Suicide study focuses on colleges

Self-inflicted death is the second-leading cause of death among college students — after accidents.

Cal Poly and other colleges can attest to the tragedy of student suicides.

A report by Alan Lipschitz of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention found that suicide is the second leading cause of death among students — after accidents.

Yet, according to the study, college students do not commit suicide more often than other young adults.

“It is a cause that is exceedingly difficult to investigate. Because few college students commit suicide, the small or otherwise limited studies that examine college suicide can suggest only some very tentative findings,” Lipschitz wrote. “Despite their limitations, some of these studies make the disturbing suggestion that certain student groups may have considerably higher rates of suicide, and that suicide may be more preventable. See Suicides, page 2.

Student’s body found in Stenner Glen apt.

Devon Kingston and Brian Kosir, Mustang staff writers

Michael Sutton Blitz, a 20-year-old computer science junior, was found dead in his home Monday after an apparent suicide.

Housing staff at Stenner Glen found the deceased following a report by Blitz’s parents to check on their son after he had missed a doctor’s appointment. Staff entered the residence and found Blitz had hanged himself. Staff members then contacted the San Luis Obispo Police Department.

No note was found at the home; however, “there’s no reason to believe that the death was anything but self-inflicted,” he said. SLOPD Public Information officer Rob Bryn added that Blitz had recently been under the care of a doctor but did not know what type of care he was receiving. National statistics have shown a correlation between suicides and college students; they are often related to academic pressures.

“The faculty who had Mike in class are extremely saddened by his death,” Tim Kears, computer science department chair, said. “His teachers said he was a good student and an active participant in class.”

SLOPD officers arrived at the second floor of the complex’s building No. 3 around 9 a.m. Monday. Bryn said Blitz had taken his time over the weekend, though no specific time of death has been determined.

Stemmer Glen property manager Tim Krebsener said that Blitz did not have any roommates.

“Mr. Blitz came up this morning,” Krebsener said.

Renowned writer to lead slam poetry

Nikki Giovanni will headline another Type of Groove at Yosemite Hall on Thursday

World-renowned poet, author and activist Nikki Giovanni will headline this month’s “Another Type of Groove,” a free poetry slam taking place Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Yosemite Hall lounge.

Yolanda Cornelia “Nikki” Giovanni, 63, was born in Knoxville, Tenn. She attended Fisk University in 1960 and later went to graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania.

During the 1960s, Giovanni was involved in the Black Arts movement, a group of African-American intellectuals who wrote both artistically and politically radical work promoting black rights and racial equality, as highlighted in her poetry collection “Black Feeling,” “Black Talk” and “Black Judgment,” both published in 1968. In her long career as an author, she has published many volumes of poetry that have confronted topics ranging from civil rights to life as a single mother. She was honored for her work with the NAACP Image Award for Literature in 1998, 2000 and 2003 and has been named the woman of the year by numerous magazines, including Essence and Ladies Home Journal.

Giovanni is currently a professor of English at Virginia Tech University and recently underwent surgery for breast cancer.

Joining Giovanni at the poetry slam will be Rachel McKibbens from New York, known as R.C. McKibbens is a member of The Bullhorn Collective, a group of about 30 very successful and highly ranked poets. Her poetry has been described as brutally honest and intense.

McKibbens has earned such titles as the Orange County Slam team’s 2003 Grand Slam Champion and a third place overall finish in the 2004 Individual World Poetry Championships. In addition to the nationally known artist, local artists will be able to participate in the poetry slam by signing up for a spot in the open mic portion of the show.

“Another Type of Groove” gives people an opportunity to speak in an inside

Softball’s guiding light
Senior leads young team through action

IN SPORTS, page 12

Women held to higher standards
Murder trial raises equality issues

IN OPINION, page 6

Subleasing: Odds may not be good

“I thought it would get more people interested in my place if I lowered the price.”

— SEAN KREZANOSKI, psychology freshman

may change.

Because Cal Poly is not offering regular summer school classes many students are revolting their summer plans, making subleasing their digs a very appealing option.

Some students are finding that subleasing their room/apartment/house is more difficult this year because not as many students are planning to stay in San Luis Obispo. This leaves students bound to rental contracts with two options — either compete with other students subleasing their places or cough up rest see Subleasing, page 2

WEATHER REPORT

TUESDAY

Mostly Sunny 69°

TUESDAY

Partly Cloudy 69°

TUESDAY

High 63° at 12:35 a.m.

Low 15° at 3 a.m.

SUNRISE 6:40 A.M.

SUNSET 7:29 P.M.
Blitz continued from page 1
and took all of his son's belongings out," Kershner said. "He also said that the event is "a personal family tragedy," and suggested on-campus counseling services for those who have been affected by the death.

