Students to vote on fees Wednesday

Proposed fee schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effective Quarter</th>
<th>Health Center fees</th>
<th>Athletics Dept. fees</th>
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</thead>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Estimated with increase</td>
<td>Fall 2006</td>
<td>$51.09</td>
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SOURCE: STUDENT AFFAIRS

School board to hold gender-dispute meeting

WESTMINSTER (AP) — A last-minute proposal to resolve an Orange County school district's dispute over gender identification will be unveiled today at a special meeting.

Three of the five members of the Westminster School Board on moral grounds have repeatedly refused to adopt a state-mandated change to discrimination policies intended to protect transgender students.

The state Department of Education has threatened to withhold two-thirds of the district's funding if the board does not adopt the changes.

Westminster is the only school district in California that has refused to comply with a state law passed in 2000 that requires revised language to curb discrimination against transgender and transsexual students, faculty and staff.

School board members Judy Ahrens, Blossie Manger Woodcock and Helena Rutkovski proposed the district be taken over by the California Department of Education.

CRIME ROUNDUP

March 27

The University Police Department received a call at 3:34 p.m. regarding a petty theft. A student reported a stolen tire from a bicycle locked to the racks in front of Fremont Hall. No estimated value was available.

March 28

A student in Muir Hall reported that textbooks were stolen from his room over spring break. The value of the books is about $200, according to UPD.

March 30

UPD arrived at an avocado orchard on Highland Drive at 3:48 p.m. in response to a reported theft. No arrests were made; however, the instance was classified as a grand theft because the value of the property taken exceeded $100.

April 1

A vandalism was reported to UPD at 9:21 a.m. regarding the Chumash Challenge Rockies course. According to reports, about $200 in damage was inflicted after a hole was punched in a wall and a shingle was knocked off the roof. The vandals are still at large.

April 2

The San Luis Obispo Fire Department was called to the campus bowlin alley to extinguish a small fire at 1:09 p.m. No injuries or damage was reported.

A student was reported missing at 3:45 p.m. following multiple attempts to contact him by cell phone. Later that evening, UPD located the student in good condition.

April 3

Officers arrested an intoxicated resident of Sequoia Hall at 2:50 a.m. The 18-year-old was taken into custody in the C-2 parking lot and transported to San Luis Obispo County Jail.

April 4

UPD officers were called to the lower soccer field at 1:52 p.m. after 15 individuals refused to leave the premises. Following a brief encounter with UPD, the group agreed to leave.

Rocking against Bush

NOFX headlined politically-driven tour in ARTS & CULTURE, page 6

Scoring the athletic referendum

Opposing views on the upcoming vote in OPINION, page 9

INSIDE

word on the street

We asked: What do you think about the fee referendum?

"I don't play sports, so I don't care if it passes. I wouldn't vote to pay for scholarships.

Jay James

mechanical engineering sophomore

"The Health Center and sports benefit everyone, and it's something we all enjoy.

Aaron Rietz

philosophy senior

fall 2004

C A L I F O R N I A  P O L Y T E C H N I C  S T A T E  U N I V E R S I T Y

Monday, April 12, 2004

Mustang Daily

www.mustangdaily.com

1916

Fall 2006

Fall 2005

Fall 2004

Fall 2003

Fall 2002

Health Center fees

Athletics Dept. fees

Effective

Quarter

$31.23

$32.42

$47.42

$49.42

$51.09

$4.15

$4.31

$24.31

$30.23

$36.38

WEATHER REPORT

Today: Mostly Sunny 70°

High: 71° Low: 49°

Sunset: 7:33 PM

Tides

High: 4:29 a.m., 4:29 p.m.

Low: 11:26 a.m., 11:26 p.m.

Sunrise: 6:34 A.M.

SUNSET: 7:33 P.M.
Nevada ranks near bottom for high school graduation rates

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Nevada ranks 49th nationally for its high school graduation rate and dead last for the number of students who go directly to college after graduation, according to a report.

The report, issued last week by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, painted a less-than-rosy picture of the state's education system.

It also ranks Nevada 49th for both the number of college students who drop out this year and the number of college graduates who earn a bachelor's degree within three years.

"Nevada has one of the lowest graduation rates in the country, through 12th grades, and one of the lowest college-going rates in the country as well as one of the lowest college graduation rates," said Patrick Kelly, president of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems.

The report was based on 2002 government data.

"We have always had a low graduation rate, but it's something we're working on in K-12," he told the Reno Gazette-Journal.

Steve Mulvenon, spokesman for the Washoe County School District, noted New Jersey and Massachusetts claimed top ratings in the four categories.

"They are among the two states with the highest per-pupil expenditures in the nation," he said. "If we believe the rule of this report — Big Investment, Big Returns — then Nevada has a lot of work to do to adequately fund K-12, and K-16 as well."

To improve graduation rates and the number of college-bound graduates, the report recommends developing strategies to improve students' basic skills and encouraging students to take advanced placement courses.

The report also calls for financial aid to help low-income students involving parents and business leaders, and providing intensive basic course work in the first year of college.

Nevada education officials say many of the recommendations are in place in some counties.

Last year, Nevada's university system and the Washoe school district developed a step-by-step guide to college, outlining the courses students need beginning with sixth grade.

"A number of the recommendations in the report are being actively pursued," said Richard Curry, the chancellor for academic and student affairs.

