College fee increases discourage potential students, report says

Katie Hofstetter
MUSTANG DAILY

Fee increases are deterring potential candidates from California State Universities, according to a report by the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC).

The California Faculty Association (CFA), which reported that student fees within the CSU system have increased 76 percent in the last three years, supports the CPEC findings.

"We hear students saying that their friends are having to drop out and that they might have to drop out," CFA communications director Alice Schwartz said. "Students are saying that they're having increased difficulty paying the fees."

Sunshine said that some CSU campuses are experiencing below-target enrollment, but recognized difficulty in documenting the reasons behind the enrollment decline. She said the CFA is encouraging CSU administrators to study the specific effects of fee increases on students.

At Cal Poly, where tuition is one of the upper end of the CSU spectrum, fees are posing difficulties for students from enrolling, ASI President Tyler Middlestadt said. He said that since Cal Poly is usually a top-choice among applicants cost is not a major consideration upon entrance, but money becomes an issue later on in college careers.

"When cost becomes a problem, it's a couple of years down the road when (students) are working their way through school," he said.

Murray Haberman, CPEC executive director, said families are "redirecting" students to less expensive institutions because of the large debts facing those with children attending a CSU.

"When you look at the total costs of going to college, you're looking at very large bills that families are no longer paying for — they're borrowing," Haberman said.

In light of the findings, CPEC requested that the CSU system halt fee increases for the next five years.

An 8 percent increase passed by the CSU Board of Trustees is set to take effect in July and will be "bought out" by the Governor through state budget money, Sunshine said.

"We hope the Trustees of the CSU system will take to heart the findings and views of the CPEC on what amounts to tax increases on students," CFA President John Travis said in a press release. "It is necessary to face the fact that fee increases are hurting our students' chances to complete — or even to begin — their college education.

Middlestadt said in order to support the five-year freeze he would need to be certain such action would not adversely affect students.

"I'm not a fan of fee increases, but I'm not automatically opposed to the work the students do, said Nora O'Donnell, recreation coordinator for the department, adding that "the students are professional and serious about what they are doing."

Students pose no difficulties to the people running the projects and the biggest problem is the scheduling conflicts, which can even be worked around, she said.

Those in the recreation parks and tourism administration major are required to have 1,000 hours of experience before they can get an internship, said Bill Hendricks, program coordinator in the recreation parks and tourism administration department. Most of that time is spent in volunteering, he said.

While some students plan entire events with Grover Beach, some simply volunteer for a day, said Mamie Goldenburg, a Cal Poly faculty member in the recreation parks and tourism administration department. Some students even work for the city as interns. Currently, students are helping see Award, page 2 subjects that countries such as China and India are doing exceptionally well in — and balancing the curriculum with these subjects and an environment that "fosters creativity."

"I'm confident... that we will meet this challenge," he said, "and we will continue to be the world leaders in a way that will help the rest of the world as well."

Finally, Middlestadt took the stage.

"Tonight is a culmination of... 10 months of work at ASI," he said. "ASI is so much more than the person elected in my position... ASI is really about the transformation that occurs when people work

see Address, page 2
Fees continued from page 1

them," he said. "It think it ultimately
comes down to cost and bene­
fits.

Another recently released study by
CPEC showed that CSU faculty
salaries are almost 17 percent
lower than other out-of-state
counterparts.

The average 2005-2006 salary for
a CSU professor is $86,956 compared to $105,496 for a profes­sor at a school like the University of
Colorado, Denver, the report stated.

"That number doesn't even take
into account the cost of living in
California compared to other states," Sunshine said. "The eco­
nomic pressure on the teachers to
support their families is also a fac­
tor. That's one of the reasons the
CSU system is losing faculty."

Middlestadt said at a polytech­
school the problem is intensified,
and mathem­atics make finding teachers espe­
cially difficult.

"It is a consistent issue that is
raised by our university president," he
said.

The CPEC report weighed
salaries of CSU faculty against a
group of 20 universities scattered
throughout the nation.

CSU associate professors make
close to $6,500 less than the com­
parison group, while assistant pro­
fessors make over $5,000 less and
instructors make about $1100 less
than the comparison group, the
study indicated.

