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WOW set to ‘rock’ new Poly students

Events this year include a night of slam poetry, community service projects, and a book drive.

John M. Pierson
MUSTANG DAILY

Hundreds of student volunteers in green t-shirts help new students move into their rooms. A forest of signs, each decorated with a group number and a theme that ranges from underwear to stuffed animals, sprouts up on the Rec Center field.

It’s that time again: The Week of Welcome, or WOW, has started. And in celebration, Mustang Daily now presents a guide to any and every event this week will hold.

New Events This Year

• Another Type of Groove: WOW Style is a slam poetry and spoken word night held in the Cal Poly Theatre. Slam Poetry champs Marc Hamuthi Joseph and Mike McGee as well as Cal Poly’s spoken word group SoulSpeak Collective will perform.

The idea for the event originated when members of the WOW Board and other WOW participants went to a Slam Poetry event sponsored by the Multi-Cultural Center last spring, WOW Executive Board member Chrisy Roth said.

“The atmosphere was crazy,” Roth said. “The poets were unbelievable, and the poetry was inspiring. We decided we wanted to bring it to the week.”
• Friday from 1 to 4 p.m.

• WOW is hosting a book drive to benefit the Grover Beach Community Library. Books can be dropped off at the WC4W Booth on Mott Lawn any day, Saturday through Friday, by noon. The library is a volunteer-run library that just opened in the spring.

“WOW prides itself on introducing new students to the community. We do so through SLO Bound, the Voter Registration Drive, and the community presentation,” Roth said. “We decided to take it a step further this year serving almost two dozen programs.”

• WOW kicks off its orientation week each year with the Family Orientation Weekend. The weekend strives to help parents and supporters of new students to adjust to the changes that come with having a child go off to college.

But come Monday morning, the real fun begins.

Monday

The WOWies will meet their two group leaders who have planned out a week of activities for them. But it’s not all fun and games. Throughout the week, see WOW, page 7

approximately 700-1,100 new students will participate in a community service project to benefit the AIDS Support Network, the United Way, Growing Grounds Farm which benefits people with mental illnesses, and Judson Terrace, an assisted living center, among others.

“WOW prides itself on introducing new students to the community. We do so through SLO Bound, the Voter Registration Drive, and the community presentation,” Roth said. “We decided to take it a step further this year serving almost two dozen programs.”

WOW leaders participated in a 10-week training program during Spring quarter. Top, a student instills trust in her group members during an activity. Left, leaders learn fun games to play with their WOWies. Above, students practice an ice-breaker game during training.
Schedule of events

MONDAY
- WOWies meet their group leaders
- WOW-rama
THURSDAY
- Awareness Day
(System Assault; Personal Safety; Drugs and Alcohol; Stress and Depression; and Body Image workshops
FRIYAY
- Diversity presentation
- Club Carnival
- Story of the Year concert

WOW continues from page 6

WOWies are exposed to off-campus resources such as the Disability Resource Center, the Academic Skills Center, and the Library.

Monday night, WOWies participate in WOW-rama, an exercise in organized chaos. All the WOWies go to the ASC Rec Sports complex to play games, organize themselves by the month of their birth, and other exciting activities such as "Mount your Mustang.

WOW leaders spend a day near Lopez Lake to gear up for WOW-rama, an event held Monday evening for all WOWies.

WOW leaders spend a day near Lopez Lake to gear up for WOW-rama, an event held Monday evening for all WOWies.

It's amazing what a little friendliness can do

Chris George

PHILADELPHIA - My freshman year began less than 18 hours after the death of my grandfather. As soon as my father and sister had helped me carry all my stuff into my new room in the Quad, they left me there and returned to the rest of my grieving family and other worries. I was leaving home and moving into my first year of college, and I didn't want to stay there. I started to cry. The only people milling around for a few days were those supposed to except for some other freshman, but I was still alone in a place with so many other people milling about. Nonetheless, I thought I should introduce myself.

Suddenly, a knock on my door. I opened it to reveal a rather tall, fuzzy-haired guy with a dark goatee.

"Hi, I'm Ammar. I live in Room 205. I heard you moving in, so I thought I'd introduce myself."

And suddenly I had a friend. Ammar was a sophomore who had lived in the Quad the previous year and was once again alone in a place surrounded by people milling about. We hung out that afternoon and many afternoons and evenings since. Those were the best days of my life, and many afternoons and evenings since. Those were the best days of my life, and many afternoons and evenings since.

WOW leaders spend a day near Lopez Lake to gear up for WOW-rama, an event held Monday evening for all WOWies.
Upperclassmen recall freshman memories

Allison Terry
Managing Editor

"I feel somewhat nostalgic looking back on memories from my freshman year. It actually makes being a senior in college that much more frightening. It seems like only yesterday my parents were helping me move all my stuff up to the second floor of Venture residence hall. Today it was bustling with people just as excited as I was to start a new chapter in life. Although they were strangers at the time, they became my best friends. Some of them are still like my family.

There is something about the dorm aura that enabled us to get to know each other really well and also very quickly. Late night discussions, water fights and long walks to the Lighthouse united our friendships, and it made school seem like home. Road trips were also a highlight of my freshman year. One road trip in particular really stands out in my memory. A bunch of my friends and I got tickets to see Dashboard Confessional at the House of Blues in Anaheim. (This was before they became all mainstream and MTVed.) The show was on a Sunday night, so we all had to be back right away."

Ashlee Bodenhamer
Music Editor

The year I was a freshman, Cal Poly had admitted too many of us, and a bunch of first-year students were randomly picked to live in "overflow" housing—converted laundry rooms and study lounges and second-year residence halls. I was one of the few assigned to live in the North Mountain Hall, a dorm for returning students. My two roommates, like most of the people in my hall, weren't participating in WOW and therefore weren't arriving for another week. So on move-in day, during the five or so hours my family helped me unpack, not a single soul walked past the hallway outside my open door.

Minutes after my family piled back in the car and headed home, I sat on the bare mattress of my top bunk loft, with the Jackson Five blaring from my stereo and the door to my room still wide open, and cried my eyes out. School seemed like home. It was a quick thrill because I had this reporting gig down. There's something surreal about interviewing a person you've watched on television your whole life. Having the opportunity to do so provided me my favorite freshman moment. But before that moment, I had many other remarkable ones.

I began reporting sports at The Tribune newspaper just after the first week of classes and it quickly became a lesson in humility. I discovered that often I was wrong. I thought I knew it all. I had this reporting gig down. Then my editor ripped my first article, a diminutive rewrite of a press release, to shreds."

Devin Kingdon
Sports Editor

Freshman year is filled with so many memories: the dorms, running back to the bathroom after an explosive meal from the Lighthouse, sneaking (and illegally, I might add) drinking a few beers in my room. However, there is one defining memory I have, and that is of surfing.

Going surfing is nothing out of the ordinary for me; I've lived by the beach all my life and the ocean and a surfboard have always been there. What was different about surfing after I came to Cal Poly was that it was just giving me a quick thrill; it actually gave me an amazing group of friends. These early morning surf trips with my fellow Trinity Hall residents would come to define my first year at Cal Poly.

The morning would begin with Nate shaking me awake, often around 6 a.m., because he'd say, the waves were calling our names. I'd get out of bed, hopefully without waking my roommate, and stumble down the hall to the bathroom where my fellow surfers and friends would also be quickly brushing their teeth and popping in contact lenses."

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In a nine-day stretch during my freshman year, my girlfriend dumped me, I was booted from a fraternity and I made out with a 350-pound girl.

It's a wonder I lived through my first year at Cal Poly.

The breakup happened fast. We'd only been together a few months, since a week after I started pledging the fraternity, in October. The girl and I basically weren't a good fit. Freshman year isn't a great time for relationships. Needless to say, mine was spiraling downward by a week into winter quarter.

My status with the fraternity was no better. It's a tradition for frat brothers to tell their new recruits "You're the worst pledge ever!" This was actually true for me, though. I didn't do my chores, I talked back to brothers, and, at the start of winter quarter, I decided to hold a party at the house.

None of the brothers knew this of course. I made up 400 flyers promising a Saturday night "Pimps & Hoes" ball and assumed that if people started showing up to the frat house, the brothers would organize. I passed about 60 of the flyers out, before word emerged about what I was doing.

First, I learned that my pledge class was scheduled to host a real party the night before my festival. Then I learned that passing out flyers could get the fraternity in serious trouble. In the wake of the actual party, I was called before a fraternity tribunal and put on probation. Also, my girlfriend and I got into a fight the day after the party, which pretty much killed the relationship.

The day after that, I left to go to Reno on a Greek ski trip. We skied for two days and danced for two nights. On the second night, a few of the brothers spotted a morbidly obese girl from another school dancing alone in the middle of the floor. First they offered me $200 to go up and kiss her. I refused. Then, thinking it would help win in the fraternity and cleanly single, I decided to do it for free. I went up to the girl, danced with her briefly and then went in for the kiss. There are apparently pictures of the incident but I've never seen them. I was kicked out of my fraternity pledge class at the end of the weekend.

Thank goodness.

Graham Womack
COPY EDITOR

For the freshman class of 2004 I have this advice: get involved.

Being the over-confident person that I am, I dismissed the possibility of meeting people through WoW Week, the Greek system or any other group, club or sports team that was offered at Poly, believing that my wit and charm would win the campus over.

I was wrong.

see Advice, page 11

"From the first day I move into the dorms ... I knew the friendships would stick.

to know everyone but soon I felt like I had known this "Tower 0 Crew" forever.

Quite a few times, some one

see Summer, page 11

"It's a wonder I lived through my first year at Cal Poly"
DASHBOARD
from page 5

for class on Monday morning. We took two cars, and one car lead earlier because they had to pick up something for a project that had been a sailing regatta. When my car lost the battle with the wind, we realized that the stars were really there, and it was a great night to gaze at the stars...and take a picture.

Our friend's parents invited us to dinner at their house, and we were able to get a few ideas for off-campus fun. We decided to drive to Santa Barbara, and we were able to get a great deal on the car rental. We planned to have dinner at a local Italian restaurant, and then we could visit the beach and watch the sunset. We were excited to explore this beautiful city and enjoy the warm weather.

After dinner, we decided to drive to the Santa Barbara Harbor. We took a walk along the boardwalk and enjoyed the view of the ocean. We also visited the aquarium and saw many beautiful marine animals. We learned a lot about the local marine life and the conservation efforts that are being made to protect the environment.

The next day, we continued our travels further north. We visited the Hearst Castle and the nearby Jenner Beach. We were amazed by the opulence of the castle and the stunning views of the ocean. We spent the day exploring the castle and enjoying the beach. We also had lunch at a local restaurant and tried some of the delicious seafood.

For our final day, we decided to visit the San Francisco Zoo and the California Academy of Sciences. We spent the morning exploring the zoo and seeing all the amazing animals. We also visited the Academy of Sciences and learned about the fascinating exhibits. We ended the day with a visit to the golden gate bridge and enjoyed the beautiful views of the city.

All in all, our California road trip was a wonderful experience. We learned a lot about the state's history, culture, and wildlife. We made new friends and created lasting memories. We look forward to visiting California again in the future.
Five indicted in credit-repair scam

Riverside couple bribed employees of various firms to eliminate damaging credit information from files.

SANTA ANA (AP) — Five people have been indicted in connection with a scheme by a Southern California credit-repair firm that allegedly bribed employees at credit bureaus to boost the scores of hundreds of their clients, authorities said.

The indictment, returned earlier this month by a federal grand jury in Santa Ana, lists 16 counts of fraud and conspiracy and alleges that lenders lost at least $6 million.

Prosecutors said Monday that the defendants eliminated damaging credit information from files at TransUnion, Equifax Inc. and the Experian subsidiary of GUS. All three companies account for credit scores that are crucial to about 30,000 lenders and other businesses across the nation.

Costa Mesa-based Experian said it triggered the probe in early 2002 after it caught and fired a Dallas employee who was part of the scam.

Prosecutors said Dolores Guerrero was paid $300 to $3000 a week to falsify files. She pleaded guilty to fraud in May and is serving a prison term of more than three years.

The indictment alleges that Mickey Lynn Manning, 44, and her husband, Ross Smith, 35, operated the scam for about a year through their Riverside-based company, Second Chance Financial Services, a firm specializing in improving people’s credit ratings.

Manning and Smith face 16 counts of fraud and conspiracy. The couple’s attorney, Howard Beckler, said they planned to surrender, plead not guilty and be released on bond Thursday.

Also charged was former TransUnion employee Marcus Brandon Berts, 33, of Ontario, who was arrested Friday and released on $50,000 bond Monday. The other defendants are New Jersey residents Jamila Takiyah Davis, 20, and Jose L. Crespo, 38, who were arrested Thursday and released on bond.

They were charged with working through legitimate financial firms in New Jersey to inflate consumer credit scores by reporting phony loans and loan payments to the credit bureaus. Their attorneys said they expected to plead not guilty in federal court.

Authorities said credit bureau information has been misused to commit identity theft but they can’t recall a case in which insiders at the bureaus falsified credit files.

“It raises a lot of issues about the security of the credit-reporting industry and whether or not its systems are adequate to ensure the maximum possible accuracy,” said Edmund Mierzwinski, consumer program director for the U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

Credit bureaus collect information about consumers’ payment habits from financial institutions, then sell this information to lenders and other companies in the form of credit scores. The firms are hired by consumers whose billing history has left them unable to qualify for loans.

A recent law now requires that people be notified if their exposure to identity theft is a possibility.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — California state university officials have warned more than a half-million students and faculty that they might be exposed to identity theft following incidents where computer hard drives loaded with their private information were lost or hacked into.

Since January, at least 580,000 people who had personal information about them stored in university computers received warnings they might be at risk.

The latest instance of missing equipment occurred in June at California State University, San Marcos. An auditor lost a small hard drive for a laptop computer.

In all, personal data, including names, addresses, Social Security numbers for 23,500 students, faculty and staff in the California State University system were contained on the missing hard drive.