University Police informed representatives of Cal Poly at 1:30 p.m. Monday during the weekly Care Team meeting, by Vice President of Student Affairs Cameron Morton.

The Care Team, Martin Bragg said, director of Health and Counseling Services, said the group was formed to help students and families during emotionally troubled times. The group is made up of officials from Housing and Residential Life, Health and Counseling Services, Student Life and Leadership, Disability Resource Center, UPD, Judicial Affairs and Academic Affairs.

"We have contacted Smenner Glen about providing counseling services to residents there," Bragg said. "It's also routine for us to contact faculty and parents about the return of fees and the student's department if there is a need for counseling within the major. It's important for people to know that there is help on campus even if you just need someone to talk to."

Blitz came to Cal Poly after graduating from high school in Vancouver, Washington, where his family still resides. Despite his listing as a junior, his anticipated graduation date was this quarter.

Suicide continued from page 1
 lent among students attending some elite schools in the United States, England and Japan."

The family said they want to keep their son's death private, counting on people to "get an edge" on his problem.

"I am going to put the difference in price, Krezanoski said. "I thought it would mean more people interested in my place if I lowered the price."

Psychology sophomore Rachel Dillon is doing the same.

"I dropped money off of the rent," Dillon said. "I'm going to be pricing some of it — and the electric bill — because I don't know if there are going to be a lot of people needing housing this summer."

Other students have a more positive outlook on the issue of summer subleasing.

"I don't think (the lack of summer school offered) is playing a big factor on me finding a person to sublet," criminal justice sophomore Catherine Mu said. "A lot of people have looked at my place but most of them want to share a room and this is way too small."

Dillon also has heard students express interest in her summer sublet:

"A girl was interested but she could only live there for two months and I need someone to sublease for three," Dillon said.

Depending on the location, price and size of various rentals around town, some students may have more luck than others. Getting competitive and offering discounts on the rental price, paying utilities or offering other perks may help students who want to sublet get the property off their hands, but some students find that, despite their concessions, there is simply more supply than demand.

"I really don't know what I'm doing — I'm not too optimistic," Krezanoski said.

Poet continued from page 1
another type of respect," said Katrina Delcarutz, student programs coordinator for the Multicultural Center. "It has also inspired a lot of people to begin writing."

Delcarutz said, "Another Type of Groove" has been very successful, routinely attracting a diverse group of between 100 and 150 people from throughout the community. It regularly becomes a venue for the discussion of controversial subjects that "challenge the norms."

"The Another Type of Groove" poetry slam normally takes place on the first Thursday of every month. The series will conclude with a final slam on May 21 and will feature many nationally known artists.

After her visit to Cal Poly, Giovanni will also speak to faculty and staff over breakfast as a part of "Provocative Perspectives," a year-long lecture series intended to provide different points of view on issues of diversity on campus.

"Nikki Giovanni is nothing if not provocative, and she will be a great capstone to our series this year," Vice President of Student Affairs Cornell Morton said in a press release. "She is an outstanding poet and a stimulating and engaging speaker. We are indeed fortunate to have her visit our campus."

Subleasing continued from page 1
money and pay while not living in the rental.

Psychology freshman Sean Krezanoski is offering people interested in subletting his room a discounted rate in order to "get an edge" on his competition.

"I am going to put the difference in price," Krezanoski said. "I thought it would mean more people interested in my place if I lowered the price."

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"Another Type of Groove" poetry slam normally takes place on the first Thursday of every month. The series will conclude

Court limits parental rights in blood case

Brendan Riley
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CARSON CITY, Nev. — Parents' rights in raising their children, along with their religious beliefs, must give way to the state's interests when a child needs a blood transfusion to stay alive, the Nevada Supreme Court held Tuesday.

The precedent-setting decision went against Jason and Rebecca Soto, who are Jehovah's Witnesses and wouldn't allow a transfusion for a premature son born in June 2001 at Valley Hospital in Las Vegas. The hospital gave the transfusion anyway.

The baby, a twin, suffered from anemia because his brother got more blood volume before birth.

Stillborn and weighing just 2 pounds, 11 ounces, he was revived at birth but remained critically ill. His brother weighed 4 pounds, 13 ounces.

After the transfusion, a Clark County district judge named the hospital as a temporary guardian to ensure such medical care could continue. The Sotos then appealed to the Supreme Court.

In a unanimous opinion, the high court said the child "did not need protection from his parents; instead, he needed someone to implement a course of necessary medical intervention that Jason and Rebecca were unable to approve because of their religious convictions."

"While a parent has a fundamental liberty interest in the care, custody and management of his child, that interest is not absolute," justices wrote. "The state also has an interest in the welfare of children and may limit parental authority, even permanently depriving parents of their children."

