Future could hold budget woes

By Micah Paulson
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

With Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's budget proposal still in the works, the California State University Board of Trustees presented a budget request that asks for $546.6 million over this year's state funds.

Cal Poly officials are still uncertain about what the governor's budget decisions may entail. "Because it is very early in the budget cycle, it is hard to make predictions," according to a statement released by the Cal Poly Public Affairs office. "We do hope that higher education will be spared as much as possible, as the state deals with this difficult budget situation."

Thus far, Cal Poly officials say there is no plan to raise student fees — a possibility that some students would find unbearable. "It would be insane if the fees were raised any higher. I can't believe they are asking for as much money as they are," said agriculture senior Sarah Woodring. "You would think the government could find a better way to deal with this money shortage, rather than put an extra burden on students."

The 30 percent fee increase at Cal Poly that began this year was not unusual, or particularly harsh for U.S. colleges. The fees went up 39 percent at the University of Arizona and 40 percent at the University of California, according to the Washington Post.

If the Board of Trustees receives the requested funds, the money would go toward a 2.65 percent service-based salary increase for faculty, see BUDGET, page 2

HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Choral groups to perform Saturday

By Samantha Yale
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The Cal Poly campus will kick off the holiday season with a performance by the choral groups at 8 p.m. Saturday. The annual "A Christmas Celebration" concert will take place in Harman Hall of the Christopher Cohan Center. Tickets can be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office for $7-$10 for students and $12-$15 for the public.

For the first time, Cal Poly's brass ensemble, directed by Keith Smell will be performing alongside the choral groups. Choral director Thomas Davies said, "We just wanted them in the concert. They're good."

The line-up will also include the three choir groups: Polyphonies, which is a 48-member mixed choir, The University Singers who are Cal Poly's largest mixed choir and Cal Poly Vocal Jazz, a group of 12 singers. Barbershop quartets Here Comes Treble and Men-So-Forte will also perform.

Davies said the quartets mostly perform a cappella, but he is overjoyed by the try-out process.

"It's very moving. It gets everyone in the Christmas spirit."

Lauren Groff
polyphonies member
**TATTOOS**

continued from page 1

Orlando-area dermatologist, said she used to do five laser treatments a month in the 1980s. Recently, she said she did twice that in one day.

All sorts of people come in for removals, doctors say. Some had such slogans as "Timmy Forever" committed to ink, only to find love was fleeting. Others, like those who tattooed their yore and later regretted being implanted with a flaming dead head or a Flying V guitar.

There are a few common tattoo removal methods — people try to rub them out with chemicals or lotions or have a doctor abrade or surgically cut them out. State-of-the-art removals are done with very fast penetrating lasers through the outer layer of skin and fragment the tattoo pigment.

Patients require several treatments over a period of weeks, can cost hundreds of dollars and can be painful.

Also, a faint trace of the tattoo typically remains.

Researchers at Wright State's School of Medicine in Ohio are studying the effectiveness of a cream used for removing old tattoos as a complement to laser treatment. Complete results are unknown, though researchers have offered with creams from would-be-panaceas.

Professionals — from artists who create tattoos to doctors who remove them — will all tell you: don't get tattooed unless you're ready to get them taken out in the future. The risk is that you'll get ill-conditioned tattoos in the first place. Their advice. Think. Will you enjoy having your tattooed lettering on your backside in a decade?

T-Bone, an artist at Lark Tattoo in Albany, said people must sign a consent form before getting a tattoo. Still, the occasional customer has a change of heart. The fact. He chooses the advice of doctors: Don't get a tattoo of your sweetheart's name.

Tattoos aren't music majors, and it's especially hard for students to make time to prepare for the concert with finals approaching.

Dave said he expects the concert to sell out.

"It's very moving," music junior and member of Polyphtons Lauren Snell said of the show. "It gets everyone in the Christmas spirit."
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The increase in productivity reported by the Labor Department on
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News
College to ask for $95 M

VISALIA — Voters next March will be asked to decide on the request for a $95 million general obligation bond. If approved, the money would pay for a $64 million education and agriculture campus in Tulare, a $18.4 million education center in Hanford and a $7.5 million four-year center in Visalia, and more.

The bond measure, similar to one voters threw out by a narrow margin last November, joins a $25.6 million bond for Tulare Unified School District and a $45.2 million bond for Tulare Joint Union High School, a $15 billion school construction bond of more than $11 billion.

Several Tulare and Hanford residents spoke in favor of the bond during the Monday night meeting, arguing it was time the college devoted some resources to their communities.

"I'm excited," COS student body president Patrick Lopez said after the vote. "We believe this bond will be a great thing."