Travis said in a press release that
the CSU system is "lying ground"
when compared to other higher
education establishments.

Address continued from page 3

Son Dinner Dance. Students help
Grover Beach plan the Mother-
support then families is also a tac­
stated.

of Colorado, Denver, the report

"The kids get to hang out with tall
basketball team helped (trover
department The Cal l'oly wonien'N
parks and tourism administration
in past years. Cal
Beach put on a free basketball clin­
course of the ipiarter, Goldenburg
program design, in which students
wirn who are good at basketball,
many profitable adventures with
students do and look forward to
brought friends and that is always a
take more, see the feature
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EveryStudent.com

"It makes me feel optimisti­
cal," he said. "Today, ASI continues to be a
strong voice in Sacramento.".

Other important accomplish­
ments throughout the year included
working with the city of San Luis
Obispo to find transportation alter­
atives and improving neighborhood
relations throughout Mardi Gras.

Middlestadt said he hopes for a
record turnout of 25 percent of the
student body when ASI elections
commence in May and encouraged
students in the audience to get
involved.

"To ASI, when you show up,
you make a difference," he said, adding to a stand­
ing ovation that students are the No.
1 priority and ASI serves as "the eyes,
ears and voice of the students."

Colin Goodridge, a junior art and
design major, was impressed.

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Among those whom I like or admire, I can find no common denominator, but among those whom I love, I can: all of them make me laugh.
— W.H. Auden

When a miracle happens, even if not to you, it's nature is to naturally expand. You can almost feel the warmth on your face.
— Hugh Elliott

Wordly Wise

Coeval: existing during the same period of time; also, a contemporary.

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State briefs

SANTA CRUZ — Military recruiters left a campus job fair where about 60 student and faculty anti-war demonstration showed up outside the event at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Four recruiters from the Army and Army National Guard left after an hour-long standoff Tuesday at the College 8 West Field House.

— The Associated Press

YUBA CITY — A 75-year-old woman who disappeared more than a week ago had sent more than $500,000 to fake lotteries in other countries, investigators said.

Norma Anderson has not been seen since her clothes were found near a field of the Feather River in Yuba City on April 4. The Sutter County Sheriff’s Department boat patrol has continued to search the river for her, Capt. Jeff Pierce said.

— The Associated Press

Farmer sells all his raisins, defying USDA rule

Juliana Barbassa

KERMAN — The fresh green shoots emerging from Marvin Hornes’ grated grapes offer the promise of a new crop of raisins and, perhaps, the farmers’ win.

Horne plans to sell every morsel of the sun-dried fruit, bypassing a middle man and defying a decades-old rule requiring that he set aside some of his crop to avoid a glut in the market.

Since 2004, the act of disobedience has landed Horne before an administrative judge twice and he’s scheduled for another hearing next month. He faces up to $275,000 in fines and $830,000 in restitution for fruit grown by him and other farmers that wasn’t supposed to be sold.

But Horne is betting the farm, literally, that he’ll prevail against the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other growers who claim Horne and the 60 farmers who rent his packing shed are cheating.

“It’s just 98 percent of the industry growers are playing by the rules and setting our portion aside, trying to make a living, and the rest are stealing from us,” said Jerald Rebeschino, president of the Fresno Cooperative Raisin Growers.

Horne and farmers like him say they have to sell everything they produce to make a living, especially following lean years like those in the early part of this decade, when some farmers were forced out of business.

“You just can’t survive giving part of your crop away,” said Joyce Evans, who has been growing raisins near Caruthers for 40 years. “I wouldn’t be able to make it if I had to sell to a packer as not get compensated for everything I grew. This is a make it or break it situation for us.”

At the heart of the dispute is a law passed by Congress nearly 70 years ago that aimed to protect impoverished farmers by helping stabilize markets following the Great Depression. The law requires that any surplus of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 are commodit y groups that charge farmers an assessment to pay for research and promotions — the familiar “Got milk?” campaign, for example.

But the raisin marketing order, established under the 1937 law, has real teeth. The Raisin Administrative Committee can pop up the price of raisins by looking at the size of the raisin market and determining how much will be sold domestically, and how much will be stored or sold abroad at a lower price.