“I got a letter informing me of the risk,” said Teresa Hendrix, a spokeswoman for Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. “My daughter got one too.”

At the University of California, San Diego, and San Diego State University, hackers broke into computers and obtained access to files of personal data for more than a half-million current or former students, applicants, staff, faculty and alumni.

Officials from the Cal State University system and UC San Diego said they have no evidence any personal data were stolen.

At the University of California Los Angeles, a stolen laptop in June led officials to notify as many as 145,000 blood donors that their data might be in the open.

A California law requiring people to be notified when they might be exposed to identity theft took effect in July 2003. That, officials say, might explain the rash of notices occurring,” said Joanne McNabb of the Office of Privacy Protection in the state Department of Consumer Affairs.

Who’s at risk?

• At least 580,000 people, including students and staff, are at risk

• 23,500 people had personal information stored on a lost hard drive at CSU, San Marcos

• a stolen laptop from UCLA contained data from 145,000 blood donors
Making a mark:

Ex'P'ression

Above, members of the PRIDE Alliance paint the 'P' rainbow shades in honor of PRIDE Week. Look up the mountain at the 'P' and see something different represented every week, including fraternities, campus clubs and holidays. The 'P' is managed by the Cal Poly spirit club, Running Thunder. To schedule a day to decorate the 'P' contact the 'P' Keeper.

MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO

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Farmers' Market: A San Luis Obispo tradition

Caricature artist "Blue" draws a boy's picture at Farmers' Market downtown. The booth has been operating for 17 years.

Andy Fahey MUS£ND DAILY

At first, you're attracted by the aromas stemming from the barbecue pits. Even though your pockets are wearing thin, you can't help but consider an investment in a tender, flavorful tri-tip sandwich. It looks so tempting as it cooks on the grill, smoke seeping through the air, creating a haze as dusk approaches in San Luis Obispo. You make your way toward the line, but then the sweet scent of kettlekorn draws your attention, making you reconsider what taste to satisfy. As you consider the pros and cons of each decision you start nodding your head and tapping your feet to the beat of a blues band just up the block.

The scene — any given Thursday on Higuera Street.

Though the entertainment varies from week to week, two constants attract Kay Willet to Farmers' Market.

"The fire and the people," she said with a mouth full of fries.

The Farmers' Market says so much about our community," said Kristin Ansari, a Cal Poly alumna who is now the promotions coordinator for the Downtown Association. "Just by coming down and walking six blocks, you get a taste of a hundred different things."

Approximately 90 vendors set up shop every week on Higuera Street, between Osos and Nipomo streets, half of which are members of the Downtown Association. The other half is comprised of San Luis Obispo nonprofit, political and religious organizations. In addition to the vendors, there is a fresh produce section made up of locally grown goods.

Not in the mood to spend money? No problem. The market has five spots for free entertainment. Whether in the mood for live music, dancers or a puppet show, Farmers' Market offers a wide array of performers to tickle almost anyone's fancy.

Though the entertainment varies from week to week, two constants attract Ray Willet to Farmers' Market.

"The food and the people," he said with a mouth full of food.
Tradition
continued from page 13

A tourist trains in San Onofre, Willet II.
Is situated on the Osprey in the last six years and always makes sure he makes it out to Farmers' Market.
Cal State Fullerton junior Anthony Ramos also relishes his returns to Farmers' Market. A native of Santa Maria, Ramos said the event has increased in popularity over the years.
For San Luis Obispo resident and 2002 Cal Poly alumnus Kacy Smith, "It's mostly just something to do," Smith, who attends Farmers' about twice a month, comes for the produce and the social atmosphere that the event provides.
Farmers' Market patrons aren't the only ones who enjoy the festive atmosphere — its workers are just as enthusiastic to be there.
"Businesses love having Farmers' Market," Ansari said.
Perhaps nobody enjoys the market more than those manning the E. McIntocks Saloon barbecue pit, which has been in place since Farmers' Market's beginning in 1963. These employees can be found chanting, in unison, the orders of individual customers.
"We try to make it fun," said Steve Miller, a manager at E. McIntocks. "It makes people want to come see what's going on." Besides, "Barbecuing can only be so much fun."
Although the event has become a cultural event in San Luis Obispo, it wasn't originally designed to do so. Rather, it started out in part as a ploy to keep troublesome teenagers from parading downtown.
"It started because there were some complaints that businesses weren't open very late and there was these kids downtown," Ansari said. "So it was established for the community to have the opportunity to come down and have the streets closed so that cruising can't happen and have businesses stay open late."
From there, Farmers' Market has grown into the popular, wide-reaching event it is today.
"It's a happy market," Ansari said. "Every once in a while we get a lost kid here and there and that's the most dramatic thing that I believe ever happens at the market, but they always get found. It's a safe and fun place to be."
Firestone Grill:

A freshman favorite

The Central Coast is famous for its tri-tip sandwiches and some of the best can be found at Firestone Grill on Higuera street. The restaurant is often brimming with students fighting for a booth, and anxiously waiting for their number to be called.

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On-Campus Meal Plan Options

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The Lighthouse cafeteria features two new chefs this year, Sous Chef Clay White (left) and Executive Chef Steve Cristler.

Almeera Corser
MUSTANG DAILY

Campus dining manages to feed more than 2,800 Cal Poly residents each day while providing a variety of dining options from which to choose. There is a variety of choices that can satisfy almost any craving from breakfast burritos, chicken Caesar wraps, to "Twenty" fruit smoothies.

Meal plan dining facilities include The Sandwich Factory, WG Cafe and Lighthouse. Plus Dollars, which can be used all quarter, can be used at the restaurants mentioned above and also at Campus Market, Corridos, Backstage Pizza, Vista Grande Restaurant, Veranda Cafe, The Avenue, Tapango's, The Park, Julian's and Larry's Juice. Executive Chef Steve Cristler and Sous Chef Clay White are recent additions to the Lighthouse. Cristler comes to Cal Poly from the Silicon Valley where he operated his own catering business. White has worked at places such as Planet Hollywood. Both chefs plan to incorporate their own signature styles into the Lighthouse menu.

On-campus dining offers three unique meal plans to appease every resident's appetite. The "Freedom Plan" includes five meals per week and $661 plus dollars per quarter, perfect for the discerning student who wants more choices.

I had the 'Freedom Plan' as a freshman and I used to eat at the Veranda Cafe," business administration senior Lorenzo Lazaro said. "Their taco salads were the best because they used fresh avocados."

Another meal option is the "Flexibility Plan," offering eight meals per week and $598 in plus dollars per quarter.

The "Security Plan" includes ten meals per week and $223 in plus dollars per quarter, making it an excellent choice for students who remain on campus for weekends.

For freshmen that reside off campus, campus dining still has options.

The "Student Dining Plan" includes five meals per week and $180 in plus dollars each quarter. Campus Express is also available. Through Campus Express, students can purchase meals using their student ID card and use them like a debit card. It is a versatile supplement to meal plans.

All dining facilities, along with the El Corral Bookstore, accept Campus Express. Not only is Campus Express convenient, it offers regular "Hot Deals" discounts and special offers when swelling your Polycard.

Whatever you desire, campus dining is sure to have a meal plan for you. Whether you want a hearty meal, a quick bite between classes, or just some caffeine before a midterm, campus dining has it all.
Instilling integrity in incoming freshman

Carly Weinreb

PHILADELPHIA — The summer before freshman year, every student at the University of Pennsylvania receives a packet with a pledge card asking them to uphold the Code of Academic Integrity. The importance and effectiveness of the pledge is a subject of debate among students.

Assistant to the Interim Provost Anita Cielburd said, as has happened in past years, approximately 60 percent of the incoming class has already returned the cards and more might be in the mail.

The University Honor Council, together with the academic integrity task force, started sending packets to incoming freshmen four years ago, including a cover letter, a copy of the Code of Academic Integrity and a pledge card. Although it is optional to sign, the goal was to have as many freshmen as possible read the code and pledge to uphold it.

The code defines academic dishonesty as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submission, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty and giving oneself an unfair advantage.

Cielburd believes putting something concrete in front of students would reduce academic dishonesty.

"Cheating is not something we do," she said.

However, some students feel that a pledge card is unnecessary.

"I don't feel I need to fill out a contract to know I'm not going to cheat," engineering sophomore Ishaan Puri said.

Although senior Ayesha Mansukhani asserts that it is important to remind incoming freshmen about academic standards, she feels that the cards are degrading.

"It implies that I have different morals than what they put down," she said. "Instead of instilling values in me, it scared me... It was more like a threat."

College sophomore Emily Goldman thought it was good for the university to lay out its policy and hoped it would change people's behavior, doubting it actually would.

A number of students said they knew of others who had cheated at Penn and succeeded, and some who had been caught. Both Mansukhani and Engineering sophomore Laurie Duncan said that most of the cheating happens in group projects, when one or two people do most of the work for the entire group.

Duncan stressed that the cheating was sparse, though, and that some students only try to get ahead on small assignments.

Welcome to Cal Poly Students from President Warren J. Baker

To all our returning students, it is a pleasure for me to welcome you back, and to our new students, welcome! We are enthusiastic about having you at Cal Poly and we join in your resolve to make this both an enjoyable and productive year.

As you may have heard, U.S. News & World Report has recognized Cal Poly for the twelfth year in a row as the top public undergraduate university in the West. We owe this recognition to the talent and hard work of our faculty and staff — and the extraordinary quality of our students. You can take great pride in your membership in this outstanding university.

Among our priorities, none is more important than your academic success and enjoyment of the years you spend at Cal Poly. I can assure you that our faculty, staff and administrators see this as the highest priority of the institution. We are eager, though, to continue to improve and to identify new ways to meet your needs.

To assist students in progressing toward their degrees is our highest priority and we will continue our efforts to assist students in achieving their degree objectives. We also take seriously our responsibility to serve the diverse students who come to Cal Poly from all across the State of California and to ensure that we take full advantage of the opportunities for growth in cultural awareness and mutual understanding that come with that diversity. And finally, we remain committed to fostering an environment in which we can openly discuss differing views with respect and civility.

Finally, you will find that the residents of San Luis Obispo are pleased and proud to welcome you to their community. I encourage you to get to know them and to make it a priority to be a good and considerate neighbor and representative of Cal Poly in all you do.

Best wishes to you for a terrific year, full of learning, personal accomplishment and fun!

President
Universities' admissions process in jeopardy

Women's organizations unite to combat a proposed 2006 initiative that would ban affirmative action

LANSING, Mich. — Women's groups on Thursday launched a two-year campaign to defeat a planned 2006 ballot initiative that would ban affirmative action in government hiring and college admissions in Michigan.

The group's leaders said women, not just ethnic and racial minorities, would be hurt by the measure.

"It's not broken," Roni Weaver, president of Michigan Business and Professional Women, said of Michigan's current law. "It's fair, it works. Leave it alone."

The groups, including the National Association of Women Business Owners, American Association of University Women and Michigan Women's Commission, said the initiative would undermine societal advancements and make the state's workforce less diverse. They plan to host a summit next March to focus on the importance of affirmative action for women.

The groups held a news conference in Kalamazoo and made their announcement on Women's Equality Day, the anniversary of the day in 1929 the 19th Amendment was officially certified. The amendment gave women the right to vote.

The Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, which is gathering petition signatures to put the anti-affirmative action measure on the ballot, decided in June to scale back its efforts to get on the November ballot and instead focus on 2006.

The initiative would prevent public agencies, universities or colleges from granting preferential treatment based on race, religion, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin.

It's opposed by several groups includingCitizens for a United Michigan, which consists of business and community leaders who support affirmative action and have fought to keep the issue off this fall's ballot.

The petition effort comes after the U.S Supreme Court's 5-4 decision last June that the University of Michigan Law School could consider race to create a diverse population.

The court struck down the university's undergraduate policy for ensuring a mix of students as too formulaic, and university officials revised the policy last fall to include a more comprehensive review of each application.

The Detroit News reported last week that a group headed by Commonly, the Sacramento based American Civil Rights Coalition, contributed 95 percent of the $140,000 raised by the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative Committee.

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Missoula, Mont. — A 20-year-old man was arrested Monday in connection with armed robberies that took place in Elrod Hall last week at the University of Montana. Christopher J. Borgen was arrested and will be charged with two counts of aggravated kidnapping and two counts of aggravated burglary according to a court affidavit. He is being held in Missoula County Jail on unrelated charges. He is expected to appear in Justice Court on Wednesday.

Borgen is one of three suspects who allegedly robbed UM student Matthew Pohlman and his friend at gunpoint last Tuesday night and again on Thursday night in Pohlman's second-floor Elrod Hall dorm room.

Pohlman told Public Safety Officer Scott Oak that on Tuesday, Oct. 1, he was in his dorm room with a friend when Borgen, whom he knows, arrived with two other men. Pohlman said as soon as all three entered the room one of the men pulled a gun from his waistband and pointed it at his head.

"He three suspects then allegedly wrapped duct tape around Pohlman and his friend's arms and across their mouths. Pohlman said Borgen stole an orange and black Murtón backpack, which contained $1,500.

Pohlman later told detectives Steve Thulhope and Guy Baker of the Missoula Police Department, that the backpack actually contained a quarter-pound of marijuana and $300 to $400, according to court documents.

When the suspects left, Pohlman said, he and the other victim were told to keep their mouths shut or they would be back.

Pohlman told Oak the three suspects returned two days later and again the same friend was in his dorm room.

Borgen allegedly began yelling at Pohlman, demanding to know where a quarter-pound of marijuana was. Pohlman said he told Borgen there was no marijuana in the room and the same suspect again pulled a handgun and pointed it at his head. According to the affidavit, the two victims were again duct taped.

Pohlman said the three suspects stole two Sony Playstations, about 20 PlayStation games and a case with about 40 CDs.

A suspect then allegedly put the gun to his head, cocked it, and said, "Remember this sound, don't tell anyone or next time we'll find you on the street."

