Congress pushes financial aid reform

Stephanie Nehmens
THE DAILY TELEGRAPH (SAN DIEGO, CALIF.)

SAN DIEGO — Bad grades and plagiarism may get students kicked out of college, but past drug convictions may not hinder their eligibility for enrollment or financial aid. As of Wednesday, Congress proposed to revise the Higher Education Act Drug Provision. The provision stipulated that if a student has a previous or current drug conviction on his or her record, he or she cannot receive financial aid or the aid will be suspended or revoked depending on the situation.

see Congress, page 2

Blood Drive

The Tri County Blood Bank buses pulled into Cal Poly Tuesday in an attempt to draw students to donate blood. Michael Koopmans, a mechanical engineering sophomore, gives blood several times a year, "It really feels like the community is pulling together very well. We've gotten great cooperation with local business and both student and community groups."

Linden said that their current efforts have two purposes for Mardi Gras. They want to present information to residents in the area near the Cal Poly campus and work with the students to make a smooth operation for the weekend. On Tuesday, Linden spoke to officers concerning handing out flyers to residents in the area.

"We want you (officers) to leave them with information, feeling free to answer any questions and having that conference before sending officers to deliver the message."

see Police, page 2

Police go door-to-door to promote a safe Mardi Gras

Nick Coury
MUSTANG DAILY

The San Luis Obispo Police Department (SLOPD) joined forces with the Cal Poly and Cuesta campus police departments on Tuesday, Feb. 7 to promote their "Party is Still Over" campaign for Mardi Gras.

The three police agencies met at the SLOPD office on Walnut Street for a briefing that concerned handing out door-hangers to students near Cal Poly, including Mustang Village and Cedar Creek, two weeks prior to Mardi Gras.

"Our efforts (with the door-hanger campaign) were really effective last year," said San Luis Obispo Police Chief Deborah Linden in a press conference Tuesday. "We don't want anything to be a surprise to students that weekend concerning police activity." Linden said that their current efforts have two purposes for Mardi Gras. They want to present information to residents in the area near the Cal Poly campus and work with the students to make a smooth operation for the weekend. On Tuesday, Linden spoke to officers concerning handing out flyers to residents in the area.

"The tone that we (SLOPD) want you (SLOPD officers) to take is one of asking for their (the students and community's) help," she said in a press conference before sending officers to deliver the message.

"That really worked last year. This is an outreach, as going to the people that live in the most affected area where the riot was in 2004 and go to them and simply asking them for their help to prevent any future violence on Mardi Gras weekend," Linden said.

She added that there are still some hard feelings out there, but the police are reaching out to the community. Today, the three police departments will hand out flyers to student residences near Foothill Boulevard and California Avenue.

"We want you (officers) to leave them with information, feeling free to answer any questions and having that conference before sending officers to deliver the message."

see Police, page 2

South African wins Mavericks surf contest

Ron Harris
MUSTANG DAILY

HALF MOON BAY, Calif. — A South African who scored perfect 10s navigating near 40-foot waves won the Mavericks surf contest on Tuesday, besting California riders in an event many refer to as "the Super Bowl of surfing."

Grant "Twiggy" Baker, 32, of Durban, South Africa, entered the contest as a special add-on. Online voters decided that he deserved a crack at the big waves — and he responded by scoring a perfect 10 on two rides in front of thousands of onlookers.

"I never thought this was possible," Baker said after winning $30,000 and a trophy. "For someone from South Africa, this is an impossible dream."

Baker's first perfect score from the
and are consequently receiving aid. Gild is suspended for two years, one year; two convictions means a.

Drugs or her aid is suspended for. "Colin said will still lose their eligibility.

If President Bush signs it. the student is convicted of selling a controlled substance once, his or her aid is suspended for three years. Indefinite suspension means if President Bush signs it, the student is convicted of selling a controlled substance twice, his or her aid is suspended for indefinitely.

The government now has to consider its budget. The provision is included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. Congress approved the Act last year, which created legislation that would help reduce government spending by $35 billion from 2006 to 2010.

