Students borrowing more and more

About 30 percent of surveyed college freshmen said they expected to borrow more than $10,000 from their families.

Crystal Phend

MUSTANG DAILY

As a freshman, college loan repayment may seem a long way off, but the chill it sends down a senior's neck grows stronger every year.

A recent number of college students are borrowing more than $10,000 in their first year or expecting that much in family support, according to a recent survey by the University of California, Los Angeles Higher Education Research Institute.

Almost 30 percent of the 289,000 freshmen surveyed said they expected more than $10,000 from their families for this academic year. It is the highest percentage since the question was first asked in 2001.

The number of students expecting to borrow that amount rose to 8.8 percent, up about 1 percent each year since 2001. This may come as little surprise to California students who have seen a continual rise in tuition at state universities.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's Higher Education Compact alone raises undergraduate tuition by 8 percent for the next two years. At Cal Poly, tuition and fees are about $3,972 a year. Add that to a $3,492 meal plan and $4,428 residence hall bill and freshmen are already up to almost $8,000, and that's not counting books, transportation and all the other things that come up.

The Financial Aid Office estimates expenses for students each year all told.

$15,843

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MUSTANG DAILY

COSTS AND SOLUTIONS how Cal Poly students afford college

ADD UP THE COST...

$3,972 Tuition and fees

$3,492 meal plan

$4,428 residence hall bill

Miscellaneous (books, transportation, etc.)

HOW TO PAY THE BILLS...

Borrow

The number expecting to borrow that amount rose to 8.8 percent, up about 1 percent each year since 2001.

Support from family

Almost 30 percent of the 289,000 freshmen surveyed said they expected more than $10,000 from their family during the academic year.

Get to work

The survey reported a 47.2 percent of freshmen that said there was a good chance they would get a job to help pay for college.

47.2% women | 53.3% men

KATE ZEALAS MUSTANG DAILY

May 2005

STATE BUDGET

CFA fights to lower student fees

The California Faculty Association is lobbying to change the 2005-06 state budget to provide more money for higher education.

Nicole Stivers

MUSTANG DAILY

The California Faculty Association is stepping up to bat for CSU students who are frustrated with paying more to enroll in fewer classes.

The CFA is prepared for a long and drawn-out debate to change the recently released 2005-06 state budget proposal before it will be formally adopted in June. They encourage students to assist them with their lobbying efforts during the next few months.

"Whatever students can do to get noticed is really critical," CFA President John Travis said. "Students need to help keep pressure on the legislature.

The California State University system received the minimum amount of funding it requested; however, the CFA said the higher education system will continue to struggle to provide in students with a quality education.

At the beginning of February, the CFA released a research brief analyzing the effects of the budget proposal on higher education if changes are not made. The group is advocating for additional funding beyond what the Board of Trustees asked for.

The budget proposal calls for an increase in fees for undergraduates by 8 percent, and 10 percent for graduate students. As most students are well aware, fees have been increasing steadily since 2002. This will bring the cumulative increase in fees since 1992 to 76 percent for undergraduates and 106 percent for graduate students.

The majority of students are fed up with the fact that fees are rising, yet getting classes necessary to graduate is getting increasingly difficult.

"The more we pay, the less we get," said Jose Cerda, a liberal studies senior at Cal Poly Pomona.

Cerda has been trying to take a certain chemistry class since he started at the university three years ago. With only one section offered each year, this is the first time that Cerda has been able to register for the class. He said he sees CFA, page 2

BERKELEY v. Berkeley

City officials have taken UC Berkeley to court, arguing their 15-year growth plan will have too much of an effect on the city.

Michelle Locke

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BERKELEY — The University of California at Berkeley, once famous for being a hotbed of anti-establishment protest, finds itself in an uncomfortable role this year.

City leaders have taken their university to court in hopes of blocking construction on its 15-year growth plan, arguing that campus administrators didn't adequately evaluate the consequences to the city.

The flap is latest in a series of town-gown squabbles across the country as modern-day budget constraints intensify age-old friction between schools and their surrounding communities.

A number of other University of California campuses are embroiled in disagreements with their cities, including Santa Cruz, where officials are wary of that campus' expansion plans.

One twist in the Berkeley v. Berkeley face-off is that it is being led by Mayor Tom Bates, a graduate of the same campus he is now suing and a starting member of the 1959 Rose Bowl team.

