Tarrah Graves  
MUSTANG DAILY

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, California State University Chancellor Charles Reed and University of California President Robert Dynes announced a new compact last week for higher education.

The compact will support the CSU’s core mission of teaching, applied research and public research through a multi-year plan for basic and applied research and public research.

The compact will fund the CSU that they must attend community colleges are already so impacted,” Robinson said. “This is why we host pride week.”

The “compact provides some budget, page 2

Rainbow-painted ‘P’ vandalized ... again

Allison Terry  
MUSTANG DAILY

“It seems routine,” said Dustin Robinson, co-director of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual United and city and regional planning junior.

The “P” was painted a rainbow Sunday afternoon as part of CommUNITY Pride Week. Robinson said. “This is why we host pride week. Respect is just not there on this campus.”

Coordinator for gender and sexuality programs for Student Life and Leadership, Maya Andlig, filed a complaint with the University Police Department, who are investigating the incident. Andlig and UDP were unavailable for comment at press time.

Robinson said that the “P” has been vandalized every year he has been at Cal Poly. The “P” was vandalized twice during Pride Week in 2002, and three students confessed to painting the “P” green, according to a May 14, 2002 MUSTANG Daily article.

Members of GLBU and the Pride Alliance are meeting tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. at the base of the hill to repaint the rainbow.

“Everyone is invited to come and help,” Robinson said.

Kerry faults Bush for underfunding at-risk

Neda Pickler  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry said Thursday that President Bush is underfunding a program that could steer more at-risk youth into college, while a Kerry administration could boost college enrollment by 1.5 million students in five years.

Kerry met with four students in the GEAR-UP program, which sponsors tutoring and mentoring, college visits and workshops that help guide low-income students into college.

“It is misleading to be saying to Americans we are going to leave no child behind and then consciously make choices to cut programs like this or to starve them so that they can’t do the full job,” Kerry said. “This is America’s priority right here. It’s the top priority, and we deserve a president who understands that and who is prepared to put the money behind it.”

The Kerry campaign said the federal government spends $298 million on GEAR-UP; and Bush proposed a $68 million cut in the 2002 budget and an $8 million cut in the 2004 budget. Kerry would like to increase spending on the program by $300 million, paid with money raised from rolling back Bush’s tax cuts for people earning more than $200,000 a year.

Kerry said the expansion of GEAR-UP simplified student aid applications and tuition tax credits would boost enrollment by 1.5 million students by 2009.

Pennsylvania Sen. Arlen Specter, responding to Kerry in a statement distributed by Bush’s campaign, said the president has
week, there were two very important people left out of the negotiation students and faculty. Angleidis first publicly opposed slashes to the state educational budget in January when he embarked on a two-week tour of the state to deliver his message.

"It's heartening to see that a lot of state officials are concerned enough to save the CSU from Arnold's red pen," Benson said.

Benson said Angleidis will continue his efforts to protect students from fee increases and rally state wide support. Various celebrities are answering his call.

American Idol's Randy Jackson, journalist and former gubernatorial candidate Arianna Huffington, and Lawrence Bender, producer of such Quentin Tarantino films as "Kill Bill" and "Pulp Fiction," will be Angleidis' guests June 2. They will conduct a one-day fly-around to visit various campuses, including UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara and CSU Hayward.

"The idea is to draw attention to the governor's ill-conceived state budget and rally student support," Benson said.

What specific activism has not yet been inspired on the Cal Poly campus.

"Our efforts to launch the Save Our Classes Coalition has been less successful than on other campuses," Whitm said, "if students take their collective political voice and really let Governor Schwarzenegger know about their plans, then we have a chance to save ourselves from the fee increases.

"I'd like to hear him use language that is stronger," in an hourlong interview with The Associated Press, Kerry said he would consider a judicial candidate who disagrees with his support of abortion rights as long as it doesn't undermine the pages-long document that Kerry is pro-life or pro-something else that I may not agree with," some of whom were nominated by Republican president.

"Do they have to agree with me on everything? No," Kerry said.

Asked if they must agree with his abortion-rights views, he quickly added, "I will not appoint somebody with a 5-4 court who's about to undo Roe v Wade. I've said that before.

