Congress debates preferential funding for students

Sarah Winter

LOS ANGELES — College students who have an interest in math, science or certain foreign languages and who demonstrate financial need may soon have a new source of federal aid.

Appearing at the same time as a proposed $12.7 billion cut in federal student loans, a budget bill awaiting approval by the U.S. House of Representatives would allocate $3.75 billion for college aid to low-income students who have completed a certain course of study in high school.

The new program, dubbed the Academic Competitiveness Grant program, would grant federal financial aid to eligible students based on their performance and the rigor of their high school program, said Steve Forde, spokesman for the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

For students' first two years in college, their eligibility is based on their performance and the rigor of their high school program, said Steve Forde, spokesman for the House committee.

As they advance toward earning a degree, students pursuing studies in math, science, engineering and certain critical foreign languages will be eligible.

see Funding, page 2

Ringing in the Year of the Dog

James Mellor

It's 2006, which means it's time to bring in the Year of the Dog. Cal Poly's Chinese Student Association will celebrate its 94th annual Chinese New Year banquet this Saturday.

At 6 p.m. in the Chaminash Auditorium, the CSA will bring in the Year of the Dog with a traditional seven-course Chinese meal and live entertainment provided by the Cal Poly Lion Dance Team, the Ribbon Dance Team and the Umbrella Dance Team. There will also be a special performance by the Wu Shu Tai Chi center.

The event is open to all Cal Poly students and the San Luis Obispo community.

“We have a display of what Chinese culture is all about for that event, and bringing in the new year with good food and good entertainment,” said Christopher Ho, president of CSA. “My own parents gave up everything to put their children through college.”

Christopher Ho

As we become more assimilated into the American culture, we lose a sense of what our traditions are, but in that sense we also break those barriers and form our new culture.

Discover his own culture is something Ho has been trying to figure out since he has been at Cal Poly.

“It’s hard to (describe one’s culture),” Ho said. “Yes, we take off our shoes when we go into a house, we eat food with chopsticks, we eat rice during dinner time instead of rolls... it has to do a lot with family. Going back to tradition, there is a great bond between parents and their children.”

Our people with our family.

Christopher Ho

Since Chinese families do a lot for each other, “A lot is expected of us in return,” he continued. “It’s an obligation we have to fulfill for our parents.”

Being at a university and earning...
I'm concerned that if financial aid for higher education is awarded based on the school, rather than the individual student's needs, our students that are the most needy will have to sacrifice the most.

—Penny Sommers

coordinator of College Partnership and Curricular Enrichment for high schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District

I am concerned that if financial aid for higher education is awarded based on the school, rather than the individual student's needs, our students that are the most needy will have to sacrifice the most, said Penny Sommers, coordinator of College Partnership and Curricular Enrichment for high schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

I am concerned that if financial aid for higher education is awarded based on the school, rather than the individual student's needs, our students that are the most needy will have to sacrifice the most, said Penny Sommers, coordinator of College Partnership and Curricular Enrichment for high schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

The U.S. Constitution does not define a role for the government in education, and some educators have challenged the merits of its potentially expanded role.

The Constitution implies that "the control of the schools is the responsibility of local governments and the state, and this legislation is going to change that," Sommers said.

By increasing the emphasis on the study of math and science, officials are hoping to keep America prominent in those fields of study.

"We are trying to improve our foundation for technology and innovation as we compete with other countries around the world," President Bush stressed the importance of math and science in America's education problem in a C-B-a and A-potential following a speech he gave on Monday at Kansas State University.

"I think that the key on education is to make sure that we stay focused on how do we stay competitive into the 21st century," Bush said.

"I plan on doing some talking about math and science and engineering programs so that people who graduate out of college will have the skills necessary to compete in this competitive world," he said.

If neither math nor science is of interest to some students, a major in certain foreign languages deemed critical to national security would also qualify students to receive the grant.

