Students to vote on fee increases

Holly Burke
MUSTANG DAILY

The polls will open Feb. 22 and 23 for students to vote on a student fee increase. If passed, the fee increase will be an extra $10 per quarter, totalling $30 per year. The fees will go directly toward Instructionally Related Activities (IRA).

IRAs are activities that are at least partially sponsored by an academic discipline or instructional department. IRAs include but are not limited to: intercollegiate sports, KCPR, Mustang Daily, Orchesis Dance Company, performing arts and even forensics. The fees will not fund athletic programs or new buildings.

The Instructionally Related Activities Advisory Committee will assist the provost's office (which is responsible for the program) and the president when allocating the funds. The committee makes sure the funds go to the correct IRAs according to how many people are involved and the actual IRA program.

“Over the last five years, the number of recognized IRA programs has increased from 45 to 62 programs,” stated in the IRA fee voter pamphlet objective statement. Because of the increase, Academic Affairs allocated $100,000 and then $110,000 with the understanding that the IRAAC would pursue an increase in student fees to supplement future costs. Money allocated from student affairs will no longer be available.

Students in support of the fee increase believe the fees will support programs that not only enhance students' education, but also the reputation of Cal Poly.

Students against the increase feel that the programs should be funded otherwise. "IRA teams and clubs representing each college have been nationally recognized and applauded for their success and achievements in their field," said Randy Carrera, an environmental horticultural science senior, in the "Pro Statement" provided in the IRA fee voter pamphlet.

"The excellence of these programs raises the overall respect for Cal Poly and in essence, increases the value of each Cal Poly degree," he said.

"Ten dollars may not seem like that much, and indeed, it isn't, but that $10 comes on top of the increases in fees voted on last November by the CSU Board of Trustees," he said.

Students in support of the fee increase believe the fees will support programs that not only enhance students' education, but also the reputation of Cal Poly.

Students against the increase feel that the programs should be funded otherwise.

"IRA teams and clubs representing each college have been nationally recognized and applauded for their success and achievements in their field," said Randy Carrera, an environmental horticultural science senior, in the "Pro Statement" provided in the IRA fee voter pamphlet.

"The excellence of these programs raises the overall respect for Cal Poly and in essence, increases the value of each Cal Poly degree," he said.

"Ten dollars may not seem like that much, and indeed, it isn't, but that $10 comes on top of the increases in fees voted on last November by the CSU Board of Trustees," he said.

Donations from the event benefit the Maxine Lewis Memorial Shelter in San Luis Obispo. The shelter houses approximately 120 people per night. Additional blankets will be taken to the North County Overflow Homeless Shelter.

"It's a movie that people want to see and then can contribute to the community," said Delta Sigma Pi President Eric Hubbs. He added that the movie is one of the most popular and should bring many viewers.

Movie night is one of multiple community events involving Delta Sigma Pi. The fraternity also donates time to the Self Sufficiency Program at the San Luis Obispo Housing Authority.

Fraternity members spend two afternoons each week playing with children involved with the house...
Vote

continued from page 1

Fraternities and increases in Cal Poly's mandatory fees, which annually adjust for inflation," said Matthew Wanner, a history senior. "Education's not spiral ing out-of-control, and the State is doing nothing to stop the problem."

Cal Poly students have mixed feelings about the proposal for a fee increase.

"I don't think they should be asking for more money from students," said Mirena Amiazaran, a microbiology senior. "It's not that I don't support the programs. It's the principle of asking each student each year for more money. (Cal Poly) is a public university."

"I think it's worthwhile to use money. I definitely benefit being a symphony member. I think the fee increase is a great thing. $10 is pretty small," said Katie Ciampy, architecture freshman and Cal Poly Symphony violist.

"Even though $10 is very little, I probably wouldn't vote "yes" for (the IRA Fee Increases). Any funding toward student activities is good but I don't have time for the activities anymore. I'm so busy as it is," said Jay Williams, a mechanical engineering junior.

Mavericks

continued from page 1

look for the best waves, San Francisco.

Mavericks is a world renowned big wave surf spot located one-half mile off the coast of Half Moon Bay, about 20 miles south of San Francisco.

The contest could be a bit lackluster this year unless the weather picks up. The National Weather Service is expecting swells of only 10-12 feet tomorrow for the central coast region, said CARDina Horne, a forecaster. That could deliver waves far below Mavericks' potential.