"But that doesn't mean that if that's not the balance of the court I wouldn't be prepared ultimately to appoint somebody to a court who has a different point of view. I've already voted for people like that. I voted for Judge Scalia.

Aides said later that "some court" was not a reference to the Supreme Court, only lower federal benches. In his clarifying statement, Kerry said, "I will not appoint anyone to the Supreme Court who will undo that right" to an abortion.

Steve Schmidt, a spokesman for Bush's re-election campaign, said Kerry was trying to have it both ways. He noted Kerry's promise during the primaries to nominate to the high court only those individuals who support abortion rights.

"John Kerry's reversal today on appointing pro-choice judges shows a startling lack of conviction on an issue that someone seeking the presidency should approach with principled clarity," Schmidt said.

Kerry said he regrets his vote for Scalia, saying he didn't see at the time of the vote in 1986 "such a level of ideology and partisanship" that he now sees in the justices.

Budget

Continued from page 1

light at the end of the tunnel — it gives us some optimism so that we can plan for the future," Reed said.

The compact was announced one week before the CSU Board of Trustees voted to increase undergraduate fees, which will now be around $2,300 annually.

Nonresidents will pay $10,170, a 20 percent increase. The CSU Trustees also increased graduate fees by 25 percent and teacher credential candidate fees by 20 percent.

Reed said in the teleconference that Schwarzenegger has put $10.4 million more in the budget to pay for financial aid to help out needy students — which was not included in the governor's compact.

"You never like to increase fees for students — it is a burden — but it is important that we maintain quality and that we not have to lay off students or people than necessary," Reed said.

In response to questions submitted by the Mustang Daily on Tuesday, Cal Poly vice president for administration and finance Larry Kelley, said budget cuts will mostly affect Cal Poly's reduced summer quarter.

"There will be nearly 200 fewer people in faculty and staff roles next year — although we were able to retain all tenured and tenure-track faculty positions," Kelley said. "There will also be about a 5 percent reduction in student enrollment for the coming academic year. Operating budgets have been reduced by six percent in instructional areas and at least 7 percent in all other areas of the university for next year.

While the new compact, or "May Revise," does not offer any immediate relief for California's higher education, the 2005-06 year is scheduled to bring enrollment increases of approximately 2.5 percent and provide a space for the top one-third of graduating high school seniors wishing to attend CSU.

While some feel that higher education has taken a backseat to other issues, such as prisons and road improvements, Kelley said, "The state of California is in a difficult budget situation and the governor and the Legislature are challenged to address all needs with resources that simply are not large enough.

California State University media relations manager Clara Potos-Fellow said higher education has taken a front seat to other issues.

"Higher education was the first institution that the governor announced a compact with — that shows that this is extremely important to him," Potos-Fellow said. "One of the reasons it has become evident in the compact is because the governor realizes the need to educate more teachers in California and keep more students interested in that field.

Despite the tough budget conditions the CSU and UC systems are facing, Kelley said, "We are pleased to see the recognition of the importance of higher education in the long run and welcome the promise of new funding that will begin in 2005-06.

Kiss me! I work for the Mustang Daily
State Briefs

SACRAMENTO — California will have 20 millio.

n citizens by the middle of the century, ac-

ting to population projections by the state

Department of Finance.

The new data indicate that by 2050 the Golden

ciety's population will be 54.4 million — up from 34

million in 2000.

The long range projections of state demographer

Mary Heim, Wednesday, incorporated informa-
tion from the 2000 census and other data, including
birth and death records, county building plans and
migration patterns into and out of the state.

• • •

SAN FRANCISCO — Home Minority Leader

Nancy Pelosi called President Bush "incompe-
tent" and said he is responsible for hundreds of deaths
of U.S. soldiers in Iraq.

"Bush is an incompetent leader. In fact, he's not a
leader," Pelosi told the San Francisco Chronicle in a 45-
minute interview Wednesday in her Capitol office.

"He's a person who has no judgment, no experience
and no knowledge of the subjects that he has to decide
upon."

Pelosi, a San Francisco Democrat, is a frequent critic
of the president and led the effort against the war in
2003. But this was her strongest criticism of Bush to
date.