“It’s like a cartel,” said Dan Sumner, director of the University of California’s Agricultural Issues Center. “It’s trying to be the OPEC of the raisin market.”

But Rebeschino said if farmers were allowed to sell everything they produced, the result would be raisin chaos. Price and availability would fluctuate wildly, making it hard for anyone trying to market the product, he said.

RAC officials did not return repeated calls for comment. The USDA attorney handling Horne’s case, Frank Martin Jr., said he could not discuss an ongoing case.

“These regulations have helped stabilize supplies and prices, and strengthens marketing conditions,” the USDA said in a statement. “The marketing order has helped the industry expand domestic markets over the years, and has promoted a dramatic expansion of raisin exports.”

The rules say packers who buy the raisins only have to pay farmers up front for fruit headed to U.S. markets. Farmers are paid for foreign-bound raisins, and those going into storage, only after they’re sold, often for much a much lower price.

So in a high-yield year like 2000, when California farmers produced more than 400,000 tons of raisins, they only got paid up front for what the Raisin Administrative Committee decided the domestic market could bear 53 percent of the crop.

To avoid being forced to set some of their crop aside, some growers started renting Horne’s shed, putting their raisins through the washing and cleaning cycle that would ordinarily be done by a packer, then selling them on their own.

Horne was formally served with a complaint by the USDA in 2004. At his next hearing in May, about 50 farmers, packers and others with a stake in the raisin industry will be called as witnesses.

The USDA is seeking more than $1 million from Horne, not only for his own fruit sold in defiance of the regulations, but for raisins grown by other farmers and packed in his shed.

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WASHINGTON — The White House faced new questions Wednesday about President Bush's contention three years ago that weapons of mass destruction had been found in Iraq. The Washington Post reported that a Pentagon-sponsored team of experts determined in May 2003 that two small trailers were not used to make biological weapons. Yet, two days after the team sent its findings to Washington in a classified report, Bush declared just the place in a joint session of Congress running talks that were continuing that the team sent its findings to Washington in a classified report, Bush declared just the place in a joint session of Congress running talks that were continuing.

WASHINGTON — America's trade deficit showed a bigger-than-expected improvement in February as the politically sensitive imbalance with China dropped to the lowest level in nearly a year. The Commerce Department reported Wednesday that the deficit fell to $65.7 billion, a 4.2 percent decline from January's record of $69.7 billion. Even with the improvement, the February trade gap was the third highest ever. The deficit for the first two months of this year is running 13.5 percent above the pace in early 2005.

WASHINGTON — The Zacarias Moussaoui trial intently Wednesday to a recording of terror­ fied shouts and cries in the cockpit as desperate passengers twice charged panicked hijackers during the final half hour of doomed United Flight 93 on Sept. 11, 2001. "Is that it? I mean, shall we pull it down?" one hijacker asked in Arabic 123 seconds before the 757 jumbo jet slammed into a Pennsylvania field with 33 passengers, seven crew members and four hijackers. "Yes, put it in, and pull it down," another voice replied in Arabic.

In the remaining two minutes, more voices are heard than earlier, including some that say in English: "Go, Go." "Move, Move." "Push, push, push, push, push." Then in Arabic: "Give it to me. Give it to me. Give it to me. Give it to me." Finally in Arabic: "Allah is the greatest. Allah is the greatest. Allah is the greatest." Then only the roar of the plane is heard. The transcript gives no further indicators showed the autopilot, the steering yoke position and the plane's trajectory. Despite the detail and because the cockpit ceiling microphone can pick up sounds from the passenger cabin, particularly if the cockpit door is open, there were multiple interpre­ tations of the final seconds.

Hamilton Peterson, whose father and stepmother died on the plane, said hearing an enhanced tape earlier had persuaded him passengers killed a hijacker guarding the cock­ pit. "It's an example of ordinary citi­ zens on a moment's notice stepping up and protecting the U.S. Capitol from a terrorist attack," he said out­ side the courthouse afterward. Captured Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Shaikh Mohammad has said he talked the Capitol was the plane's target. Some thought they heard the pas­ sengers struggling with hijackers for control of the steering yoke inside the cockpit during the final seconds. The Sept. 27 Commission's study reached no conclusions on whether any hijacker was killed in the strug­ gle with passengers and said the hijackers remained at the controls "but must have judged that the pas­ sengers were only seconds from overcoming them."