"As a proud alumnus of the University of California, I'm disappointed that we're here today to file the lawsuit, but we want a fair and lasting partnership with the university," Bates said.

The suit, filed Wednesday, alleges that a campus environmental impact report, approved last month by the university's governing board of regents, doesn't adequately evaluate the consequences of adding up to 2.2 million square feet of space and about 2,000 parking spaces.

"The university has, in essence, asked us to sign the equivalent of a blank check that will allow them to build wherever, whenever and however it would like," Bates said. "This lawsuit firmly states that we are not willing to sign anything until we know what we're buying."

Bates also announced that the city plans to start billing UC Berkeley for sewage service and parking taxes and is prepared to sue if the campus balks at paying.

Campus officials counter that they are tax-exempt as a public agency. They defended their environmental plans to start billing UC Berkeley for sewage service and parking taxes and is prepared to sue if the campus balks at paying.

Berkeley Mayor Tom Bates photographed on the roof of his office building. Bates is a UC Berkeley alumnus and is pursuing the lawsuit.

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Borrowing continued from page 1

students, mathematics freshman Jackie McKinley said. Even what she has seen living in the dorms, it's either get help from family or stock up on loans.

However, McKinley tries to keep loans down as much as possible by working part-time at the pharmacy on campus.

"I don't want that to happen to me," McKinley said.

The number of students choosing that option has increased as well. The survey reported a second 47.2 percent of freshmen who said they would need to find work, while 33.3 percent is compared to 39.6 percent of the non-married.

Business freshman Thomas Conklin said he expects to get a job next year to help out with his share of the costs. It is a burden for parents like his with more than one child in college, he said.

Conklin and his brother are at Cal Poly in addition to an older sibling at a state university and a younger one soon entering college.

"It seems like you are just expected to pay for college," he said. "Unless you are really financially poor off you can't get any aid from the state."

Federal financial aid is expected to fluctuate somewhat this year, according to the proposed budget submitted by President Bush last week. U.S. Department of Education officials have hinted at higher federal limits on student loans for freshmen and sophomores while other programs like the Perkins Loan are slated to be eliminated entirely. Federal Pell grants will rise by $400 a year for five years.

CFA continued from page 1

because of situations like this, he will need to stay an extra year in order to complete his degree.

The CFA also calls for a suspension on raising student fees and urges the State to "buy back" the new fee increases set to go into effect this fall in response to students' queries about increased fees coupled with decreased class availability, Travis said the student fee increases doesn't make up for all of the budget reductions.

"The CFA is saving money by cutting back on the number of class- es and making the ones that remain, larger," Travis said.

Not only are increased fees frustrating for current students, they discourage some prospective students from attending a state university. CFA representatives said the group is concerned the budget proposal is insufficient and will not provide enough funding to restore the affordability and accessibility of the CSU. They say it will take at least four years before state funding will be restored to the 2002-03 level. It is their opinion that the quality of education is being seriously threatened by this funding crisis.

In response to the growth number of eligible high school graduates, the CFA is also calling for an additional 3.5 percent (for a total of 4 percent) in enrollment growth funding. This spring, the largest high school senior class in California history will graduate. Although this year's 2.5 percent increase in funding for this growth will allow the CSU to take in 10,000 more students, a large number are still being turned away.

"Travis remains hopeful the funding situation for higher education in California will eventually improve," he said. "People who are in the state are starting to understand how important public education, especially the CSU is."

"I am cautiously optimistic things are going to get better," Travis said.

McKinley said he expects to get a job next year to help out with his share of the costs. It is a burden for parents like his with more than one child in college, he said.

"I don't want that to happen to me," McKinley said. "Unless you are really financially poor off you can't get any aid from the state."

University officials say they sympathize with the city's tight financial situation but, "it is in no one's interest for one public agency to say another to address a budget shortfall."

The controversy is ironic in what many jokingly call the People's Republic of Berkeley, where the campus became a hotbed of leftist politics and student unrest during the Vietnam War.

While town-gown tensions have often flared over alcohol abuse and noise, the recent focus has been on noise, the recent focus has been on property taxes. The designation prevented the school from making changes to the buildings without city approval.

UC Berkeley now pays more than $500,000 a year to the city, mostly for sewage service, a campus spokesman said. The campus has offered the city an increase of $1.2 million. However, city officials say a fair figure would be more than $2 million.