"He has on his shoulders the deaths of many more
mopeds, because he would not heed the advice of his
own State Department of what to expect after May 1,
when he ... declared that major combat is over," Pelosi
said.

"The shallowness that he has brought to the office
he has not changed since he got there."

The White House dismissed Pelosi's comments as
partisan politics.

• • •

SACRAMENTO — Choice appointments to
state boards and commissions that demand little
attention and require less than full-time attention.

and commissions that pay salaries of at least $90,000.

and no knowledge of the subjects that he has to decide
upon.

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of the president and led the effort against the war in
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WASHINGTON — The Justice Department is
investigating the death of an Abu Ghraib prison
detainee whose body, packed in ice, is documented in pho-
tos that also show two American soldiers posing nearby
with thumbs up, a U.S. official said Thursday.

The photos show Army Sgts. Charles A. Graner Jr. and
Spc. Sabrina Harman, both of whom have already been
charged in the Iraq prison abuse scandal. They were first
shown Wednesday by ABC and on Thursday by the Arabic
TV station Al-Arabiya.

• • •

WASHINGTON — President Bush sought to rally
Republican lawmakers around his Iraq plan Thursday, saying Iraqis are ready to "take the training wheels off" by assuming some political power. He warned that violence is likely to worsen as that transition approaches.

• • •

WASHINGTON — The number of people signing
up for jobless benefits rose last week, but the level of
filings still pointed to a recovery in the labor market.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that new appli-
cations for unemployment insurance climbed by a seasonally
adjusted 12,000 to 345,000 for the week ending May 15.
Claims below 400,000 suggest the job market is improving.

• • •

WASHINGTON — The House moved Thursday to
prevent parents from losing part of their child tax
credits next year, one of three popular tax cuts that
Congress wants to preserve before the November elections.

The bill, which would cut taxes $228 billion over a decade, also would cover coverage by more than doubling
$250,000 the amount a couple could earn and still claim
the full credit.

The House debate on the bill marked the last in a series
that showcased President Bush's tax cuts before the election
and called for their permanency. The House also passed bills
that would preserve tax cuts for married couples and the
traditionally bottom tax bracket.

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MONTPELIER, Vt. — Vermont will become the
ninth state to let very sick patients use marijuana to
alleviate pain, nausea and other symptoms without
fear of state prosecution.

Gov. James Douglas will let the bill become law without
his signature.

"I will not oppose this decision by the elected represen-
tatives of the people, nor will I support it by signing it into
law," Douglas said Wednesday.

Douglas said the bill covers "symptom relief for a small
percentage of individuals with only the most debilitating
conditions," like cancer and AIDS.

Patients may keep up to three marijuana plants in a
locked room accessible only by the sick person and caregiv-
er, who both must register with state police.

• • •

NEW DELHI - Manmohan Singh, the soft-spoken
knew economist named India's next prime minister,
pledged Thursday to work to restore religious har-
mony, keep India investor friendly and seek peace
with rival Pakistan.

Singh's government Wednesday ended a week of political
turmoil in which Sonia Gandhi, the Italian-born widow at
the head of the country's most powerful political dynasty,
pledged Thursday to work to restore religious har-
mony, keep India investor friendly and seek peace
with rival Pakistan.

She remains leader of the Congress party, which oust-
d the Hindu-nationalist party of Atal Bihari Vajpayee
in recent national elections.

Singh, a Sikh, will become India's first non-Hindu
prime minister.

— Associated Press

National Briefs

World Briefs

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.S. soldiers and Iraqi police
located the home of America's one-time ally, Ahmad
Chalabi on Thursday, seizing documents and comput-
er. U.S. officials, meanwhile, disputed Iraqi claims that
seven people were killed in the raid.

The raid and airstrike came amid rising public anger
over the U.S. occupation, which an increasing number of
Iraqis consider oppressive.

The Americans plan to install an interim Iraqi govern-
ment June 30 and formalize their occupation but must
remove significant military forces and influence over Iraq affairs.

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TEL AVIV, Israel — Palestinian uprising leader
Marwan Barghouti, widely seen as a potential suc-
cessor to Yasser Arafat, was convicted Thursday
of ordering shootings that killed four Israelis and a Greek
motel owner and supplying funds and arms for other attacks.

