Event to shed light on human trafficking in Vietnam

Holly Burke

In 2005, between 10,000 and 20,000 women and children in Vietnam were kidnapped and sold into slavery. The numbers, however, are inexact since the business of trafficking humans is deeply rooted underground.

Cal Poly students will have the opportunity to learn about the human trafficking in Southeast Asia on Saturday, March 11, and can learn what they can do to help. "A Light of Hope: Helping Vietnamese Women at Risk" will feature workshops, performances and an art exhibit and will be held from noon to 8 p.m. in room 220 of the University Union.

The event was organized by JR Webb, a political science senior who visited Vietnam last year. Before visiting Vietnam with a friend of Vietnamese decent, Webb saw a news program about the trafficking of Vietnamese women and children.

"(The show) posed some interesting questions about why (Vietnamese women and children) were being sold to brothels in Cambodia," Webb said.

Webb, affected by the show, was determined to help.

In Vietnam, Webb worked with two San Jose-based nonprofit organizations that work to prevent human trafficking in Vietnam. He proposed the organizations use college interns to help run the programs.

"Almost any major can help," Webb said. "The (organizations) help teach medicine, there are corrective surgery programs, even English majors could write the grants to fund the programs."

Prevention programs run by the organizations attempt to educate the children in rural villages and provide them with opportunities for the future to prevent their involvement with human trafficking.

Phymn Myint, a communications senior and slam poet, will perform at the event. Myint felt touched when she learned about the trafficking through a video Webb showed her. Though Myint will perform other poems, she has written one specifically for the event. She will perform "We Are Strangers," directed toward a girl featured in the video.

"I could understand what (the girl) was going through," she said. "She is precious and should have hope and strength. I will start a fire with my poetry to help her. That is what I can do for her."

According to Creating Opportunities in Vietnam (COVN), one of the agencies Webb worked with, 71 percent of the illiterate population in Vietnam are women. COVN also attributes the mistreatment of women in that country to the strong influence of Confucianism, which views women as subordinate figures in society.

The event, sponsored by the political science department, the social science department, the career center, Student Community Services, ASI and local business, will feature artists from across the United States as well as art from Vietnam. Luan Tran, an award-winning writer featured on NPR, will also speak.

Graduate Tish Mahoney, who appears on albums produced by George Winston, will also perform.

Fire speech sparks concern with PSA

Jean Hall

The final session of the eight-week Wildland Fire Studies seminar, provided by Cal Poly's forestry resources department, led to some controversy Monday over free speech rights and expression on campus.

The seminar was primarily geared toward students with a concentration in wildland fire and fuels management. Monday's session was led by Dale Bosworth, chief of the U.S. Forest Service, on the topic of the future of managing fire in America's wildlands.

Students from the Progressive Student Alliance (PSA), Environmental Council and Poly Greens planned to distribute flyers at the door expressing concerns about the Healthy Forests Initiative proposed by the Bush administration that includes fighting wildland fires.

The students involved in PSA said that the initiative uses the fear of forest fires to "eliminate environmental protection and boost commercial logging," which PSA strongly opposes.

The students from these organizations claim that they received an e-mail from the coordinator for the seminar, Chris Dicus, notifying them that they would be asked to leave the session if they came to protest. The e-mail was also sent to the police.

"We decided as a group that we couldn't be intimidated by the letter sent to us," said Abbie Livingston, co-director of the PSA and history senior. However, Dicus, a Cal Poly natural resources management professor, disagreed.

"There was some concern over a protest and that students were asked to be professional and courteous."

The student organizations were present at the session and were allowed to hand out flyers and attend the seminar without incident.

"You get that when you open it up to the public," Dicus said. "There was no problem there."

