AIDS rise seen in black students

By Daniel Q. Haney
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — A sudden, surprising increase in HIV infections among male black students in North Carolina, said Peter Leone, HIV medical chief at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has been discovered among male black college students in North Carolina, and officials fear the same is probably happening across the South.

The upsurge is driven by young men having multiple sex partners with other men. Typically they do not consider themselves to be gay or bisexual, and officials fear the same is probably happening across the South.

"It's a public health emergency. I don't know any other way to put it," said Dr. Peter Leone, HIV medical director at the state Health Department.

The increase was first noticed in late 2002, and officials now believe it began in mid-2001 and is still continuing.

The high rate of AIDS infections among U.S. blacks has been one of the most striking difficulties of AIDS prevention. Blacks are 11 times more likely than white Americans to get AIDS. Even within the minority population, they account for 39 percent of AIDS cases and 34 percent of AIDS-related deaths.

Among black men, like whites, the leading cause of infection is sex with other men. Experts have long lamented the high rate of risky sex among gay black men. Poverty is often listed as a strong contributor, as the new findings among relatively well-off college students were unexpected.

"We are very concerned about it," said Dr. Ron Valdiserri, deputy HIV director at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Most Americans would not think about college students as a high-risk group."

Indeed, a CDC study on 10 campuses in the 1990s found a very low infection rate.

The North Carolina researchers found 34 newly infected male college students over the past three years, 73 of them black. Only one black student admitted using injected drugs, and just two said they had sex only with women. The rest apparently were infected through sex with men.

"The concern is this is our best and brightest within the minority population who are coming down with a life-long and potentially lethal infection," Leone said.

AIDS is on top

Cal Poly is on top

Freshmen who have the highest percentage of both English and math proficiency among the 23 CSU campuses

By Anastasia Killham

After receiving word of college acceptance, students must take both the English Placement Test and Entry Level Mathematics Examination before they can register for classes. Students who have scored well on SATs, ACTs or College Board Advanced Placement Program exams can be exempt from taking the placement tests, according to Cal Poly entrance documents.

Administrators use exam results to determine students' future placement. Depending on these results, students are assigned to either specific courses that are specific to their individual skill level. This creates a standard, so higher scoring students do not leave behind other entry-level students when college begins.

Cal Poly's policy requires freshmen with less than CSU-acceptable scores to complete remedial or developmental coursework within their first year of attendance in order to avoid disqualification from university enrollment.

Once enrolled in remedial coursework, students must prove math competency before they are allowed to progress.

"Our remedial courses in math do have some flexibility. Students could move upward after showing competency," said Entry Level Mathematics coordinator Sherry Doll. To be bumped up, students must retake the ELM, she said.

Students killed in crash

Students killed in crash

PARIS, Texas (AP) — A tractor-trailer slammed into a van carrying members of a junior college basketball team, killing two players and injuring all seven of the van's other passengers.

Justice of the Peace Ernie Sparks said the van was "hunted to pieces" in the Monday night accident, which happened as the van was making a U-turn.

"The ones who were in there, I don't know who they were, but they crawled out," Sparks said.

"All the windows were gone. It was lying on its side with the top side up."

The Navarro College players were returning in two vans from Corsicana, Texas, where they had played Paris Junior College earlier in the evening.

The first van had made a U-turn on U.S. 77 just inside city limits and the second was turning to follow when it was struck broadside, said police spokesman Todd Varner.

Varner said investigators had not yet been able to view the scene.

According to Mustang Daily, students who have scored well on SATs, ACTs or College Board Advanced Placement Program exams can be exempt from taking the placement tests, according to Cal Poly entrance documents. Students who have scored well on SATs, ACTs or College Board Advanced Placement Program exams can be exempt from taking the placement tests, according toCal Poly entrance documents. Administrators use exam results to determine students' future placement. Depending on these results, students are assigned to either specific courses that are specific to their individual skill level. This creates a standard, so higher scoring students do not leave behind other entry-level students when college begins.

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See PROFICIENCY, page 2
**PLAGIARISM**

continued from page 1

General Council for the California State University. "All this does is say that it is a student who is doing it, Cal Poly can take disciplinary action against the student."

