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Volume LXX Number 123

April 20-22

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MUSTANG DAILY
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Editorial
January 12, 2007
Volume LXXI, No. 64 © 2007
Mustang Daily

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Rose Float gets new home

Justin Fassino
MUSTANG DAILY

Although New Year's Day is more than eight months away, the Cal Poly Rose Float Team is already excited about the competition. This year's project will be built inside a brand new lab building which is more organized than ever before.

"The big thing about the new lab is that it's a lot more organized" said Breana Dixon, a club member and industrial engineering senior. "There's specific areas where we have all the machining, where it's all protected so that other people that are working aren't likely to get hit by flying bits of metal."

Dixon said the team's previous workspace posed many problems, like finding the correct part or tool for the job at hand. With the increased emphasis on organization, the new construction process will flow more smoothly. The lab was also designed specifically for the float's dimensions: a higher ceiling on the new building will give the student workers a better angle for their work on the top of the float structure.

The team is also trying to recruit new members to help with the construction effort. Cal Poly Pomona's rose float team, which creates half of the float every year, is nearly twice the size of San Luis Obispo's.

"Right now the program is really small," Dixon said. "We really want to get more people involved and help the program grow a little bit."

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The San Luis Obispo team has 10 to 15 members who show up to its weekly meetings; the club is hoping to add more in the near future as the first stages of construction get underway later this month.

"Whoever knows how to weld, or is willing to learn, we can teach them," construction leader and fifth-year mechanical engineering major J.R. Almanza said.

One of the reasons Pomona’s team is so much larger is because of their closer proximity to the Rose Parade. They only need to drive 40 miles down the freeway every December whereas the San Luis Obispo students have a 200-mile trip, towing a large steel frame behind them.

Before that can happen, though, the team has to iron out the design work. First they spend close to 10 weeks disassembling the frame down in Southern California before hauling it back to San Luis Obispo. After the Rose Parade theme is announced in January, the Cal Poly Rose Float club holds a contest for float ideas. Once the winner is chosen, the team then hires a professional artist to create a concept sketch for the design of the float. From that sketch, which is usually finished by April, the team spends their weekends making the drawing come to life. This year, the float will begin to take shape right after Open House, which is when the team expects to receive the finished sketch model.

Dixon said that, although the workspace problem is solved, the team still struggles with its small budget. The bigger, professional floats the Rose Parade features often have a lot of money behind them.

After construction is complete, the steel skeleton will make its journey down the coast, where it will be surfaced and decorated with flowers by students from both Cal Poly universities. People all over the country watch it roll down the streets of Pasadena on Jan. 1, and then the process begins anew.

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  2  8  4
  7  8  2  1
  1  4
  8  6  5  2
  6  4  5  7  1
  3  6
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WASHINGTON, D.C. — And the winner is... Monica Schechter, associate director of Study Abroad and International Programs, has been chosen as Grand Marshal of the 2007 Poly Royal Parade.

Schechter received the news of the honored title, via hand-delivered letter, from two members of the Open House Planning Committee responsible for selecting her.

Schechter said her initial reaction to the appointment was shock, which, she said, quickly turned to joy.

“Complete surprise, that was my first reaction,” Schechter said. “I was just very honored to be selected.”

Liz Sullivan, public relations director for the Open House Planning Committee, said that Schechter was chosen for various reasons.

“We try to choose somebody that closely relates to our theme,” Sullivan said. “We chose Monica because she is deeply involved with the Study Abroad Program.”

The theme of this year’s parade is “Explore Cal Poly: Begin Your Adventure.” Schechter said the parade theme and the Study Abroad Program blend well together in relation to students.

“Certainly this fits,” Schechter said. “More and more students are seeing this as an academic adventure. It’s very much an academic and cultural experience.”

Sullivan talked about the committee’s process for finding nominees.

“We get ideas from the committee,” Sullivan said. “We discuss and choose that way. It’s just like a nomination process.”

Sullivan said the committee members had no difficulty in choosing Schechter as the Grand Marshal for this year’s parade.

“We heard some names, but when we heard Monica’s name, we all kind of knew that she was the one,” Sullivan said.

The parade itself begins at 9 a.m. at the intersection of Grand Avenue and Perimeter, winding its way through campus. The parade ends at 10 a.m. on Dexter Lawn, where the Opening Ceremonies for Open House will officially commence.

Schechter has been employed at Cal Poly since May 2000, where she began working in the International Education and Programs Office. Schechter remains busy, mentoring her students through various study abroad programs, including the National Student Exchange and CSU International Programs.

Schechter said she is happy to see her students utilize the multiple programs that Study Abroad offers.

“We are seeing students do more than one program and they’re really excited about it,” Schechter said. “We’re really getting a name for ourselves on campus. They all know where the Study Abroad office is.”

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MUSTANI D AllY
22 CSU campuses, has been that Cal Poly, along with the other
is not an easy task, but it is a job
that new CSU strategic plan, titled
Access to Excellence," that will
-serve the university system for the
next 10 years.

"The aim of strategic planning is to develop some long term
greats as an institution," said Bruno
Giberti, a faculty representative to
the CSU Steering Committee and
architecture professor.

The next step in the two-year
planning process will be a system-
wide summit that is scheduled for
April 24 to 25 in Newport Beach.

The summit will include people
from each CSU campus, about
350 in all, who will discuss their
ideas based on six domains that
the CSU Board of Trustees out-
lined. Cal Poly is sending 14 rep-
 resentatives made up of faculty,
 staff and students.

"The strategic plan needs to
come from the grassroots and be
feud upwards so that anything (the
CSU system) comes up with truly
reflects the real need within each
campus and ultimately the whole
state," said Umny Menon, interim
assistant vice provost for Academic
Programs.

After the summit, the CSU
Board of Trustees will take all the
input from each campus and write
a comprehensive strategic plan.

"We hope that in 14 months
from now, we will have a strategic
plan that will guide system-wide
priorities for the next 10 years," said Keith Boyum, CSU assistant
vice chancellor for Academic
Affairs.

"Access to Excellence" will take
effect for the 2008-09 school year
replacing the old strategic plan,
"Cornerstones," that has been in
place since 1998.

A recent assessment of the
Cornerstones strategic plan by the
CSU system showed accomplish-
 ments in nine of the 12 principles
outlined.

"Cornerstones had some suc-
cess, but left room for improve-
ment," Menon said. "The next
plan needs to take some of those.

The CSU system suggested six
main points for the campus dis-
cussions including ensuring access,
connecting to P-12 schools and
community colleges, fulfilling
commitments to multiple stake-
holders, ensuring success in stu-
dent learning, faculty/staff excel-
ence to promote student success
and campus/system identity now
and in the future.

"The principles that emerge
will set the kind of rules for cam-
puses to develop programs," Menon said. "The students will
experience either significant
improvements or face constraints.

Beginning in January, each of
the seven colleges, Associated
Student Inc., the Academic
Senates and a group of community
stakeholders, including representa-
tives from Cuesta College and
Hancock College, not individually
to discuss how these six areas
should be addressed in their pro-
grams.

"Cal Poly took it very seriously," Giberti said. "They like to
think of themselves as a leader in
the CSU." One of the main focuses for Cal Poly is preparing P-12 students for
STEM (science, technology, engi-
neering and math) areas of study
that the university specializes in.

"Are we graduating people in
those disciplines in numbers that
satisfy the needs of the country?" Giberti asked. "The fact of the
matter is that we actually really
aren't doing that."

Some ideas that have come out
of the planning conversations to
address this problem are to begin
more outreach programs that will
assess students' abilities at certain
points during their education and
then set them on the right track
for eligibility in the CSU system.

"The university can't just be a
passive recipient of students who
were prepared by somebody else," Giberti said.

Another important focus is
e nsuring quality faculty and staff
for the CSU system, which cur-
cently serves 450,000 students,
19,000 of which attend Cal Poly.

"The strategic plan will ensure
that the CSU lives up to what stu-
dents need," said CSU media rela-
tions specialist Paul Browning.

Faculty/staff excellence was one of
the most important domains
discussed in the ASI discussion,
ASI President Todd Maki said.

"Rather than teaching the same
curriculum that's been around for
the last 50 years, we want to
include industry that teaches
students the future, not the past," Maki said.

The CSU sees "Access to
 Excellence" as a step in helping
the state as a whole make changes
in education.

"Part of the importance of the
strategic plan is for the CSU to go
to the legislature and say, 'Look,
this is an important problem for
California and we're part of the
solution,'" Giberti said.

One of the challenges of the
strategic plan is helping people to
see the big picture and the long-
term effects it outlines.

"It doesn't affect (students)
today, but it will affect them
tomorrow and next year and cer-
tainly in the next 10 years," Menon said.

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Could Poly Royal be resurrected — sans riots?

A Cal Poly student's senior project shows that Poly Royal could safely return to campus after a 17-year hiatus.

Janelle Eastridge

Imagine for a minute that high school seniors, Cal Poly students, alumni and the community at large were celebrating Poly Royal this weekend instead of Open House—but Cal Poly becausePoly Royal in name only, without the negative connotations of riots, arrests and drunkenness this name conjures up.

For her senior project, journalism senior Jemma Wilson conducted a public relations campaign to determine whether this change could in fact be made on campus.

"About keeping the events the same, but changing the name back to Poly Royal because of its recognition," Wilson said. "It's nationally known as Poly Royal. It should be changed back."

Poly Royal was cancelled in 1990 after drunken riots resulted in 140 arrests, ending nearly 50 years of tradition.

People would understand that the event is different than it was before, Wilson said. Furthermore, if the name was changed more alumni would both know what the event is and feel welcome to come back and participate in it once again, she added.

"There's no connection for Poly alumni who remember the good ol' days, so to speak. People who graduated before 1985 don't know what Open House is," said George Ramos, Wilson's senior project adviser and the journalism department chair. Ramos graduated from Cal Poly in 1969.

"It would be a chance for Poly to retain some of its tradition (since) Poly Royal is unique to Cal Poly," Ramos added.

Cal Poly has a long tradition of open house-type events, with the first, "Farmers' Picnic," dating back to 1904.

"There's no connection for Poly alumni who remember the good ol' days, so to speak. People who graduated before 1985 don't know what Open House is," said George Ramos, Wilson's senior project adviser and the journalism department chair. Ramos graduated from Cal Poly in 1969.

"It would be a chance for Poly to retain some of its tradition (since) Poly Royal is unique to Cal Poly," Ramos added.

Fearing that Cal Poly could be shut down, the school needed a new event that could "show the public what Cal Poly was all about," as Wilson stated in her project. So, in 1933, the university held its first Poly Royal. Over the years, the event and its activities evolved and grew, attracting more and more students and alumni, and establishing in the process a unique, nationally recognized event.

But in 1990, Poly Royal took a different turn, resulting in three days of alcohol-induced riots and 140 arrests. President Warren Baker ultimately decided to cancel the event permanently.

