Poly women tackle male-dominated majors, industries

As of spring enrollment, 22 percent of Cal Poly engineering majors were female. Women in engineering is not caused by the professors, but that "the problem is lack of adequate role models for these women. Things are changing, though. Our goal is to bring more women into engineering and to keep them there." At Cal Poly, some faculty members recognize the added pressure on women in male-dominated majors. "It is not like these women cannot hack the work, they were leaving because of pressure and stress caused by make outstanding engineering contributions," according to the National Engineers Foundation. Society for Women Engineers president Maha Franciscos understands the pressures of her major. "There's a lot of intimidation for females, especially in engineering," Franciscos said. "You have to believe in yourself and your ability. You have to apply yourself the best way you know how."

Female Cal Poly students learn how to defend themselves against sexual predators in a self-defense workshop. The workshop was put on by the SARP Center as part of Remember week. You may be interested in finding a Social Security Administration representative to discuss in response to his plan to reform Social Security. Bush maintains that young workers, living paycheck to paycheck, have the most to gain from the proposal. With such accounts, the president believes, workers could create a nest egg that could even be passed on to their children. A recent poll shows 47 percent of people age 18 to 29 know 'nothing at all' about the private investment proposal. Shaina Jones, a senior in sociology, said it is the first part of a two-part series that examines the low number of women in male-dominated majors. The effort of Cal Poly students involved in the California Student Sustainability Coalition resulted in Cal Poly being awarded 105,000-kilowatt hours of renewable energy, equivalent to about one day of energy use, was a prize awarded once group members gathered 27,000 signatures during their two-month Race to End Dirty Energy signature drive, sponsored by Energy Action, a national coalition of more than 17 environmental advocacy groups.
Women continued from page 1

some of the males in the department," Cirovic said.

Women boys in our major feel like they can do
with some of her fellow engineers.

mixed feelings about her encounters
and hydrogen.

sources of energy such as solar, wind
and to head in a direction of clean
like oil, natural gas and nuclear power

continued from page I

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Energy continued from page 1

like oil, natural gas and nuclear power
and head in a direction of clean
like oil, natural gas and nuclear power

security continued from page 1

system that will be flat bat, bank-
rupt, unless the U.S. Congress has
the willingness to act now," the
president said in a January speech.

As far as college students are con-
cerned, polls show that young peo-
ple are not tuned in to the Social
Security debate. A March poll by the
Pew Research Center for People and
the Press found that 47 percent of
people age 18 to 29 knew "nothing
at all" about the private investment
proposal. Only 14 percent of this age
group said they were following the
debate "very closely" in the news.

"I don't get to watch the news as
much because I'm at work and class
all day and after that in the anima-
ture tells us to."
STATE NEWS

SACRAMENTO — An Assembly committee has rejected a bill designed to lower the price and increase production of hybrid cars and other low-polluting vehicles by allowing manufacturers to sell directly to motorists. The measure, which was supported by several environmental groups but opposed by auto dealers and manufacturers, went down to defeat Monday night on a 4-4 vote in the Transportation Committee. The bill would allow manufacturers and others who obtained a special license from the Department of Motor Vehicles to sell new hybrids and other low-emission vehicles to drivers on the Internet.

SACRAMENTO — A bill that would make it easier for reporters to interview prison inmates was advanced by a Senate committee Tuesday after Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed a similar measure last year.

The bill by Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero, D-Los Angeles, would override Department of Corrections' limits on news media interviews that have been in place since 1996. The bill would permit interviews using television cameras and audio recording equipment, and let inmates correspond confidentially with reporters unless it presented a security problem.

Records from that raid are sealed.

WASHINGTON — From the buttoned-down confines of a Senate hearing room to a boisterous outdoor rally nearby, Democrats took on President Bush and his Social Security proposals with gusto on Tuesday and rebuffed pleas for bipartisanship from frustrated Republicans.

"If he's going out to push for privatization, let's help him pack," Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois said to cheering

NHK broadcaster said there were more bodies still inside, and that the death toll would likely rise.

MASNA, Lebanon — Syria's last soldier in Lebanon walked across the border Tuesday, welcomed home with cheers and flowers after a modest farewell from the Lebanese, a quiet end to a once indomitable 29-year military presence that was the key to Damascus' control of its neighbor. With the Syrian gone, Lebanese now look ahead to an election that should prove freer of Syrian influence but still runs the risk of sinking into violence. Lebanon's anti-Syrian opposition is hoping to defeat Damascus' political allies at the ballot box.

The withdrawal would have been unthinkable only a few months ago. But amid series of strategic blunders by Syrian President Bashar Assad, Damascus came under relentless international pressure.

LOS ANGELES — Two Los Angeles teenagers pleaded guilty Tuesday to stealing a computer belonging to Robert Blake's attorney that contained vital information in the actor's murder case.