COS President Kamiran Badrkan agreed, saying, "This is a tremendous success for our students, their future and the needs of this community."

"This is really about our students, their future and the needs of this community," Kamiran Badrkan

Plague researcher faces charges

By Betsy Blaney

LUBBOCK, Texas — The researcher acquitted of most of the serious charges he faced after reporting plague samples missing from his lab was a victim of an overzealous prosecution, several scientists said.

Thomas C. Butler was convicted Monday of 17 of the 69 charges stemming from a federal investigation into his work with the deadly bacteria. He was acquitted on charges of lying to the FBI, smuggling plague samples into the United States and illegally transmitting samples.

"There's a lesson in there for the Justice Department," Steven Aftergood of the Federation of American Scientists said Tuesday. "They overreached. The jury's verdict doesn't mean the end. This is a direct to their sister.

morning.

would be delayed until Wednesday.

contact and attempted kidnapping Dru," Grand Forks County state's attorney Peter Welte said. "This is by no means the end. This is a

know we are just around the corner

Keep strong."

"Hone, we will find you," her

three votes twice since 2000, and both attempts failed. This will be the third try.

Protein researcher faces charges

By Michelle Locke

"We're very concerned about it and the scientists who worked with Butler and have known him for more than 25 years, also said the Texas Tech University professor was unfairly targeted.

"They are determined to find him guilty of something," said Argi, who was contributing some of the money he won from the Nobel prize to Butler's defense. "It's not a crime.

"His not a dangerous or reckless person."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Dick Baker vehemently denied that contention.

"This was not a post-Sept. 11 reaction," he said. "It was not an overzealous prosecution. The defendant was charged with and convicted under statutes that have long been on the books that are there to protect the public."

Butler, 62, could be sentenced to 240 years in prison, though he faces fewer years under federal sentencing guidelines. He also faces fines up to $11.7 million. Sentencing probably will take place in mid-February.

Defense attorney Jonathan

Baker said the three convictions from the original 15-count indictment.

In September, prosecutor

counts against him. He had illegal shadow contracts with pharmaceutical companies with which he also had clinical studies contracts. He was convicted of 44 of those charges.

Baker said the three convictions from the first indictment were the most serious.

Baker was convicted of exporting plague samples to Tanzania without a college education because they can't afford the long commute.

approving the bond would take 55 percent of the votes and would increase property taxes by 51.99 per $100,000 assessed value in Tulare County and in the community college's district in Fresno and Kings counties.

COS has put a bond proposal out to voters since 2000, and both attempts failed. This will be the third try.

"This is really about our students, their future and the needs of this community."

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Since then, Congress has passed legislation requiring bidding on facil-

ments run without competition for more than 50 years, which includes the Livermore lab as well as the Lawrence Berkeley lab, a non-

would be bid separately, potentially a key

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Catholic church tells court that contraception is a sin

By David Kravets

SAN JOSE — The Catholic Church urged the California Supreme Court Tuesday to be absolved from a requirement that it provide prescription contraceptives to its thousands of employees who work for the church's charity and medical branches.

During an hour of oral arguments among the justices and lawyers, California's highest court examined a state law requiring employers that offer prescription drug benefits to also provide contraceptives. The church told the court that contraception is a sin in its doctrine and therefore should be excused from the rule lawmakers enacted in 2000 to combat gender discrimination in the workplace.

"The church teaches that the practice of artificial contraception is morally unacceptable," argued James Sweeney, an attorney for Catholic Charities of Sacramento, a church branch that offers social services to the down-and-dos and others.

He told the court that the constitutionally right of religion was being trampled upon because the law forbids the church from practicing what it regards as a sin.

The law, similar versions of which have been adopted in 28 states, compels 25 employers to "practice the religion condemned," Sweeney said.

"It was not clear how the court would resolve the issue. But the justices played devil's advocate for both sides in a debate televised to schools on the public affairs cable network, California Channel.

Justice Carlos Moreno wondered about those who work for the church, some 50,000 in California, with a right to prescribe contraceptives regardless of the church's doctrine.

"What about the rights of the employees?" Moreno asked.

General Timothy Muscat replied that before the law, about half the state's employers that offered prescription benefits did not provide contraceptives.

He said the new law ended decades of discrimination in the workplace.

Chief Justice Ronald George asked Muscat whether it would be male gender discrimination "not to provide coverage for Viagra?"

"It probably doesn't fall within your health care need," Muscat said.

Muscat pointed out the position of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, which told the court in briefs that contraception gives women a chance to plan for pregnancies and makes for healthier mothers and babies.