Four years later, the administration, with Baker's approval, created Open House, an event that sought (and still seeks) to focus more on conditionally admitted students. Retaining several of Poly Royal's traditions, Open House took a different approach, trying to downplay the party atmosphere as much as possible.

But what if a different approach could be taken once again? What if the events of Open House and its public relations campaign against "Party" Royal could be kept, but the name changed back to Poly Royal?

As part of her campaign, Wilson conducted about 200 surveys — giving about half of these to current Cal Poly students and half to San Luis Obispo residents, some of whom were Cal Poly alumni. Overall, about 80 percent of the participants favored the name change.

She also interviewed key figures in the debate, including Open House coordinators and President Warren Baker, who ultimately has the power to change or not change the name of the event.

Baker is willing to make the change, mostly for the alumni, because Poly Royal is well known and liked, Wilson said. "It has always been at the back of his mind to bring it back," she said.

"If there's a strong enough push for it, it could be changed. There's probably a lot of people who want it changed, especially in the Alumni Association," she added.

But the current Open House committee is against renaming it. They said that alumni would be disappointed with the changed program, and that, more importantly, the change would reverse an image and an event that the committee has worked hard to create.

"Our thinking is that we would never go back to Poly Royal since we have new events," said Lisa Bruce, one of the event advisers.

"We really see this as an evolution, not that Farmers' Picnic or Poly Royal were not important, but that Open House was created in response to change."

Moreover, they have tried to ensure that alumni are not left out of this new event.

"We have worked a lot on updating alumni so that they are a part of it. Plus, for 14 years, alumni have only known Open House," she said. "(For alumni who graduated before then), our idea has been, 'If you liked Poly Royal, then you will like Open House, so come and check it out.'"

Mayor Dave Romero is also against the change because of the damage and costs that the city endured when the riots happened, Wilson said. Although he wouldn't be able to influence the university's decision, he made his stance against the change known.

With these pros and cons taken into consideration, though, Wilson ultimately concluded that such a change could be made.

"It would be cool if they did change it, to know that I helped get the ball rolling," Wilson said.
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Beyond the cafeteria: where to dine on campus

Daniella Orihuela-Gruber

Variety and quality dominate what and where Cal Poly students eat on campus. For those reasons, Campus Dining’s most popular venue, said Campus Dining associate director Alan Cushman, is the Campus Market.

"Our food is healthy, high quality and in a central location close to the library," said Campus Market’s student manager and social science senior Evin Newton.

English sophomore Rachel Long usually avoids eating on campus, but likes Campus Market the best. "I get a lot of sushi there and I love the California rolls," Long said. "I’m happy that they supply some non-American foods like the mochi ice creams and sushi."

Civil engineering freshman Felicia Knox spends about $30 to $60 at Campus Market every week. "I don’t get groceries anywhere else," Knox said. "I like that they have pretty much everything I need and they accept Plus Dollars.

The second most popular place to eat, The Avenue, has a wide variety of fast food places including Chinese, Mexican, Chick- différent sandwiches, frozen yogurt, salads and more. The Avenue recently expanded to include City Subs, an off-shoot of City Deli.

Electrical engineering sophomore Alex Boatman said, "It’s the only place my stomach is able to tolerate."

Garden Grille, the third most popular, is a made-to-order restaurant which offers salads, wraps, burgers and home-style meats and sides.

Garden Grille was created in 2005 when Campus Dining replaced the Lighthouse, an all-you-can-eat cafeteria that closed due to its unpopularity among students. The concept was to bring freshly prepared food to the campus.

Aerospace engineering freshman Andy Richardson used to work at The Avenue, but his favorite place to eat is Garden Grille. "It tastes better than the other food and I can use my meal plan there," Richardson said.

Eating on campus every day can get boring, so students like to dine at places with the most variety, like The Avenue, Campus Market or Garden Grille. Of all Cal Poly’s eateries, Campus Market pulls in the most revenue.

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The bachelor degree is commonly referred to as a “four-year degree,” but students today are arguing that it’s becoming unrealistic to graduate in that amount of time.

Super seniors, students still in college after their fourth year, are becoming increasingly common at Cal Poly. The college experience has changed over the last 50 years, requiring harder classes and more of them, as well as several more graduation requirements like internships and senior projects.

Karen Owen, a sixth year electrical engineering student, feels that those who do graduate within the four-year parameter are usually unemployed and unconcerned with extracurricular activities.

“Most seniors I meet are in their fifth year of college, and it’s not because they’re lazy or switching majors constantly. College is taking up more and more time,” Owen said.

The order of classes can often set back students a quarter or two. Some students may only have a few classes left, but because of prerequisites, the classes have to be spread out.

In addition, the number of new students is greater than the number of new classes, meaning the classes fill quickly.

Jade Landley, a fifth year marketing student, only has two classes left to graduate. But, due to the over-population of students compared to classes, he was unable to enroll in one of them and now has to take another quarter before graduation.

“As seniors we should get more work while going to college, part-time or full time. This can take away from time spent in class or doing homework, making it harder to take more than 12 units per quarter.

Justin Coogan, a fifth year nutrition student, has to work full time to help pay for his college expenses.

“If you’re a working college student, it’s pretty much impossible to graduate on time. The rules and standards have changed and so has the time frame that it takes to finish,” Coogan said.

Karen Owen, a sixth year electrical engineering student, feels that those who do graduate within the four-year parameter are usually unemployed and unconcerned with extracurricular activities.
Study abroad skills attract employers

Andrea Zeek
(Dine News Ball State U.)

Surfing in Australia, frequenting the pubs in Ireland and looking at the lights of the Eiffel Tower in France sound like a vacation, but they can also help students find a job after graduating college. Even getting hopelessly lost on the London Underground subway can show impressive problem solving skills during an interview.

Studying abroad gives students an edge when applying for jobs because employers look for students with self-reliance and communication skills that living in another country can teach.

"Employers like to see that job candidates have a wide range of experience," said Joe Goodwin, assistant director of the Ball State University Career Center. "(Experience) studying abroad shows someone that is able to adapt and function in other cultures. It shows adaptability, being able to deal with unfamiliar situations and, for some students, the ability to speak a foreign language."

Students must recognize this as well, because the Rinker Center for International Programs has seen a 12 percent increase in the number of students going abroad since the 2003-04 academic year, RCIP director Jim Coffin said. An all-time high of 624 Ball State students studied abroad last year, he said, and more are enrolled this year.

Experience abroad globalizes students and helps them understand other cultures, Coffin said. "It gives them insight into how to partner with overseas corporations," he said. "It networks them with potential overseas colleagues, and it broadens their minds on the dynamics that lead to corporate strategies and decision making."

Elisabeth Zimkowski, a college recruiter for Dell Inc. who interviewed Ball State students at the Career Center on Tuesday, said while students without international experience are considered for jobs, studying abroad will put applicants at a distinct advantage. The kinds of adaptive qualities and problem-solving skills students learn while abroad are valuable at any job, she said.

Zimkowski said when recruiting, most companies practice competency-based interviewing, such as asking students to describe a specific time and place where they worked through an unfamiliar or crisis situation.

"This is where students can cite their study abroad experience," she said. "Some companies think past experience is the best predictor of future experience."

Senior Ashley Briggs, who planned to teach biology, said she spent three months at the Australia Center last spring because she had always wanted to visit the country and the center offered science courses such as marine biology and rainforest ecology. Her experience abroad will definitely enrich her resume, she said.

"It makes you a more well-rounded person," Briggs said. "I'm definitely more financially aware; I went over there with 'X' amount of dollars, and I had to make a budget for the entire time."

Traveling around a foreign country by herself helped Briggs gain a sense of independence, she said, "I wish I could do it again," she said. "I would love to go back. It's definitely on my list of things to do before I die."

Coffin said students also network through the classes they take and the places they visit.

"Exchange students have classmates from around the world," he said. "Field experiences offer students the opportunity to visit and learn about international workplaces and the issues that these workplaces are facing internationally. Study abroad students also informally meet individuals from around the world with like interests."

Students have made connections with overseas employers while studying abroad, he said.

Alumna Angie Manginelli, a former London Centre student, got a position at EUSA, a pan-European study abroad program that works with universities to provide students with internships in Europe, Coffin said.

"They experience the joy of life that comes with making new friends and new experiences," he said. "Most of us have an adventurous spirit in us; it's part of the human spirit. Every day is different."

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Drug, alcohol abuse soars among students

Anna Zagari
Daily Collegian (Penn State)

Nearly 49 percent of full-time college students — about 3.8 million people — binge drink and/or abuse drugs, according to a recent study.

The study, "Waiting the Best and the Brightest: Substance Abuse at America's Colleges and Universities," was conducted by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University (CASA).

Researchers, who polled 2,000 students and 400 administrators between 1993 and 2005, also found that 22.9 percent of full-time college students, which accounts for 1.6 million people, "met the medical criteria for substance abuse and dependence." Only 8.5 percent of the general population met the criteria.

Joseph Califano, chairman and president of CASA, said in a statement that college administrations are to blame for substance abuse and for the consequences that accompany it on campuses.

"College presidents, deans and trustees have facilitated a college culture of alcohol and drug abuse that is linked to poor student academic performance, depression, anxiety, suicide, property damage, vandalism, fights, and a host of medical problems," Califano said in a statement.

Califano also believes the failure of "Pontius Pilate presidents and parents, deans, trustees and alumni" to become part of the solution to this matter is another problem.

Amanda Moutz, Pennsylvania State University spokeswoman, said she doesn't believe the reason for abuse of alcohol and drugs at Penn State's campus is the faculty's fault.

In fact, she said, the school has a number of programs and activities for students to enjoy that are free from drugs and alcohol, such as LateNight Penn State and others at the University Health Center "for students who choose not to drink and use drugs more than non-members."

"Involvement in any social groups when you're interacting with your peers can cause more contagious behavior," Miller said.

Miller also believes drinking at a fraternity is one of the safest places to engage in such activities because of the positive response to their new policies, which restrict the social functions a fraternity can have.

The IFC is recognizing the drinking and drug issues at Penn State via Training for Intervention Procedures (TIPS). TIPS is an enrichment program to help chapters learn about serving alcohol and intervening when someone is in need of it, Miller said.

Many students choose to "loosen up" during the weekend with alcohol or drugs, but may be unaware of their real dangers.

Many students choose to "loosen up" during the weekend with alcohol or drugs, but may be unaware of their real dangers.

Grant Miller, the Interfraternity Council (IFC) president, said he sees the abuse of drugs and alcohol at Penn State as a campus-wide issue and not one rooted in the Greek community.

"Involvement in any social

The study said 88 percent of fraternity and sorority members drink compared to 67 percent of non-members, and 64 percent of these members binge drink compared to 37 percent of non-members. The study went on to report 21 percent of these members use marijuana versus 16 percent of non-members.