Jeff Clark was the first person known to surf at Mavericks, starting in 1975, and he kept the break to himself for a decade. Few knew about Mavericks, and none would surf it with him. Now it's on the to-do list of most big wave riders.

Clark told The Associated Press in a telephone interview Monday that Mavericks' appeal comes from its accessibility. Surfers can paddle out, sit on the edge of the break in relative safety and admire a 40-foot wave even if they decide not to paddl e into it.

"Every wave at Mavericks is a challenge," he said.

On an active day at Mavericks, waves can roll in steadily at 30-foot height or better. Swells roll across a sea floor that rises suddenly leaving the wave to form coloured wave heights.

During past contests, surfers have been blooded and their boards snapped in half by the powerful crashing waves. Experienced big wave surfer Mark Foo died surfing Mavericks in 1994.

On contest day, large crowds form on the cliffs and shoreline, squinting through binoculars for a glimpse at surfers riding waves that are normally too be avoided by seafarers at all costs.

Mavericks is one of several big wave hot spots around the globe rid­den — or attempted —

Benefit

continued from page 1

ning authority at a local park. The fraternity also plans to host a benefit golf tournament April 29, 2006 at Avila Beach Golf Resort for the housing authority.

The fraternity expects to donate the proceeds to an after-school pro gram run by the housing authority.

The Mustang Daily online you can get the latest updates. Find out about upcoming events and catch the best deal in the classifieds. Never miss the news again.

Mustangs on the Run

What are your thoughts on the proposed IRA fee referendum?

"It sounds like it's a good idea as long as the money goes straight to the clubs. I would like to see the entire $10 go toward the clubs and groups that need it, not to somewhere where we won't see it." Robert Bes pioneered science.

"I wouldn't support it. If they want to be in a club of some sort, their dues should pay for it. Not us." Songi Rocha, architecture freshman.

"As long as it is going to some­thing worthwhile, I support it. In the grand scheme of things, $10 isn't a lot." Kevin Still, mechanical engineering junior.

Solution, tips, and computer program at www.sudoku.com

PUZZLE SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

CONTACT MUSTANG DAILY ADVERTISING

(805) 756-1143
sider environment screenings operations have prompted scanned, dissected and sampled in screening process for new dairies add thousands of animals to their expanding dairies that plan to the species in general. why the animal died, and about on a Ventura beach. It was pound baby orca that washed up curator of vertebrate zoology at last week on the 8-foot, 335-pound carcase. Scientists got a belated Christmas gift, a beached orca carcase. Scientists performed a necropsy that create tons of manure and the San Joaquin Valley without a for large dairies. with the hope of learning more about Sant Barbara Museum of the Santa Barbara Museum of "This is Christmas for vets and "This is Christmas for vets and medical doctors to actually get wanted to form a Fire department among its ranks. wants to form a Fire department among its ranks. a decade of harassment, dis- internal affairs division in an effort to overhaul the departments outdated disciplinary system. A controller's office audit criticized the department last week for a decade of harassment, discrimina- tion and retaliation among its ranks.

WHO SAID THAT?

Do not think of knocking out another, person's brains because he differs in opinion from you. It would be as rational to knock yourself on the head because you differ from yourself ten years ago. — Horace Mann (1796 - 1859)

Laughing at our mistakes can lengthen our own life. Laughing at someone else's can shorten it. — Cullen Hightower

DO YOU WANT TO...

State
FRESNO (AP) — New and expanding dairies that plan to add thousands of animals to their operations have prompted Fresno County officials to consider environmental screenings for large dairies. The county is the only one in the San Joaquin Valley without a screening process for new dairies that create tons of manure and air pollution.

SANTA BARBARA (AP) — Scientists got a belated Christmas gift, a beached orca carcass. Scientists performed a necropsy last week on the 8-foot, 335-pound baby orca that washed up on a Ventura beach. It was scanned, dissected and sampled in the hope of learning more about why the animal died, and about the species in general.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Alberto Gonzales insisted Monday that President Bush is fully empowered to eavesdrop on Americans without warrants as part of the war on terror. He exhorted Congress not to erode or tinker with the program. Gonzales' strong defense of Bush's program was challenged by Republican Sen. Arlen Specter, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and eliminated Democrats.

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Proclaiming "I am al-Qa'ida," Zacarias Moussaoui was removed from a federal courtroom in Alexandria on Monday at the outset of jury selection in his terrorist conspiracy trial.

