Late-night study aid banned

Ephedra, the main ingredient in caffeine pills, is too dangerous, FDA says.

Because of continued health concerns. They are cautioning users to stop taking any products that contain ephedra.

"There are many health risks to taking too much," head of Cal Poly Medical Services Kurt Cochran said. "If a person experiences anxiety, insomnia, an over-active thyroid, an irregular heartbeat or other related symptoms, it probably shouldn't be added to their diet.

The Health Center on campus sees the negative effects of caffeine pills or students.

"We always see a few students that have taken too much caffeine in one form or another," Cochran said. "They come into the Health Center very jittery and sometimes even have heart irregularities."

Although those pills are not considered addictive, they have been pulled off the market as a result of deaths traced back to the drug, including the death of Baltimore Orioles pitcher Steve Bechler in February 2003. "We pulled all of our ephedra off the shelves almost a year ago," said Patricia Frew, Vitamin World store manager in Paso Robles. "We get a wide range of people looking for energy-enhancing supplements. People were very willing to try the products that didn't contain ephedra."

Officials at NRTY, Inc., Vitamin World's parent company and leading manufacturer and marketer of nutritional supplements, decided to pull products containing ephedra in March 2003 due to continued health concerns. The ban on ephedra marks the first time that the FDA has blocked the sale of an over-the-counter supplement. Unlike prescribed drugs, dietary supplements do not have to be approved as safe in order to be sold, but the FDA can decide to take them off the market if they prove to be unsafe.

"The herbal people are not dumb," Cochran said. "They will come up with herbal components that are very close in chemical make-up to ephedra. Consumers just need to be careful of the look-alikes because the body could very well have the same reaction if too much is consumed."

By Rachel Musquiz

Caffeine pills, most popularly used for weight-loss aids and energy boosters, are present in the college atmosphere as a result of late-night study sessions, heavy academic work weeks and the never-ending desire to he thinner.

The Food and Drug Administration has recently mandated some changes to the chemical make-up of the metabolism-enhancing capsules.

Ephedra, the main ingredient in what is commonly referred to as a caffeine pill, has been banned by the FDA because of continued health concerns. They are cautioning users to stop taking any products that contain ephedra.

"There are many health risks to taking too much," head of Cal Poly Medical Services Kurt Cochran said. "If a person experiences anxiety, insomnia, an over-active thyroid, an irregular heartbeat or other related symptoms, it probably shouldn't be added to their diet.

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By Rachel Musquiz
VOTE continued from page 1

By Theo Emery
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON — Harvard University has approved a student magazine about sex that will feature art, sex advice and fiction — as well as photographs of undressed undergraduates.

"We are aware of the fact that some segments of the population would find the contents distasteful," said Associate Dean Judith H. Kidd, a member of the 14-person board that approves all student organizations. "However, the committee considered this to be an issue of freedom of speech."

The committee, made up of faculty, staff and students, approved "H Bomb" magazine Tuesday with a 12-0 vote, with two abstentions. The vote lets the magazine's publishers apply for funding but does not guarantee money; when it would be published is uncertain.

The magazine cannot take its photos on university property, a policy that applies for all of the school's undergraduate publications.

Vassar and Swarthmore colleges also have sex-themed magazines, though H Bomb is the first such publication for Harvard.

The students proposing the magazine, Karbarina C. Baldegg and Camilla H. Heid, have unlisted phone numbers and e-mail addresses, and could not be reached for comment by The Associated Press.

A Harvard Crimson newspaper story described H Bomb as a "porn magazine," but Baldegg and Heid dispute that description in a statement released by a Harvard spokesman.

"What we are proposing is an outlet for literary and artistic expression that is both desired and needed, not a pornographic magazine," it read.

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ANIMAL RESCUE

CHP seek help caring for sea lion

By Miellikki Org
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — Amateur aquarium owners know that one slip of the hand during tank cleaning can be all it takes to send a prized Japanese fighting fish, or even a tree-sapped guppy, to the toilet bowl.

So marine biologists at San Francisco's Steinhart Aquarium used a mixture of Zen focus and compassion Wednesday while moving 100 yellowjacket jellyfish to its new temporary home in San Francisco's Embarcadero district.

"Generally, when we try to move the fish, we try to remain very calm and move at a very controlled pace," said David Chan, senior aquatic biologist at the aquarium. "We never get excited or flustered around."

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Zen-inspired fish transferring

By Miellikki Org
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fish biologists first tried to court the fish by draining half the circular, 110,000-gallon tank and inserting partitions. The fish then were corralled into vinyl-covered stretchers, which were lifted out of the tank and placed down three flights of stairs. One by one, each fish was loaded into an anesthetized flatbed truck equipped with oxygenated tanks for the 20-minute ride across town.