Brian Mauro, chairperson for the Commission for Substance Abuse and Prevention (CSAP) at Penn State, said the commission is taking initiatives to give students alcohol- and drug-free activity options.

CSAP recently received a $250,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board to develop and implement plans at all Penn State campuses to address high-risk drinking and drug abuse.

Mauro said they hope to begin environmental management strategies, which would include adding activities for students that discourage drug and alcohol use and abuse, along with educational initiatives. The chairman also hopes to inform students who choose not to drink or use drugs that they are not alone.

"If you're not drinking, you're bored," Mauro said. "There's always an excuse to drink.

The chairman also hopes to inform students who choose not to drink or use drugs that they are not alone.

Bob Ruff, an English junior, said he wouldn't consider drinking a problem at Penn State, but he does notice people planning their weekends around drinking. As a player on the rugby team, Ruff said he doesn't drink much during the season; instead, he and some of his teammates opt for activities that don't involve alcohol, such as LetterNight Penn State.

"There is actually some fun stuff there," Ruff said.

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How to pick up a college girl 101

Louis Mangene

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How to pick up a college girl 101

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Enter a bar or party and you might see a variety of girls — nice girls, quiet girls, Ugg boot girls, sorority girls and crazy party girls on top of the bar dancing. You analyze the situation and spot a few girls that catch your eye. You approach one of them and ask them where the bathroom is, because “you lost your way in their eyes.” If you are tall, rich and have model good looks you might get lucky with this line. However, if you are like most guys you are going to have to try a lot harder.

Picking up girls involves a lot of work and can be about as fair as the on-campus housing selection lottery. Getting a woman’s attention and creating attraction is one of the most difficult things to accomplish in life, along with reaching the summit of Mount Everest and watching the Lifetime channel for more than five minutes. It takes a lot of practice, determination and hard work to accomplish this task, but the rewards are worth it.

Most guys will admit that it is difficult for them to approach a stranger, much less a girl they are attracted to. However, this fear is normal and can be conquered. The key is to feel the fear and do it anyways.

“The most important attitude to have when picking up a girl I feel is to be somewhat cocky, not overconfident,” said Mark Balkun, a sports management senior at Fuidicott (Mass.) College. “Act like you know she should want you or already does. Also a good smile and a little humor goes a lot further than a cheesy pickup line.”

“Be original because if she looks good she probably hears the same pickup line,” said Erik Muschette, a communications junior. “Be yourself because she is going to like you for you.”

“I think some guys are afraid to approach girls because they’re afraid of getting shot down,” said resource economics senior Steve Moore. “Just have more confidence and understand it’s not the end of the world if a girl turns you down.”

The first step in becoming more confident in talking to girls is to analyze and reflect on your self image. Ask yourself what you can do to improve yourself. Let’s work on this by introducing the Lou Mangene principles of inner strength and power otherwise known as P.O.W.E.R.: Power, Optimism, Wonder, Energy and Resolve. Power refers to the ability to see yourself as strong and confident. Optimism is the ability to think positively when things are not going well. Wonder is being able to dream big while energy refers to the ability to stay excited about improving yourself. Finally, resolve refers to your ability to keep going until you reach your goal. If you adhere to these five principles you will find yourself making incredible improvement in your success with women.

Self-presentation is another one of the most important factors in your success with women. The very first thing women notice in a man is how he appears on the outside. As you may know, women are very good at paying close attention to details. Coincidentally, women’s emphases on details are not only useful for telling detail-saturated stories, but also for evaluating a potential mate.

Having good hygiene and dressing well is important for your perception of yourself and a woman’s perception of you. Good hygiene includes keeping your teeth clean, taking showers regularly and trimming your hair. Dressing well does not necessarily involve spending ridiculous amounts of money on a...
Online searches change dating dynamic

Martha Irvine
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Dating used to be largely a matter of spending time with a love interest, discovering the good, the bad and the ugly in person. If you were lucky, friends helped fill in some of the blanks. These days, the Internet — and the ability to check people out before they ever meet up — has forever changed the rules. For better or worse, “googling” your date has become standard practice.

“I often tell my friends that are still in the dating sphere to use the power of Google to their advantage,” says Katie Laird, a 24-year-old Web marketing professional and self-proclaimed “social software geek” from Houston.

The results can be enlightening, surprising — and sometimes, a little disturbing. So Laird’s advice also comes with a warning: “Don’t google what you can’t handle.”

In her dating life, she regularly did online research on her dates and turned up, among other things, “bizarre” fetishes and a guy who was fascinated with vampires.

“Not my scene at all,” Laird said, “and nothing I would’ve ever guessed over an initial meeting and beer.”

She also had to contend with an on-again, off-again boyfriend who googled her on a daily basis to try and track her every move. The story did end happily, however, when she met her future husband online.

In some ways, having a social networking page — or pages — has become the new calling card. It’s a way for people to check out photos and find out what they have in common, even when they’ve already met in person.

Pick up
continued from page 19

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Go Mustang!
Australian inventor gets ‘Intimate’ with audience

Ryan Chartrand

For many Americans, getting intimate with someone means having a long conversation in a quiet setting or perhaps over a romantic dinner.

For Australian new media artist Keith Armstrong, however, getting intimate with someone means entering a fantasy world, leaving your body behind and plugging into a virtual space.

Armstrong is inviting people to get intimate through his interactive electronic artwork "Intimate Transactions," which will make its American debut at Cal Poly as part of the Open House festivities from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday in the architecture building.

"Intimate Transactions" is an award-winning new media work that allows two participants to interact with each other through a virtual world.

"I wanted to use the body as the interface because ultimately our body is the interface with the world," Armstrong said.

A half-hour session of "Intimate Transactions" requires two people to be standing on "body shelves" in two different locations. The shelves track each participant's movements as they interact with each other through a virtual world presented in front of them.

"There are two universes and I can do whatever I want in my universe, and they can do whatever they want with their universe, but they affect each other," Armstrong said.

As users begin to take objects from their own world and watch it begin to fall apart, it ultimately affects the other user's world as well.

"We are the only way to reestablish previous states of balance in the work is to collaborate," Armstrong said.

They also experience an immersive surround sound environment consisting of eight large speakers and small, wearable speakers that send sound vibrations throughout the participants' bodies. The work features thousands of sound samples, including voices speaking in French, English and an aboriginal Australian dialect.

"It's definitely something different," said computer engineering senior Chaitanya Patel. "It's my first giant project to work on and I hope to understand a whole new type of architecture that was put together in Australia."

The show is being produced on campus thanks to the help of over 100 students and four faculty collected from such departments as architecture, English, graphic arts, computer science, mechanical engineering, theater, business and others.

One of Armstrong's main artistic ideas behind the work was to stress the importance of sustainability.

"I'm interested in social and ecological relationships and the idea of leaving an ecological footprint," Armstrong said. "It's the idea of what you do here ripples out and has an effect off in the distance."

Although Armstrong predicts American audiences will have a "go-getter attitude" and try and take as many objects as possible, not everyone interacts with the work in the same way.

"You could use the basic game metaphor of taking objects, which is usually the way to win," Armstrong said. "But in this, the more you gather, the more dramatic it gets, but the less you can ultimately do."

He noted the three different types of people he's watched interact with the work around the globe.

"If it's a gamer, they will try to grab everything. If it's an investigator, they just listen and glide around," Armstrong said. "Then there are those who are nervous about technology and don't think they're doing it right."

See "Intimate", page 22
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Daniel Seguin

The lights fade and the curtains open on the giant silver screen. The movie begins with the familiar lines—"A long, long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away." The sound track begins to fade into the distance as the persistent rumble of the giant ship increases until it envelops all sense of being. And then we hear it, the first few notes that make the movie "Star Wars" memorable.

Sometimes, soundtracks are what turn good movies into all-time classics. Would you forget the sinister, low-toned string section that provided the largely unseen shark in "Jaws"? Who could forget the gently flowing orchestral movement as "ET" plus "One?

Movie soundtracks have helped shape our very lives since the days of early childhood. And they continue to do so to this day. If you want to hear them again, as well as many other musical movie faves, now you've got your chance. The Cal Poly music department will present three different music ensembles on Saturday. Each ensemble will play various selections from well-known movie soundtracks.

Professor William Johnson will conduct the Cal Poly Wind Ensemble, which will perform Howard Shore's theme from "The Aviator." The wind ensemble will also perform John Williams' "Star Wars" theme. Johnson said that tickets are currently on sale for anyone who wants to attend the upcoming concert. Administrative accounting assistant Rosie Schmitz said she is thrilled to have already her tickets.

Schmitz won her tickets via a drawing for full-time Associated Students Inc. employees. Schmitz is not only a Cal Poly alumna but also a former member of the Cal Poly Wind Ensemble.

Schmitz said that she knows the music will be worth the waiting she has done since receiving her tickets. "I'm very much looking forward to the performance and to see the caliber of talent that's at this campus," Schmitz said. "Those students, they're just incredible."

Schmitz will be attending the concert with her boyfriend, and they are both anxiously awaiting one section in particular. She said, "We're really looking forward to hearing the "Star Wars" music," Schmitz said. "It will be very exciting."

Special guest composer Stephen Mellis will conduct the wind ensemble in its rendition of his own work, "Time to Back the Knights.

Cal Poly's University Jazz Band No.1, conducted by director of Jazz Studies Paul Riniker, will perform tracks "Moon River" (Henry Mancini) from the film "Breakfast at Tiffany's," and "Almost Cruel" (Duke Ellington) from "Anatomy of a Murder."

Finally the Cal Poly Symphony will perform pieces from Alfred Hitchcock's film "Vertigo," as well as the track "Adventures on Earth" from "ET."

"It makes for a great concert because there is so much great music for movies," Johnson said. The concert will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday in Harmon Hall at the Cal Poly Performing Arts Center. Ticket prices range from $8 to $19.

Ballet making big impact on campus

Daniella Orbiuela-Grober

The Los Grandes Ballets Canadiens de Montreal's performance of "Minus One," by Ohad Naharin, began with a lone man in a suit dancing like a CEO whose company just made the Fortune 500 list as people filed into their seats in the Christopher Cohan Center's Harman Hall.

Soon, he was joined by a crowd of suits who were doing a more restrained 1-need-to-go-to-the-bathroom wiggle before bursting into chaos and then synchronized leaps. The curtain closed on the initial dancer screaming at the audience.

"Minus One" is a contemporary piece by internationally-renowned Israeli choreographer Naharin, who especially designed the performance for Les Grandes Ballets Canadien's "Orchestra" company. It came to San Luis Obispo as a part of Cal Poly Arts' "Great Performances" series, which aims to present events at the Performing Arts Center for only $8.

The performance was a spectacular gamut of emotions, as displayed by Hebrew chants, a playful, morning-after dance between lovers, a singing she-devil in sparkling black spandex and red-booted stilts and a piece that featured the dancers in individual costumes and stories.