"The secretary of education would consult with the director of national intelligence to determine foreign languages of importance to national security," Bush wrote in an e-mail.

If the bill passes, the Department of Education would implement the aid programs.

However, education officials are still unsure how they will determine which high schools offer rigorous coursework, as well as which students qualify for federal financial aid from those high schools.

"We haven't decided yet how we're going to talk to the states about their schools," said Jane Glickman, public affairs specialist for the secretary of education.

"We'll have to talk to states and local school districts about their programs, and I'm sure it will be based on a set of standards they've established," Glickman said.

"We will decide that we have the assurance they're valid programs," she said.

If the House passes the bill, President Bush is expected to sign it.

Chinese

continued from page 1

A degree is part of the role Chinese students are expected to undertake.

"Education is always stressed," he said.

"A lot of Chinese parents put a lot of emphasis and stress to do well. ... our means to make ourselves better is through an education, and that's what a lot of people are here for. Not necessarily Chinese-American.

A strong orientation toward family is something the president of Lambeth Phil Epslon, Vincent Kwong, also mentioned about Chinese culture. Kwong said his fraternity leaves that weekend open so Chinese members can go home to visit family.

"In our fraternity, over 60 percent of our guys are Chinese," Kwong said. "A lot of them are second-generation and we let them go home to celebrate with their family.

The Chinese Student Alliance started at Cal Poly in the 1920s as a transitory support group for first-generation Chinese immigrants. The original intent of the club was to carry on the Chinese traditions the students were born with. In 1959 the club was formally founded at Cal Poly as the Poly Chi Club.

Today, the CSA is composed of 50 members and serves as a way for second- and third-generation Chinese students to discover their original culture.

"We're trying to figure out what our culture is," he said. "We'll have a vibrant display of lion dance, rice dance, umbrella dance and martial arts that's deeply ingrained into our traditional background."

Club members, he said, are trying to figure out where their culture is headed.

"As we become more assimilated into the American culture, we lose a sense of what our traditions are, but in that sense we also break those barriers and form our new culture."

People can still join the CSA, which meets every other Tuesday at 8 p.m. in building 53 room 202.

To get tickets for Saturday's event, "Longevity Lotus," call (805) 543-4021, or e-mail csa715@hotmail.com. Tickets are also available at Imperial China Restaurant on 667 Marsh St., Friday 5-7 p.m. and Saturday 4-7 p.m. The price for admission is $16.
WHO SAID THAT?

Remember that as a teenager you are at the last stage of your life when you will be happy to hear that the phone is for you.
— Fran Lebowitz

If there is anything the nonconformist hates worse than a conformist, it's another nonconformist who doesn't conform to the prevailing standard of nonconformity.
— Bill Vaughan

MUSTANG DAILY
CORRECTIONS
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 send your correction suggestions to online@mustangdaily.net.

— The Fact of Cal Poly personal response section, which ran on Thursday, Jan. 26, incorrectly stated Andrew Homerlad's favorite song. It was supposed to read "Final Countdown" by Europe.

Wordly Wise

Grandee: A man of elevated rank or station; a nobleman.

Name: Leah Groppo
Year: sophomore
Hometown: Sunnyville
Major: nutrition

Favorites

Song: It depends on my mood. I like all different kinds of music.
Place in SLO: Montana de Oro
Pastime: Running, riding horses and hanging out with friends.
Time of day: 12 p.m. or 10 p.m.
because that's when I have the most energy.
Dessert: Everything, unless it has raisins.

If You Could...

— travel anywhere, where would you go and why?
Italy, because I think that Italian food is amazing and the culture is definitely different that the U.S.
— meet anyone, who and why?
My mom's parents. Because I never have.
— have any superpower, what would it be?
To be anywhere in the world in the blink of an eye.

