Students to vote on fee increases

If both measures pass, tuition will be raised $120; funds will benefit Health Center, athletics department.

This year's referendum is asking for additional funding for the athletics department and the Health Center. Total cost: $120.

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The Cal Poly Health Center is endorsing National Alcohol Screening Day on campus from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today to help students recognize and treat alcohol abuse. Nationally, nearly 1,400 student deaths result from alcohol-related incidents each year. Helping students recognize and treat alcohol abuse remains an imminent responsibility for the Health Center, said Bob Negrazi, projects coordinator for the Health Center.

"Even if they don't perceive it to be a problem, it's an outlet for them to get information," doctoral intern Carrie McGourty said. "It's rare for today's culture that someone hasn't been impacted by substance abuse."

The event, which is recognized by Health Center and athletics department.

Drinking habits of students analyzed

The project stems from a social-norms marketing principle, which maintains that consumers (or students) behave based on what they perceive the norm to be. Therefore, if the belief among students is that their classmates consume, say, seven drinks per week, as Edwards and business senior Lei-Lani Keelan think is the common perception, they will drink more than they are naturally inclined to.

"If we send out the message of 'Guess what? You think the average Cal Poly student drinks this much, but really it's a lot lower... it's going to influence behavior," Keelan said.

Once the group has compiled the statistics, they will draft a marketing campaign that may address student drinking habits.

Take me out to the ball game

Cal Poly opens conference play

In Sports, page 16

Freedom of expression

Artist takes stand against Bush foreign policy

In Arts & Culture, page 9

Weather report

Tides

High 2.6 at 1:43 p.m.
Low 2.0 at 5:35 p.m.

Sunrise 6:39 A.M.
Sunset 7:30 P.M.
Budget continued from page 1
ple (faculty and staff positions), which includes salaries, benefits and compensation, he said during the meet-
ping. Cal Poly will be eliminating the equivalent of 62 full-time staffing positions, 47 of which are faculty
depositions. Despite the 509 positions that will be cut, there will be no reduction in full-time, tenure-track faculty posi-
tions, Detweiler said.

The university has had a hiring freeze for non-critical positions since 2001, when the state's economy
began to affect the state budget. The freeze will remain in effect.

Faculty members were notified about job terminations as of July 1. Staff members have been notified as well. Faculty, full-time positions are based per academic year, and they have not been notified if they will return in the fall. In addition to the faculty and staff cuts, the number of students accepted into the university for fall 2004 has been reduced by 850.

The university is predicting enrollment for fall equivalent students at 16,218 in the fall, which is a 5 percent enrollment reduction.

Cal Poly's enrollment has not been that low since 1992-93, Detweiler said.

As for the faculty, Detweiler is frustrated by the setback, he said it is for the best.

"The impact on students here would be devastating," Detweiler said.

Buchanan continued from page 1
ation of the conservative lecture series put on by the Cal Poly College Republicans. Buchanan has also served as campaign chairman for her broth-
ery's presidential campaigns, is a reg-
political analyst for CNN's "Inside Politics" and has co-
honored "Equal Time" on CNN and MSNBC.

Some of the topics Buchanan was critical of included feminism, presidential candidate John Kerry, pro-choice and homosexual mar-
rriage.

"She did a great job of address-
ing a number of tough subjects," College Republican president Steve Hinke said. "She articulated the questions very well."

Buchanan was especially critical of Kerry.

"He's so unhappy a man," Buchanan said. "He doesn't laugh."

Some audience members chuckled at the comment, while some didn't.

"You may not believe in what she says, but you can't fault the lady for what she believes," attendee Dwayne Burbach said.

Buchanan continued her cri-
tics of Kerry, condemning his "hate for the opposition" and con-
trasting Kerry's lack of personality with that of presidential candidate John Edward's popular image.

Later she stated that Bush "must be thanking his lucky star" that Edwards was not chosen for the democratic presidential nomina-
tion.

Buchanan got more controver-
sial as she progressed with her viewpoints.

"I travel to many campuses and at some of them there's some antag-
ony, some confrontation," she said. "But generally, I encour-
age them to challenge me and their fellow col-
legues. I think it is extremely healthy and American to open up
dialogue." Buchanan moved on from Kerry to her opinion on the negative aspects of the feminist movement—primarily pro-choice abortion rights.

Buchanan emphasized her belief

that abortion has two victims, the child and the woman.

"It's not something you can wake up and change your mind," Buchanan said on the affects that abortions can have on women who regret them later on in life.

Breast cancer was a danger, she cited, resulting from abortion.

During the question-and-answer por-
tion, Buchanan was asked about subjects ranging from Islamic extremism to her opposition of free trade and belief in the benefits of protectionism.

"We believe in decent wages," said Buchanan about protecting American jobs and avoiding exploitation. "Tariffs equalize it."

Buchanan jumped from eco-
nomics to what sparked the most

opposition in the lecture, the topic of homosexual marriage and govern-
ment.

Buchanan expressed her belief that gay marriages are wrong.

"We're not going to try to give the American people a say in regards to marrying others," she said. "We're not going to try to avoid giving the campaign the anti-acephaphilic spin."

"We're not going to try to gag your finger at us and tell you not to drink ... because then a lot of us would be hypocrites," Keelen said. "All we want to do is present cor-
rect information, and have that influence your behavior," she said.

Surfer killed in shark attack

KAHANA, Hawaii (AP) — A surfer was killed Wednesday morn-
ing in a shark attack off Maui, the first confirmed fatal attack in Hawaii in nearly 12 years, police said.

Wilis McInnis, 57, of Kahan
a was attacked about 500 yards off Kahana beach on Maui about midnight and was helped out of the water, but died at the beach despite efforts by bystanders, police and medics, authorities said.

McInnis suffered serious injuries to his leg that were consistent with a shark bite and had severe blood loss, police Capt. Charles Hirata said.

"We're hoping that whoever we deal with will either sponsor us, or cut us in if they think we're trying to do it for the good of the public," Keelen said.

"We're not going to try to gag your finger at us and tell you not to drink ... because then a lot of us would be hypocrites," Keelen said. "All we want to do is present correct information, and have that influence your behavior," she said.
"We are a real university. People live, thrive and grow here, and athletics is a big part of that process."

— ALISON CONE
interim athletics director

We're a real university. People live, thrive and grow here, and athletics is a big part of that process.

Students feel doing so in a time when faculty is being fired and fewer classes are being offered is not appropriate.

"Right now everyone is feeling the same pain from the budget cuts," said Progressive Student Alliance, which stands in opposition of the referendum, co-director Clayton Whit. "The line has to be drawn somewhere (on fee increases). Maybe we could do this in better times but not right now."

Cone said the timing of the referendum was out of her hands, saying "you cannot decide when you hit a critical time in funding."

She followed that by saying students would not be paying more, at least proportionately, if the referendum passed. They would once again be funding 50 percent of scholarships, which they did in 1996 when the athletic scholarship fee was first implemented.

