State students acquire less debt than average

The average debt for a Cal Poly graduating senior is $13,355; the national average is $16,400.

Kristen Oato, Mustang Daily

Students graduating from California State Universities acquire less debt than students graduating from other public four-year colleges. A new study presented to the CSU Board of Trustees reported that the national average for cumulative debt is $16,400. The mean amount of debt for CSU graduates is $13,368.

The debt accrued by Cal Poly students borrowing for the four years of enrollment ranks lower than the average for CSU schools. Currently, the average student loan debt for the graduating senior at Cal Poly is $13,355 for the 2003-04 year, financial aid director Les Kelly said.

CSU students also receive more grants than loans in financial aid. A grant is money that students do not pay back, as long as the student meets the terms agreed on. A loan is money that a student borrows, and must be paid back. The study reported 55 percent of CSU students receive grants, while 46 percent take out loans.

Cal Poly students mirror the report. "For the 2003-04 school year, 4,413 undergraduates received grants and 4,308 undergraduates received student loans," said Kelly.

These numbers are different from the national findings. Nationally, more students take out loans and receive fewer grants. This is possible because CSU schools have managed to keep student fees below the national average.

The CSU system is conscious of student fees increase, and each time student fees rise, the amount of money given in CSU State Undergraduate Grants and Cal Grants also increases proportionally. This effectively covers the change. In addition, Cal Poly also offers a wide variety of aid programs. Students can apply for various grants, loans, scholarships, and work study programs. The CSU system also offers support online with CSU Mentor. The Web site contains the CSU school application, as well as academic planning assistance.

Students can go to www.CSUMentor.edu to access a "loan calculator." The calculator helps determine students' monthly loan payments based on their estimated income after graduation.

After graduation, most CSU students are able to successfully manage their debt. The report stated that information regarding loans, debt management, and loan repayment options is available to students through lenders, CSU counselors, and CSU Board of Trustees reports.

The Web site offers support is $1,3,368 among CSU students, 46 percent take out loans.

According to Kennean, Cal Grants also look for particular areas. "If a student is interested in pottery, they could get Cal Grants," he said. "For any Cal Poly student who has ever wanted to act out the romantic pottery scene in the film "Ghost," with Demi Moore and Patrick Swayze, now you can by taking a summer pottery class provided by the Craft Center. Students staying for summer quarter can engage their artistic side and fight boredom by learning the art of ceramics.

Environmental management senior Greg Daddy has been throwing seriously for two years and uses ceramic-making as a stress-reducer. "It's therapeutic. This is how I get my mind off school," said Daddy. "After, you feel like you've created something.

Mechanical engineering freshman Adam Wegener is currently working on a set of plates and a ceramic drum in the Craft Center and has taken beginning ceramics.

"I'm hoping to sell my stuff at next year's craft fair," he said.

Wegener also offers advice for students interested in pottery who may be intimidated by the Craft Center. "Take a class," Wegener said. "Beginning classes teach you how to use this stuff. You won't get good if you only come in once a week, you have to practice.

Beginning ceramics classes teach students basic pottery techniques including wheel throwing, use of tools, trimming and glazing.

Adventures in pottery

By Tiffany Dias, Mustang Daily

For any Cal Poly student who has ever wanted to act out the romantic pottery scene in the film "Ghost," with Demi Moore and Patrick Swayze, now you can by taking a summer pottery class provided by the Craft Center. Students staying for summer quarter can engage their artistic side and fight boredom by learning the art of ceramics.

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Beginning ceramics classes teach students basic pottery techniques including wheel throwing, use of tools, trimming and glazing.

Chris Thiele teaches beginning ceramics at the Craft Center and has worked with clay for more than 8 years.

Senate opens the way for votes on judges

Jim Abrams, Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate voted Tuesday to end 6 years of delay in confirming a judge that blocked the nomination of Priscilla Owen to a federal judgeship, the first fruit of a bipartisan agreement to break the log jam over President Bush's judicial choices.