Israeli troops pressed their offensive in a Gaza Strip
refugee camp for a third day, killing eight Palestinians, most
of them armed, and demolishing several buildings.

In the West Bank, three Palestinians were killed by army fire.

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TAIPEI, Taiwan — The Taiwanese president tried
to soothe rival China's fears that he's pushing the
island toward formal independence, delivering an
inaugural speech Thursday that sympathized with Beijing's
demands for unification but also defended policies that
are seen by Taiwan's pro-independence leaders as
anti-China.

President Chen Shui-bian's stance was a turnaround
from the hardline anti-China position that he took during
his re-election campaign. He was widely expected to soft-
en his rhetoric to please the United States, the island's most
important friend and likely defender if China ever attacked.

But China had warned him not to "gamble on the main-
land's tolerance," and Chinese officials, who had appar-
tently anticipated Chen's conciliatory remarks, showed no sign
of backing down.

• • •

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in recent national elections.

Singh, a Sikh, will become India's first non-Hindu
prime minister.

— Associated Press
Top 5 biggest regrets

Devin Kingston

There are always things that a college will regret in life. For instance, not studying enough for that tough final or not asking the beautiful woman sitting next to you on a date can back and haunt you. Maybe you regret being too scared to try out for the soccer team or getting caught cheating on a test. However, there are five things you will always regret about your college life, and they all occur the morning after.

The credit card

Nothing good can ever come of busing out the Visa downtown at the bars. People often think that if they pre-party enough and only bring a couple bucks they'll have a cheap night. This is almost never the case if those sweet pieces of plastic are still safely tucked in the wallet.

"I leave with a wallet full of cash and come home with a wallet full of receipts," English junior Rob Dort said. "It's like putting a dollar amount on my game, but I keep waking up alone."

It all just seems so easy when it's plastic and there is no paper involved, minus that little receipt. Moreover, blowing $80 on the Visa is much easier once the partying gets started. However, some students suggest that one way to save yourself and screw someone else over is to put your drinks on their tab.

"I've got a friend that goes up to the bar and orders a drink," Dort said. "When the bartender asks for payment, he just points across the room at his roommate and his roommate nods back to him and the drink is put onto his tab. He's the guy that always wakes up the next morning 40 or 50 bucks in the hole.

Shaving your head

Once drunk, it's never a good idea to do any type of body grooming — not the face and definitely not the hair. Even if you come back from a night out looking like hell, don't touch any razors or any scissors because the results are not going to be pretty.

"Waking up with a hangover is bad enough," political science junior Alan Ellis said, "but looking in the mirror and realizing you're the white Diddy with a mohawk is pretty awful. To top it off, you remember that you have an internship interview the next day."

And the story only gets worse from here.

"The next night I drank again and decided I wanted Vanilla Ice lines on each side of my head so a buddy gave them to me," Ellis said. "After one of my friends shaved them in, I thought they looked a little crooked so I tried to shave them off. It was pretty hard with my lack of motor skills at the time, and I completely messed them up. I ended up having to shave it all off. That sucked because the next time I got drunk there was no longer anything to shave off.

Vomiting on a significant other

Drinking to excess is never a good idea, and it'll usually lead to a wicked hangover and possibly leave you with your head in the toilet. Usually that's fine because it's just you and the porcelain bowl, but what happens when you climb into bed with your significant other?

"I came home from the bars one night with my boyfriend's roommate," theater junior Brittany Poertgen said. "He wasn't 21 yet and was already sleeping so I got into bed. I woke up the next morning and saw him on the floor. I slowly realized that I was wet as was the entire bed, and that was when I smelled the puke. I guess the night before he had put out a trashcan and a bunch of towels, but I managed to miss all of those, and he bailed to the floor cleaned and replaced almost everything on his bed. It was awful.

Bringing Home the Stripper

She looks so hot right now, oh, and the way she moves those hips. Growl. These are the thoughts rolling through the alcohol-filled mind of a varsity college male watching a stripper. Let's face it, the odds of a house-call-stripper actually being hot are quite low. And from the looks of the following story, it's probably true.