Michael Washington Jr., 19, pleaded guilty to two counts of residential burglary and was immediately sentenced to two years in prison. Koi Burton, 18, pleaded guilty to a burglary charge.

IN OTHER NEWS

Two of ten bison that escaped from a farm ran from police and volunteers Tuesday.

PIKESVILLE, Md. — A herd of buffalo somehow got loose and wandered around an upscale neighborhood Tuesday, disrupting traffic and alarming homeowners before officers managed to corral them in a tennis court.

More than a dozen police cars and a police helicopter were used to herd the roughly 10 beasts, authorities said.

Residents in the Baltimore suburb first reported that buffalo were meandering along the road about 7 a.m. Police shut down several major traffic arteries, including a section of the Baltimore Beltway, while they tried to anticipate which way the buffalo would roam.

Officers eventually managed to maneuver the buffalo onto the tennis court and then from there where they were first spotted.

— Associated Press

UNDER FOUR?

OR SAYING "I DID WHAT?"

52% of students never experience memory loss due to drinking. The average CP student drinks less than 4 in a sitting.

Based on a survey collected by Cal Poly Health of 1,517 randomly selected Cal Poly students with an error margin of ± 5%.
Students urged to tattle for incentives

Doug Gross
Associated Press

ATLANTA — For a growing number of students, the easiest way to make a couple hundred dollars has nothing to do with chores or after-school jobs, and everything to do with telling on classmates.

Tragedies like last month's deadly shooting at a Red Lake, Minn., school have prompted more schools to offer cash and other prizes — including pizza and premium parking spots — to students who report classmates who carry guns, drugs or alcohol, commit vandalism or otherwise break school rules.

"For kids of that age, it's hard for them to tell on their peers. This gives them an opportunity to step up if they know something that will help us make an arrest," said James Kinchen, an assistant school superintendent in Houston County, Ga., which earlier this month started offering rewards of up to $1,000 for reporting relatively minor crimes like vandalism or theft and $500 for information about a crime, or plans for a crime, involving a gun.

Critics call them "snitch" programs, saying they are a knee-jerk reaction to student violence. Some education professionals fear such policies could create a climate of distrust in schools and turn students against each other.

"There are very few things that I can think of that I would be more effective at destroying that sense of community," said Bruce Marlowe, an education psychology professor at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I.

About 2,000 schools and colleges have adopted Student Tips programs like Houston County's. Kinchen said: "That will sort itself out. Our officers deal with these kinds of things every day; they can find out which kid is being set up and which kid is telling the truth."

At Model High, some of the 650 students complain that the program wrongly implies their school is dangerous. In a Rome News-Tribune cartoon, the school's official mascot was mockingly changed from the Blue Devils to the "Tattlers."

"Everyone just thinks it's a joke. No one is going to tell on their friends for cash," said senior Katie Burnes, who hinted that giving tips may be a way to "exact a grudge or set on making some quick money may level false accusations or plant drugs or weapons in their lockers."

But Houston County's Kinchen said: "That will sort itself out. Our officers deal with these kinds of things every day; they can find out which kid is being set up and which kid is telling the truth."

As the student base comes more diverse, the school's official mascot was mockingly changed from the Blue Devils to the "Tattlers."

Emily Fredrix
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — The University of Nebraska's agriculture college is swapping seeds for semantics as it considers dropping "ag" from its name to broaden appeal.

The College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources is surveying alumni, faculty, high school students and their parents to see what they think of a possible name change, said Steve Walder, dean of the college.

"I want to do what's best for the college," Walder said, "and if that means changing the name, then that's what I would like to see happen."

Such a move would highlight the college's new programs, such as a major in professional golf course management, and future ones in forensic science and hospitality, restaurant and tourism management.

Most people have a notion of what agriculture is, Walder said, but it's often antiquated. More than 100 years ago, when the college was created, nearly everyone had some interaction with agriculture. But today people lose sight of it, he said, and they don't fully understand the college's offerings.

Last fall there were 1,122 students with majors within the college. The school reached its peak at 1,889 students in 1980. For the last eight years, school enrollment has declined.

Survey responses probably will be compiled through next month, Walder said, with faculty making a recommendation next fall.

Possible names would include the concepts of food and life sciences, and environmental sciences to replace natural resources.

As the student base comes more diverse, the school's trends with their interests are changing, he said. Agronomy used to be a top subject, but it has seen a 60 percent decline in enrollment from 1999 to 2004. Meanwhile, biochemistry has grown more than 220 percent in the same time.
**Ben Folds moves out of suburbs**

Michael Barnett  
**Hey Mando!**

Somewhere along the line, Ben Folds dropped the Five and flew solo — and a smart move it was. Though Folds saw some mainstream success with his band’s mid-’90s hit, “Brick,” he decided to try out solo. The results were encouraging. For the first time in five years, he is back with a band, but not the original one.