"But there is always more you can do, and we are doing all we can to address those needs," he said. "It's a top priority on everyone's list."

Associated Press

Business Writing

1st Place: Ben Schnurser, The Sun of San Bernardino, "Gaming in the Antelope Valley peninsula, "Fishing's Bleak Future."

2nd Place: William P. Warford, AntelopeValleyPress, "How About Service?"

Investigative Reporting


2nd Place: Scott Hadly, Santa Barbara News-Press, "Fishing's Bleak Future."

Fairbanks Public Service Award

1st Place: Silas Lyons and Stephanie Foutch, The Tribune of San Luis Obispo, "Our County's Next 100,000."

2nd Place: Matt Weiser, The Bakersfield Californian, "Smog A Growing Concern."

Local Column

1st Place: Greg Clark, Record Searchlight of Redding, "There Is such a Thing."

2nd Place: William P. Warford, AntelopeValleyPress, "How About Service?"

Spot News Coverage

1st Place: Staff of The Tribune of San Luis Obispo, "Quake Kills Two.""Fire Crews Make Final Stand."

2nd Place: Staff of The Sun of San Bernardino, "Fire Crews Make Final Stand."

Sports Writing

1st Place: Mark Putuo, Santa Barbara News-Press, "Shadow of War."

2nd Place: Eric Branch, The Tribune of San Luis Obispo, "Agony of the Feast."

Freedom of Flight?

Syracuse University's Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, in its analysis of IRS data, concluded that the audit rate for businesses of all sizes slid slightly last year to 2.1 audits per 1,000 businesses, down from 2.2 audits per 1,000 businesses the previous year.

At the same time, the IRS audit- ed 14 percent more individual tax returns.

Official audit rates released by the IRS last month show a similar trend.

Researchers point specifically to declining audits of businesses exposes flaw in the administration's tough stance against corporate wrongdoing.

"These and a number of other measures — documented by the agency's own data — indicate that the actual performance of the IRS differs in significant ways from some of the Bush administration claims when it comes to cracking down on corporate scofflaws," the report said.

The 2004 APNEC Winners:

Newswriting contest

(Division III, circulation 25,000 to 74,000)

Associated Press News

Executive Council's annual awards honor the best newswriting in Calif., Nevada

Associated Press

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**State Briefs**

**LOS ANGELES** — California Indian tribes that have received millions of dollars from their casinos are funneling some of that money to various universities for the study of Native American issues.

The tribes have said their donations are an extension of generous philanthropy that totals an estimated $70 million annually. The tribes have been one of the largest political contributors over the past five years, spending more than $130 million on local and statewide campaigns.

Some critics believe that academic integrity is at risk when special interests influence higher education. But some experts say the tribes are following the example set by other companies that have funded school projects.

**URIAH** — More than 1,900 Mendocino County residents are licensed to carry concealed weapons in public, a fivefold increase since Sheriff Tony Craver was elected to the post in 2002.

Permit-seekers must meet state requirements to carry a concealed weapon but various counties interpret the law differently. Sheriffs often have the final say in how many concealed weapons permits to law-abiding citizens.

The number of Mendocino County residents with concealed weapon permits has increased to 1,965 from 215 in 1998. Just 136 residents of neighboring Sonoma County and 197 in Lake County have concealed weapons permits.

**PINOLE** — Parents, students and teachers alarmed over the state’s school funding crisis marched through the Bay Area this weekend on their way to Sacramento, where they hope to gather support for increased funding to K-12 education.

About 300 participants began the “Troixie” march from San Pablo on Friday in hopes of calling attention to the dire budget cuts that have eliminated teachers, libraries and athletic departments from a growing number of West County schools.

— Associated Press

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**National Briefs**

**CLAWFORD, Texas** — President Bush insisted Sunday he was satisfied that federal agents were on top of the terrorist threat after reading a pre-Sept. 11 briefing detailing Osama bin Laden’s intentions on U.S. soil.

For two years, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice left Americans with the impression that the memo from Aug. 6, 2001, focused on historical information dating to 1998 and that any current threats mostly involved overseas targets.

Yet the release, under public pressure, of the briefing showed that Bush had received intelligence reporting as recent as May 2001 and that most of the current information focused on possible plots in the United States.

**CAMARILLO, Calif.** — Gas prices climbed another 2 1/2 cents in the past two weeks as high crude oil prices and tight capacity contributed to record prices at the pump, a national survey said Sunday.

The nationwide average in the past two weeks that ended Friday was $1.82 for all grades, said Trilby Lundberg of the Lundberg survey, which regularly polls 8,000 stations across the United States.

**WASHINGTON** — The legal wall that for years divided FBI intelligence and criminal agents is blamed largely for the government’s failure to grasp the threat posed by al Qaeda inside the United States before the 2001 attacks.

One FBI agent, frustrated at his inability to track two soon-to-be hijackers known to be in the United States, wrote in an August 2001 e-mail that “somebody will die, and will or not, the public will not understand why we were not more effective and throwing every resource at certain problems.”

The problem, since resolved, is expected to be among the topics when current and former Justice Department and FBI officials testify Tuesday and Wednesday before the independent commission investigating the Sept. 11 attacks.