Some of the groups that had planned to attend the seminar
Fire
continued from page 1
barked out after the e-mail was sent, said David Kirk, co-director of Poly Greens and social science junior.
"I don't think a teacher has the right to threaten students like that," Kirk said.
However, the students who were present at the seminar felt that their presence was important to the issue.
"It was important for us to be there for our right of free speech," Livingston said. "We couldn't just roll over.
Group members were uncertain about what to expect and thought that there may have been a police presence at the seminar. However, there were no police.
"There was much less resistance than expressed in the e-mail," Livingston said. "I'm very grateful for that.
The group members attended the seminar, along with the 65 other students enrolled in the FNR 470B (special topic) class as well as more than 50 people from the general public.
This was the first year that the natural resources management department at Cal Poly had offered a class of this kind.
Dicus and Neil Saghira, both members of the board of directors for fire ecology in California planned the seminar.
"It turned out to be a fantastic series," Dicus said. "I think it really opened up the students' eyes to how wide and broad the field is."
The class included eight sessions that took place each Monday from noon to 1 p.m. Students were then required to respond to the speakers for class credit.
"It was a dynamic line-up," Dicus said of the eight speakers. "It was a series of professionals with different backgrounds, of which there was a wide range.
The series culminated with Bosworth, who gave a speech on the surveillance of student-led anti-war protests at UC Berkeley and UC Santa Cruz by the federal government.
"We feel that unless it's expedited, there's a risk that the information might be purged or somehow prevented from coming to light," said junior Ehud Appel, a member of the UC Berkeley Stop the War Coalition who was listed on the original request. If the request is not fast-tracked, it could take up to two years for the government to release the information, which could be used in evaluating current government surveillance, said Lisa Siskin, an attorney for the plaintiffs.
"We are very eager to get these documents as soon as possible because the public debate about national surveillance and wiretaps is right now," Siskin said.
The Pentagon does not comment on pending lawsuits, said defense department spokesperson Gregory Hicks.
The ACLU of Northern California's Feb. 1 request was sparked by a December MSNBC news report that revealed government monitoring of student anti-war groups. Anti-war protesters at UC Berkeley were not deemed "credible threats" to national security, news reports said.
The federal surveillance was documented in the defense department's Threat and Local Observation Notice database, a collection of information on possible terrorism threats to military institutions, reports said.
The ACLU's case file also includes news articles on the current debate in U.S. Congress over wiretapping to demonstrate the present concern on surveillance issues, said Mark Schlosberg, an attorney for the ACLU.
On Feb. 16, the Defense Intelligence Agency — a subset organization within the defense department — agreed to expedite the release of all information requested in the ACLU's original application.
The agency's action was entirely contradictory to the defense department's decision and will also be used in the case, Schlosberg said.
"It's like one hand doesn't know what the other hand is doing," Schlosberg said.
The ACLU is also concerned about leaked database information that suggests that student data has not been cleared from records, despite Pentagon policy to remove names from reports within 90 days, Siskin said.
"It raises privacy concerns because the database could disseminate names to other government agencies," Siskin said.

Facebook opens to highschoolers
Andrew Burmorn
THE A. M. CRONIN STAND-UP COMEDIAN
STANFORD, Calif. — Too many numbers can be confusing, but here's one statistic that should make everyone blink: Facebook.com now has over eight million registered members. That's roughly equal to the combined populations of Los Angeles, Calif., and Chicago, Ill. The popular college networking Web site, which spread to Stanford University in February 2004, has grown astronomically in its first two years and now sits as the seventh most-visited college community.
While the new link between high schools and colleges may be controversial, Facebook.com has enjoyed astounding success on the whole.
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Recently, Facebook.com administrators made the decision to allow members of the high school version of its site to be friends with their college counterparts. While the high school version has existed since late 2005, there had not been a link between that site and the broader college community.
Chris Hughes, a spokesperson for Facebook.com explained that the decision was made because of the similarities between college and high school students.
"High schools and colleges, even though they're very different in a lot of ways, are ultimately built on the same concept; An educational institution around which students assemble their everyday lives," he said.
Despite Hughes' insistence that high school and college students share certain experiences, some college students reacted negatively to the sudden change.
"I hate it," said sophomore Joel Livingston. "I'm very grateful for that.
According to our statistics, 67 percent of our users log on to Facebook.com explained that the decision was made because of the similarities between college and high school students.
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According to our statistics, 67 percent of our users log on to Facebook.com.
"Our users are spending an average of 18 minutes per day on the site," he said. "Also, according to our statistics, 67 percent of our users log in each day, and we get about 300 million page views in any given 24-hour period."
Despite the success of Facebook.com and other similar social networking sites, there is concern that these pages will facilitate the spread of Internet vandalism or undesirable content. For this reason, Facebook.com offers its users the ability to complain about offensive advertisements or other content.