The Steinhart Aquarium, along with the 88-year-old California Academy of Sciences building in which it is housed, will be demolished next January to make way for an ultramodern, eco-friendly upgrade designed by architect Renzo Piano, who helped design the Pompidou Center in Paris.

The new building won't be completed until 2009.
PHILADELPHIA — A 9-year-old boy was shot in the face on a school playground Wednesday and a crossing guard was wounded, caught apparently in the crossfire between two groups of men, police said.

Children were arriving for class and some were playing in the schoolyard when dozens of shots rang out about 8:30 a.m., police said. Students ran screaming toward the building as teachers and parents frantically tried to pull them inside to safety. Police searched for the gunman at a girl's Lincoln Continental.

The third grader, Jeremiah Thomas-Chisholm, underwent brain surgery and was reported in extremely critical condition. The crossing guard, Debra Smith, 56, was treated for a wound to the right foot.

HURLEY, N.Y. — Art Garfunkel pleaded guilty to marijuana possession in upstate New York and paid $200 in fines.

The singer's lawyer was scheduled to appear in court Wednesday but instead entered a guilty plea Feb. 4, the Daily Freeman at Kingston reported. Cornwall paid $100 fine and $100 in costs, court officials said.

Garfunkel, 62, of Manhattan, was charged with unlawful possession of marijuana after state police stopped his limousine for speeding Jan. 17 in Hurley, 55 miles southwest of Albany.

NEW YORK — Jurors at the Martha Stewart trial listened Wednesday to a recording in which her stockbroker told investigators she was to treat diseases.

Stewart, 64, is on trial for conspiracy to obstruct justice in connection with a 2001 stock tumbling. In the interview with the Securities and Exchange Commission, broker Peter Bacanovic said he was abashed and not trying to cover for anyone. Thursday's interview is the first time he has appeared on the stand.

WASHINGTON — Researchers in South Korea for the first time have cloned a human embryo and then culled stem cells from it, marking an important step toward one day growing patients' own replacement tissues. In the interview with the Securities and Exchange Commission, broker Peter Bacanovic said he was abashed and not trying to cover for anyone. Thursday's interview is the first time he has appeared on the stand.

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Letter to the editor

President Bush is not homophobic

Editor,

Thick as a pool of sewage.

The American Heritage Dictionary

Clear enough! I’m so sick of liberals calling conservatives homophobic. In an editorial printed in Mustang Daily (“Bush’s well-troubling” Feb. 9), the Mustang Daily editors claimed President George W. Bush’s position on gay marriage proves that he is homophobic. As far as I know, Bush doesn’t have an “intense, abnormal and illogical fear” of homosexuals. I believe the editors were quoting or playing on the word “homophobia” by the “moralphobes,” but I felt I needed to make my point.

Responses to this letter may claim that I’ve probably never been in contact with a homosexual or that it’s obvious that I am a raging homophobe out to see the destruction of the gay population. Please respond. I know all my homosexual friends could use a good laugh.

Casey Comstock is a political science junior.

Letter policy

Letters become the property of the Mustang Daily. Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanities and length.

Letters, comments and cartoons do not represent the views of the Mustang Daily. Please limit letter to 250 words. Letters should include the writer's full name, phone number, major and class standing.

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By e-mail: mustangdaily@hotmail.com

Letters must come from a Cal Poly e-mail account. Do not send letters as an attachment. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.

Editorial

Today is Same Sex Hand Holding Day.

Today is a much-needed opportunity to show your support for the gay and lesbian communities at Cal Poly, but today is just one day. While it’s deplorable that such an event is a necessity, SSHH is undoubtedly needed.

This campus has a history — one of bigotry and hate. Last year, during this same event, the Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals United booth was egged — ironically, a sign reading Stop Hate Crimes was a_target. Two years ago, during CommUNITY Pride Week, the rainbow-covered P was repainted green. This happened the night after the rainbow P was painted over white and what appeared to be the word “homo” was written in sheets on the hall.

While the incidents were not connected, they are related by their ignorance and intolerance.

Today you will see men holding hands with men and women holding hands with women. Some will be homosexual, transgendered or bisexual; some will be heterosexual. Some of those individuals are used to being harassed when they display public affection. And today some will feel the glares and stares of prejudice for the first time.