— Associated Press

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**World Briefs**

**VATICAN CITY** — Pope John Paul II celebrated Easter Mass on Sunday with calls for world leaders to resolve conflicts in Iraq, the Holy Land and Africa, as Christians around the world marked the holiest day on the church calendar.

John Paul delivered a message of peace on the flower-decked steps of St. Peter’s Basilica, praying that hope would conquer the “inhuman” phenomenon of terrorism and urging Christians, Muslims and Jews to seek greater unity with each other.

**NUEVO PROGRESO, Mexico** — Mexican soldiers and American firefighters searched through debris Sunday, a day after a gas explosion killed six people and injured more than a dozen others in this Texas border town.

It was unclear if more people were still trapped in the rubble. Mexican authorities had received no reports of missing people, but were exploring the wreckage with care in case survivors remained.

**OSINNIKI, Russia** — The coal-blackened faces of exhausted rescuers and the red-rimmed eyes of anxious relatives told a grim story of disappearing hope Sunday, a day after a methane blast tore through a Siberian mine, killing at least 42 miners.

Five miners remained missing in the latest disaster to strike Russia’s hazardous coal country. The blast occurred early Saturday about 1,840 feet down in the Tarzini mine in a coal-rich strip of western Siberia called the Kurbas.

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Gunmen shot down a U.S. attack helicopter near Baghdad on Sunday, killing two crewmembers. A fragile cease-fire held between Sunni insurgents and Marines in the city of Fallujah, while the U.S. military suggested it’s open to a negotiated solution in its showdowns with a radical Shia militia in the south.

— Associated Press
DEATH

Police officer killed on duty

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A San Francisco police officer has been shot and killed on duty, the first such death since 1994.

Authorities said the shooting took place late Saturday in the city's Bayview District after the two undercover officers approached a suspect who was acting suspiciously.

"They were going to talk to him and called out to him, and that's when he turned around and started shooting," said Sgt. Neville Gittens.

Funeral arrangements for Espinoza were pending. A police memorial service was scheduled for later this week, Gittens said.

Police on Sunday followed several leads for the unidentified suspect, described as a black man in his 20s with cornrows in his hair, wearing a dark peacoat jacket.

Gittens said he and other officers were working round the clock to find the man who shot their fellow officer.

"There is a serious situation, when a person just opens up shooting at police officers," Gittens said. "It's a sad and tragic situation."

The last officer to be killed on duty in San Francisco was James Guelff, who was shot by Vic Lee Boutwell, a carjackser, in November 1994.

Officer Isaac Espinoza, 29, died after being shot twice. He was an eight-year veteran of the department. His partner, Officer Barry Parker, 38, was shot in the left leg. Parker, who joined the department about four years ago, was treated and released from San Francisco General Hospital, Gittens said.

Authorities said about 350 cattle valued at $22 million were reported stolen across the San Joaquin Valley last year, and that rustlers have struck almost 70 times so far this year.

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Low-carb diets fuel cattle theft from Cali farms

ELDERWOOD, Calif. (AP) — Law enforcement authorities say the rise in popularity of low-carbohydrate, high-protein diets has fueled an upsurge in cattle stealing across California farms and ranches.

The beef industry observers have noted a recent surge in cattle theft nationwide. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 450-pound steer calves are selling for more than $500.

"We have some situations we're looking into," Gittens said. "Something might be breaking soon, but right now we're not putting anything out."

Detectives say the thieves strike at night, mostly stealing calves who have not yet been branded or marked with identification tags.

Detectives say the thieves strike at night, mostly stealing calves who have not yet been branded or marked with identification tags.

Investigators are using modern crime-fighting tools to stop the rustling, ranging from video surveillance to DNA testing. One rancher was jailed this year after genetic samples from cattle proved that he had stolen a neighbor's cow and used it to breed with one of his bulls.

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Sikhs celebrate holy day, protest discrimination

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Thousands of Sikhs paraded through downtown Sunday to celebrate one of their holiest days, as political leaders called for an end to discrimination against members of the religion.

Sikhs, who traditionally wear turbans and do not cut their hair, said discrimination against them that began just after the 2001 terror attacks continues. They said the parade was partly intended to explain their religion to the public.

"We've always been a very quiet community," said Niranjani Singh Khalsa, executive director of the California Sikh Council. "But that hurt us since 9/11 because people don't know who we are, so we're trying to reach out more."

Organizers said more than 10,000 Sikhs from across Southern California were in the city to celebrate Vaisakhi — which marks the New Year and commemorates the 17th century Sikh leader Guru Gobind Singh.

In downtown Los Angeles, marchers chanted "God is One," as they walked through the streets amid flower-strewn floats with scenes from Sikh history. Among the floats was one depicting the Golden Temple, a symbol of tolerance and acceptance and the most sacred temple for the faithful.

As he walked along the parade, Daljit Khojar, 43, of Burbank said he often fields questions about his turban and religion. "We explain it to the people. They are always asking me, but it's getting better," said Khojar, an employee of The Go Company of Southern California.

At a press conference earlier in the day, Assemblywoman Judy Chu, D-Monterey Park, said Sikhs have been the target of hate crimes by extremists in the United States who mistake them for being from the Middle East.

"We must be more even more proactive in fighting this," said Chu, whose resolution condemning hate crimes against Sikhs, Arab-Americans and others has been approved by the Assembly.