Regardless of proportions, the referendum would still raise the amount of money students pay each quarter, which raises several issues.

Higher tuition goes against the California State University's mission of providing affordable education. This affects the accessibility to education, especially to minorities, who are disproportionately affected by a rise in costs. Such a situation would exacerbate an already-existing problem at Cal Poly, which has gained notoriety, including an Los Angeles Times article last month, about its lack of diversity on campus, Whit said.

Athletic scholarships actually increase diversity because they provide an education to student athletes who may not otherwise be able to afford tuition, said Assistant Vice Provost for Systems and Resource Management Kimi Ikeda.

Student life is actually enhanced by athletics, Cone said. "People live, thrive and grow here, and athletics is a big part of that process."

Athletics can also enhance Cal Poly's reputation by garnering national attention for the university, said Heather McGinns, a member of the women's golf team and president of Block B, the student-athlete advisory committee.

What said his group's stance against the student fee referendum is not an attack on athletics but rather on increasing fees for one department while others are forced to take cuts. He would welcome funding for athletics at a more opportune time, he said.

The Health Services fee, which would raise tuition by $15 a quarter, has drawn much less fire. Its passage would allow the Health Center to continue doing business as usual in 2004-05. If the fee does not pass, students will not be able to see, except in an emergency, without an appointment, and those appointments will be harder to come by. Some services would also be cut, said Martin Bragg, director of Health and Counseling Services.

"Cutting services is not a pleasant thought," Bragg said. "We like the way we operate. (If the referendum doesn't pass) there will have to be a dramatic change in how we do business."

Students who favor the Health Services fee said they did so to because the Health Center provides vital health care to all students, whereas the fee for athletic scholarships is seen by opponents as only benefiting athletes.

Students have expressed dissatisfaction not only with the referendum, but the process by which students were informed of them.

The timing of the referendum's announcement and release of the informational statements, as well as their content, have also drawn complaints from the student body.

The announcement of the vote was made during dead week of winter quarter. Some students say they were too focused on finals to take time to educate themselves on the upcoming vote.

Also, spring break fell in the middle of the time between the vote's announcement, hampering student's ability to debate the issues.

The timetable for informing the students was set by the Campus Fee Advisory Committee, a board dominated by students. The announcement was made one month, excluding campus holidays, before the first scheduled April 14 vote, a standard with previous elections.

ASI president Alison Anderson, also a member of CFAC, favors the timing of the announcement. Allowing students to find out so soon before they are scheduled to vote leaves the topic fresh in students' minds, she said.

Also, CFAC did not want the voting to coincide with voting for ASI elections because they did not want it to be a campaign issue, Anderson said.

The informational statements have left some students dissatisfied, saying they are misleading.

For example, the objective statement for the ASI athletic scholarship fee does not mention the $46-20 students also pay toward athletics under the instructionally-related fee.

This fee was not included in the objective statement because it is a separate fee not related to the referendum. The job of the objective statement is to only address what is being voted on, Ikeda said.

Also, some students voiced concern over the quality of pro statements, compared to their counterparts, because of the administration's help. Ikeda said she was available to students writing statements from either side of the fence. The pro statements posted on Cal Poly's Web site were the only two the administration received.

The entire voting process will be reviewed after the fact, just as is done after each election, Anderson said.

Until then, each department's future depends on the decision of the students.
State Briefs
SAN RAFAEL — Marin County officials will be using decoys to catch bartenders and liquor store operators who sell alcohol to minors.

County officials, concerned that past strategies to slow alcohol use by minors have fallen short, announced a tougher plan that calls for conducting stings against bars and liquor stores.

Health officials also will try to enlist the help of youngsters in appealing to local city councils to amend their zoning laws to prevent new alcohol outlets from opening.

The steps are part of a five-year plan announced Tuesday to curb the abuse of alcohol and drugs in the county.

MARYSVILLE — Peach growers in Sutter and Yuba counties are hoping the U.S. Department of Agriculture will pay for a feasibility study on bringing a new peach-processing facility to the area.

Three of the area's processing plants have closed down since 2000, leaving growers struggling to find homes for their peaches.

"It will make this region less dependent on someone else to process our peaches," Tim Johnson, executive director of the Yuba-Sutter Economic Development Corp., said of a new facility.

Last year, growers had a glut of 78,000 tons of peaches and uprooted trees and dropped green fruit to the ground to eliminate another 50,000 tons of peaches as the industry tried to expand its markets.

SANTA BARBARA — The county might have to pay the $400,000 cost of an upcoming study on a Santa Barbara County airport.

The cost wasn't unexpected and the state is gearing up to eliminate another 50,000 tons of peaches as the industry tried to expand its markets.

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U.S. troops killed 15 Marines since Monday and were part of an intensifying uprising involving both Sunni and Shites that now stretched from Kirkuk in the north to the far south.

Marines waged a six-hour battle around the mosque with the militants holed up inside before a Cobra helicopter fired a Hellfire missile at the base of its mount, and an F-16 dropped the bomb, said Marine Lt. Col. Brennan Byrne.

PIDEAS NEGRAS, Mexico — Skies once filled with threatening clouds cleared and the cleanup of the destruction caused by flooding that killed 34 people got under way in this town on the U.S. border.

Even as hundreds began picking up the pieces of their damaged homes and water-logged belongings, many of their neighbors were burying loved ones.

Buildings rumbled through the streets, and soldiers and city employees tossed debris into garbage trucks, doing their best to pick up the rubble of toppled homes, destabilized buildings and strewn furniture.

Terrorist rain beginning Sunday night caused the Escondido River to overflow, triggering flash flooding that damaged 600 homes, destroyed 150 others and left 2,000 people in makeshift shelters.

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Lawyer Josef Grasdiek-Muencher said el Motasadeq was returning to his wife and two children in Hamburg.

*Nationals Briefs*  

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The proposed sentence for Les Fastow was part of a larger plea deal involving her husband's criminal case, although prosecutors insisted her decision won't affect his plea and cooperation agreement under which he faces up to 10 years in prison on two counts of fraud.

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Plaintiffs include state Assembly member Daniel O'Donnell and his partner of 23 years, John Barra. The NYCLU, the American Civil Liberties Union and a private law firm are representing the plaintiffs.

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Why you should consider Voting no on the ASI Athletic Scholarship Fee increase

- Students have had insufficient time to make an informed decision—the fee referendum was not even announced until dead week last quarter.

- The University has not told students how much they pay already to support athletics—in addition to the $4.15 ASI fee, there is also $46.20 for athletics from the Instructionally Related Activities Fee that we pay each quarter.

- As student fees rise, the burden of paying for education shifts from the state to the students. It is the CSU's mission to provide a quality and affordable education to California's students.

