Student loan companies under investigation

Janelle Eastridge

Responding to a nationwide scandal that revealed a precarious relationship between university officials and student loan companies, California Attorney General Jerry Brown ordered April 18 that two finance companies submit details of their business deals with California colleges and universities to the state.

"Cal Poly students need to know that the Financial Aid Office is not doing this and that the Chancellor's Office would frown upon this," said Lois Kelly, director of financial aid.

"We have no such program set up, (normally) pay, such as student fees."

Over the past couple of weeks, university financial aid officers — who are expected to give unbiased advice on students' financial aid options — and loan companies have been found to be making backdoor deals that benefit themselves financially, leaving students with even higher debt in the process.

Investigators for the state of New York have already started looking into the issue, finding that some university financial aid officers — and loan companies have been making backdoor deals that benefit themselves financially, leaving students with even higher debt in the process. Investigators for the state of New York have already started looking into the issue, finding that some...
The California Faculty Association said that one of the loan companies under investigation has a relationship with the California State University System. The CFA, which represents the CSU system, is thankful for the attorney general's efforts, Travis said. At Cal Poly, seniors graduating in four years had an average of $14,032 in debt from student loans, according to data compiled in June 2006. That same year, just under $52 million was borrowed by students, with the average loan amount being $3,900 for undergraduates.

Although the financial aid office does compile a "preferred lender list" of 15 well-liked loans companies — all of which have had good track records — students are encouraged to research and choose the lenders that they — not the school — like best, Kelly said.

"It's really important to know that the financial aid office works with the students. We only put the names out there to help students narrow down the scope of their options," Kelly said. "If students find something better, then we want them to tell us." The consensus among Cal Poly students seemed to be that the same financial aid officers and loan companies should not be benefiting themselves, but students.

"That seems to be common with insurance companies and financial aid groups. It sucks because students already have so much money to pay," immunology junior Allyce Garcia said. "It's not fair that (financial aid officers) already get a lot of money and then get perks, too."

"I am here because of financial aid, so I don't agree with (the scandal) at all. The students should get all the financial aid they can. I know a lot of students (who are only) here because of financial aid," Mederos said. There could be implications for the future, Mederos said. "I could see people not going to college because of this, not getting the opportunity to pursue their education because of financial need. These officers could be preventing students from going to college."
Calif. Democratic House member Millender-McDonald dies of cancer, had taken leave from office

LOS ANGELES — Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald, a seven-term congresswoman from southern California, died early Sunday of cancer. She was 68.

Millender-McDonald died at her home in Carson, said her chief of staff, Bandele McQueen. The congresswoman had agreed for a four-to-six-week leave of absence from the House last week to deal with her illness. McQueen couldn't immediately provide details on what form of cancer Millender-McDonald had, but said she had been receiving hospice care.

"Juanita Millender-McDonald was a trailblazer, always advocating for the full participation of all Americans in the success and prosperity of our country," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said in a statement.

"The dignity with which she faced her illness was an indication of the determination with which she always served the people of her district."

Millender-McDonald represented a heavily Democratic southern California district that includes Compton, Long Beach and parts of Los Angeles.

"She was a champion for the consumer and fought injustice wherever she saw it. She always valued public service and served her state and nation with grace and honor," said California Democratic Party Chairman Art Torres, who served with her in the California state Legislature.

Millender-McDonald is the second member of Congress to die this year of cancer. Republican Rep. Charles Norwood Jr. of Georgia died in February after battling cancer and lung disease.

"Many of us are very saddened by her death, and in some respects stunned by it," said state Sen. Mark Ridley-Thomas, who has worked with Millender-McDonald in different capacities for more than two decades. "She knew about the issues of justice and injustice, and carried that banner wherever she went."

The congresswoman's son, R. "K." McDonald, had received "temporary emergency release" from a 41-month term after his mother had surgery in May 2005, according to the Los Angeles Times. The former Los Angeles water district official was convicted of extortion in a contract case. Millender-McDonald was never implicated.

The congresswoman, a native of Birmingham, Ala., worked on former Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley's unsuccessful 1982 gubernatorial campaign and other local races as a volunteer before getting elected to the Carson City Council in 1990.