Under the California statute, the church is exempt from having to provide contraceptive coverage to employees who work inside parishes and houses of worship. That is known as the "religious employer exemption" because the paragraph generally serves worshippers and employs those with similar religious views.

The church neither requires its workers at its charity branches or hospitals to be Catholic. Nor does it demand that its charities and health care recipients practice Catholicism.

The court is expected to rule within 90 days.

Employers have enough signatures for insurance vote

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Business groups announced Monday that they had gathered enough signatures to force a public vote on a new law that could require employers with more than 20 workers to help pay for their employees' health insurance.

The measure's opponents said they had collected more than 620,000 signatures. They now have 30 days to file a petition with the courts to challenge the signatures.

The law, strongly supported by trade associations, exempted companies of at least 373,816 registered voters to put the measure on the March ballot for voters to rule on.

The law, strongly supported by labor leaders, would require companies with more than 20 employees to begin offering health benefits by 2006. Smaller companies with more than 20 employees would have until 2007 to offer coverage to workers.

"This is a sensible law that provides health care to over a million working people by building on our current health care system," said Art Pulaski, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation.

But Art Pulaski, secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, charged that signature-gathers collected signatures "by tricking people into signing referendum petitions by claiming to show health care would provide health care.

"Why are the big corporations trying to veto?" he asked. "Because they think taxpayers should foot the bill for their employees' health care."

"This is a sensible law that provides health care to over a million working people by building on our existing health care system. The law exempts small businesses and it will save the state $600 million."

Google stops accepting unlicensed pharmacy ads

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Google Inc. stopped taking ads from unlicensed pharmacies, joining sites such as eBay, Amazon.com and other Web sites that have bowed to pressure to curb the illegal distribution of prescription drugs in recent days.

The step follows similar action last week by Overture Services, which distributes ads to the Web sites operated by its parent company, Yahoo Inc., and by MySNN America Online began restricting ad sales to unlicensed pharmacies two years ago.

Google's ad ban doesn't affect the results that its search engine displays.

"Google supports end user choice in commerce, and we will work hard to ensure there is always consumer choice and value in online pharmacies," the Mountain View, Calif.-based company said Monday in a statement.

The crackdown on unlicensed pharmacies comes as regulators and Congress intensify their focus on third parties that make it easier for illicit operators to sell potentially dangerous drugs.

A major trade group for legitimate pharmacies and Drugstore.com, a major online drugstore, haven't been pushing for an Internet marketing ban on illegal operators. The system has made it easier for unlicensed pharmacies to sell highly addictive painkillers and tranquillizers to teenagers who don't have the proper doctor's prescription. Critics of online pharmacies say the ads are even generating sales to minors.

Google said it plans to establish a screening system for ads, but the company's policy is already licensed by search engine and drug ads are generally generating sales to minors.

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by Lindsey Tanner

CHICAGO — Echinacea failed to relieve children’s cold symptoms and appeared to cause skin rashes in some cases, a study of 407 youngsters found.

"We did not find any group of children in whom echinacea appeared to have a positive benefit," said the researchers, led by Dr. James Taylor of the University of Washington’s Child Health Institute.

Symptoms listed an average of nine days in children given echinacea and in those taking the placebo, and the overall severity of symptoms were similar.

Mild skin rashes occurred in 7 percent of colds treated with echinacea but in only 2.7 percent of colds treated with the dummy preparation. None of the rashes required medical treatment.

The findings appear in Wednesday’s Journal of the American Medical Association.

Healthy patients were enrolled and followed for four months. At the outset, parents were instructed to call the researchers when their children developed at least two cold symptoms. Parents then were asked to start administering treatment.

That lag time may explain why no benefits were found, said Mark Blumenthal, executive director of the American Botanical Council, an independent group that studies herbs. He said echinacea is thought to work best if taken as soon as the first symptoms appear.

Some of the children had multiple colds during the study, but there were 13 fewer colds in the echinacea group — results Blumenthal said suggest that echinacea might have helped prevent subsequent colds.

Taylor called those results could be just a fluke. The study was not designed to examine prevention.

Blumenthal said the results developed may have been a rare side effect from pollen in the echinacea plant flower. The echinacea used in the study was made by the German company Madaus AG and contained plant extract worked by researchers at UCLA’s Center for the Study of Health and Culture, said immigrant Hispanic mothers are less likely to participate in behavior that could lead to pregnancy complications.

“We have seen similar results in smaller studies ... U.S.-born Latinos tended to smoke more, drink more, use drugs more and have more sexual partners than the immigrants,” he said.

The report did not analyze the reasons behind the different behaviors, but Hayes-Bautista said he suspects that assimilation with mainstream American culture may lead to the disparity.