According to the 1773 Assembly Bill passed in 2000, an article resides in The Chronicle of Higher Education in Oct. 1, 1999 titled "Parlor Class Notes on the Web—Are Companies Stealing Lectures?" stated that "at least three commercial Internet sites have begun to feature notes taken in classes on dozens of campuses."

Robert Gorman, a professor of law at the University of Pennsylvania, was quoted in the article as saying: "For people to come along who don't ask for permission, who do not pay for permission, and then make a profit off of what is the product of another person's mind is outrageous morally and infringement legally."

"Any student charged with this violation has the right to a notice of the violation, a suspension, or article," Hewes said. "They should have the right to know that when they publish a book or lecture, that it's not going to be used by other people. Professors don't make a lot of money and it costs a lot of people to pursue a lawsuit. This has the Cal State system backing them."

**PASSPORT**

continued from page 1

The two-for-one deals at food places also come in handy when you want to get lunch with a friend. "The two-for-one deals at food places also come in handy when you want to get lunch with a friend," Tess Greenberg said.

Recreation administration junior Tess Greenberg said she uses her passport mostly at clothing stores. "I have a mini-Schnauzer-Chihuahua named Ripley I bought him a cute collar and a really nice dog bowl set," Greenberg said. "Because I got the collar and I had the Passport card I got a free dog ID tag, too."

Recreation administration junior Tess Greenberg said she uses her Passport mostly at clothing stores. "In some stores you can get 15 percent off the entire sale," Greenberg said. "The two-for-one deals at food places also come in handy when you want to get lunch with a friend."

Increasing in usage from its first year — Passport sold 65,000 copies in 2003 — Passport is now estimating to sell more than 122,000 copies in 2004. The San Luis Obispo County Visitors and Conference Bureau, which spends around $200,000 each year to promote itself to San Luis Obispo, has also set aside 10,000 copies to give to tourists visiting the area.

The new 2004 edition also includes a passport guide to the merchants showcased in Passport," Damien said. "Customers can take the passport guide with them and have the full site book to use at home."

Beside saving people money, Passport donates a portion of all book sales to the American Red Cross. Passport also works with Cal Poly sororities and fraternities and gives them up to 30 percent of any profits they make from selling the books. Passport guides can be purchased at the El Coral Bookstore, Borders Books Monte De Café, Scolari's, Spencer's, Market, local Chamber of Commerce, and at many of the businesses featured in Passport.
SAN DIEGO — Environmental groups asked a federal judge Tuesday to halt construction of a new border fence on the U.S.- Mexican border south of San Diego. The Sierra Club, San Diego Audubon Society, San Diego Barkeepers and other members of the Department of Homeland Security violated the National Environmental Policy Act by failing to fully consider potential harm to the environment.

The border administration centers the fence a path between is needed to improve security on the westernmost five-mile left of the U.S.-Mexico border. Environmental on the project would move just south of a 2,551-acre federally protected estuary that is a refuge for threatened endangered fish and plants.

PHOENIX — Catholic Bishop Thomas O'Brien conceded Tuesday that he asked about getting his car's windshield fixed even though he knew police were investigating whether the vehicle was involved in a fatal accident.

"I was interested in getting the windshield fixed at some time," he said on his second and final day of testimony. "There is no way I would have gotten that windshield fixed that day.

A diocese secretary previously testified that O'Brien called about the windshield the Monday after the accident.

Prosecutors have been trying to build a case that O'Brien knew or should have known that he hit a pedestrian on the night of June 14.

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — A meeting between Wyoming's governor and the head of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Tuesday failed to resolve differences over wolf management in Wyoming, leaving in limbo efforts to remove the predator from the endangered species list.

At issue is the federal agency's rejection last month of Wyoming's plan for managing descendants of wolves introduced in Yellowstone National Park in 1995 and 1996.

Over the last nine years, wolf numbers have expanded rapidly, causing concern among ranchers and hunters because of increased attacks on live stock and wildlife.

Due to the success of the wolf-recovery program, the Interior Department wants to move federal protection and turn over management to the states surrounding Yellowstone. However, the agency wants assurances from Wyoming, Idaho and Montana that they will allow wolves to maintain a viable population.

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — A $2 billion lawsuit accusing the nation's largest beef packer of price manipulation went to the jury Tuesday.