She went on to serve in the California state Assembly, and in 1996 sought a U.S. House seat during a special election to replace Rep. Walter Tucker III, who had been convicted of taking bribes and women's son, K. McDonald, in a primary that featured the incumbent.

She won the special election, and in March beat out Tucker's wife, Robin, in a primary that featured nine Democrats. She won a full House term in November 1996 and has subsequently won re-election each time.

Millender-McDonald has recently worked on issues including election reform and opposing the genocidal war in Darfur. She drew national attention in 1996 when she took then-CIA director John Deutch to Washington over the community fumbling a newspaper report alleging that profits from domestic sales of crack-cocaine were funneled to the CIA-backed Contras in Nicaragua.

This year, Millender-McDonald became chair of the Committee on House Administration, which oversees operations of the House and federal election procedures. She is survived by her husband, James McDonald, Jr., and five adult children.

Under California election procedures, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has 14 days to set a date for a special election to fill the seat.

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**SACRAMENTO (AP) (AP) American Lloyd Levine wants California to turn off the incandescent light bulb.**

The Sherman Oaks Democrat has introduced a bill that would bar sales of the high-energy bulbs starting in 2012. It's scheduled to be considered Monday by the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee, which Levine chairs.

Replacing incandescent bulbs with the more efficient compact fluorescent bulbs would produce a "huge energy saving" Levine said.

**LAGUNA BEACH (AP) — A man and a woman were found dead in a hotel room at a luxury oceanfront resort Sunday morning after a shooting that involved police, authorities said.**

It was unclear whether an officer's gun was discharged during the incident, police said in a statement.

A security guard at Montage Resort and Spa called police at 7:40 a.m. saying a man and a woman were engaged in a domestic dispute, the statement said. A subsequent caller said there was a "crazy woman with a gun," in the hotel's parking garage.

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**BAGHDAD (AP) Gunmen shot and killed 23 members of an ancient religious sect in northern Iraq on Sunday after stopping their bus and separating followers of other faiths while car bombings in the capital killed at least another 20 people.**

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, in Egypt to drum up support among Arab leaders for his Shiite-led government, told Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak that Iraq was not embroiled in a civil or sectarian war. Key Arab leaders pressured him to step up reconciliation efforts to include Sunni insurgents if he expects Arab support.

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**National**

**RENO, Nev. (AP) Winter lingered in the High Sierras on Sunday as a storm left up to 18 inches of much-needed snow and delayed mountain motorcross.**

The potent storm came too late for most Lake Tahoe ski resorts after a disheartening ski season that saw less than half the usual snowfall. But the fresh snow caused excitement at the few ski areas still open, and was welcome news for more reason than one. "The snow is great for downhill skiers and snowboarders, and will provide good conditions for the rest of spring," said Alpine Meadows spokeswoman Rachael Woods.

**PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) Investigators looked through wreckage Sunday to determine what caused a Navy Blue Angels jet to crash during a maneuver, while the military identified the fallen pilot as a 32-year-old who was performing in one of his first air shows with the team. Lt. Cmdr. Kevin J. Davis of Pittsfield, Mass., was in his second year with the Blue Angels, the team known for its high-speed, aerobatic demonstrations.**

**SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — A fast-moving fire tore through an orphanage in Bosnia's capital early Sunday, killing five babies and injuring 37 others and a nurse, police and hospital officials said.**

The blaze broke out on the third floor of the Ljubica Ivezic orphanage in downtown Sarajevo around 6 a.m. and rapidly spread to three rooms where the babies were sleeping, according to the Sarajevo fire brigade.

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**State**

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Alcohol course required in fall for U. Miss. students

April Wrobleski
DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN (O, MISSISSIPPI)

OXFORD, Miss. — In attempts to reach out to students concerning alcohol-related problems on campus, the University of Mississippi will require all incoming freshmen to take an alcohol education course beginning in fall 2007.

Barbara Collier, director of University Health Services, said Ole Miss has a goal of not only reaching freshmen with the new alcohol education class but also upperclassmen, Greeks and athletes.