Since the infant was unable to make decisions for himself, "the state's interest is heightened," the court said. "Jason and Rebecca's liberty interest in practicing their religion must also give way to the child's welfare."

"Additionally, the state has an interest in protecting the ethical integrity of the medical profession, and in allowing hospitals the full opportunity to care for patients under their control, especially when medical science is available to save that patient's life."

Mustang Daily

for the students, by the students

ASI Student Government - Wish You Were Here

• Bike With Bakercill take place April 22 at 11a.m. Bring your bike or just yourself and celebrate Earth Day with President Warren Balier. Enjoy a free BBQ and a picture with the president.

• After Mardi Gras Party... Student Government is currently collaborating with various neighborhood associations to improve community relations between Cal Rly and San Luis Obispo residents.

• CSU Board of Trustees member Kathy Kaiser and Statewide Academic Senat Chair Bob Cherney will visit the ASI Student Government office April 29 from 10-10:45 a.m. Come meet them and discuss student issues. Refreshments will be served.

• ASI Student Government meetings are open to the public. Please come and give us your input.

• This month's movies will begin April 14 at 5 p.m. in UU 220 UUBAE meets April 20 at 4 p.m. in UU126

asi.ca.poly.edu/govemment

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

2 Wednesday, April 7, 2004
**State Briefs**

SACRAMENTO — California's prison system, already under fire for hundreds of millions of dollars in annual overspending, also does a poor job in contracting for expensive outside medical care, a state audit said Tuesday.

Most contracts are awarded without competitive bids, the Department of Corrections employs "rushed negotiating practices" and some contracts don't include information the department needed to get promised discounts, auditors found.

Other contracts violate the department's own policies by exceeding standard rates, the department spends beyond what the contract allows or prison ignore guidelines intended to contain costs.

SAN FRANCISCO — A small company's bid to greatly expand its genetically engineered rice operation has brought the international debate over practices; and some contracts don't include information the department needed to get promised discounts, auditors found.

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WASHINGTON — The hair, saliva and sweat of federal workers could be tested for drug use under a government policy proposed Tuesday that could set screening standards for millions of private employers.

The proposal will expand the methods to detect drug use among 3.6 million federal workers beyond urine samples. It is being implemented with an eye toward the private sector, however, because it would signal the government's approval for such testing, which many companies are awaiting before adopting their own screening programs.

NEW YORK — The author of a letter that contributed to the trial of the Tyco case told police he thought a trial already had been declared when he wrote it, a police official told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The signed letter expressed anger at juror Ruth Jordan for appearing to favor the acquittal of two executives charged with looting Tyco International. The juror also received a phone call, perceived as intimidating, that police believe was from someone other than the letter writer.

The communications prompted Justice Michael Obus to declare a mistrial Friday in the six-month case after 11 days of deliberations, citing outside influences on the jury.

WASHINGTON — American Civil Liberties Union's officials declined to comment in advance of their planned announcement Tuesday that they would file a class-action lawsuit challenging the list of travelers that the government has barred from flying because they're considered a threat.

The civil rights group is representing seven plaintiffs.

The arrest of Jacoberm Privett — the highest ranking official to be detained since Aristide's departure on Feb. 20 — comes amid complaints from former government leaders and members of Aristide's political party that Haiti's interim leaders are targeting them.

The arrest of Jocelerme Brivert — the highest ranking official to be detained since Aristide's departure on Feb. 20 — comes amid complaints from former government leaders and members of Aristide's political party that Haiti's interim leaders are targeting them.

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's interior minister was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of orchestrating the killings of several people viewed as Aristide opponents, officials said.

The arrest of Jacoberm Privett — the highest ranking official to be detained since Aristide's departure on Feb. 20 — comes amid complaints from former government leaders and members of Aristide's political party that Haiti's interim leaders are targeting them.

**World Briefs**

VILNIUS, Lithuania — Lawmakers narrowly ousted Lithuania's scandal-ridden president Tuesday for abuse of office, ending the Baltic state's worst political crisis since it gained independence from the Soviet Union.

The ouster of President Rolandas Paksas in a secret ballot came less than three weeks before the country joins the European Union on May 1.

AMMAN, Jordan — Eight Qaeda-linked militants were convicted and sentenced to death Tuesday in the murder of a U.S. employee in 2002, but six of them — including a Jordanian terrorist chief — remain at large.

The slaying of Laurence Foley in 2002 stunned Jordan, a close U.S. ally and peace partner with Israel. A subsequent police crackdown exposed a terrorist cell that had allegedly planned Foley's assassination as the first of several attacks inside the Arab country.