Campus officials say they contribute more than they take, spending about $70 million a year on goods and services purchased locally. Meanwhile, students, faculty, staff and others generate millions more in sales tax revenues for the city, according to campus studies.

"That's a long debate," she said. "In a sense, it's not about accounting, it's really about how can we create a community in which everyone can flourish."

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I work at the Mustang Daily

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Family petitions media, government to fight deportation

The Gonzalez family (from left, Marina, Marie and Martin) pose Feb. 23, by the United States flag they fly in front of their home in Jefferson City, Mo.

David A. Lieb
ASSOCIATED PRESS
JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Marvin and Marina Gonzalez came from Costa Rica to Los Angeles as tourists, but they were intent on making a new home for their 5-year-old daughter, Marie.

Marvin eventually got a job in the Missouri governor's office. Marina taught Spanish in a Catholic elementary school. Marie graduated high school with honors.

More than 13 years after arriving, the Gonzalez family is still here. But their American dream could be about to end. In weeks, the federal Immigration Appeals Board could order them to leave the country. The Gonzalezes admit they have long over Stayed their six-month visitor visas granted in November 1991. They admit they have no legal justification to stay.

So they are doing a truly American thing. They're publicizing their plight through politicians and the media in a last-ditch attempt to get a special exception to immigration rules.

The Gonzalezes have gathered more than 2,300 petition signatures asking they be allowed to stay here longer. Missouri's two senators and a congressman have written letters on their behalf. They've appeared repeatedly on local television and talk radio.

Marie's plea even won an editorial endorsement from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. And the teen's story has been featured in The Washington Post, on MTV and various Hispanic publications.

Last Monday, the City Council in Jefferson City adopted a resolution urging federal officials to let the Gonzalezes stay. On Tuesday, Marie again attracted attention — appearing before a state Senate committee supporting legislation allowing immigration similar to her to qualify for in-state tuition at Missouri colleges.

"We're basically out the door," Marie said in an interview. "It doesn't matter that we've been productive members of the community. It doesn't matter that we love this country. The fact is that on a piece of paper, we overstayed and that's it."

"We're just relying on an act of mercy," said Marie, now 18, who has become not only a spokeswoman for her family but for a national movement to change immigration laws.

The Gonzalezes are just three of what the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services projects are more than 8 million people illegally living in the United States. As many as half of them — like the Gonzalezes — may have come here legally but have overstayed their visa, said Chris Bendley, a spokesman for the federal agency.

Marvin and Marina Gonzalez attribute their predicament to miscommunication. When they arrived in Los Angeles speaking little English, they said, attorneys told them they could apply to become permanent U.S. residents if they lived here for seven years — regardless of the fact that they entered on six-month visitor visas.

But that option was repealed by a federal law that took effect in 1997. The current law allows residence status to be granted to illegal aliens who have lived in the United States for at least 10 years, but only if they have a spouse, parent or child who is a U.S. citizen or legal resident.

The Gonzalezes don't have any of those connections.

So on Feb. 23, 2004, a federal immigration judge ordered them to leave the United States within 60 days. An appeal extended their stay for the past year. But the government's legal briefs in the appeal are due today, meaning a final decision on deportation could come anytime after that.

With little chance of prevailing legally, the Gonzalezes are hoping the federal Department of Homeland Security, which oversees immigration issues, will take the rare step of granting their "deferred action" — allowing them to stay here indefinitely despite their illegal status.

Even more unusual would be passage of a private bill in Congress specifically granting them U.S. residency. Republican Sens. Kit Bond and Jim Talent and Democratic Rep. Ike Skelton all have written the Homeland Security Department or Immigration Appeals Board on behalf of the Gonzalezes. But no one has introduced a private bill for them in Congress.

SPECIAL TO THE POST-DISPATCH
Monica R. Claytor

Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company (RLS), a leading national insurer of employee benefits founded in 1907 (and a subsidiary of the Delphi Financial Group, Inc. (DFG), a highly successful integrated employee benefit services company with approximately $5.0 billion in assets) has outstanding opportunities throughout our 25 Regional Sales Offices for high energy, focused, highly motivated and success-driven candidates to be trained to successfully market corporate benefit packages. RSL specializes in selling group employee benefits (i.e. Life, LTD, STD, AD&D, Dental, Voluntary and Mini-Medical) throughout the United States to the corporate employee benefits marketplace.