The vote on the motion to close debate was 68-18 with 4201 against it. It is the fourth time the Senate has voted on confirmation of Priscilla Owen to a federal judgeship, the first time the Senate has voted on confirmation of Priscilla Owen to a federal judgeship, the first time the Senate has voted on confirmation of Priscilla Owen to a federal judgeship.

"It is time to close our debate," said Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., who led the ill-starred effort to deny Democrats the use of the filibuster for judicial nominations.

"The trick is it's about bracing yourself and balance," Thiele said. "Look at me. I'm a skinny guy. The clay is not formed by arm strength alone, it's having to use your body to form the clay. Pottery is not as easy as it may appear."
Ceramics

continued from page 1

"It's kind of challenging, it takes a lot of practice," business senior Jessica Lew said.

The beauty of working with clay is if the potter makes a mistake, "it's just clay, we can just smoosh it back together and start over," Thiele said.

For a beginner, throwing their first piece in the Craft Center may seem intimidating, but choosing the clay to use can be bewildering. For a first-timer, the Center recommends using Hawaiian Red and Long Beach Blend clay. While these types of clay sound more like flavored coffee, Hawaiian Red and Long Beach Blend are more elastic and can be easier to throw; both qualities allow a novice potter to focus on forming their artwork.

Technicians at the Craft Center load and bake students' clay creations, called greenware, into the kilns, which are hot and potentially dangerous for a novice to use.

Students keep their pottery and have the opportunity to improve their skills outside of class; they also have the opportunity to present their art in the Craft Center on commission.

The cost to use the Craft Center's facility is $40 per quarter or $2 per day, not including the cost of clay. The fee covers the use of the electric pottery wheels, wedging tables, a number of various glazes and stains, smocks, and one "relic" kick wheel.

Debt

continued from page 1

and guarantee agencies. The standard CSU repayment plan for a loan amounting to $13,306 lasts 10 years and requires a monthly payment of $164.18.

Students must earn an annual income of $24,627 in order to meet the repayment plan requirements. According to census data, this amount falls well below the national average. The census report shows a median income of $37,440 for an individual between the ages of 24-34 with a bachelor's degree.

According to the 2003-04 graduate status report, Cal Poly students also earn more after graduating than the national average.
CHARLOTTE, N.C. — An 86-year-old woman has been sent to jail after police said she called 911 dispatchers 20 times in a little more than a half-hour to complain about a pizza parlor. Dorothy Densmore remained a half-hour to complain about a pizza that someone at the shop called her a "crazy old coot," Giannini said.

Densmore wanted them arrested. Instead, police came to arrest her, and she resisted, Giannini said.

It's unusual for someone to face charges for nonemergency calls, Giannini said. But on Sunday, Densmore kept calling 911, even after she was told to stop, Giannini said.

When an officer arrived at her apartment, the 5-foot-tall, 98-pound woman scratched him, kicked him and bit his hand, Giannini said.

Densmore is also charged with resisting a public officer and two times in a little more than a month for nonemergency calls, according to jail records. It was the second time she'd been charged with misusing the emergency system, a jail spokeswoman said.

Police said she called 911 about 10 times, after she was asked to stop, a police report says. She then threatened to hit the officer when the bear showed up, and called 911.

"My dog began barking very loud­ly and I went to see what's going on. I see a bear in my backyard," Salahael said.

Homemowner Maryam Salahael pulled her children out of the pool when the bear showed up, and called 911.

"She probably just made a wrong turn and ended up in a neighbor­hood," Humphrey said.

In March 2004, police said she called 911 about 50 times after she was asked to stop, a police report says. She then threatened to hit the officer when he came to arrest her, the report states.

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — A young cat is safe and sound after somehow traveling from here to Denver, a journey of nearly 1,000 miles.

"Boo, a black and white 10-month-old, was still wearing his collar and rabies tag when he showed up at an apartment building earlier this month. His owners, Dexter and Marianne Coletti, got a call two days after he disappeared so they got in their van and picked him up, Marianne Coletti thinks a traveler put the cat in a car or on a train.