The suit accuses Tyson Fresh Meats Inc., of using contracts with select ranchers to create a captive supply of cattle that enabled the company to drive prices down. The company in closing arguments maintained that it supply and drive down the beef market.

Concluding a month-long trial, each side criticized the other's failure to produce concrete evidence and witnesses — even though eight years have passed since six cattlemen filed a class-action lawsuit on behalf of some 30,000 producers across the country who sold cattle to Tyson, then known as IBP Inc., in the cash market between February 1994 and October 2002.

— Associated Press

News

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College Roundup

DENVER — Already mired in a scandal that includes rape allegations, the University of Colorado suffered another blow Tuesday when an adult entertainment company confirmed that football players hired strippers for recruiting parties as recently as two weeks ago.

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— Associated Press

World Roundup

SKANDARYAH, Iraq — A suicide bomber blew up a truckload of explosives Tuesday outside a police station south of Baghdad, killing up to 53 people and wounding scores — including would-be Iraqi recruits lined up to apply for jobs.

The blast in this predominantly Shi'ite Muslim city followed the disclosure Monday of a letter from an anti-American operative to al Qaeda's leadership asking for help in launching attacks against the U.S. and the future Iraqi government.

Many angry townspeople blamed the Americans for the blast, and Iraqi police had to fire weapons in the air to disperse dozens of Iraqis who stormed the shattered remains of the station hours after the explosion.

"This suicide was fed from a U.S. source," said Hadi Moby Ali, 60. "The Americans want to terrorize our entity apart.

No U.S. or other coalition forces were hurt, said Lt. Col. Dan Williams, a military spokesman in Baghdad.

ALGIERS, Algeria — OPEC decided Tuesday to cut its excess production of crude immediately and lower output quotas by 1 million barrels a day effective April 1 — a surprise move that could mean mean prices for gasoline and oil will remain high.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries expects the combined cuts would reduce actual production by about 10 percent or 2.5 million barrels a day.

OPEC agreed to the two-stage reduction in output to try to keep oil prices stable when warmer weather erodes demand in major importing countries.

The oil group has often urged its members to comply better with their agreed quotas, but its decision to make an additional cut in its official target of 24.5 million barrels was unexpected.

PARIS — France took a decisive step Tuesday toward banning Islamic head scarves in public schools, with lawmakers overwhelmingly approving a government's drive to preserve French secular traditions from Muslim fundamentalism.

The ban on religious attire in classrooms, which also includes Jewish skullcaps and large Christian crosses, was approved 454-36 despite protests and criticism from around the world. The measure goes only next month to the Senate, where there is little opposition.

The ban was expected to take effect in September. Applying the law could be the real test. Critics say it's too vague and will inflame anti-French feelings among the nation's large Muslim minority.

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates — An Iranian plane carrying migrant workers back from a visa-renewing journey to a Gulf island crashed Tuesday while approaching the airport, killing 43 of the 46 people aboard and narrowly missing nearby homes.

The oil group has often urged its members to comply better with their agreed quotas, but its decision to make an additional cut in its official target of 24.5 million barrels was unexpected.

— Associated Press
**Bush adopts mingling pattern**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** — The strip malls, mom-and-pop restaurants and big-box stores are usually just part of the blurred landscape President Bush sees from his limousine when he sweeps into town. For three years, he and his motorcade blew past it all.

But this election year, Bush has taken a sudden interest in the people and places in between the airport and his speech sites.

Monday marked the fourth time in 2 1/2 weeks in which Bush and the rest of his motorcade pulled over for a "spontaneous" visit with some local citizens.

This time, it was.junit Pro Shop Outdoor World, a sporting emporium where Bush shopped about 100 customers in the shoes, socks and fishing supplies aisles. "Which shoe do you prefer?" the president asked.

Last week, it was Sticky Fingers restaurant in Charleston, S.C. Jan. 29, it was Swim Chocolates in Murrells Inlet, N.J. Jan. 22, it was the Nutmeg Fanta Cafe just outside Roswell, N.M.

"It's a good opportunity to visit with Americans and get some good food." White House spokesman Scott McClellan said. Or, in Missouri, to get some worms.