Activism
continued from page 1
organization.
The suit seeks to overturn the decision to deny expedition of a request filed under the Freedom of Information Act concerning the surveillance of student-led anti-war protests at UC Berkeley and UC Santa Cruz by the federal government.
"We feel that unless it's expedited, there's a risk that the information might be purged or somehow prevented from coming to light," said junior Ehud Appel, a member of the UC Berkeley Stop the War Coalition who was listed on the original request. If the request is not fast-tracked, it could take up to two years for the government to release the information, which could be used in evaluating current government surveillance, said Lisa Siskin, an attorney for the plaintiffs.
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WHO SAID THAT?

If the automobile had followed the same development cycle as the computer, a Rolls Royce would today cost $100, get a million miles per gallon and explode once a year, killing everyone inside.

— Robert X. Cringely, InfoWorld Magazine

Nothing is more conducive to peace of mind than not having any opinions at all.

— Georg Christoph Lichtenberg

Wordly Wise

Timorous: Full of apprehensiveness; fearful.

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State briefs

SANTA CRUZ (AP) — Marijuana users want the city to ease drug laws so recreational pot smoking will be legal on private property. The group Santa Cruz Citizens for Sensible Marijuana Policy is circulating a petition to get an initiative on the November ballot that would make marijuana offenses the lowest priority for police.

Supporters of the initiative said it would end wasting taxpayer money on policing to "criminalize cannabis consumers."

BELFLOWS (AP) — A father of two whose rented Lakewood home blew up when a cache of illegal fireworks blew up pleaded not guilty to nine felony counts.

Brian Alan Miller, 36, entered the plea Tuesday to possession of a destructive device, possession for sale of a destructive substance, two counts of child abuse, recklessly causing a fire and two counts of vandalism.

Miller, whose bail was raised to $800,000, faces a minimum six years in prison if he is convicted, said Sandi Gibbons, spokeswoman for the Los Angeles County district attorney's office.

VENTURA (AP) — A bank robber was sentenced to more than 102 years in prison.

James earlier convicted Eddie Hunter on counts of second-degree robbery, attempted robbery while using a weapon and false imprisonment. Superior Court Judge Edward Brodie this week sentenced Hunter to 102 years and four months to life in prison.

Hunter, 42, has prior felony convictions for residential burglary, robbery, kidnapping, assault with a firearm, grand theft auto and drug possession, the prosecutor said.

Hunter allegedly robbed a Bank of America in Simi Valley and fled in a stolen car. Within a mile of the bank, a red dye pack placed inside a bag with $55,000 exploded.

Biotech company launches largest Alzheimer's drug trial

Paul Elias

SAN FRANCISCO — It's tragically enough that Pat Williams' mother has Alzheimer's disease. But Williams is also terrified because her chances of inheriting the disease are much better than average.

So Williams eagerly crossed her 90-year-old mother last year in a massive, 1,600-patient, 18-month clinical trial testing an experimental drug made by the biotechnology company Myriad Genetics Inc. The drug, called Flurtalan, slowed the mind-robbing disease in some of the 128 patients with mild Alzheimer's participating in a smaller trial.

Based on those results, the company has gambled millions of research dollars on the largest-ever Alzheimer's drug trial. It aims to win an intense, international race among several biotech companies to find the first effective treatment for the 4.5 million Americans who suffer from the disease.

Myriad's drug won't be effective for patients with moderate forms of the disease, so the company is targeting patients who have just been diagnosed.

Scientists are also using the latest in brain imaging and genetic technology to develop tests to find people like Williams who have above-average chances of coming down with Alzheimer's.

"I'm hoping they will have a miracle pill so that I won't contract it," said Williams, who lives in Boston.