U.S. Rep. Brad Sherman, D-Sherman Oaks, said that in Fresno, a Sikh temple was defaced early last month with hate graffiti that included racial slurs and obscenities. It had also been targeted last year for five nights in a now-vandalsim of paint and firecrackers that sparked a blaze.

Student fee referendum

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 Forum has been scheduled where students can ask questions and learn more about these two important proposals

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).
In Concert

NOFX, others succeed in rocking against Bush

Punk legend Jello Biafra steals Saturday show; goal was to encourage young voter registration

NOFX's Eric Melvin (above) rocked out along with (clockwise, from right) Authority Zero, Jello Biafra and Alkaline Trio at Saturday night's Punk/Voter concert. Below, Fat Mike and NOFX headlined the politically-driven show.

Steve Hill

NOFX is old. Seriously, Fat Mike and crew have been playing punk rock for more than 20 years now; so it would be no surprise if the band seemed out of touch with its crowd, especially one of a 20-something makeup like the one that came to the band's show at the Rec Center Saturday night.

But anyone who knows NOFX knows that the band is still young at heart.

The group played an energetic set for the San Luis Obispo stop on the Punk/Voter Tour, a trek with the purpose of kicking young people in the ass and getting them to register to vote. Along for the ride were Authority Zero, Alkaline Trio and Jello Biafra, the charismatic ex-front man of the Dead Kennedys.

But while the tour was advertised with the Punk/Voter moniker, the real name hung on a banner that acted as the stage's backdrop, adorned with George W. Bush covering his ears amid a droe of punk rock disson, as every band thanked the audience for coming out to the "Rock Against Bush" Tour. With the true purpose clearly outlined, Authority Zero kicked off a roaring set comprised of standard punk rhythms, interspersed with reggae jams like the single "One More Minute" and an odd, Irish-jig like chanting that found lead singer Jason DeVore giving a clinic in breath control. The band's energy did not go unnoticed. A steady throng of patrons sang along as DeVore frenetically jumped and raced around the stage.

What was most impressive about Authority Zero's performance, though, was DeVore's vocal variety, as he seamlessly transitioned from the standard punk rock "whoa whose" to a reggae decay tone, then back into deep, full-bodied choruses. They were an impressive opener.

After a short video that touted a true spin on the war in Iraq, Alkaline Trio took the stage, complete with the band's requisite dark instrumental opening and three-piece suits. The band (which, ironically enough, sported a touring guitarist, making it an Alkaline quartet) raced through its set unimpressively, paying little attention to the crowd and only pausing to dedicate songs to people who were part of the tour. Perhaps the sound quality at the Rec Center was partially to blame — singer/guitarist Matt Skiba's guitar was turned down so low that the octaves that the song "Private Eye" depends on were completely inaudible — but it just seemed like the band was not giving its all. Maybe my expectations were too high — many people had told me about how good Alkaline Trio was live — but I was disappointed by its lackluster set.

Up to this point in the show, there hadn't been too much political rallying; neither Authority Zero nor Alkaline Trio commented on any foreign policy or national security matters, and I was wondering if the headline for this story was going to have to read "Rock Against Bush?"

Then came Jello Biafra. After being introduced by Fat Mike, who commented that the people in attendance were, in fact, patriots because they were questioning the government's actions, Jello Biafra launched into a spirited, intelligent rant about the Bush administration's handling of various aspects of American life, from the war in Iraq and the war on drugs to abortion and education. Biafra made many valid, albeit slanted, points, and his speech added a much-needed faciency to this "Rock Against Bush" idea. Most in attendance stood attentively and gave heartfelt applause, but Generation AHD was on hand, as some began chanting "NOFX" during Biafra's speech, as if NOFX was simply there to play and not make a political statement.

They were wrong.

True, NOFX took the stage playing an instrumental rendition of "Heart and Soul," but next played "Murder the Government" (from 1997's "So Long, and Thanks for all the Shit"), setting the tone for a night that found the band poking fun at not only the government but also themselves and their drinking habits. Technically, the band was on, mixing new songs with old favorites like "The Brees" and "Stickin' in My Eye." For being old guys, Fat Mike and El Hefe ran around like they were 18 again, engaging the crowd with the pointless banter that is synonymous with any NOFX concert.

What was different about this NOFX show, compared to others in the past, was the political message. Fat Mike commented that Ralph Nader was running the presidential race, and he even went toe to toe with someone in the front of the audience who opposed gay marriage. "Who the f— are you to care what people do?" he asked the dissenters. Visibly disturbed by the opposing viewpoint, Fat Mike came back at the audience member after the next song.

Surprisingly, though, there was nary a "F— Bush" uttered the whole night. But maybe that was the point of the tour: rather than be inflammatory, perhaps NOFX's purpose was to educate. Rather than give the government and the media more reason to look down on punk rock, the band was setting an example. Mission accomplished.
The Health Services Fee provides students access to basic medical services without additional cost. Over 11,000 students use the Health Center annually. The $15 increase would bring the Health Services Fee up to the average for CSU campuses.

Vote YES on April 14th and 15th

For details on what the budget cuts mean for the Health Center, go to:

http://studentaffairs.calpoly.edu/fees/index.html

The Student Health Advisory Council urges you to VOTE YES on the Health Fee Referendum

- Without the Health Services Fee increase, there will be fewer services and longer wait times.
- The Health Services Fee provides students access to basic medical services without additional cost.
- Over 11,000 students use the Health Center annually.
- Cal Poly’s Health Services Fee is the 7th lowest of the 23 CSU campuses. The $15 increase would bring the Health Services Fee up to the average for CSU campuses.