A U.S. Embassy issued a statement thanking Jordanian authorities for "bringing those responsible for Larry's murder to justice" after the 10-month trial.

**National Briefs**

WASHINGTON — The hair, saliva and sweat of federal workers could be tested for drug use under a government policy proposed Tuesday that could set screening standards for millions of private employers.

The proposal will expand the methods to detect drug use among 3.6 million federal workers beyond urine samples. It is being implemented with an eye toward the private sector, however, because it would signal the government's approval for such testing, which many companies are awaiting before adopting their own screening programs.

WASHINGTON — The nation's first retail-style hydrogen vehicle fueling station will serve city and airport vehicles at Los Angeles International Airport.

Airport commissioners on Monday approved the hydrogen station will serve city and airport vehicles at Los Angeles International Airport.

The hydrogen station will be a joint project involving the Danbury, Conn.-based chemical company Praxair, British Petroleum, the South Coast Air Quality Management District and the U.S. Department of Energy.

LOS ANGELES — A child's ability to heal from cuts, burns or infections could be slowed by exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke, a new study shows.

The study by researchers at the University of California.

Los Angeles researchers said the children could cause a range of health-related issues for youngsters.

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Kits claim to help choose baby's sex

CHICAGO (AP) — Boy or girl? Now you can pick the sex of your baby in the privacy of your own home. Or so the Internet sellers of sex-selection kits would have you believe.

The latest fad in babysitting offers guaranteed, worry-free gender selection for just $199 plus shipping. Some experts call it "snake oil."

But that hasn't stopped entrepreneurs and marketers from trying to capitalize on the demand among some prospective parents.

The phenomenon first gained attention when some U.S. fertility clinics began offering gender selection for non-medical reasons through costly, often invasive medical procedures.

But it's been taken to a different level by purveyors of unproven home-use products who are capitalizing on the increasing awareness about more legitimate sex selection methods and hoping to draw some of the same potential customers, said University of Pennsylvania bioethicist Arthur Caplan.

The only two medical procedures that experts say are legitimate — sperm-sorting technique — have raised ethical concerns about designating babies' gender.

A FastTest, Inc. clinic that offers the $2,300 MicroSort technique recently ran a national newspaper ad vying to recruit patients with the headline, "Do you want to choose the gender of your next baby?"

But home-use products that guarantee results with things like douches, vitamins and do-it-yourself artificial insemination kits pose different ethical problems because "they're promising things they can't deliver," Caplan said.

"There absolutely is an audience of people who are interested in gender selection," said Richard Rawlins, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology research at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. "The old standby is 'great empor — buyer beware.'"

One home-use product is the GenSelect system, featuring boy and girl kits offered over the Internet at $199 plus shipping. It is touted as being 96 percent effective if properly used. GenSelect patents were approved earlier this year, said Dr. Scott Sweazy, a South Carolina urologist who helped create the system.

The kit includes a thermometer to help predict ovulation, special douches and "gender specific" mineral and herbal pills.

Sweazy said thousands of kits have been sold worldwide since the Web site started three years ago, and that business has tripled in the past year. He said he did not have information on how many babies of the desired gender have been born with GenSelect, and a spokesman said the figures are confidential.

Study: Frequent sex doesn't increase prostate cancer risk

CHICAGO (AP) — Contrary to some research, frequent sexual activity does not increase the risk of developing prostate cancer and might even reduce the danger, a study of nearly 30,000 men found.

Some previous studies have suggested that men who have frequent ejaculations — whether through sexual activity or masturbation — might be more prone to prostate cancer. One theory is that loss of sex exposes men to various germs and viruses that somehow lead to prostate cancer.

The latest study should be reassuring to those men who may be more active than others," said Dr. Darrold Brooks, prostate cancer director for the American Cancer Society.

The study involved 29,342 health professionals ages 46 to 81 who were asked about their ejaculations in their 20s, 40s and during the previous year, 1991. During about eight years of follow-up, 1,449 men developed prostate cancer.

On average, the men overall had four to seven ejaculations a month. No increased risk of prostate cancer was seen in men who reported more frequent ejaculations, and there appeared to be a decreased risk in men with the highest reported levels.

The two highest activity levels —13 to 20 ejaculations a month and at least 21 a month — were linked with decreased cancer risks of 11 percent and 33 percent respectively.

One theory is that frequent ejaculations help flush out cancer-causing chemicals or reduce the development of calcifications that have been linked with prostate cancer.

But relatively few men in the study reported heavy sexual activity, so more research is needed to establish whether there is, in fact, a link, said Dr. Michael Leitman, a researcher at the National Cancer Institute who led the study.

"It's too early to suggest that men should change their sexual habits to alter their prostate cancer risk," he said.