The three drugs now approved in commercial use to Flurtaran from its creators at Loma Linda University, near San Bernardino, because of its promise for fighting cancer. But it soon became clear in experiments with mice that the drug was also effective for Alzheimer's as Myriad scientists made key tweaks to the drug. The company continues to research Flurtalan's use in fighting prostate cancer.

"There is a feeling within the Alzheimer's field that if you limit amyloid accumulation you will change the course of the disease," Thies said.

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Scientists find evidence of liquid water on Saturn moon

Alícia Chang

LOS ANGELES — The orbiting Cassini spacecraft has spotted what appear to be water geysers on one of Saturn's icy moons, raising the tantalizing possibility that the celestial body harbors life.

The surprising images from the moon Enceladus represent some of the most dramatic evidence yet that water in liquid form may be present beyond the Earth.

"We have the smoking gun" that proves the existence of water, said Carolyn Porco, a Cassini imaging scientist from the Space Science Institute in Boulder, Colo.

Terrence Johnson, a Cassini scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, said this marks the first time that scientists have ever evidence of water in liquid form so close to the surface on another body beyond Earth.

If Enceladus indeed does have liquid water, it probably consists of microbes or other primitive organisms capable of living in extreme conditions, scientists say.

The findings were published in Friday's issue of the journal Science.

David Morrison, a senior scientist at NASA's Astrobiology Institute, cautioned against rushing to judgment about whether the tiny moon could support life. "It's certainly interesting, but I don't see how much more you can say beyond that," Morrison said.

Scientists believe Mars and Jupiter's icy moons might have — or once had — conditions hospitable to life. But the evidence of water is indirect. In the case of Mars, scientists have never seen any flowing water. But based on their study of rocks, they believe water once existed there. They say magnetic readings of Jupiter's moon Europa strongly suggest that it has an ocean of water, covered by ice.

Saturn is around 800 million miles from Earth. Enceladus measures 31 miles across and is the bluest object in the solar system.
Bush signs renewal of Patriot Act into law

Deb Reichmann

WASHINGTON — After a long battle with Congress that went down to the wire, President Bush signed a renewal of the USA Patriot Act on Thursday, a day before 16 major provisions of the old law expire.

Bush, who signed the Patriot Act is vital to win the war on terror and protect Americans. He recalled the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and said the country is still at war.

"We saw the terrorists' destructive vision for us when they killed nearly 3,000 men, women and children," Bush said. "In the face of this ruthless threat, our nation has made a clear choice — we will confront this mortal danger, we will stay on the offensive and we're not going to wait to be attacked again.

Bush's signature came less than 48 hours after the House passed the legislation, ending several months of debate on Capitol Hill over how to balance American's right to privacy with a need to foil potential terrorist threats. Political battles over the legislation forced Congress to twice extend the expiration date of the Patriot Act.

"The Patriot Act has accomplished exactly what it was designed to do," Bush said during a signing ceremony in the White House East Room. "It has helped us detect terrorist cells, disrupt terrorist plots and save American lives."

Republican want to take the law into the upcoming midterm elections to show they are acting to protect national security.

The legislation reserves the expiring provisions of the original Patriot Act, including one that lets federal officials obtain "tangible items," such as business records, from libraries and bookstores, in connection with foreign intelligence and international terrorism investigations.

Other provisions clarify that foreign intelligence or counterintelligence officials should share information obtained as part of a criminal investigation with counterparts in domestic law enforcement agencies.

Dubai company says it is giving up stake in U.S. ports

It was unclear how DP World would manage the planned divestiture, and Bilkey's statement said its announcement was "based on an understanding that DP World will not suffer economic loss."

The firm finalized its $6.8 billion purchase Thursday of Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Co., the British firm that through a U.S. subsidiary runs important port operations in New York, New Jersey, Baltimore, New Orleans, Miami and Philadelphia. It also plans a lesser role in dockside activities at 16 other American ports.

Despite the failure, the company's U.S. operations were never the most prized part of the global transaction. DP World valued its rival's American operations at less than 10 percent of the nearly $7 billion total purchase.