As they walk through campus, you will not be able to tell the difference between those who have a different sexuality than you and those who have the same sexuality as you. Same sex hand holders are one group of people attempting to make a statement and make a difference. Their sexualities are anonymous and irrelevant — their faces are human. The simple act of holding hands represents security, romance and commitment. It represents the bond in which two people choose to participate. Within its simplicity, the act creates a message of awareness and acceptance.

So as these couples pass you, do not ignore their message or their faces or pass them off as a simple protest. Look at their commitment to, not just any cause, but a cause that is truly necessary.

The participants will shed the restraints of their sexuality and embrace equality.

Today may just be one day, but it is a stepping-stone to tolerance and awareness for individuals and for Cal Poly.

Same Sex Hand Holding Day deserves a round of applause
Stop loafoing around: Don’t dread bread

R


t carbs. Lots of them. Sometimes I munch on Cheerios in class when I’m ravenous. I love french, garlic, rice, pumpernickel, white, wheat, sunflower, popcorned, sardouff, and pumpkin bread.

Just try and stop me. Makes it a point to eat as many of them as possible in all their varied glory: Potatoes, pasta, bread, etc.

As a matter of fact, I would like to start a support group. I live in the food republic and understand the way the food pyramid works. I am not a doctor or a dietitian, but I do observe and eat.

Did you notice the frequency of navel oranges? We have been countless crowds to the snap纳入 grapefruit, cabbage soup and meal replacement drinks. I have never tried any of these, as it has never been necessary for me to immediately drop a leg's worth of weight.

College students are already picking their lakes, they should some mercy on their kidneys. A constant diet of nothing but fatty meat and high-cholesterol cheese week see have on your digestive system.

With such apparent health risks, why are these diets so popular?

Commentary

The answer is in the money.

Have you watched commercials lately? It seems that everyone is jumping on the Atkins bandwagon in a desperate attempt to make up for all their "high carb hyjinx." How dare they tell me not to eat bread!

In an attempt to lose weight quickly without any real effort, Forbes followers gleefully gorme their selves for two weeks on all the food they ought to be avoiding. If they actually make it to the finish line, they usually end up having a big ence of energy and more problems than ever.

Once this diet craze ends, it immutable wish that people will realise the only healthy way to lose weight is with a balanced diet and exercise. We've known this all along. It’s just terrified of actual- ly having to work to achieve their weight goals.

I am not bashing low-carb diets or the lovely people who are on them out of a mean spirit. Let me assure you, their health is my primary concern. I'd rather be the hard voice of reality beckoning them back to Carbville than the mindless head-nodding friend watching them scarf down a 32-ounce porterhouse.

It is time that Americans tive a stand for bread and carbs. They have been there for us with our peanut butter and jelly. They have supplied our athletes with fuel for their competitions. They have given us warm fuzzy memories of baking with our families.

Bread is the staff of life. An American diet. I support the bread industry in their efforts to combat the low-carb frenzy. They have every right to maintain their status as the foundation of the food pyramid.

The male aversion to Valentine’s Day

Saturday is Valentine’s Day, the lowest, most pathetic and unnecessary day on the sexual calendar. Men will avoid it like the pestilence. They can’t stomach the idea of getting "loved up" as they invade flower shops, pastry aisles and candy stores in search of just the right shade of pink or the perfect arrangement of roses, tulips and baby's breath. I can hardly hold back the cringe.

For a man, Valentine’s Day is the essence of all that is wrong in the world. How could a holiday that started with Roman sex orgies and beheld Catholic saints turn into such a fest? Somewhere in the last millennium or two, somebody hijacked and transformed a perfectly good felony into a day dripping in pink, reeking of flowers and shrouded in velvet. You call that progress?

The pressures piled upon modern men on Valentine’s are enough to put the squeeze on even the most brazen Alpha male. Not only are we expected to plan flambéyant and extravagant dinners, but the extremist authors from both sides of the political spectrum and even the mainstream mass media have every right to maintain their status as the foundation of the food pyramid.

The male aversion to Valentine’s Day

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The J-Spot

Mandy Langston is a writer for The Daily Cougar at the University of Houston.

Opinion

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Senators criticize prison system

• California's prison system overspending not realistic with current fiscal deficit

SACRAMENTO (AP) — As California struggles with a massive deficit, the state's beleaguered prison system cannot continue the chronic overspending that has skewed its budget out of any connection with fiscal reality, state senators said Wednesday.

The Department of Corrections spent $5.4 billion last year, about $1.6 billion more than expected policy crisis since he took office in November.

Arnold Schwarzenegger with his largest and most unexpected policy crisis since he took office in November.