Folds returns with the follow-up to 2001’s “Rockin’ the Suburbs” as if he had hit pause four years ago and just decided to hit play. “Songs for Silverman” is a collection of brilliant piano-pop ballads. Dropping that whole “Five” thing has allowed Folds to bring his piano chops to the forefront.

And for fans of the “Five,” Silverman sounds more like something Folds would have put out back in the day, with a more mature twist.

The album showcases some of Folds’ best lyrics. It seems his maturation as an artist, and as a person, has caused his words to seem a bit more introspective. He turns to his daughter for inspiration on “Gracie,” an almost-lullaby backed by an enchantingly cheesy progression.

His latest single, “Landed,” a return to the Folds of old, is about being stuck in a stalled relationship and booms the album’s catchiest chorus. It is a tribute to the late Elliott Smith, Folds penned “Late,” a track about sharing experiences with someone as they did on tour in 1998. He sings about Smith’s guitar playing and dirty, elbow-throwing basketball skills.

The self-produced album was recorded over the span of a month in a Nashville, Tenn. studio with Jared Reynolds on bass and Lindsay Jemison on drums. The trio also enlisted the help of another ’90s “icon,” “Weird Al” Yankovic, for backing on some scaring “rhymes” and “uh” on “Time.” The songs on “Silverman” cover a range of emotions and styles, including a country feel on “Give Lady My Notice,” where Bucky Baxter is on pedal steel guitar.

While his style seems to lean toward adult contemporary, Folds comes right back at you with a few pop ballads. “Jesusland” kicks off with some harmonies reminiscent of The Beach Boys and moves on to sound a bit like Elton John, while “Bastard” feels a bit more like classic Folds.

Sure, “Silverman” has nothing on “Suburbs” musically, but it shows outstanding musical growth and a smooth transition into a new Ben Folds era.
In the run up to the war in Iraq, President Bush drove me crazy. Each time he came on TV to tell us Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction and ties to al-Qaeda, I found myself screaming "liar," "idiot" and other words inappropriate for this column. But when our president appeared in joint press conferences with Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair, my reaction dramatically changed when Blair took to the microphone. The prime minister would make the same exact points as our president and actually liked what he was hearing.

Blair's eloquence accompanied by a great vocabulary stands in contrast to Bush's "language handicap." Between the two men, I think Blair and I would get along better. Most people agree to Bush's "language handicap." Between

Tony Blair is the 'dog's bollocks'

One year olds cannot sustain life, why do they have rights?

Lindsey Karin proposes that something that cannot sustain life on its own does not have rights. It sounds good, but is the argument valid? One way to find out is to follow the logic to completion — simply applying the argument only far enough to get the conclusion we want isn't good enough. Suppose "I say anything "that can be used to hurt people should be prohibited by law." I could claim that my argument was rock-solid by applying it to guns and showing how well it worked. At first glance, my letter would even seem sound, but if we take the premise at face value, we would have to conclude that cars should also be outlawed. The argument seemed valid when viewed from one context, but we found that it was not really valid. We could not outlaw guns based on that premise.

So what do we get when we take the premise that "something that cannot sustain life on its own does not have rights" to completion? We would conclude that one-year-old children (who can't survive without parental nourishment), sick elderly people and those seriously injured in car accidents would no longer be protected. Either. I think everyone would agree that a mother who kills her young child is a murderer, and that someone who shoots and kills a seriously injured car victim is also a murderer. The premise is not valid in all contexts, so we cannot use it as an argument to support a law.

*Thorres Norrie
Computer engineering sophomore

Embryos should have rights despite their lack of sustainability

To the author of "Embryo cannot sustain life, so why should it have rights?"

I have a question for you. If a loved one of yours got into a car wreck and could only survive with medical attention, would you save them? I think the obvious answer is yes. So why do you think if something (an embryo) cannot sustain life on its own" if it should live or not? Would you give your loved one a chance to make that decision? They may need a little help to survive. Also, if you believe "that something that cannot sustain life on its own" does not deserve any rights, then I assume you would not want anyone who needs any kind of medicine to stay alive. Unless, of course, it was you.

Kendra Boyer
Animal science junior

Women should have choice on abortion, pregnancy

In response to "Embryo cannot sustain life..." you stated that the mother is the only person who has the right to choose a baby's fate. I would like to add that not only should a woman have the right to choose to have an abortion, but she should also have the right to have the choice to own her fate.