Toward the end of the show, the performers left the stage and brought audience members onto the stage to dance with them to an electronic version of "Sometimes Over the Rainbow" and some salsa music. Throughout most of the performance, the often barefoot dancers brought sensuality and playfulness to everything they did.

Les Grandes Ballets Canadiens de Montreal, Canada's premier dance company, was founded in 1957 by Ludmilla Chiriaeff. Since then, it has had many famous dancers like Fernanda Nault, James see Ballet, page 25

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dessert at the fifth annual Cal Poly
Wine Festival, which will be held
April 28 at Santa Margarita Ranch
from 1 to 4 p.m.

In addition to the food and
drinks, there will be a silent auc­
tion and live music by Pipe Dream,
a classic rock band from
Atascadero, at the event. There is
also a golf tournament the day
before at Cypress Ridge Golf
Course in Arroyo Grande.

The Wine Festival is organized
and run each year by the Vines to
Wines Club and the wine and viti­
culture department as a fundraiser
to benefit the department. Last year
it raised more than $5,000.

"Vines to Wines is a learning
environment for students interest­
ed in getting involved in the wine
industry," said Amanda Burbridge,
an agribusiness senior and the
event coordinator of the Wine
Festival.

While many of the students
involved are wine and viticulture
majors, students from all majors are
welcome.

The planning committee is
made up of six current students
from a variety of majors, as well as
two alumni and one professor who
have been meeting every week
since November. There will also be
about 50 volunteers at the event.

More than 700 people attended
last year's Wine Festival, and
Burbridge said they are expecting
up to 1,000 this year. The golf
tournament is expected to have a
smaller turnout of about 100 peo­
ple.

Many of the festival's attendees
are Cal Poly students, staff and
alumni, but the planning commit­
tee expects a more diverse crowd this
year.

"The makeup of the people who
come to the event is changing
every year," said Andrew Parr, a Cal
Poly graduate who is in charge of
marketing and public relations for
the Wine Festival.

"As the event grows in popular­
ity, more and more people from
other backgrounds are showing up
consisting of locals who are looking
to taste wine as well as wine
see Wine Fest, page 25
Ballet
continued from page 23
Kodelka, Edward Lock and Ginette Laurin.

The company, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary, has toured extensively all over the world. It has also performed at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Massachusetts for two consecutive years.

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens has performed everything from classics by George Balanchine, Kurt Jooss, Vaslav Nijinsky and many others.

Vincent Warren was a former principal dancer for the company who started dancing for it in 1961. “I saw the company for the first time in 1960,” Warren said in a Montreal Gazette article. “Before I saw them dance, I thought the name was tacky — so pretentious. But I was really impressed. They were a neat and clean company with very good taste.”

Naharin, who studied at Juilliard School of Music, has performed in Europe and America. He was also the art director of Batsheva Dance Company in Israel, and is now its house choreographer.

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens' current artistic director, Gradimir Pankov, has been a guest instructor for the Paris Opera Ballet, the Lyon Opera Ballet, Nederlands Dans Theater and the American Ballet Theatre.

“My vision is simple,” Pankov said. “I will keep searching for the unknown — looking for ways to move differently.”

Wine Fest
continued from page 24
growers from all over the state who are looking to enjoy a weekend in the sun.

The silent auction will sell donated items such as bottles of wine and hotel stays.

“Somebody’s donating a plane flight to Napa for dinner and back,” Burbridge said.

The golf tournament will be the kickoff for the event, beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Friday with a shotgun start and a barbecue to finish it off.

“The event is a very relaxed one where there is less business and more fun,” Parr said.

Tickets cost $30 for students, faculty and staff and $50 for the public. Designated driver tickets are also available for $15.

A golf tournament ticket on its own is $135, or you can purchase a package. Two Wine Festival tickets and one golf tournament ticket is $195 and one Wine Festival ticket and one golf tournament ticket is $165.

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Students fix T in colleges around the country — one examining Asian-Americans

People have not heard of Emory. But they hear of this on the news, and they start saying, "Maybe they've got something going on down there," said Schmidt. 27. "Students who would look at Harvard or Yale, it allows them to look at Emory, too.

Mustang Daily

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OPEN HOUSE

With fierce competition to enroll students, colleges look to celebrities

Dorie Turner
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA
College brochures tout Ivy-covered campuses, plush dorms and high-tech fitness centers. But when it comes to getting the attention of students — and rival institutions — nothing works as well as a little star power.

Relatively unknown schools like Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn., experienced a boost in enrollment after Al Gore taught at the school. And well-established schools hoping to secure truly elite reputations are signing up celebrity professors, like Atlanta's Emory University did when it inked a five-year deal with acclaimed novelist Salman Rushdie.

Leading a big name to teach gives a school an air of credibility with some prospective students it might not otherwise get, some observers say.

Shelia Peters, associate provost at Fisk, a traditionally black college of 300 students, said Gore's decision to teach at the school following his failed 2000 presidential bid thrust the school's name into the limelight. The vice president also taught at Middle Tennessee State University in Nashville and Columbia University in the wake of the election.

"I'm sure there were people who didn't know about Fisk that became introduced to us by virtue of his being here, and we are forever grateful for that," associate provost Shelia Peters said. "I don't think it hurt recruitment by any means."

Students from colleges around the Nashville area and community members were vying to get a seat in Gore's 100-student class, and prospective students were shuttled past Gore's classroom. Freshman enrollment, which had dipped to 151 students in 2001, jumped to 220 the next year.

Other schools have gotten in on the act include Northwestern (Oprah Winfrey), Creighton (Clarence Thomas) and the University of Pennsylvania (Kal Penn, star of "Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle").

"Harold and Kumar" star Penn is slated to teach two classes at the University of Pennsylvania in the fall.

"The professors may be incredibly distinguished and be world renowned in their field, but it's not the same as having name recognition with parents and students," Kaplan said.

Universities in the Washington, D.C., area have long drawn popular political figures to teach, including former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright (Georgetown University) and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia (George Washington University).

This semester, former U.S. Rep. Harold Ford Jr., who unsuccessfully ran for Senate from Tennessee in November, is teaching at Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

"Harold and Kumar" star Penn is slated to teach two classes at the University of Pennsylvania in the fall — one examining Asian-Americans in the media and the other looking at teen films.

Grace Kao, director of the university's Asian-American studies program, said she has been flooded with inquiries from students wanting to take the classes.

"If some students come in thinking they're going to be hanging out with Kumar, it's going to be a shock," Kao said.
Irish ‘Beauty Queen’ to take over CP stage

Brooke Robertson

What does a Quentin Tarantino movie have to do with an Irish play about a mother and daughter’s relationship? “Explosive violence,” said Cal Poly theatre professor Pamela Malkin.

Malkin will direct the regional premiere of Martin McDonagh’s darkly comical play, “The Beauty Queen of Leenane,” which will appear at Cal Poly’s Spanos Theatre May 16 through 19.

McDonagh’s favorite movie director is Tarantino, and one can see the resemblance in his work, Malkin said. “Beauty Queen” has very bleak moments, yet still manages to be funny. “You laugh at the same time as you cringe,” Malkin said.

The ride home from the theater won’t be a somber experience. “It is eminently sad when you see characters dissolving,” Malkin explained, but “life is full of humor, even when we see sad things happening.”

“The Beauty Queen of Leenane” focuses on the relationship between 49-year-old Maureen and her 70-year-old mother, Ma. Maureen is messy, slovenly, selfish and cruel. Maureen’s life revolves around taking care of Ma, and her world becomes “unbearably and unspeakably small as she cares for a woman she hates,” Malkin described.

The small set compliments Maureen’s shrinking world. Theatre-goers will be seated on a thrust stage, meaning the audience will sit on stage, three quarters of the way around the set. This creates more intimacy between the characters and their audience. Viewers will surround the resemblance of a cramped, lower-middle class cottage, set in the Irish village of Leenane in 1989.

“The smallness of the set emphasizes the smallness and despair of the characters’ lives,” Malkin explained. “This is a claustrophobic home.”

Maureen’s daily routine is broken when Pato, a middle-aged construction worker, and his brother Ray, a hip and edgy 19-year-old, enter her life. Maureen has a romantic attraction to Pato, which could lead her to escape as her mother. “Her one chance for an enjoyable life away from her mother is severely challenged,” Malkin said.

“Beauty Queen” features four student actors, whom Malkin calls working with “a terrific luxury.”

Malkin has no doubts about the actors’ abilities to master an Irish accent before the play’s premiere. The play is “written in the cadence of how they speak,” she emphasized.

A dialect coach was hired by the theatre and dance department and is currently working with the actors. See ‘Beauty Queen,’ page 28.
‘Beauty Queen’ continued from page 27

actors. The coach helped determine which students adapted to the accent during casting and will spend over 40 more hours working with the students. “They’ll all get it down,” Malkin said.

Performing in an accent has professional benefits for the individual actors. Being able to adapt one’s voice to different dialects is often a technical requirement directors will look for, Malkin said.

In addition to learning to speak in an Irish dialect, the actors will be learning about Irish history and culture.

The play will serve as a four-unit course for the four students acting in the play. But don’t think students can sign up for a lead acting role just like they sign up for classes. Casting is very competitive, and is not limited to theatre majors or even Cal Poly students.

“The Beauty Queen of Leenane” features two theatre majors, one chemistry major, and one Cuesta student, Malkin said. She estimated that 60 percent of students who act in Cal Poly performances are theatre majors, and 40 percent are non-theatre majors.

“There’s talent everywhere at Cal Poly,” Malkin said.

Stephanie Agron graduated from Cal Poly’s theatre program in December 2006. She appeared in over 12 plays while at Cal Poly, including “Macbeth,” “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest,” “Roundheads and Pointedheads,” and “The Crucible.”

“It’s really accessible to get involved in the program,” Agron said. She credits the program’s small size in giving her lots of experience, both on stage and behind the scenes. Malkin estimates the department accepts 60 theatre majors each year.

“You get an ample amount of practice and information about all aspects of theatre,” she said.

Theatre isn’t limited to acting. The theatre and dance department fosters designers, technicians, costume, directors, and people involved in all ingredients of the production.

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ASI Guest Column

ASI makes the Cal Poly experience more than just college

All Cal Poly students are stakeholders in Associated Students Inc. and gain all the benefits that go along with it. Technically, ASI is a non-profit corporation with the vision of being every student’s connection to the ultimate college experience. It does so by providing opportunities for every student to develop themselves outside of the classroom.

These opportunities come to life through the Cal Poly Rec Center, the University Union, the Sports Complex and the Children’s Center. All students of Cal Poly have direct access to any of these facilities and the programs that take place within them.

ASI has several programs available to enhance students’ college experience. There are instructional or exercise classes at the Rec Center, intramural sports, the Craft Center, Poly Escapes, Rose Float, and Student Government in the UU.