"It was a friend's birthday and his roommates had gotten him a stripper," English junior Jim Muff said. "She was one of the broken (women) I'd ever seen. She desperately needed a nose job, had a pretty large gut with a decorative chain around it, and was doing things involving ice that nobody really wants to see. The worst part is that a friend took her home with him that night. From what my friends tell me, when you take home a stripper you get a souvenir, but I'm not sure what that souvenir actually consists of."

The Drunk Tank

Nothing can top finding yourself on a cement slab in the drunk tank surrounded by homeless people and other drunk students. It's not just the embarrassment of getting arrested for a drunk in public charge, it's the tarnish on your permanent record and the huge court fines you'll have to pay. At least you get your membership to the ever-growing "Yes, I've been arrested" club.

"I got picked up running frantically down the train tracks without a shirt," civil engineering junior Robby Moody said. "I woke up later still without a shirt, my pants were falling off, and I was lying on a vomit-covered cement bench in the drunk tank. I swore right then and there that I would never drink again.

However, when I got home I found the $400 ticket in my pocket and all I really wanted to do was get drunk again."

There is a moral to all of these morning regrets: Try to keep the booze under control and try not to pound those last couple of beers. Also, follow your friends' advice. Odds are if you are under the influence and you're really stoked on the stripper but your friends are telling you otherwise, they're probably right. Follow their insurmountable void that extra amount of embarrassment the next morning. Boozco can and will close your judgment, so drink responsibly.

Friday

Creekside Lanes - Atascadero
Bandits: JGGSR w/ Special Guest

Linnaea's Café
Attila & Dave Project - Rock - Starts at 8:30 p.m.

Mother's Tavern
Bandit DJ Hex - Cover $3 to $5

SLO Brew
DJ's Dancing w/ DJ Mel with DJ Phase

The Grad
Big Chill Night/ Ultimate 80s - 21+

Tortilla Flats
Hot music and dancing w/ DJ Fitz - 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.
**Life after graduation - the road ahead**

**Saturday**
- Crooked Lanes - Atascadero
  - Cosmic Bowling - Starts at 8 p.m.
- Frog & Peach
  - Band: Green Machine - 21+
- Linnamaño's Café
  - Setting Sun - Indie rock - Starts at 8:30 p.m.
- Mother's Tavern
  - Band: Gabs & Waddles - $3 to $5
- SLO Brew
  - DJ Dance Party w/ DJ Phase
- The Grad
  - Wet & Wild - 18+
- Tortilla Flats
  - Saturday Release w/ DJ Fitz - 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

**Sunday**
- Crooked Lanes - Atascadero
  - California Bowling - Starts at 8 p.m.
- Linnamaño's Café
  - Peter Finger - Guitar virtuoso - Cover $15 - Starts at 7 p.m.
- Mother's Tavern
  - Karaoke - 21+
- SLO Brew
  - Donavon Frankenreiter w/ ALO - ALD - 7 p.m. - $15
- Tortilla Flats
  - Hot Salsa & Swing - 9 p.m. to midnight - 18+

**Monday**
- Mother's Tavern
  - Karaoke - 21+
- SLO Brew
  - Band: TECH N9NE - Starts at 7 p.m. - All ages

**Graduating students participate in the transition of leaving college can be very stressful for people.**

**Anastasia Killham**

**Mustang Daily**

Graduation is near and another wave of students are preparing for the culmination of their college careers. As they think about entering into another major life transition, some experience stress at the prospect of leaving the college years behind.

The stress affects people differently. Counseling Services doctoral intern Leach Allard said. In some ways it is similar to the life transition experienced when entering college. On one hand students are excited to enter into a new phase, but it is also scary and can produce anxiety.

For many, life after college will be the first time "out in the real world," Allard said. It poses new opportunities to test social skills and there can be a sense of alienation and isolation.

Students should have patience with themselves by allowing time to adjust and should remember to do things they enjoy, like reading a book or going to the movies. They should continue being involved in activities they participated during college, Allard said.

"I don't know if there is depression immediately but any time you enter a new circumstance and old reinforcements don't occur, depression can set in," psychology and human development department chair Don Ryujin said. "However, the people you meet might be more similar to yourself if you meet them in the workplace and as a result of that they may be good friendships.