- Higher fees limit access to education for underprivileged groups. As fees creep skyward, we can only expect less diversity at Cal Poly.
CSU Chico denies campus policy

CHICO, Calif. — After a student-driven committee took more than a year to prepare it, members of the California State University, Chico Academic Senate took only an hour to shred a proposed campus policy on academic integrity.

The proposal was the result of a student-led effort to do something to stem the flood of cheating and plagiarism that has swept the campus.

"The students came to us saying, 'The quality of our degrees is being degraded, and we know they are being degraded because we have observed a system of cheating in our classes, and the faculty is doing nothing,'" said Scott McNall, provost and university vice president for Academic Affairs.

But members of the Academic Senate Tuesday took issue with some of the proposal's stipulations, especially its definition of cheating: "using or attempting to use unauthorized study aids, information or materials in any academic exercise. This also includes either helping or attempting to help another person cheat."

Member Marc Siegall, a professor in management, asked if one of his students created a set of flash cards, would those be an "unauthorized" study aid?

Another professor criticized the proposal because it included no mechanism for students to turn in cheaters they discover.

The proposal was handed back to the committee, which is comprised of both students and faculty. For the past year the panel has studied how other schools promote academic honesty on their campuses.

MURDER

Student charged with murder of baby

California State University, Chico student charged with murder and felony assault of newborn baby

OROVILLE, Calif. (AP) — A 20-year-old college student has been charged with murder in connection to the death of her newborn baby, prosecutors said.

Autopsy results indicate the newborn son of the California State University, Chico sophomore was strangled minutes after birth, said Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey.

Gina Rose Grinsell appeared in Butte County Superior Court Tuesday. She was charged with murder in the death of the baby and felony assault on a child causing death.

Evidence indicates that Grinsell hid her pregnancy from her family and friends, Ramsey said, and an autopsy shows that Grinsell gave birth Thursday to a full-term, healthy baby boy in her room at the Kappa Sigma Delta sorority house in Chico.

Grinsell, who cried during the hearing, allegedly strangled the infant and placed him inside a can wrapped in a plastic shopping bag. The body was subsequently found by a sorority sister, Ramsey said.

Chico defense attorney Dennis Latimer was retained to help represent Grinsell. He said the student was "very sad and emotionally upset."

Latimer said he doesn’t believe Grinsell was aware of a state law that allows mothers to leave newborns at a local hospital without questions or fear of prosecution.

Ramsey said authorities were given a first name of the baby’s father and that additional investigation was under way to try to determine whether “he was aware of this pregnancy.”

Grinsell allegedly gave birth to the baby while a sorority function attended by 30 to 40 people went on downstairs, Ramsey said.

Grinsell remains in custody on $1 million bail. She is scheduled to return to court April 12. She did not enter a plea.

Let’s Buck Tobacco!

Spit tobacco is addictive, deadly and disgusting. The spit tobacco industry uses rodeos to promote their product that kills when used as directed. To market their product to young adults, they sponsor the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA), doling out money to college rodeo competitors, including the Cal Poly Rodeo.

We think that’s a bunch of ‘spit!’

Please email your opposition to spit tobacco sponsorship of our Cal Poly Rodeo to bucktobaccoevent@gmail.com. Tell the rodeo organizers to say ‘NO’ to tobacco money. Well forward your emails to the rodeo organizers to ensure that your voice is heard loud and clear. With your help, we can Buck Tobacco Sponsorship.

Let your voice be heard!

LEAGUE AGAINST SPIT SPONSORSHIP AT OUR RODEOS (LASSO)

For more information, call (805) 781-5564 or visit www.BuckTobacco.org

Paid for with funds from the Public Health Institute/Tobacco Free Events Projects.
Democrats block malpractice bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans lost a third attempt to curb medical malpractice lawsuits Wednesday but said they will keep forcing votes on an issue they blame for rising health care costs.

On a 49-48 vote, GOP leaders fell 11 votes short of the 60 needed to force the Senate to consider their bill to cap pain-and-suffering damages that juries can award in malpractice suits against obstetricians and emergency room doctors.

Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., says the GOP won't go up on getting medical malpractice legislation wanted by physicians and insurance companies through the Senate this election year.

"We are going to keep bringing this issue back because the crisis is getting worse," he said.

Republicans say their measure could help reduce unnecessary lawsuits and higher malpractice premiums that make it harder for doctors to practice. They tried last year and again earlier this year to force votes on similar measures but failed.

Democrats accuse Republicans of playing up to their donors in the medical and insurance lobbies and say that limiting damages is unfair to injured patients and their families.

"I've never seen such special-interest legislation," said Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt. "Instead of going about doing the people's business, we seem to be going about the political action committees' business, and that's why, of course, nothing is getting done."

The American Association for Justice opposes the bill filed a complaint against Frist, a heart surgeon, for participating in a debate since his family founded the hospital chain and its subsidiary medical malpractice insurer, Health Care Indemnity.

The association says the legislation "would directly benefit his family's hospital chain and insurance company and increase his personal fortune," the Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights said in a letter to the Senate Ethics Committee.

Energy Department requires law change for nuclear cleanup

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Energy Department is threatening to withhold $350 million that was to pay for disposal of some of the most dangerous radioactive waste from Cold War bomb-making.

First, it says, Congress and state officials must accept a cleanup plan already rejected in court.

The issue has pitted a half dozen states against the Bush administration — raising concern that some of the millions of gallons of highly radioactive waste that are supposed to be solidified and buried by the government may, in fact, remain in place.

"I will not allow DOE to hold this wind hostage, or to hold this budget hostage," Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, told the head of the Energy Department cleanup effort at a recent hearing.

On Capitol Hill and in the states facing the cleanup task, critics are accusing the department of trying to force states to accept less stringent cleanup standards to save money and finish the job more quickly. The department argues that some of the waste has a low enough level of radioactivity that it can be covered with cement ground and left in place.

Last year a federal judge in Idaho said that the Energy Department's plan to reclasify some of the waste in the tanks as "low level" and not remove it for burial violated the law.

He said Congress specifically said all the waste, the byproduct of plutonium production during the Cold War, has to be treated as "high-level" waste and must be buried in a central facility, probably the planned site at Yucca Mountain in Nevada.

The cleanup, which sites in Washington, Idaho, South Carolina and New York is expected to cost tens of billions of dollars and take decades.

But the head of the cleanup program, Jessie Roberson, told congressional committees recently that the department has no plans to spend the $350 million earmarked for next fiscal year — and probably will not even ask Congress for it — unless it is allowed to reclasify some of the radioactive waste to make disposal easier and cheaper.

Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., reminded her that some people have characterized the department's strategy as "blackmail" in an attempt to get the federal nuclear waste law changed and circumvent the federal court ruling.

The Energy Department is appealing that court case, but would prefer Congress change the law.

"They didn't get their way in court, so now they want the law changed," said Murray in an interview. "Everyone is for accelerated cleanup as long as it's done in a way that protects workers' safety, and we don't lose money."