The department hired 1,000 employees with no legislative approval and failed to create a correctional academy that was funded, complained budget subcommittee chairmen Sen. Byron Sher, D-Allentown, and tearful testimony from earlier Senate witnesses who alleged the system is dominated by a powerful guards' union and a "code of silence" that punishes whistleblowers.

The prison system has ignored its budget and the Legislature's direction so blatantly that senators feared to provide the necessary oversight.

Sen. Gloria Romero, D-Los Angeles, said the department has acted with impunity for years because lawmakers feared to provide the necessary oversight.

Sen. Jackie Spou:ter, D-Daly City, told prison officials, "We're going to start up your credit card."

Wednesday's hearing is the latest on the nation's largest prison system, where myriad problems have suddenly presented Curry. "It's kind of a fantasy budget," state Sen. Jackie Speier, D-Daly City, told prison officials, "We're going to start up your credit card."

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Prisoner fights to stay in U.S.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A Mexican woman who served 16 years in prison for killing her husband's mistress is appealing to immigration officials to let her stay with her American-born son in the United States.

Rosario Mancini was paroled last December. Before she was released, immigration officials sought to deport her, arguing she was a convicted felon and an illegal alien.

Mancini, who pleaded guilty to second-degree murder, said the killing was an accident. She said she was shooting at her husband when she hit Julia De Loera by mistake in 1982.

Her lawyer filed a motion at a parole hearing Wednesday asking that Mancini be allowed to live in the United States with her 21-year-old son, her spokesman Carlos Montes said. The motion was to be considered at a March 9 hearing.

Her attorney, Carlos Vellano, says she is also seeking to have her guilty plea withdrawn so her attorney can argue that Rosario was a battered spouse.

Vellano said her case gained attention last year when Schwarzenegger, soon after taking office, allowed her parole to stand. Her predecessor, Gov. Gray Davis, had rejected an attempt by the state Board of Prison Terms to release her the year before.

The board appeal was based on her displays of remorse and psychological evaluations that showed only a slim chance of her offending again, and her efforts to take steps to be the victim's daughter by signing petitions, a Board of Prison Terms spokesman said at the time.

After her parole was granted, she was moved to an immigration lockdown in San Luis Obispo, where hearings took place.

"Personally, she's holding up pretty good," Montes said. "She could have not said, 'OK, deport me, send me back to Mexico.' To the best of her ability, to staying here with her family. She has a whole life here now."

Mancini and Montes arrived in the United States on a temporary visa and eventually became the victim of her ex-husband and giving birth to three children who are all U.S. citizens.

Police investigate crimes in Mexico

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The San Diego Police Department on Wednesday began investigating complaints of U.S. tourists who become crime victims in parts of northern Mexico.

The move follows a string of rape and extortion attempts by U.S. tourists against Tijuana police officers. Many of the alleged victims called their local police for help but were told they would have to contact the U.S. Consulate in Tijuana.

The San Diego police will take reports and collect evidence, including laboratory samples in rape cases. The information will then be forwarded to Mexican investigators.

"We were somewhere on the side of the border when we wouldn't take reports because it happened in another country," said Police Chief Bill Lansdowne. "Now we will take those reports and provide what we can in evidence collection, so if there is a prosecution both sides will be more effective."

San Diego police already have a policy of taking reports and collecting evidence from local residents who become crime victims in other U.S. cities. Lansdowne said that now "the same process will take place across the border."

Mexican authorities said they will follow a similar procedure, taking reports from Mexican residents who say they have been victimized in the United States. The information will be related to U.S. authorities.

Extrajudicial by police has been the most common complaint by U.S. tourists visiting Tijuana. At least eight tourists recently came forward with accusations that were channelled through the U.S. Consulate in Tijuana.

A Tijuana city commissioner ordered 12 of the 16 officers accused in the incidents to be suspended without pay for at least 30 days.
WARNING: MARDI GRAS PARTYING
COULD HAVE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES...

**EXPECT:**

- 20+ law enforcement agencies coming to SLO on Mardi Gras — double the number of officers from last year
- Fines and attorney's fees up to $1000 for alcohol offenses
- Significant penalties for minors in possession of alcohol, including suspended driver's license
- Potential expulsion from school for serious misconduct, such as violence and sexual harassment
- Strict law enforcement throughout the weekend on and off campus

DO YOURSELF A FAVOR

OBEY THE LAW

TELL YOUR FRIENDS TO STAY HOME.
ELIMINATING THE DOUBLE STANDARD

Same Sex Hand Holding Day brings the issue of gay rights to campus

By Justin Wolff

THE DAILY CARDINAL (UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN)

MADISON, Wis. — Few realize that there is a pre-Nirvana world for Dave Grohl. Before the fringe of grunge brought him celebrity and the radio-friendly rock of the Foo Fighters proved his frontman prowess, Grohl cut his teeth on speed punk and metal in the hardcore mecca of Washington, D.C.