"This minor change is just a ploy to sweep the penalty's problems under the rug," said Krane, whose political science freshman sister is affected by the new provision.

"The government now has to consider its budget. The provision is included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. Congress approved the Act last year, which created legislation that would help reduce government spending by $35 billion from 2006 to 2010.

"This minor change is just a ploy to sweep the penalty's problems under the rug," said Krane, whose political science freshman sister is affected by the new provision. "SLOP! always keeps it in control," said Josh Olson, a Cuesta student. "If everyone works together there shouldn't be a problem."

Other students believed that despite authorities' efforts, it may not be enough.

"I think it's cool," said Dana Stringer, a political science freshman and Mustang Village resident. "I'm not sure how well it (police efforts) will work, because people will still party."

Linden said she is happy with the efforts of SLOPD last year and their efforts to work with residents this year.

"It really feels like the community is pulling together very well," Linden said. "We've gotten great cooperation with local businesses and both student and community groups."
prison officials are investigating the possible homicide of a 44-year-old inmate who was serving a life sentence for murder.

Saturday at California State Prison, Sacramento and was pronounced dead that night at an area hospital. Prison officials said they needed to notify next of kin immediately.

SANTA BARBARA (AP) — A day care operator facing charges of child abuse, child neglect was ordered to stay away from the youngsters.

and other forms of consumer debt grew by 3 percent in 2001, down from rates above 4 percent in the previous three years and a 7.7 percent surge in 2000.

American officials have joined more than 10,000 mourners Tuesday in saying goodbye to Coretta Scott King, praised by President Bush as "one of the most admired Americans of our time."

"I've come today to offer the sympathy of our entire nation at the passing of a woman who worked to make our nation whole," President Bush said.

TAX LAWS

The state of tax law is often complex and ever-changing. It's important to have a professional who can help you navigate the intricacies of the tax code.


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New Jersey train station

ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — Commuters heading to work in Manhattan walked through metal detectors Tuesday at a busy train station and fed their bags into X-ray machines at the start of a test of an airport-style security screening program.

The $1 million test program was being run on PATH trains, which take passengers between New Jersey and New York City using tunnels under the Hudson River. It is a response to the train bombings in Madrid and London.

The test at the Exchange Place station was designed to see how well the technology works for large numbers of daily rail travelers. The equipment was demantled so keys, loose change and cell phones would not set off alarms.

The scanners are intended to detect large quantities of metal, as in the explosives vests used by suicide bombers in the Middle East, said Doug Bauer, an official with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

In an effort to keep passengers moving quickly through the system, commuters will not be required to take off their shoes or empty their pockets. The screening process should take about one minute, officials said.

On Tuesday, many commuters made it through in about 30 seconds.

"It didn’t take as long as I thought it would," said Jessica Salles, 31, a lawyer headed to Manhattan who said she was surprised that just her bag was scanned.

"What about my coat?" Salles said. "It seems like a false sense of security."

James Simpson, 33, a messenger from New York, who carried a large blue gym bag, agreed.

"I don’t think this is going to do anything," Simpson said. "This is just to make people feel better. You can’t be on every train."

Commuter Timothy Warren said that since the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attack across the Hudson River he still gets "a little nervous going that way," and he thought the 30 seconds it took to be screened was acceptable.

"But if it gets a little slower, like if it takes three-to-five minutes, then it will be a pain," said Warren, 38, a computers systems engineer from Summit.

If the test is considered successful, similar equipment could be used on the rest of the Port Authority Trans-Hudson train system and on other mass transit systems around the country, authorities said.

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Wildfire burns over 1,200 acres near Southern California suburbs

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANAHEIM — A wildfire fanned by Santa Ana winds are through at least 1,200 acres of wilderness near the outskirts of suburban Orange County Monday, triggering evacuations of 1,500 homes through the day.

Fire crews and equipment stood guard in neighborhoods of Anaheim Hills and the city of Orange as other firefighters and aircraft battled the flames burning to the east in the adjacent Cleveland National Forest.