CRUISING through a red light can cost you, in more ways than one:

- Fines for running a red light average $286.
- Yellow means "slow down," not "speed up."
- Cars with the green light may not see a car running a yellow or red light.
- Practice defensive driving — reckless driving can turn into assault with a deadly weapon.

You are not an action hero. Stop when it's red.
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

Monday March 15, 8:30-9:30 p.m.  
Tuesday March 30, 8:00-9:00 p.m.  
Wednesday April 7, 3:00-4:00 p.m.  
Thursday April 8, 3:30-4:30 p.m.  
Location: UU 220

Additional information including an objective statement, financial analysis, pro and con statements, sample ballots, and polling times and locations are now available on the web, by clicking on the link located on Cal Poly's home page (www.calpol.edu).

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**Valencia Townhouse Apartment Living for Students**

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- Your Own Bedroom in 3-Bedroom Units
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- Fitness Center and Heated Pool
- Computer Lab with FREE Internet Access
- Recreation Center/Billiards/Ping Pong
- TV Lounge with 72" Big Screen and VCR
- Walk to Shopping Center and Restaurants
- On SLO City Bus Route
- Convenient 9.5 mo or 11.5 mo Leases
- Reduced Noise Hours After 10PM
- GPA Discount of 5%-10% for Superior Grades
- Full-time Maintenance Department
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- Department Award Dinners
- Fraternity/Sorority Formals & Dances

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**Los Angeles (AP) — Wal-Mart officials said Wednesday the retail giant is undeterred in its goal of expanding its business in California, despite a string of setbacks and potential hurdles at the hands of union-backed opposition groups and some elected officials.**

**The world's largest retailer spent more than $1 million to try to sway residents in the Los Angeles suburb of Inglewood to approve its ballot initiative clearing the way for a new store, but lost the vote.**

Tuesday's defeat represents at least the second time a majority of voters in a California community has blocked Wal-Mart's efforts. Last month, residents in San Marcos, outside of San Diego, forced a referendum on a city council decision to approve a new Wal-Mart store, and ultimately overturned it.

On Wednesday, the company downplayed the outcome of the Inglewood vote, saying it would not affect its strategy to open 40 of its hybrid grocery store and Wal-Mart Supercenter stores in California over the next four-to-six years.

"We've got a lot of things going on in the state, and Inglewood was just one of our only interests," said Bob McAdam, Wal-Mart's vice president of corporate affairs. "That program continues moving forward ... I don't see this deterring us from reaching our goal."

Critics of Bentonville, Ark.-based Wal-Mart Stores Inc. say the company's stores, particularly its roughly 200,000 square-foot Supercenters, lead to jumbled malls and worn suburban sprawl. Others, specifically labor unions, say Wal-Mart stores only create low-benefit, low-wage jobs and its low prices drive smaller competitors out of business.

The company rejects those criticism, saying its stores help drive competition to the benefit of consumers and help attract other businesses that lead to more jobs.

Wal-Mart has faced steady opposition throughout the United States, and California has been no exception, particularly since the company announced in 2002 its intention to expand in Supercenters here.

"We have challenges across the country, but I would say that it's perhaps more pronounced here in California," McAdam said.

The 4 1/2-month-long labor dispute by Southern California grocery workers focused unabashed public health concerns by the workers' union and the supermarkets against Wal-Mart.

That sentiment lingers in union strongholds in the state remain an influential issue with many elected officials. In Los Angeles and other municipalities city officials are considering or have passed ordinances to block the warehouse-sized stores.

"There is something brewing here, which is about holding Wal-Mart accountable," said Madeline Hain-Aparicio, executive director of the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy, which helped lobby residents of Inglewood to reject the Wal-Mart ballot initiative.

"The effort to stop them cold has not been successful. The effort to hold them accountable is gathering steam," Janis-Aparicio said. "They're in California, but they're not in firmly with both feet."

Despite opposition, Wal-Mart has managed to gain some ground in California.

In Calimesa and Contra Costa, Wal-Mart was able to organize a referendum on ordinances passed to block Wal-Mart's efforts. In Los Angeles and other municipalities city officials reordered an ordinance also aimed at stifling new developments by the retailer.

Last month, Wal-Mart opened its first Supercenter location in the desert city of La Quinta. The discounter has also won the go-ahead to open two others this fall in Hemet and Stockton. And the city of Gilroy has also approved the opening of a Supercenter, McAdam said.

In Inglewood, the company decided to appeal to voters directly, with its own ballot initiative after the City Council last year blocked a proposed shopping center, which would have included both a traditional Wal-Mart and other stores.

But despite collecting more than 10,000 signatures to force the vote, 7,049 votes were cast against the initiative and 4,575 in favor.

"It would have been a great win for them, but I don't think it's by any means a crippling loss," said Ken Walker, regional director at Kurt Salmon Associates, a retail consulting company.
College April Fools’ newspapers not suffered lightly

Dan Nephin
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Being funny without being offensive is tough to do, which is why college newspapers that publish April Fools’ Day editions often end up paying for it.

Three student publications that put out spoof the day — those at Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Scranton and the University of Nebraska at Omaha — know all too well.

Carnegie-Mellon’s paper, The Tartan, voluntarily shut down for the rest of the semester after publishing a racially charged cartoon in its April Fools’ Day edition titled The Ghettoway. One story, with the headline “Gateway cameras shot during weekend,” was written by Ono Udini.

Another fake byline: Minidjo Bidjou. The news editor, who is black, told The Gateway for a story Tuesday that she thought the content was representative of pop culture in general.

The NAACP, the Urban League and many community members filed complaints with Nebraska’s chancellor. Nance Belk told The Gateway: “I find it (The Ghettoway) offensive, and we will not tolerate it on this campus.”

In a second call for the president’s impeachment, 2000 Green Party presidential nominee said to applause from about 200 students at Columbia College Chicago.

Nader called President Clinton was impeached for “far less of an offense.”

Yo-Yo Ma, an independent presidential candidate Ralph Nader called Tuesday for President Bush to be impeached for “deceiving the American people night after night after night” about U.S. involvement in Iraq.

“Why you plunge our country into war on a platform of fabrications and deceptions, and you bring back thousands of American soldiers who are sick, injured or dead, and that war is unconstitutional?” he said.

Nader previously called for Bush’s impeachment during an anti-war rally March 20 in the president’s hometown of Crawford, Texas, to mark the first anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

Other cases of women attempting to perform C-sections at home:

In 2000, an Illinois woman in her rural home when problems developed during labor, doctors reported.

Saturday, April 8, 2000

LAS VEGAS (AP) - Illusionists Roy Horn remained at home, recovering from a near-fatal tiger-mauling, while the Las Vegas City Council honored him Wednesday as "Citizen of the Month."

Mayor Oscar Goodman presented the proclamation to "Siegfried & Roy" show manager Bernie Yuman, calling Horn "a great entertainer and a great community partner."