Although it may seem selfish, women who do not want to carry a fetus due to their personal reasons and be involved in a pregnancy would be helping themselves and others in the future. It is clear that certain embryonic rights have already been conceded (as was recently demonstrated by the verdict of the Scott Peterson trial). I do not necessarily disagree with these rights. As the debate on abortion moves forward, it is important that the rights of the embryo and the rights of the mother are not confused. In the case of abortion the rights of the mother should supersede those of the embryo. Only 83 members of the present Congress are women (about 15 percent). If an anti-abortion law were to be passed, it would be done by an assembly where men control 85 percent of the votes. Am I the only one who finds this disgusting? Men are simply not qualified to make assumptions regarding what a woman can or cannot do with her body.

Tunnie Nelson
Becokley community

The real question is when does an embryo become human?

What exactly are embryonic rights? The pursuit of answers to this question is what logically leads us to ask the real question, namely, "When does an embryo actually have rights, but is that the question? And what specifically are those rights?"

Obviously, giving an embryo, or even an egg, the right to live or to worship as it pleases is meaningless, since the embryo or infant can't possibly reason enough to utilize these rights. So, the only embryonic rights that can exist should be those that the fetus can have without needing intelligence. And that pretty much leaves the right to life, doesn't it?

Only something that is alive can be given the right to live, since granting rights to the fetus's later stage, or even a log is pointless. But we can't automatically say that every living thing has this right. When was the last time you chose not to step on a cockroach just because it was alive?

So, more important than life is humanity. At what point can an embryo be considered human? One might consider a combined species, which will be alive, but I doubt many would consider it human. All humans have the right to embryonic rights. So, we can assume that once we determine an embryo to be human, any abortion after that point is wrong. The real question isn't whether or not embryonic rights have, but does an embryo become a living human being?

Of course, isn't an easy question either, and it is certainly something to think about amidst all this controversy.

Alan Wehrman
Associate engineering physics major
Wildflower
continued from page 8
"Triathlons are unpredictable because someone could have a breakthrough performance," he said. "It's just like any other race; you can never tell who will win." Calkins suggested that Chris Turkovich could be the first among the top three fastest males on the Cal Poly Triathlon team, followed by Anthony Yount as the second fastest male member. However, he said the order in which these two competitors finish is debatable. In his opinion, the third placing is up in the air due to the wide range of talent on the team.

"We have good hopes for Turkovich because he's strong on the bike and is also a Cal Poly Wheelman," Calkins said. "And Yount has been a great role model for workouts and training ethics; he's really tapered down and is ready for nationals." Presser may come in second, followed by Yount has been a great role model for workouts and training ethics; he's really tapered down and is ready for nationals.

Kyle Shotwell said, "When I came away from here, it just felt like the best place for me. San Luis just matched with my personality. I just got pretty fired up about it. He came up here on a recruiting trip and really liked the guys and the coaches; it was just the whole atmosphere, really." While visiting, the high school senior was able to attend an informal Cal Poly practice.

"It was an out there match, so we tried to teach him a little bit. He was able to pick up some of the things, which was awesome," Kyle Shotwell said. The team also took well to Ryan Shotwell. "All the guys really like him. Ryan's a pretty outgoing kid. He'll fit really well with the team," Kyle Shotwell said.

"But for me, all those nerves turned into energy. It was exciting," Preser said.

Shotwell
continued from page 8
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Turn
continued from page 8
Q. — Do you think it is difficult to balance your sport with school?
A. — This quarter I feel like I am on campus all day. I am also in the Black Student Union so I go to those meetings as well as training.

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7
Wildflower
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and still manages to be involved in other activities.

Stafford is a political science senior who recently broke her own school record in the triple jump on April 17 with a leap of 44-01.25 at the Mt. Sac Relays held at Hilmer Lodge Stadium in Walnut. She will be graduating in December and says she has aspirations of going to the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. She is part of the Black Student Union and says she loves staying active and is learning how to balance her time, on and off the track.

Q. — How did you first get involved in track and field?
A. — In track you compete individually but score altogether. You have more drive because if something goes wrong, you're alone... so in the free time I just do other activities.

Q. — How does the team spirit of track compare to more traditional team sports?
A. — In track you compete individually but score altogether. You have more drive because if something goes wrong, you either performed or you didn't. I look back at basketball and feel I don’t miss it that much because you get more frustrated when you feel you are doing everything you can but you're still not winning.

Q. — What do you think you have been doing differently this year that has improved your performance?
A. — This past summer was the first time I took track seriously. I was disappointed in my season last year. I missed out on nationals and got frustrated. I knew I could jump just as far as the other girls were jumping and asked myself why I wasn’t. I got real hungry for the sport and became a student of my event. I definitely have more confidence now.

Q. — What do you like to do in your spare time?
A. — I like to sleep and eat. Most of the time I am at practice and school, so in the free time I just stay active in other things.