LOS ANGELES — A 140­pound bear wandered into a suburban neighborhood and took a dip in a swimming pool before being tranqui­lized and returned to the wild.

The female bear ambled into the San Fernando Valley's Porter Ranch area shortly after 6 p.m. Sunday, bumping into doors and windows before taking a few splashes in a back­yard pool, fire spokesman Brian Humphrey said.

Homemowner Maryam Salahael pulled her children out of the pool when the bear showed up, and called 911.

"My dog began barking very loud­ly and I went to see what's going on. I see a bear in my backyard," Salahael told KTTV-TV.

Authorities cordoned off the area as wildlife officials tranquilized the bear, said Cindy Wood of the California Department of Fish and Game. The animal was then released into the Santa Susana Mountains.

"She probably just made a wrong turn and ended up in a neighbor­hood," Wood said. — Associated Press
Say it ain’t so

Where will you end up in hell? It’s the ultimate insomnia-friendly question. Will you push boulders up a hill, complaining about the monotony but developing killer quads? Or stoop for water that disappears, wondering why you didn’t take the time to become a ravenous alcoholic? According to some real glass-half-empty types, the afterlife is a journey straight down — so which of our sins will construct our ironic eternal punishments?

Well, no one cares. The real question is, where will Weezer end up? It depends on who you ask — and the perennially awkward rockers have amassed a diverse following. Ask the newer fans, like the ones who got hooked on 2001’s self-titled comeback album (nicknamed the Green Album for its lime scheme), and they will probably refute the idea of their favorite alt-rockers going anywhere fiery. But the old fans, the comparatively indie grandpas who rocked to 1994’s equally monochromatic Blue Album, would relegate the Weez to the ninth circle. Those kids have got their undies permanently in a wad.

And let me tell you, it’s itchy.

Beyond Weezer’s catchy pop-rock songs and the soothingly coexistent insanity of frontman Rivers Cuomo, the most amazing thing about Weezer is this: They are the only band in the world whose fans absolutely loathe them. Since their fifth album, “Make Believe,” was released this month, the four thirtysomethings have stared dully from the pages of every major entertainment magazine, and received some of the highest sales of their 10+ years together. Yet, they are absolutely reviled in musical circles. Publicly liking “Make Believe,” at this point, is about two steps up from spending the weekend at Neverland Ranch; it’s suspicious and uneasily juvenile, and it’s entirely possible that Jay Leno will mock you someday.

So why the backlash — why are Weezer’s most loyal fans, the ones who’ve danced for a decade, suddenly clawing down their gilded idol? The most-touted answer is: Weezer has changed their sound. And that’s partially true, because the “Green Album” and 2005’s “Maladroit” marked a permanent
saw questions. These being normal. The group List their out in every conceivable way, and suggests that, in basic lyrical and depended on $50 words; C'uomo has sound — and in fact, contains their before. His truth just happened to OK because Cuom o had exposed of people, despite its initial failure. It mattered to a lot byzantine and full of aching queries, changed in more than 10 years. His measuring grip made Weezer the his twisty little heart, and he would. Instead, Cuom o elected to sell just his increasingly wild-eyed stare. The problem seems to be that Weezer has regressed. They've stopped caring — and not just about his image as a reclusive, Brian Wilson-esque freak. It prompts the real question: How can someone obsessed with music be satisfied with the unremarkable tunes and lame lyrics of late? Is he finally happy? Not if you believe the press, or even his grey path is the one they've accepted. So maybe, in the end, Weezer is really in a hell of its own making.
Dialogue only way to reconcile

In the beginning of Thomas Friedman's seminal work, "From Beirut to Jerusalem," he wrote, "...when it comes to discussing the Middle East, you practically insult..." Anyone who has ever debated issues concerning the Middle East, especially the Arab-Israeli conflict, knows exactly what Friedman is talking about. It's such an emotionally-charged issue that even keeps Jews and Arabs from talking here in the U.S. It doesn't exist and only refer to them as "Arabs." For the sake of this article, I'll use the term "Palestinians" when using the term "Israeli," it doesn't recognize Palestinians, exercise great control over the occupied territories, and this summer around mid-August, Israelis will unilaterally remove all the settlements from Gaza, handing it over to full Palestinian control. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who helped start the settler movement, now understands what is needed to achieve peace. It's no

From LEFT field political],v istorPhone

Sometimes I just can't handle it.