As a Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company Sales Representative, Trainee, you will participate in an industry-leading fully paid comprehensive training program while earning a very competitive base salary and enjoy a highly competitive and comprehensive benefits package.

If you are interested in learning additional information, RSL representatives will be hosting an Information Session on March 2, 2005 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Sandwich Factory, Building 19. Interviews will also be conducted March 3, 2005. If you are interested but unable to attend, please mail/fax/e-mail resume to: Belinda Jordan, PHR, H.R. Generalist, 2001 Market Street, Suite 1500, Philadelphia, PA 19103. FAX: (267) 256-3543. belinda.jordan@rsl.com

www.asi.calpoly.edu/events

THIS WEEK IN ASI EVENTS

COMEDIAN

Featuring DANIEL TOSH
Monday, March 17
8 p.m. in Chumash Auditorium (doors open at 7:30 p.m.)

With his recent solo half-hour special on Comedy Central, Tosh has become one of the most recognizable headliners in the country. He has performed on many national tours including "The Late Show with David Letterman" and the "Late and Ten" radio program. Students with Cal Poly ID/FREE. General admission/$5 at the door.

U U HOUR

Featuring a FASHION SHOW
Thursday, March 3
11-noon in the UU Plaza - FREE

Local SLO surf shop, Estes Surf Co. will be putting on a fashion show featuring their new spring line. Don't miss the chance to win a $250 gift certificate in the prize drawing.

U U GALLERY

Featuring BODY '85
Through April 1
In the UU Episenter - FREE

Various artists display their interpretations of body image or eating disorders. Open Monday-Thursday 8-3 and Friday 12-3.

ON SALE NOW

SOCIAL DISTORTION, live in concert
Thursday, March 17
8 p.m. in the Rec Center (doors open at 7 p.m.)

Social Distortion will perform with special guests Backyard Babies and The Street Dogs. Tickets on sale at all Valitix outlets including valitix.com and Mustang Ticket Office. $20/Cal Poly students, $25/General Admission, plus ticketing fee.
Parents fight for citizenship rights of adopted Chinese daughter

Although she has been legally adopted by American parents, 20-year-old Maggie Arnold faces possible deportation.

Martha Ratliff

MECHANICSBURG, Pa. — Eight years ago, Qiao Qi Jiang left her village in China and embarked on a daring journey to America.

She was only 12 at the time. With her parents' blessing, she was smuggled into the United States, arriving in Philadelphia on a Friday afternoon. She got her college education.

The young girl spent a difficult and lonely two years in New York before fellow immigrants from her village took her to central Pennsylvania. There, she was adopted by a couple unable to renew her tourist visa, and became Maggie Arnold. Today she is a college junior, a dean's list student majoring in mathematics and hoping to continue her studies in graduate school. In the post-deportation world, she faces new roadblocks and, her family fears, even possible deportation if she continues on her current path.

"I was only 12 at the time. With her parents' blessing, she was smuggled into the United States, arriving in Philadelphia on a Friday afternoon. She got her college education.

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In the post-deportation world, she faces new roadblocks and, her family fears, even possible deportation if she continues on her current path rather than disappearing into the underground economy.

"She could get picked up and incarcerated tomorrow, and we would not see her again."

— DAVID ARNOLD

Maggie Arnold's father

Advocacy groups compile statistics on undocumented adoptees from foreign countries.

Maggie Arnold, 20, center, sits between her adoptive parents during an interview at United Methodist Church, Jan. 14, in Mechanicsburg, Pa.

"It was like she was a baby in some ways because she was starved for parental affection," she said. "She has gone from being a toddler or a young child emotionally to her actual age. That's been amazing to see in five years."

Growing up in Fujian province in southeastern China, Maggie was optimistic about her prospects for college, despite having good grades in both Chinese and math. Her family couldn't afford it.

"People from my village don't usually go to college, no matter how smart they are," she said. Having heard stories about opportunities that awaited in America, she begged her parents for permission to leave home.

Her father arranged for a woman to smuggle her into the country on a flight to New York while posing as her mother. The girl was abandoned upon her arrival in the city, but found a home in a Chinatown apartment with a group of older illegal immigrants.