Business alumni Robert Tran, who graduated in 2002, said he experienced more difficulty with professional transitions than social transitions after graduating. He said leaving the social atmosphere at Cal Poly was not very critical because he did not have many friends to leave.

To alleviate some of the stresses associated with the transition, Tran said that "soon-to-be graduates should begin establishing connections a year before graduation and should "hone" skills prior to graduation."

Director of alumni relations Kim Gannon said she often hears of people who were extremely active in college-related activities that have a difficult time figuring out where to direct their energies with their extra time.

"From people who leave, one of the things I hear a lot is how much they miss San Luis Obispo," Gannon said. "Learning to create a new social and professional network is sometimes hard."

However, Gannon points out, the Cal Poly Alumni Association provides numerous opportunities for graduates to remain socially and professionally connected to the university through the Alumni Association's Graduates of the Last Decade program.

"It is intended to allow more recent grads to network," she said. The program provides opportunities for social networking by providing links to fellow Cal Poly graduates who live in the same regions. The GOLD program provides opportunities to attend formal and informal gatherings including a number of sporting events, Gannon said.

"These kinds of professional and social networking opportunities help to keep everybody's degree valuable."

**Coffee, cocktails — Mustang Alley is an all-in-one stop**

**Christine Joslin**

Previously, a student would have to go to Borders for wireless internet, Starbucks for coffee, New Frontiers for fruit, The Shack for a picher of beer and Mother's Tavern for a martini. But not anymore.

Mustang Alley Coffee and Cocktail (which used to be called Brewed Behavior) recently changed ownership and closed its doors for three weeks for remodeling. Plans are to reopen early next week.

Mustang Alley, located at 858 Foothill Blvd., will offer a full service bartender starting at 4 p.m., plasma televisions for sporting events, a redesigned bar and has walls decorated to a "pintastic" theme.

The original idea of Brewed Behavior/Mustang Alley was to give the consumer the opportunity to purchase different liquors to their coffee beverages. Such alcohols include Bailey's Irish Cream, Kahlua, Amaretto, Butterscotch Schnapps, Frangelico and others.

"Something that's really good is adding Irish Whiskey to make an Irish coffee," preceding owner Angela Jones said. In addition to the liquors, the shop beer on tap as well as a variety of beers and canned beers, along with pitchers of margaritas. Hard alcohol is available to make mixed drinks or martinis.

The first Brewed Behavior, which held a full liquor license (meaning that they could sell beer, wine and hard alcohol), was located in Paso Robles. After the December earthquake, the shop was torn down. It took about a year for the first shop to obtain its full license, and when it was torn down, we put in a request with the Alcoholic Beverage Control to have the license transferred to the San Luis location and they granted it," Jones said.

The new coffeehouse and bar was originally chosen to take advantage of different liquors to their coffee beverages. Such alcohols include Bailey's Irish Cream, Kahlua, Amaretto, Butterscotch Schnapps, Frangelico and others.

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"We really want this to be an exciting college hang out. This bar has the potential to be great. Our goal is to stay open from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. But for now, we'll stay open as long as there are customers here.," RON MEIER

"We really want this to be an exciting college hang out. This bar has the potential to be great. Our goal is to stay open from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. But for now, we'll stay open as long as there are customers here.

Cope are the three new owners of Mustang Alley. It was their idea to change the name of the bar to better suit the student atmosphere. "We really want this to be an exciting college hang out," Meier said. "This bar has the potential to be great. Our goal is to stay open from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m. But for now, we'll stay open as long as there are customers here."

Hanging out at Mustang Alley located on Foothill Blvd. makes it the only bar in the area to serve hard alcohol. "Changing into a full service bar and serving all forms of alcohol gives us the edge we need to be a good competitor against 'The Shack,'" Hanges said.

An extended and heated patio out front allows for alcoholic drinks to legally be enjoyed outside without worries of an open container ticket.

Mustang Alley will also serve breakfast and lunch, including breakfast sandwiches, side salads, a soup, hot sandwiches and Panini sandwiches, which are warmed, grilled and flattened. In addition, they will sell fruit drinks, energy drinks and smoothies.