Think You Can Do Better?

We dare you to try.

MUSTANG DAILY is looking for a new Editor-in-Chief for the 2004-2005 school year.

Here’s the deal:

- You must have two quarters of Mustang Daily experience.
- Submit a cover letter, resume, proposal and clips to Andie Collyer by April 30th.

In Theaters

‘Girl Next Door’ not the average teen movie fare

Stephanie Ikel

If there was one wish most high school boys could have made about their senior prom, it would have most likely been to take a porn star as their date.

As luck would have it, that is exactly what three seniors got to do in the movie “Girl Next Door.”

Without knowing much of the plot prior to seeing the movie (directed by Luke Greenfield), that begins resembling a cheezy mix of “Can’t Hardly Wait” with “Vacation” and “There’s Something About Mary,” it is clear that this not-so-“chick-flick” does not quite fit the category of those films.

Matthew Kidman, played by Emile Hirsch, is the student body president who is on his way to Georgetown University. He is a “by-the-rules” type of guy, but he is tired of the status quo and needs someone to push him, Enter Danielle.

She is played by Elisha Cuthbert, who also played Mitch’s boss’ high school-aged daughter in “Old School.” In this movie the pushes Matthew to live outside the box and become the adventurous and outrageous guy he is dying to be.

The plot is simple: When a boy meets a girl and the girl is pretty, sweet and makes him laugh, the boy wants to date her and start a relationship. Simple becomes complicated when boy finds out that girl is a porn star. It turns out the girl next door is not just any girl next door.

Matthew’s whole world is turned upside down when his sweet, innocent girl is really the girl who good buddy Eli has been watching on film doing some not-so-innocent moves.

Matthew is accompanied by two less-than-trendy buddies, who are there to give bad advice and put him down whenever they can. Everyone has that friend who says the most inappropriate things at the most inconvenient times — that is Eli.

Played by Jessica Marpette; Eli is not the voice of reason that Matthew needs, but without him the movie would lose half of the humor and half of the sex. Not that Eli is having the sex, but he talks like he does.

Klitz, the second friend, struggles with wanting to be a rebel and wanting to be sexy. He is the friend Matthew can count on even when older, intimidating porn producers threaten, beat up and try to destroy Matthew.

This movie has a lot of tricks up its sleeve. Many times the imagination of the characters lead the plot, which only adds to the laughter in the theater and the establishment of the rebellious side Matthew is striving for.

There are no deep moments or on-the-edge-of-your-seat scenes, but this film has more than amusing one-liners, minimal boredom and some creative twists. The movie is simply a comedy with some sweet moments, entertaining antics and a good, nearly-cliché ending. It is for anyone looking for a feel-good hour and a half filled with non-stop entertainment and some exaggerated reality scenes. But hey, what movie is not exaggerated?

‘Hellboy’ builds up, falls flat

Jason Cox

DAILY COLLEGE (PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY)

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — For every “X-Men,” there is a “Daredevil,” and for every “Spider-Man,” there is a “Hellboy.”

This decade will be remembered as an era of comic book flicks, but whether it will be positive or negative nostalgia is yet to be seen. These films have to be looked at on a case-by-case basis because of the immense range in quality the genre has seen in recent years. “Hellboy” certainly has more good elements than bad ones, but it’s a great example of how to avoid certain superhero clichés while simultaneously falling into others.

Adapted from the Dark Horse comic title, the “Hellboy” premiere sounds a lot darker than it really is. A Nazi attempt to bring about the apocalypse on Earth by opening a portal to Hell is thwarted, but not before a baby demon comes through. Removed by a secret government organization (think “The X-Files” meets “X-Men”), the demon is raised as a combatant of the world’s dark forces.

Hellboy’s strongest aspect is the title role’s character. Hellboy (played by Ron “I have Hollywood’s most oblong face” Perlman) has more personality than any superhero lead ever seen on film. Going against convention, Hellboy has a remarkable sense of humor, avoiding the brooding, introspective traps that befall many other super heroes. He has fun saving the day, and the audience shares that through his naturally wavy one-liners and even some moments touching on situational comedy.

The first three-quarters of the movie take the audience on a fun ride that will have you in white-knuckled chair grips and powerful belly laughs. The movie doesn’t take itself too seriously, and despite a few plot holes that are common place in many fun-paced action flicks (Why did it take 90 years to meet the villain when he gave specific, simple instructions on how to do it?), it’s fun enough that we just don’t care.

The film’s last act, however, takes a sad nosedive as it marls many of the clichés it had done well to avoid up to that point. No less than three supporting character disappear without any explanation or proper sendoff, and the final battle between good and evil is rather short and anticlimactic in scope, despite a long, special effects-laden buildup. For the sake of keeping the review spoiler-free, I won’t reveal the details of the last moment, but let me just say it was a trite and banal as Hellboy is red.
Copyright laws are diluting art

Commentary

Annoyed at the fat content of Thin Mint cookies, the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) recently sent a message to the Girl Scouts of America saying that the Scoutswere on notice for violating copyright laws. Because/download savvy pre-teens and college students are not sympathetic to the ASCAP wants to persecute (I mean prosecute) the Girl Scouts for not paying royalties each time they sing "This Land is Your Land" and other campfire classics.