With ProKit, Grohl has come full circle, recording music that is fast and loud with some of the musicians who influenced him early on. The list reads like a who’s who of prog-heavy metal icons that run the gamut from thrash to sludge to black metal. However, although rumored to be Grohl’s “death metal side-project,” ProKit avoids gnarled gurgling vocals and chainsaw-emulating guitar work. Instead Grohl opts for intelligible, even melodic vocals and down tuned power chords.

Despite the array of vocalists Grohl calls in, the album is consistent in sound and feel from beginning to end, making the glass-shattering pitch of King Diamond feel right at home alongside Motorhead legend Lemmy’s signature boogie and cigarette-scarred grumble. The likely cause for this phenomenon is that none of the tracks sound particularly like any of the vocalists’ main groups, and are instead dripping with Grohl’s influence. There are the pure drum-monsters beats paired with thick and decidedly non-virtuoso guitar work, thanks in part to a fellow grunge era notable, Soundgarden’s Kim Thayil. The result comes off sounding a whole lot like another band with ties to Grohl, Queens of the Stone Age.

While “ProKit” certainly is no work of heavy metal genius, it certainly holds its own as one of the more interesting releases in recent memory considering that most of the artists featured were fated from the landscape in part due to the release of an album named “Nevermind.”

The world needed that album to kill off the mainstream glut of Poison and its countless clones; unfortunately the underground took a hit from the metal backlash. ProKit is Grohl’s mini-caps to the idols that were unintentionally buried by the grunge movement he was a part of.

Dave Grohl reconnects with metal roots via long-coming side project

• Foo Fighters front man teams with legendary vocalists of the genre in ProKit

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Don't hate me because I'm FRUGAL

A male reporter offers the ladies some tips on how to keep it simple and impressive for their men.

By Thomas Atkins

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Thursday, February 12, 2004

It is that weird time of year again. The time when the primary colors become pink and red, when flowers and chocolate fill grocery carts, when Hallmark's are smashed, when hearts are mended, broken, and eaten, and when college students start freakin' out.

Yes, there are all those warning signs that Valentine's Day is approaching.

This is a stressful time for many college students because they want to make this day perfect for their special someone. Yet living on a college budget, students are faced with the battle of showing their Valentine that they care for them without spending all their money for next month's rent.

Because of this lack of cash flow, students have discovered ways of mixing romance with cheapness. Although the formulas vary between the sexes, most believe that it is possible to be romantic as well as cheap at the same time.

However, this article will be looked at through a female perspective to gain insight of what women think of this amazing concept of being romantic and cheap, and to discover their opinion about which sex has a harder time of grasping this concept.

Most of the women interviewed said being cheap and romantic isn't as hard as it sounds and many have their day planned out.

"I prefer being cheap," child development senior Shannon Neve said. "I am going to sit by a fireplace, order in, and watch a movie." (I'm going to sit by a fireplace, order in already planned out and watch a movie.)

"It's what we are way better at than any materialistic gift," knowledgeology senior Sarah Tramel said. "The best gift I ever get was a letter from my boyfriend. Besides, chocolate is bad for you and flowers die."

Although all of the women interviewed said that they could be cheap and romantic at the same time, their opinions differed when asked if it was harder for men or women to handle the Valentine's Day task in a right-poised manner.

"It's harder for men to be cheap and romantic because women are harder to please and are more materialistic," Tramel said. "Men are much easier to Please. Because they don't really care about that kind of stuff...You can bake them cookies and they are ecstatic." (Things it sounds, and many have their day through a female perspective to gain insight of what women think of this amazing concept of being romantic and cheap, and to discover their opinion about which sex has a harder time of grasping this concept)

"I think it's harder for women to be cheap because all a guy has to do is get a flower," she said.

Yet whether it's harder or easier for women to be cheap and romantic, they have many suggestions to help the female reader make Valentine's Day special.

Many of these suggestions included giving a good back massage, making a movie or going to a movie and cooking dinner.

"Little things such as going on a picnic or a hike somewhere are also ways to be cheap and romantic," Tramel said.

Starbucks employee Morgan Niemeyer said cleaning up could also make a Valentine happy. "I re-arranged our bedroom and made it look really cool. She said. "To make it romantic I put up a lot of candles around the room." (Little things such as going on a picnic or a hike somewhere are also ways to be cheap and romantic)

Other suggestions were to just relax and enjoy the day.