The stops do allow Bush to mingle with ordinary citizens, but they are hardly spontaneous. The Secret Service lays the groundwork days in advance, in cooperation with White House officials. The business owners know the president is coming, though the customers at Jutil Pro Shops Outdoor World didn't.

White House officials strain to recall when Bush last did such an "off-the-record" appearance before the first campaign abruptly became part of his tour nine months last month. On a couple of occasions, he has dropped by the gas and coffee joint a few miles from his Crawford, Texas, ranch.

But today, nine months before the election, these visits have become a fixture of the president's travels, his shadowing the Democratic presidential primaries, dropping into states just days after Democrats voted. The "spontaneous visit" strategy guarantees Bush a little extra news media exposure in those states, where voters have heard a steady drumbeat of criticism directed at him.

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Sacramento band keeps it energetic Everyday

• Everyday Joe mixes alternative and roots rock styles in quest for a recording contract

By Amy Kocot
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

While some bands on stage focus solely on instrumentation as the audience members plunge their hands into their pockets, Everyday Joe prides itself on breaking the boredom.

"People can tell that we are enjoying ourselves up there," Orlando said. "We have more stage antics and energy when we perform than most bands, so I think we have a lot of talent."

They describe themselves as jam-oriented and said they have a hard time classifying their music because of its unique vibe.

The band members said they are confident in their ability to perform and plan on taking their talent to a place where they can become recognized when they move to West Hollywood in the coming weeks.

Drummer and backup vocalist John Testa said the band has its sights set on obtaining a recording contract in Hollywood by having the "right" people listen to their music.

"Living and playing in Sacramento, we could only go so far with our music," Testa said. "But Hollywood is where the record label people are and that is where we have to go if we want to pursue a career in music."

The hand is humble in its attempts to become a big name in the music industry, and Testa said they are not trying to be millionaires, but they just want give people some good music they can relax to.

At Cal Poly, the band members said they look forward to having a big crowd and seeing people sitting around and enjoying the music or even studying to its laid back nature.

"It's not 'jump around' music," Orlando said. "It's 'sitting down and enjoying' music."

Everyday Joe came to Cal Poly more than a year ago and said they were pleased with the turnout, but has high expectations for what their next performance will bring.

They will also play at Moto Bay's Otter Rock Café at 885 Embarcadero from 7 to 11 p.m. on Friday.

Orlando said when they perform, they always try to change the flavor of their songs so audiences never hear a song the same way twice.

For avid fans, the hand has a Web-site running at www.everydayjoe.com where visitors can check out pictures, biographies and upcoming performances of the band, as well as buy the band's CDs.

As for their long-term goals, Testa said they plan on being comfortable in the music business and making money from playing and entertaining fans until they are veterans in the industry.
By Rebecca Aраноау
(COLUMBIA DAILY SPECTATOR, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY)

NEW YORK — Mike Vassarhelyi is one of the most recognizable faces on campus. But for the next two weeks, the Columbia College Student Council president is hoping to be just another anonymous student.

Vassarhelyi, along with 200 other students, is playing Assassins, the game of m o c k.

Domingue and Moore under the alias "generic" rap project. They decided to do a creative project because of their involvement in writing and producing legitimate rap projects, but "generic Rap Song" was their first collaboration. Domingue said that as engineers, they decided to do a creative project as their final exercise instead of a 15-page paper in order to avoid writing. The idea of penning a satirical rap song was based on their shared dislike for mainstream rap.

"It's too easy to write," Domingue said, and the pair agrees that most mainstream rap is "easy to write" and unoriginal.

"A lot of the instruments aren't musically grounded," Domingue added.

To show that mainstream rap is generally formulaic and the same, Domingue and Moore set out to prove that they, too, could successfully write a "generic" rap hit. After obtaining permission from the professor to work together, they wrote and recorded the song, a process that took them about seven hours.

The song features the duo impersonating several familiar hip-hop artists rapping about the reasons for their success and rapping styles. Ja Rule admits he is a lay lyricist, 50 Cent credits Eminem and his gun-shot wounds for making him famous and DMX describes living the "thug life in the hood." Meanwhile, P. Diddy repeats "Bad Boys!" throughout the song and J. Lo sings the hook in an off-pitch falsetto.