Fearing she would be sent back to China, she never ventured out of the apartment, spending her first year watching English-language TV programs that she didn't understand. Her father eventually sent her a passport from China, which enabled her to enroll in New York's public schools for a year. Then, through a network of other Chinese, she found a home in rural Perry County, Pa., with some people from her village who owned a Chinese restaurant.

It was then, in March 2000, that Maggie's fate came to rest in the hands of the Arnolds, both Methodist ministers.

By that time, Maggie was enrolled at the local high school and earning straight As. As regular patrons of the restaurant, had become friendly with the owner, who one day shared Maggie's story, then asked if they had ever considered adoption. They were empty-nesters with four adult children between them from previous marriages.

"About 10 minutes later, Maggie showed up, and asked if we'd adopt her," David Arnold said.

They invited Maggie to dinner at their home later that week, and were taken with her sweetness and positive attitude. The Arnolds were able to adopt her legally once her biological parents gave up their custody rights; the adoption was official on May 9.

"I've been in student government and community service projects, as well as her studies. Her immigration status had no legal bearing on her adoption, according to Trebicko. The Arnolds were counting on being able to make her a legal citizen after she had been adopted for two years by paying a penalty under the non-defunct federal program known as 245(i), named for a section of the immigration law.

A House-Senate conference committee was considering a renewal of the law around the time of the terrorist attacks, "and from that point on," David Arnold said, "it went away."

The Arnolds have met with members of Pennsylvania's congressional delegation to discuss Maggie's plight, but have received no promises.
Thai restaurants have emerged from the flavorful depths of Chinesecuisine to become a cult favorite among food aficionados.

This quaint college town is no different, housing a number of establishments specializing in the Thai persuasion.

I set out to test my taste buds in a quest to find the best Thai dishes in San Luis Obispo. Armed with an intense love for vegetarian Pad Thai, coupled with adventurous dining companions, I was ready to begin my mission.

Royal Thai was the first stop on my weeklong journey through noodle paradise. Located near Albertsons, at 777 E. Foothill Blvd., Royal Thai is close to campus.

Upon entering, my friend and I took note of the calming ambiance. Sounds of soft jazz wafted through the large room as I perused the menu. Although I knew what I wanted beforehand, I liked the unique setup of the menu. I could choose a main dish, and underneath was a list of additional items to pick from, such as mock duck, tofu, chicken and shrimp.

We ordered the Four Seasons appetizer ($7.95), containing fried tofu, curry puff, spring rolls and fried wontons. These were accompanied by a sweet and sour sauce, as well as the house peanut sauce. Although the tofu was too bland, the rest of the appetizers were satisfying.

For our entrees, I chose the Pad Thai with tofu ($6.95), while my friend chose the Pad Kee-Moon with chicken, aka spicy noodles ($6.95). Both dishes were served in a timely fashion.

The Pad Thai came with rice noodles, bean sprouts, green onions, and egg. The mild peanut sauce slightly overwhelmed the dish, but the addition of tofu made up for it. The Pad Kee-Moon came with chili, tomato, onion and sweet basil. After a few bites, I looked up and noticed my friend's eyes were watering. Although tasty, he dually noted that the asterisk on the menu is there for a reason.

Located downtown at 1015 Court St., Thai Palace was my next stop.

Parking was virtually nonexistent, so my friend and I walked from our house nearby. Thai Palace was packed. However, the hostess managed to seat us relatively quickly.

Once again, I ordered the vegetarian Pad Thai ($8.95). My friend ordered the Basil Nuer ($8.95). Although our order took a little longer, it was well worth the wait. The Pad Thai was a wonderful balance of flavors and ingredients. The vegetables were steamed perfectly and there was a good amount of tofu, my friend's dish came with beef silled with bamboo shoots, basil and chili garlic sauce. Upon finishing the first bite, he gave me two thumbs up.

My last restaurant was a little overlooked building located at 208 Higuera St. called Thai-rific.

My friend and I entered the very small, crowded room and were seated immediately. The walls were covered with decorative pictures, and I noted the cluster of small plaques in one corner. A plethora of hanging lights gave the room an intimate feel. I again ordered my usual dish, undeterred by the addition of an "S" to the listing of Pahd Thai ($8.25). I ordered Gaeng Gai, also known as yellow curry ($8.75). Both dishes arrived promptly.