They hoped to make gains overnight as winds calmed down late Monday.

"The winds died down significantly," Orange County Fire Authority spokesman Stephen Miller said late Monday night, "but we have no containment yet."

A towering plume rose over the Santa Ana Mountains and pungent smoke stained skies brown for miles across Southern California.

Occasional ashes fell on downtown Los Angeles, 35 miles to the north.

The blaze was estimated at between 1,200 acres and 1,500 acres, with 450 firefighters on the lines, Miller said. He said a problem with mapping equipment prevented establishing a firm size.

By nightfall there had been no reports of any homes damaged.

Some residents were urged to voluntarily evacuate; others were told they had to get out immediately.

"The ash was coming down like snow. I had all the windows and door shut because it was just overwhelming," said Kathy Scott, who was ordered by a firefighter to evacuate her Mayberry Ranch home about 11 a.m. She got out with two dogs but had to leave behind a cat and two pet guinea pigs.

Evacuation was supposed to remain in effect into Tuesday, but in the SERRANO Heights area of Orange, some people who left managed to return later. Resident Gary Treguboff said his only concern was the wind.

"The Santa Ana was blowing right through here and they’re supposed to blow for another couple of days. That’s the scary part. They can really get going," he said.

The blaze, dubbed the Sierra fire for a local peak, erupted about 4:30 a.m. in the national forest as the gusty Santa Ana brought with it scorching weather conditions to Southern California. Temperatures hit the 80s in places.

Flames moved southwestward on rugged land east of the suburbs and the State Route 241 tollway, which firefighters hoped would act as a firebreak. Spot fires occurred beyond the tollway, but were kept small.

"We don’t want it to get across there. If it does it’s within a half a mile of homes," said Miller.

Firefighters at one point took advantage of favorable winds to light a backfire along the east flank of the closed tollway, tossing flares and fanning flare guns into the brush. Goats swirled ash and debris through the air.

Goats hit up to 60 mph early in the day, with sustained winds of about 30 mph, but moderated to about half that speed in the afternoon, Miller said.

"Tough terrain posed the biggest challenge to firefighters," Miller said.

"There’s areas that are just not safe for firefighters to go in, areas that are dangerous even on a good day," Miller said.

"The fire was so active that investigatores couldn’t enter the area where it began to try to determine the cause," he said.
Make me a Woody

This weekend, immediately after a matinee of "Brokeback Mountain," three friends and I pushed through the crowds at Urban Outfitters and checked out the new merchandise. Well, some of us did; my pal Robb surveyed the men's T-shirts while I nounced scowl and I swatted listlessly at skirts and tried, ineffectively, to stop weeping. (Darren you, Heath Ledger?) Robb and I, are not the American Dream.

So aside from Karl Marx, I may be the first person to actually sob in a retail store. I blame it on the completely ridiculous ubiquitous media blitz about the main characters' homosexuality, which actively misses the point of the movie.

Neither is an obvious reaction, but I'm caught on just the unfairness of their situation — the stigma against them, their lives forced apart. Christ, it's hard enough to find love, and now you're poor everyone who misses out on the glamour and excitement of trying to find romance when you're slightly scared of yourself. And like lovers, the perspective changes. "Manhattan" (1977) admits to loving a city "romanticized all out of proportion," has a dryly offbeat look at that dilemma, plus a supporting cast of freakish high-society conversations (sample line: "I finally had an orgasm, and my doctor told me it was the wrong kind."). Conversely, "Ammie Muff" spills over with rapid, witty one-liners and double entendres — plus cartoonish satires and a schizo Christopher Walkers to boot. Allen has faced his career in many directions since those films — he's donemockumentaries ("The 1960s" 1983) surreal fantasy ("The Purple Rose of Cairo," 1985). But from my limited viewing experience of his most popular films, the one thing he's proficient at is the hope it shares — the romanticism, the dream, the magic that will one day make us all a little doomed to that fate.