Domingue and Moore also made a music video for "Generic Rap Song" featuring Princeton students dressed as the rap stars. The video makes fun of the artists and also parodies the settings and props used in rap videos.

After completing the project, Domingue and Moore posted the song and video on their Web site, www.princeton.edu/~moore/punint, and sent the link to 50 of their friends. Somehow, Domingue said, "It just got all over the Internet."

They began receiving hundreds of emails raving about the song and some emails from fans of the artists they parodied. From the Web site, "generic Rap Song" spread to humor sites like CollegeHumor.com and AlbrightOnline.com. While sifting through the emails, Domingue and Moore came across one from John 2001: A Top 40 radio station in Missouri, which said the station was playing the song and asking for an interview with P. Unit.

Domingue and Moore appeared on Q101.5's morning show and spoke with the DJs about their song. They also had heard that the song has been played on other radio stations in Philadelphia and across the country.

The success of their song surprised Domingue and Moore. "We never expected it to blow up," said Domingue. "It's just gotten all over the Internet."

"It just got all over the Internet."

Domingue and Moore are in the process of joining the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers in order to get their song copyrighted and receive royalties. Domingue and Moore are all engineers. The pair is also encouraging friends and Web site visitors to vote copyrighted and receive royalties.

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Although they didn't win, Domingue and Moore said that this wasn't because they expected to make much money from royalties but because they wanted "to frame the check for six cents that we get.

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Opinion

Honor Black History Month with action

When Carter G. Woodson created Black History Week back in 1925, it could have been imagined that it would develop in the United States more than 75 years later.

Couched during the height of American segregation, Woodson not only meant for this week to be a celebration of the achievements of African descent but also a time of renewal in the fight for justice and equality.

Unfortunately, just as most educated in the United States, I did not receive news of the full utility of Black History Month.

Each February, when I was in school, we simply began to talk about the peace for which some others fought. The silence of good of Rosa Parks or the athletic prowess of Jackie Robinson. During the subject, with the possible exclusion of math, was given an African spin, and every lesson was woven in with the teacher to ask a question from the newly ordered Black History Month quiz-game.

To create an aesthetic consistent with the month's theme, walls usually featuring chipped paint, cracks and old hand-painted posters are taped with pictures of African heroes and Kente cloth.

Not to be confined within the walls of school, Black History Month pervaded my most intimate moments at home. I could still be cuddling up with my mother on the couch, watching one of my frequent episodes of "The Price of a Penny," former starring Rosewood and the Civil Rights Movement. I bickered at the call of two pieces decorating the legs of old-fashioned church ladies as they marched through Selma, Montgomery and Birmingham, Ala., with King.

All the while, my mom — who grew up in the South during those turbulent times — sat with a consistent look on her face as she asked, "Have we truly overcome?"

As I fast forward to my adulthood, my eyes pass over police beatings on the and off camera, racial stencils, a stalled presidential election, countless U.S. pro-wars over the control of resources in the lands of others, welfare reform — which exacerbated poverty situations for many — and tougher laws on juvenile delinquents, which have sent many of my peers to the penitentiary forever.

The US does not have the right or duty to be the American tribal leader of the world, as we have chosen to do in other countries and among other people. The United States should not have the right or duty to be the strong-armed watchdog for the world, especially when, as a country, it possesses only the largest stockpile of weapons of mass destruction itself.

Though Bush recently justified his decisions to go to war and Rumsfeld simply justified his decisions for their companies, the United States now has fewer immediate allies and more international distrust.

The decisions of these political leaders ultimately led the US to war.

In the current case of the war with Iraq, head policy makers should be made to explain why on of their given reasons for entering into war has not yet been uncovered or even been supported by overwhelming evidence.

Gun control logic is flawed

David Kirk’s attempt to validate the need for gun control in his letter "Gun control now necessary" (Feb. 6) fails on many points.

He will only examine the most blatant flaws in his logic and disregard the ideological significance of what’s at stake.

I’m pointing out that he tries to support his stance with a logical fallacy that’s always studied in rhetoric: the slippery slope. Any gun ownership inevitably leads to rampant destruction. Needless to say, this is not at all based on fact.