Police said they are still looking for information on the identity of the two additional suspects, who have not been apprehended. The first suspect is a 5-foot-11-inch, 145-pound white male with brown hair and a slim build. The second suspect is a 6-foot white male who is about 20 years old with blond hair and a slim build.
Colleges try to make minority students feel more comfortable

Schools are increasing their efforts to create more of a "melting pot-like environment"

Justin Pope
ASSOCIATE PRESS

HARTFORD, Conn. — Giselle Clemens' first day at Trinity College was a busy one. There were ice-breakers, and introductions to other minority students, upperclass mentors and administrators. Then came a bus tour of Hartford's ethnic neighborhoods, pointing out places students can go for a braided haircut or Latino music or a Jamaican dinner.

Clemens hopes to make all kinds of friends at Trinity, but she knows from her experience as a student of Caribbean ancestry at a mostly white boarding school that there will be times when she will crave the comfort of familiar company.

"Sometimes you don't want to be asked questions," said Clemens, whose family comes from St. Lucia and who grew up in Newark, N.J. "You just want them to understand you."

Trinity goes out of its way to help freshmen from minority groups feel comfortable, inviting them to campus a few days early to try to foster a sense of community they can fall back on, if needed, throughout college.

But Trinity, like many other schools, is walking a fine line. It wants to avoid encouraging the kind of separatism that often leads Black and Hispanic students to sit apart from others in the cafeteria.

"We don't want you to be comfortable in your new friendships to the point where you don't go out and bring new people into your circle," was the parting advice of Karla Spurlock-Evans, the school's dean of multicultural affairs, at an introductory lunch for Trinity's PRIDE: "Promoting Respect for Inclusive Diversity in Education," program.

As colleges around the country welcome freshmen, many organize activities, like camping and community service trips, to help students start college with at least a small group of friends they can build on. But there is also resistance to emphasize particular groups over the broader community.

Two years ago, Williams College in Massachusetts stopped bringing minorities and athletes to campus early. There are still some orientation events for minorities, but all students go through much of the same program, designed to introduce the broader class.

With 2,188 students at Trinity, Spurlock-Evans says a program like PRIDE does not prevent that kind of campus-wide bonding. But she says it is essential to show minorities the support they have.

"If you don't grab them in the first five weeks, they're gone," she says. "There would be no way to integrate if we didn't support them."

Nationally, 63 percent of students at four-year colleges complete their degrees, but only 46 percent of Black students, 47 percent of Hispanics do, according to a recent report by The Education Trust, a Washington-based nonprofit. At Trinity those rates are considerably better, 76 percent for Black students and 83 percent for Hispanics, while the rate for all students is 88 percent.

Social segregation is an issue here. The most recent Princeton Review survey of students at 357 colleges ranked Trinity at the top of a survey of schools where campus life features "Little Race-Class Interaction."

Spurlock-Evans, who has worked at several other colleges, calls the survey and its methodology "nonsensical. But showing a visitor around the school's cafeteria, she acknowledges there is still separation. While one section is no longer called by some "Little Africa," students from various non-white ethnic groups still tend to congregate there, just as white students congregate across the way.

"I know it's human nature," she says. "Sometimes when you get comfortable, there's not the need to range beyond." Minorities, she says, have no choice but to mix with other races, while whites can segregate if so inclined. Increasingly, PRIDE is trying to draw in white students in the programs and discussions it runs throughout the year. All students, regardless of race, are assigned a PRIDE adviser.

But program leaders acknowledge such involving white students has been hard. When classes were canceled for a campus-wide "Dialogue Day," last year, 1,500 students showed up. But PRIDE leaders acknowledge that many came on orders from their teachers and that some resented the race-centered conversation.

Many upperclass PRIDE mentors participate because their own PRIDE mentors helped them through tough times.

Sophomore Gonzalo Estupinan skipped the program as a freshman, wanting to stretch out his summer. But when he arrived, he had difficulty making friends and trouble with his studies. A PRIDE mentor saw him struggling in the library one night, pulled him aside and helped him turn things around.

"He taught me time management and other stuff," he says. "It was just the fact that he reached out to me where other students let me fend for myself." He says, "I think a lot of the reason I had trouble was because I didn't come to PRIDE."
You'll never have to say goodbye to Lassie again

New pilot dorm programs allow students to bring their pets with them to college.

Scott Charton
IBOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Since coming to Stephens College, Abbey Road is making friends with her energetic personality, intense tail wag and unshakable love, especially when the little dog is thrown a slobber-slick tennis ball.

The Jack Russell terrier moved in last week with owner Alexandra Geisler at the college's Prunty Hall, where the first floor debuted as a pet-friendly zone for dogs, cats and rabbits.

"He means everything to me. I am so much happier when Abbey is around," says Geisler, a 20-year-old sophomore from Long Island, N.Y.

While Stephens is not the first to allow pets, most colleges and universities only permit fish or small reptiles, with legally required exceptions for service animals.

Reasons for excluding the pets include noise, smell, allergies and concerns about bites and scratches. And there's a potential for neglect when the appeal of a cute pet is overtaken by the pace of student life.

Animal shelters in college towns frequently take in more abandoned pets when school is out. At Stanford University, a rescue society unaffiliated with the school has been established for stray cats around campus, many of them abandoned.

"But Stephens, a women's college founded in 1833, didn't jump into an instant experiment," said Wendy Libby, who became president last year. "There were lots of discussions, but students asked for this, so after the knee-jerk reaction that we cannot do it, we started talking about practical ways we could allow some pets," Libby said.

Dogs must be 40 pounds or less. All pets must be kept in crates or cages when the student is out of the room. A fenced dog run has been built outside Prunty. And the program will be evaluated constantly, including whether pet noise is below an acceptable level.

They're starting small. Five students are sharing space with pets in the new semester, two dogs, two cats and two rabbits. Stephens also is working with a local animal shelter to link select students with homeless pets.

Alexandra Geisler unleashes her dog Abbey Road, in her pet-friendly dorm room at Prunty Hall on the campus of Stephens College in Columbia, Mo.
Getting a job in college: Working for the weekend (and rent)

Rachel Musquiz

Senior Leela Stedt said, "We're going to spend our spare time playing Madden on PlayStation or making trips to the beach and movies." Many students fill their time between classes with work.

Nick Brinkley is working on the second year being a resident advisor in North Carolina State University's Metcalf Hall. "I decided that I wanted to become an RA when I saw what a difference they made to the incoming students. The inspiration came from Tony Caravano (RA) and Brian Ellim (his freshman year in Tucker). Just seeing the difference they made to my friends and me made me really want to be a part of it," Brinkley said.

As an RA, students receive free meals and board and the opportunity to take the young freshmen under their wings. "I do stay busy, but this job has really taught me how to deal with the employer in a difficult position. It employment does not work out because of demanding school work, communicate with the employer. Any job must be taken seriously and using up for work suddenly puts the employer in a difficult position. Requesting a reduction in hours or even resigning shows the employer you are not serious," Brinkley said. With his busy schedule, Brinkley doesn't find much time for anything else. "I don't have as much free time as I would like sometimes. I don't have the free time that college students have," Brinkley said. "On occasion (RDs) do have to stay around for a holiday but there are enough RAs willing to help each other that it is not a problem if you need to get away for a little while."

Leslie Jimison, a senior in materials science and engineering, said her plate full, as well. From community service to sports to engineering, Jimison somehow finds time for working at a lab on campus as well. Jimison started working the summer after her second year.

"My thermodynamics professor, Dr. Markovitz, approached me toward the end of the school year (two years ago) and asked if I'd be interested in working at the institute. This seemed like a much more worthwhile way to spend summer break than my other money-making alternative: Cold Stone," Jimison joked.

Jimison works with Dr. Markovitz in the Thin Film and Ceramic Institute at N.C. State. "I work in the development of thin film capacitors for the use in electronic devices such as cell phones."

Projects like the one Jimison is working on are funded by the government and private companies.

For the perfect job, look no further than campus

Josianne Lauber

RALEIGH, N.C. - While some people spend their spare time playing Madden on PlayStation or making trips to the beach and movies, many students fill their time between classes with work.

Nick Brinkley is working on the second year being a resident advisor in North Carolina State University’s Metcalf Hall. "I decided that I wanted to become an RA when I saw what a difference they made to the incoming students. The inspiration came from Tony Caravano (RA) and Brian Ellim (his freshman year in Tucker). Just seeing the difference they made to my friends and me made me really want to be a part of it," Brinkley said.

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Charbroiled Chicken
SAT scores virtually unchanged from a year ago

Shaniff Durham

Grade inflation? GPAs are on the rise at colleges

SAT stats for CA

- Mean verbal score: 501, up 2 points
- Mean math score: 519, no change
- All students: 177,400 test takers, down 0.3 percent from 2003
- American Indian: 1,143, up 15.6 percent
- Asian: 29,629, up 0.2 percent
- Blacks: 10,685, up 9.5 percent
- Hispanics: 34,141, up 9.1 percent
- Asian: 29,629, up 0.2 percent
- Whites: 55,417, up 5.4 percent
- No response: 38,792

Grade inflation? GPAs are on the rise at colleges

A University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill study this year confirmed grades at the campus keep rising. Forty-one percent of the university's grades were As in spring 2003, compared with 38 percent four years earlier.

Chancellor James Moeser pledged to do something about it, though no major changes have happened yet.

Carolina data are spotty overall, but grade-point averages continue to rise at UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC-Greensboro and Duke University. The same thing happens at UNC-Charlotte, the University of South Carolina and other campuses, administrators said.

And this fall, administrators are keeping their eyes on one of their elite peers, Princeton University, which decided this spring to limit the number of As professors could hand out because students were earning too many. Students derided the move.

But those education leaders are also asking more questions. Are students getting higher grades for the same work — a phenomenon known as grade inflation? And if so, is that a real problem?

"I don't think anybody knows for sure," said Wayne Walcott, UNCC's provost.

Walcott said he's sure that if he looked at data from the past several freshman classes, it would show their GPAs rising, but that doesn't mean the students are getting grades that aren't justified, he said.

The SAT and high school GPAs are also up, Walcott said.

"We're getting better students," he said. "Would we expect grades to go up? Sure!"

Some critics believe universities are boosting grades because of consumer pressures, both from families paying for competitive schools and schools who get to evaluate their teachers.

One of the staunchest advocates of a grade crackdown, Duke University professor Stuart Rojstaczer has documented the rise in grades in his Web site www.gradeinflation.com. His study of 22 schools says the grade-point average rose from 2.94 to 3.09 between 1992 and 2002.

At private schools in his study, the GPAs rose from 3.11 to 3.26.

Rojstaczer refers to arguments from grade inflation believers that grades rose in the 1960s because of faculty sympathy to students who were avoiding the draft during the Vietnam War. Grades jumped again starting in the 1980s, Rojstaczer said, due to economic pressures.

His Web site also notes, "This conjecture is based on personal experience and anecdotal evidence. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to prove."

Pinning down a cause for the grade boost is difficult because professors have different goals when they grade students.

Some use them as incentives and give students high grades for making vast improvements, even if all the work isn't excellent. Others argue their courses are tough and that anyone who survives deserves a good grade. Others still believe they do a good job of distributing A's, C's and F's to the students who deserve them.

The problem with giving more high grades is that it damages some of these incentives, said Peter Gordon, a UNC Chapel Hill professor who led the latest campus grade study.

Gordon believes at least some grade inflation exists and that it has notable effects. The university has to keep tightening the standards for students to qualify for the Phi Beta Kappa honor society, or the too many students would get in.

"It's sort of hard to know how to reward really excellent work, because 'A doesn't really mean that anymore,' " Gordon said.
Escape campus life with a hike

Andy Fahey (Columnist)

These days it seems like everyone and their mother goes to the gym. It's wonderful that people care so much about their health, but there are definitely other options one can explore to get some exercise. One of those possibilities is hiking.

Hiking is definitely more relaxing than a one-hour workout, but the extra time is worth it. Hiking provides us with stunning views, solitude and an inner peace surpassing anything one could get from being one with nature. It gives us respite from the day-to-day stresses of technological society. Even if the trailhead is near a highway, as is the case with several San Luis Obispo trails, it feels like you're in a different world once you immerse yourself in the fresh air of an open-space area.

Although San Luis Obispo is most known for being a beach town, there are many trails in and around town that are worth a few hours of your weekend.

Poly Canyon Road

If you don't feel like leaving campus, explore one of the many trails at the end of Poly Canyon Road. One of these trails is a short loop that features some wacky architectural designs from Poly students throughout the years.

Another trail at the end of the road, the one by the redwood tree, leads to the "P" on the mountain behind the dorms. Every Poly student should take this hike at least once by the time they graduate.

Bishop's Peak

The hike to Bishop's Peak is also one that shouldn't be missed. Bishop's Peak is one of the Nine Sisters, a line of nine major peaks that connect San Luis Obispo to Morro Bay. It's rocky and is 1,359 feet above sea level and is clearly visible from campus (it's the one with the big "B" on the side of it). The 1.5-mile hike that ends with a scramble/climb up some boulders is well worth the struggle. From the top there are views of the city, campus and the Californian Men's Colonnade. To get to Bishop's Peak trailhead take Highway 1 (Santa Rosa Street) and turn right on Highland Drive. Follow the road until it ends at the trailhead.

Cerro San Luis

Upon traveling through San Luis Obispo for the first time, it is only natural to think that the town has an infatuation with putting large letters on the sides of mountains. There's the "P" the "I" and an "M." The "P" is no doubt for Poly; "I" for Bishop, but that last "M" well that's not that simple. Many think it stands for Madonna, but that is not correct. Madonna - the man who pretty much owned all the land in San Luis Obispo before his death last April. The "M," however, actually stands for Mission. Despite all the confusion, Cerro San Luis is a beautiful hike and not as strenuous as Bishop's trail. The trailhead is accessible by turning right on Fernandez Road just before entering the southbound 101 Marsh Street on ramp.