I don't think I could have ever. I don't think I could have about someone to a third party and have the head nod/grunt (always free to join me. I'll be the one speaking under a rock in embarrassment."

Megan Alper is a Mustang Daily staff writer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cal Poly gym: "a little promise and a lot of Hotties"

In Elizabeth Engleman's "Fit for the Rec Center" article on Wednesday, I was relatively confused on what she meant to get across: perhaps a battle between positive and negative views of the gym, or simply a comical interpretation of America's obsession with the Hollywood Body? If either, she should hold that event in Mecca.

Rachel Musquiz, business major and class standing. Letters should include the author's full name, phone number, words. Letters should include the writer's full name, phone number, major and class standing. Letters must come from a Cal Poly e-mail account. Do not send letters as an attachment. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.

By e-mail: opinion@mustangdaily.net

By mail: Letters to the Editor, Building 26, Room 226, Cal Poly, SLO CA 93407

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Send us your love, hate and more

MUSTANG DAILY

COMING TOMORROW

Campus Troubleshooter with Mustang Daily columnist Carrie McGourty

Everyday social disasters

We've all been there, and we'll all find ourselves there again, in a socially-awkward interaction. Thirteen, 14, 17 years of school can't prepare us for those incredibly uncomfortable situations we find ourselves in nearly every day. Here are a few scenarios:

Scenario 1:

Paserby: "Hey Megan!" Megan's internal monologue: I should know you. Who are you? Megan: "Hey... you?"

Scenario 2:

Paserby: "Hey, how's it going?" "What's your interna4l monologue? Yay! Hi-tech ME!" Megan: "Hi! I'm doing really well. I just finished the worst midterm blah blah blah..." About this time I realize that he wasn't talking to me but to the gorgeous girl standing right behind me.

My friend Cory Harris, a journalism junior, recently found himself in a similar situation and took it pretty hard.

"When that happens to me I just put my hand down and I feel shame." he said. "You open your soul up to the person and say 'Hey! It's me' and then, no total rejection.

Letter to the Editor

Tightrope Walker

The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring community. We appreciate your readership and are thankful for your careful reading. Please do not send letters as an attachment. Do not send letters as an attachment. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.

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Technology

continued from page 6
to monitor release points from the
batter's perspective?

The recipe for athletic success
requires more than perfect form, a
player must know their physical
capabilities.

Blood sport

The Cal Poly swim team uses a
form of sport technology modeling
blood analysis to determine a swim-
ner's blood lactate level. The
swim team can no longer take blood samples because of health
scars like Hepatitis and HIV, but
based upon blood testing in the mid-
90s, the swim team is able to base
training on blood lactate levels.

"We were able to find a correla-
tion between a person's lactate level
and the amount of aerobic and
anaerobic states," swim coach
Rick Firman said. "Statistically, we
can determine a swimmer's level at a
90 percent confidence-level inter-
esting.

An athlete's blood lactate level is
the amount of oxygen blood can
carry.

The more oxygen an athlete's body
can hold the longer he or she
can prolong oxygen depletion and
reach the burning sensation known as
the breaking point.

"Training at and just below the
breaking point allows us to push the
oxygen levels higher and higher,
allowing our swimmers to swim
faster for prolonged periods of
times," Firman said.

Some track and field coaches are
even experimenting with the kine-
tology department's sensory-based
system called Ariel Performance
Analysis System (APAS). This equip-
ment costs upwards of $10,000 and
monitors a person's range of motion
by placing sensors on every joint.