Kirk’s brilliantly solid solution to this is, naturally, to "ban firearms." I’d just like to point out that a good portion of firearm homicides are gang- or drug-related. How about coming up with some legislation that solves the complicated problem of poverty and unemployment in America instead of expressing fear-based gun owners who do no harm?

The fundamental problem with gun control that Kirk ignores, like most proponents do, is that it does not come about ownership of "dangerous" firearms among criminals that use them. They obtain them illegally no matter what the laws are. The statistics show quite clearly that gun ownership is directly related to the high incidence of homicide in America — a far deeper social issue that no local government can control.

It may sound paranoid, but Benjamin Franklin was right: "They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary security deserve neither liberty n or safety."

Letters to the editor

"Monologues" can empower

I want to call upon all Cal Poly men to speak up for themselves. I believe that the debased and hateful attitude that James Whitaker has toward women is representative of the majority of you men.

Men who honor and cherish women — please speak up! Send in your own opinion piece to let James and all women know you exist and are alive and strong.

The reality is the existence of WMD's anywhere, including the United States.

Declaring war is serious business. There is little or no room for error when technology has evolved to allow us to create weapons that can cause mass destruction.

Right now, President George W. Bush, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and CIA Director George Tenet, along with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, are being asked to explain their decision-making processes with regard to determining and communicating the actual threat of weapons of mass destruction.

The decision makers of these political leaders ultimately led the US to war.

While conceiving of any appropriate rationale for entering into war seems almost impossible, the leaders who sent America there should expect to extensively defend their reasoning and be able to support their conclusions with actual evidence.

In the current case of the war with Iraq, head policy makers should be made to explain why one of their given reasons for entering into war has not yet been uncovered or even been supported by overwhelming evidence.

The Unites States should not have the right or duty to be the American tribal leader of the world, as we have chosen to do in other countries and among other people. The United States now has fewer immediate allies and more international distrust.

These alleged weapons, which were a key-motivating factor for America’s sizable investment.

However, they simply have not been found.

Monologues can empower

For years, I've been nervous — afraid of my sexuality and the connotation of the word "cunt." Then I actually went to see the show and was forever changed.

The show is a Knit empowerment to let James and us women know that we exist and are alive and strong.

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States scrap unfunded No Child education mandates

Utah first state to vote against Bush legislation, blaming costs

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The Utah House voted Tuesday to become the first state to scrap No Child Left Behind Act education mandates that would cost more than the federal government is willing to pay.

Republicans dropped a threat to abandon the Bush administration program altogether because that would have cost the state half of its annual federal education funding, or nearly $107 million. Instead, state representatives voted 64-9 Tuesday to comply with only those mandates "where there is adequate federal funding."

"What I think was a well intended effort of government has had some serious consequences," said Republican state Rep. Margaret Dayton, the measure's sponsor. "We gradually give up our state sovereignty when we accept our tax money back into the state with strings attached to it."

It was the strongest position yet taken by lawmakers in 11 states who have introduced legislation or nonbinding resolutions challenging the 2002 education act, which has no state education officials meeting deadlines for near flawless performance in student testing and huge leaps in teacher credentials.

The bill still requires state Senate approval and the governor's signature.

It wasn't clear which — if any — of the 45 No Child mandates are fully funded, and the U.S. Education Department has warned Utah that picking and choosing mandates could affect future funding for other education programs Utah wouldn't want to give up.

In a Friday letter delivered to Utah's state schools superintendent, U.S. Deputy Education Secretary Eugene W. Holcomb said those could include professional help for teachers, technology grants and money for training preschoolers, alternate programs, dropout schools and home instruction.

"These are resources for our most disadvantaged children," Ron Tomalis, a senior adviser to Education Secretary Rod Paige, said at the Utah Capitol last week.

Utah is taking the lead in the minor rebellion against a program championed by President Bush. Among other states talking about dropping out:

• In Virginia, the GOP-controlled House of Delegates voted 95-1 last month in favor of a resolution calling on Congress to exempt Virginia without penalty from "the most sweeping intrusions into state and local control of education in the history of the United States."

• In Hawaii, representatives approved a resolution 11 months ago asking state education administrators to consider giving up No Child funding until Congress provides more money.