Reservoir Canyon

Although definitely less traveled than Bishop's and Cerro San Luis, Reservoir Canyon is a gem nonetheless. Dense forest and waterfalls highlight the first half of the 2.5-mile trail before it opens way to a moderately strenuous climb up a mountain. Although you might break a sweat, the panoramic view is worth the work you put in. From the top, the Irish Hills are visible along with the Nine Sisters. In order to reach the trailhead, take 101 North past the city limits and turn right on Reservoir Canyon Road, the second road after vacating the city limits. The trail begins at the end of the road. There are a number of other beautiful hikes in San Luis Obispo County, but these close-to-campus trails should be enough to start with. No matter what trail you choose, be sure to follow these guidelines: Bring plenty of water, stay on the trail and try not to disturb the wildlife; but most importantly, soak in and enjoy the beauty of nature.

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College life: Bars, beer and cartoons?

Kristen Wyatt

Talking meatballs and bumbling sea explorers may have made the Cartoon Network’s late-night cartoon lineup a monster hit among the young and hip. But some of its popularity is owed to a trendy corps of college students enlisted to market the network’s “Adult Swim” cartoons on campuses nationwide.

They come from 30 campuses to the network’s Atlanta headquarters each August for some cartoon-marketing training before the start of their fall-semester classes. These students are called for being business-savvy but not the typical khaki-wearing business student.

Their job: Making cartoons cool for peers who likely had ignored them since elementary school and probably associated Cartoon Network with baby-sitting, not TV nights at the frat house.

Now, three years after they started, “Adult Swim” cartoons are often ranked No. 1 in their basic cable time period — Saturdays through Thursdays, 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. — among both adults aged 18-to-34 and men aged 18-to-24.

Shows such as “Aqua Teen Hunger Force” — about a talking meatball, milkshake, and box of fries — regularly beat network late-night comedy shows in the ratings among young people.

Cartoon Network executives on the college-marketing program, mostly made up of sponsored drinking parties at hot college bars, had a significant hand in creating buzz for the quirky, sometimes hilariously absurd, block of cartoons.

Greg Heanue, a Cartoon Network executive in charge of marketing “Adult Swim,” explained the tactic as he weaved around 60 college students pouring into the network’s colorful Atlanta offices.

“College towns aren’t the biggest markets, but if you get kids talking about something there, you eventually get everybody,” Heanue said. “Take a town like Norman, Okla. Not a big market. But the whole state of Oklahoma goes through there. You seed the college towns, you get the whole state.”

The students swarmed, slack-jawed, around the upbeat office — foosball tables, life-size mascots of the “Aqua Teen” characters, employees slouching around in ripped jeans and black T-shirts. They gathered on a few beat-up couches to hear cartoon creators talk about how they got started and watched clips from a few shows that aren’t out yet. Then they all headed to a dingy bar for more chatting with Cartoon Network employees before a weekend of training in telling the shows to their peers.

“It is so much fun,” said Barrett Darnell, a 20-year-old Washington State University student who’s starting his second year as an “Adult Swim” marketer.

Last year he threw viewing parties and got some cartoon T-shirts thrown from the stage at a campus Cypress Hill concert. This year’s plans include a pub crawl and poster giveaways. “We gave out so much free stuff. Everyone loves it.”

Another returning marketer, University of Kentucky senior Shreenah Willis, went from trying to draw crowds to her Cartoon Network parties to sending off advances for more “Adult Swim” giveaways.

“Everyone on campus knows I’m the ‘Adult Swim’ girl. It makes you pretty instantly popular,” Willis said. Guerrilla marketing at campuses isn’t new, but it’s worked especially well for Cartoon Network, said Sean Sheridan, a marketing expert for Philadelphia-based Campus Party Inc. Sheridan advises big companies how to sell to college students, although he’s never worked for Cartoon Network.
Michael Gormley
Associate Editor

ALBANY, N.Y. — Marvin Phillips is spending a lot of time this summer at the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino, taking in some poker, roulette and live music. Not for pleasure, for college credit.

The 21-year-old from the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation will enter his senior year at Morrisville State College in September as part of a growing movement: College-educated blackjack dealers, casino security experts, restauranteurs and entertainment operators and managers.

As states, mostly through Indian tribes-turn to casinos for gambling revenues, public colleges nationwide are increasingly offering courses and majors on casinos and gambling. Phillips, a member of the Mohawk tribe, started an information technology major but decided after a year to take gaming courses. He’ll graduate with degrees in both.

“I did this for the most part because of the unique nature of the gaming industry and because there was a casino in my hometown,” he said. “This provides for a challenging work environment that appeals to me.”

Over the past five years, gaming courses and majors have cropped up at colleges including San Diego State University, Michigan State University, Tulane University’s satellite campus in New Orleans, and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. They join the pioneering University of Nevada at Las Vegas and Reno, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education.

In New York’s Cattaraugus Mountains, Sullivan County Community College added a casino concentration in its club management degree. There are several proposed Indian casinos in the former Borscht Belt of upstate New York, though none has gotten final regulatory approval.

Courses at such schools include the study of gambling laws, operating on sovereign Indian land, definitions in these courses that include green felt poker tables and red-and-black roulette wheels. Casino managers, using play money, are held on and off campus, often for charity. Field trips to Las Vegas, Atlantic City and the countless Indian-owned casinos in between are part of the course load.

“I spent 25 years in the business and I always wanted to bring education to the gaming industry,” said Peter LaMancusa, director of the six-year-old casino studies at the State University of New York’s Morrisville State College. “When I started, the business was about who you knew, rather than what you knew.”

Morrisville is considering expanding casino-related studies, including a possible four-year degree in the entertainment and gaming electronics.

Not everyone wants to let this trend ride.

“It’s disgusting,” said state Sen. Frank Padavan, a New York City Republican and vocal gambling opponent. “I think it’s inappropriate for the state to become a vehicle by which people are in increasing numbers addicted... To have that policy reinforced through a curriculum in a public university is reprehensible.”

The National Council on Problem Gambling notes that casino gambling isn’t new: 4.5 million of the nation’s 153.5 million college students will gamble on sports this year, it calculates.

As states, mostly through Indian tribes, turn to casinos for gambling, the study of gambling laws, operating on sovereign Indian land, and “facial recognition” for casino security — some students learn to be pit bosses, dealers and slot machine repairers.

Class laboratories take on new dimensions in these courses that include green felt poker tables and red-and-black roulette wheels. Casino managers, using play money, are held on and off campus, often for charity. Field trips to Las Vegas, Atlantic City and the countless Indian-owned casinos in between are part of the course load.

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Parking tips, warnings for the unsuspecting freshman

Hunting for a place to park on campus can be difficult, but with these tips one can dodge some wasted time.

Andy Fahey

"It's the middle of the afternoon and the sun beats down on Ryan Abellardo's silver Honda Civic. Inside the vehicle, the fifth year electrical engineering student cruises the streets around campus, looking for free parking. He heads up Hathaway Avenue and sees a vacancy among a row of cars on the other side of the street. He makes a U-turn and parallel parks.

No big deal — it's summer.

If that happened in October, however, it's like hitting the jackpot because a good parking spot is hard to come by during the school year.

"It's terrible," Abellardo said. You have to "get here early, as early as possible" to find a decent space.

Parking isn't just a hassle for those penny pinchers who choose to park off campus, but it's also difficult for commuters who purchase a permit and park on campus. It's not rare to see on-campus parkers circling the lots for a half-hour looking for a decent spot, or following someone walking back to their car in hopes of getting their space.

"I've been following somebody to their car and then someone else tries to steal the spot from you," said Abellardo's friend Shayan Kamkar, also a fifth year electrical engineering student. "It's pretty vicious out there."

"You have to flip them off," Abellardo said.

To avoid the hassle of parking, it's best not to drive to campus. Instead, take the bus, ride a bike, walk to campus or get a ride from somebody else.

"I think people need to carpool," psychology junior Jeff Nabity said. "That's a lost trend. I don't even know why people don't carpool. It's ridiculous. There's like three times as many cars as there are people on campus at any given time."

But if there is no other option than to drive to campus, give yourself plenty of time to get to class.

"If you must drive to campus, plan on walking no less than 10 minutes from where parking may be available," said Cindy Campbell, the associate director for the University Police Department, in an e-mail interview.

For those who think they could get away with illegal parking for an hour while they go to class, think again. Last year, Parking Services issued about 34,000 citations worth more than $580,000 in fines. Penalties for these tickets can range anywhere from $15 for an expired meter to $250 for parking in a disabled space. Despite the high volume of citations, Campbell said that the department's objective is to inform rather than punish.

"We make every effort to ensure that the campus parking regulations are available and accessible for all students," she said. "For freshmen, our focus remains on education about campus parking regulations. Our goal is to provide all students with the information necessary to avoid a costly parking citation."

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With limited parking on campus, 'stalkers' — drivers who follow students walking to their cars — are everywhere. 'I've been following somebody to their car and then someone else tries to steal the spot from you,' one student cautioned.

Andy Fahey

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Roommate service to debut in Virginia

The University of Virginia will unveil "Ready Roommates" in hopes of minimizing roommate conflicts.

Matt Galati
CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Starting this fall, University of Virginia students will have a new vehicle to work out roommate conflicts.

University Mediation Services and the Off-Grounds Housing Office and Student Legal Services have joined forces to create "Ready Roommates," a service dedicated to helping roommates avoid miscommunication and minimize future conflicts, according to UMS Coordinator Faith Alejandro.

Alejandro said the service utilizes a roommate agreement contract between roommates to set clear expectations between them as well as specific concerns such as rent payment, noise levels and cleanliness.

She said the service is primarily targeted at students living in off-Grounds housing, but the newly drafted agreement form is available for all students.

First-year students sign similar agreements upon moving into university housing.

"When roommates decide to room together they are making a commitment to each other," Alejandro said. "Being a roommate is a very special relationship and we are trying to maximize that experience."

She added that she was approached by upper-class students last year requesting that such a service be made available.

Director of Student Legal Services Lester Wilson said the agreement contains language that emphasizes roommates' dependence on each other. He added that he often receives complaints from students departing housing, leaving the other roommates a heavier rent burden.

"There are financial responsibilities that need to be honored," Wilson said. "This agreement emphasizes that. We're able to review the agreement contract after it's prepared by University Mediation Services. We're trying to work together for students' benefit."

Wilson added that SLS can ensure that the agreement is legally enforceable.

Alejandro encouraged students to use UMS to work through problems regarding roommate-related conflicts or issues. The agreement specifies a "preferred mediator" for students to consult should conflicts arise.

Alejandro said UMS will hold special office hours to review agreements starting Sept. 13. She added that the agreement form also will be available in the UMS, OCHO or SLS offices and will soon be downloadable from the OCHO Web site.

Campus working to improve residences

NORMAN, Okla. (U-WIRE) — To some, it's a home away from home. To others, it's less than cozy.

The dorms house hundreds of students each year, and each comes away with different experiences.

While some students couldn't be happier, others suffer a variety of problems ranging from ants to mold.

Some of those problems may soon dissipate, however, because faculty at the University of Oklahoma are taking strides to improve the dorms.

"I feel very strongly that we should take major steps to improve the quality of our residence halls," said OU President David L. Boren.

To better the air systems in the dorms, the heating and air units in every room of the towers will be replaced with digital temperature controls, Michael Hutton, assistant to the director of Housing and Food Services, said in an e-mail. The units in Adams and Wheeler centers have already been replaced, he said.

Along with new air units, current maintenance projects are underway, Hutton said.

Boren plans to recommend improvement of the dorms to the OU Board of Regents—a process that will cost approximately $60 million over the next four years.

The project will eventually include new north for all the towers, improved air ventilation and filtering systems, new flooring, new carpeting, new movable furniture for rooms and upgrades in all the bathroom facilities and continued improvements in fire and safety devices.

However, since the dorms are fully occupied, work can only be done on certain areas at one time to minimize inconvenience to students, Boren said.
San Diego State launches summer reading program

SAN DIEGO (U-WIRE) — This summer, incoming freshmen at San Diego State University were encouraged to read the same book. The Spirit Catches You And You Fall Down by Anne Fadiman, as part of the university's new summer reading program.

Last week, incoming freshmen, faculty and staff met in small informal groups to discuss the book. Freshmen who live on-campus will meet in their residence halls and freshmen who live off-campus will meet in Montezuma Hall. The discussions are designed to help faculty and staff welcome freshmen to the academic community.

San Diego State is not the first college to implement a summer reading program for its incoming freshmen.

Chris Procaccio, special assistant to Division of Undergraduate Studies Dean Geoffrey Chueh, said the program is common within both the California State University system and other private university systems. Schools such as Chico State, Cal Poly SLO, UC Berkeley, Cornell University and Duke University have similar summer reading programs intact.

"This program is not a new idea," he said. "It's definitely something that's going around on campuses across the country and has been going on for quite a long time."

The Undergraduate Council hopes the summer reading program will bring the campus together to engage in a common intellectual experience.

"We're not required to read the book and will not be penalized if they didn't," however, Procaccio said reading the book might be in their best interest.

"It is optional, but at the same time it's something we'd like the students to do," Procaccio said. "We want to have high expectations for the students — especially high academic expectations."

The Undergraduate Council understands students are busy and doesn't expect students to attend every group discussion, he said. Although the discussions will be focused on the book, ultimately, they will help the freshmen adapt to SDSU's community.

"What we're trying to do is integrate," Procaccio said. "That's why we asked faculty and staff from across campus to be involved and kind of pull in new freshmen so that they know someone on campus and have a friendly face to go to."

Freshman David Osborn said the summer reading program appeals to him because he plans on majoring in English. He's excited about getting involved on campus and wants to make a good first impression.

Although Osborn's positive attitude meets the expectations of the council, not all of his peers are as enthusiastic.