Researchers found that Hispanics born in this country had complications at a rate of 90.5 for every 1,000 births compared to 71.8 for every 1,000 births to immigrant Hispanic mothers.

The report also found that Hispanic mothers overall — who account for more births than any other ethnic group in the state — had low rates of obtaining prenatal care.

Only 32.2 percent of Hispanic mothers in California began prenatal care in the first trimester of their pregnancies, the study found, compared to 89.3 percent of white mothers.

The problem could become particularly acute in Los Angeles County, Hayes-Bautista said, where officials have slashed public health care spending.

“As we increase the population without health insurance but crumble the system that could have helped them — these trends do not hold well,” he said.

by Mason Stockstill

LOS ANGELES — Hispanic women who were born in the United States are more likely to experience health problems while pregnant than their immigrant counterparts, according to a UCLA study released Wednesday.

David Hayes-Bautista, a professor at UCLA’s Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture, said immigrant Hispanic mothers are less likely to participate in behavior that could lead to pregnancy complications.

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“As we increase the population without health insurance but crumble the system that could have helped them — these trends do not hold well,” he said.
GOP race heats up

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - Former U.S. Treasurer Rosario Marin has joined the race against Sen. Barbara Boxer, an incumbent described by the challenger as an overly partisan Democrat who embarrasses the state.

"Her knee-jerk attacks on our national defense are frankly an embarrassment to California," Marin said Tuesday in a blistering speech announcing her candidacy. "When I get to the United States Senate, you will once again be proud of the voice of California when it comes to protecting the national security interests of America here and abroad."

Marin, who emigrated to the United States from Mexico at age 14, made her announcement in Huntington Park — a largely Hispanic suburb of Los Angeles where she once served as mayor.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Marin said her background as an immigrant and generally moderate views on social issues like abortion made her the best qualified of the state's incumbent senators. "If it had been Boxer's way, seniors have a right to know the consequences of the policies she supports, and on that basis alone, she is不合格 to serve in the Senate," Behr said. "Those are the direct, undisputed consequences of the policies she supports, and on that basis alone, the is不合格 to serve in the Senate."

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts, declined to comment on the matter.

Several other bill opponents said Scully's talks with potential employers during consideration of the legislation reinforced a perception that the administration favors insurers and drug companies over seniors.

"Seniors have a right to know why a White House bill that lets billions over billions to the HMOs and drug industries was written by a person who was apparently pursuing employment with those same industries," said David Sirota, spokesman for the Center for American Progress, which is run by former Clinton administration officials and aides to congressional Democrats.

Scully acknowledged that the firms have been courting him for months, through the drafting and drawn-out negotiations over the bill.

He said he received clearance from the top HHS ethics official to continue his work on the legislation. "The fact is, I played this absolutely by the book," Scully said.

Scully said his intention to leave the administration once the Medicare bill was finished "was the worst-kept secret."

He said none of the firms that contacted him asked for any special consideration in the bill. "They all called me. I said, 'Sorry, you have to wait,'" Scully said.

Scully served in senior positions at the Office of Management and Budget during the first Bush administration. Later, he served as president of the Federation of American Hospitals, the trade group representing the for-profit hospital industry.

Medicare official to resign

WASHINGTON — Thomas Scully, the Bush administration official deeply involved in drafting the Medicare bill, said Wednesday he will resign once President Bush signs the Medicare overhaul into law.

Scully said he probably will take a job at one of five law or investment firms that want him to advise clients affected by the sweeping Medicare legislation.

White House officials said President Bush will sign the bill Monday, giving seniors a prescription drug benefit beginning in 2006 and private insurers a new larger role to play in health care for 40 million older and disabled Americans.

"Seniors have a right to know the consequences of the policies she supports, and on that basis alone, she is不合格 to serve in the Senate."

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Mustang Maniacs

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Women's BBall vs. UC Davis 2 PM
FREE BBQ for all students on Mott Lawn from 4-6:30

Men's BBall vs. Sac State 7 PM

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5 Locations!

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No Snow? No Problem

One Mustang Daily reporter gives relief to those who are craving some cold weather action.

Story by Lauren Johnson
Photo by Spencer Marley
Making SLO a winter wonderland just takes a little imagination

By Lauren Johnson
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The weather sets in, and their patience for powder does the days grow shorter and their desire out from hibernation.

By Lauren Johnson
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The tire is so delicate. And since the snow comes in SLO without the powder, you might come away with some black and blue battle wounds.

Ways to celebrate winter

- Lawn Angels
- Ice blocking
- Ice Boggan (optional)

And since the snow in SLO is snow, let it snow in SLO. You can make it a reality.