Mustang Daily
Religious Directory

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Mass at St. Joseph's Church
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Sunday: 2 p.m.
St. Michael Parish
San Luis Obispo, 54955

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SAN LUIS OBIHO
Sunday
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Sundays @ 5 pm
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San Luis Obispo
805.543.7580
www.sloumc.com

I think of you every day.
Love always, God

Front Porch

Worship: 10:30 AM

First Presbyterian Church
Downtown at corner of MacArthur & N Street
9:00 AM: Contemporary Worship
10:30 AM: Traditional Worship

Front porch

Worship: 10:30 AM

College brunch/discussion
on the theme "Freedom in Christ"

Relax available on Facebook, right behind

Patience Hall, Director

The people of The United Methodist Church
www.fpcslo.org/missions/campus.htm

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Assistant news editor: Erick Smith • csmith@calpoly.edu

Online: www.mustangdaily.net
California becomes first to declare secondhand smoke a pollutant

Don Thompson  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO — California became the first state to declare secondhand smoke a toxic air pollutant under a report released Thursday, asking in link to breast cancer. Experts said the decision may have more impact worldwide than it does in the largely smoke-free state.

The decision by the California Air Resources Board puts environmental tobacco smoke in the same category as diesel exhaust, in a September report that found a "big deal this is." They are serious about breast cancer, they have to deal with secondhand smoke. That's what this is about," said Dr. Stanton Glantz, director of the Center for Tobacco Research at the University of California, San Francisco. He reviewed the science behind Thursday's decision. "This is a seminal, international document. It's impossible to underestimate what a big deal this is."

The report by scientists at California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment draws on more than 1,000 other studies of the effects of passive smoke. It defined secondhand smoke for 4,000 deaths each year. California banning smoking in public places.

The most significant new finding is that young women exposed to secondhand smoke increase their risk of developing breast cancer between 68 percent and 120 percent to declare it an air pollutant.

That finding conflicts with a 2004 report by the U.S. Surgeon General. Sanford Banky, a UC, Los Angeles, researcher writing on behalf of the R.J. Reynolds tobacco company, told the board the report "either ignores mentioning or does not give the appropriate weight to studies which refute this association" between secondhand smoke and breast cancer.

California scientists say their research is more current than the Surgeon General's report. The California report went through an exhaustive review that delayed its release for nearly a year but ensures it is based on sound research, said Dr. John Farnes, director of UCLA's Center for Occupational and Environmental Health and head of the scientific review panel.

Reynolds' spokesman David Howard said regardless of the dangers from passive smoke indoors, no research supports regulators' decision to declare it an air pollutant. "No studies exist that show that exposure outdoors leads to any increased risk of tobacco-associated illness," he said.

Next, the air board must consider regulatory steps to reduce exposure, a process that could take years. "This is no longer some crazy, California, Left Court way of thinking," said Gretchen Hitliger, executive director of Berkeley-based American Friends of the Non-smokers' Rights. She cited smoking bans that have been enacted or are being considered across the nation and in other countries.

Hamas shocks Palestinians, world by winning majority in parliament

Ravi Neuman  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The parliamentary victory seemed even Hamas leaders, who mounted a well-organized campaign but have no experience in government. They offered to share power with President Mahmoud Abbas, the Fatah chief, who said he may go around the new government to talk peace with Israel.

Underestimating the tensions between the secular Fatah and fundamentalist Hamas, some 3,000 supporters of the militant group marched through Ramallah and raised their party's green flag over the Palestinian parliament. Fatah supporters tried to lower the banner. The two sides fought for about 30 minutes, throwing stones and breaking windows in the building.

Abbas, who was elected last year to a four-year term as president of the Palestinian Authority, has yet to decide how closely to work with a group that built its clout through suicide bombings. But his Fatah Party decided not to join a Hamas government, Fatah legislator Sabah Erekat said. "We will be a loyal opposition and rebuild the party," Erekat said after meeting with Abbas.

Hamas won a clear majority in Wednesday's vote, capturing 76 of the 132 seats in parliament, according to official, near-complete results released Thursday. The results of the popular vote were not announced.