"It wasn't the little package thing we had to buy, but other than that, it hasn't been taken out of the box," he said. "I know a lot of people here; but I don't think any one has read the book."

"I was not interested in reading the book because he doesn't like inspirational stories," Procaccio said.

"It was a good fit among the university's vision, values and mission. The book, The Spirit Catches You And You Fall Down, deals with how the body, mind, physical well-being and spiritual well-being are all intertwined," he said.
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Pencil stands the test of technology times

WASHINGTON (AP) — Back-to-school shopping lists are constantly evolving to keep up with technological advancements, many even including cell phones, laptops, Blackberries and iPods. But one clear staple remains — the pencil.

As 5-year-old children opt to use computer learning games instead of using traditional learning toys, and middle schoolers would not even think to research a school project using traditional learning toys, and computer learning games instead of textbooks, and pencil versions still predominate.

Musgrave Pencil Co. in Ocean Minded Lucy Love Billabong Dickies O'Neil Reef Spy Fox Mike Finn, spokesman for Wesleyan University, said that in fiscal 2004 the university is giving out the pencils preferred by teachers and most aggressive members of the “bourgeois computing” movement on college campuses. The idea was to get computers into the hands of every student virtually all the time, transforming living and learning.

While richer schools moved more quickly, Wesleyan spent millions of dollars wiring its campus with cutting-edge technology, training faculty to use the equipment as a teaching tool and subsidizing a requirement that every student have a laptop computer. For a school with an endowment of around $30 million, building a technology oasis in Appalachia wasn’t just an experiment, it was a big gamble.

Nearly a decade later, administrators say technology is enhancing lectures, prodding students to think to research a school project on their own, and extending class discussions late into the night. The school’s library is well used as a result of the campaign and a number of recent graduates say their technology immersion generally helped them learn.

Wesleyan’s financial and enrollment problems persist. They think Wesleyan should have focused more on its greatest asset: its teachers.

Founded in 1900, Wesleyan has educated generations of community leaders. Its isolated, mountain set

The program also included heavy

Some in invest in hardware, others focus on teachers

College leaders at one college thought technological advances were key to attracting students but found out that they should have concentrated on a bigger asset: faculty.

BUCKHANNON, W. Va. (AP) — Small, poor and 45 minutes from the nearest town with a shopping mall, West Virginia Wesleyan College couldn’t attract enough students to fill its classrooms and improve its struggling finances. To survive and thrive, it needed to stand out.

The answer, college leaders decided, was technology.

In the mid-1990s, this school of 1,550 students three hours south of Pittsburgh became one of the first and most aggressive members of the “bourgeois computing” movement on college campuses. The idea was to get computers into the hands of every student virtually all the time, transforming living and learning.

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While richer schools moved more quickly, Wesleyan spent millions of dollars wiring its campus with cutting-edge technology, training faculty to use the equipment as a teaching tool and subsidizing a requirement that every student have a laptop computer.

For a school with an endowment of around $30 million, building a technology oasis in Appalachia wasn’t just an experiment, it was a big gamble.

Nearly a decade later, administrators say technology is enhancing lectures, prodding students to think to research a school project on their own, and extending class discussions late into the night. The school’s library is well used as a result of the campaign and a number of recent graduates say their technology immersion generally helped them learn.
Nationwide bus tour launched to boost Hispanic college attendance

The Sallie Mae education is sponsoring a series of financial aid workshops and will give out scholarships at each event.

Laura Wides

LOS ANGELES — Alex Alfaro, a freshman at Belmont Senior High School, hadn’t planned on going to college. He’s not an ace student and figured he’d become a trucker like his stepfather to make money.

Besides, how could he pay for college?

To answer that question — and perhaps keep millions of students such as Alex from giving up on college before they even apply — the Sallie Mae education fund kicked off a national bus tour Wednesday to raise awareness about financial aid for the country’s fast-growing Hispanic population.

The 20-city tour will offer financial aid workshops in Southern California through Monday before heading to the Southwest and on to the East Coast, ending in Miami. The Sallie Mae Fund, based in Virginia, will give out a $1,000 scholarship at each event, tour leader Orlando Espinosa said.

Alice Aguieta, 15, played the xylophone in the Belmont band as the bus, covered with brightly-colored murals of students, rolled into the parking lot. The teenager said she wants to attend the University of California, Los Angeles but had to hunt down financial aid information.

“They need to have more information out there, talk to kids about it every day,” she said.

A recent study by the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute found more than half of 1,200 Hispanic parents interviewed were unaware of any sources of college aid.

The Sallie Mae Fund commissioned the study, which is one of a number that examines the problem of drawing more Hispanics to higher education and keeping them there.

In June, a national study by the Pew Hispanic Center concluded that Hispanic students are far more likely than whites to drop out of four-year colleges.

Harry Pachon, director of the Tomas Rivera Institute, said the bus trip, dubbed “On the Road: The Paying for College Tour,” helps shift the debate away from blame.

“A lot of people think it’s culture that keeps people from attending college but it’s a lack of understanding about what’s necessary,” he said.

Pachon, who came to the country as a boy from Columbia, recalled that after graduating high school, his brother asked if planned to attend college.

“But don’t they contact you?” a surprised Pachon asked.

Pachon said immigrant parents are unfamiliar with navigating the financial aid process and many of their children simply don’t consider college an option.

Alex Alfaro, whose family is from Mexico, said he hadn’t been contacted about the workshops but his buddy’s mother was planning to go.

“He wants to go to college for his mom,” Alex said dismissively.

While Alfaro had not planned to attend a workshop, he reconsidered after seeing the bus.

“Maybe I’ll go and check it out, too,” he said.

High school students walk past a bus that will be traveling from Los Angeles to Miami, to raise awareness about financial aid among the nation’s growing number of Hispanic families.

Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2004, at the Belmont High School in Los Angeles. The Sallie Mae Fund’s ‘On the Road: The Paying for College Tour,’ is a partnership with local financial aid professionals from area colleges, student-serving organizations and Latino community-based groups.

Hispanics in higher education

Here is a snapshot of Hispanics in higher education as of 2001:

- 27 percent

Hispanics were dropouts, compared with 7 percent of whites and 11 percent of blacks.

- The dropout rate for Hispanics born outside the United States was 44 percent, compared with 15 percent for second-generation Hispanics.

- 39 percent of whites were enrolled, 31 percent of blacks and 22 percent of Hispanics.
The mane, the myth, the Musty

Ashlee Bodenhamer
MOUSE DAILY

This fall marks the beginning of a new era for Musty, Cal Poly's mascot. The eight-year-old, furry brown mustang suit, created by a Disney employee, will be retired and replaced with a custom-designed, $8,000 model, slated to arrive in time for WOW.

"We're using the same company that does NFL and NHL mascots," said industrial technology senior Scott Barton, who is a mascot coordinator for Cal Poly spirit club Running Thunder. Business senior Kenneth Witham, also a member of Running Thunder, and the new Musty will sport a more muscular figure, and the body type to wear a variety of Cal Poly sports jerseys.

"It's rather human-esque, except for the face," Witham said. "It's definitely a horse's face still.

The Mustang has been linked to Cal Poly since a school assembly in 1925, when students tossed around ideas for mascots, then voted on the top two choices—the Mustang and the mule. An Oct. 22, 1925 edition of the school's student newspaper, then called The Polygram, reported on the assembly and announced that the Mustang—a breed descended from Arabian horses brought to America by the Spaniards, an animal renowned for its agility and endurance, the horse Henry Ford chose to name one of his top-selling models after—will henceforth, wherever or whenever mentioned, suggest Polyc."

Since the '20s, Musty's image has been emblazoned on Cal Poly paraphernalia, from key chains to all-lace socks, lunch boxes to shot glasses. However, the most iconic version of Musty—a life-size, steely gray and green-ticked statue—can be found holding court in the center of the terrace between the University Union and Administration buildings. Fashioned by Cal Poly animal physiologist Dr. Roy Harris, who the monument's plaque labels a "cowboy-turned-professor-turned-sculptor," the statue was unveiled April 23, 1982, during the Golden Anniversary celebration of Poly Royal—the school's old version of Open House. His front hooves poised in mid-air and windblown mane sweeping across his neck, Harris has captured Musty in one of his finest, most valiant moments. The Mustang turns cartwheels and starts the wave at basketball games resembles his statue in one way he's mute. Like Mickey and Minnie, and the rest of the perpetually amiable gang at Disneyland, Musty communicates with a series of head movements and hoof gestures. His silent communication skills are just one facet to this mustang's enigma.

"The whole truth of Musty, I don't think anyone knows," Barton said. "There's not much written history."

— SCOTT BARTON
mascot coordinator

The mascot's full name is Musty T. Mustang. The middle initial stands for 'The.' At one point, in the early 1990s, it is believed see Musty, page 39 that the mascot was a girl and was called 'Misty.'
Welcome week provides spirit for first years at Rutgers Univ.

students and enthusiasts games with the football and basket-
the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house.

as the only sorority without its own
quentlv ventures out of C ol'Ioly, building I S  projected to have 10,480
new structure will help Alpha Xi house.

Projected to cost $1.4 million in total, the house will be funded by
both donations and a long-term loan. Members have already raised
roughly $200,000 in donations through alumni and other sources.

Alphei Xi obtained the land from the Georgia Board of Regents, who
will rent the land to the sorority for $1 per year for the next 40 years.

Musty continued from page 38
record that the mascot's name is actually "Musty," Barton said.
"I know that for a fact because I've looked for it," he said.
Both Barton and Witham said they believed at one point, in the
early '90s, Cal Poly's mascot was known as a female.

"We called it Misty," Witham said.
"And that would definitely be a girl.

Aside from his duties of rallying fans at sporting events, Musty fre-
quents ventures out of Cal Poly, Barton said. He travels to away
games with the football and basketball teams, hikes to the "3F" and
makes appearances downtown at Farmers' Market and various events.
He's also a prominent figure at True Mustang night, an event that turns
Cal Poly students and enthusiasts into bona fide, 100 percent "true"
Mustangs. The event is essentially a kissing chain, in which each person
must be kissed by a true Cal Poly mustang in order to become one.

Computer engineering senior Charmaine Moreno became a true
Mustang three years ago. Although the thought of attending a ceremo-
ny based around kissing, made her a bit apprehensive, Moreno managed
to enjoy herself.

"It's actually pretty fun," she said.
"Somewhere along the line of the kissing, and one by one you kiss each
other on the cheek. I stood by my RA and some random person," she
said.

As a freshman, Moreno remem-
bers her excitement about becoming a Mustang.

"It was kind of a pride thing because I drive a Mustang and now I
have a mustang on my license plate," she said.

Over at Rutgers College, events
such as casino night and jazz café
allowed students to get acquainted.
Tours of downtown New Brunswick were also offered to show the new residents all the highlights, such as restaurants, cof-
fef shops and stores.

The whole week was not all fun
and games. Many information ses-
sons about academics, security
issues and financial aid were held.

Specific meet-
ings were held for the Equal
Opportunity Fund Program, commer-
cial and transfer students. Separate semi-
nars and events for business and engineering stu-
dents were also held.

Students were also able to meet
with their academic advisors and
mentors for the first time.

It was helpful because it was a
top step in the right direction," said
Kendal.

Red Shirt George Dyer, a
Rutgers College senior, believes meet-
ing with new students and
making them feel comfortable is
very important. He said break-
ers are significant because "you
really get to bond with new stu-
dents. You develop relationship
through college."

The whole college experience
is too much to learn about in one
week, but students got a little taste
of what it is like.

"Now they have someone to go
to for advice," said Dyer. "They
have an appraochment friend to
go to."

Students are grouped by
their residence hall floors
and march down College
Avenue to show school pride

Monica Rosenfeld

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — Last Mon's high school graduates
had a long summer's wait before they could begin the transfor-
mation into college students. When
they finally arrived at Rutgers
University last week, adapting to a
whole new way of living, learning
and making friends may not have
seemed so simple.

To give first-year students a step in the right direction and ease the
tension the University offers Welcome Week, which began
Saturday, Aug. 28, is a week full of activities, seminars, tours and
socials to introduce students from all over to their new Rutgers com-

One group from Snouer,
Residence Hall on the College
Avenue campus built a bed,
board cat, named it the "Snouer
Squirr," and matched it down
College Avenue with pride. It
was just the beginning in build-
ing new faces.

"Being social is the most
important part of being in col-
ge," said resident advisor Greg
Mvetur, a Livingston College
junior. "My job is to make sure
everyone gets to meet each other
and create a sense of
community among us."

— GREG MOVETAR
resident advisor

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Mvetur, a Livingston College
junior. "My job is to make sure
everyone gets to meet each other
and create a sense of
community among us."

That is exactly what all the ori-

tation leaders had been doing,
said Douglas College first-year stu-
dent Megan Kendal. "The student
orientation leaders) made a big
effort to get to know us," she said.

Students from all colleges were
invited to attend numerous events
throughout the campuses. Author
James McBride gave a speech and a
small concert was held on
Livingston campus, where there
was also a drive-in movie showing
"50 First Dates" and a comical play
called "Chuckie Ball" was put on.

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WOW
Saturday, September 11, 2004 39
Gay students find more scholarship opportunities

Lisa Leif  ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERKELEY — Aspiring civil rights lawyer Alan Libman has something a lot of college students would covet: a $15,000-a-year scholarship to attend the University of California, Berkeley.

In the eyes of the private foundation paying his way, he was uniquely qualified, with a resume that showed not only athletic achievement and academic potential, but years of ridicule, getting attacked at knifepoint and Libman's own precarious decision to become a boy in 11th grade.

"It felt amazing to actually be embraced by someone who didn't just dismiss me for being different," said Libman, 19, the first transsexual in his high school to graduate in 11th grade.

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"It felt amazing to actually be embraced by someone who didn't just dismiss me for being different," said Libman, 19, the first transsexual in his high school to graduate in 11th grade. Libman launched her group's Andre Lorde Society says they are nothing and have suffered through social lives that were tormented even by typical high school standards. 