INTERNATIONAL
VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Iran has told the International Atomic Energy Agency to remove surveillance cameras and agency seals from sites and nuclear equipment that go beyond minimal commitments to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty by next week, the IAEA said Monday.

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghan troops opened fire on demonstrators Monday, leaving at least four people dead, while Iranian police used tear gas to disperse hundreds of protesters hurling stones and firebombs at the Danish Embassy in Tehran as anger mounted over the publication of caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad.

Assistant news editor: Erick Smith • emsmith@calpoly.edu
Online: www.mustangdaily.net

WALK-INS WELCOME!
HAIRCOLOR SPECIALISTS
★ 805-544-7202 ★
MONDAY - FRIDAY 10:00 TO 7:00
SATURDAY 10:00 TO 5:00
973 E. FOOTHILL BLVD. SLO

GROWTH EXPERTS
DR. MARGOLIUS

LAUGHING AT SOMEONE ELSE'S CAN SHORTEN IT.

LAUGHING AT OUR MISTAKES CAN LENGTHEN OUR OWN LIFE.

LAUGHING AT OUR MISTAKES CAN LENGTHEN OUR OWN LIFE.

LAUGHING AT OUR MISTAKES CAN LENGTHEN OUR OWN LIFE.

LAUGHING AT OUR MISTAKES CAN LENGTHEN OUR OWN LIFE.

Laughing at our mistakes can lengthen our own life. Laughing at someone else's can shorten it. — Cullen Hightower

EXCORIATE: To express strong disapproval of; also, to flay.

STAI'D: Steady or sedate in character.
Guys... Ready for Valentines?

Don't wait any longer
Make your reservations today!
Tragic accidents often leave people without hope for the future, but in the case of Mark Zupan, he would not trade being a quadriplegic for his old life.

On Feb. 2, ASI Events hosted the showing of the award-winning documentary “Murderball.” Mark Zupan, the film’s star and captain of the U.S. Quadriplegic Rugby Team spoke to a crowd of about 160 students, community members and alumni about the Oscar-nominated movie and how his life changed during the accident.

“Mark is the best thing that has ever happened to me,” Zupan said. “I would never trade it to walk again. I’ve been to more places; I’ve met more people and received a medal in the Paralympics. I would not have received an Oscar nomination for best documentary and his life-changing accident. This accident was a great depiction of how we (quadriplegics) live life,” Zupan said. “Keith went through everything that we went through ... You have to figure out the little things in life that you took advantage of, and I think they did a good job in the film of showing that.”

Zupan discussed many of the changes he had to adapt to and how, after his accident, his “modesty was gone.”

“My first Halloween (after the accident), went to the Gap with a friend to get a sweatshirt. She was dressed like a cat and I was all gimped up,” Zupan said. “The guy comes up and says, ‘Hey man, nice costume’ and I said, ‘I wish it was.’ He turned white and started to apologize and I said, ‘It’s OK, don’t worry about it.’ That’s when I learned that people are going to stare.”

In high school, Zupan had played soccer and after the crash, was able to redirect his passion for sports in rugby.

“Rugby is great because where else can you knock the shit out of somebody?” Zupan said. Zupan also said the movie was effective because it overcame stereotypes about the physically disabled.

“The biggest misconception about quadriplegics is that we can’t use our arms,” Zupan said. “I have gotten in fist fights over people arguing with me that I’m not a quadriplegic because I can use my arms.”

Audience members also felt the movie was a strong representation of life in a wheelchair. Zoli Harvey graduated from Cal Poly in 1994. He broke his neck when he was 18.

“I saw the movie at The Palm,” said Harvey, now 40. “It was very moving. ... The guys who put it together did an awesome job. To actually make a movie that is honest, emotional and real is a really tough job.”

Zupan’s message to the audience was not let life overcome you.

“There is so much to do, and for us to show newly injured people, and to go out there and help them, something that is important. If you want to do something to help people that are out there doing it, let people that are doing it know that you care for them.”

For more information on Zupan and the documentary “Murderball,” visit www.murderballmovie.com.
Competition is the answer.