"It is something that we want everyone to know," Collier said. The program will be a two-part online course in which students will read information provided and answer questions based upon their assessment of the information. Students will be directed to information based on what type of answers they give. For example, a student who says he or she does not drink at all will be provided with different information than student who says they drink heavily.

Incoming freshmen and transfer students will be required to take the first part of the course before enrolling in the university. According to Collier, this portion of the course is estimated to take a total of three hours.

"It is not recommended that the student do it in one sitting but rather get up from it and come back to it in parts," Collier said. "When a student logs in, it will take them to where they last left off. What we hope this becomes is like other paperworks that the student has to fill out before they come to school, such as their health forms and so on.

Once at school, the incoming students will be required to take the second part between August and when Rush begins. It is to be a pass or fail evaluation. If a student fails, he or she will be required to take the test again.

The program will cost the university approximately $3,500, but Collier said students will be able to take the course free of charge. According to Collier, the university has conducted independent studies concerning the program. The research shows that after taking the course, students knew about 70 percent more about blood alcohol levels, and 30 percent of those students were less likely to have a positive blood alcohol level test than students who were not exposed to the program.

Fraternities and sororities require their members to take a similar alcohol education session. Scarlett Rogers, a freshman and member of Kappa Alpha Theta, participated in the program, but she said she did not find the program very useful.

"I can see the benefit of it, but it is quite time consuming, so it becomes easier to let it run in the background while doing something else than to listen to it," Rogers said. "It's a very long program. I did not learn much from the program I have not already learned about in the past. The most beneficial part was the blood alcohol level estimator."

Oxford students reach in a Statistical Press

PARIS — Nicolas Sarkozy and Segolene Royal advanced to a runoff in Sunday's presidential election, presenting France with a fundamental left-right choice between a conservative who could push his anxious nation toward painful change and a socialist who would be the country's first female leader.

Royal is the first woman to get this close to the helm of this major European economic, military and diplomatic power after a campaign marked by surprise, suspense and unusually dynamic candidates who lured voters to the ballot box in near record numbers.

Sarkozy has the advantage heading into the May 6 runoff. Partial results from the Interior Ministry, based on a count of 30 million votes — or more than 80 percent — had Sarkozy leading with 50 percent, followed by Royal with 25 percent.

Either way, France will get its first president with no memory of World War II to replace the 74-year-old Jacques Chirac, who is stepping down after 12 years to usher in a new generation of candidates.

Sunday's first round of voting shut out other hopefuls, from Trotskyists to far right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen. Le Pen had hoped to repeat his shocking 2002 showing, but he failed to count on votes from the far left and others who desert conservative François Fillon and cut taxes to invigorate the sluggish economy, while Royal would take government spending and price controls into the country's generous workplace protections.

Royal, too, champions change but says it must not be brutal.

"I extend my hand to all those women and men who think, as I do, that it is not only possible but urgent to abandon a system that no longer works," she said.

The runoff offers "a clear choice between two very different paths," she said.

Outside Socialist Party head-quarter in Paris, supporters reacted to the result with joy, chanting, "We're going to win!"

Sarkozy told cheering supporters Sunday night that by choosing him and Royal, voters "clearly marked their wish to go to the very end of the debate between two ideas of the nation, two programs for society, two value systems, two concepts of politics."

Despite Sarkozy's lead, he faces a powerful "Anything But Sarkozy" push by those who call him arrogant and prone to a nuclear-armed nation. He once called young delinquents "scum," a remark that outraged the residents of poor neighborhoods and has dug him politically.

Both Sarkozy, a Hungarian immigrant's son, and Royal, a military officer's daughter who beat Trotskyists to far right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen. Le Pen had hoped to repeat his shocking 2002 showing, but he failed to count on votes from the far left and others who desert conservative François Fillon and cut taxes to invigorate the sluggish economy, while Royal would take government spending and price controls into the country's generous workplace protections.

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Seda Terzyan
(DAILY BRONC OCALA)

LOS ANGELES — The question of what happiness really means and how it can be achieved has been a topic of deep human thought since Greek philosophers such as Aristotle and Plato began to discuss the true meaning of "eudaimonia," the Greek word for happiness.