"The ability to take individuals who have had enormous disadvantage and to give them the ability to succeed in life is what's important to society," said Bruce Lindstrom, 59, who made a fortune as a membership warehouse executive, and founded The Point Foundation partly in response to being abandoned by his own family when he revealed he was gay in his mid-20s.

In targeting students who are both distinguished and disenfranchised, Lindstrom sees his program as a cross between the venerable United Negro College Fund and Oxford University's prestigious Rhodes Scholarships. So far, the foundation has handed out multi-year scholarships covering tuition, housing and books to 27 under-graduate and graduate students.

"We try very hard to balance the issue of need versus the issue of leadership ability," he said. "We are trying to identify those who have the capacity to make change in the world, to increase tolerance, and it's a hard thing to balance those two things."

But the essays these students write in their applications are nothing different. They tend to include tales of conflict and rejection. Many of the recipients are estranged from their families or have suffered through social lives that were tormented even by typical high school standards.

"The ability to take individuals who have had enormous disadvantage and to give them the ability to succeed in life is what's important to society," said Bruce Lindstrom, 59, who made a fortune as a membership warehouse executive, and founded The Point Foundation partly in response to being abandoned by his own family when he revealed he was gay in his mid-20s.

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According to the website, The Princeton Review's survey is conducted in two ways. An online version is available for anyone who visits the Princeton Review website, and a paper version is administered on campuses by Princeton Review representatives. The website said that 90 percent of surveys are filled out online.

According to a spokesperson, "When possible, and when the college is willing, our contacts will arrange for an e-mail to be sent to the entire student body encouraging them to fill out our online survey."

Dunn said there was no attempt to send a mass e-mail to BC students regarding the Princeton Review survey.

According to the website, each school on The Princeton Review's list of the nation's best colleges has been surveyed at least once over three years. "The reality is that, unless there's been some grand upheaval at a campus, we've found that there's little change in student opinion from one year to the next," the website stated.

"The reaction of everyone I've talked to about the Princeton Review ranking was shock," said Mike Yachtis, Undergraduate Government of Boston College director of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) issues and A&S '05.

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Colorado campus’ free speech harmed by conservative policies, lawmakers say

Republican lawmakers refuse the findings claiming conservative students are still being harassed

The measure encourages the schools to review student rights and campus grievance procedures “to ensure that intellectual and political diversity is explicitly recognized and protected”.

DENVER — A university president and a Democratic state lawmaker said rules put in place this year to protect conservative viewpoints on Colorado campuses have harmed free speech and led to death threats against professors.

Republican lawmakers responded that conservative students are still being harassed and more monitoring should happen.

The comments came as a handful of college officials and students went before the Legislature’s Joint Education Committee on Thursday to report on efforts to enforce the Academic Bill of Rights. All state-funded colleges adopted the policy this year under pressure from Republican lawmakers.

The measure encourages the schools to review student rights and campus grievance procedures “to ensure that intellectual and political diversity is explicitly recognized and protected.”

Among numerous suggestions, the task force recommended establishing a vice president for diversity, creating a student honor code, creating a diversity Web site and requiring students to complete a multicultural course.

“We wanted a studied, sincere response that we could look at over time and see some progress being made,” said Darlene Grant, associate dean of graduate studies and chair of the task force. “I think we are getting that kind of response.”

Some of the recommendations have already been implemented.

In March, Faulkner issued an honor code. Last month, he announced plans to hire a new vice provost in charge of diversity.

Among other things, the task force recommended creating a diversity Web site, establishing a vice president for diversity, creating a student honor code, enforcing the MLK statue on campus, and the FHI has said it was still being harassed.

The comments came as a handful of college officials and students went before the Legislature’s Joint Education Committee on Thursday to report on efforts to enforce the Academic Bill of Rights. All state-funded colleges adopted the policy this year under pressure from Republican lawmakers.

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Due to the policy, according to what students at the meeting as evidence of college officials and students went before the Legislature’s Joint Education Committee on Thursday to report on efforts to enforce the Academic Bill of Rights. All state-funded colleges adopted the policy this year under pressure from Republican lawmakers.

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Due to the policy, according to what students at the meeting as evidence.
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We’re in it for the students.*
Mustang athletics: A proud legacy to offer

A rich Cal Poly athletic history claims Ozzie Smith, Mike Krukow, John Madden and a host of others.

Andy Fahey
THE PROMISE

There is an extraordinary upside to being in California. The beach, the desert, the mountains — the Golden State has it all.

And when it comes to the world of sports, it's not a stretch to say that California is the center of the universe. The state has 5 professional teams in the four major sports and is one of the premiere places in the world for extreme sports. College athletics are no exception. Take a look at any NCAA sport, excluding football, and a California school will usually crack the top ten.

The state's collegiate sports headlines are generally made by teams or individuals from Stanford, UCLA or USC, but Cal Poly athletics is nothing to be ashamed about. The program might not be larger than life, but nor should it be.

"I actually think the Cal Poly model of athletics is the true, pure way athletics should be," said interim athletic director Alison Cone, who described the Poly-UCSD and Poly-USC football rivalry with "college World Series" this year's season against Santa Clara University. "It's just two teams that play top-notch competition.

"Basketball isn't the only program that plays top-notch competition. The wrestling team is a member of the Pac-10, women's soccer opened this year's season against Santa Clara and the baseball team shares its conference with College World Series champion Cal State Fullerton."

Not impressed yet? Check out the club sports. Oh my, Cal Poly club sports.

Talk about a monopoly. If there was an all-around national ranking for club sports, Poly would no doubt be No. 1. Women's lacrosse, four straight national titles. Men's water polo: three straight national titles. Women's water polo: 2003 national champion. And it doesn't stop there. Rugby has had three straight top-10 finishes, women's field hockey is ranked No. 2 in California, the triathlon team is No. 2 in the nation and the Cal Poly Wheelmen (cycling) is consistently amongst the nation's best.

Even with these successful programs Cal Poly athletics still hovers under the radar in terms of national attention. But that's not to say the program doesn't produce All-Americans in the sports world. Names like Ozzie Smith.

"Yeah, that's right, "The Wizard.," The Hall of Fame shortstop who revolutionized the position for the Padres and Cardinals was indeed a Mustang. The same goes for John Madden, the former Super Bowl-winning coach for the Oakland Raiders and current announcer of Monday Night Football. And yes, he's the same guy behind the ping pong table."

And Mike Krukow, you can't leave him off the list of Poly athletes who have become household names in professional sports. While Kruk needs no introduction to sports fans hailing from Northern California, the name might not ring a bell for non-Giants fans. For those who don't know, Krukow was an All-Star pitcher who once won 20 games in a season. "Kruk", however, has made more of a mark as a broadcaster for the Giants, popularizing such phrases as, "Grab some pine, meat."

"He doesn't stop with Smith, Madden and Krukow. There's San Diego Chargers receiver Kasim Osgood, San Francisco 49ers receiver Adam Herzing, 2004 Olympian Stephanie Brown, San Francisco Giants pitcher Kevin Correia, Jacksonville Jaguars defensive back David Richard, PGA Tour member Loren Roberts. We could go on and on, but the point is this: Cal Poly athletes is nothing to poke fun at. It turns out good teams, talented players and classy individuals."

"Overall the Cal Poly athlete is just like the Cal Poly student, and that's special," Cone said. "They are good students, quality people and they happen to be talented athletically."

Perhaps the best part of Cal Poly athletics is the pride Poly fans take in their athletes. Sure, Stanford might turn out professional athletes on a more frequent and consistent basis, but it's more meaningful when a Mustang makes it big. Like when Correia inherited a two-on, two-out situation in the seventh and gets out of the jam to preserve a Giants' win, there is no greater feeling than to say, "Yeah, he's a Cal Poly guy."

That sense of pride doesn't hold true for just students, but alumni as well.

"As great as our academic programs are, and Cal Poly has the best, a lot of alumni's main connection to Cal Poly is through athletics," Cone said. "You get that pride around the water cooler when we beat SC in basketball. It's sad because we have these great academic programs that are first in the nation here and there but around the water cooler it just doesn't do the same thing."

Still need a reason to get in the spirit of the games and gold? Check out this fall's sports lineup. The Cal Poly football team is coming off two straight winning seasons and is favored to win the Great West Conference's inaugural season. Women's soccer has won two straight and four of the last five Big West titles and is returning 10 starters from last year's team. The men's cross country team is also a force to be reckoned with. Last year's finished 13th at the NCAA Nationals. So go get rowdy and check out a game. Be a witness to the next Poly athlete who makes the pros. Remember how he or she played in college and brag to friends from home how that receiver pulling down a third-and-long pass is a "Poly guy. You have nothing to lose. After all, tickets are free for Poly students."
Culture shock

Elizabeth A. Davis

Associated Press

Lavalava, a rectangular cloth with his traditional attire from the Polynesian men wrap around their team, and it's before he puts on a class.

South Pacific islands.

I wore his lavalava to class.

I graduated from Orange Coast Junior College in Costa Mesa, Calif.

just made it possible to award the maximum of 14 scholarships allowed by the NCAA to women swimmers.

Coughlin was an active contributor herself. She signed an endorsement deal April 29 with Speedo that will pay her for her performance bonus directly in the Cal program.

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Olympic champion returns to Cal

BERKELEY (AP) — Natalie Coughlin returned to the school that helped make her an Olympic champion swimmer and urged the university to find ways to fully fund her sport.

"We've been in the top 10 of women's programs in the country for the last six years, but we're the only one who isn't fully funded," Coughlin said as a news conference at the University of California that resembled a hero's welcome. "We're about two-thirds funded."

Teresa Kuehn, Cal's executive associate athletic director for Olympic sports, said a 2-year-old group, Friends of Cal Aquatics, has just made it possible to award the maximum of 14 scholarships allowed by the NCAA to women swimmers.

Coughlin is an active contributor herself. She signed an endorsement deal April 29 with Speedo that will pay her for her performance bonus directly in the Cal program.
Michelle Locke
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERKELEY — A University of California regent who had been criticized for his attendance record at board meetings announced Wednesday he is stepping down.

Regent Haim Saban, a Los Angeles businessman who founded Fox Family Worldwide and Saban Entertainment, producer of the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers, said in a statement that he is resigning effective immediately due to personal reasons.

"My position on the board was an honor, and I feel blessed to live in California and hope to be given the opportunity to serve this great state again in any way," said the 59-year-old Saban, who was appointed to a 12-year term by then-Gov. Gray Davis in 2002.

Earlier this year, state Sen. Jeff Denham, R-Merced, had recommended that Saban resign after the San Diego Union-Tribune reported that Saban had missed a majority of board meetings.

UC records indicate Saban's attendance waned after his appointment. In the 2001-02 year, Saban attended all six meetings of the investment committee of which he was a member, according to university records. For the 2002-03 year, Saban attended one of his five audit committee meetings and five of 12 investment committee meetings.

UC's board is made up of 18 regents appointed by the governor and confirmed by the state senate, one UC student appointed for a one-year term, and seven elected officials, including the governor.

Regents set policy for the nine-campus system, which has more than 200,000 students and an annual budget of $14 billion.
Students fighting for right to register to vote in college towns

Young people are becoming more concerned about where and when they can exercise their right to vote.

Martha Irvine

CHICAGO — Young Han tried to register to vote in the New York town where he attends college but got a letter telling him to cast an absentee ballot where his parents live, more than 2,000 miles away. In Virginia, Luther Lowe and Scenic Alley were told to mail their campus addresses at the College of William & Mary were deemed "temporary." With so much emphasis on getting young people to the polls this election, the issue of where college students can register to vote is getting more attention. And some students — who believe they should have the right to vote where they live most of the year — are getting organized.

“We plan to push this issue,” says Han, a 21-year-old junior at Hamilton College in Clinton, N.Y., who’s originally from a Seattle suburb. "Students are being disenfranchised." Han spent the summer interning in Washington, D.C., where, he says, Lowe and other students who share his cause, they formed the grass-roots Student Voting Rights Campaign.

"Now the group is calling for a "day of action" on Sept. 23, urging students to register en masse.

Students in some states will find these have no problem, say researchers at the Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement at Salisbury University in Maryland. They’ve found that, in recent years, some states have loosened voting restrictions on college students.

There are always exceptions, especially in smaller towns.

“Local politicians are very unsure about students,” says Michael O’Loughlin, a political science professor at Salisbury. “They enjoy having students pay (sales) taxes and contribute to the economy. But they are wary of how students could influence politics at a local level.”

Ultimately, O’Loughlin and fellow researchers have found that students who attend college in states that force or “encourage” them to vote absentee are less likely to vote.

David Andrews, general voter registrar in Williamsburg, Va., says that’s why he goes out of his way to help William & Mary students navigate the absentee process. He says he assisted about 2,000 vote absentee in the 2002 election.

But other laws — “rules that apply to everyone,” he says — make it unlikely that he’ll let students register in his town.

At issue, he says, is the fact that dorms are considered temporary addresses, “like a hotel room or a time share.” So when he gets a voter registration form with a campus address on it, he poses more questions to the applicant: What is the address on your driver’s license? Where is your car registered? Is Williamsburg the answer the student probably won’t be allowed to register there.

Some William & Mary students think that’s unfair. They’ve filed a federal lawsuit demanding the right to vote in their college town and to run for city council. They say students deserve to have a voice in local issues that directly affect them — housing ordinances, for instance.

“It makes no sense for me to vote in a city election where my parents live,” says Lowe, a 22-year-old senior who is represented in the lawsuit. "I live in Williamsburg nine months out of the year.”

There have been students who’ve overcome voter registration barriers. Students at Prairie View A&M University in Texas won the right to vote in their county after setting a lawsuit of their own. And in Ontonagon County, N.Y., attention brought by Han and other students at Hamilton College prompted officials there to stop sending out letters that told students to vote absentee. Han plans to register there when he returns for full term.