Admittedly, I was disappointed at the absence of tofu and the addition of chicken in a thick yellow curry sauce. However, it was well worth the adventure. The Pad Thai was a wonderful balance of flavors and ingredients. The vegetables were steamed perfectly and there was a good amount of tofu, my friend's dish came with beef silled with bamboo shoots, basil and chili garlic sauce. Upon finishing the first bite, he gave me two thumbs up.

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Bush helps represent minorities in Cabinet

The American people have been told for a long time that the Democrats are for the middle-class and minorities, while the Republicans only represent rich, white guys. This notion is blown out of the water by comparing the current leadership of each party.

George W. Bush has always had an impressive record when it comes to civil rights. He has also nominated one of the most diverse cabinets in American history. The most powerful position, Secretary of State, was given to a talented black woman, Condoleezza Rice. Alberto Gonzales was nominated to be the Attorney General of the United States and Norman Mineta is the Secretary of the Treasury. All told, Bush nominated four minorities, two women and two minority men to place on an equal playing field and to get the job.

I was expecting the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the National Organization for Women to throw a huge party in honor of Rice's unprecedented achievement. Sadly there wasn't one. The groups are too involved with Democrat politicians to trade in such an excellent accomplishment. She did receive half-hearted public announcements in support of the nomination but the groups resent that she was nominated.

It shows minorities that they do not need to rely on big government programs for their advancement. It shows women that motivation and hard work will pay off and that there are no limits to their potential. Most importantly, it shows the American people which party is interested in including them.

Compare that to the current Democratic National Committee Chairman's latest comments. While speaking to the Democratic Black Caucus, Howard Dean made a racist joke that was just not funny. On February 11, 2005 he said "You think the RNC could get this many people of color in one minority? Only if they had the hotel staff in here!"

So, Howard Dean equates people of color to hired help — is that it? They are only there to bring you room service or press your shirts? The continued stereotyping of people and was almost completely ignored by the national media.

The party he is referring to is the same one that confirmed an incredibly diverse cabinet to lead the country. Howard Dean on the other hand, did not have a single black person in his cabinet while he was governor of Vermont. That's what I call hypocrisy.

It is really the person that Democrats want running their party and shaping their policy? The man crashed and burned in the presidency?

Bush helps represent LETTERS

Overrated: the infamous, alleged Poly Gras weekend

Hey, I know everyone, I'm sorry about Poly Gras. It just didn't come together the way I thought it would.

We all wanted to do was throw some bottles, break some windows, maybe start a riot. It was a few police officers. But too many of you stayed home, hanging out with your friends, having a good time, even thinking about those poor souls out there that were trying their hardest to start a riot.

I met a little boy, with tears in his eyes and he told me that his dream was to fly over a cop car and we took that away from him. It almost makes you lose faith in humanity, when we can't even count on college students to commit a little arson or vandalize some personal property.

Oh wait, that's right, I had an awesome Poly Gras I got to be on TV, I got some police officers, and I got to see the DooDoo Boys perform! (Don't tell anyone, they're still technically our under house arrest following that thing with the chim-chilla and the firecrackers.) Poly Gras was everything it was supposed to be; hanging out with good friends, making new ones, and drinking beer! We didn't need a holiday for that, but it was fun to have an excuse. I even saw some girls flashing, and it didn't cost me any beads. It was at this party over on Internet Boulevard. It was a small party, but the host was very hospitable.

Underated: the Cal Poly student community

For most of you, the weekends were a lot of people this weekend. We disappointed the invading barbeques, and knew the guys who still think it's really funny to impersonate Little John and only button their shirts halfway. They came to destroy our reputation, screw up our town and fendid our women. And we said, "Nobody fences our women, nor even us! Now go and study engineering!"

We disappointed the people in this city that hate students, who were really hoping we would screw up so they could turn this city into Poland circa 1941. The city will have to make quite a case next year to justify the same level of security. On a personal note, I took that pride in disappointing everyone who was watching my fraternity all weekend. Golden Glares. I thought you did sports, what exactly were you looking for at my house at 1 a.m. on Saturday?

It makes me a little sad that this campus preaches equality and toler­ance, but at a word the "fra­ternity" is mentioned, it's OK to judge. Just because we sold nuclear weapons to Iran and North Korea (and to Saddam, but he hid them well) does not make us bad people.

