potential misuse of the CFB. Poor Reggie Jones didn't even say in his advertising for such an event "Boycott this Uncle Tom," "Don't go to this regressive sell-out or the "Say it to his face Whitey," people would have com­plained.

Also about bringing in arguments like "It's a different view of black history," "The CFB is more diverse than the campus," and "We want to prove the party that can attract this diverse group." I think, though, that they can racist comments about their own speakers.

Brent, just to clarify why the phrases are unfair/insensitive/racist: The phrase "Uncle Tom" is racist because it was stereotypically used in the abolition peri­od that portrayed black males as servants eager to please their white masters. Why is the ball? Because it was used as an excuse to keep blacks in slavery and it justified the claims made that black men were happy serv­ing while white men were struggling. To me, the phrase "Uncle Tom" is not unfair to him because the posters made fun of him. As a student, I would have called my own speaker." He continued, "I am not a sell­out, I am a brother with different views, and I hope for the black community."

Lauret, Brent, if all of your other claims are as unjust as your claim that I did not attend the event, then you may seriously rethink your ideas. I was indeed at the event. I sat in the middle seat of the second row; you were in the front row. I was there from the start where you offered to ruffle off-Osama bin Laden posters, so the end when both lines were brought to the attention of Reggie Jones. I saw the hurt on Reggies face, I saw his disappointment in whoever would have thought of posting this. As a part of the student body, the rest of the people in the standing audi­ence did not approve of the posters either.

Lilian Andrade is a business senior who did attend Reggie Jones great presentation.

I think, therefore I am

Editor,

Mr. Taylor, I disagree with what you wrote on March 5. I think, therefore I am. I am, nonetheless, you are still entitled to your opinion. As rational beings, I am sure that you realize that humans are not infallible creatures; thus – and I appeal to your intel­ligence – it is true that we as individuals and as communities make mistakes.

Since you are a student of history, I further appeal to your knowledge of the past. If you remember, all the way back to when the past is nothing more than a graveyard of errors. These errors range from simple mis­takes to ones involving what we now know. In these instances the cause of the future has been dramatically altered.

With the rise of war, a more enlight­ened future arises. It was not anyone's in­ention to "pav the wool over your eyes" about racism, because it was true. I think, therefore I am. I was indeed at the event. I sat in the middle seat of the second row; you were in the front row. I was there from the start where you offered to ruffle off-Osama bin Laden posters, so the end when both lines were brought to the attention of Reggie Jones. I saw the hurt on Reyyie's face, I saw his disappointment in whoever would have thought of posting this. As a part of the student body, the rest of the people in the standing audi­ence did not approve of the posters either.

Daniel J. Gutierrez is a civil engineering junior and secretary of the Cal Poly College Republicans.

Letters to the editor

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Letters to the editor

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I was a girl boy buying porn, I wouldn't do it at Campus Market."
BREAKS
continued from page 3

debt — do not make the government their first choice because industry usu­
ally offers a higher starting wage.

The chief House sponsors are Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind., chairman of the House Government Reform Committee, and Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., the committee’s senior Democrat. Similar legislation has been introduced in the Senate by Sens. George Voinovich, R-Ohio, and Fred Thompson, R-Tenn.

Joining Burton in announcing the House version Thursday were Reps. Danny Davis, D-Ill., Constance Morella, R-Md., and John Tierney, D-­
Mass., members of the Government Reform Committee, which oversees programs for federal employees and retirees.

Congress authorized the govern­ment to repay student loans for cur­rent and new employees in 1991, but the Office of Personnel Management did not issue regulations until last year. OPM officials said there was no need for the recruitment incentive during the 1990s because most agen­cies were downsizing.

But the times have changed. A number of agencies are staffing up for homeland defense, and virtually all parts of the government face a wave of retirements during the next five years.

While the events of Sept. 11 and the

unsteady economy have made the government a more attractive employer, numerous agencies find it difficult to hire workers with special­ized skills.

College students and federal employees, in surveys and interviews, have said loan repayments are an important factor in weighing job offers. The typical college debt burden is estimated at between $14,000 and $16,000 for undergraduates and more than $20,000 for graduate students, supporters of GOPHRS said Thursday.

In the last year, a few agencies have started loan repayment programs (the Energy and Defense departments, General Services Administration and NASA) and several are drawing up others.

Under the government’s student loan repayment program, agencies may pay up to $6,000 per year, capped at $40,000 total per employee. Employees who receive student loan repayments must agree to stay in the federal service for no less than three years.

Agencies report the amount of their loan repayments to the Internal Revenue Service, and those amounts are subject to withholding at the time the repayment is made.

The proposed legislation will make the current loan repayment program more forcible.

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New York band rocks SLO

Si*Se performed at Club SLO Brew Tuesday night. "Si*Se is a bilingual septet from New York specializing in the fusion of chilly electronic beats with a warm, pan-Latino sensibility," according to the Los Angeles Times.

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Women’s tennis to host three-game series

By Eric Rich

As students feel the crunch of finals, the women’s tennis team will receive no break this weekend as they prepare for three consecutive days of competition at home.