Four independent candidates backed by Hamas also won seats. Fatah, which has dominated Palestinian political life since the 1960s but alienated voters because of rampant corruption, got 43 seats. The remaining went to smaller parties.

Palestinians across the Gaza Strip and West Bank greeted the election results with joy, setting off fireworks and firing rifles in the air. But leaders across the world demanded Hamas, which is branded a terror group by the U.S. and European Union, renounce violence and recognize Israel.

"If your platform is the destruction of Israel, mean you're not a partner in peace, we're interested in peace," President Bush said in Washington. Actiing Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Israel will not negotiate with a Palestinian government that includes Hamas members, and senior Cabinet officials held an emergency meeting to discuss the repercussions of the vote. Acting Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni asked the EU not to deal with a "terror government."

Hamas leaders immediately took to the international — and even Israeli — airwaves to send out a moderate message. "Don't be afraid," Jassal Hanif, a Hamas leader, told the BBC. Mahmoud Zahar, another Hamas leader, said the group would extend its year-old truce if Israel reciprocates. "If not, then I think we will have no option but to protect our people and our land," he said.

At a victory news conference late Thursday, however, Haniyeh said Hamas will "complete the liberation of other parts of Palestine." He did not say which territories he was referring to or how he would go about it.
Nintendo DS takes racing to new levels with 'Mario Kart'

May Wong
ASSISTANT EDITOR

SAN JOSE, Calif. — In a sign that video games are becoming more popular as family entertainment, a national survey released Thursday indicates joysticks aren't just for the children in the house.

Thirty-five percent, or about one in three parents, say they play, too, and 80 percent of that segment play video games with their children, according to the new survey commissioned by the Entertainment Software Association, a video game industry group.

The average “gamer parent” spends 19 hours a month playing video games, and spends roughly half that time playing alongside kids, the survey found.

Two-thirds of the gamer parents said they feel that playing video games has brought their families closer together.

Count among them Andrew Bub, “It makes us all laugh at each other,” said the Milwaukee stay-at-home father of two.

As the founder of GamerFad.com, a Web site with game reviews and a discussion forum for parents, Bub has promoted the idea of video games as a family-bonding tool for years.

“Kids are going to play what they want to play, and parents are better off getting involved instead of sitting on the sidelines,” he said.

The survey of 501 parents with children between the ages of 2 and 17 was conducted by Peter D. Hart Research Associates in November 2005. The margin of error was plus or minus 4.4 percent.

The Entertainment Software Association, which is challenging various state laws banning the sales of violent video games to minors, noted that about two of every three parents surveyed agreed it is not the role of the government to protect kids from violent games.
**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

We need to stop the apathy and get cracking!

Bria Ellman, environmental justice junior

*Editor's response:* We appreciate your concern and are willing to discuss further. Please contact us at the Mustang Daily office to continue the discussion.

**HUMOR COLUMN**

Pete Sampras on campus?

By e-mail: mustangdaily@gmail.com

By mail: Letters to the Editor, 236 Mustang Daily Building, Cal Poly, SLO, CA 93407

January 27, 2006

**Volume LXIX, No. 73 ©2006 Mustang Daily**
Cal Poly returns to action Saturday, hosting Cal State Northridge at 4:05 p.m. in Mont Gym.

Basketball

continued from page 5

as being "from downtown." The Mustangs continued their assault on the Tigers' lead, going on a 16-0 run to take the lead 57-56 with 3:18 remaining.

Pacific's 6'7" Anthony Brown took a pass under the basket and missed a wide open lay-up, bringing a roar from the crowd of 2,603. Two plays later, Markle made one of Cal Poly's 13 three-pointers on the night to give Cal Poly the lead.

Cal Poly didn't hit another shot until Tyler McGinn made a three-pointer over Maraker with 1:21 remaining. Gray dribbled the ball at mid-court for Pacific with under 30-seconds to go, trying to run time off the clock. But with 19.9 seconds remaining, Gray was whistled for a five-second violation to give Cal Poly the ball.