But that portion of the deal set off a political chain of events unlike any other in Bush's five years in office. Republicans denounced the deal, saying they were worried about the effects it would have on efforts to make ports safer from terrorist threats. Democrats did likewise, and capitalized on the issue as a way to narrow the polling gap with the GOP on issues of national security.

Bush defended the deal, calling the United Arab Emirates a strong ally in the war on terror and pledged to cast a veto if Congress voted to interfere.

Senate Republicans initially sought to fend off a vote to block the deal, and the administration agreed to a 45-day review of the transaction. That strategy collapsed on Wednesday with the vote in the House Appropriations Committee.

"This should make the issue go away," said Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., who was one of the GOP leaders who discussed the ports controversy with Bush at the White House during the day.

Sen. John Warner, R-Va., provided the first public word of the firm's switch, when he went to the Senate floor and read aloud from its statement.

"This indicated to the company that this action is the appropriate course to take."

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Folk diva to hammer out inspiration

Wanna folk? Folk diva Carolyn Cruso will be playing at Limnae’s Café today. She plays the hammered dulcimer, writes poetry and sings. Cruso is not sure when exactly the music bug hit her, but she has been playing since she was 11 years old. “When I was about 11 years old I picked up my aunt’s wooden flute and blew into it. The sound that came out was so rich and round. I was astonished, and knew at that moment that I would learn how to play,” Cruso said.

As she grew up, her passion for music continued to cultivate. “As a teenager I enjoyed improvisation, which really is a form of composition in the moment,” she said. “That flexibility of playing that you develop opens the door into actually writing music that can be played again rather than being ephemeral.”

Cruso played at Limnae’s year, and is excited to play again. “I want audiences to feel inspired while listening to the music for a long while after,” Cruso said. “I want them to feel uplifted or moved in some way, to feel connected to the world and to the mystery. Whether it’s thundering applause or quite reverse, I just want them to feel safe enough to be real.”

The show begins at 8 p.m. There is a suggested donation of $5 to $5. For more information about the Cruso, visit www.carolyncruso.com.
Israel will draw border with West Bank by 2010

Mark Lavie
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Israel will draw its final border with 2010, acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said in an interview published Thursday, for the first time setting a deadline for what is expected to be a unilateral large-scale West Bank pullback.

Olmert, whose Kadima Party is the front-runner in March 28 elections, has been increasingly forthcoming about his agenda in recent days to stop a gradual slide in the polls.

Olmert's agenda also includes a plan for an expanded Jerusalem that alarms Palestinians, connecting the West Bank's largest settlement to the disputed city with new Jewish housing — a plan the U.S. opposes.

Olmert said his broad guidelines for Israel's borders included incorporating in three major settlement blocs — Maaleh Adumim and Gush Etzion outside Jerusalem, and Ariel, deep inside the West Bank. Residents of isolated settlements could be moved into the major blocs, he told the Haaretz daily. Most of the 253,000 Jewish settlers already live in the main blocs.

Jerusalem and its environs would also fall within the permanent borders, as would the West Bank's Jordan Valley on the frontier with Jordan, which Olmert characterized as a "security barrier." Even with these areas under Israeli control, the plan would mean a pullout from most of the West Bank and removal of dozens of settlements.

Olmert said if negotiations with the Palestinians do not bear fruit, Israel must determine its own future.

With the militant group Hamas about to present a new Palestinian government, resumption of stalled peace negotiations appears unlikely. Hamas, which has sent dozens of suicide bombers into Israel, does not accept the presence of a Jewish state in the Middle East, and Israel considers Hamas a terrorist group and refuses to talk to its leaders.

Hamas leaders met with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Gaza late Thursday. Abbas aide Nabil Abu Rudein said Hamas has not completed formation of its government and the president offered an extra two weeks, as Palestinian law provides.

A meeting between Hamas and Abbas' Fatah Party, which was announced by the militant group to come in January parliamentary vote, also failed to achieve agreement on a joint government, participants said.