The 30-minute tape begins with a hijacker saying in English: "Please sit down. Keep remaining seating. We have a bomb on board. So sit. "There follows several minutes of commands such as: "Don't move." "Shut up." "Down, down, down, sit down."

Nearly six minutes in, a voice in English tells the passengers, "We are going back to the airport, and we have our demands. So please remain quiet." The San Francisco-bound plane then turns over western Pennsylvania back toward the East Coast. During a period of quiet, appar­ ently unknowing to the hijackers, passengers with cell phones learn that planes have crashed into the World Trade Center. The hijackers detect something is up. One says in Arabic: "The guys will go in, lift up the (unintelligible) and they put the ax in it. So, everyone will be scared."

The transcript gives no further clues about the "unintelligible" object. But the Sept. 11 Commission says the hijackers might have killed or silenced a flight attendant by this point.
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Bon-bons, booze and the Bible

A hike Easter… a lovely, springtime holiday filled with baby chicks, chocolate eggs and lots of booze. Wait one moment. That didn’t sound right.

Easter is supposed to be a Holy holiday; a day that signifies the very essence of two of the world’s most dominant religions, Christianity and Judaism. It is the day of Christ’s resurrection. It also falls into the Passover week, and both are times of intense cultural and spiritual reflection. And, at the very least, Easter is supposed to be the day when all the Christian sinners of the world come out of the woodwork and make their annual pilgrimage to church (the other day of course, being Christmas).

However, for most people, Easter has become a special day set aside to self-righteously and sadistically gorge themselves on Cadbury Cream Eggs and Peeps. “Fuzzy Bunny,” anyone? Need I say more? Easter is also a day on which I can partake in the flimsy traditions of pop culture.

One of the world’s most familiar and common traditions, is the Easter bunny. But this time, pause mid-mastication and ponder over what you that there is more to this holiday than bon-bons and beer. Definitely not the tasty adventure I had expected.

And perhaps the worst realization I had while sitting under the growling polished stone on the altar, struggling to finish my glass: I was chugging the symbolic blood of Jesus, my Savior and Creator. Talk about a downer. It was at this moment that I stopped and began to ponder the importance of grace. Here I was, perched atop a pew in the sanctu­ary, lavishly displaying one of Chaucer’s Seven Deadly Sins: Gutton. And rather than cherish the wine for what it was, a moving ritual of my religion, I disregarded my faith and focused on the flimsy traditions of pop culture.

Today, Easter, like the overly-hyped right of passage into legal alcohol consumption, has become more of a bunny-ear wearing icon than what it is intended to be. A brief moment set aside in an incredibly busy world to pay homage to something greater than ourselves. Don’t get me wrong— I can appreciate chocolate and jelly beans just as much as the next person (and with my sweet tooth, perhaps even a great deal more). But the truth of the matter is; there are things much more important in life than waiting for that next great high. And without sounding preachy, turning 21 isn’t all it’s cracked up to be.

Luckily, my mission to the bars never bring up traumatic memories shrapnel commu­nion wine. Now I am well aware of the term “everything in moderation,” and I strive daily to apply it to my life as much as possible. So by all means, bite that chocolate head off of your Easter Bunny. But this time, pause mid-mastication and ponder over what Easter means to you. I can’t tell you what to think, but I can tell you that there is more to this holiday than bon-bons and beer.

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Thursday, April 13, 2006

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D Mustancl Daily
DIVERSIONS

\`American Dreamz" says \`Hooray for Hollywood?'

Amy Assman
STUDENTS TODAY

Cal Poly students will get a sneak peek tonight of Universal Pictures' latest comedy "American Dreamz." From the makers of smash hit American Pie and the lesser-known best flick about A Boy, director Paul Weitz's newest spoof on pop culture takes center stage for ASI Event's private screening at Downtown Centre Cinema, starting at 8 p.m.

Although tickets for the free showing have already run out, staff at the Cal Poly Epicenter said limited seating will still be available.

"If you still want to see (the movie), it's first-come-first-serve seating for people with tickets," said Grant Zanini, student manager of ASI Events. "Then after that, if there's still room, we'll just let people in for free."