ASI is also the second largest student employer on campus. It employs more than 400 students every year in positions from facility supervisors to personal trainers to student management. Student employees are responsible for making decisions about what bands are brought to campus for large concerts and UU Hour and which speakers are brought for the ASI True Life Series (i.e. Ron Jeremy, Jodie Sweetin). The student staff gains valuable work experience in an environment that makes student development in No 1 priority.

As the primary stakeholders in the organization, students are the boss. Everything ASI does is with the full intent to better the lives of as many Cal Poly students as possible.

This is why several student leaders and I have continued to talk with many student organizations, clubs, Greeks and classes to find out what the most important issues are on campus. Doing so will make sure we focus on what all Cal Poly students think is important.

ASI Student Government (a fraction of what ASI wholly is) plays a major role in both the campus and city communities. It holds the major responsibility of officially and accurately representing the views of the students of Cal Poly. That has been a year of successes for ASI Student Government and for the students of Cal Poly.

We began the year early in June teaming up with the college exans, the vice president for Student Affairs, and the provost to commit over $28,000 and provide students 515 daily copies of The New York Times free of charge.

In fall, the newly restructured executive staff led by Chief of Staff Melissa Robbins came together for the first time and proved how strong a team they were. Every member gave countless hours to put together CP Next: Generation Vote, CP Next: Generation Sustain, and coming on April 25 to 26, CP Next: Generation Tech. These programs continuously bring out hundreds of students and serve to educate and motivate students to participate in the discussion of crucial issues in our society.

From the incredible survey results that were recorded last year by ASI President Tyler Middlestadt’s team, it was found that the largest priority among students who use the bus system is to extend the service into the late evening hours. Using these results, Student Government has been able to collaborate with the city of San Luis Obispo to make the extension a priority.

Thanks to the hard work of student leaders and city officials, the city applied for and won an 18-24 month grant that will allow the SLO Transit bus routes most utilized by students to be extended through even the latest night classes, fulfilling the No. 1 transit priority amongst students.

Amongst all the successes that have been achieved this year we have also been looking to the future. Student leaders have been conducting an extensive outreach program to uncover the most prominent priorities amongst students.

Through visits to each of the residence halls, college councils, and many clubs, the crowded gym resonated as the most commonly shared concern. To develop a solution to this problem, student leaders must continue to actively engage their fellow students to find out how they value an expanded Rec Center and what the common thoughts are.

The decision will ultimately be up to the students to choose whether or not they are willing to pursue the expansion of the Rec Center.

Most importantly, ASI exists for students. If you have questions, comments, or would like to get involved please do not hesitate to contact me. My e-mail is asipresident@calpoly.edu and I can be reached on campus at 756-1291.
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What Poly Reps won't tell you on the tour

As a "conditionally admitted" student at Cal Poly, you've probably taken the Poly Reps tour. That nice little stroll around campus in the beautiful Central Coast weather is usually enough to convince any high school student that San Luis Obispo is the right place for them. Especially since it's just far enough away from your parents.

While the Mustang Daily editors are just as much in love with Cal Poly as they were after taking that very tour, we've learned a few things since then. So we've come up with a list of things that those cheerful Poly Reps don't tell you, but oh, we will.

1. You'll probably spend more on textbooks than food. El Corral Bookstore is notorious among students for its high textbook prices, but there are other options like Aida's Book Exchange and screwthebookstores.com to help you out. Depending on the classes, students usually spend between $250 and $400 per quarter on books, though some may spend even more than that.

2. Take advantage of your Plus Dollars freshman year. The money does not roll over to the next year, so whatever is left over, you'll never see again.

3. Studying abroad can be one of the best experiences of your life. You should take advantage of it and start planning earlier rather than later. Cal Poly is burdened with bureaucracy so figure out all your steps as soon as you know you want to go.

4. Don't store alcohol in your dorm room. You think you can get away with it but you probably won't. And if someone finds it, you will get kicked out. We've seen it happen. You've been warned.

5. Despite how big it looks, the Rec Center fills up ridiculously fast. Go early in the morning or late at night to make sure you get the machine(s) you want.

6. Your roommate could be either the best or worst person you meet in college. And you have no control over the matching whatsoever — so go with the flow. Be nice from the start and don't be afraid to change your ways to make a better living environment for you both. You should also call them before school starts in September (you'll find out their contact information over the summer).

7. If you haven't applied for on-campus housing yet, DO IT NOW! Cal Poly has experienced a serious housing shortage for freshmen and many will have to live off campus this fall. While you can still have a great freshman experience living in Mustang Village or Stenner Glen, nothing beats the dorms.

8. Polyratings.com can turn your academic experience from torture to satisfying. It's a Website that allows students to rate their professors, so you should check out how yours are graded before taking a class.

9. If you're going into an engineering major, you probably won't graduate in four years. It can be done, but you'll be lucky to get two hours of sleep per night.

10. If you're in the College of Liberal Arts, you could probably graduate a quarter early as long as you stay on track and take a full course load. So if you start seriously during an engineering major, you might want to think about staying in San Luis Obispo an extra year after you graduate...

11. Take advantage of your trips home. You can do laundry for free, your parents provide you with free food 24 hours a day and you don't have to wear shower shoes. Oh, and you can be unconditionally loved by your parents. It's a good feeling.

Editorials reflect the opinions of the Mustang Daily editorial staff.

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Imagine a 19-year-old freshman male walking into class looking disheveled, lacking personal hygiene, with red eyes and an increasingly skinny frame. The student avoids any eye contact, seems uncomfortable, angry and anxious to leave class. His academic report shows that he is frequently absent, fails asleep in class and his assignments are late or nonexistent. The student has few friends, procrastinates, isolates himself in his room, can't regularly sleep, and wakes up two hours each night, has migraines and backaches. These could easily be the symptoms of drug abuse or a serious illness.

Instead, these are some of the symptoms of gamer addiction.

According to Dr. Maressa Hecht Orzack, a Harvard University psychologist and founder of Computer Addiction Services, gamer addiction is an obsession with video game playing that usually begins in elementary and middle school. By college, the individual progresses from simple to elaborate games and the student is hooked.

An activity becomes an addiction when it is used to change an individual's mood and it then becomes an abuse when it interferes with "one's work or school, or disrupts personal or family relationships, and becomes increasingly necessary to feel good," Orzack says.

Frey ended up on academic probation that semester and didn't return to school until fall 2005, just when he thought he could get his stuff together, Frey got hooked to another game, this time the infamous "Halo 2."

"I didn't do it again," says Frey. "My mom gave me another chance and I threw it away again. I was staying up all night playing 'Halo 2' and trying to increase my rank. This time I didn't even make it through half the semester."

Frey hasn't been back to school since, but is now back on his feet, without video games.

"Right now I'm working in Nashville and I'm staying at my dad's place. I'm just trying to make some money and, hopefully, get back into school," Frey says. "I don't have a video game console right now, so I don't think video games will be a problem."

Even his friends can see the positive change Frey has undergone since giving up video games.

"I'm glad Wesley is starting to calm down on the video games," says Hemyari. "He's making some money now and hopefully I'll see him at MTSU again soon."

According to the Entertainment Software Association, U.S. computer and video game software sales grew 6 percent in 2006 to $7.4 billion -- almost tripling industry software sales since 1996.

The ESA also reports that the average gamer is 33 years old, has been playing an average of 12 years and that 69 percent of American heads of households play video games.

With the video game industry growing stronger and more innovative games being developed, it doesn't look like the video game craze is going to end anytime soon.

College students all over the nation play video games more than they should, but still manage to get through school. There are a few though, that become "game-hooked" and the symptoms of Gamer Addiction start to occur.
Poly defies national trend in gender balance

Nationally, more women than men enroll in college, but Cal Poly defies the trend.

Samantha Freitas
MUSTANG DAILY

Take a look around and pay special attention to who you see. Whether you see more men or more women, chances are it is the direct result of your major.

The days of male-dominated universities are gone; in fact, women now make up 58 percent of undergraduates nationwide, according to the U.S. Education Department. At Cal Poly, 56.5 percent of the undergraduate student population is male, largely the result of the number of males in the College of Engineering, the largest college on campus.

Despite the number of males and females on campus being split pretty evenly, the percentage of men and females on each class can differ greatly depending on the major. It can be debated whether the presence of a certain gender in the classroom has advantages, disadvantages, or no effect at all.

The gender divide at Cal Poly is in the College of Engineering, where 86 percent of the 4,589 students are male. Nationwide, women make up 58 percent of college students. However, in the College of Liberal Arts, seven in 10 students are female. Overall, 56.5 percent of Cal Poly's undergraduate students are male.

Women now make up 58 percent of undergraduates nationwide, according to the U.S. Education Department. At Cal Poly, 56.5 percent of the undergraduate student population is male, largely the result of the number of males in the major has really made no difference.

"I think everybody should be treated the same," he said. "When I look back on my career it's comical that both these groups think the other group is getting the unfair advantage."

In his 20-year teaching career, LoCascio has had experience teaching classes dominated by both females and males, as well as classes that were evenly split, throughout all of which he never felt he needed to change his personal teaching style or noticed the classroom running any differently.

Architectural Engineer senior Jenny Jirschek is among 34.6 percent of the females in the College of Architecture and Environmental Design, which has the fourth largest gender divide at Cal Poly, and likes it that way.

"In classes with all guys it doesn't make any difference."

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Gender

continued from page 33

matter who’s cool and who’s not. It’s less competitive. The guys are always willing to help you. I think it has perks being one of the only girls,” Jirschefske said. “I’m in one class right now where it is almost all girls, which is really rare. You can totally tell the cuteness. I’m not used to the cuteness that comes along with girls being in your class.”

The College of Liberal Arts has 70.6 percent female students, the third largest gender divide on campus. Psychology and child development senior Nick San Juan, one of the 29.4 percent of males in the college, said being in the minority has advantages and disadvantages.

“It’s definitely a little bit different. In high school there are both guys and girls, and now I’m mostly surrounded by girls. I notice it. It’s definitely there, but it’s not that big of a deal to me,” San Juan said.

“One of the disadvantages of being a male in a female dominated major, San Juan said, is that some of the lectures are geared towards females since there are more of them in the classes.”

“As a guy surrounded by 30 girls in every class, it’s a pretty cool deal. Other than that, you just go to classes, take the tests like everyone else,” he said.

The College of Education, 74.2 percent female, and the College of Agriculture, 58.2 percent female, and the College of Science and Mathematics, 55 percent female, are the three other colleges on campus dominated by women. The Orfalea College of Business, 57.1 percent male, is the only other male dominated college at Cal Poly.

Wanna bet on global warming? You can

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Think global warming will raise the oceans enough to submerge Cape Hatteras? Want to bet on it?

An online gambling service has started taking bets on global warming, including whether it can submerge some of the East Coast’s top vacation spots.

The odds that Virginia’s Cape Henry will be under water by 2015 — 200-to-1 at BetUs.com. Its odds for Cape Hatteras flooding by the same date — 300-to-1.