As if the FCC Janet Jackson-inspired restrictions weren't censoring media enough, now ASCAP is attempting to drastically reduce the public realm.

It is especially ironic that ASCAP would single out the Girl Scouts because "This Land is Your Land." Written by Woody Guthrie in 1940, it is a song intended for the people of America. It is great, working-class (socialist) American, wrote his songs for the consumption of the common man during the Depression.

He wrote American folk music for the Okies, who were displaced by the Dustbowl, and later moved to New York City where he created the Almanac Singers, who sang radical protest songs. A friend of Alan Lomax, the two compiled the first comprehensive collection of American folk music for the Library of Congress. Guthrie's music, folk music, belonged to the American people, because it was from the traditions of the American people. As Guthrie commented about the source of his music, "Just forget I had a damn thing to do with it. It's real and it's made up by folks that has had to take or the hand hard all their life."

ASCAP seems to think otherwise. Guthrie seemed to address his future explorers when he said, "If you're too frightened for that, you can take your pants and go home right now, but please leave the music — some people might want to look through it."

Woody Guthrie, who was born in 1912, died in 1967. Sixty-four years after the song was written and committed to the public realm, when it seems to still have a public value.

Thanks to Congress, there have been nine extensions of copyright laws for 40 years. Most recently, in 1998, the Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act extended copyright for an additional 20 years to original works of 1978 or after. If you write a song today, I, and more importantly the record company, would be able to collect royalties for the next 95 years.

I will likely be dead in 95 years, but the recording company owner's grandson will still be raking in the cash from my hit record. Meanwhile,上游, the Girl Scouts, college chapel groups, church fundraising choirs and anyone else who could see a cent from the performance of my song would have to pay royalties.

Nothing creative comes ex nihilo. Musician borrow riffs, poets borrow verses and playwrights borrow characters. Eric Clapton would be nowhere without Robert Johnson. William Shakespeare would be nowhere without Girdaldi Cinthio and Disney would be nowhere without the Brothers Grimm. Not only is the ASCAP push for a limited public realm shamelessly about money, it is also anti-reproductive to the idea of creativity.

A lawsuit against the Girl Scouts would be a tremendous push start to a campaign aimed at taking social significance and meaning out of music. I would have a commodified entity that would be afraid to involve themselves in music. They would not approve, even though his estate grows by the second.

Matt Wootsey is a writer for the Vanderbilt Hustler at Vanderbilt University.

Prejudicial 'ignorance' cannot be ignored

"Ew, immigrants" is not a passing comment. It is a gross assumption and a racist contempt. There have been many years of people being treated as less than human (first it was the Irish and Eastern Europeans and now it is the Mexicans, South and Central Americans).

I am a Mexican heritage but was born and raised in this country. If I were standing next to a Canadian immigrant, I would have been the one to be told, "Ew, immigrant" or "Go back to where you came from.

Yes people are ignorant, but that does not make their behavior or comment excusable, and it is our responsibility as educated human beings to educate others.

If I allow someone to speak to me in such a manner, I am giving them permission to victimize me and to treat me as less than their equal. If I allow a person of another group (white, black, homosexual, disabled, etc...) to be discriminated against, I might as well have been the one that committed the offense.

If we all accept and accepted people's "ignorance," there would be no Dr. Martin Luther King, no René Park's and segregation and who wants him trying to prevent people from voting, while, in the same vein, 1950's California should not vote because they are in the minority and have absolutely no chance of winning anyway.

It seems that someone who is sup­ posedly so concerned about ensuring that everyone's voice is heard would encourage people from every party, no matter how obscure, to vote in every election. His obvious bias anulates his entire argu­ ment, as does his claim that Republican voters for who is giving out food and not for the issues. Please, Mr. Corwin, develop more sound arguments in the future.

Greg Wilmot is an agricultural business sophomore.


**Commentary**

The proposed increase of the Associated Students fee for athletic scholarships holds a tangible way of remaining committed to the college experience. Intercollegiate athletics also provide athletes with a sense of purpose and academic and athletic dreams. Students who participate in intercollegiate athletics have practiced their sport and sacrificed their time and social lives for most of their adolescence. Their successes should be considered as successes for the entire student body. They deserve a reward for the additional effort and time they dedicate and recruitment packages cannot be taken lightly, especially when university athletics or preserving Cal Poly's value.

**Commentary**

Cal Poly students currently pay a fee of $4.13 for athletics scholarships every quarter. If the proposed fee increase passes, the fee will increase to $30, costing students nearly $1200 per year. Students at Cal Poly should do the responsible thing this week and reject the fee increase by voting no in the upcoming referendum.

In the last few years, Cal Poly has seen its fees increase substantially. Some past academic fees have increased the average student, such as class offerings and new technology. Conversely, the proposed athletic scholarship fee increase is not in the interest of the majority of students, who will see little or no positive impact. The bottom line is this: When academic institutions face fiscal trouble, thefist budget cuts should come from the athletic department. The vast majority of students come to Cal Poly to receive a quality education at a reasonable price; few students are drawn here by the reputation of our sports teams. In Cal Poly's situation, it would be more beneficial for all students if a $30 fee increase was proposed to help reduce the number of academic faculty and staff positions which may be cut next year.