Cold remedies

- Snow Pack
- Ice blocking (IceBoggan optional)
- Dry ice in the jacuzzi
- Lawn Angels
- Sidewalk slip’r slide

There is one drawback to this activity. You need to drain your jacuzzi afterward. But hey, is there any better way to bring the effects of 30-degree weather up for about an hour, so you don’t waste any time getting in and enjoying your faux-ski resort experience?

There are some fixids and medicines can. Some fixids could be a natural alternative.“They have actually isolated specific chemicals in chicken soup that help with nausea,” Swadener said. “It is not just inhaling the steam from the soup; studies show that the soup is more effective than hot water.”

A 1978 study found that chicken soup promoted the flow of mucus in nasal passages. Swadener said. She said researchers at the University of California, Los Angeles also found drug-like agents in chicken soup that are similar to medicines prescribed for bronchitis and other respiratory illnesses.

Physicians also recommended to take over-the-counter decongestant medicines because they make people feel cold and sometimes not necessary help relieve symptoms, experts say.

BRIAN KENT/ MUSTANG DAILY

Cold remedies like the ones sold at New Frontiers are a natural alternative but may not necessarily help relieve symptoms, experts say.

The IceBoggan, shown above, makes sliding down hills a little easier on the rear. Throw this new toy in with old favorites like dry ice and a frozen sidewalk, and winter activities in San Luis Obispo become a reality.

The IceBoggan, shown above, makes sliding down hills a little easier on the rear. Throw this new toy in with old favorites like dry ice and a frozen sidewalk, and winter activities in San Luis Obispo become a reality.

Dry ice can be dropped directly into a heated spa to create a steamed-up winter wonderland. Put 50 to 100 pounds of dry ice into the water and — poof — thick fog immediately begins to rise. This amount of ice will steam things up for about an hour, so don’t waste any time getting in and enjoying your faux-ski resort experience.

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Linkin Park translates well to ‘Live’ medium on CD/DVD package

By Nathan Lichtman

Mustang Daily

Thursday, December 4, 2003

MADISON, Wis. — "How many musicians we have in the house?" asks Linkin Park lead singer Chester Bennington midway through the group's supercharged live DVD/CD, "Live In Texas." "We were on the other side of the barcade a few years ago — just perservere, believe in yourselves and one day you'll be up here with us."

The statement, however, works not entirely flattered, and Linkin Park is living proof that dreams are attainable.

Recorded at two stadium shows in Dallas and Houston during the Metallica-headlined Summer Sanitarium Tour, "Live In Texas." captures six skilled musicians at the top of their game. Crowds of 50,000 have replaced crowds of 50, but the hunger, energy and unending quest to move people through their music has not changed for Linkin Park.

The DVD, filmed in 35mm and mixed in Dolby Digital 5.1, gives a stunning glimpse of what it's like to stand before a football stadium of rabid fans and deliver with vicious precision. From backstage banter to walking onstage, it's all captured in tremendous detail. As good as a live DVD can get, and the closest thing to standing onstage with the band. The DVD could double as a motivational video for fledging bands.

Highlights include the bouncy, angular melodies of fan favorite "Faint," the symphonic jab of "Papercut," the angular, technical "Step Closer" that sends the crowd into a seething frenzy and sees Linkin Park injecting plenty of punch into a song that they should be sick of playing at this point. The patchwork visuals on the extended, remixed breakdown of the song provide one of the most compelling and enduring moments in the collection.

Jarring, stunning, and completely cinematic, "Live In Texas" is Linkin Park at its finest. The group has come so far, so fast, that it must feel like a dream. This excellent DVD/CD package is a reminder to each of them that it's all real. Very real.

---

COLD

continued from page 10

feel better and can reduce the chance of complications, Brauninger said. She advised not to use a nasal decongestant spray for more than five days because a person's nose can become dependent upon the medicine and have problems functioning without the spray.

Swadener said time throat lozenges are another remedy that could help people recover from colds quickly.

Avoiding the cold virus is also accomplished without the aid of expensive supplements. Brauninger and Swadener recommend ample sleep, a healthy diet, the frequent washing of hands and avoiding unnecessary contact with the virus.

"A lot of viruses really are passed with someone who is sick," Brauninger said. "Wear gloves when you workout, so you avoid having to touch what everyone else has touched and make sure to wash your hands immediately after your workout."

Brauninger said the Rec Center is a likely place to catch a cold because many students exercise despite their illnesses.

Exercise, a healthy diet and sufficient sleep play an important role in the immune system, but Swadener said even the healthiest people are at risk when exposed to the cold virus.