In the absence of peace talks, Olmert's unilateral approach is meant as a bold initiative to solve Israel's main security problems, in the image of Israel's unilateral pullout from Gaza last summer under Sharon, but he has been criticized by Israeli settlers and doves, as well as Palestinians.

Labor and other dovish parties are opposing Olmert for undermining efforts to restart peace negotiations, while Likud and other hawks charge that unilateral Israeli pullbacks amount to a reward for Palestinian violence.

But Olmert told The Jerusalem Post he had no intention of meeting Abbas after Israel's elections because he sees him as part and parcel of a Palestinian Authority dominated by Hamas.

Olmert also said Israel would build between its Largest West Bank settlement of Maaleh Adumim and Jerusalem, three miles away, as part of its border-drawing initiative.

Palestinians object to the planned construction of 3,650 housing units, saying it would cut off Jerusalemites from the West Bank and kill their dreams to set up a capital there. Last year, Israel froze the plan under pressure from Washington, which sees it as an obstacle to peacemaking.

A Palestinian fruit vendor puts his goods next to a section of the Israeli's separation barrier at a checkpoint between Jerusalem and the West Bank town of Ramallah on Thursday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mustang Daily
INTERNATIONAL

Friday, March 10, 2006

Mustang Daily

INTERNATIONAL

Friday, March 10, 2006

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Rev. Master Phoebe of Pine Mountain Buddhist Temple in the Serene Reflection Meditation Tradition is offering a one day retreat in San Luis Obispo at the Public Library 995 Palm Saturday March 18, 2006

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

ONE DAY MEDITATION RETREAT

The focus of the retreat is "What the Buddha Taught" and will include several periods of sitting and walking meditation, a Dharma talk and discussion period.

Rev. Master Phoebe is a disciple of the late Rev. Master Zuyu Kennett, and trained at the Mountain Abbey in Mount Shasta, California and Thrassett Halle Buddhist Abbey in England.

She received the Dharma Transmission from Rev. Master Zuyu Kennett in 1985.

There is no fee. Donations are gratefully received. Please bring your own vegetarian lunch. For more information and reservations, call George Kaufer at 528-6792.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Muslims at CP, stop Israel bias!

Huntza, your comments on Israel were completely distorted. Suicide bombings are not solely caused by economic hardships other than terrorism which terrorizes China and the poor in SLO would be blown up by hit-and-run. Religion is also a main theme of Islam, the current democratically elected representatives of Muslims, it is obvious what you referred to as the government Israel does not want. Understandably, Hamas is more a defense of the Palestinian parties based on their social services, schools and apparent lack of corruption. Nonetheless, Hamas has itself claimed responsibility to killing hundreds of Israeli mouths who employs vile anti-Semitic propaganda, and is committed to Israel's destruction. Clearly Israel cannot be expected to do anything less than feed those who sought to overthrow that which got cut, hinting food was available to all as needed. Not to mention that Hamas, a group of Muslims, can be expected. (Note: No part was cut.)

Jack Ingram: I don't really care when you expose the faults of other people's arguments, but when you wrote about me, I couldn't stand by and let you make a fool of yourself, so here's my reply. Communism: Maybe if you paid attention in an economics class you'd know that communism is merely a utopia created by Karl Marx and the "Communist Manifesto." Real-world communism is a tyrannical government ruled by a elite, usually with strong military power, that has absolute control over the entire nation and its resources. If you still don't get it, here's some examples: USSR, China, Cuba, North Korea, etc. See what I mean, that's not even close to a system in which goods are available to all as needed. Instead, you claimed I was sleeping through POLS 112. Maybe it was a long time ago for you, but POLS 112 is a mandatory American & California Government class. Is there anything else about the system that gives you the right to introduce yourself to class and say "I'm Jack Ingram?"