Featuring an all-star cast including Hugh Grant, Mandy Moore, Dennis Quaid and Willenn Defoe, "American Dreamz" is a fictional tale of money, politics and Hollywood sleaze. The film is said to mock the world's current obsession with reality television and pop-icons, a la Fox's epic hit, "American Idol."

According to a plot synopsis posted on the movie's Web site, www.americandreamzmovie.com, "America just can't seem to get enough of 'American Dreamz,' hosted by self-aggrandizing, self-loving Martin Tweed (Hugh Grant), ever on the lookout for the next insta-celebrity. Tired of the same boring guests season after season, Tweed decides to up this year's ante by recruiting a crop of bizarre hopefuls."

These starry-eyed wannabes include pop star Mandy Moore as Sally, "a conniving steel magnolia with a devoted, dopey veteran boyfriend (Chris Klein) and fame-obsessed 'momager' Martha (Jennifer Coolidge);" and Sam Golotari as Omer, "a recent immigrant and bumbling, show-tune singing—would-be terrorist awaiting active duty," along with many more scene-stealing cameos from some of today's leading actors and actresses.

At the same time, the movie follows fictional American President Joe Stanton (Dennis Quaid) during a most unusual day at the White House. The storyline is such that on the morning of his re-election, Stanton decides to read the newspaper for the first time in his four-year run as President.

"Holed up in pajamas in his bedroom, the President begins obsessively reading and reexamining his formerly black-and-white view of the world, shocked at what he is discovering," the Web site said.

Weary of the President's apparent melodic and equally dismal approval ratings, the Chief of Staff (Wilen Defoe) decides to book him as a giant judge on the popular reality television show "American Dreamz."

Apparently, the movie has already created quite a buzz among movie-goers and students, junior Helena Levin said. "It feels really good to come back to where it all started," Badion said.

After the release of the movie last April, "Leave It to Chance," the movie written, produced, acted and directed in entirely by former and current Cal Poly students, will be shown as an anniversary screening Friday at 6:30 to 10 p.m. in the Business building Room 213.

Bernard Badion, who graduated from Cal Poly in June 2005 in business administration, was the movie's writer, director and producer and is excited to return to his alma mater.

"It feels really good to come back to where it all started," Badion said.

From pre-production to post-production, the movie totaled nearly $35,000 and was financed primarily from private funds by Badion and Benjamin Kantor, the movie's cinematographer and producer, as well as fundraisers and private donations from local businesses. All of the students involved with the making of the film were part of the Cal Poly Film Club, but none were film or theatre majors.

Stephan Hernaldi, a graphic communications junior, starred as the main character, Charlie, in the movie and is looking forward to the anniversary screening.

The first screening had a showing of roughly 900 people and Heraldi has since been knocked around by the turn-out.

"I didn't think the movie would turn out so big. The whole tour has been crazy," Heraldi said.

As for any further acting aspirations, Heraldi said that he would definitely like to remain in the industry, if not acting then at least helping Badion make his next film.

"Leave it to Chance" is a romantic comedy based on the lives of two Aisan American college students, Kailin and Charlie. After Kailin tells Charlie she wants to go on a break and take some space, Charlie, like many other college students, finds himself in a confused type of limbo trying to figure out where he and Kailin stand. He decides to "Leave it to chance if they get back together again.

Tickets are $8 advance and $10 at the door and can be purchased in the University Union or by contacting Christine Nasol at cnasol@calpoly.edu.
The new Blockbuster night

When my roommate and I moved into our abode over the summer, we were faced with the annoying tasks of setting up electricity, gas and cable. Matters of entertainment were left in my hands, and in my "It’s summer and I will never have any responsibilities ever" haste, I signed up for Charter’s most expensive package: All the pay channels, plus cable is also why men tend to overlook the facts that, we haven’t been the wonder that is pornography can become a back-to-back episodes of Real Sex, HBO’s shock documentary about sex around the nation, followed by back-to-back episodes (it was quite the Thursday night) of The Best Sex Ever, featuring possibly the worst sofcore sex ever. June seemed a bit caught off guard that A: We were watching porn together, and B) We were watching porn together on the couch she contributed to the house. Although we all had a long time for a good sport, her surprise sparked some interest of my own. In a drunken poll I conducted at the bar over the weekend (thank you to all my participants), most couples asked said they do watch porno together — occasionally. "Yeah, we do," said my friend Andrea, up from UCSB, "But it’s because he wants to — not me." Sadly, this sentiment was echoed by several girls I spoke to. Porn is basically a concession a guy will make in the relationship, just like the guy will agree to talk about his feelings every now and then even though he’d rather go苔 out his eye-balls.