The study appears in today's Journal of the American Medical Association.

The theorized connection between frequent sexual activity and prostate cancer is not entirely far-fetched. High levels of male hormone testosterone can cause a strong sex drive and can also fuel the growth of cancer cells.

The study involved mostly white men. Leitman said it is unclear whether similar results would be found in blacks, who have much higher prostate cancer risks than whites. But he said the biological mechanisms that might explain the results probably do not differ by race.

Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in men, after skin cancer. One in every six men will develop it in their lifetime. American Cancer Society estimates that this year, 230,000 new cases will be diagnosed and that about 25,000 men will die from prostate cancer.

NEED HELP FINDING OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING?

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Come to the "OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING WORKSHOP"

Valuable information and resources will be provided to help in your search for off-campus housing.

Representatives from "THE OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT HOUSING ASSOCIATION" will be present to answer questions and provide leasing information regarding their individual student apartment complexes.

When: Wednesday, April 7, 2004 - 7:00 PM

Where: Main lounge of Sierra Madre Residence Hall, (Blgd.113)

Current Hall Residents and Off-campus-students welcome!

Visit the Housing Web site at www.housing.calpoly.edu and click on OFF-CAMPUS.

Presented and sponsored by Cal Poly's Housing and Residential Life Department

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Women shouldn’t be held to higher legal standards

Commentary

The fight for women’s reproductive rights has been a perpetual struggle in our society. We are now witnessing a new twist in it: Can women who don’t engage in prenatal care or don’t agree with doctor’s recommendations be tried for murder if their babies don’t survive?

Let me make one thing clear before going any further. Pregnancy is not to be taken lightly. If a woman is deciding to take a pregnancy to term, she should abide by health decisions like not drinking, not smoking, not doing drugs, getting health exams regularly and taking care of herself and her unborn child. It is a moral obligation to start thinking about her child first, and that’s when the baby is in the womb.

However, the fact that a woman has opted to carry a fetus to term in the case of Melisa Ann Rowland, raises an equality issue: Is society prepared to raise the legal standard for women more than men?

Rowland was charged on murder charges in Utah for refusing a recommended C-section by doctors. One of her twins was stillborn, the other lived.

For many people this raises the question of whether or not a fetus is considered a person, the basis of the abortion debate. For argument’s sake, let’s assume that a baby in labor is considered a living person.

The idea that a woman could be accused of murder over the stillbirth of her baby demands that women give their bodies to their unborn children, regardless of the consequences to their own health.

There are no laws that require parents to donate organs or bone marrow to their children. If there is a chance their child’s life, even though most would hope that the parent would love their children enough to do so. But as a free and equal society, could we really require parents to endanger their own lives for the sake of their children? Can we require women to undergo a painful and sometimes dangerous procedure such as a C-section?

“Imagine a law that said something about the population — defined by race, gender or national origin — must undergo a particular surgical procedure, involving all of the risks and painful after-effects of surgery and anesthesia. Such a law would be objectionable and obviously unconstitutional no matter how helpful to others, including children of the targeted group,” said columnist Sherry Coll in a CNN article “Crying murder when C-section refused.”

Enforcing a law that would make women more legally responsible for the birth of their children would segregate a particular population — women — to carry a burden that the rest of the population could avoid. Would that truly be equality?

According to news reports on the Rowland case, Rowland was not responsible with her prenatal care before giving birth. The surviving twin had coagine in her system, and the doctors feel that her son could have lived if she would have taken the doctor’s suggested advice before and during labor.

In Rowland’s particular case (mental illness, previous children in foster homes, drug abuse) she shouldn’t be allowed to keep her children, and she should have been conscientious enough to use birth control. But, the isolated issue is that she refused a C-section. Prosecutors are using the theory that she didn’t want to have the scar the surgery could leave, but the defense is arguing that she was afraid of the surgery, especially being mentally ill and being told that it will be “cut from the bonehose to the public hense.”

It’s everyone’s individual decision on what should happen to Rowland, but in the larger picture we must decide what is best for women in society and whether they should be held to a higher legal standard than men. To segregate women and put this burden single-handedly on them is unconstitutional and absurd.

Ashley Wolf is a journalism junior and a Mustang Daily staff writer.

Homosexuality not a choice

Guest commentary

Jane Doe awoke this morning and had an epiphany. Deciding to be a part of the main-stream and define herself as a unique individual, she grabbed her Abercrombie clothes and threw them out the window. Jane then flashed herself on a magazine cover and shipped it to the world, “Dammit, I’m gay!”

Yeah right.

Contrary to the beliefs of many in this nation and even at Cal Poly, gays and lesbians do not choose to be homosexual. Their sexual orientation is by no means a way of proclaiming their independence in society.