"Wash your hands frequently, keep your hands from your face and no matter what, do not share food with someone who is sick," Swadener said.

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Mustang Daily

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Not a creature was stirring...

The holiday season is not usually known for its vast array of sexual opportunity. Compared to the sexual abundanz of fornicating, fornicating is fornicating, fornicating in the days of the hunting season is quite rare. Sure, we've got that one hot cousin we'll see on Christmas, or that old high school flame we'll run into at the mall. But looking up with any Tips to improve your dating life and old flames tend to lose their luster in the post-high school book burns. Indeed, for many of us, the high point of the Christmas holiday will be getting the kids in bed and making dinner. Yet despite this sad and dreary outlook, the Christmas season holds claim to some of your most interesting sexual escapades. So how did you do it? Were you able to make even an attempt? It's a mission so covert and clandestine that it caught, even the most experienced and all future sex could be at stake.

It's a hefty price but well worth the bang.

If you're looking for a way to break the customary rules of overnight courtesy, there's no need to break it all the way. You can still maintain a level of respect.

To your girlfriend's parents' house.

The next day you will arise from your little couch bed like a new man.

So have a fantastic Christmas break. Cal Poly. Try and sneak in a little holiday sex.

There are other ways to enjoy wildlife

Editor,

I am writing in response to Barry Hayes' most recent column: "Gay marriage is a matter of civil rights (Dec. 2)." For those of you who don't know, Hayes is the "other" Politics columnist whose name only two from obscurity long enough to be spit out of the lips of his more reasonable readership. Hayes insists the argument of gay marriage is "strictly a civil rights issue." Hayes backing is an effort to white southerners fighting to keep a segregated lifestyle. His argument progresses solidly from his assumption that "homosexuality is an identity that cannot be changed," confounds and#plt lasse.

Another example is the argument of gay marriage "is strictly a civil rights issue." Hayes backing is an effort to white southerners fighting to keep a segregated lifestyle. His argument progresses solidly from his assumption that "homosexuality is an identity that cannot be changed," confounds and confusing the deeply held moral framework dictated by Beanie Babies and Disney movies. People can choose homosexuality. There are other ways to enjoy wildlife.

Andrew Miller is a mechanical engineering senior.

Hunting is a legitimate pastime

Editor,

Pat Murda pronounced his death sentence on coyote, Ben Potter in "Hunting shouldn't be for the faint-hearted (Dec. 3)." Murda uses the "not against hunting" line to make his point.

The next day you will arise from your little couch bed like a new man, refreshed and invigorated. You will take home with you to college the knowledge that at one point in your life you were a bronzed outlaw, breaking all the rules of etiquette and good behavior. It's also like lightning fast, like a pony on fast-forward. But, hey, it's still sex, and even better, Fops was only a few feet away.

The next day you will arise from your little couch bed like a new man, refreshed and invigorated. You will take home with you to college the knowledge that at one point in your life you were a bronzed outlaw, breaking all the rules of etiquette and good behavior. It's also like lightning fast, like a pony on fast-forward. But, hey, it's still sex, and even better, Fops was only a few feet away.

Unfortunately, the actual sex is always uneventful when sneaking it in at your girlfriend's parents' house. Usually your face is squashed to one of the most exciting sexual activities we had to let our guard down. Meeting Moms and Pops for the first time in a little time, a little before the Inquisition, only more important because of the sex life is at stake. You'll have to try to绰 up these three steps lower on the Abercrombie scale to give the impression that the sex wasn't as 'good.'

Most parents think their kids are still virginal and innocent. If they are ever to make an attempt. It's a mission so covert and clandestine that it caught, even the most experienced and all future sex could be at stake.

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Opinion

Surgery makes feet fabulous

More power to those who want pretty feet.

Modern medicine has done it again. A new trend in cosmetic surgery is fast becoming popular throughout the country. Breast augmentation and liposuction have become common, but cosmetic foot surgery is becoming more frequent for people all over the country. Believe it or not, it is not a joke.

Dr. Suzanne Levine, a podiatric surgeon at New York Presbyterian Hospital, was quoted by WHCD TV as saying, "We had one model that wanted liposuction on the toe." The model literally wanted her toes to be thinner. In some ways, this revolution isn't too surprising. As the fashion magazines have interest in shoe giants like Manolo Blahnik and Jimmy Choo, companies that are notorious for making the most beautiful, dainty shoes suitable only for the most perfect feet. There are also constant feet references in trends shows like "Sex and the City," "Will & Grace" and "Newlyweds.

Unfortunately, I have been seeing feet with great looking feet, but hey, I would definitely buy into getting my feet fixed if they looked like they took a beating. After reading numerous testimonies and doctors' accounts, this procedure seems to have a short recovery time. Post-operative recovery seems to be limited to only a few days with your feet elevated and possible infection, swelling or bleeding.