Evidence shows that men tend to be more visual than women, which explains why the gay you randomly made out with last Canco de Mayo clearly kept his eyes open — the whole time. This is also why men tend to overlook the facts that, first, the acting in porn is so cheesy you need crackers to watch it, and second, hardcore porn is graphic and usually a docket for novices. Most girls, even the more seasoned ones, find it somewhat hard to take "Debbie Does Dallas" seriously with all of the thrusting, slimy shots therein, let alone become aroused by it. However, while easier to watch, softcore porn is incredibly irritating in its weak attempts to cover up the fact that nothing is happening. A girl simulating a blowjob without a few beds up and down is not fooling anyone. But the virtues of good porn cannot be ignored. The key is to find something both partners in the relationship can find arousing, or else the wonder that is pornography can become a sore spot between the two. The girls just need to keep in mind that porn is not a replacement for the sexual relationship you are having (read: Just because Jenna Jameson is really good at her job doesn’t mean he wants to leave you for her) and that it can actually be pretty hot, when given a fair chance. And lastly, I highly recommend not paying for the sniff — have you heard about this thing called the Internet? Go and get your Google on.

Janice Edman is an English senior and a Mustang Daily columnist.
Love lasts, even with distance  
Melissa Dudum-maya  
THE DAILY AZTEC (SAN DIEGO STATE U.)

SAN DIEGO — When the core of a romantic relationship is about being close and sharing your life with another person, the idea of entering a long-distance relationship doesn't sound appealing. Love is complicated enough without having thousands of miles dividing a couple.

But, because of the technological wonders of the Internet, the "global village" is becoming more intimate every day, with long-distance dating a growing trend.

I'm one of the many whose romantic life fits in this category.

As I began my first year at San Diego State last fall, I didn't hope to meet a significant other but fully intended to remain faithful to my distant honey. Most people I knew were convinced that my long-distance relationship was doomed to failure.

They were wrong.

And today, I'm pleasantly surprised to know that the M-number of people who are "dating despite distance" is growing. Differences in age, states or even countries, can't shake a solid relationship based upon mutual respect, trust, commitment and, of course, love.

But there are several indisputable criteria that are required to make a far-away romance work: Both people must have the same vision for the future and share the same expectations of one another. They must also set and discuss boundaries to follow when apart.

Communication and trust are vital — phone calls, e-mail and text messaging become the relationship's foundation. Setting a time to talk every week will help keep a couple connected. For instance, a good friend of mine spends every Thursday night on the phone with her Chicago heartthrob, and that's when I know not to bother or invite her to go out.

A successful long-distance couple also needs to take the time and effort to visit each other. Being physically together is a great thing to look forward to. Though periods of loneliness and feeling detach are frequent, you can't spend life being sad and frustrated if you're set on making the relationship last.

When you're finally together, don't dwell on the short period of time you may have together — it's unavoidable that you'll part again. When the goodbyes do come, and you give each other that last airport kiss goodbye, remember, your time apart won't be forever — it's merely a natural part of the relationship.

Couples can also remind each other how much they care, how much they miss each other and how much being alone can hurt. These are natural feelings that result from the separation and should be openly and honestly addressed in order to keep the relationship healthy.

There will always be worry and doubt, especially during the start of a relationship.

The most common worries are about your significant other meeting someone else and cheating. Or you'll wonder why such a fantastic person who has others are vying for his or her attention would choose staying. At times, you may even wonder why you do it — why you let yourself suffer.

The bottom line is, you'll question everything that your partner, your relationship and the nature of the romance, but it comes with the territory.

Eventually, as the relationship progresses, you just might be amazed at how much it's grown.

All good things come with a price tag — a monetary one, and sometimes a physical one. And if a couple can stand distances and the test of time, then they've got a really good thing going. One day, they'll both be able to look back and laugh at the time they spent apart.