They said the experience of happiness is satisfying and pleasurable but in order to be truly happy in life, pleasure should not be the ultimate goal. They believed that an excess of materialism or physical pleasure would ultimately lead people away from happiness, instead of to it.

A study reported in the most current issue of Scientific American: Mind shows that these Greek philosophers were right in suggesting that happiness does not follow financial success.

The study found that though the average American's wealth has tripled since 1950, happiness rates have not followed the same trend, but rather have remained high. Which illustrates the human tendency to habituate to material goods and return to a set point of happiness after their basic human needs have been met. "You may feel very happy when you receive a great gift, but after about 24 hours you return to your normal level of happiness," said Emran Mayer, a professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at UCLA.

This set point of happiness has been recently shown to be genetically determined by another study, which found significant similarities in happiness levels of identical twins who were raised in different environments.

Whether someone wins the lottery or loses a loved one, their happiness always returns to its inherent point, said Laura King, professor of psychological science at Missouri University.

For some people, happiness is easily achieved. "In terms of becoming happier, I don't exactly strive for it because I naturally feel happy," said Semi Lee, a third-year English and classics student. "I remain happy because I surround myself with people who are usually happy and avoid conflicts and stress."

But people can also increase their set point of happiness by engaging in certain exercises and cognitive practices.

Staying away from negative emotions and concentrating on the positives is an effective way to change that inherent point on the ladder of happiness, said Martin Seligman, professor of psychology at the University of Pennsylvania and the founder of a newly emerging field called "positive psychology," which focuses on positive human emotions.

He said it is necessary to set important goals and create meaningful relationships with people.

Ed Diener, professor of psychology at the University of Illinois, found that the top 10 percent of the happiest students share one major thing in common: Spending time with close friends and family. "The best way to be truly happy is to have friends and work toward your goals," said Whitney Brammer, a second-year psychology student. "Instead of thinking about happiness, people should just do it."

At UCLA's Student Psychological Services, director Elizabeth Gong-Guy makes the same suggestion.

"Reaching the personal goals of having friendship and love is how I would define reaching happiness," Carlos said.

Setting goals with the intent of achieving materialistic gain does not have long-term effects, but goals directed toward helping others and saving the world make people happy in the long run, King said.

Happiness as Aristotle and Plato said is not the equivalent of pleasure or achieving material success in life. Happiness is a way of perceiving the world with positivity, action and optimism, King said.

Happiness should not be thought of as some sort of ultimate outcome, King said. Happiness is fine and foremost a means to achieve your goals by having happiness as a cushion that will break your falls in life and allow you to stand back up even stronger, she added.

Even though happiness is genetically determined, King said, the environment and the approach we take in life can dramatically change these predispositions.

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Virginia Tech students return to campus after massacre

Justin Pope
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Still grieving and increasingly wary of the media spotlight, Virginia Tech students returned to their beleaguered campus Sunday, preparing to salvage the final weeks of a semester eclipsed by violence.

The scene on campus resembled move-in day in late summer, with parents helping their children carry suitcases into dormitories. There were tears and hugs goodbyes. But instead of excitement for the year ahead, there was simply determination to endure and regroup in the fall.

When classes resume Monday, the university will give students three choices: They can continue their studies through the end of the semester next week, take a grade based on what they have done so far, or withdraw from a course without penalty.

"I want to go back. It's really strange to just stop going," said Paul Deyerle, a sophomore from Reunoke who was helping a friend move from the dormitory where another close friend, Ryan Clark, was killed.

Study shows no link between financial success, happiness
Would you like some cheese with that wine?

MD's 'All Wines Considered' explores the exciting world of wine and food pairings

Y ou've had food. You've had wine. Combining the two, well that's where it gets tricky. Actually, it's really not wine goes with food and food goes with wine.

The basics of what makes the the small nuances of a perfect marriage work can be laid out pretty simply. So let me begin.