Gays and lesbians do not decide who they are attracted to, but rather are born with natural attractions. Maybe you are naturally fascinated by the opposite gender. But for gays and lesbians, it is natural for them to be attracted to those of the same sex.

Knowing the ignorance and hostility await homosexuals on the other side of the closet door, no human being should choose to subject him or herself to such mistreatment.

“Precjudice, discrimination, hatred and abuse … may make life so uncomfortable and tiring as the claim that sexual orientation is a choice,” said Chris Right, a gay Virginian in the “Front Lance Star.”

In a recent study by "Business 2.0," 27 percent of surveyed homosexuals reported being verbally harassed in the last five years because of their sexual orientation.

According to the Mill, 16 percent of homosexuals, 8 percent were fired, and 12 percent were denied a promotion.

Such blatant mistreatment does not start in the workplace, but forms in the hallways of school and society.

In an issue of "Journal of Pediatrics," more than one-third of gay, lesbian and bisexual teenagers surveyed reported attempting suicide in the past year. And let’s not forget the heinous murders of gay students like Matthew Shepard and Eddie "Geez" Green who have taken place in this country.

Homosexuality is natural, no senseless beatings or murders will make gays and lesbians suddenly turn straight.

People argue that marriage among homosexuals is a "special right" they do not deserve. Marriage is in no way a "special right" nor is it a privilege — it is a right that every citizen in this country deserves. To deny certain people a right that is available to others on the basis of something that is out of their control is as unreasonable as denying people their rights based on skin color or gender.

If gays and lesbians wish to marry, let it be — they have just as much a right to marry as do their parents. If two gay men wed in San Francisco, it will not directly affect your life today. Take the higher ground and be accepting of the world around you. It is too bad that no matter what your biases don’t allow you to accept.

Emily Rancer, Emily Keiter and Amy Asman are journalism freshmen.

at the frivolous questions they posed to Kerry such as, “Have you ever Googled yourself?”

Much to my surprise, I agreed with Mr. Holcomb on these points and expected him to explain why casting an informed vote in this election — where so many vital issues hang in the balance — will be incredibly important. Instead, he quoted some rap lyrics, made some drug jokes and took some time to attack anyone he felt was not talking about the issue.

Was there a single piece of useful political information/com-mentary in the entire column? No. Was his entire piece just as vacuous as MTV’s interview?

While MTV’s pandering to the lowest common denominator is inevitable, I keep hoping that someday Holcomb’s Politics will actually contain some redeeming political discussion. Remember Holcomb, humor and substance don’t necessarily have to be mutually exclusive. Even your boy Jon Stewart has serious discussions with political figures on occasion. Perhaps you should take notes.

Ben Blue is a history senior.
Another 'sharkey' for students to kill

Around this time last year I contributed a letter warning of the evils of the great white shark. For those who read that particular piece, know this: My disgust for the great white zombie shark.

The undead have mocked societal conventions for far too long, and it's only a matter of time before they set their cold, dead sights on the hallowed beast we call the Pacific Ocean. Though we all know zombies prefer the human flesh, that putrid, reanimated corpse could render the car-trail-y hide of the great white? One bite and the already evil great white will become one of the evil dead.

The great white loves to bite and it's only a matter of time before it will render the car-trail-y hide of the great white. One bite and the already evil great white will become one of the evil dead.

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N.E.R.D. breaks mold with '70s flavor

Steve Hill
MUSTANG DAILY

saw him in a Heineken ad recently.

Band follows up rap-infused debut with experimental,

where. Jay-Z videos. Snoop Dogg

completely deviates from the work of

from N.E.R.D., his side project that

though, to release the second album

up to 2(H)2s critically-acclaimed but

N.E.R.lVs "Fly or Die," the follow­

"Backseat Love" and lines like "Her

puzzlingly catchy "Don' t Worry

album; it is, by far, the most infectious

extra voice to Williams'  story.

album is exactly what

a perfect blend of tribal drums, minor

futuristic R&B. It's not so much about

TANTRIC: "AFTER WE GO,"

and ease. "Jump" finds the frontman

telling the story of a runaway sick of

proves awkward on the surface, but by

that song, and the party is on.

Usher is the singer on that song. It

could be anybody.

And that's the thing about Usher.

Back when he wanted to leave the

every outcome. The guitar delay effects

which have been great. You know

rock bands in the

past 10 years. The guitar delay effects

have been on the rest of the album,

but I don't hear Usher's

playing through. It could, like I said.

But following this

song, and the party is on.

is to say, I don't hear Usher's

that song, and the party is on.

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playing through. It could, like I said.