But, if you don't, as I'm sure a majority of students will agree, you are going to absolutely love your roommate, then ignore this message and continue your "study break" on Facebook.com.

COMMERCIAL

Your roommates may piss you off, but when exams are all over, they are going to be first in line with you to start the celebration.

Lana Ulrich  
(DAILY COLLEGIAN (PENN STATE)

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — With finals on the horizon and less than a month left in the semester, roommate tensions are at an all time high.

If you live alone, or happen to absolutely love your roommate, then ignore this message and continue your "study break" on Facebook.com.

But if you don't, as I'm sure a majority of students will agree, you are going to absolutely love your roommate, then ignore this message and continue your "study break" on Facebook.com.

Priceless.

Your roommates may piss you off, but when exams are all over, they are going to be first in line with you to start the celebration.

COMMERCIAL

COMMERCIAL

'Roomie' problems stressful towards the end

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U.S. scours Afghan markets for stolen computer drives containing military data

The shopkeeper, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of fears he may be arrested, said he was not interested in the data stored on the memory sticks and was selling them for the value of the hardware. "They were all stolen from offices inside the base by the Afghans working there," he said. "I get them all the time."

About 2,000 Afghans are employed as cleaners, office staff and laborers at the Bagram base. Though they are searched coming in and out of the base, the flash drives are the size of a finger and can easily be concealed on a body.

The shopkeeper showed an Associated Press reporter a bag of about 15 and allowed them to be reviewed on a laptop. Only four contained data. The rest did not work or were blank.

News of the breach was first reported by the Los Angeles Times on Monday. The paper said its reporter used files containing classified military assessments of enemy targets, names of corrupt Afghan officials and descriptions of American defenses.

U.S. military spokesman Lt. Mike Cody said the military "has ordered an investigation into allegations that sensitive military items are being sold in local bazaars because of fear of repercussions." One shopkeeper wanted $20 for a used U.S. soldier's uniform and said he could get more.

Other items apparently were stolen from a duty-free store on the base, including range-finding binoculars and handheld global positioning systems — items that could be useful to Taliban rebels, who have stepped up their insurgency in the past year.

Acting speaker to convene Iraqi parliament to push political process

Samier N. Yacoub
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The acting parliament speaker said Wednesday he will convene the Iraqi legislature next week to push forward the formation of a new government stalled over the issue of who will serve as prime minister. Meanwhile, a series of car bombs in three Iraqi cities left at least eight people dead and dozens wounded.

Adnan Pachachi, a Sunni Arab, told a news conference he decided to convene the assembly Monday because "it's my duty to the Iraqi people in order to preserve the credibility of the democratic process.

Pachachi added that Shiite politicians told him they hope to have the deadlock over the nomination of Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari resolved in time for the session.

Parliament was elected Dec. 15 but has been unable to elect a prime minister because of the dispute over the prime minister.

As the biggest bloc in parliament, the Shiites have the right to nominate the head of government. But Sunni and Kurdish parties oppose the Shiite choice of al-Jaafari for another term and the Shiites have not agreed whether to replace him.

That has stalled formation of a unity government which the United States believes is necessary to halt the country's slide toward anarchy.

But Pachachi, a former foreign minister, said he was hopeful for a breakthrough on the issue.

"There are indications that cause us to be optimistic that an agreement will be reached on all the sticking points regarding forming a national unity government," he said.

Under the constitution, parliament must elect a national president, who in turn designates the nominee of the biggest bloc to form a new government. If no agreement on a minister-designate then has 30 days to name a Cabinet, which must be approved by parliament.

The Shiites hold 130 of the 275 seats, not enough to govern or win approval for their nominee without the support of other parties, including the Sunnis and Kurds. Shiite politicians conferred again Wednesday over the al-Jaafari issue.

Daniel Cooney
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGRAM, Afghanistan - A shopkeeper outside the U.S.-led coalition headquarters in Afghanistan was selling computer memory drives containing seemingly sensitive military data stolen from inside the base — including the Social Security numbers of four American generals.

This shopkeeper was apparently not the only merchant in local bazaars trying to get some cash in exchange for hardware and software containing such files.