Some students are challenging colleges and universities to provide ample voter registration materials to students.
First-year college students fear the 'freshman 15'

Eating large portions at meals and snacking, particularly late at night, appeared to be the case, he said. He didn’t determine whether the students kept the weight as they graduated. 

Brandy Shih is a food service nutritionist and diettian at the University of Texas, generally the first or second largest university each year with about 56,000 students. Shih said she gives new students an “Avoid the Freshman 15” pamphlet and other brochures at dorm dining halls or when students seek help. 

Overeating and lack of exercise can be problems for students away from home the first time, she said. “You’re just brought into this situation where you’re free from your parents, you can do anything you want,” she said. “There just needs to be balance and moderation.”

UT’s dorm dining halls and Web site have nutritional information on school menu items.

Keeping weight off has never been a problem for Christie Worth, 18, a senior from Houston. She doesn’t expect to start gaining now, if the hope is kept. “You can check back with me in a year, if I’ve gained it,” she said with a smile, as she and her parents hailed her clothes, carpeting and fuzzy pink trim freshman from Houston. She doesn’t expect to start gaining now, if the hope is kept. 

“ar late night I’ll just eat in the cafeteria,” she said. “I don’t want to gain weight. I’m just going to be honest.”

“I run three times a week and I put that weight back on. ’ ’

The “freshman 15” pamphlet and other student counseling about acquiring extra pounds. She says she plans to work out in a campus gym, do lots of walking and take advantage of the dorm’s salad bar.

Only a couple of blocks away, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, said Monica Krygowski, a UT dietitian and nutrition educator. Up to 25 percent of the students seek counseling for fear of gaining weight. She urges counselors and parents to stress to their students how much calories like soda, junk food and fast food and not enough healthy calories, “She said.

Thompson said that she agrees with the college more than the freshman 15. “You can gain weight, but then you will say to yourself, ‘Oh, you need to lose it.’ And you will lose some; but then you can gain weight again. You don’t gain 15 pounds of the saddles, it’s more gradual.”

Thompson, who is taking a nutrition class this semester, is more aware of what she is eating now. “I make sure that I eat in a different way. It sheds more light on how I should be eating healthier.”

Junior 

“I came in at 160 and stayed at 160. As a wrestler in high school I was taught to maintain my weight,” said Branden Ingers, a meteorology junior.

Ingers attributes his active lifestyle to maintaining the same weight. He is a Total Gym 1000 machine in the corner of his dorm room definitely helps. “My family bought it for me, the Total Gym 1000, during my senior year. I brought it down to my room this year,” he said.

According to Ingers, people who want to lose weight or maintain their weight need to be more active and drink less alcohol.

“I think the alcohol plays a big part in that because people party a lot in college.”

Senior

“I lost five pounds because of all the walking around I do. I used to average about 10,000 steps a day,” said Carlene Blackett, a textile technology senior.

“Next long after, she found herself gaining back the weight. “I’m really active in high school. I played lacrosse, but I kept that up and put that weight back on,” she said.

“I think the alcohol plays a big part in that because people party a lot in college.”

Study finds freshman are at serious risk of gaining weight or acquiring an eating disorder

Kelley Shannon

AUSTIN — All-you-can-eat dorm dining. Late-night pizza parties. Taco, burgers, barbecue, beer.

It’s a recipe for the “freshman 15,” as in 15 more pounds for the new college student.

It only took a week for Tara Nimmagadda, a 17-year-old freshman from India, to start gaining weight at her new home, the University of Texas. “I was weight-conscious, and I’m trying to guard against doing that, but I’m not quite succeeding. I’ve just gained five pounds,” said Nimmagadda.

Loyalle, N.C. — Ah, late night Pizza, and it is just one of the sweetest memories for all upperclassmen. A

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Reno seeks ‘olympics of science fairs’

The biggest little city wants to host nine-day science and engineering event

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Reno is vying for what’s been called the “olympics of science fairs,” seeking to host the International Science and Engineering Fair, which backers say would bring millions of dollars to the area.

The nine-day competition features science projects submitted by about 1,500 high school students competing from 40 different countries, said Tony Berendsen, president of the Northern Nevada Science Coalition.

His nonprofit organization formed earlier this year is leading the effort to bring the prestigious college science fair to the world to Reno.

Representatives from the site selection team are scheduled to begin a two-day tour of the area Thursday to check out the city’s convention and hotel facilities, Berendsen told the Reno Gazette-Journal.

Donald Harless and Sharon Snyder, officials with the science fair’s National Association of Science Teachers, will visit Tuesday with Reno Mayor Bob Eppard, ASM President Tony Armstrong and Jeff Beckelman, president of the Reno-Sparks Convention & Visitors Authority.

Salt Lake City, Denver and Sacramento are also vying for the annual event.

If Reno wins, organizers said the event would focus an intellectual spotlight on the city for hosting an event that draws more than 1,000 judges with doctorate degrees and involves 40,000 students worldwide.

“It would showcase that Nevada is a mecca, if you will, of science, technology, engineering and mathematics,” said George Ochs, science coordinator for the Washoe County School District and an officer of the Western Nevada Regional Science and Engineering Fair.

“A lot of people really don’t know that Reno is the best kept secret when it comes to science and technology,” Ochs said.

Sponsors helping with the almost $2 million it would cost to stage the fair are the Desert Research Institute, Bentley Nevada-GE, the Nevada Mining Association, International Game Technology and the University of Nevada, Reno.

The science fair is the world’s largest pre-college science competition for students in the ninth through 12th grades. Students compete for more than $3 million in scholarships, tuition grants, scientific equipment and scientific field trips.

Science Service, a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C., has administered the fair since 1950.

The corporate world has long been a friend of the ISEF because it recognizes the urgency of continuing investment in science to students worldwide.

Intel Corp., became the title sponsor of the event in 1998. The company based in Santa Clara, Calif., is the world’s largest maker of computer chips.
Proposed bill may increase the number of foreign students

New federal bill attempting to curb decline in foreign students inside the United States

Earnest Waittu

ATHENS, Ohio — The number of international students enrolled in universities in the United States, including Ohio University, has seen a marked decline in the past years. However, the recent policy change with the introduction of a new federal bill that seeks to reverse the decline in foreign student enrollment in the nation’s colleges and universities.

The International Student and Scholar Access Act, is a proposal to change the U.S. higher education system in the enrollment of foreign students. The bill, which was introduced before the Senate this summer, calls some of the current visa requirements for foreign students “burdensome.”

The bill, introduced by Minnesota Sen. Norm Coleman July 21, calls upon the federal government to make higher education more accessible to foreign students by proposing changes in the way visa applications for students entering the United States are processed.

In a statement released on the day of the bill’s introduction, Coleman declared the cumbersome process that foreign students have to go through before attaining U.S. visas. He called for more timeliness and certainty in the visa process, urging the U.S. State Department to use common-sense discretion on personal appearance requirements.

The senator proposed “interoperable databases and computer systems and computer systems between the Department of State and the FBI in order to address any potential for breakdown in communication and avoid any lapses in identifying possible security risks.”

The act also proposes “use of graduate student visa applications by the Department of Homeland Security to determine if there are any ties to international terrorist organizations or countries.”

The U.S. government introduced stronger measures to student visa applicants after Sept. 11.

Coleman’s legislation also calls for the creation of an Interagency Task Force to coordinate education and Homeland Security departments to develop a strategic plan to compete against countries such as the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia, which are currently attracting many foreign students that might have come to the United States. Such strategies might include international aid campaigns and increased innovative and centralized Web-based resources, among other options.

This year, the number of foreign students enrolled in OU is expected to hit a historic low, after a drastic decrease in applications by foreign students. According to Jack Jeffery, Ohio University media relations specialist, the enrollment figures for the academic year 2004-05 will not be available until after Sept. 20.

Reaching out news about Coleman’s bill, International Student Services Director Alan Boyd said he had not read the act but added that he highly welcomed any option that would reverse the current trend, which might cause serious strains on the university.

Josep Rota, OU’s associate provost for international programs and director of the Center for International Studies, said the act indicates that the senator realizes that the U.S. government has made serious mistakes regarding the handling of international students and scholars.

For the first time since World War II, the U.S. will experience a decline in number of international students in this country.”

— JOSEP ROTA

OU Director of
Graduate Student Services Katherine Tallock predicted a drastic decrease in enrollment in May, saying her office experienced a 45 percent decline in the number of international graduate students who applied for admission this year compared to last year.

According to Josep Rota, OU’s associate provost for international programs and director of the Center for International Studies, said the act indicates that the senator realizes that the U.S. government has made serious mistakes regarding the handling of international students and scholars.

For the first time since World War II, the U.S. will experience a decline in number of international students in this country. International education comprises future world leaders, and future leaders of international business, finance, science, academia and other endeavors,” Rota said. “Shutting the door to American universities is to send the wrong thing to policy to pursue and a policy that destroys America’s strategic interest and national security.”

“It is good to see the U.S. Senate is waking up to this reality,” Rota said. “But what matters is the new policies the senators pass and not their expressions of concern and rhetoric.”

Many of us in the academia are understandably skeptical. We are waiting for deeds, not words.”

Saturday, September 11, 2004 49
Welcome Back Students!

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Bikes and buses are a good substitute for driving your car to campus everyday

Aimee Corser
SLO Daily 09/11/04

'S now time, finding a parking spot and remembering to bring money for the meter are just a few problems that face student drivers daily. If you find yourself without a car for a fall quarter you can avoid these hassles and save in San Luis Obispo. There are many transportation options available.

With over 38,000 students needing to get to school on time, the streets of San Luis Obispo can be hectic. Local transportation is the key to keeping sane and getting to class on time.

The San Luis Obispo Transit System serves Cal Poly from 6:30 a.m. to 8:35 p.m. on weekdays, making stops every 30 minutes. Your pocketbook will thank you because this is a significant savings compared to the $270 for an annual parking permit for student drivers.

"Transit is a lot less expensive than driving," Ken Blakeman, Manager of SLO Transit contractor said.

Taking the bus is not only a cheap method of transportation, but a popular one. "We (transit employees) know when school is in session or not."

About 60 to 75 percent of the SLO transit users are students. A transit bus will be available Wednesday to tour the campus.

Blakeman said, "About 60 to 75 percent of our ridership is comprised of students."

For those unsure of how the bus system operates, SLO Transit will have one bus on campus for WOW groups to tour and simulate swiping student IDs. Additionally, SLO Transit representatives will be on hand at Mitchell Park on Wednesday to answer questions.

Biking is another form of transportation used by students. The San Luis Obispo County Bicycle Coalition (SLOCBC) promotes biking for transportation. "There is no reason for a student to drive." SLOCBC Executive Director Joe Gilpin said. "There are numerous benefits including fitness."

And for those who forgot their bike from home, Gilpin offers a piece of advice, "A lot of bike shops in town offer discounts at the beginning of the quarter and it may not be that costly to purchase a bike."

Beginning fall quarter the SLOCBC will have a free biking map available at the Cal Poly University Police Department and Information Center, located on Grand Avenue. Transit maps are available at the UU, and inside every WOW packet.

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Mental illness increases in students

MINNEAPOLIS (U-WIRE) -- Third-year University of Minnesota student Jose DePadilla said he had a good summer.

He spent a weekend in Bemidji, Minn., at the state's Green Party caucus, helping choose delegates for the party's national convention. He studied Spanish and economics, and moved into a new apartment.

Yet, four years ago, DePadilla survived a suicide attempt.

Since then, he's been hospitalized four times, including twice for electroconvulsive therapy, he said.

Numbers of students with significant mental illnesses seem to be increasing. Dr. Gary Christenson, director of the Mental Health Clinic at Boynton Health Service, said that is because mental illnesses are more socially accepted, and better and earlier treatments are available, he said.

From 1993 to 2004, 384 students registered with a psychiatric disability, compared with 196 students with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and 182 with learning disabilities, Roberta Jarez, assistant director of Disability Services, said.

Spanish and economics, and national convention. He studied abroad in 2003 to 2004, Minn., at the state's state. And I think, also, people forget how to make friends, she said.

The transition alone made DePadilla develop symptoms of depression, which include fatigue, inability to experience pleasure, loss of motivation, lack of concentration and interruption of sleeping and eating habits.

Lonesome thoughts turn lethal

It's difficult to leave one life behind and start all over at a different school in a new city with the support of family or friends, she said.

DePadilla spent most of her freshman year locked in the silence of a dorm room with the shades drawn and the lights off.

Shutting her eyelids, she would shut out the rest of the world.

During an entire weekend, DePadilla would leave her bed for maybe three hours.

"I called it the Lisa diet," said DePadilla, who is now a senior at UF. "You never got up. You went to the bathroom once or twice. Maybe you had a piece of white bread or something and went back to bed. You can lose a whole weekend. It's like taking an Ambien."

Her long-distance boyfriend would wake her with late after­noon phone calls, DePadilla said.

"He would say, "Tell me you got up today. Tell me you got dressed today.""

She would lie. She didn't want him to worry. The truth was she hadn't even seen the light of day.

DePadilla is one of thousands of University of Florida students who struggles with depression each year, said Joanie Resnick, 10-year director of the UF Counseling Center.

Last year, 29 percent of the students who sought help at the center said they were depressed, Proehl said.

"I got here, and I was just miserable. It was really hard. ... If I could pick one word for freshmen year, it was 'lonely.' -- just all the time," said DePadilla, a psychology major.

"It's difficult to leave one life behind and start all over at a different school in a new city with the support of family or friends, DePadilla said, speaking of his March 2001. Standing in line two years ago, he said he struggled even to make it to classes.

"I just lay around, waiting for the day that I could go home," she said.

Her grades fell, and she was forced to give up her dream of becoming a financial adviser and select another major.

After enduring two traumatic experiences her freshman year, DePadilla said she started to lose the will to live.

The first incident occurred in October 2001. Standing in line on University Avenue, waiting to buy a bin ticket home to visit her boyfriend, DePadilla passed out, took a 5-foot dive and knocked out three front teeth. Extensive tests revealed the cause of the faint was a chronic heart condition that lowers blood pressure.