Remember your extroverted party girl of a roommate? She'd go out eight nights of the week if she could. She had the alcohol tolerance of a whiskey bottle. You would never think of matching her up with your quiet engineering friend you met in the dorms. But some­times, like Paula Abdul says, opposites attract. But looking back at the whole Sanjaya run, I might take Paula's advice with a grain of salt. But back to the whole matchmaker business. There are not rules to dat­ing per se, just general guidelines.

Wine works the same way. You wouldn't necessarily put a zesty zinfandel with a mellow minded Mahi-Mahi. Perhaps a better fit would be the zesty zinfandel with the robust steak you ordered. Or, the pairing of the crisp Sauvignon Blanc with the mahi mahi. But rules sometimes are meant to be broken. These are just merely suggestions.

So maybe your wine is a little too robust for your usual preference. Out to dinner? Never you fear! You can generally take a overly-tannic wine, a wine with a huge pepper factor, and add it to proteins or salts to diminish some of that tannic feel. In this case, the zinfandel and steak scenario would be optimal.

Overly sweet wines can be matched with something sweet such as grapes or a chocolate cake. This makes the sweet wines a bit more tame to the palate. If the wine does not taste sweet enough, the use of something salty like cheese or bruschetta might make it taste more sweet.

Wines that include a high acid complexity are quite similar to the wines with high robustness. If you try something salty, the acid appears to decrease. When you have something sweet, the acid appears to decrease. It seems that both work equally to reduce the taste of an overly acidic wine.

One distinguishing trait that can be used during pairing is the rela­tedness of the food dish and the wine itself. If the nose of a favorite wine smells of cinnamon and raisins, you might be able to make a match. My suggestion would be to find some attribute in the food that is similar.

You wouldn't necessarily put a zesty zinfandel with a mellow minded Mahi-Mahi. Perhaps a better fit would then be the zesty zinfandel with the robust steak you ordered.

For example, taking a savory curry chicken dish and adding raisins to it. Doing this actually complements the wine.

So perhaps you're fixing a chicken dinner and you're wond­ering... is a white right? Well if you're thinking about pairing a white wine with poultry, that goes together and is part of the complementary principle. However, if you choose red for the chicken, you would be using a contrast principle, which is equally accepted. Pretty much, if you like it, have it.

Here are a few suggestions for food and wine pairings using the complementary principle: shrimp cocktails with Sauvignon Blanc, cheese and crackers with Chardonnay, lamb with a bold Shiraz, salmon with Pinot Noir and dark chocolate with Cabernet Sauvignon.

And when serving wines to others, it is important to know that white wines are the precursor to red ones. So it is best to plan to drink any white wines before serving a Merlot or Pinot Noir. Also, along those lines, make sure you serve dry wines before you serve sweet ones as not to confuse the palate.

Pairing wine with food, whether it's a robust red and steak or smooth white with fish, can give some added punch to lackluster meals.

The main idea about experimenting with wine and food is that if you know basic properties of most wines you can easily adjust the food around the handicaps or strong suits of the wine. The most important part of the process... is the process!

So no matter what you end up pairing with what, as long as the process is enjoyable, you are having a good time! Try some of my food pairing suggestions tonight or try one of your own. But again, make sure you are having fun!

Lauren Jeter is a 2005 wine and viticulture graduate and is pursuing a master's degree in applications. Feel free to submit any recommendations, wine festival tickets, favorite wines or recipes to laurenjeter@gmail.com
Virtual addiction; how serious is it?

Cal Poly students debate the line between healthy and harmful gaming

Michelle Norgan

Although video game addiction is a disputed form of psychological addiction, the effects of overdose of these games are not. Like any substance on earth, too much can hurt a person's life, relationships and career. In small amounts however, gaming is a recreation that many Americans enjoy.

For Cal Poly computer engineering junior Nelson Monterroso, healthy gaming involves using it as an addition to his social life, rather than a crutch. "It's kind of a social thing, you make friends in games and then end up talking about things outside of the game," Monterroso said.

Monterroso used to be an avid player of the massively multiplayer online game World of Warcraft, called WoW by fans. He said he could easily spend several hours playing the game without becoming bored. This factor led him to slightly abuse the game, and he admitted that sometimes he neglected school because he enjoyed the game so much.