"Since this place is going to be for college students, we are having fun with the names of some of the food we sell," Meier said. "Hangover Hots is going to be a mixture of bacon/sausage, eggs and hash in a breakfast style casserole. We'll also be offering this menu item in a vegetarian form."
Mock the vote: Students have cause to sit out

Commentary

It was Fall 2000 and as a volunteer for the Ralph Nader campaign and a fresh Associated Student Government senator, I had been urging my friends to register my classmates to vote. Bright-eyed Associated Student Government leaders had sent the necessary forms back to my dorm, and for more than a week I badgered students I hardly knew with talking points on why they needed to vote and what was at stake.

Looking back, I'm a little embarrassed. I knew why I did it. We politically obsessed students truly believed voting was vital and our classmates had to do it to save the world, to fight the good fight of our sixth circle. Smarmy foreigners use our dietary freedom against our wills to promote low quality fast food. forcing them to produce healthier foods and curb advertisement that encourage over-eating.

But it doesn't particularly matter whether students vote. It doesn't matter to the world at large. In fact, the vote you cast for your favorite American Idol may have more bearing on your life than the vote you cast for president.

The food industry doesn't spoon-feed its consumers with double cheeseburgers and cheesy nachos against their wills. People choose to gobble down junk food.

The other hand, consumers don't necessarily say to themselves. "Today, I will make a goal to eat healthier and less unhealthy. On the other hand, consumers do not even see the dangers and negative health effects of eating high-calorie foods and high-fat foods.

As much as I can, hopefully I can damage my health as quickly as possible." So, whose fault is it? It's the consumer's fault. To stop placing blame on others and start taking responsibility for their own actions.

It's a novel concept that everyone should remember from early childhood.

If Sally takes Jane's favorite toy and breaks it, who wins? Sally wins.

The problem with this theory is that whatever the Bush administration does, its preferred targets have always been innocent men, women and children. Those are the people who have cause to sit out.

The other people can take care of themselves, and they do. The reason for encouraging students to vote was a political strategy, one that's been in place for more than a decade. The other people can take care of themselves, and they do. The reason for encouraging students to vote was a political strategy, one that's been in place for more than a decade.

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The most crucial foreign policy stance is that of the Middle East. Two is why we cannot allow barbaric organizations like Hamas (a Palestinian organization) and others like Al Qaeda (an Islamic organization) to get away with human decapitation and mutilations.

Hamas is a brutal and vicious organization. In fact, Hamas is a brutal and vicious organization. In fact, Hamas is a brutal and vicious organization.

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Final series has big implications

Dan Watson

Cal Poly baseball still has a chance at a third-place finish in the Big West Conference, but it won't be easy.

This weekend the team hosts UC Santa Barbara in a three-game series that marks the last games of the regular season.

"We've got to win as many as possible to finish out the season and give a third-place finish in the Big West standings," coach Larry Lee said.

The team is currently tied for fifth place in the Big West Conference after breaking a nine-game losing streak. The Mustangs swept Cal State Northridge after being swept by No. 8 Long Beach State, Big West leader Cal State Fullerton and then No. 21 UC Irvine.

A third-place finish would give the Mustangs an outside shot of making the NCAA Regional tournament.

In the past, the selection committee has taken three teams from the Big West Conference. Last year Cal State Fullerton, Long Beach State and UC Riverside were NCAA Regional selections.

The Mustangs will need a sweep of cross-coast rival UCSB to have a chance at overtaking UC Riverside, UC Irvine and UCSB for the right to third place in the conference.

"Our chances are up in the air due to the fact that we didn't fare well against the cross-coast rivals," Lee said. "The UCSB series should be a critical. "Everything starts with pitchers," Lee said. "Our starters need to keep us in early and our hitters need to play tough."

Lee sends out junior right-hander Jimmy Shelly (8-5, 4.29 ERA) Friday, sophomore southpaw Garrett Olson (7-5, 5.36 ERA) Saturday and junior right-hander Jonathan Fleming (4-1, 3.02 ERA) Sunday.

The postseason is a possibility if we get on a roll," senior outfielder Chalon Tietje said.

While Cal Poly was struggling, UC Santa Barbara was "Our starters need to keep us in early and our hitters need to play tough," Lee said. "Our starters need to keep us in early and our hitters need to play tough."

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