• In New Hampshire, the state is fighting the Education Department over who pays for student testing after legislation reduced state funding for testing to just $1 in their budget.

Utah is at the lead of states challenging, questioning, appealing for more money or carefully tabulating the costs of complying with an act that requires virtually all students in the country to read and do math at grade level by 2014.

Federal officials tried to dissuade the Utah House from the action. Five administration officials held a series of closed- and open meetings with Utah's top policy makers, "but didn't come out to negotiate or compromise," Dayton said.

That left many state Republicans still hurdle to which they called a federal takeover of education leaving states to pay the bill.

Utah isn't unanimous on opting out. The state school board voted against the idea on Feb. 11, and urban school districts don't want to give up any money.

"We get $88 million a year from the federal government that would be endangered if we opt out. That's a huge amount of money," said state education chief David Nelken, "that represents about $10 million teachers' salaries," said school board member Doug Nelson. "The people who would be most hurt are the children, who would have dramatically lower class sizes."

Man pleads guilty to threat

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A San Francisco man has pleaded guilty to mailing an anthrax threat to the federal immigration service, the U.S. Attorney's Office said.

Mohammed Laiter, 32, was indicted in August on one count of threatening to use a biological agent as a weapon. He faces a possible sentence of life in prison and a $250,000 fine.

Laiter admitted Monday to mailing a letter containing white powder and stated "Anthrax" (sic), "Home based and destroy America" (sic), and "McGurk" (sic).

When the letter arrived on April 11, 2002 at the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Immigration Enforcement, the mailroom was evacuated and employees who had come in contact with the letter were isolated. But tests found that the powder was not anthrax.

Laiter is scheduled to appear before U.S. District Chief Judge Maxine B. 19 Hall Patel in San Francisco for sentencing on May 17.
State reorganization effort takes shape; Democrats back bonds

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's plans to streamline state government moved forward Tuesday with a call to state workers to begin offering their ideas and a June deadline when recommendations would be presented to the public.

Schwarzenegger promised during his State of the State speech last month to "mow up" the bureaucracy in an effort to remove waste and fraud. Administration officials announced Monday the opening of a campaign office for the Californian Performance Review as well as a Web site and hotline.

Chon Cutierrez, currently the interim director of the Department of Motor Vehicles and 30-year state employee, will lead the effort along with the help of Billy Hamilton, deputy state comptroller of Texas, who has been involved with such reviews in the past.

Supporters say the window for change is open but voters expect results.

"We are truly at a historic point," said Paul Miner, the chief deputy cabinet secretary assigned to the program, who noted that voters called for big changes in state government through the Oct. 7 recall and Schwarzenegger believes they are ready to embrace such changes.

Although many efficiency improvements have been tried and failed, Miner called this one different because it will combine state workers with private-sector experts to find ways to save money. This effort, he said, also has the support of the governor and legislative leaders.

Organizers say they will enlist support of about 150 workers from all parts of state government. A commission appointed by the governor will also evaluate the ideas and eventually make recommendations to the governor and the Legislature.

This won't duplicate any of the agencies that already exist to receive suggestions, supporters said.

California already has the Little Hoover Commission, a bipartisan, independent panel started in the early 1960s to promote efficiency in state government, and the Legislative Analyst's Office, which reviews the state's spending plan for the Assembly and Senate and can suggest cutting duplicative programs.

Legislators can also request audits of state spending or programs by the nonpartisan Bureau of State Audits.

Hamilton helped former President Clinton organize a National Performance Review in the early 1990s and led a prior reorganization effort in Texas. Hamilton said performance reviews in his home state created more than $12 billion in savings more than 10 years.

Miner said the new program will be paid for out of existing state funds but that it doesn't have a specific budget yet.

Any good ideas could be implemented immediately, Miner said, which the governor could do by executive order. However, the Legislature may have to approve other proposals from a formal report due to Schwarzenegger by June 10.

Meanwhile, Schwarzenegger's efforts to get state workers to pass a $15 billion bond measure and a balanced budget amendment received a big boost Tuesday from Democratic leaders, who endorsed Propositions 77 and 59.

Along with the Legislature's leaders, Senate President Pro Tempore John Burton of San Francisco and Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez of Los Angeles, both U.S. senators — Democrats Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer — endorsed the two propositions.