"There was an obvious slip in motivation, and I would skip classes sometimes," Monterroso said.

Monterroso pointed out that during this time period he also missed class for reasons other than gaming, leading him to believe the game wasn't the only cause of his slipping grades.

He said he can definitely see that certain people become addicted to the game and others simply like it. "When they are addicted, they hate it but keep on playing it," Monterroso said. "They deny real life social interaction because they need to play the game."

He said most start for fun, but when they begin to skip meals and choose the game over friends and school, it becomes an unhealthy habit. They play the game because they can't make themselves stop or don't know what else to do, he said.

"My sole reason for playing was to be social, and it sounds ironic because it's a game, but that was why it was fun," Monterroso said.

He recently stopped playing the game because the friends he had made in the game began to leave, and without them it was not nearly as enjoyable. Monterroso's friend, Jake Andersen, fell on just the other side of the line between avid gamer and addicted.

"My overzealous gaming is somewhat responsible for the fact that I am no longer at Cal Poly, and there were occasions where I wondered if I was missing out on anything with friends," said Andersen, a former electrical engineering major.

He admits that during his freshman year at Cal Poly, he was in the habit of playing anywhere from 50 to 60 hours a week. He found the social interaction within the game was a nice way to escape from his shyness in person.

Andersen also agreed that people can become addicted to video games, and said he used to be. "One can become addicted to video games just as easily as anything else," Andersen said. "The most common definition of addiction I have is simply a need for something you are powerless to control."

Andersen said he used games to get away from his personal unhappiness. In real life, he was a confused student with poor grades, and felt he had no way to change that. He couldn't excel in his current major, and was unable to switch to another.

"I used games to escape from the fact that I didn't know what my purpose was in life," Andersen said.

In the video games he played, he said he felt no restrictions or goals. He could do what he wanted without having to worry about failing.

Since leaving Cal Poly, Andersen has taken steps to control his gaming. He said he still enjoys video games, but plays about 20 hours a week. He uses that time to "hang out" with friends who are far away. For both Andersen and Monterroso, video games are a pleasurable and satisfying hobby. Neither one would consider stopping, although both admit they are careful not to abuse them.

Although addiction is not limited to games like WoW, that lets players connect over the Internet, they seem to be the most often mentioned. Monterroso pointed out that games like Guitar Hero, that lets players connect in person, are just as addicting.

Both men also agreed that although there are far more people using games in a healthy and recreational manner, addiction gets more notice because it has such a dramatic affect on people's lives.

"I talk to people a lot about what is wrong with becoming addicted, but I can see why people who are having fun can get that way," Monterroso said.

Jack Smith, of Maplewood, N.J., high five a clerk after waiting 18 hours to be first in line to purchase Pokemon Diamond and Pokemon Pearl.

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Cal Poly's news is at your finger tips — while you rest in bed.
Creative ways to help the environment

Michelle Norgan  
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly students had time to think of how they can make their world a better place during Earth Day on Sunday.

"Conservation begins in our own backyards," said professor Douglas Piirto, head of the natural resources management department. "It begins with you and I as we make decisions on how we live."

Here are a few ideas of how to make a difference on an individual level. They all can be accomplished by a college student, and without spending a great deal of money.

First of all, try changing to compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). They are a special kind of bulb that uses a quarter of the electricity of a regular light bulb and last much longer. These swirl-shaped bulbs cost a bit more initially, but pay off in the end.

Switch to tap instead of bottled water that creates a large amount of waste through its packaging and distribution. A reusable water filter and pitcher combo that can be purchased at your local grocery store can also help.

"We all need to become more informed consumers," Piirto said. "We have to understand when to buy green products and we need to do our homework when we buy."

Turn off appliances and electronics when they are not being used. According to an article on improving our environment in Time magazine, 75 percent of the electricity used in American households comes from electronics running while not directly in use.

For example, the average desktop computer uses between 60 and 250 watts of electricity a day. Turning that computer off between uses saves a great deal of energy and money.

Save some trees the easy way by paying bills online. Most utility companies now offer this option to their clients, and it is a quick way to cut back on paper usage. Also, when going to the grocery store BUYOB: Bring your own shopping bag made of cloth that can be reused each time.