"I wish he was with us today," Goodman said. "But he'll be with us in the future."

Yuman said in an interview that the 59-year-old entertainer was improving daily and expects to be able to make public appearances by early September.

"Roy's cognitive skills are perfect, and he's as handsome and dynamic as ever," Yuman said. "Love and prayer is a big part of the reason he's thriving, and we thank all of you for that."

Co-star Siegfried Fischbacher was "unable to attend the ceremony." The "Siegfried & Roy" show, at the Mirage hotel-casino was shut down after Horn was attacked by a white tiger during an Oct. 3 performance.

Woman gives herself C-section, doctors report

Lindsey Tanner
ASSOCIATED PRESS

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MERRILL SMITH ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The first American woman to perform a Caesarean section gave birth Wednesday to a healthy baby girl in her rural home when problems developed during labor, doctors reported.

Valle, a Northwestern University obstetrician who learned about the case from a colleague.

"She was asked, 'Why did you do that? Do you know you could have died?" She said, 'Yes, but I wanted to save my baby," Valle said Wednesday. He added: "This is heroic to me."

The authors of the report said there are other cases of women attempting the same thing, but none they could find which in the mother and child survived.

The woman, 40, lived in a dirt-floor house with no decontamination or running water and had previously lost a baby during childbirth, the authors said.

She was done when she went into labor, and fearing the same thing would happen if she appeared child­birth was not progressing, she decided to perform the crude C-section. She drank three small glasses of hard liquor first to numb the pain, he said.

“Rather than experience fetal death in stem again, she used her skills at slaughtering animals," the report said.

The nurse stabbed the woman’s abdomen with an ordinary needle and thread, and the mother and baby were taken to a hospital in the Mexican state of Oaxaca.

"Lying under oath is not a trivial offense, but it can­not tolerate it on this campus."
I burned this flag
because it has
ceased to be a
beacon of freedom
and has instead
become a symbol
of oppression and
imperialism

empassioned EXPRESSION

Art and design senior Sabiha Basrai has channeled her disapproval of U.S. foreign policy into an art exhibit at the UU Gallery. STORY BY CARRIE MCQOURTY PHOTO BY NATHAN CASWELL
Artist uses work to take strong stance against U.S. foreign policy

A photo of a burned flag, stars and stripes charred by the flames of an artist’s anger, lingers beneath free verse poetry harshly criticizing the war in Iraq. The piece is small, but the implications are large.

Although the symbol of a burned flag has historically been used to denounce America, the artist says it is her love for America and democracy that inspired her to take such a radical stance.

“I hope to inspire people to think about what’s happening in Iraq instead of blindly accepting what’s going on,” said Sabiha Basrai, the art and design senior who created the piece. The illustration is part of a series of Basrai’s art entitled “Art for the Peace Movement” that will be on display in the University Union Gallery from April 12 through May 4. As part of her senior project, Basrai created 15 pieces that she said she hopes will bring awareness to the impact of U.S. foreign policy on the Middle East.

“Her work is very striking, forceful and effective at getting the message across of showing the need for peace and the horrors of war,” said Clayton Whitt, a social sciences senior and co-director with Basrai for the Progressive Student Alliance.

In other illustrations, Basrai portrays young Iraqi children who suffer from leukemia as a result of the depleted uranium weapons used by the United States in the Persian Gulf War. The pieces of Basrai’s art is derived from her experience as an activist and the information she received from humanitarian groups stationed in the Middle East, she said. Voices of the Wilderness, a group that brings books and medicine to Iraq, and Iraqbodycount.com provided Basrai with the information and inspiration to document the effects of the United States in other parts of the world.

“I met and worked with activists from Iraq,” Basrai said. “I understood what was happening and I felt compelled to paint portraits.”

Basrai said her Muslim religion also influenced her art. There is a strong connection to Iraq and Islamic religious sites influencing her to stay informed during the 12-year gap between the Persian Gulf War and the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq, she said.

“I feel a religious connection to other parts of the Middle East,” Basrai said. “I felt compelled to document the impact of U.S. foreign policy on that country even though I’m not Iraqi,” said Basrai, who grew up in Mountain View. “An equivalent would be Christians visiting Bethlehem; if Bethlehem was being bombed I’m sure Christians would be very interested about what was happening.”

But Basrai said she does not want to bombard the average Cal Poly student with a didactic political message. Instead, she co m b i n e s graphic design with research and information to convey a critical view of U.S. foreign policy to her peers, she said.

“The visual communication medium is a very powerful tool,” Basrai said. “When students walk away, I hope they think analytically about (the war) and know why they believe what they believe.”

Throughout her artistic career, Basrai has united art with activism to demonstrate her sense of social justice. She was very involved with “United We Heal,” a student art exhibit that addressed the United States’ handling of post-Sept. 11 Afghanistan. The purpose of the show was to raise awareness and support for the children’s center in Kabul, Afghanistan.

“She is an extremely passionate and talented young woman,” said Susan Carriere, the associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts, who has known and worked with Basrai since she came to Cal Poly in 2000.

“She’s done more already than many others have done in their lifetime.”

During her time at Cal Poly, Basrai has been an active leader in the PSA, organizing protests and designing and distributing information, Whitt said.

Basrai was the recipient of the “Mothers for Peace Scholarship,” an award given to a student who worked for social change.

Basrai interned at Design Action, a design firm in Oakland whose clients are all non-profit or who are trying to achieve “peace or social justice.”

An opening reception for the “Art for the Peace Movement” show will be held April 12 at 7 p.m. in the University Union Gallery, located upstairs in the Epicenter. For more information, call (805) 756-6119.

“Be prepared to see something to set,” said Michael Miller, an associate professor in the department of art and design. “She’s got something to say.”
New artist finds broader fanbase, open minds on tour

Joe Firstman doesn't care if you get his music; he'll play it anyway
Leah Mori | MORRISON DAILY

Fifteen is too young to be Joe Firstman's mother, as his debut album "The War of Women," contains 15 tracks and is the same number of relationships he has claimed to have had with women.

"I would definitely say that is a war of women," Firstman said of his relationship. "I chose the name of my record because it's a tongue-in-cheek way to put a heading on the silly games boys and girls play."

Not concerned with following trends, Firstman lists his album as "old-fashioned throw-back hillbilly rock 'n' roll." The musician performs Friday night at the Rec Center with Michelle Branch as part of the Virgin College MegaTour.

While growing up, Firstman was influenced by Elton John, The Beatles and his mother, an opera singer who exposed him to classical music. These performers remain influential in Firstman's career today.

"(My music is) traditional, real music," Firstman said. "It's not based on style or coolness."

While Firstman says he can play any instrument badly, he plays the piano, guitar and occasionally the drums while in concert. His piano skills come naturally; he had no real stage at a big concert, having already been accustomed to performing in various bars and clubs, but he was not overawed at all.