The recipe for athletic success
requires more than perfect form, a
player must know their physical
capabilities.
Sports no stranger to the Tech Age

Whether it’s Dart Fish or Right View Pro, digital video programs are becoming a must-have in athletics. Cal Poly’s no different

Justin Fifella

Modern sports not only require that athletes have natural talent and follow rigorous training regiments, but they incorporate technology as well.

Bring a Division I school, Cal Poly athletes are no stranger to technology-based training as many coaches look to non-traditional techniques. Digital video is becoming more popular in the sports arena, allowing coaches and athletes to record, replay and compare a player’s progress. Many coaches said they feel this equipment is invaluable to their training methods.

“This has a world of difference,” baseball coach Larry Lee said.

Actual game swings are different from practice swings and recording them allows players to see what they are doing under pressure, Lee said.

Cal Poly’s baseball team uses a digital video program similar to Dart Fish called Right View Pro. The baseball team has been using the $3,500 Dart Fish program on a regular basis for almost two years.

“We use the program almost every home series. Filming on Friday allows us to make improvements for Saturday’s games,” Lee said. “First-year players have 60 to 80 swings recorded.”

On the track

Dart Fish is also used in other sports such as track and field and coaches are seeing similar, positive results.

“A lot of athletes have never seen themselves run,” assistant track coach Jonathan Spims said. “Sometimes, simply telling them to run with better posture won’t help; Dart Fish allows them to see what they are supposed to be doing, giving them a visual perspective.”

With all of Dart Fish’s capabilities, it has its faults.

“It’s pretty time intensive,” Spims said.

Most of the time, results are not instantaneous and a laptop and a method of seeing the computer screen in the bright sun is needed to get immediate results, Spims said.

Softball’s own method

The women’s softball team recently began using a digital video program similar to Dart Fish called Right View Pro. The $2,500 program, released earlier this year, allows coaches to break a player’s swing into nine parts by capturing up to 60 frames per second.

Jenny Condon, the Cal Poly softball head coach, said Right View Pro is an asset to the team, but said that like any tool, the user must know how to use it to its advantage.

“It’s such a good learning tool,” Condon said. “It allows us to focus on what players are doing wrong or right.”

The softball team also uses the technology to maintain muscle memory to prevent injured players from forgetting their swing.

When a player watches their swing over and over, they remember the muscle memory, even though the actual action of swinging isn’t happening.

Unlike the baseball team that uses digital video to view only their own players, the softball team also analyzes opponents.

“We film other pitchers, that way we know what we are up against,” Condon said. “We film the pitcher from behind home plate, allowing us to see Technology, page 7

Day clears a new personal best

Sharon Day keeps getting better. At the Adidas Track Classic she not only broke her old personal record but tied a school record

Mustang Daily Staff Report

Cal Poly’s Sharon Day cleared 6-03.50 at the Adidas Track Classic in Carson on Sunday, setting a new personal best and tying the Cal Poly school record.

Day placed second in the event while tying Erin Aldrich with the same height. Aldrich won the event with fewer misses.

The 6-03.50 is Day’s old personal record of 6-03.25, set last summer at the World Junior Games in Rome. This season’s previous best was 6-02.75 set twice, last time at the Big West Conference Championships when she was named Female Field Athlete of the Year.

Day tied teammate Kaylene Wagner in the Cal Poly record book for height. Wagner cleared the height last season.

Wagner finished tied for fourth in the event held at the Home Depot Center when she cleared 5-10.50.

Day and Wagner will join 16 other Mustangs at the NCAA West Regional in Eugene, Ore. next Friday and Saturday (May 27-28).

The track and field NCAA Outdoor National Championships in Sacramento will follow the West Regionals starting June 8 and running through June 11.

Sharon Day will enter the NCAA West Regionals having just set her personal best in the high jump on Sunday. She also tied a school record.