An argument has been made that Cal Poly will not be able recruit as many athletes without scholarship money. Many of the athletes at Cal Poly come from diverse backgrounds, and because of this many believe the overall diversity of the school would be further weakened. However, the same argument can be made from the opposing side. Increased student fees will make it harder to recruit students from lower-income families, a demographic that contains a disproportionate amount of ethnic minorities.

For any student who is working to put themselves through school, an extra $30 a quarter can be a very big deal and should not be taken lightly, especially when undergraduate enrollment fees may increase by 10 percent next year while graduate students could see a 40 percent increase. Cal Poly should make sure that anyone who is willing to work hard to finance their education can make it happen, regardless of their athletic abilities.

Although students currently only pay a fee of $4.13 for athletic scholarships, they do pay $46.20 each quarter toward the athletic programs. Over a four-year period, the fees each student currently pays to attend Cal Poly, approximately $800 goes toward our school's athletic program. If another $30 fee was added, the total students would pay toward sports programs would reach nearly $1,300 over four years. Is the average student's athletic experience at Cal Poly worth $800? Probably not.

Worth $1,300 Not even close.

While not denying that sports can be an important aspect of a student's college experience, even as a spectator, the current economic situation makes it necessary for us to choose between supporting athletics or preserving Cal Poly's value. Here the choice is clear. Vote no on the referendum.

Justin Pepov is a journalism junior and a Mustang Daily staff writer.

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**Letters to the Editor**

**Newspaper ads don't tell all of the facts**

The Progressive Student Alliance and the Cal Poly Mustang Club have run advertisements in the Mustang Daily opposing the upcoming athletic fee referendum. The ads state that the university hasn't told students how much they already pay to support athletes. Yes, we already pay fees each quarter to support athletics and student athletes, but the ads don't state that we pay them because students voted to pay them.

In similar referendums, students voted to pay extra fees to fund athletic scholarships (1986), and to support a broad-based Division I program (1992). No one forced these fees, the students volunteered them. Why should we vote any different?

The ad also states that "higher fees limit access to education for underprivileged groups," and that if costs keep rising, diversity of students will diminish. Many students who are "underprivileged groups" would not attend this school, or any school, if they didn't have an athletic scholarship because they could not afford it. As a result, the athletic department is one of the most diverse departments on campus.

If we remove funding for scholarships, we will lose diversity. Also, a student can earn money for scholarships on their outstanding academic achievement. Why shouldn't an outstanding athlete take advantage of his or her talent to get an education as well?

Besides, is $90 a year going to make that much in the long run? Compared to what we pay already, an extra $90 is trivial. Some students more than pay that for a fake Tan. Vote yes.

Emily Doris is a civil engineering freshman.

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**Flag burning is not effective opposition**

Note to Sabihha Basrai: Burning American flags doesn't topple dictatorships. Iraqis are going to be burning their own country by the end of June and will be electing their own officials thanks to the United States. So, one can either support Iraq setting up its own government, or, take Baris's view and burn American flags.

Why not burn images of murderous dictators to express opposition to oppression and tyranny?

Ian Chase is a chemistry freshman.

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**Baker's move should not be front-page news**

Staring blankly at the front page of Tuesday's paper, one thought immediately crossed my mind. Who cares?

President Baker moves off campus? The only thing that article did for me was prove the guy actually exists. Don't get me wrong, I'm proud of my school and I support it. But what in the world do we need a "president" for? I mean, what does he do all day, sign legal papers that he doesn't bother to read? Think of new and exciting ways to say the same pedantic bull-cr" welcome message" that we post on our home page? Ponder the meaning of life? No offense, but I think it's a pretty superficial position. Most administrative and bureaucratic.

Not that I'm some kind of fire革命ary-anarchist,burn American flags. The only thing that article did for me was prove the guy actually exists. Don't get me wrong, I'm proud of my school and I support it. But what in the world do we need a "president" for? I mean, what does he do all day, sign legal papers that he doesn't bother to read? Think of new and exciting ways to say the same pedantic bull-cr" welcoming message" that we post on our home page? Ponder the meaning of life? No offense, but I think it's a pretty superficial position. Most administrative and bureaucratic.

Emily Doris is a civil engineering freshman.

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**Mustang Daily needs a color cartoonist.**

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.

The Mustang Daily staff writer.
HELP WANTED

Classified Advertising

Train to be behavior therapist. All training provided to work w/child w/autism. Educational and behavioral program. 35 hrs/week, weekends req. Intensive care. Panic talent highly desired. Arrive Grande 904-9300. 2 year commit.