"(Women) should be spontaneous and have fun," Suarez said. "They shouldn't be all uptight about their boyfriends not being perfect on Valentine's Day. Let's just enjoy it and don't get all upset if they pick out the wrong kind of flowers." (Little things such as going on a picnic or a hike somewhere are also ways to be cheap and romantic)

From a male viewpoint I must admit that all the above suggestions are excellent, especially the last, and I recommend that women follow it, no matter how badly we screw up. It's good to know that there are women out there who Don't think Valentine's Day is just about them.

I also have a few other suggestions to add to the women's list to help female readers have a cheap and romantic Valentine's Day. First of all, for emphasis, I would like to recommend that women follow it, no matter how badly we screw up. It's good to know that there are women out there who Don't think Valentine's Day is just about them.

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Bald eagles healthy and waiting

CONCRETE, Wash. (AP) — So many bald eagles swoop down from the treetops to pluck their breakfast from the Skagit River, you wouldn’t think they were a threatened species.

Biologically speaking, they aren’t. But because they’re found in every one of the lower 48 states, it’s taking the federal government longer than expected to get them off the endangered species list, a proposal then-President Clinton signed in 1995.

“It’s like Pandora’s box. It seems like a simple thing, but it’s not when you start delving into it,” said Cindy Hoffman, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spokeswoman in the agency’s Washington, D.C., office.

Once the government says an animal is ready to be taken off the threatened or endangered list, it usually takes about a year for it to happen. That’s because most federally protected species inhabit relatively small areas, Hoffman said.

The bald eagle’s territory, by comparison, stretches over much of the North American continent, with tens of thousands living in Alaska and British Columbia. The most recent survey in the contiguous United States counted nearly 6,500 nesting pairs in 2000 — up from just 417 in 1963.

“Defting a post-recovery plan for such a large range requires updated counts in each state and directives that factor in eagle-protection rules certain states already have in place — rendering a one-size-fits-all transition impossible,” Hoffman said.

Despite its status as the nation’s symbol, eagles were frequently shot and killed throughout most of the 1800s and early 1900s, in many cases by ranchers who complained the birds preved on their sheep. Shoreline development and logging led to widespread habitat loss, and after World War II, use of DDT and other pesticides that weakened egg shells sent the bald eagle’s birth rate plummeting.

The first move to protect the majestic birds came in 1940 with the federal Bald Eagle Protection Act, later revised to include the golden eagle. In 1972, the Environmental Protection Agency banned the use of DDT, saving the bald eagle was tetering on the brink of extinction outside Alaska.

In 1978, Fish and Wildlife listed the bald eagle as endangered in 43 states and threatened in Washington, Oregon, Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin. By 1995, the species had rebounded enough to be reclassified as threatened throughout the lower 48.

Every year from November to March, as many as 500 bald eagles flock north to the Skagit River Basin, drawn by the carcasses of spawning chum salmon. Several other Western Washington rivers have impressive numbers of eagles, including the Skokomish, Stillaguamish and Nooksack.

“Winning eagles spread far and wide — from northern California to Montana to Arizona — but no state hosts more of them year after year than Washington. Some stay year-round, but most migrate north to breed.”

In mid-January, at the peak of this year’s wintering season, one rating guide counted about 150 bald eagles on a 5-mile stretch of the Skagit River.

“They’re really thick here,” said Roy Bouton, owner of Pacific Northwest Float Trips, while paddling a group of eagle-watchers down the lower Skagit. “They say, ‘Oh, what’s next?’ We get spoiled on this river.”

Like Button, Shane Turnbull has been rafting the lower 48. “Every year from November to March, as many as 500 bald eagles flock north to the Skagit River Basin, drawn by the carcasses of spawning chum salmon.”

While the birds are plentiful, some in Washington complain they're crowding out salmon.

Forest service staff in the Everett home overlooking Saratoga Passage.

“I’ve been up here before when I’ve seen a dozen in one tree,” Zaretzke said one recent afternoon, watching eagles from a park near Rockport, about 10 miles east of Concrete.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Conservationists:

Bald eagles healthy and waiting

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Conservation groups already upset by the Bush administration for opening up the West to oil drilling see the upcoming lease of more than 126,000 acres of federal land in Utah and Colorado — including some near Dinosaur National Monument — as further proof the administration values oil and gas over all other resources.

The Bureau of Land Management, which owns land on the southern and western fringes of the monument, will offer several parcels of land in Colorado and Utah to oil and gas companies for drilling leases. The Colorado auction is Thursday and the Utah leases will be offered Feb. 18.