There are many cosmetic surgery opponents condemning those who decide to go under the knife for vanity reasons. Franckly they have no right to point the finger at someone who is doing something for personal benefit. It's her or his holy money and time, to get over it and let some pay to have more attractive feet. Vanity will always play a huge role in the way people think, and feel about themselves. Cosmetic foot surgery is just another request.

Who knows, a year from now there might be a procedure to make fingers look thinner and smaller to dawn beautiful diamonds from Jacob the Jeweler. It's your world, live how you want.

Amanda Hippa is a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily staff writer.

Loosen the Bible belt

From Republican politicians promoting the pro-life judicial nominees from the top federal courts to virtually everyone in Congress promoting the exclusion of the word "God's" in the Pledge of Allegiance, elected officials know that social issues provide great opportunities to stand up and kick principled.

And even when politicians would prefer to avoid such concerns — as many say is the case now with presidential candidates and the issue of gay marriage —they can’t quite be pushed beneath the surface. These issues are flashy and easy to understand, and most people are fairly familiar with the facts surrounding them.

So it’s no wonder that social issues — abortion, gay rights, gun control, religion, in the public sphere — enrage prime time attention in the national political debate and here, to a degree, come to define the divide between the Democratic and Republican parties.

And it’s also no wonder that such a divide would shape up to be largely geographic. The Northern states of the country are urban places that are much more urban, ethnically diverse and less religious than, well, the bulk of the area in between.

A quick glance at the electoral map of the 2000 presidential election makes it clear that politically, we are a nation divided.

Commentary

The reason for this sharp divide is not that Republicans are repurposing policies that benefit to the "red states" and Democrats to the "blue." In fact, the reverse seems to be true. States that get back less than they pay in taxes overwhelmingly voted in favor of the Democratic ticket in 2000, while those that go in government services than they paid for supported the Republican party, whose economic policy is geared to cut down on those services.

As New York Times columnist, Thomas Friedman, points out this year's election, in which the geographic divide looked just like it did in 2000, "Some people — either in New Jersey, Mississippi or both — voted against their economic interests."

So what it boils down to is that people are voting for the candidates whose social values they most identify with.

I went to a College Democrats' Conference this past weekend, and was hosted in the New York University dorms by two fresh faces. As I looked off to the opening programs, one joined me, but the other, who was from Mississippi, simply said "I'm pro-life," and smacked me in the face. There could be an endless deliberation behind his lack of his interest, but I suspect that this Limus test-ride approach is very indicative of a lot of the electorate. And given the relative importance of abortion to national security, economic policy, and the environment — on which my host's thoughts really could have been anywhere — it's unfortunate.

Parties have become identifiable by their stances on issues that don't affect many people over the course of their entire lives than on those that affect everyone every day.

Economic issues are not only more relevant to society on a regular basis, but address the more relevant differences that actually do exist between people. They divide people in every state — rather than pitting New England and the West Coast against Dixie and the Heartland.

I think we would be better off seeing a shift in the debate from whether gays should be getting married to whether workers shouldn't be getting exploited.

In my opinion, an emphasis on economic policy issues would strongly favor Democrats. While a majority of Americans may be socially conservative, I think a majority, too, are economically progressive — whether they know it or not. Giving the free market workers, transportation projects help those who can't afford their own private jets, public schools help — you get the idea.

Of course, very successful business owners and other wealthy individuals would by and large, be better off without these things. The free market serves them just fine, and they are certainly entitled to vote for whichever will saddled them with less "confiscatory" taxes. I don't think we should be disgusted by junkies, or even occasional marijuana users. They pay taxes, they have the right to vote to eliminate things from society by force.

Eric Blevins is a writer for Sidelines at Middle Tennessee State University.

Just say yes to drug education

The hypocrisy and immorality of the U.S. government's drug policy never ceases to amaze me. The degree to which the American people have been brainwashed to just accept this is almost beyond belief.

Tobacco and alcohol kill hundreds of thousands of people every year.

Commentary

Marijuana has not killed one person ever. How can people just accept this hand that their government has dealt them? The government is obviously not interested in the lives of other people. They spray harmful chemicals on the Canadians, they smoke pot, and even occasionally marijuana is allowed. This is the policy of a government that preaches equality for all people. But they do the opposite.

Remember, citizens that believe in true democracy and the environment — on which my host's thoughts really could have been anywhere — it's unfortunate.