Dear Mr. Barclay, I've had a few things I would like to add. First off, based off the under­ counting right five days before the scheduled date. Second, I don't think it's fair and how it takes those few months for you, the director of stu­ dent life to see that an event (such as frats) is able to receive their anticipated dona­ tions. No, there's nothing more plausible than being asked to take part in this week­ end. Don't think that being in such a high position would enable you to forever worry with this event? And say it "fly under my radar" sounds like an excuse my roentgen would give me when I was 12. Also, we're not "just beating" each other up. We have been tran­ scending the whole school, developing our skills and at any point if one of the fighters were getting "beat up" the referees were quick to step in and scatter the fight to prevent injury. This event is not just a "frat event" but one that brings in so many other organizations. At the end, we're not "just beating" each other up, we are competing against another entity for charity, which brings me to my next point. Most of the proceeds would go to the United Way, which is one of the greatest charitable organizations. Thank you again Mr. Barclay.
Sports Balk
continued from page 12
over my shoulder, as I run around my apartment chanting "U-S-A" after every Chipper Jones home run: Probably the last one.

Either way, this is the first (and possibly the last) World Baseball Classic. As I attempt to dodge the amphitheater–enhanced smalltalk
sent by MLB commissioner Bud Selig for suggesting his branch may fold, let me clarify. The poten-
tial this has for being the only WBC in history only gives us a greater incentive to watch. Whether the
WBC turns into a true wreck or a blueprint for success, I can't wait to find out.

Consider the possible scenarios given by the unique rules in place, as
well as the overall impact of the tournament. The fifth inning and
seventh inning mercy rules of 15 and 10 runs respectively give the oppor-
tunity for countries to be publicly humiliated on new levels. Imagine
the disgrace that would be felt by Italians everywhere if David Ortiz
and Adrian Beltre of the Dominican Republic turned an international
game between the two countries into a messow that had to be called
early like a little league game. Imagine the outrage from Dominicans as the game is called in the
fifth inning and the unofficial Dominican Republic home run
called to a close. The limits on pitch count (65, 85, and 95 as the tournament progresses) and
the requirements for rest between starts means we could have
unprecedented numbers of pitchers throwing in game, especially in
round one. Already the U.S. used 7 pitchers in his first game with Mexico, six of which only threw one
inning. I'm rooting for a game to go into extra innings where teams are forced to keep bringing in
new pitchers when they exceed their pitch counts. I can already feel the drama as Lee Verde attempts to find
off strikes, knowing that if he can get
Barolo Cokes to throw 2 more pitches, the Dominican Republic
will be forced to pitch Albert Pujols. I'm also rooting for a game to end in a tie (as seeing as they can have 14
innings in the first two rounds). If
Selig thought America's reaction to ending the all-star game in a tie was
bad, wait until he sees the reaction from angry international mobs who
are only tolerant of ties in football.

George Steinbrenner's team posted a sign at the Yankees spring
training blaming the MLB for taking their star players for a couple weeks.
Allow yourself to think what would happen if Derek Jeter, Johnny
Damon or Alex Rodriguez were injured during the tournament. Not
only would I only expect Selig to enter the witness protection pro-
gram; I wouldn't be surprised to read in the next morning's papers that
Steinbrenner imploded, opening up a wound hole to an alternate dimen-
sion where the MLB had a salary cap.

Of course, there's always the chance that your native country
would win the tournament, thereby increasing your international brag-
ging rights and your country's mer-
ner pride may flop, let me clarify. The poten-
tial this has for being the only WBC
in history only gives us a greater incentive to watch. Whether the
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ging rights and your country's mer-
ner pride
Cal Poly women fall to UC Riverside 73 - 63

SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

UC Riverside snapped Cal Poly’s three-game winning streak, entered in its own winning streak to seven games and knocked the Mustangs out of the Big West Conference women’s basketball tournament Thursday afternoon.

Freshman guard Seryan Giorno scored 21 points and sophomore center Kenzie Nicole added 17 points and 30 rebounds as UC Riverside advanced to the semifinal round with a 73-63 victory. The fourth-seeded Highlanders earned their record at 14-14 while Cal Poly, the No. 5 seed, finished its season 13-14.

UC Riverside advanced to face Long Beach State (18-9) on Friday at 2:30 p.m., following the first seed seeds UC Santa Barbara (15-12) and No. 7 seed Cal State Northridge (9-19) at noon. Cal State Northridge upset third-seeded Cal State Fullerton 74-70 in Thursday’s first game.