Don’t bet on it, says Phil Roehrs, a coastal engineer for the city of Virginia Beach. Roehrs said although sea levels are rising along the East Coast, scientists are not predicting anywhere near the levels and dates provided by the gambling service.

“No wonder the odds are so good,” Roehrs said. That hasn’t stopped bettors from taking a chance. About 3,000 placed bets during the first three days on online booking, said Reed Richards, a spokesman for BetUs.com.

Most gamblers on the site have put down money that Manhattan will be submerged before New Year’s Eve 2011.

“Don’t ask me why,” Richards said.
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the price for health care can be a sensitive subject for the public and government alike. With health care costs expected to double to $4.1 trillion within a decade according to abcnews.com, many people may be wondering how to pay for it. Currently, the United States spends more than 15 percent of its gross domestic product on health care — more than any other industrialized nation in the world, said Tony Sinay, director of health care administration at California State University at Long Beach. By 2016, one in every $5 will go toward health care. Aside from inflation, there are several reasons, according to Sinay. Better technology in the health care industry means procedures like CT scans, MRIs and ultrasounds will become more expensive.

The health care industry is also growing, and with that comes higher wages for more people. In the next 10 years, the health care management industry is expected to grow much faster than other industries, Sinay said. A few professionals in the industry refer to the rising costs as a "health care crisis." According to Sinay, the industry will need more well-educated people to manage these health care organizations.

Sinay said that an even bigger factor is that people are going to doctors more frequently and expecting more services. Patients are seeing doctors two to three more times a year than they did roughly 30 years ago. There is a high demand for preventative procedures and high-tech diagnostic tests that check for conditions before there is a problem, he said. As costs rise, patients expect more services and better health care, Sinay said.

Sinay added that not all health care consumers feel they get what they pay for. Sophomore Raymond Bessemer described doctor visits as going to "prescription drug dealers." Bessemer said that doctors seem to not listen to their patients, often just handing out medicine recommendations within five minutes.

"Then you get charged $50 for it," Bessemer said. "We are never able to fix this completely," Sinay said about the rising health care costs.

Health insurance, in particular, has been on the national agenda for years. But as private insurance becomes more expensive, the government will have to find other ways to keep costs down. Some professionals say that 10 to 15 years from now, there will be a single pay system, Sinay said, where the government will have to provide insurance to those who cannot afford it privately.

Another concern is how the rising expenses will affect people who get health insurance through work. If health insurance becomes expensive enough, Sinay said, many employers will not be able to afford giving their workers the option for health insurance.

"Rising costs do increase the number of uninsured people," he said.

The people hit the hardest by the increasing prices for health care are the working poor, Sinay said. These people make too much money to be eligible for Medicaid, but either their employers do not provide health insurance, or the premiums are too high. The growing trend of health care costs leaves more and more people with no options for insurance.

"Just living is not enough. One must have sunshine, freedom and a little yarn."
—Hans Christian Anderson

### BY THE NUMBERS

- **$4.1 trillion**
  - Amount spent on health care within the decade
- **15**
  - Percent of U.S.'s gross domestic product spent on health care
- **2 to 3**
  - Times patients see a doctor per year

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Despite busy schedules, it's easy to start exercising — seriously

Zach Subar

NEW YORK — Sitting down is so very easy. Right now, I sit by my computer in comfort, my legs up on my desk. The vast jungle of the Internet is at my beck and call; a television sits near me, its screen filled with unimaginable delights.

But sitting down is so much more rewarding after you've exercised a bit. Imagine coming into your room feeling refreshed from having just run, or even from having just taken the stairs a few flights. You're tired, but you've been rejuvenated. You've got endorphins circulating through your system, and nature's drug is making you feel high on yourself. You can surf YouTube knowing that you've burned calories, potentially putting you out of breath. Maybe you'll be able to run and catch that bus that you missed without your legs feeling like lead weights. You'll run.

Of course, this is easier said than done. We're all busy, and we often don't feel like putting in the effort it takes to move our bodies. The elevator doors are waiting for us with open arms, and the gym isn't always easy to get to during a long day.

Certainly, these are valid concerns.

However, there are relatively easy ways to start to move your body without radically changing your lifestyle. First, identify times when you have breaks in your day. It could just be 20 minutes at lunch — not too far away and run to it. Or, if you have an iPod with you, run for one or two songs, as a recent adidas commercial suggests doing.

The more you do a particular pattern, the more your body gets accustomed to it. A training log to record your progress — it's a good way to see how much you've improved from workout to workout, and therefore good motivation to continue to improve and to keep up your exercising.

Put identity times when you break in your day. It could just be 20 minutes at lunch — that's enough time to take a short walk or to even go for a quick run.

You don't need much time to get started — after all, if you're getting started, you should be starting slow anyway.

"You always want to start really easy," said Marcus Overton, an exercise instructor at Coles Sports Center. "The more you do a particular pattern, the more your body gets accustomed to it."

Of course, you won't be able to run five miles or do 100 crunches right away. Set goals for yourself. If you're outdoors, pick a landmark not too far away and run to it. Or, if you have an iPod with you, run for one or two songs, as a recent adidas commercial suggests doing.

What's most important is to do something that you enjoy that benefits your health at the same time. Starting small will allow you to get bigger as time goes on. Your initial five-minute walk might extend itself to 10 minutes, occasional episodes of taking the stairs
In the history of college football, Cal Poly is the only school to receive three straight Buck Buchanan Awards for having the top defensive player in Division I-AA.

Tristan Aird

As hard as it is to believe, they were all on the field at the same time in 2004. And at the end of their collegiate careers, Cal Poly linebackers Jordan Beck (2004) and Kyle Shotwell (2006) and defensive end Chris Gocogn (2005) had all won Buck Buchanan Awards as the top defensive players in the Football Championship Subdivision (former­ly Division I-AA).

Cal Poly head coach Rich Ellerson reflected April 10 on what the bunch meant to his program.

"How did we ever lose a game?" Ellerson said with a laugh of the 2004 season. "My hope is that in a couple years we're talking about (other) guys. We still have those kinds of people, dreams and aspirations floating around."

The Mustangs finished 9-2 in 2004, the second of four straight winning seasons. But it wasn't until 2005 that the program reached — and won a game in — the 1-AA playoffs for the first time.

Both Beck and Gocogn parlayed their senior seasons into appearances in the East-West Shrine Game and invitations to the NFL Scouting Combine before being chosen in the third round of the NFL Draft in consecutive years.

Both players also had to spend their rookie seasons on injured reserve. Beck with the Atlanta Falcons after suffering a broken left foot while returning an interception in a preseason game and Gocogn with the Philadelphia Eagles after incurring a stinger/arm injury 11 days into training camp.

Beck, though, had 13 tackles (11 solo) in 15 games last season. He is now listed on the Falcons' depth chart as the team's starting middle linebacker. Gocogn, meanwhile, is slated to compete for the starting strongside linebacker job in Philadelphia.

Ellerson deflects praise for the unprecedented run of three straight Buchanan winners from himself to the program.

"I'm not sure that I take any special pride in that," Ellerson said. "I've been blessed to have that quality of guys. We play a system where we put guys in position to make plays and both of those guys — Kyle and Jordan — played the same (middle linebacker) position. That position, if we play well on defense, is going to garner a lot."

One day after taking the award in December 2006, Shotwell was as relieved as anything else.

"I was kind of relieved because I wasn't the guy who broke the tradition at Cal Poly," Shotwell said. "I wanted to keep the streak alive."

"Going into the season, I thought if I can play my best, I'd have a shot. After the San Diego State game, it kind of made me realize that I catapulted me into a front-runner for this thing. Toward the end of the season, you start thinking about it a little more."

Shotwell shared Ellerson's sense of wonder that all three Buchanan winners — along with future stand-out nose tackle Chris White and free safety Kenny Chicoine — were all on the field together in 2004.

"It's crazy to think we were on the field at the same time," Shotwell said. "If you look back at that year, we had an amazing defense. We didn't know exactly how good we were back then. That was a pretty exciting time to be playing defense at Cal Poly."

That mantra of team defense is something preached by Ellerson, whose coaching staff employs a double-eagle flex scheme that goes from a 3-4 to a 5-2 front during the course of a game.

"Whenever you listen to those guys talk about the award, they talk about it in the context of the team and I do as well," Ellerson said. "They're really close friends. They shared the same goals, dreams and aspirations and leaned on one another in the hard times."

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April 20-22, 2007

For Poly football team, 3 of a kind will not be forgotten
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Stuffed monkey leads to arrests

FORREST CITY, Ark. — An Arkansas State Police trooper suspected monkey business when he spotted a large stuffed animal perched atop the dashboard of a pickup truck on the interstate.

A trooper driving down freeway near Forrest City on Monday spotted a truck with much of its windshield blocked by a large, stuffed monkey, authorities said. When the trooper pulled over the driver, he could smell what he suspected to be marijuana and he watched the vehicle, police said.

Police said the trooper found more than 2,100 hydrocodone pills, 70 Xanax pills and 60 Soma pills.

The driver, Tonya Rachelle Ciarner, 35, and passenger, Dennis Ray Ciarner, 34, both of Willis, Texas, were each charged with several counts of possession with intent to deliver.

**Oklahoma names watermelon state veggie**

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma already has the strawberry as its official fruit, so the state Senate cleared the way Tuesday to declare the watermelon the state vegetable.

The measure was introduced in the House by Democratic Rep. Joe Dorman of Rush Springs, site of an annual watermelon festival in August.

Sen. Don Barrington, R-Longview, sponsored the bill in the Senate.

"The controversy on whether watermelon is a fruit or vegetable has been officially decided by the Oklahoma Legislature," Dorman said. "He said watermelons come from the cucumber and gourd families, which are classified as vegetables."

Others are not convinced. Sen. Nancy Riley, D-Tulsa, said her dictionary refers to the watermelon as a fruit.

The bill now goes to Gov. Brad Henry.

* - The Associated Press
Medicaid rebate cuts make contraceptives more expensive

Christina Hansen
Kansas State Collegian (Kansas State U.)

Medicaid cuts aimed at reducing the national deficit have doubled—even tripled—birth control centers across the country. Prices at many university health centers have risen significantly because the Medicaid rebate statute affected a large number of groups included in the rebate statute and eliminated colleges and universities from the list.

According to a March 30 article in the Illinois State University Daily Vidette, one measure in the Deficit Reduction Bill rescinded a Medicaid rebate statute that allowed drug manufacturers to sell medications to health care providers at a minimal price. These health care providers, in turn, could offer patients prescription drugs at a discounted price without having to pay rebates back to the state. The 2005 bill reduced the number of groups included in the rebate statute and eliminated colleges and universities from the list.

When the Deficit Reduction Bill went into effect, staff members at Kansas State University's Lafene Health Center had little time to prepare for the rise in birth control costs, said pharmacist Mark Brown-Barnett.