But following this

song, and the party is on.

is to say, I don't hear Usher's

frustratingly compromised. The album

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Two separate proposals

1. Increase Health Services Fee
2. Increase ASI Fee supporting student athlete scholarships

have been approved for a student referendum on April 14th and 15th

The following Open Forums have been scheduled where students can ask questions and learn more about these two important proposals:

Wednesday April 7, 3:00-4:00 p.m.
Thursday April 8, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Monday April 12, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Location: UU 220

Additional information including an Objective Statement & Financial Analysis, Pro and Con Statements, sample ballot and polling times and locations is now available on the web, by clicking on the link located on Cal Poly's home page (www.calpoly.edu).

Muse finds voice, growth via ‘Absolution’

Brian Duff
THE LANSJON (OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY)

COLUMBUS, Ohio — "Absolution," the third album by Muse — a British three-piece — has the band finding its voice and style in a perfectly paced, well-written anthology of an atmospheric struggle with reality.

The prowess of vocalist Michael Bellamy on keyboards makes him among the most dynamic front men in alternative music, even though his vocal stylings are often reminiscent of Thom Yorke of Radiohead.

This album quickly moves near the top of the "best-of-the-year" lists, but it isn't perfect. The juxtaposition of fast and slow tracks in "Absolution" lends an uneven quality that upsets the tempos balance created in the better songs, and the songwriting tends a dangerous line between gorgeously earnest and surprisingly overwrought.

However, these complaints fall by the wayside in the face of the generally excellent music available on the album.

The single "Time Is Running Out" is full of cool keyboards and is ready for rock radio — although perhaps not vice-versa. The macabre piece titled "Apocalypse Please" is gorgeous and haunting, and "Falling Away With You" is lithe and sweet.

Second Annual
ENVIROHMENTAL
CAREER
SYMPOSIUM
& RECEPTION
Tuesday, April 13, 2004
Panel: 4:15 - 5:45pm  Phillips Hall (PAC-Km 124)
Reception: 5:45 - 7:15pm Fisher Science (Km. 285)
A panel of guest speakers will be speaking about how they prepared to work in their current field, what their work entails, and how they feel their career impacts the environment on a daily basis.
Santa Cruz band no longer Expendable to San Luis Obispo crowds

Rachel Musquiz

Reggae, Punk Rock, Ska, California Surf

Neither the audience nor The Expendables themselves can pigeonhole their style. As a band out of Santa Cruz, The Expendables have eased their way into the local scene in San Luis Obispo. The band performs Thursday during UU Hour.

Followers of The Expendables have compared the band to Sublime, although not for a similar style. The band revels in a post-Skatalite era, where anything goes in music. "We felt it was OK to play different styles and not fit into one genre," lead guitarist Raul Bianchi said. He noted a variety of musical influences that play into the band's writing, including Bob Marley, Steel Pulse and Iron Maiden.

The Expendables started out as a few high school teens playing together at parties and performing cover songs. The members would joke around with each other that they were all expendable and could easily be replaced with better musicians — hence the name.

After a couple years, the band developed creatively as a group and began writing their own songs. The current lineup of Adam Patterson (drums, vocals), Geoff Weers (guitar, vocals), Ryan DeMars (bass) and Bianchi have been playing together for the past four years, with each member bringing his individual style to the mix.

The band started playing for fun, and still proclaims the same ambition. "We're just trying to make a living by making music," Patterson said. "We're doing what we love to do. We're not trying to make it huge." The Expendables are not signed with a record label now, but they are working on creating an independent label in association with Santa Cruz Surf Shop. The label, SCS Records, will boost the Expendables and other Santa Cruz bands.

Playing in their hometown of Santa Cruz at venues such as the Catalyst (capacity: 1,000), the band often garners sold-out shows as its fan base continues to grow. But traveling helps build this base even further.

The Expendables play regularly in San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco and now perform monthly in San Luis Obispo. "San Luis Obispo is our second-favorite place to perform," Patterson said. "We have lots of friends and fans here. It's always a good crowd." Since the tour wrapped, the band has played fewer shows in order to focus on writing and recording its third album, which will be released in July. In addition to Thursday's UU Hour show, The Expendables will play an all-ages show April 14 at SLO Brewing Co. at 8:30 p.m.

Geoff Weers and the rest of The Expendables play UU Hour Thursday.
**Golf from page 12**

*good place to find some answers.*

No one has ever played the Masters on a course like this long and this firm. While the fast fairways should regulate some of the length, the greens will accept only the best shots. It doesn’t necessarily favor the longest hitters or the sharpest short game, simply the best players.

“A guy that feels good about his game this week, he’s got a good chance to win,” Els said. “It’s pretty open. Woods already noticed some severe differences.