The championship game is set for Saturday at 1 p.m. and will be televised on Fox Sports West 2.

Cal Poly made just two field goals in the first 12 minutes of the game — a layup by Sarah Greive with 16:14 to go and Megan Harrison’s three-pointer with 5:38 to play — and finished the first 20 minutes of play sinking just three of 34 floor shots (8.8 percent).

UC Riverside took advantage of the Mustangs’ cold shooting to build a 26-13 lead and settled for a 29-20 advantage at halftime. Cal Poly could never get closer than nine points in the second half.

Junior point guard Sparkle Anderson came off the bench to see W. Basketball, page 11

SPORTS

Former MLB Comm iss. calls for investigation on Bonds

Ronald Blum

As reported on Tuesday, former commissioner Fay Vincent and the lawyer who investigated Pete Rose for him called on commissioner Bud Selig to hire an outside investigator to research allegations of steroid use by Barry Bonds.

“Think he should hire some­body like John Dowd or set up a committee,” Vincent said Thursday in a telephone inter­view. “He needs to do that, maybe headed by Marc Cosmo or George Mitchell, somebody of that ilk.”

Vincent hired Dowd in 1989 to investigate Pete Rose, who agreed to a lifetime ban from baseball after it was found that he bet on the Cincinnati Reds. Rose pub­licly admitted in 2004 that he did bet on the Reds while he was the manager.

Bonds is accused in an up­coming book of using steroids, human growth hormone and insulin for at least five seasons beginning in 1998, according to Sports Illustrated, which published excerpts this week. Baseball did not ban performance-enhancing substances until after the 2002 season.

“If you do nothing, you leave a cloud on the game,” Dowd said.

“What needs to be done is a fair, honest, thorough investigation of the facts. Then you go from there.”

Bonds’ agent, Jeff Boris, declined comment.

Speaking Friday, Tuesday, Selig wouldn’t commit to an investiga­tion, saying only: “I will review all the material that’s relative in every­thing he said.” Baseball will await publication of the book, “Game of Shadows,” which is due out March 23, then decide how to proceed.

“One of the first things to do is talk to Bonds,” Vincent said. “Will he cooperate? If he doesn’t, I think that leads to disaster for Bonds. The union would make a big mistake by being too defen­sive here. Congress could step in.”

Under pressure from Congress, the union agreed to toughen drug testing rules and penalties for 2005 and again this season.

SPORTS BALK

I’ve decided to extend my deadline for this column to 12:01 a.m. EST on Thursday. You see, I’m having a tremendously difficult time deciding on a topic for this column. Wait, no, I’ll just get it done by Wednesday of finish week. Cool?

No, not cool. Nor is it remotely acceptable or professional to be moving my deadline back on whim based solely on my inability to perform my task. But apparently that doesn’t matter to NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue who has extended the deadline for free agency three times (and counting) as a result of the owners and players union’s inability to agree on a revenue sharing plan.

Now, there’s nothing that inspires sympathy in me quite like billionaires arguing with multimillionaires. My heart aches for the billionaire owners who want just want their fair share.

But in the words of Stephen A. Smith (but not at his desk), I’ll spare your ears bleeding; quite frankly, I just don’t care what is classified as a shared revenue or whether the players get 56 percent of it, 60 percent of it or somewhere in between. Both sides have extended their hands to the other and should just hammer out a deal, rather than put the future of their sport in jeopardy. I know a few people from the NFL who would love to be guest motivational speakers in your meetings (and we all know they need the money). The deal will work itself out regardless of whether the press is covering it or like an outbreak of the bird flu. 

Instead, I’d rather implore you to ignore the NFL labor negotiations, and pay attention to the World Baseball Classic that is already underway.

Maybe the afterglow of the Olympics has left me suffering withdrawals for opportunities to display my patriotism. I’m sure it’s nothing to fill the void that was created by the failures of Bode Miller. Or maybe I just need an excuse to paint my face to match the American flag draped sports balls, page 11