"We were notified of the price changes in December and only had a day or two to respond," he said. "We bought as many prescriptions as possible at the lower price, but paying a lot of money to go to avalanche of problems, including anger, which Brown-Barnett said he understood.

"College students are already paying a lot of money so to go to school, and now they're paying more," he said. "We tell them it was the government program that raised prices. We didn't want it, but there is nothing we can do about it."

Some insurance plans cover or supplement birth control prices, but many women, who pay for the prescriptions out of their own pockets, were hit especially hard by the price increases.

Brown-Barnett said NuvaRing and OrthoTriycliclene prices rose from $11 to $49, while other birth control prescriptions such as Desogen rose from $10 to $20.

Some students have chosen to change their birth control prescriptions to less-expensive brands, but Brown-Barnett said a doctor must approve any prescription change, and sometimes new prescriptions do not yield the same results. Student responses to the price increases have ranged from surprise to anger, which Brown-Barnett said he understood.

"College students are already paying a lot of money so to go to school, and now they're paying more," he said. "We tell them it was the government program that raised prices. We didn't want it, but there is nothing we can do about it."

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"Right now, I've had to stop taking it," Mayekawa said. "I'm trying to find a new clinic that my insurance company will accept, get my medical records transferred and find a new pharmacy all at once. It's an absolute three-ring circus."

While the government's intention was to reduce the national deficit, Mayekawa said cutting the Medicaid rebate statute affected a very small minority: university women.

"There are so many girls in college on birth control, and the discount gave us options to protect ourselves and regulate our bodies," she said. "I think that cutting off this discount will cause an avalanche of problems, including unplanned pregnancy. It's just going to snowball."
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Study reveals inequality in higher education salaries

Jenna Morrison
April 20-22, 2007

A study published by the American Association of University Professors on Thursday showed an interesting disparity in the salaries of employees of different universities across the country. A comparison of compensation for full professors, university presidents and head football coaches at NCAA Division-I universities showed that, on average, a full-time professor makes $101,774, and the average head football coach earns $918,238.

Although full-time faculty salaries are up, financial inequity in American higher education continues to increase.


Saranna Thornton, chair of the American Association of University Professors' Committee on the Economic Status of Faculty, said the problem with salary inequality is most evident at private universities and is more pervasive at public schools because they are more likely to be Division I-A.

"Nick Saban, head football coach at the University of Alabama, just signed an eight-year contract for a salary of $4 million a year and bonuses for each bowl game the team makes it to," Thornton said.

However, the entire budget for the school is only $3.5 million a year, she said, basically meaning one person makes more than the entire budget for the school.

"Actions such as this send a bad message regarding higher education," she said. Thornton said there are solutions to this increasing gap between salaries of football coaches and full-time professors.

"The NCAA could play a role in promoting guidelines for coaches' salaries because, as of right now, my research shows that the average head football coach at a Division I-A school makes two times more than the average college president," she said. This issue needs to be addressed collectively, not just one university or college at a time, she said.

"Tax payers and state legislators need to demand accountability for the universities they fund," she said. Inequality in salaries is sending a bad message not only to the community, but also to the students.

"This is sending a bad message to students when the football coach is making 10 times more than their professors," she said. "What is more important? What is taught on the field or in the classroom?"

Thornton suggests that the students should demand accountability of the presidents to facilitate fair salaries among all university employees.

Brigham Young University declined to make a comment regarding any individual's salary at the university.

In order to make sure BYU is keeping up with the national average of university employees, BYU looks at a study in order to compare itself with schools of similar size.

At BYU there are three separate ranks of professors: assistant professor, associate professor and full professor. "We aim to keep the lower two ranks of professors at the national average of salaries for schools our size," said Michael Smart of University Communications. "We have found that our full professors' salaries are a little below average."

Why would professors teach here for a lower salary, when they could teach somewhere else and make more money?

"Many professors chose to teach here for reasons in addition to compensation," Smart said.

Most professors feel great support here from other faculty members and students, as well as a belief in the unique mission statement of BYU, he said.

"Also, this area has a reasonable cost of living that is on average lower than locations of other universities our size," he said.

A 2005 survey published by the Higher Education Research Institution regarding faculty job satisfaction showed 89 percent of BYU professors surveyed said they were very satisfied with their jobs, and on average, only 80 percent of other professors at private universities said they were very satisfied.

Additionally, 92 percent of BYU professors said they were very satisfied with the quality of university students, whereas the national average was only 75 percent. This survey is conducted every three years.
Interning too costly for some students

Unpaid internships may give you valuable experience, but could leave you broke.

Alexa Vaughn
OCI (UCLA)

Out of approximately 600 students who applied for CBS News last summer, where they worked full-time for 10 weeks in various programs while living in either New York City or Washington, D.C., two of the most expensive cities in the world to live in.

At the end of it all, there was no pay—check—a situation which is similar to what many other interns may encounter.

This spring, thousands of college and high school students across the country will finish writing applications, taking out loans and seeking housing in order to do an internship—paid or unpaid—this summer.

Dario Bravo, manager of Internship and Study Abroad Services at UCLA Career Center, said doing an internship before graduation is essential, even if students need to do one that is unpaid.

"It's not something you can choose to do or not to do because the No. 1 source of hiring for employers today is through their internship programs," Bravo said.

—Dario Bravo
Internship and Study Abroad Services manager at UCLA

job offers—in three and a half years of taking on about 160 interns a year, Curcio said CBS has hired 59 of its interns.

But Kamenez said the amount of unpaid interns creates several problems in the economy and the job market. Instead of the best people being hired, the people who can afford to work for no pay are landing the jobs.

"They fly in the face of meritocracy— you must be rich enough to work without pay to get your foot in the door," Kamenez said in a column. "But I have some money saved up there for two months," Shaiq said.

"But when half of all internships are unpaid, according to Vauh's career information Web site, some say less affluent students are at a disadvantage in the job market.

In addition, some have also questioned the legality of having interns work for free.

According to the Department of Labor, a previous Supreme Court case mandated that employers can have unpaid interns if they provide training for the intern and do not derive too much "immediate advantage from the activities of the student."

Anya Kamenez, the author of "Generation Debt," wrote in her blog that the uncoordinated intern programs go against the standard set by the Department of Labor.

"These requirements directly contradict the premises upon which students take internships—that they will provide both valuable experience and a path to employment," Kamenez wrote in her blog.

Katie Curcio, internship coordinator for CBS News, said CBS interns are not paid because most interns are not paid in the TV industry.

"This is the industry standard. If and when it changes we will be happy to change with the times," Curcio said of unpaid internships.

"But the internship is definitely a valuable experience and it pays off in the end."

And interning can lead to future opportunities for politicians and in other companies with housing and other benefits included.

"One thing to realize is that I've got 27 employees who are (University of Dreams) alumni, and they came from middle-class backgrounds, took out loans, and it worked out for them as a full-time job," Lochtefeld said.

Randy Hagihara, internship director for the Los Angeles Times, said he wonders how some employers get away with not paying their interns. The Los Angeles Times pays their interns $600 a week for 10 weeks.

"We believe that if a person is good enough to work at the paper, they should be compensated for it," Hagihara said.

Hagihara also said the L.A. Times pays interns in order to compete with other publications for the best journalists.

According to Lochtefeld, taking out loans to do such internships if need be is just part of working up the corporate ladder.

"The reality is that most companies don't have to pay their interns because they have so many students willing to work for free," Lochtefeld said. "It's an unfortunate reality, but if they are paid, it's for a reason—to compete with better recruiters, not because they believe it's altruistic. It's about the bottom line for most employers."

Kamenez also pointed out in her column that unpaid internships may be creating too much free labor in the corporate world.

CBS spends some money on interns' living expenses though, Curcio said. "We do give our interns meal checks."
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Second-year housing at Poly about to get easier

Ryan Chorbaan
March 20, 2007

Cal Poly freshmen trying to live on campus for a second year are forced to play a lottery game in hopes of getting an apartment.

For next year’s freshmen, however, the chances of winning will be far greater thanks to a new 27-acre on-campus apartment project called Poly Canyon Village.

The first phase of the project will be ready in fall 2008 and will offer 1,167 beds and 964 parking spaces.

When the second phase is completed in fall 2009, Poly Canyon Village will house a total of 2,700 students, nearly doubling current residence hall spaces. It will also provide approximately 1,900 parking spaces with two parking structures.

The California State University Board of Trustees issued $219 million in bonds to help fund the project, which is the largest dormitory in the nation.

Anyone who has passed by the construction site, located adjacent to the on-campus apartment complex Cerro Vista, can see that the project is coming along rapidly thanks to favorable weather since the project’s start in March 2006.

“In a perfect world, we’d like to be able to offer a two-year commitment to housing for students in their first and second year,” Allen said.

Through Cerro Vista, Cal Poly only offers 800 beds to the 2,783 residence hall freshmen who might want to live on campus for a second year. With the addition of Poly Canyon Village, Cal Poly can house 3,500 sophomores.

“In a perfect world, we’d like to be able to offer all 2,700 students an opportunity to go right over to Poly Canyon Village and Cerro Vista,” Allen said.

At this point, the cost to live at Poly Canyon Village will be in sync with Cerro Vista so that students pay the same at each complex.

“I don’t want to create a have and have-not, so at this point we’re looking at the two apartment communities being in line with each other,” Allen said.

A four-bedroom apartment at Cerro Vista currently costs $5,784 per year with two different payment plans, all of which equate to approximately $675 per month.

In comparison, a four-bedroom apartment with private bedrooms at Mustang Village, an apartment complex adjacent to Cal Poly, currently costs $696 per month on a one-year lease.

Although Cerro Vista and Poly Canyon Village will cost the same, each will have its own benefits.

Allen noted Cerro Vista’s beautiful view of Cal Poly, for example. Poly Canyon Village is a much more open complex with retail space, an Olympic-size swimming pool and is closet to the sports complex.

Poly Canyon Village will offer both shared and private bedrooms, whereas Cerro Vista only offers private bedrooms.

“I imagine all of these things will balance out and there will be wonderful things in both communities, but there will also be some things that students will appreciate more than others,” he said.

Poly Canyon Village will consist of three neighborhoods of residence buildings, several conference rooms, study rooms, fitness facilities, food and other services.

Near the front of the complex is a plaza, which will be used for retail space and creating a social environment.

“We designed this plaza, and we really want it to be the hub,” Allen said. “We think the students will want to eat, enjoy themselves with some entertainment and buy some things so see Poly Canyon, page 47.

Cal Poly Housing Director Preston Allen said. "In fact, I'm getting more and more nervous each day, because it looks like it's moving along extremely quick." Poly Canyon Village comes as a response to Cal Poly's Master Plan, which calls for increasing enrollment from about 17,000 students to about 20,000 students.

Increased enrollment, however, means a need for more housing.

"The university really wants to be able to offer a two-year commitment to housing for students in their first and second year," Allen said.