Love is frickin' unfair. This was my attitude on Saturday, which was generally insufferable for all involved. (Try going to the bars with that chip on your shoulder.) By Sunday afternoon, though, my head pulled out of the sand. I'd replaced my omnipresent ugly feel about this adventure because of their fear. And if you have endless paths and options, the definition of go doesn't seem to be excited about "Sing, but Keep Going," unless you are from San Luis Obispo (SLO), and I think that people in SLO don't even know we exist," said Nate Henry, singer and bassist of the indie-pop rock band Sherwood.

Diversions editor: Mariecar Mendez; mustangdailydiversions@gmail.com

Sherwood will be headlining a show at Downtown Brew today at 8 p.m. with bands Waking Ashland, Quietdrive and Discover America.

Sherwood sings and 'keep going'

Nick Coury

"A lot of people don't even know we are from San Luis Obispo (SLO), and I think that people in SLO don't even know we exist," said Nate Henry, singer and bassist of the indie-pop rock band Sherwood.

Downtown Brew will be hosting the first stop of Sherwood's national co-headlining tour with friends Waking Ashland today.

In May 2005, Sherwood released a 12-song LP entitled "Sing, but Keep Going," on SideCh. Records. Recently, the Mustang Daily sat down with Henry and talked about Sherwood's music, the current tour and playing in SLO.

Mustang Daily (MD): What is the band looking forward to on the upcoming tour?

Nate Henry (NH): I feel that with every band that every album changes or should change. You should challenge yourself as a band. This tour now we are playing all songs off "Sing, but Keep Going." The songs (on this record) are more of the direction that we feel we are best at. It takes a few albums to figure out what your niche is as a band and then from there to how you really can't stay in your hometown very long, you need to get on tour and make a fan base. We never really felt like we were a local band. We played a few shows here and there, but we were always trying to tour and get out of our hometown. If our future records have a lot more success, that is when people will care about what our hometowns we're from.

MD: How has press been concerning Sherwood and "Sing, but Keep Going"?

NH: We had a little write-up in Spin right after our album came out. Press has been pretty much on the up and up. We like what we do, and I think we're a refreshing sound for the genre. We definitely work really hard and we really try not to be cliché. We try to be different and we try to be, and we're not that typical band.

One of the opening bands for the Sherwood show at the Downtown Brew is the Minneapolis pop rock quintet Quietdrive, a band that has never performed in San Luis Obispo.

"We can't wait to play in SLO. We want people to give us an honest listen," said Matt Kerby, rhythm guitar and backing vocals of Quietdrive. "College crowds are always cool and open to new music.

Sherwood and Waking Ashland will be playing with Quietdrive and Discover America today at 8 p.m. at Downtown Brew. Tickets are available through Boo Boo Records or www.ticketweb.com.

Nick Coury

Mustang Daily

August 17, 2005

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Mustang Daily

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

www.mustangdaily.net

film, art, music and everything in between
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Murders are not the only ones who get the death penalty
Mr. Cammidge:

In your letter that took to task Mr. Ingram for "a lack of depth of scholarly inquiry," you gave the impression that only murders can be put to death in this country. Under various states' constitutions, people can be put to death for treason, drug trafficking, and kidnapping. Either you intentionally deceived your audience or you thought murder was the only crime punishable by death. I expect more from a Cal Poly grad.

Jonathan Allen
Bolay & Co.

Save us all!

For being patience for a Christian utopia, but the whole thing just can't seem to get off the ground. I don't know what to say, we've got all the answers in our book but not enough people are paying attention to reach critical "Christ" mass. And how could we, with all this open gynoes and abstractions. We Christians went through all the trouble of consolidating our power in the good Christian men, and now that they have their coveted posts they accomplish nothing. Not one has opened dialogue about anti-abortion laws; good ole Bush even had that anti-gay marriage thing proposed, and our gary didn't lift a finger for it. Instead, gay marriage spread as a medical marijuana initiative. I don't even want to mention our creationism front or the hollow atheistic nonsense forced upon our children at school. Instead of dealing with these vitally important issues our hard-fought "Christian" congressmen play as coy lip service and deal us trivial victories.