Medicare and Social Security offer to make most Americans' old age far less scary, but a new one to scare people as well. The free market serves them just fine, and they are certainly entitled to vote for whichever will saddled them with less "confiscatory" taxes.

Economic policy is geared to cut down on those services. As New York Times columnist, Thomas Friedman, points out this year's election, in which the geographic divide looked just like it did in 2000, "Some people — either in New Jersey, Mississippi or both — voted against their economic interests.

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"When you spell check 'homo-eroticus,' it suggests 'homo-eroticus.'"
Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz  No. 1023

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<td>Sign of contempt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>&quot;That's it!&quot;</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Eiffel Tower's birthplace</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>46-Down's reward</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>No friendly fellow</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Saturn satellite</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Kind of cell</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Auto traction</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Improver</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>It's sacred to someone</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Montezuma II, for one</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Train underground</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>(See on)</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Stone</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Financial freedom</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>RV contents?</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Set</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Expression?</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>One that cues plays by</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>One of the Von Trapp girls</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Before, in Bogotá</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Word said before you go?</td>
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<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Kind of radio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Pianist/harmonica</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Israeli president</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Chicago Symphony director, 1969-91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>51 Word said before you go?</td>
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<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>&quot;The Lost World&quot; menace, briefly</td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>756-1143</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>49 Chicago</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>53 Pasternak</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>52 Kind of radio</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>51 Word said before you go?</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
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<td>41</td>
<td>One may sit for a master</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>46-Down's reward</td>
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<td>43</td>
<td>Timothy's monument</td>
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<td>It's sacred to someone</td>
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<td>Connecticut senator Christopher</td>
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<td>52 Kind of radio</td>
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<td>Jerusalem airport local</td>
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For answers, call 1-800-585-5656, $1.20 a minute, or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5004.

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Wishing for X's and O's for the Xmas season

Every year, it’s a Thanksgiving tradition for my grandmother to ask me for a Christmas list. Every year, it’s a Thanksgiving tradition for me to forget to give her one. My routine did not change this year.

To appease my lapse in greed, I now offer my beloved list. I’m asking for things this year that my grandmother can’t give just by herself.

Sure, I could use a sweater and a pair of Ray Bans — but there are also things I’d like to see happen in the Cal Poly sports world.

So what do I want around here? First and foremost, I want the Cal Poly men’s basketball team to qualify for the NCAA Tournament this March. I want a Mustang squad with heart, determination, five talented starters, a deep bench and a golden opportunity.

Guard Catrina Taylor is the lone senior on the team. She is fourth on the squad in points per game and one junior college transfer, junior forward Kennedy Green-Davis.

Cal Poly has 11 players on its roster who did not play basketball a year ago, including eight freshmen, a pair of redshirts, Paterson and Taylor, and one junior college transfer, junior forward Kennedy Green-Davis.

Cal Poly will break a new next week for Fall Quarter finals, returning to action for the first time after four straight road games on Dec. 13, at Loyola Marymount. The Mustangs also visit Texas Pan American, the University of San Diego and Portland State, with two losses at home and a pair of Ray Bans — but there are also things I’d like to see happen in the Cal Poly sports world.

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Commentary

I want to bring national recognition to our program. Few people outside of Cal Poly really seem to know how talented this team is. Besides wins, I also want the basketball team and other teams at Cal Poly to get a Fac-10 caliber arena, or at least one that has more than the 3,000 or so seats in the aging Mustangs Gym. There’s a certain charm to that place, but for our athletics programs to grow, our athletes’ capacity has to as well.

It’s not like football has a stadium that’s any less archaic. I want the metamorphosis of Mustang Stadium into Mustang Memorial Stadium to continue on schedule. The expanded stadium will ultimately have around 12,000 seats and has been advertised to feature a tribute to the members of the 1969 team who died in a plane crash.

The first phase of the stadium is supposed to be ready for the start of the 2004 season. I’m keeping my fingers crossed.

I’m also keeping my fingers crossed for the future playing options of several seniors from this year’s team. I’d love to turn on a TV showing a game from the NFL, NFL Europe or even the Arena Football League and see quarterback Chris Peterson, cornerback David Richardson and linebacker Ray Thompson with a spot somewhere.

I’m grateful this year I didn’t get to see former Mustangs Adam Herring and Vaughan Jarrett suit up as teammates in the AFL, but the more in the pro ranks, the merrier I will be.

I’ve talked about my wish list. Women’s basketball has a pretty disappointing season thus far, with a 13-16 record, and I am sad to see seniorbasket player Molly Duncan, libero Gwen Hubbard and transferring junior Jessica Despenosh leave Mustang Gym. I haven’t talked to any of the women, but I know how disheartening a season filled with injury and missed opportunity can be.