Summer Camps
www.daycamps.com

Summer Sports Camp Counselors
Near Stanford. $72-$90/day
www.decahtlonSportsClub.com

River Way Ranch Camp Seeks 100 students for resident summer camp positions. canoe counselors, lifeguards, water ski/swimmers, instructors, waverunners, ropes course, move more. Call 559-787-2555 ext. 320 email: nwcamp@aol.com

Mustang Daily
Classified Advertising

It's for selling, it's for clubs. It's for anything. Classifieds are killer!
Call 756-1143

Help Wanted

New hiring at Steve's AVGs - People to shuttle quacks to and from beach. Also distinct quests on now and where to ride. Counter people to answer phones and customer service. In person, no phone calls. 1200 W. Grand Ave, Grover Beach

Hand-toting customer service professionals wanted for high volume mail order company. Position involves stronger requests and taking phone orders. Benefits and advancement opp's available. Flexible hours and full training. Apply at: Tennis Warehouse 747 Bucks Rd., SLO

Models needed for 2005 swimsuit calendar. Call local propeller mfr. Pranaka Props for more info at 781-3846

Fun Summer www.daycamps.com

CMRG is actively looking for research candidates who have spanned an anbre. Please call 865-549-7570 within 48 hours of many more for information about this research study of an investigational medication. If eligible, you will be reimbursed for your time and effort.

Classifieds

Bartender Trainees Needed Earn $100-$2000/shift.
INTL Bartender back in town one week only. Day, eve. classes. Limited seating, call today 500-654-1910 www.bartendusa.com Part and full time positions available!

Considering Abortion?? Let's talk. Maureen: 805-238-7472

Need an extra $30,000 a year? Vending route for sale 50 high traffic locations. Cost $5,000. 1800-568-1392 or www.vendingthatworks.com

Homes for Sale
Free list of all houses and condos for sale in SLO on Real Estate. Nelson Real Estate 546-1990 or email steve@solhomes.com

For Sale
Dean Titanium Mtn. Bike XTR, King Marzoc shock, medium. $975 584-1012

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GET YOUR CLASSIFIED AD IN THE DAILY NOW!

Classification
Softball continued from page 12
fell to 1-4 on the season.

Friday doubleheader split
Cal Poly rebounded from an opening loss to take the second game of a doubleheader against the Highlanders.

UC Riverside won the first game 9-5 in eight innings, but the Mustangs won the nightcap 4-1.

The first game took eight innings to decide the final outcome with UC Riverside scoring four unanswered runs in the extra inning to break a 5-5 tie.

Cal Poly opened the scoring with a pair of runs each in the first and second innings for a 4-0 lead.

UC Riverside responded with a pair of runs in the fourth and took the lead in the fifth with a three run rally. Cal Poly tied the game in the bottom half of the inning with a run-scoring single.

The Highlander eighth-inning rally started with a Jennifer Thompson single to left field. She scoring single.


with a double and Herbert singled. Three

pair of runs in the fifth to overcome

events. Lewis for an error, allowing

RBI off reliever Nick McMillan and Matt Cunningham belted a three-run double to left-center field. Cunningham scored the final run on a wild pitch by Bud Norris.

Junior right-hander Jimmy Shull struck out a career-high eight and Herbst and Roberts both single three times to lead Cal Poly to a 9-3 victory over UC Riverside in the Big West Conference baseball opener for both teams Thursday night at the Riverside Sports Complex.

Shull (7-0) allowed two runs and four hits in seven innings as the Mustangs outhit the Highlanders 14-7.

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The Mustangs exploded for eight runs in the fifth inning to move to 1-4 in the California State University system.

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Baseball wins first conference series

Cal Poly started Big West Conference play with two wins, but couldn't hang on long enough to sweep their opening series against UC Riverside.

Highlander right-hander John Martino allowed just seven hits in 2 1/3 innings as UC Riverside won the first game of its series against the Mustangs, defeating Cal Poly 3-2 Saturday afternoon at the Riverside Sports Complex.

Martino struck out three and did not allow a walk as the Highlanders improved to 21-15 on the season and 1-2 in the Big West. Cal Poly, which had an eight-game winning streak snapped, fell to 30-13-1 and 0-2 in the Big West.

Brian Steinmeyer singled to knock in a run for UC Riverside in the bottom of the second inning and the Highlanders exploded for three runs in the third on a run-scoring double by Tony Festa and a two-run double by Kyle Barrett. Barrett was a thorn in the Mustangs' side the entire series with a pair of solo home runs in Thursday's game and three doubles in the final two games of the series.

He drove in four runs. UC Riverside extended its lead to 5-2 in the fourth as Festa picked up his second RBI with a single.

Cal Poly can into the Highlanders' lead with a run in the sixth as Roberts singled, stole second, moved to third on a fly ball to the left side, and scored on a wild pitch.

The Mustangs had a leadoff single in the eighth but did not capitalize. Kyle Blumenthal singled to open the ninth and Josh Mayo singled to put runners at first and third with one out. Brett Berghard's hardPoly, and Adam Lewison produced an RBI single in the second to give the Mustangs a 2-0 advantage.

The success of the men's cross country team in the fall is carrying over to this spring's track team.

Four to five of the distance runners have a good shot at making it to nationals, said senior cross country and track runner Sean Ricketts.

Ricketts is one of a group of four distance runners who have started on both squads after coming to Cal Poly from San Diego Mesa Junior College — Ricketts, Ryan Moorcroft, Ben Bruce and Blake Swier. Luke Llamas, Matt Johnsrud and Mario Macias are other runners who have contributed to both squads.

In that same meet, Macias won the 5,000, while Llamas won the 3,000-meter steeplechase with an NCAA regional qualifying time.

In the meet before that, the Stanford Invitational, Macias had the second-best Cal Poly time in the 10,000 and Moorcroft ran the third-best time in school history in the 5,000. Ricketts also placed second in the 1,500.

Finally, Llamas finished ninth in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.