On a serious note, I've never been prouder to be a part of this campus. We went out and had a good time, but we were very responsible. And to the rest of this community, have you noticed we do that every weekend? Also, I got a reporter to say "herpes" on televi­sion.

Erich Messiah Business junior

Facebook brings out the stalker in all of us

It has come to my attention that this Facebook "thing" has become a bit creepy.

I don't know if people in the same boat as me, but I was so some­how lured into this mess by a friend of mine. I was told I couldn't live without it. After updating my pro­file with funny tid-bits about myself and checking for messages times or more daily I started receiving messages from random people. I immediately decided to like to chat up, mysterious pokers and weird e-mails started to give me the willies. I began to wonder what the purpose of this so called "book of faces" really is about.

I know you in odd when the girl that sin across the lecture hall doesn't have a clue that I might know what her favorite band is. How many fans does that go to UCB. And no, Shannon, I'm not obsessed with you. (Dinner this Friday?)

I now find myself entangled in a social web of lies and fallacies that people post on their profile to seem "cool." I just have a feeling of I ever met these people they wouldn't be able to standardize their pro­files put them at.

Really, what stalker wouldn't want this fact? It shows that a picture of an attractive woman that says she plays Halo 2 on weekends and loves to cook naked?

Even though the terms "stalker" might seem conspiring to something, it may be a lifestyle or secret hobby to others. Secretly, on facebook, we are all stalkers at heart.

Chase Millhollen Food science sophomore

A battle between writers: Read my letter

Pat, I read the editorials because I like to read people's opinions. It's a way of gaining a more open-minded and sometimes knowledgeable view. However, I hate it when you use facts to back up an opinion read by at least 12,000 people, then, yes, I expect their facts to be back­ed and, well, true. Didn't you take SCOM 126?

Oh, and thank you for making more people want to come across a profile that may be a lifestyle or secret hobby to anyone who I am, what my view on conservatives is and how all mass media is propaganda... hmmm... speaking of which, was­ n't Bush on the news just the other night? It really is comforting to see a "logical, realistic, right-minded conservative republican" give his "logical" opinion on certain mat­ters.

Here's a hot tip for you, since you think everyone is a stalker: How about making one more for the record of all stalkers at heart.

Rebecka Levon Psychology senior

LETTER POLICY

Send us your love, hate and more

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Mustang golfer Travis Bertoni added to the 2005 Ben Hogan Award watch list, later awarded to the top men's collegiate golfer.

Since coming to Cal Poly, Travis Bertoni has been recognized as a top golfer among the Mustangs. Now, the junior has potential to be named the top collegiate golfer.

Bertoni is one of 20 college golfers named to the watch list for the 2005 Ben Hogan Award, given annually to the top men's collegiate golfer taking into account all collegiate and amateur competitions during the last 12 months.

Bertoni, a Paso Robles High School graduate, twice has qualified for the NCAA Division I West Regional and was Big West Conference Golfer of the Year in 2004 after winning three tournaments and averaging 72.1 strokes per round.

He was ranked 42nd in the nation by GolfStat.com.

Bertoni has won seven tournaments while at Cal Poly. He has 15 top-10 finishes in his three-year Cal Poly career and 54 top-50 finishes. He has shot 24 rounds in the 60s and 47 rounds of par or better.

His best collegiate round was a 65 in the Santa Clara Invitational on Oct. 27, 2003 and duplicated in The Gold Rush on Sept. 17 to 18, 2004. He has shot 66 nine times, the last time at the Wyoming Cowboy Classic on April 12, 2004.

Bank of America, in cooperation with Colonial Country Club, The Ben Hogan Award. Among the most-heralded members of the watch list are NCAA, U.S. Amateur and Public Links champion Ryan Moore of UNLV, U.S. Open Championship low amateur Spencer Levin of New Mexico, as well as 2004 PING All-America First-Team selections Matt Every of Florida, Kentucky's John Holcomb and Shane Prante of St. Martin's.


The Hogan Award selection committee will announce 10 semi-finalists on March 24 and name three finalists on April 20. The three finalists will attend The Hogan Award banquet on May 14 at Colonial Country Club — the Saturday prior to the Bank of America Colonial — with the recipient announced that evening.

By being named to the watch list, Bertoni becomes eligible for the Palmer Cup, scheduled for June 8-9 at Whistling Straits near Kohler, Wisconsin, matching the top United States citizen college players against those from Europe.