He could reach the par-5 second hole with a good drive and a 3-wood the last few years. During a practice round Monday, he got there with a 6-iron.

What really got his attention was the precision required this week. Playing the third hole on Tuesday, Woods watched Mark O’Meara hit a slight draw and watched the ball run through the green. He approached it with a soft fade that landed in about the same place, only Woods’ ball stayed on the green.

“If you don’t hit the proper shot this week, you’re really going to pay the price,” Woods said. “The landing areas are that much smaller now. It’s going to become more important who’s really hitting the ball as the week goes on, because you can’t get away with having a bad-strike day.”

Then again, Woods can’t avoid getting a bad day at anything, especially with the competition nipping at his heels.

Steve Mickelson, leading the PGA Tour money list for the first time in six years, won the Bob Hope Classic and has finished in the top 10 in all 12 events.

Vijay Singh is closing in on the No. 1 ranking. Els has already won twice this year.

Mickelson, the guy who swings like Woods, is coming off a victory in The Players Championship and is suddenly regarded as golf’s next star.
**CAL POLY’S RONI SPARRLEY**

**Unquestioned leader**

Softball’s Sparrey having standout season at the plate after making the switch from second base to shortstop

Amy Kocot

**MUSTANG DAILY**

Senior Roni Sparrey turns heads and drops jaws with game-winning home runs as starting shortstop for the Cal Poly women’s softball team.

She started playing softball when she was just 12 years old and spent her high school days in Vallejo playing the sport she grew to love and excel in. As an inspiring player for the squad, she said she is proud of the way the team is growing as a whole.

"The season has been going pretty well," Sparrey said. "It is a young team, but we are really stepping it up."

Sophomore outfielder Teresa Miller agrees that the young team has been maturing, thanks especially to Sparrey’s outstanding leadership.

"We have been doing well and improving throughout the season," Miller said. "I would say Roni is a silent leader. She leads the team more through her actions on the field and by showing up to practices."

"...Roni is a silent leader. She leads the team more through her actions."

- TERE S A MILLER

M u s t a n g ou t f i l d e r

This season. She said she is improving each year, which she credits mostly to assistant coach Ali Viola.

Her hard work has definitely paid off this year. She is hitting .396, more than .100 points higher than the next-best Mustang. In further statistical dominance she also leads the team in runs scored, hits, doubles, triples, home runs, slugging, walks, on-base percentage and stolen bases.

"We have a lot of new players on the field, and our pitching has been good," Sparrey said. "We have been putting the ball in play, but we were not getting hits in. Now with Ali helping us out, we are in good shape."

This will be Sparrey’s last season as a Mustang. She said her love for the sport will always stay with her and after graduation she will continue to be involved with the sport.

She said she plans to go into coaching after next fall; she is currently looking for schools that have open positions.

The recent 5-game losing streak has not brought the team’s spirit down, and Sparrey and her teammates agree that they have high hopes and determination for their next game.

**ON THE FAIRWAY**

**Senior Roni Sparrey turns heads and drops jaws with game-winning home runs as starting shortstop for the Cal Poly women’s softball team.**

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Travis Bertoni - won individual title (213, -3)

Travis Bertoni wins title; women last at CSUN

**MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT**

Travis Bertoni won his second individual title of the season at the Brite/Pacific Coast Intercollegiate, shooting a three-round total of 213 at La Puraisma Golf Course.

The men finished in a tie for seventh place after a final-round 295, a vast improvement over the team’s opening rounds of 303 and 306.

He entered the day two strokes behind Cal State Northridge’s Pete Sisich, but the Matador faltered to a 76 on Tuesday.

Zach King was the second-best Mustang after tying for 45th with a 230 total. Mike McGaig finished 59th after shooting 233. Brycen Wagner shot 237 to finish in 74th place, while Darin Blair finished 79th with a 239 total.

UC Davis, who will graduate from Connecticut with a 3.8 grade-point average and a .900 winning percentage, will graduate from Connecticut with a 3.8 grade-point average and a .900 winning percentage.

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

March 25, 2004

"It’s not easy to trust your swing if your mechanics are not quite sound," Woods said. "That’s one of the things that I’ve been trying to work on, trying to get my fundamentals of my golf swing more solid so I can go out there and don’t have to think anything except for why every shot I hit is wrong."

But even Woods concedes that his swing is not the same as it was in 2000, and there are moments in his game that he is trying to solve.

One week he drove the ball to all corners of the golf course, sparred by good iron play. The next week he couldn’t hit the ball far enough. He said he has hit his irons and woods over 230 yards, but could never get it close to the hole. He has hit the ball great on the practice range but there are moments of doubt on the first tee.

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**At Augusta National last week**

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