The surfacing of the stolen computer devices has sparked an urgent American military probe for the source of the embarrassing security breach, which has led to leaks with the personal letters and biographies of soldiers and lists of troops who completed nuclear, chemical and biological warfare training going on sale for $20 to $50.

Free military investigators, surrounded by heavily armed plain-clothes U.S. soldiers, searched many of the two-dozen rundown shops outside the sprawling base.

Asked if any disks had been found, one soldier, who declined to give his name, said: "We are looking. That's all I can say."

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storage, the cops and guns in my brain slowly began to align and ponder this thought: What would baseball be like without Barry Bonds?

Not just, "what if Bonds never took steroids?" I mean, what if Barry Bonds never made it into MLB?

What if he had decided somewhere along the line that having a father who played professional baseball and a Hall of Fame godfather, Willie Mays, was too much pressure?

What if he had decided to bring his metaphorical tool kit of dysfunctional social skills, immaturity and one-dimensional work ethic to another profession?

Not only does this necessitate the creation of a Web site that explores all of Bonds' squandered careers (opera tenor singer comes to mind) it also opens up questions about the whole baseball hall of fame thing. How would this alternate baseball dimension look? What would I have written about this week? Let's see...

Obviously, the fate of the San Francisco Giants franchise would have been altered. Will Clark, Matt Williams and (shudder) Kevin Mitchell would stand out as the most memorable Giants hitters of the last two decades. I won't include Jeff Kent, because no one else has rode the coat tails of another hitter the way Kent used his spot in the lineup behind Bonds to earn the 2000 National League MVP. Bonds' well-publicized dispute with Kent is one of the few areas I live Bonds a free pass. Kent should be paying taxes to Bonds. No Bonds means no rise to stardom for Kent.

Without Bonds playing left field for the Pittsburgh Pirates in the 1992 NLCS, you could argue that a more defense-oriented outfielder would have send the Pirates to the winning run, thereby deferring the Atlanta Braves in games 5 and 6 and sending the Pirates to the World Series. Without that huge psychological damage to the franchise, the Pirates could have gone on to become a dominate team. Well, probably not.

But Sportscaster could certainly have a void to fill in its coverage of baseball. Without the seemingly daily Bonds update, they would be forced to focus on interesting current events, not just the latest bantering of Barry Bonds.

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The gym is unfortunately an intimidating place," Smith said. "It's something you haven't experienced before. A mentor is a great place to introduce you into this world."

Anyone interested in being personally trained at the Rec Center can contact Nancy Clark at 756-1789.
MUSTANG DAILY

A personal touch to fitness at the Rec Center

Brittany Peloquin

Heart disease, obesity and cancer are linked to inactive lifestyles making fitness essential to a healthy future.

While some might recognize the need to get fit, the problem is getting started.

The personal training program at the Poly Rec Center gives people a jump-start on getting into shape. The program pairs each client with a trainer who will help design a workout for them tailored to the needs of their fitness goals.

"The majority just need someone to tell them what to do," said Program Coordinator Nancy Clark. "Their attitude is 'I want to do it right instead of wasting my time.'"

Clients can choose from six, 16 or 21 sessions. The first session consists of a fitness testing, goal setting and an orientation about personal habits such as sleep schedule, stress level and nutrition. After that, their workout is varied based on goals and comfort level at the gym. The clients set their own schedule and trainers work with them to develop a routine. They are trained on weight lifting techniques and progression, frequency and duration of cardiovascular training and the trainers maintain records for each client to track their progress.

"If you come and you sweat, you will," said trainer Richard Smith, a kinesiology sensor. "Once people start working out, they like it."

While some people like to meet with a trainer once a week and then work out on their own, others like to have a trainer consistently because it forces them to show up each time. The program is based on a fixed number of sessions that a client pays for up front. By the end of the sessions, clients have the tools they need to continue to go to the gym on their own and keep meeting their fitness goals. But many sign up for more sessions because they like the accountability of having a trainer.

James Sangillo, an aerospace engineering graduate student, is working on his second set of sessions. He said he signed up because he wanted to know more about fitness and nutrition, and how to improve his workout.

"I wanted to know the proper way to exercise," he said. "I didn't really come to the gym very regularly."