“Dinosaur National Monument and wilderness lands are special places that must be protected for all Americans,” said Jim DiPeso of Republicans for Environmental Protection America. “In addition, we must have a balanced national energy policy that emphasizes efficiency, so there is less pressure to drill in unpolluted wilderness.”

A former Dinosaur National Monument superintendent also spoke out against the leases Wednesday.

“As I look more recently at the oil and gas lease offerings, frankly, I’m shocked at the broad scale and sheer magnitude,” said Denny Huffman, who was the superintendent from 1997 to 1997.

Huffman said the lease offerings nearby surround the “unique resources” of the monument and future impacts could include poor air quality, visible oil drilling rigs and light pollution ruining close views of the night sky. Calls made by The Associated Press seeking comment from former Utah Gov. Mike Leavitt, now director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Independent Petroleum Association of America were not immediately returned.

The RBL on Thursday will offer for lease more than 65,300 acres of land in Colorado that will be split into 27 parcels on the south side of the monument.

The following week the Utah parcels, consisting of 81,269 acres, will go up for lease and include land outside the western end of the monument and other parcels of land that have wilderness qualities near the Book Cliffs in east-central Utah. An attorney for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance threatened Wednesday to fight the Utah lease in court.

The Utah RBL had considered nearly 252,000 for this quarterly lease period, but withdrew almost 111,000 acres from consideration after re-examining how that land could be affected, said Dan Banks, a spokesman with the Salt Lake City office.
News

Bush's military record released

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House late Wednesday released a copy of a dental evaluation President Bush had in the National Guard in Alabama during the Vietnam War to rebut suggestions from Democrats who have questioned whether the president ever showed up for duty there.

It was the first debate over Bush's military service since the senatorial debate in May. The Senate adjourned for the evening at about 8:30 p.m. after roughly six hours of debate.

The bipartisan proposal was crafted by Senate leaders who wished to overturn a high court decision legalizing civil unions — a ban on gay marriage while still extending equal benefits to gay couples. It was rejected 104-94.

The compromise would have asked voters in November 2006, the earliest an initiative could be placed on a ballot for voter approval. At that time, any gay couples married in Massachusetts would be stripped of their licenses and considered part of a civil union.

Massachusetts was thrust into the epicenter of the national gay marriage debate in November when the Supreme Judicial Court ruled 4-3 that it was unconstitutional to bar same-sex marriage.

The court definitively nixed the decision last week, clearing the way for the first state-recognized gay marriages in U.S. history to start taking place in May.

Rep. Philip Travis, a Democrat who sponsored the bill on gay marriage, said the compromise proposal would have asked voters to decide on two potentially conflicting initiatives — a ban on gay marriage and the legalization of civil unions — with one vote.

"It goes beyond what the people wish to vote on," Travis said. "It is almost like offering a true-false question. How do you respond by voting yes or no at the ballot box?"

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House late Wednesday released a copy of a dental evaluation President Bush had in the National Guard in Alabama during the Vietnam War to rebut suggestions from Democrats who have questioned whether the president ever showed up for duty there.

A copy of the dental examination done on Jan. 6, 1973, documents the president's presence at Dannelly Air National Guard Base in Alabama. White House press secretary Scott McClellan said in a statement, Bush "hardened his defense of President Bush's National Guard service Wednesday, saying his critics are "crying for trash." Yet, several members of an Alabama unit Bush was assigned to said they couldn't recall ever seeing him.

The Associated Press contacted more than a dozen people who were members of the Montgomery-based 157th Tactical Reconnaissance Group in 1972. All were quick to point out that the unit had had as 802 members and Bush was not yet famous.

Bush, who spent most of his service in Texas, received permission to perform his duties in Alabama while working on a Senate political campaign.

"I don't remember seeing him. That does not mean he was not here," said Wayne Rambo, who was a first lieutenant with the 157th. "I don't want to cast any aspersions on saying he was or was not there."

Bush's spokesman, Scott McClellan, said the White House has requested for additional records show that some people "are more interested in turning this into a political game" with the presidential election nine months away. "This is nothing but partisanship."

In a new development Wednesday, a retired Texas National Guard officer said he overheard a conversation in 1997 between then-Gov. George W. Bush and then-Lieutenant Gov. Dan Allbaugh, and then-Adjutant Gen. Daniel James of the Texas Air National Guard in which he contends those two men spoke about getting rid of any military records that would "embarrass the governor." Former Lt. Col. Bill Burkett told the AP that he saw documents from Bush's file discarded in a trash can a few days later at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas. He calls White House aides "a smear machine has begun trotting out these stories to hurt Mr. Bush." And "meaning first lieutenant."