"It's like work," Firstman said. "I'm working to sell out Shea Stadium. I feel like I have more work to be done."

Touring with Michelle Branch has been strange for Firstman because of a difference in demographics. He said he feels his music is a little more mature than Branch's fans are used to, but says crowds have been good to him and his band.

Firstman is unfazed about being a virtually unknown artist playing on such a large tour; the Virgin College MegaTour will stop in 15 major markets across the country in two months.

"You just go out and play the best you can," Firstman said. "You can't force another day in the office like it would be for anyone. Hopefully (my music) will touch someone. If not, they're too stupid to understand it."

"It's a record that anyone in any part of the world can pick up and buy," Firstman said.

Firstman is proud of his accomplishments so far, having traveled to Los Angeles from his North Carolina home at the age of 21 in order to pursue his music career and make a name for himself. When he arrived in Los Angeles, he explained, "I had to struggle, hustle, cheat and steal," Firstman said.

His efforts have paid off, as the 24-year-old went from playing in bars and clubs to being named Singer/Songwriter of the Year at the Los Angeles Music Awards 2001 and signing a record deal with Atlantic Records in 2002. He presented with his "Wires Take" EP, which was released in March 2003, and in August 2003 released "The War of Women."

He has opened for Sheryl Crow and played at Radio City Music Hall in New York. He also collaborated with songwriter Bernie Taupin on two songs, including "In Case and Tear Drops," which was written for upcoming Willie Nelson album.

Firstman has more goals for the future. "Sometimes goals are lofty," he said. "I just work my ass off and let the road take me where it's going to take me."

Firstman will make his appearance April 9 and 10. Tickets are $25 and are available through Vallett's. A self-proclaimed "traditional" songwriter, Joe Firstman opens for Michelle Branch Friday night.

"I think anyone with the drive to better themselves as a musician should have picked an instrument up at a young age," Firstman said. Firstman began performing at an early age, when he and his brothers put shows on for their father and his friends.

The first time he stepped on a real stage at a big concert, having already been accustomed to performing in various bars and clubs, he was not overawed at all.

"It's like work," Firstman said. "I'm working to sell out Shea Stadium. I feel like I have more work to be done."

Touring with Michelle Branch has been strange for Firstman because of a difference in demographics.

The greatest success in Firstman's life thus far has been putting his songs together and finishing the record.

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Wal-Mart is invading the global economy

Commentary

Now that Wal-Mart has dominated North and South America, it is moving toward taking over the rest of the world.

As of 3,550 stores in the United States and sales of nearly $250 billion last year weren’t enough, Wal-Mart has been trying its hand in the global economy.

Wal-Mart has been ranked No. 1 three years in a row in the Fortune 500 list, Fortune Magazine’s annual ranking of America’s largest companies.

“If it were in its own economy Wal-Mart stores would rank 30th in the world,” reported Forbes magazine.

This once five-and-dime store has already expanded to many other countries such as Mexico, Europe and Japan with some success and a lot of controversy.

However, Wal-Mart was unsuccessful in Hong Kong and South Korea after misreading local tastes and selecting unprofitable locations.

Maybe “Wally World” doesn’t realize that not every culture in the world wants to follow the likes and dislikes of the United States. Some cultures value custom-made quality more than cheap prices. Not all cultures want to be able to get their groceries at the same time as their shoes and car battery.

Not all cultures are in as much of a rush as the United States to get things done as possible in as small amount of time.

“Wal-Mart has already put small mom-and-pop stores and even big companies like FAO Schwarz out of business in the United States because they can’t compete,” civil engineering senior Shalaye Frigos said.

Failure. In Mexico the company has many critics in the United States because they haven’t always accounted for overtime properly and they have low wages, on average.

Are they going to treat their employees in other countries fairly? The regulations in other countries may not be as strict, and therefore Wal-Mart will be able to get away with more.

“Wal-Mart drives down wages for workers,” political science department head Phillip Feterer said. “Their policy is to pay as little as possible to stay competitive.”

“Worldwide there are many people who will be needing jobs and Wal-Mart will argue that they’re giving them the work they need, even if they are paying them as little as possible.”

Wal-Mart does not even have to go by regulations anymore — they can just hold their own voting process to get another store built. If they are able to do this in the United States, they will be able to do much worse in other countries where legal guidelines are not as clear.

In Mexico there are already 640 stores running productively. However, Wal-Mart was unsuccessful in Hong Kong and South Korea after misreading local tastes and selecting unprofitable locations.

J-Spot only expose's Jamie's 'inner freak'

I'm not a defense attorney nor can I be offended by James Whitaker’s column. I think it’s fun to see what goes on in someone else’s mind. However, I do have to say that like drunken debauches, revealing to the world their ‘inner freak’ is by and large, unbecoming.

One last thing, Jon Stewart is awesome. Although his show is based on “fake news,” he doesn’t present your typical “it’s not real” show news, and it’s actually a fun way to watch.

Hello, you’re in the wonderful state of California, and remember that Cali traditionally goes Democrat, so your vote basically counts for nothing. Keep that in mind come November when we meet your “president.”

Julian Conway is an electrical engineering major.

Mustang Express provides good service

I would like to say that Kristen Davis’ letter to the editor (“Changes needed at Mustang Express” April 1) was modulating. I have always found Mustang Express an amazing place to get all of my copy center needs satisfied. I have gotten stamps, envelopes and resumes made, and I have even seen other students get bindings and all sorts of things.

To answer her first question, the cell phone company is a separate entity than Mustang Express. Mustang Express is funded through Associated Students Inc. and the revenue it produces. ASSA has made the Mustang Express budget cuts possible and prices have come up to cost price. Considering the 20 cent price difference on transparencies and I cent difference on copies, compared to Staples or Kinoks, it’s well worth the price because it’s on campus. Figure out the price of gas and your time to drive to the other places.

I love going to Mustang Express because of its fun atmosphere and awesome workers. I can’t count all the times I have seen these of students line up to get their presentations done at the last minute, and the employees working tirelessly until the projects were finished.

In closing, I believe it’s a great little business run by college students for college students. So go buy a phone and get some copied stuff.

Ryan Lamb is a political science senior.

Homosexuality was stereotyped in letter

In response to Cristine Miller’s letter, “Homosexuals don’t deserve special rights” April 3) I am saddened that you make the allusion that a person’s sexual orientation is merely an attempt to differentiate themselves, rather than a desire to be someone else.

The fact that you seem to want to generalize homosexuals and make them all into the “Queer* stereotype not only disrespect gay but disrespects yourself by believing in such ignorance. How can you say you don’t have a problem with homosexuality yet go on to call it “unnatural?”

Can you say homosexuals are not mistreated? The very fact that they are a minority means they are exposed to unfairness in certain areas. And as far as giving homosexuals “special rights” (like allowing a person to marry someone they love), please try to be less hysterical.