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At this point, the cost to live at Poly Canyon Village will be in sync with Cerro Vista so that students pay the same at each complex.

"I don't want to create a have and have-not, so at this point we're looking at the two apartment communities being in line with each other," Allen said.

A four-bedroom apartment at Cerro Vista currently costs $5,784 per year with two different payment plans, all of which equate to approximately $675 per month.

In comparison, a four-bedroom apartment with private bedrooms at Mustang Village, an apartment complex adjacent to Cal Poly, currently costs $696 per month on a one-year lease.

Although Cerro Vista and Poly Canyon Village will cost the same, each will have its own benefits.

Allen noted Cerro Vista's beautiful view of Cal Poly, for example. Poly Canyon Village is a much more open complex with retail space, an Olympic-size swimming pool and is closest to the sports complex.

Poly Canyon Village will offer both shared and private bedrooms, whereas Cerro Vista only offers private bedrooms.

"I imagine all of these things will balance out and there will be wonderful things in both communities, but there will also be some things that students will appreciate more than others," he said.
They don't have to get in their cars and go downtown to buy books or clothes.

With the addition of 1,000 parking spaces in the two parking structures at Poly Canyon Village, University Police Department associate director Cindy Campbell hopes the increased parking will help the current parking issues.

"We're hoping that Poly Canyon Village's parking will have a trickle-down effect and help open up some spots in the general parking lot where those sophomores might have parked," Campbell said in fall 2006.

While Poly Canyon Village is designed for future freshmen living in the dorms who want to continue living on campus, some current freshmen would prefer to live off campus in their second year.

"I'm done with living on campus," said mechanical engineering freshman Mike Shrieve. "Sure, it's close to class and you can meet new people, but where can't you meet new people?"

Shrieve said mechanical engineering freshman Bryan Trim, however, living off campus was far more beneficial academically than living in the dorms.

"I'm also student body president," Trim said. "I think being on the campus living in the dorms can make it get a little crazy, whereas living off campus allows you to have more privacy," Trim said.

Living so close together in the dorms who are at that level within their college experience are much better fit for the community," Allen said.

The Poly Canyon Village project is also the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certified project at Cal Poly and the largest in the CSU system.

"It's my thinking that students who are at that level within their college experience are much better fit for the community," Allen said.

The Poly Canyon Village project is also the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certified project at Cal Poly and the largest in the CSU system.

"It's a matter of ensuring that the things we are building, creating, providing and offering are going to sustain society," Allen said. "Poly Canyon Village keeps a close eye on that and we're really happy about it".

With Cerro Vista and the residence halls combined, Cal Poly has a total of 3,583 beds. Upon completion of the Poly Canyon Village project, Cal Poly will have 6,200 beds for freshmen, whereas living off campus allows you to have more privacy," Trim said.

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How to survive finding a place off campus

The thing is, there are five of us and it’s really hard to find an adequate place. Most of us want single rooms because of boyfriends and privacy issues, but we don’t want to pay $700 a month.

Finding a house has been quite the struggle. The house really was near perfect. Maybe a little on the grungy side, but knowing my roommates and I, we would have cleaned it up nicely.

The next best thing you can do is start NOW. Good and cheap housing goes fast. This is a college town and there are 18,000 of us competing for living space! Only a few thousand students actually live on campus, so you still have 15,000 to 16,000 students racing for a place to live.

Then I would start looking at these places. Don’t go into anything blind, even if you’re desperate. While you’re there, start asking questions. Are utilities included? How does the landlord like the rent to be paid? Is there a gardener? Trash service? Ask about the lease. Ask about any little detail you can think of. If you can’t think of anything, talk to your parent or another relative who may have had experience in renting. They’ll think of something that you didn’t.

If you also try to get your parents (and/or your roommates’ parents too) to invest in a house, I know this might seem totally impossible, but housing is one of the best investments anyone can make. They wouldn’t just be investing in a place for you to live, but a place for you to have for, quite possibly, the rest of your life.

Buying a house is not just a good investment, it has other benefits. Houses for sale are probably going to be much nicer than many of the rental properties for students.

Also, with a house of your own, you have more liberties than a rental property. You could paint and remodel it as you like.

Ultimately, it seems like my roommates and I are going to move into a house that one of our parents bought. It’s been a long time, but in a way, it wasn’t that difficult at all.
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Cal Poly under construction

Evan Rudd

Several major construction projects have reshaped the appearance of Cal Poly's campus over the last few years and students can expect more construction to come.

The biggest project was the construction and renovation of the Alex G. Spanos Stadium, which was completed in February. The stadium was a very complex project that came with an aggressive schedule for completion, said Facilities Planning and Capital Projects Associate Director Johan Uyttewaal.

The construction of the stadium would bring the total number of seats to 11,775. The construction also realigned California Boulevard, widened the athletic playing field, and added Memorial Plaza at the southwest corner of the stadium.

Nearby, the Engineering IV building opened in March, but lab classrooms won't be ready until this fall.

Projects still under construction include Poly Canyon Village, an apartment complex for students that will accommodate approximately 2,679 students. See page 46 for the full story.

Faculty and staff began moving into some of Bella Montañas's 69 apartments in December. The complex, located off campus, is the only housing open exclusively to professors and staff.

Below, the Engineering IV building has added more classroom space since opening in March. When the labs open this fall, engineering students will have access to some of the newest equipment and technology around.

The first phase of the project is expected to be finished in June of 2008 and the completion of the project is set for June of 2009. With more students living on campus, the Cal Poly Housing and Residential Life department decided to renovate its own building too.

"The past three or four years have been really hectic for us," Uyttewaal said.

A new housing administration building is nearly complete and on track to open next month.

The 8,300 square foot building will provide a facility for prospective students and their families to be introduced to the Cal Poly housing program, and to serve present and future housing developments on campus.

Students aren't the only ones getting new housing. A faculty and staff apartment complex is still under construction, although some families have already moved in. Bella Montañas is located off campus at the intersection of U.S. Highway 1 and Highland Drive.

Limited housing supply and overwhelming demand in San Luis Obispo County have created a critical need for faculty and staff housing, Uyttewaal said.

The Bella Montañas units should help recruit new faculty and retain existing staff.

A new building for construction management and architecture majors called the Center for Construction Excellence is also underway on Perimeter Drive next to the Graphic Communications building. The project is expected to be completed in May of 2008.

"The building is the most innovative model out there," said Dr. Barbara Jackson.

Melissa Kues

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Director of the California Center for Construction Education.

There will be seven new labs based on industry sectors including contract administration, safety management and scheduling. "The building is a whole new model of tying curriculums with the facilities," Jackson said.

The Center for Construction Excellence integrates the multiple functions of construction management and was funded by both public and private sectors.

Cal Poly has built projects off campus as well. A seawater pumping system was completed at Avila Beach on a pier in San Luis Bay in March.

The new Center for Coastal Marine Sciences facility will be used to provide life support for local fauna and flora for both undergraduate education and collaborative research efforts.

There are several other projects still in the planning phase of construction. A new science center is the next big project that is expected to start in the summer of 2008.

The new building will be four to five stories tall and will require the demolition of part of the existing science building.

Plans have also been revealed for renovation of Kennedy Library and the Davison Music building.

The Alex G. Spanos stadium was recently renovated to include more seating, a memorial plaza and more. The construction management department will see a new building like the drawing, left, in May 2008.

The Engineering IV building, top left, is partially open now and will be ready for full use this fall.

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Top Ranked off campus housing
TOKYO — Japan’s leading toilet maker Toto Ltd. is offering free repairs for 180,000 bidet toilets after wiring problems caused several to catch fire, the company said Monday.

The electric bidet accessory of Toto’s Z series caught fire in three separate incidents between March 2006 and March 2007, according to company spokeswoman Emi Tanaka.

The bidet sent up smoke in 26 other incidents, the company said.

“Fortunately, nobody was using the toilets when the fire broke out and there were no injuries,” Tanaka said. “The fire would have been just under your buttocks.”

The company will repair 180,000 toilet units manufactured between May 1996 and December 2001 for free, she said. A manufacturing defect is thought to have led to the faulty wiring.

Toto has been a pioneer in high-tech toilets fitted with pressurized water sprayers — a standard fixture in Japanese homes.

The popular Z series features a pulsating massage spray, a power dryer, built-in-the-bowl deodorizing filter, the “Tornado Wash” flush and a lid that opens and closes automatically. Prices range from $1,680 to $2,600.

The model is not sold overseas.

Robbery suspect runs errands

NORTON SHORES, Mich. — A suspected bank robber took a cab to and from an afternoon heist and ended his day running errands, like visiting an elementary school, before being caught, police said.

Randy Benka, 55, who has previous robbery convictions in New York City, was charged with bank robbery and faces up to life in prison if convicted. He was being held in county jail on a $50,000 bond.

Police told The Muskegon Chronicle that the robbery happened in Norton Shores on April 12. The suspect left the bank in the same cab that had delivered him, police said.

At some point, the suspect “actually told the cab driver he robbed the bank,” Norton Shores Police Lt. Tim LaVigne said. “The cab driver thought he was joking.”

Near Holland, police said the suspect gave the driver money and ordered him to purchase a cell phone. Police said he then went to an elementary school where he claimed his daughter attended, saying he wanted to give her money.
Universities increase efforts to ensure application legitimacy

Cait Speaker & Laura Hoffman
MANAGING EDITORS

Great college applications allow students to share accomplishments, aspirations and extracurricular activities. Yet with the number of college and university applicants rising nationwide, higher education institutions are now putting more effort and resources into validating the accuracy of student applications.

"We are in a world where people can distort information — the enhanced resume," said Marlyn McGrath Lewis, admission director at Harvard College.

Harvard most recently added a former professional background checker to its undergraduate admission staff in an effort to curb the inclusion of fraudulent information on applications. Similarly, the University of California system now randomly "spot checks" about 10 percent of the applications it receives to ensure that activities listed on the applications are accurate.

While Harvard does not have an established procedure for validating application facts, "getting more information is the key," according to McGrath Lewis.

McGrath Lewis added that Harvard particularly looks for inconsistencies between the quality of an applicant's grades and essays.

The University of Virginia does not currently have a similar process of admissions review; however, Dean of Admissions John Blackburn noted that procedures are in place if an applicant's information is found to be false.

"If students knowingly falsify information they are subjected to removal from the university," Blackburn said. "Sometimes, quite rarely, we come across false information."

Blackburn noted that most applicants know about the honor code which helps to prevent the submission of false information but added, "We are not like magazines and newspapers, we don't have fact checkers."

While neither Blackburn nor McGrath Lewis indicated that the popular option of applying online has led to an increase in falsification of information, McGrath Lewis said the more impersonal the process, the greater the student's perception of his anonymity in a pool of applicants.

"I also can imagine that if there's a bigger distance between you and the admissions office, you might be more willing to falsify information," she said.

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