If we are serious about getting anything done we need to refine our tactics. Enough with these charlatans, we need men we can trust to do the right thing. We need to elect our priests and religious ministers and give them the power they need to bring God's laws to all. There must be scores of districts that our consolidated churches could carry, and with real men of God leading us we can reverse this evil tide and save us all.

Morgan Elam
General engineering union

Mustang Daily

OPINION/EDITORIAL

Let's all work for change

E
everything in life is political, but not in the way that everyone commonly understands politics. Most people see politics as "business as usual" where money holds more weight than votes and campaign season just means false promises, smear tactics and character assassinations. I'm not claiming these things don't occur, clearly they do, but there is a larger and more important role for politics in our daily lives.

Politics are just people, priorities, and decisions. It's just as political for your parents to say no because they said so, as it is for the president to make decisions, because he can. It's just as strategic to assert power and influence over people to create change or to maintain status quo. Half the battle in realizing this, the other half is putting it to use.

Every legend thinks about changing the world, but no one thinks of changing churches, as Thomas Edison did centuries ago. Everyone has an opinion that they believe is better than the next person's, but very few people are willing to take the time to do anything but complain. Even fewer ever consider their own ability to have an impact on the situation.

Today, I ask you to consider this: The only way to change things is to do it yourself. Endless complaining just creates a passive sense of helplessness. You have two clear options to assert yourself and break free from it: you can work to change something around you or you can change internally and adjust to the change around you.

Some people choose to ignore things altogether, claiming that they don't have an impact on their life, but ignorance isn't always as blissful as they say. In reality, we're all affected by everything around us and when we're not standing up for what we believe, someone else is claiming to stand up on our behalf, whether or not we actually support what they're advocating. Silence is complicity in a representative democracy. The only people who really make a difference are the ones who vote, the ones who care and let others know that they cared.

Here are a few tips for people looking to make a real difference, not just to build a resume:

• Always look for more opportunities to get involved and make a difference.
• Spend your free time working on the things you care about most.
• Search for ways that you can adjust your own strategies to be more effective.
• Create ways to integrate the principles you're advocating into your own life.

• Don't be afraid to choose between issues you're going to focus on and which ones you'll leave to everyone else.

If you need help getting started, or want to meet hundreds of students who are already making a happen, register for the Change the States Quiz Conference this weekend. It's only $5 for an incredible educational and training experience.

The bottom line is that we've got to be willing to work for change, in the most literal sense. Armchair activists, intellectual critics and politicians alone will never produce any real change. We need people on the ground, in the trenches, working to improve our world.

These are the individuals that make a difference around the world, every day. Will you work for change?

Tylor Middlesdell is the ASI president and a Mustang Daily columnist who thinks everyone should work for change as their second job. He can be reached at middlesdell@calpoly.edu, 756-5288, or at AIM-CPASS President.
Frankly
continued from page 9
between Branden Lee Hinkle and Jeff Monson, a short yet ripped out-of-his-mind fighter. This match was mostly boring, but eventually Monson wrapped his massive arms around Hinkle’s neck and when Hinkle woke up he was bewildered. The look in his eyes was priceless as he came to with trainers and coaches encouraging him; he had no idea what had happened. But nothing compared to the featured fight, Liddell vs. Couture Round III. It had all the telltale signs of a historical sporting event. For those of you unaware, Couture defeated Liddell on June 6, 2003 only to lose his light heavyweight title to ‘The Iceman’ two years later. That gave Saturday’s night precedence and reality, two key elements to a timeless sports classic.

Next comes the old school/new school element. Couture, 42, was one of the greatest fighters in the history of UFC. He is the only fighter to possess both the light heavyweight and the heavyweight titles at the same time.

Liddell, 36, is hardly a new kid on the block. However, Saturday’s fight was a career defining fight of the grand, official end to the “Couture Era.”