Proehl said that a tragic event can cause a person to "get stuck in the grieving process" often associated with depression, making it last longer than usual.

DePadilla stopped going to lectures and even the grocery store.

She relied on Melissa Vemurnel, her best friend, to do her shopping.

"With depression, she would take things harder than other people," said Vemurnel, a UF accounting senior who also has been diagnosed with clinical depression. "If she got pretty bad, I would step in and play the friend or mother role."

They need to make new friends and hang out so since they were 4. They've lost that skill.

Freshmen are entering a new environment, and the transition alone can cause a person to "get stuck in the grieving process" often associated with depression, making it last longer than usual.

"Depression, sometimes sparked by moving, is a growing problem on college campuses across the country."

"You're 18 years old, and they expect you to move across the state. And I think, also, people forget how to make friends, she said.

The transition alone made DePadilla develop symptoms of depression, which include fatigue, inability to experience pleasure, loss of motivation, lack of concentration and interruption of sleeping and eating habits.

Not long ago, she had been a high school student ranked 10th in her class who would go running on the beach every day following her after-school job.

As a new university creed, she struggled even to make it to class.

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She relied on Melissa Vemurnel, her best friend, to do her shopping.

"With depression, she would take things harder than other people," said Vemurnel, a UF accounting senior who also has been diagnosed with clinical depression. "If she got pretty bad, I would step in and play the friend or mother role."

They need to make new friends and hang out so since they were 4. They've lost that skill.

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"Depression, sometimes sparked by moving, is a growing problem on college campuses across the country."

"You're 18 years old, and they expect you to move across the state. And I think, also, people forget how to make friends, DePadilla said, speaking of his March 2001. Standing in line two years ago, he said he struggled even to make it to classes.

"I just lay around, waiting for the day that I could go home," she said.

Her grades fell, and she was forced to give up her dream of becoming a financial adviser and select another major.

After enduring two traumatic experiences her freshman year, DePadilla said she started to lose the will to live.

The first incident occurred in October 2001. Standing in line on University Avenue, waiting to buy a bin ticket home to visit her boyfriend, DePadilla passed out, took a 5-foot dive and knocked out three front teeth. Extensive tests revealed the cause of the faint was a chronic heart condition that lowers blood pressure.

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College students say stereotyping is still an issue on many campuses

Judgments on others can be made easily — especially coming from a place of unfamiliarization and meeting new people.

Jennifer Johnson
KY MOUNTAIN COLLEGIAN

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — Although many students may feel that Colorado State University is an open-minded and well-accepting campus, some feel stereotyping and judging still remain an issue.

"Every person has stereotypes which may come across in our actions and words, even if we don't notice," said Dawn Spencer, a senior human development and family studies major. "People can easily make judgments about who I am based on what I wear or my gender."

Spencer doesn't feel that stereotypes are a big problem at CSU, but knows that students of different ethnicities or physical appearances might see it more prevalently.

"I think that our campus is tame when it comes to other cultures and I don't think that we are very diverse," she said. "For instance, international students may have a hard time adjusting because students toward each other at CSU are not a diverse campus."

He believes those who judge others just need to open their minds and get to know who the person is on the inside," she said.

Brendan Cheatwood, a junior management major, has never experienced problems with stereotyping on campus, but has heard otherwise.

"I've heard students say that we are not a diverse campus," Cheatwood said. "I've noticed that there is a lot of grouping that occurs around campus."

Aside from what Cheatwood has heard, she said that CSU attempts to help build better relationships between students.

CSU offers several organizations and advocacy offices to help students become more involved on campus and with their peers. These organizations are designed to help students feel more comfortable, as well as promote better student communication and understanding.

Stereotyping is a case of regrettability and immaturity, Cheatwood said. He believes those who judge others still have a lot of growing up and learning to do.

Megan Royer, a senior microbiology major, has never experienced problems with stereotyping at CSU, and believes those who judge others are not willing to get to know the real you, blow them off. Don't let someone make you feel bad for who you really are."

"I saw (stereotyping) occurring a lot when I lived in the dorms. I think that there are more assumptions made from and about freshman and sophomores rather than the upperclassmen," Royer said.

For students who might feel left out, or judged by others, Royer said they shouldn't let those feelings bother them.

"Students who are not willing to look past each other's differences could be missing out on a great relationship," Royer said. "If others aren't willing to get to know the real you, blow them off. Don't let someone make you feel bad for who you really are."

"My parents, from when I was young, said (we should not) be frowzy with money so we could go through school," he said. "My role in the finances is to make sure I do well academically."

He said 4 percent tuition hike is "no big deal." He sees how it could bruise others.

The two students represent a trend that is polarizing the student demographics of the UW System — a growing divide between the haves and the have-nots.

Rising tuition costs are threatening to box out low-income students, leaving only those from middle and high-income families able to meet the growing financial demands, said Clifton Conrad, a professor in the UW School of Education.

FEES
Low-income families feel tuition crunch in Wisconsin

MADISON, Wis. (U-WIRE) — Tuition hikes don't surprise Linda Paquette.

After paying her way through college for more than three years, the University of Wisconsin senior said she expects a consistent jump in her schooling costs.

But while Paquette is busy budgeting at least one job on top of all her schoolwork, life is a little different for Craig Schiller — a UW junior whose monetary concerns extend no farther than his own personal expenses.

"My parents, from when I was young, said (we should not) be frowzy with money so we could go through school," he said. "My role in the finances is to make sure I do well academically."

He said a 4 percent tuition hike is "no big deal," though he sees how it could bruise others.

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Meningitis vaccine is a good idea for college students

With the cramped quarters of college life meningitis poses a serious threat

Michael Kelly
The Collegiate Times
BLACKSBURG, Va. — The close quarters of classrooms and residence halls, a typical aspect of most college students' lives, can build a strong sense of community, but they can also pose a serious health concern for students. Several hundred students living in one hall or attending class makes it easy for an illness to be transmitted rapidly and in a widespread manner.

While the culprit is most often a common cold or a sore throat, more dangerous threats exist. According to WebMD.com, a medical reference website, meningitis is a rare, but serious disease that can affect college students, especially in residence halls.

It struck Virginia Tech as recently as the winter of 2002, when Kanya Dubois, a junior basketball player, became infected with the disease. It was an isolated case and no other infections were reported at Tech that year.

In March 2001, Virginia became one of nine states requiring incoming students at public universities to be immunized against the disease, or sign a waiver declining the vaccination.

Robert Little, a mining and minerals engineering junior said he remembered the 2002 case and was not worried about infection because, "I had my shot and I didn't have any direct contact." According to the Schiffert Health Center Web site, www.healthcenter.vt.edu, the danger of meningitis lies in its case of transmission and rapid effect on the body. The potentially fatal bacterial form is most commonly transmitted through direct contact, but can also spread through sharing of utensils and drinks and in rare cases through airborne particles.

Alison Wikle, a nurse in Schiffert Health Center's Immunization Clinic, said the meningococcal vaccine is the only way to protect yourself from contracting any of the several forms of meningitis. The vaccine is 99 percent effective in protecting against four of the five strains of the disease.

Wikle encourages all students to stay rested, eat healthy and exercise, especially during the winter months when more time is spent in close contact with others.

In July, Brittany Eddy, a Virginia Tech senior, died of bacterial meningitis while traveling to Lynchburg, Va. She reported feeling ill before the trip and her condition worsened once she reached Lynchburg, Va.

She died the next day from what doctors said was not a highly contagious strand, showing that the bacteria affects each person differently, but can cause serious harm very quickly.

Schiffert Health Center warned the symptoms of meningitis can be misleading, which prevents people from seeking treatment. They can be very similar to a cold or flu, including headaches, stiff neck, body aches and fever.

Even if you have been immunized against meningitis, you should take these symptoms seriously and visit a doctor. Students who have not received a vaccine, can contact Schiffert Health Center's Immunization Clinic for an appointment.

"I'd like to tell students that if they did not get it, it is not too late. The benefits outweigh the risks."

--- ALISON WIKLE

President Bush calls for year-round Pell Grants

MINNEAPOLIS (U-WIRE) — President George W. Bush revealed more details of his proposal for higher education late last week.

Most of the new proposals would increase the amount of federal student aid disbursed each year. Bush called for the availability of year-round Pell Grants. Currently, the grants are only awarded during the nine-month academic year.

Year-round Pell Grants would increase summer session enrollment, said Larry Bloom, manager of University of Minnesota's undergraduate services.

"It would make it easier for students to go to summer school," he said.

Many students do not attend summer school because Pell Grants are not available then, he said. Usually a small amount of students have leftover Pell Grants to use during the summer, he said.

The university disbursed $14,000,000 in Pell Grants during the fall of 2003 and spring of 2004, he said. However, the university disbursed $14,000 in Pell Grants in the 2004 summer session because that was all students had remaining, he said.

Rep. Betty McCollum, D-Minn., said the maximum amount of money students can receive from Pell Grants, $4,050, needs to be increased and is the more important issue right now.
U. Oklahoma dorm room is fit for rocking

By Chase Hopkins Wilson

NORMAN, Okla. — For the typical college freshman, the dorm room is a place to catch up on some Zzzs, do your homework and cook the occasional Ramen noodles.

But for Ethan Troutt, Ryan Bozarth, and Bryant Fortner, University of Oklahoma freshmen, the dorm room is a place of music creation and perfection.

Troutt, Bozarth and Fortner now use their dorm for practices while they are away from Paris, Texas, their hometown.

The band, formally known as Tension, has been making music together since its members were about 16 years old, Fortner said.

The freshmen play a style of music that blends all rock. Troutt's Bird Eye Blind-ish style of guitar and Fortner's vocals sounding like the perfect mix of Brandon Boyd (Incubus) and Brad Arnold (Three Doors Down) definitely give them a hybrid rock sound that captivates the ear.

In Couch Center, Troutt, Bozarth and Fortner are known as the Paris boys, but in Norman, they are known as Tension.

"Our name used to be division in Paris, but that was before we found out there was already a band called Tension," said Bozarth. "So now we need a new name.

Also on their to-do list is to find a drummer.

"Our former drummer, Ryan's little brother, is a sophomore in high school, and he could not come with us," Fortner said.

Even though the Paris boys have been drummer-less for about four months, they keep on trucking by practicing in their dorm room.

"We practice about once a week in our dorm, even though we used to practice two to three times a week (in Paris)," said Fortner. "When we get a drummer, our practices will pick up."

The Paris boys have had a couple of offers from local drummers but are still looking, Fortner said.

Other than guitars, bass guitars and amps, Bozarth and Fortner also have a poster of themselves on their wall.

"My ex-girlfriend took a picture of all of us and then had it blown up," said Bozarth. "Then when we got here, Brian and I decided to put it up."

Bozarth said he strongly believes that they are the only people who have a poster of themselves.

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On the poster, Troutt, Fortner, and Bozarth plan to write new music while at OU and play local venues when they get a drummer.

Graduate students fight for insurance coverage

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (U-WIRE) — Ursula McTaggert’s employer does not provide her with dental insurance. When she developed an abscessed tooth three years ago, she had to pay for the $1,000 surgery out of her own pocket. With a salary of $12,000 a year, she said there was little money for the operation.

"I had to go out and take a loan," she said. "It was pretty dice."

McTaggert is an associate instructor in Indiana University’s English department, and she, like the rest of IU’s graduate student employees, goes without dental insurance because IU does not offer it.

McTaggert and other associate instructors and graders gathered at a rally at noon Thursday in Dunn Meadow to support the creation of a dental insurance program for graduate students. Amos Battu, a grader in the history department, told participants at the rally that to obtain dental insurance, they would have to form a graduate student union, the first of its kind in the history of IU.

Battu said a union of graduate student employees would have one voice and would be the best way to be heard.

"We’ve got to get people involved," Battu said. "It’s not going to happen unless we form a union."

McTaggert said creating a union in the past has been a challenge because grad students get paid differently based on their department.

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Robert Hanson

KINGSTON, R.I. — Policy makers in Rhode Island were busy over the summer, passing a slew of new laws and ordinances, as well as establishing new policies aimed at combating both underage drinking and overly raucous parties.

University of Rhode Island students who end up on the wrong side of these new laws and policies could find themselves fined, lose their licenses or even spend the night in jail.

"The stakes are pretty high," said Fran Cohen, dean of student life. Narragansett, R.I., Police Chief J. David Smith announced at a University of Rhode Island-Narragansett Coalition meeting this summer that the new policy of his police department would be to arrest students who hosted parties that were of substantial size or in violation of local noise ordinances.

Previously, students would have received summons from the officers responding to those parties, according to Dr. Thomas Dougan, vice president of student affairs. Dougan said he supports the new policy, saying that it would only affect the small minority of URI students who throw disruptive parties in residential neighborhoods.

"We would like to give Narragansett Police the tools to deal with students, especially students who repeatedly disrupt the functioning of a neighborhood," he said. "I think that anything that can be done legally that will decrease the number of problems in the neighborhoods is a good thing."

He added that he had not received many complaints from students over the past few years about the Narragansett Police Department, and was not worried about them targeting students.

Dougan also mentioned that students would have to follow a plethora of Narragansett ordinances, both pre-existing and new, that explain how they have to govern social events.

For example, Narragansett ordinances limit noise levels and require students to register kegs they purchase at Narragansett's Town Hall. Students who break these ordinances would be subject to fines of up to $400 and 30 days in jail.

Additionally, Rhode Island recently passed a law that revokes the license of anyone under the age of 21 who is caught in possession of alcohol. The person would also be subject to fines of up to $350 and repeat offenders could be fined up to $1,050. This law applies to both Rhode Island residents and underage drinkers from other states.

Dougan said the law surprised administrators at the university, this is despite the fact that state Rep. Patrick Shanley, whose district includes the University of Rhode Island, cosponsored it.
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