"We think there is no alternative for this state this year," Burton said. "Deficit spending is not the best way to do things but unless you find a very big bank to rob, there's no other way to get things done in time."

The proceeds from the bonds are needed to pay off short-term loans that came due in June. There's another $3 billion from the bond sale that would also be used to help close next year's budget gap.

Until Tuesday, the only major Democrat openly supporting the governor's plan was Controller Steve Westly, who said the new endorsements are critical to getting the measures passed."
Rugby conquers Arizona

By Rachel Musquiz
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The Cal Poly rugby team returned home from Arizona victorious and with an undefeated league record of 4-0. On Friday, Arizona State University introduced a firm opposition in the first half, but the Mustangs relentlessly pursued Arizona State, beating them with a final score of 87-6. The second game against University of Arizona on Sunday proved to be the most intense game of the season and ended with a 33-5 win for Cal Poly.

Both Arizona State and Cal Poly came out to the field playing strong. The game remained slow for most of the first half. The forward pack kept pushing the Sun Devils back while the Mustangs once again took the opportunity to make long runs and scored a handful of tries. After the first half, The forward pack kept the Sun Devils hack while the Mustangs once again took the opportunity to make long runs and scored a handful of tries. After the first half, the Mustangs started to flow.

In the second half, the Mustangs dominated the field, forcing Arizona State to overcome the initial bursts of the Mustangs. The Mustangs scored a try after a strong scrum and another two weeks until Cal Poly faces UC SB at a home game on Feb. 27.

The loss continued for the Cal Poly wrestling team. The Mustangs lost 19-12 to No. 19 Arizona State to fall to 5-8 overall, 2-4 in the Pac-10 and 3-0 in nonconference play.

The new format has the No. 1 and No. 2 seeds earning byes in the first two rounds on Feb. 12 and 13, and the No. 3 and No. 4 teams earning a first-round bye. In the first round, No. 3 and No. 8 face each other while No. 6 and No. 7 also play.

A real positive for the conference this year has been the new tournament bracketing, Farrell said. "More than a month into conference and every game has taken on much more importance. People are not just worrying about making the tournament but 'They're going to be seeded.'" Farrell said.

Farrell said there is at least a two-year commitment to the new tournament seeding.

see BIG WEST, page 11

Wrestling pinned in losing ways

By Dan Watson
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

The California Polytechnic State University wrestling program took a hit last weekend when the Mustangs lost their first two conference matches against Arizona State and UC Irvine.

Irvine’s sweep of Mustang swimmers

By Dan Watson
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

The Cal Poly men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams fell to UC Irvine in the final dual meets of the season. UC Irvine won the women’s meet 129-103 and the men’s meet by a score of 147-81.

For the men, Ben Palmer won the 200 breaststroke in a time of 2:05.07 and Shaun Jappe took first in the 500 freestyle with a time of 2:56.45. Nick Boeboom, Adam Westgate, Nate Williams and Palmer turned in a winning time of 3:31.26 in the 400 freestyle relay.

The women’s team also won three events on the day, including a win by Stacy Peterson in the 50 freestyle with a time of 24.71. Rus Lardelli pitched in with a win in the 200 breaststroke for a time of 2:13.28. Peterson, Kara Linsmeier, Mary Thomas and Jen Jenkov turned in a win in the 400 freestyle relay with a time of 3:38.59.

Big West: Movin’ on up

By Dan Watson
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

While Cal Poly slides down in the Big West Conference men’s basketball standings, the conference as a whole is ranked in the lowest category.

To start the season, the Big West was ranked No. 32 in the Associated Press basketball conferences. While Cal Poly had the opportunity to show off against other conferences in the West this year and we have to be successful against these teams. It’s the sport of our conference.

The conference commitment to preseason games has been instrumented in growth. (The Big West’s improvement)

version and drop goals. Playing up to expectations, the Wildcats brought the most powerful competition yet. Like the Arizona State game, the Mustangs were forced to overcome the initial burst of strength by bringing a strong defense while the offense turned on the pressure.

Files PHOTO: MUSTANG DAILY
All Big West Conference basketball teams, including the struggling Mustangs, stand to benefit from the league’s improved play.

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see BIG WEST, page 11