Whiten took a pass from Clark on the left wing, dribbled around the perimeter and took an off-balanced 20-footer to end the game.

Cal Poly finishes the game with six rebounds and three free throws.

BRENNAN ANGEL  MUSTANG DAILY
Mustang comeback falls short

Cal Poly went on a 16-point run in the second half to take the lead 57-56 with 4:03 remaining, only to lose 64-62 in another Big West heartbreaker.

Frank Strunzel
Sports editor

Dawin Whiten came to life in the second-half again for the Mustangs, helping bring the Mustangs back from a 15-point second-half deficit, only to miss a last-second three-point attempt that would've given the Mustangs an upset victory.

The Mustangs received the ball after a five-second call against Pacific's Johnny Gray for not advancing the ball while being pressured with 19.9 seconds remaining. Cal Poly coach Kevin Loucks opted to avoid using a timeout, which would allow the Tigers to set up on defense, and called Dawson's number.

"It was a break down play, I didn't hear the original call, so I didn't know what we were running," Whiten said. "I just broke to the ball, caught it and I had an okay look, thought I could make it, but I didn't."

With the loss, Cal Poly falls to 10-3 in Big West play and 5-12 overall. Pacific improves to 3-2 in conference play and 13-6 overall.

The Mustangs were led by a balanced attack offensively with four Pacific players scoring in double-digits.

For Cal Poly, Whiten finished with 19 points on six-of-15 shooting, including five-of-11 from three-point range, while teammate Derek Stockalper had a big night with 18 points.

A big achievement for the Mustangs was holding Pacific's Christian Maraker to nine points on six-of-19 shooting, including three of the season to give the Tigers an 11-point lead.

The ploy didn't work.

Cal Poly cut the Tigers' lead to four with 12 minutes remaining, but Pacific again went on a run, increasing their lead to 15.

However, the Mustangs didn't done yet.

Trae Clark collected a loose ball near half-court and hit a three. On the other end of the floor, Cal Poly rebounded the ball and found Whiten two passes later for an easy lay-up.

Pacific coach Bob Thomason called a timeout to try and halt the shift in momentum with his team nursing a 56-46 lead. Cal Poly trailed 33-27 heading into half-time.

The Tigers began to pull away early in the second-half, going ahead by 11 minutes in Anthony Esparza hit his third three of the season to give the Tigers an 11-point lead.

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Cal Poly second baseman Brent Walker will return to action this season. Walker, a sophomore Patrick Pezet backing him up.

Cal Poly opens the season ranked fourth in the Big West pre-season coaches poll after finishing third in 2005.

Cal Poly opens the 2006 baseball season this weekend, hosting Fresno State for a three-game series in Baggett Stadium.

Friday's contest begins at 6 p.m., while first pitch for the Saturday and Sunday games will be at 1 p.m. All three games will be broadcast on the Internet at www.GoPoly.com.

Larry Lee, entering his fourth season as the Mustangs' head coach, guided Cal Poly to a tie for second place in the Big West Conference with Long Beach State, both 14-7 last year. The Mustangs finished just two games behind 2004 national champion Cal State Fullerton in 2005 and finished 36-20, but was denied an NCAA Tournament berth.

Cal Poly broke five all-time school records, produced three national top-10 leaders in individual statistics and has won 74 games during the last two seasons, but will lose five players this year. Pitcher Garrett Olson, first baseman Brett Berglund and outfielder Brandon Roberts, and a pair of seniors, pitcher Jimmy Shull and catcher Kyle Blumenthal, to Major League Baseball's Amateur Draft last June.

Ten other seniors, including closer Mike Billie, who signed a free-agent contract prior to the draft, also are gone.

Top returnees include pitchers Gary Daley Jr. and Bud Norris, second baseman Brett Walker, third baseman Josh Lansford and outfielders Matt Ostrander and Kyle Boyer.

They should put up improved times as the season nears an end.