"We will always need forest products," Piirto said. "But it is about understanding that we as consumers have needs but that we can mediate them in terms of what and how much we use.

Save money by keeping up with simple car maintenance. Things such as properly inflating tires, changing a dirty air filter, or simply getting a tune-up can all increase gas mileage.

But Piirto said he hopes that students act responsibly when they do maintenance like an oil change. Trying to save a few dollars is never a good reason to dump used motor oil into a drain.

"Try to live a responsible life," Piirto said. "When you use something, dispose of it in a responsible manner.

Finally, there are lots of other creative and different ways to help. For example, Patagonia, an outdoor clothing maker, is collecting their used clothes to recycle them. They estimate that recycling the polyester from these fleece-like clothes will save 76 percent of the energy used to make them.

"Students can seek out on our own campus a whole host of courses on conservation," Piirto said. Since Cal Poly has a fully accredited natural resources management program which has been approved by the Society of American Foresters, Piirto suggested students look there first.

"Let's be open-minded, seek answers and debate issues with respect for others," Piirto said. "Asking the right questions so you can make the right decisions."

Conservation begins in our own backyards. It begins with you and I as we make decisions on how we live.

— Douglas Piirto  
Head of natural resources management depart.
Dark reminder about gun control

By Rachelle SiVitucci

As close as home to the shootings in Virginia came it was also a vivid, in-your-face reminder of the impact gun violence has on the U.S.

A new trend is taking campus by storm. I'm not talking about any design gags, bags or shoes. It's not even anything you wear. It's the water you carry around.

I'm not sure why, but apparently water is now a fashion statement. The most popular one is probably smartwater, but I've seen quite a few bottles of FIJI and even the occasional VOS. Even Evan'think that popular anymore — it's just too 90s.

It's kind of ridiculous that people find it necessary to spend much money on the thing that makes up about 75 percent of our body weight. The average case of 24 bottles of water at the grocery store costs between $4 and $7. The same amount of smartwater goes for about $15. You can order FIJI for home delivery at just $29 a case, but that's probably not anything more — it's just too 90s.

The fact that people find it ridiculous that you can buy such a vivid, graphic display of gun violence that plagues this nation. The day of the shootings in Virginia made gun activists of both parties are complicit in the horrific gun violence that plagues this nation.

As close as home to the shootings in Virginia came it was also a vivid, in-your-face reminder of the impact gun violence has on the U.S.

latest fashion trend: designer water

VOSS also comes from a quaffer, but this one is in southern Norway. It was created by two Norwegians, Ole Christian, Sandberg and Christopher Harlem. They focus just as much, if not more, on the image of the brand as they do the water itself.

It was created to be a trend. They wanted a cool bottle that was distinct and recognizable; one that looked like it cost a lot. This just shows that it isn't anything special about the water. At least VOSS can admit that and doesn't try to act like it's something to do with the prestige of the bottle.

All I'm trying to say is that no one would ever open up a bottle of VOSS and pour it into their free ASI water bottle, but I'm sure people reuse smartwater bottles and fill them up with Brita water. If you cared that much about the water itself, you wouldn't make sure your FIJI bottle was always sitting right in front of you for all to see.

Rachelle SiVitucci is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily staff writer.
San Francisco's 42-year-old slugger is now 15 home runs away from Hank Aaron's all-time record.

Janie McCauley

The Giants opened the season with 10 runs in the first two innings, and by the time the score was 10-0, it was 1-0. Bonds hit his 740th home run, helps Giants win 9-0 over Arizona in opener.

Bonds hits No. 740, helps Giants to 2-1 win over D'Backs

Bonds moved within 15 of the all-time record, hitting his 740th home run, breaking the record for most home runs by a player in his 40s. He did so with a solo home run in the fifth inning, giving the Giants a 2-1 lead over the Arizona Diamondbacks. It was Bonds' first home run of the season, and it came in a game where he went 1-for-4 with two RBI.

Baseball

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"With the wind blowing out, they had some good approaches and everything that was hit for us," Lee said.