Less than 50 years ago, a similar argument was made against racial integration, yet that’s changed society for the better.

As far as religious arguments against gay rights, keep the following in mind:

1. If you’re going to make one Bible argument, argue them all. Why not persecute socialism and polygamy, since the Bible allowed them?

2. Argue according to relevance. Adultery is considered a far worse crime — it’s even a commandment. God never even mentioned it before going after the “lesser evil.”

3. Finally, and most importantly, why does even religious arguments for state legislation? Whatever happened to separation of church and state?

Rebecca Levin is a psychology junior.

Letters to the Editor

Letters become the property of the Mustang Daily. Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanities and length. Letters, commentaries and cartoons do not represent the views of the Mustang Daily. Please limit length to 250 words. Letters should include the writer’s full name, phone number, major and class standing. Letters must come from a Cal Poly email account. Do not send letters as an attachment. Please send the text in the body of the email. Your letter will not be printed unless you submit it in the correct format.

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By fax:(805) 756-6784
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Commentary

I was watching a NBA pre-game show on ESPN the other day when something surprising happened. During an interview, a coach expressed his opinion that some kids these days don't have a backbone any more. His words were, "It's hard to pin down, but it probably started being noticed a few years back." Towards the end of the 2003 Golden Globe Awards he said, "This is really, really brilliant." You know exactly how the quote appeared on CNN.com. I don't see why so many letters need to be blanked out. I would prefer the more popular "f—ing" or the artistry of the asp—er "sh*t" from $60K/$6 even better, $8K/$8K.

In October the Federal Communications Commission ruled that Bonos use of the F-word was technically decent since he was using it as an "adjective." (That word "balls" during a ball game.

Overworking obscenity

woulb bleep out the word "po", but MTV, despite its branding, has never had a backbone — or balls, if you prefer — when it comes to censoring the word "balls" during a basketball pre-game show. They censored the word "balls" during a ball game.

What struck me was that ESPN bleeped out the word "balls" during a basketball pre-game show: They censored the word "balls" during a ball game.

Save the music by sharing it

Mistrust of most capitalist enterprises pervades the opinion columns of college newspapers everywhere, so why stop here? Liars and contradictions have pushed many people to take the prosaic dessert-box-dine toward trees, or even the line it. They don't see that there aren't much different from newspaper headlines and by the time they enter idle conversation, they are usually distorted. Music follows a similar course, flowing into people's minds and creating new ideas and feelings many of which bear no resemblance to the original ideas behind them. The free downloading of music has become the scarpput of a falling music industry populated by people who listen to music while hearing only the sound of crack registers.

playing a role in the war of economic minds.

In the early days music sharing was a sideline, but with the advent of the Internet, downloading music has become a major source of income for popular music. However, a recent study by Harvard University has shown that the downloading of music has not only hurt the music industry, but has also contributed to the increase in piracy.

Harvard has been getting a lot of attention recently for its study on music sharing. The International Federation of Phonographic Industries followed in support when the file-sharing program Kazaa exploded on the scene. Teenagers and elderly alike were issued lawsuits for sharing copyrighted music. College staff ran for the hills, and for a couple of days, not even a tumbleweed bounced its way through the servers of Kazaa.

The war, today is unwinnable. If Americans achieve the way they're taught and run for loopholes they might be able to sidestep the resistance, the millions of dollars are spent on the developing of new music downloads.

In this situation, the victim must actually decide between breaking up (the wise move) or actually getting hitched. Unfortunately, while sometime's results can lead to post-nuptial sex spats as the new couples could be sexually incompatible in terms of the frequency, variety and freak nastiness of their sex lives. Most guys will hardly take on a girlfriend without a test drive, so how are you going to win the one of these people in your crew, the only honest thing to do is make your personal existence in life to get him or her laid.

David Jagernauth is a writer for The Oregon Daily Emerald, an all-symbols approach: @$!&%^ or in The Washington Post Magazine, Gene Weingarten would point out using it as an "adjective." (That word "balls" during a ball game.

Commentary

Unlike writing a weekly column for this fine publication, it doesn't take a genius to notice that the Virginian is as much a part of sexual history as hookers, STDs and threesome. The Virginian of bikes is free of all sexual connotations, but women in dress-riding is a remnant of the eternal damnation of the sexual obsession and body in the fires of hell. That, or something to do with Jesus.

The last thing we should learn is that we need more people to take responsibility for their actions, or not. Why isn't Congress exist an entire subculture of people who actually choose to not have sex at all. Hidden among us, laying hidden among us, laying... the virgin is as much a part of sexual history as hookers, STDs and threesome. For whatever reason a person decides to not have sex, it's important to note that virginity is a heterogeneous factor for how people make decisions. After all, this is America, where we are free to be as slutty or virginal as our little heart desires.

Of course, there are also other sex things as involuntary virgins. These are the men and women who want to have sex for whatever reason can never seem to stumble across any. And while the law of averages dictates that even the most hapless among us will fall back into some sex every once in a while, then we are at ease. If you're not sure, just drive down to the mall and fill your car with sex tapes and gay content. According to statistics, 50-70% of teenagers have engaged in sexual activity.

There are eight banned words that are also banned, you couldn't imagine the words "balls" during a ball game.

Regarding the music industry, there are a number of factors that have contributed to its decline. For one, the rise of file-sharing programs like Kazaa and others has allowed people to download music for free, which has had a significant impact on sales.

In this situation, the victim must actually decide between breaking up (the wise move) or actually getting hitched. Unfortunately, while sometime's results can lead to post-nuptial sex spats as the new couples could be sexually incompatible in terms of the frequency, variety and freak nastiness of their sex lives. Most guys will hardly take on a girlfriend without a test drive, so how are you going to win the one of these people in your crew, the only honest thing to do is make your personal existence in life to get him or her laid.

Another side effect of the meditation phenomenon is something like I call the "blissful Marriage." Made famous by Nick Lachey and Jessica Simpson, the "Blissful Marriage" is what happens when either the man or the woman decides to wait until their wedding night to make sweet love for the first time. In this situation, the victim must actually decide between breaking up (the wise move) or actually getting hitched. Unfortunately, while sometime's results can lead to post-nuptial sex spats as the new couples could be sexually incompatible in terms of the frequency, variety and freak nastiness of their sex lives. Most guys will hardly take on a girlfriend without a test drive, so how are you supposed to take on a wife? So why in the world do you think we're not that stupid anymore? That's probably less of an issue to save your sex lessons until later in life when the temptations and pitfalls of college life have passed, that's OK, too. Plus, that leaves more sex for the rest of us.

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Virginity: To sex or not to sex

The opinion section needs a splash of color. If you can reliably contribute a weekly color cartoon, bring a sample with your name, phone number and e-mail address to Laura in bldg. 26, room 226.