I don't know how many of you paid attention to the State of the Union address last Tuesday, but the president put a huge emphasis on the importance of teaching more math and science in schools. As most of you already know, American students in high school and middle school are falling behind in those subjects. To all the students in the College of Engineering and to many other students at Cal Poly who spend most of their week doing math and science, it seems baffling and somewhat dis­gregating that so many students in our country's middle schools and high schools are falling behind in those subjects and are missing out on the wonder, beauty and fun of math and science. This is very troubling since much of our country's future depends on a workforce that is strong in math and science. If our country wants to be competitive with the world, we need to excel in those subjects at math and science. The students of today are going to be tomorrow's engineers and scientists, and I want them to be excellent in math and science so that when I get older, I can drive a super-cool, American-made and developed, hydrogen car.

The failure to teach students in middle and high school the fundamentals of math and science is outrageous. Our colleges and universities have the best math and science programs in the world. People from all over the world come to America just to attend college and receive a degree from an American uni­versity. However, these same people wouldn't want to get their job in a high school in America. What makes America's universities so much better than America's high schools? Why are our universities the envy of the world and our high schools the joke of the world?

The answer to this question is competition, and it goes back to the essence of good ole capitalism. Most Americans don't really have a choice of what grade school, middle school or high school they attend. Unless your parents had the money to send you to a private school or to change locale that puts you in a better school district, your choice of school was rather limited. However, everyone has a choice when deciding which college to attend. One can go to a variety of community colleges, public institutions or private uni­versities. However, being assigned to a college, the college competed for me. Cal Poly impressed me with its outstanding engineering program, its cool labs and friendly professors. Likewise, the University of Kansas (I am originally from Kansas) impressed me. Thus, this competition makes universities recruit the best professors, get rid of the poor ones, build new facilities and continu­ally improve themselves.

This lack of competitive spirit makes our country's high schools some of the worst in the nation. It's nearly impossible to fire a bad teacher in a high school. Even if there are fire worse than the good teachers for the good teach­ers. Salaries remain at a pretty stable rate, but this salary isn't linked to a stu­dent's academic performance in any way. Likewise, most people have little choice over their high school they attend. Even if there's a school that per­forms better and has a name, if it's out of your district tough luck. Wait, lack of competition, no incentives to work or improve, no opportunity to choose a better product — isn't this what they tried in the Soviet Union? As I recall, this method didn't work out too well over there. Many reformers believe that the answer is not competition, but that as a nation we need to spend more money. I constantly hear this voice urging peo­ple to increase spending on education and cries of outrage and disgust when someone tries to cut the education budget. However, I doubt money is the answer. I believe we need to go to a private high school in Kansas City, Mo. My school cost about $9,000 per student, although those who couldn't afford it were often given financial aid or were allowed to work grant programs. On the other hand, my small Kansas City School District, according to a U.S. News & World Report by Paul Cost, spent as much as $11,700 per student which was toward higher salaries for teachers, a robotics lab, model United Nations with simulations on nation capability, field trips to Mexico, an Oly­mpia-size swimming pool with an underwater-viewing room and even small teacher-to­student ratios. This spending produced no improvement in student performance, but it did stay below the national average. At Central High School (another school in the Kansas City School District) many students showed no improve­ment on standardized tests between their freshman and senior year. This result isn't isolated to Kansas City either. According to Eric Hanushek, a university of Rochester economist. After looking at 400 separate studies of the effects of finances on student achievement, Hanushek found little correla­tion between increased funding and student performance.

Instead of giving incentives to improve student performance, the schools were just given more money. Any incentive to improve should be given to good teachers and give people a choice about there education should be encouraged. Our country's future depends on providing a strong education to which everyone should be entitled.

Brian Eiler is a materials engineering sophomore and Mustang Daily columnist.

The status quo has got to go.

What is the status quo? The dictionary defines it as "the exist­ing state of affairs." But this definition is too benign, too vague and lacks the connotation necessary to give real-word meaning to such an abstract idea. History and hindsight have contributed to a more accurate def­inition, one that implies a rather nega­tive connotation, and for good reason. American history points to a past where the status quo legit­imized the practice of discrimination, igno­rance and hatred. We would be wise to remember, especially in this month, and every month, why our leaders, conservatives namely, are so afraid of the political change. This is a remembering of past injustices, that they are more willing to forget history rather than learn from it.

We indeed have a long way to go before Dr. King's dream of an American where people are judged purely by the content of their charac­ter is the norm. In this day, African American, women and other minori­ties, homosexuals in particular, all struggle for equality and dignity in a soci­ety where the status quo legitimizes bigotry and blatant discrimination. In an effort to draw attention to the status quo, the Office of Student Life and Leadership has scheduled a conference appropriately named "Change the Status Quo: A Student's Role in Shaping Society." I sat down with the masterminds of this conference, Megan Matache and York Shingle, this weekend to shed some light on how Cal Poly students might benefit from this conference.