The Giants' hitting has been strong this season, with Bonds leading the team in home runs and driving in runs. They have a 4-0 record in their last five games and are sitting at 4-0 in the NL West.

Lee said he was satisfied with all of the facets of the game except pitching.

"Pitching is what it's all about," said Lee. "It's a tough ball park to pitch in during the day time, because it plays very offensive."
Controversial no-call leads to game, series losses for Mustangs

Above, Cal Poly sophomore starting right-hander Thomas Eager (far left) attempts the pickoff throw to Cal State Fullerton (7-2) in loss to visiting UC Riverside on Sunday at Baggett Stadium.

SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

DAVIS — Junior right-hander Robyn Kontra threw a complete-game, one-hitter and retired the final 16 batters she faced to help the Poly softball team salvage the final game of a nonconference series from UC Davis on Saturday at La Rue Field, 5-1.

After allowing the Aggies’ solo score in the second, Kontra (10-4) closed out the hosts in perfect fashion. After tossing 47 pitches during the first two innings, Kontra threw just 41 in the remaining five frames without allowing an Aggie to reach base.

During the course of the afternoon, Kontra faced just three hitters more than the minimum.

Kontra’s previous low for innings surrendered in a game was two, established during a complete-game, five-inning, 8-0 victory against St. Francis on March 17, 2006.

Saturday’s 2-0, 4-3 sweep by UC Davis ensured the Mustangs’ first series loss since Cal State Fullerton took two of three games from the Mustangs from May 6 to 7, 2006.

But the Mustangs avoided being swept for the first time in more than two years by holding an early 2-1 deficit with a three-run fourth inning.

Sunday’s win ended a three-game losing skid for the Mustangs (33-12, 8-1 Big West Conference), who took the Big West lead in Saturday on percentage points after Cal State Fullerton earned series victory from previously unbeaten Pacific. Beginning with a noon doubleheader against UC Santa Barbara on April 28, Cal Poly has just nine regular-season games remaining — all against Big West foes with the program’s first conference title at stake.

The Aggies (28-19-1) struck their only offensive blow in the second as catcher Drama Menace earned a leadoff walk, was sacrificed to second by Nikki Krysten, Cary followed with a walk. Designated player Sarah Iwata then drove a full-count delivery from UC Davis starter Jessica Hancock outside the right field line before first baseman Krysten Cary followed with a walk. Catcher Jackie Gehrke-Jones produced the lone lead change of the afternoon by doubling over Aggie center fielder Trish Paine and clearing the bases for a 3-1 advantage.

The Mustangs padded their lead in the sixth, Iwata led off the inning with a double to the base of the center-field wall. Right fielder Jenna Maiden sacrificed Iwata to third before Gehrke-Jones struck again, this time singling up the middle to score Kontra, 3-2.

Kontra’s previous low for hits allowed in a complete-game, five-inning, 8-0 victory against St. Francis on March 17, 2006.

Los Angeles shot a higher percentage from the field than Phoenix and won the battle on the boards, but was outscored 21-10 in the fourth quarter.

Bob Baum
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX — For a long time Sunday, the Phoenix Suns couldn’t make a shot and Kobe Bryant couldn’t miss.

Then Leandro Barbosa, the “Brazilian Blur,” brought the NBA’s highest-scoring offense to life, and Bryant went from awesome to awful.

The result was a second-half rally that gave the Suns a 95-87 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers in their first-round Western Conference playoff opener.

“Did everything in the book to give this game away,” Lakers guard Smush Parker said. “And we didn’t take advantage of it.”

Barbosa showed why he is a leading candidate for the NBA’s Sixth Man of the Year award. The speedy guard scored 19 of his 26 points in the second half, including 15 consecutive Phoenix points in one stretch, to match his career playoff scoring high.

“I was just trying to be aggressive like I’ve been the whole season,” Barbosa said. “They were trying to slow down the game, and it’s not the way that I like to play.”

Amare Stoudemire, back in the postseason after missing last year’s while recovering from knee surgeries, added 23 points and 12 rebounds.

Bryant scored 39, but only 11 in the second half. The NBA’s scoring leader

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