Mustang Daily needs a color

The opinion section needs a splash of color. If you can reliably contribute a weekly color cartoon, bring a sample with your name, phone number and e-mail address to Laura in bldg. 26, room 226.
Blurry line between campaigning and governing for Bush

Nancy Benac
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Treasury Department analyzes John Kerry's tax proposals and the numbers quickly find their way to the Republican National Committee. The Health and Human Services Department spends millions on ads promoting President Bush's prescription drug plan. The House Resources Committee posts a diatribe against Kerry's "absurd" energy ideas on its Web site.

With friends like these — all operating at taxpayer expense — who needs a re-election campaign?

In the time-honored tradition of presidents past, Bush is skillfully using the resources of the federal government to promote his re-election. And some critics say the president is going far beyond his predecessors in using government means to accomplish political ends.

"We've never seen a political operation like this White House does, and that includes the maximum use of government resources," said Allan Lichtman, a presidential scholar at American University. "We've seen a political operation that even White House does, and that includes the maximum use of government resources."

Bush is flying Air Force One to battleground states at a clip that eclipses even that of President Clinton, known as a particularly political president. His Cabinet secretaries are covering additional ground to spread good news about the Bush administration. Even Secretary of State Colin Powell, who insists "I don't do politics," has chummed in to cast Kerry as a flip-flopper on jobs and to question his claim that some world leaders quietly prefer the Democratic presidential candidate over Bush.

With the House and Senate both in Republican hands, Bush gets plenty of help from Congress, too. The list president to have that advantage at re-election time was Jimmy Carter, and he was hardly a favorite of Democrats in Congress.

This year, congressional committees have posted anti-Kerry commentary on their Web sites. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., was out front in attacking the credibility of Richard Clarke, the former Bush administration official who criticized the president's terrorism policies. And House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-III., regularly uses his daily chats with reporters to criticize "John Kerry & Co."

Some Democrats, predictably, are crying foul. "This is the most say-anything, do-anything-to-get-re-elected administration in history," said Kerry campaign spokeswoman Stephanie Cutter, adding that the administration has "crossed the line" and gone beyond what is acceptable.

Rep. Robert Matsui of California, chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, has complained, too. He says Republicans abused taxpayer resources to attack Kerry on an official congressional Web site. Other Democrat tried to get the Medicare prescription drug ads banned from TV and asked the General Accounting Office to examine whether that was proper use of taxpayer dollars.

Doug Sonin, who was White House political director during Clinton's re-election campaign, says any incumbent president "would be crazy not to take advantage of all opportunities of incumbency to get re-elected, but these guys have gone off in areas that are way over the line and I can't imagine that the American public will fall for any of it."

Blurry line between campaigning and governing for Bush
The juice is loose

Column
Dan Watson
MUSTANG DAILY

It is a subject that the media is devouring entering the 2004 Major League Baseball season. It has been a hot topic in the major today.

Chalon Tierie had his own views about use in the majors.

"I don't know what he is or what's real.

Unfortunately, steroid usage is the central question of the new baseball season. I tracked down the Cal Poly baseball team, the Big West's offensive leader, in order to garner some insight.

No, I did not find nerds scattered carelessly on the floor and sticking surprisingly out of Cory Taillon's armpit, I did not find Sam "Herbie" Herbert jaicing, nor did I discover Dennis, "The Duke" Le Duc, peering 'round in the corner.

And after watching the pitching staff take batting practice, a blight that occurs if the team wins five games in a row, I was sure they weren't jaicing.

Steroids are unheard of in high school, rarely mentioned in college and a disgraceful practice in the majors today.

Cal Poly opens conference play today against UC Riverside Highlanders

Dan Watson
MUSTANG DAILY

It isn't sexy, but then again, this isn't a pages — it's baseball.

As Big West Conference baseball approaches, it looks like the long ball won't win the conference title by itself. Instead, pitching seems mandatory.

Thus far, Cal Poly has shown it has some firepower behind the pitching rubber and has a chance to compete with two national powerhouses — Long Beach State and UC Irvine — for the rights to be crowned conference champs.

The Mustangs dove into conference play this week with a three-game series at UC Riverside starting today and coming off a six-game sweep of Hawaii's Hilo. It is at the tail end of a treacherous 19-out-of-22 road stretch.

The key has not only been an explosive offense — which has been amazing in itself — but a pitching staff anchored by starters Jonathan Fleming, Garrett Olson and Jimmy Shull and the relief work of Nolan Moser and Dennis Le Duc — the later recent- ly shining in a starting role.

Offense has been important for Cal Poly, who ranks first in the conference in batting average (.317) but to keep up with the top teams it will need pitching well to win.

"Starting pitching means everything in the Big West," coach Larry Lee said. "The upper-echelon teams are very deep in starting pitching and some of the best pitchers on the West Coast are the best in the country."

The proof is in the statistics. Compare the current conference statistical standings with the team pitching leaders, and they're eerily similar.

The top three teams in the standings — No. 20 UC Irvine, No. 8 Long Beach State and Cal Poly — are also the top three in team ERA. More or less, the rest of the standings follow the ERA theory.

The stats don't tell the whole story though. Cal State Fullerton, a young powerhouse may have a bad record and average ERA, but it remains a conference title contender.

Starting for UC Irvine is pitcher Chris Nicoll with a 1.38 ERA and Brett Smith with a 2.30 ERA. Long Beach State also throws out pitcher Cesar Ramos every third start; he sports a 1.77 ERA and 160 strikeouts.

The Mustangs enter conference play with the third-best record in the Big West, behind nationally-ranked UC Irvine and Long Beach State. The Mustangs lead the Big West in team batting average.

Both UC Irvine and Long Beach State have ERAs below three. The Mustangs will also have to face the offense of Nick Solotti who has batted .402 in 28 games with six home runs.

Fullerton, who is second in the conference in overall offense, is led by Kurt Suzuki (.409), the only other conference player batting above .400.

UCSB is led by Greg Powers, Northridge by the power of John Voight (seven home runs) and Irvine by Jordan Szabo and Matt Fisher.

And Cal Poly isn't without its share of offensive stars.

Chalon Tierie's hot bat hasn't showed any sign of cooling down as he leads the team in batting average (.391) and leads the Big West in hits (59), doubles (16) and third in K's (37).

Ex-Cuesta Cougar Brandon Roberts isn't far behind, batting .363 with a conference-leading 21 stolen bases. Cory Taillon bats .346, and Sam Herbert hits .363 with 21 stolen bases. Cory Taillon is pitcher of the conference's top 14 batting leaders in conference.

Notes:
Cal Poly is currently ranked 44th in the nation by the Sports Weekly/ESPN Coaches Division I poll.

Fleming is not expected to pitch in this week's series and is questionable for the team's following series against Pacific due to tenderness around his elbow. Depending on circumstances, freshman right-hander Gary Daley or Moser will have been named as possibilities to start in his place ... Lee intends to keep Le Duc as a reliever in order to use him two to three times during each series.

SCORES

Big West's opening day

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