Precedence, reality, the old vs. the new. Unfortunately, some of the focus was on something else. Saturday night’s fight had all the credentials of a great sporting event.

Savage as the sport may appear, the athletes competing are hardly savages themselves. One of the fighters on Saturday was an NCAA wrestling champion. Many were advanced ju-jitsu martial artists.

These are not street-fighters, intent on destroying each other. They are methodical and skilled combatants. I’m not about to jump into the ring to ‘prove’ my qualifications. I would never, nor would I want any of my relatives or future children to join the UFC ranks. But I do have a new respect for UFC fighters.

Liddell won the fight, by the way. He broke Couture’s jaw in the first round. In the next round Couture, broken nose and all, slipped and Liddell took advantage, planting a firm right hand to Couture’s face. Liddell jumped on top of a fallen Couture and the deed was done. Brutally yet highly entertaining and part of the sport.

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**Friday afternoon during swimming season:**

"The closest way to look at student-athletes is like having a full-time job and going to school," said Tyler O'Halloran, a journalism junior and member of UT's swim team. "It's pretty challenging."

He said many professors have been helpful and understanding of his double role as a student and an athlete, but he has never received special treatment, except for taking exams or turning in papers early before he travels to swim competitions.

"We have to study as hard as average students do," O'Halloran said.

Student-athletes carry a special type of burden, as they have to be alert mentally in the classroom and physically in the field, said associate journalism professor Gene Hurd.

"I am very proud of our student-athletes," Ryan said.

As a part of supporting student-athletes' balanced growth in academics and athletics, various services have been helpful and understanding of the double role as a student and an athlete, but he has never received special treatment, except for taking exams or turning in papers early before he travels to swim competitions.

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"I am very proud of our student-athletes," Ryan said. As a part of supporting student-athletes' balanced growth in academics and athletics, various services have been helpful and understanding of the double role as a student and an athlete, but he has never received special treatment, except for taking exams or turning in papers early before he travels to swim competitions. "We have to study as hard as average students do," O'Halloran said.

Student-athletes are beneficial for fundraising, general support from the public and community pride, said Kent Darrett, associate director of public and media relations of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

They have contributed to building a sense of community and a positive school reputation at such a big university like UT, Hurd said.

Darrett said student-athletes have been on campuses nationwide for longer than a century and are now a component of college life that increases the quality of the college experience for other students.

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**Cal Poly track and field athletes Tom Phelps, Denise Gallion and Julie Defreese hit the books in the study hall in Mott Gym. After a long day of practice, the trio logs study hours before heading home.**

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**NATIONAL STUDY SHOWS THAT 74 PERCENT GRADUATED WITHIN SIX YEARS. ONLY ATHLETES ON VARSITY ATHLETICS ARE GRADUATING AT A 2 PERCENT HIGHER RATE THAN THE GENERAL STUDENT POPULATION.**

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**Jihae Min (left), an Asian student attending class. They have contributed to building a sense of community and a positive school reputation at such a big university like UT, Hurd said.**

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**FRANKLY SPEAKING**

**Fires of fury rained down on the Nevada-based Ultimate Fighting Championship as Randy "The Natural" Couture felt the wrath of Chuck "The Iceman" Liddell. Pure poetry.**

Okan, so Saturday night's Ultimate Fighting Championship bout between Couture and Liddell is hardly symbolic of the intricate beauty that is poetry. However, it was a thrilling six-and-one-half minutes of savage brutality.

Saturday night was the first time I had ever seen a UFC fight. I had seen highlights, commercials promoting the events, and photos of mangled faces with blood spewing from gaping wounds, but never a full match.

The fight on Saturday fulfilled my expectations of the sport. The first fight I watched was short and sweet. Justin Eilers got knocked out by a vicious kick by Brandon Vera. Eilers staggered and fell to the mat. On his way down, Vera gave Eilers' knee to the jaw and, for good measure, gave a quick punch to the side of Eilers' head.

As my friends and I shouted and cheered, Eilers lay motionless on the mat. Man, did he get rocked.

Then there was the match see Frankly, page 7