James and Allbaugh deny the allegation.

Kerry plots general election strategies

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nomination within reach, John Kerry's advisers are drumming up strategies for sharpening his message, spending his money, airing TV ads and collecting a winner's share of the 538 electoral votes in November's general election.

While the candidate focuses on defeating John Edwards and Howard Dean to sew up the Democratic race, his staff and some political allies have turned Bush firmly in their sights.

"In a cycle that has been this unpredictable, the Kerry campaign is trying to stay focused on the job at hand. But engaging the administration serves a dual purpose for Senator Kerry," said Democratic strategist Michael Feldman.

"Going toe-to-toe with President Bush and trying to knock him off in the Democratic nomination," Feldman said. His former boss, Al Gore, polished off the 2000 Democratic nomination struggle while at the same time

With each of his 12 primary season victories, Kerry has stepped up his criticism of his rival.

"George Bush and the Republican Party have been preaching in the desert for the Democratic nomination," Feldman said.

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Kerry plans to tap $15 million in media dollars from the Democratic National Committee coffers to respond to a multimillion-dollar TV ad campaign Bush is poised to launch once Democrats select a nominee.

In addition, Democratic interest groups are raising tens of millions of dollars that can be spent to criticize Bush directly, though not in coordination with Kerry.

By Larry Klayman

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Vijay: Golf's new No. 1?

By Doug Ferguson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Forget the statistics and facts that identify the best two players in golf.

The real comparison starts now. Thursday's final round of the PGA Tour this weekend, with Tiger Woods teed off Tuesday with a full moon falling over the Pacific Ocean. The Buick Invitational apparently will now be the PGA Tour event since he left Kapalua a month ago. He's been gone so long that cadet Steve Stricker was morning the opening subprior to the game of a new set of iron clubs.

Mark J. Terrinoni about over the 10th tee on the North course to start his practice round. That could have been farther apart, but at least they're in the same tournament.

Sparrey has been the talk of the tour last couple of months as he moves closer to No. 1 in the world, a position Woods has occupied since winning the 1999 PGA Championship at Medinah. Sparrey has 12 consecutive finishes in the top 10, the highest since Jack Nicklaus' 11 in 1977. Sparrey's favorite place: Pebble Beach, which he has his last nine PGA Tour events.

The last bunch brought him to within 32 points of Woods in the world ranking, the narrowest margin since the system was adjusted two years ago.

"Tiger is very tight close to the gap, and if you look at the points, he has closed the gap severely," Darren Clarke said of his playing golf. "The tournament at Pebble Beach was his third in his last nine PGA Tour events. The last bunch brought him to within 32 points of Woods in the world ranking, the narrowest margin since the system was adjusted two years ago."

"The pace of life in California, she said, "is more laid-back. Americans are also more outgoing and express their feelings," said Allotey, "and the three-point line is far closer than in the UK, where the 3-point attempts at Pebble Beach, and every shot was at or near the line. He's playing great. His confidence is high. Things are going the right way."

"He's always working. He's always looking for his mystique last year when he failed to win a major in the first five time in years."

Singh's victory at the BMW Classic last weekend means that he will change everything." Singh's victory Sunday at the Farmers Insurance Open in California, where he won on the first playoff hole, has put him at the top of the world ranking. He's been the No. 1 player since the world rankings were introduced five years ago. He's been in the top 10 since he showed up on the PGA Tour, and has won four of his first five tournaments. He's scored a 72 in 19 months.

"I think it's the most popular sport among young people," said Allotey, "as the three-point line is far closer than in the UK, where the 3-point attempts are an average of 1.31 and recorded one save.

Thursday, February 12, 2004

GOLDEN continued from page 16

The accompanying Chains of Love fun-run. The speech took almost a long as the entire address. Ellison must have turned to close 20 people in all.

"I've already said that any of his athletes that helped plan last week-end's received any praise as a coach. He balances his triathlon duties with a job as the associate vice president for University Advancement. Ellison has actually dined yards.

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Fresno State blows past Mustangs

The Cal Poly baseball team ended an eight-game unbeaten streak by losing 9-2 to the Fresno State Bulldogs. The Mustangs are now 7-3-1 on the season as they enter a three-game series against the Pepperdine Waves this season.

LeBron may dunk

LeBron James plans to watch the NBA's dunk contest -- for now.

Chumps

SLO Core finished second in the Chumash Bracket at the Stanford Invitational. The team beat the Stanford, UC Davis and Humboldt State B teams, but lost to the UCSD B, Chico State, Claremont and Lewis and Clark teams.