The Mustangs are currently in fifth place in the Big West Conference, with an even 2-2 conference record and a 4-6 overall standing. Although the team will be without No. 9 player Angie Bagheri due to an ankle sprain, players feel they have a good chance for a weekend sweep.

“The one thing about our team is that we really have a lot of depth,” senior Stephanie Westrich said. “All the girls can play, and that makes us a strong matchup.”

First up for the team is UC Riverside, carrying a dismal conference record of 0-4. The team is currently in last place in the Big West. The Highlanders’ No. 1 player is Michelle Beyronneau, with a 4-6 record in dual matches. The match takes place Friday at 1:30 p.m.

Conference rival UC Santa Barbara rolls into town this Saturday for a showdown. The Gauchos bring with them a conference record of 0-5, but boast two nationally ranked players. Uma Khan is ranked No. 83 in the nation, and has a 1-34 record in dual matches. She is backed by No. 142-ranked Cindy Ammann, who has a record of 11-2. The two are even more lethal when playing doubles together, with an 8-3 record.

“We defeated Santa Barbara last year and should stack up well this year,” Bagheri said. “After their top two players they really don’t have that much depth.”

Filling in the top spot for the injured Bagheri is Danielle Husted, a third-year player with a 3-2 record. Westrich will play in the No. 2 slot with a 3-6 record, and play doubles with King Romm. Romm and Westrich have an even 4-4 record in doubles this season. The UCSD match is on Saturday at 1 p.m.

Rounding out the weekend for the Mustangs is a match against UC Davis of the California Collegiate Athletic Conference. The Aggies won their conference last year and finished tied for fifth in the nation for Division II tennis. This season, they hold a record of 4-1 in conference matches and a 5-5 record overall. The match is on Sunday at 10 a.m.

All matches will be held at the newly finished tennis courts located behind Mod Gym.

The tennis team encourages students to come out and support the players.

“We just want people to come out and give us home court advantage,” Bagheri said. “The games are intense and really exciting to watch.”

FILE PHOTO/MUSTANG DAILY

Women’s tennis senior Jennifer Azevedo returns a shot during a match on Mar. 1. The team will host a three-game series this weekend.

Lacrosse looking to give Chico the ‘boot’

By Katrina Telfer

There will be a fight for a boot at high noon this weekend.

The men’s lacrosse team hopes to dominate Chico State this Saturday in the “Battle for the Boot” at 2 p.m. Coming off three huge wins this weekend in Arizona, the men’s lacrosse team has moved up in the standings and is currently ranked 14th in the nation. The Mustangs beat Fort Lewis College, Michigan State and University of Arizona, a team that was ranked 11th in the nation.

The team feels confident after its strong performance, pressing the overall teamwork shown in recent games.

“No one really stood out this weekend,” said industrial technology freshman Blake Bolton. “We played really aggressive as a team and all we need to do is play solid like that again this weekend.”

Bolton also pointed to the team’s positive attitude as a key factor in this weekend’s game. He mentioned the effort coming from all players, noting how every player was a factor in the last three wins.

This weekend’s game against Chico State is crucial because it is a league game. The team needs to win in order to advance in its division, as well as securing a postseason bid. The team hopes to go to the national championship in St. Louis.

“It’s a must-win for us if we want to go to the playoffs,” team co-president Grant Middleton said.

Middleton also said that although their opponents are always a tough rival, Chico is not as strong as it has been in the past. Cal Poly will be lacking one of its important players, as star goalie Gereney Chin will be on vacation and not in the game. Without him, victory will be a challenge.

Because Chico has a large team, a Byrnes is in the works for the younger players. Bolton said. Such a matchup would give team members who usually don’t get playing time a chance to participate.

Currently, Cal Poly is 1-1 in its division of the Western Collegiate Lacrosse League and Chico State is 0-3. Overall, Cal Poly is 6-2 and Chico is 4-4. With more than playoffs and records on the line, the players look forward to bringing home the Boot.

“Hopefully we’ll kill them,” Middleton said.

FILE PHOTO/MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal Poly men’s lacrosse team will face Chico State this Saturday, continuing a classic rivalry named “The Battle for the Boot.”

Women fall in first round of tourney

By Aaron Lambert

ANAHEIM — The Mustangs lost more than the game Wednesday night as senior guard Odessa Jenkins walked off the court for the final time in green and gold.

But with the departure of one came the resurgence of another in junior guard Kasey Depamphilis.

Depamphilis nearly single-handedly kept the Mustangs (11-17 overall) in the game as she hit 13 of 19 free throws down the stretch, leading the team with a personal post-season high of 21 points, 10 of which came in the second half, despite playing with four fouls.

Jenkins also wouldn’t give in, leading a highly energized defense which forced 26 Long Beach State turnovers and held the 49ers to 46 percent shooting from the field.

“My team never gives up,” Jenkins said. “It’s not a phrase in the vocabulary of our players or coaches.”

Jenkins left the game with three steals and nine points.

But that wasn’t enough, as the 49ers (16-12) overcame a 10-point halftime deficit to come away with a 77-72 win.

“Obviously, we were a little disappointeed with the outcome of the game, but I couldn’t be prouder of the effort of our team put into this game today and during the season,” said Cal Poly head coach Faith Minnigh.