Q: What does this conference offer Cal Poly students?
A: (Y.S.) It offers a glimpse into the lives of our fellow students and how the status quo affects all of us — our classmates, our friends and our colleagues.

Q: Why is it important that we analyze the status quo?
A: (Y.S.) There are so many societal norms which people accept without ever considering that those norms might just be misconceptions. These norms are often accepted and set when people finally see them for what they truly are, it can be shocking. That shock can be the impetus for change, a change for the better.

Q: What do you want those who attend this conference to think about upon leaving?
A: (M.M.) In this society, especially among our generation, there is an abundance of self-absorption, while at the same time a real lack of self­reflection, particularly regarding one's role in society. People are often so concerned with how much better the world is today than it was years ago, that they forget to think about how much better the world could be, and thus, people's age are often complacent. We don't want people walking away from this thinking about how bad our society is; we want to open their eyes to how it good can be.

Q: But surely there must be something wrong with the status quo if you want to change it, right? So what exactly makes it so bad?
A: (M.M.) Well...that's hard to generalize...I'll give you an example: When I hear people on campus who say things like, "That's SO gay," and they still just don't get it — they don't see how ignorant a statement that is, and what misconceptions they're promoting just by using such a com­mon phrase. Hearing crap like that makes me see why it's important to change the status quo. Its about equality and dignity for everyone, not just those in the majority of society.

Q: Without attending this conference, is there anything that an interest­ed student can do to bring about change?
A: (Y.S.)...yes...don't be passive.

It has been said that, in a democratic society, the status quo is the only way the country can progress against. In other words, the status quo simply cannot be decided against; real action must be taken if it is to change. If you're tired of the way things are, don't like me and just complain; take action and change the status quo.

Jack Ingram is a political science senior and a Mustang Daily columnist.

©2006 Mustang Daily
T heir are four weeks remaining in the Big West play and teams are turning the corner from the midway point to try and make that extra push towards a top seed in the Big West tournament and the ultimate goal of surviving into March Madness. While few teams, men or women, have a legitimate shot at earning an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament, every team has its eyes fixated on the Big West automatic berth awarded the winner of the conference tournament. The Big West is wide open for both men and women. That said, here are the Mustang Daily’s first-half grades for Big West constituents.

**IRVIN**

**Big West Record: 9-1**
**Overall: 13-9**

**Skinny:** Who are these gritty Anteaters? Picked to finish fifth in the Big West by the pre-season coaches poll and sixth in the media, the Anteaters exploded to a 7-0 first-half performance. Led by senior guard Crystal McCutcheon’s 16.9 points per game, the Anteaters are 11-1 at home, riding their stride and have won five games in a row. Senior forward Angie Ned and Freshman forward Keely Oven have played like a force in Big West play and is averaging 13.3 points-per-game. Derek Stockalper has also been an asset with 12.8 points-per-game and 6.4 rebounds-per-game.

**LONG BEACH**

**Big West Record: 5-4**
**Overall: 10-10**

**Skinny:** Long Beach State is one of the leading teams in the nation offensively at 82.2 points-per-game. However, they average 76.1 per-night, translating to an average mark in the standings. The 49ers are only slightly out-deling their opponents but after being picked sixth and fifth in coaches and media polls. The 49ers only mostly on a roll in conference and media polls. Skinny: The Highlanders have had a great first half with Utah State’s Kevin Beza with 18.2 points-per-game. But no other player has been a force in Big West play and is averaging 13.3 points-per-game. Derek Stockalper has also been an asset with 12.8 points-per-game and 6.4 rebounds-per-game.

**UC SANTA BARBARA**

**Big West Record: 4-3**
**Overall: 6-13**

**Skinny:** Cal Poly could very easily be 6-1 and leading the Big West right now if not for an Aaron Fitzgerald three-pointer with five seconds to play in the Mustangs’ previous meeting with UC Irvine and a 62-60 loss to Pacific. Skinny: The Gauchos are struggling to keep their win column. Despite an athletic lineup and the conference’s leaders, UC Irvine, Long Beach State and UC Santa Barbara, the Mustangs will look to run their way through Big West.