#### ARTS

Freschman Vincent Grigsby chats about his published novel, "His Failed Mistakes," and the creative process.

#### SPORTS

Swimming and diving teams head to the Big West championships today at Long Beach.

#### ONLINE

See the San Luis Obispo skating scene after dark and hear from the skaters themselves.

#### INSIDE

#### NEWS

The Hollywood writers’ strike causes a $2.5 billion loss to Los Angeles County.

Recent chalk messages seen around campus have caused some student clubs to get in trouble and left others wondering just what they can and cannot do.

Marlize van Romborgh

The university is contending with students over exactly where to draw the line when it comes to chalk slogans on campus.

The recent proliferation of chalk writings reveal everything from presidential candidate endorsements on concrete trash cans, to campus event promotions in the University Union Plaza, to advertising for Web sites on the steps of the Education building.

While all of these messages are covered under the free speech blanket granted to public universities, the chalk itself poses a different kind of problem that brings up liability issues.

University Police Department Chief Bill Watton said most students don’t realize it, but chalk is considered a hazardous material, and the cleanup required to get rid of it poses huge costs to the university.

"From a political standpoint, student slogans are covered," Watton said. "Cal Poly is a free speech area; so long as the messages can’t be considered hate speech or obscene, they’re not criminal."

But he went on to explain that the huge cleanup costs associated with chalk bring up issues of vandalism and graffiti, and that students can be held civilly liable for those costs if they haven’t received prior approval or if they don’t clean the chalk up properly.

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The Cal Poly chapter of Students for Barack Obama felt the ramifications of university policy come down on them as they prepared themselves for Super Tuesday on Feb. 5.

Molly McFarland, modern languages and literature sophomore and a member of Students for Barack Obama, said the club got in trouble with university personnel twice as they were chalking up campus prior to the presidential primaries.

The first time the group was warned was when they were out early in the morning to write messages supporting Obama and advising students where to find local polling locations.

McFarland said UPl) suddenly pulled up beside those students seen chalkling, sat them down, asked for their information and warned them that the university considered the chalk to be a form of graffiti.

McFarland acknowledged the club hadn’t received prior approval to chalk because she said she didn’t know that it was required.

She said Students for Barack Obama were using non-toxic chalk, so she was alarmed to find out that the university considered the chalk to be a form of graffiti.

"Knowing how much we had worked on this, and considering that what we were doing was supposed to be a positive thing — trying to get people inspired and passionate about politics — and then to be condemned for that, I really felt like ASI was not being very conducive to student activism," she said.

She said that Students for Barack Obama had decided to use chalk rather than just flyers to market themselves, because they found it generated a greater student reaction.

"Chalk jumps out at people," she said, adding that after a day of chalkling, people commented on the club’s presence on campus. "People will come up to us and ask, ‘Wow, how many Obama people are on campus? I see his name everywhere.’"

#### TODAY’S WEATHER

Partly cloudy
High 62°/Low 42°

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#### TODAY’S WEATHER

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Chalk
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McFarland added she thought what Students for Barack Obama was doing was a positive contribution to the university environment.

"We weren't trying to do anything destructive or negative," she continued. "We wanted to promote our candidate and make sure people knew where to find their poll locations and where the campus events were.

Chalk is outright prohibited on campus but we encourage all student organizations to familiarize themselves with the full ASI chalking policy before submitting an E-Plan request.

Watton said the police and university would like to encourage students to find better alternatives to market their cause.

"The (chalk) is really a big waste of money, and there are better ways for students to get their message out," he said.

"It's a hazardous material that then has to be cleaned up properly," Watton said, explaining that the university takes special measures to first get the chalk off of the concrete, and then vacuum it up.

"It's not just meant to be washed down the drains and out into our environment."

Watton said that the chalk issue has been going on for several years now, but that it does seem to be seasonal, especially given the national politics playing out on campus right now.

"Free speech is great, but students have to be reasonable with that," he continued. "They need to be taking into consideration the potential costs both to the university and to themselves for cleanup."

ASI does have specific guidelines outlined in its University Union policy for chalking. The policy states that the student union's election officials may on occasion require removal of inappropriate chalk messages.

The policy also outlines specific guidelines for chalking approval, including that it is only considered content-related when there is a dispute as to whether the content is appropriate:

"We aren't the police for chalking activities," she said. "ASl just as a student with completing an e-plan ... ultimately it's the university that will enforce chalking without prior application."

Cal Poly is a free speech area; so long as the messages can't be considered hate speech or obscene, they're not criminal.

—Bill Watton
University Police Department chief

Society of Women Engineers

Welcome men and women of all majors to...

Mariat Khan of Amgen

Speaking on
IS & Career Paths
Wednesday Feb. 20th @ 6 pm

Sandwich Factory
Refreshments Served!
Spice Girls Catch a Criminal

Wednesday, February 20, 2008

"What's the coolest astronomical event you've witnessed?"

Compiled and photographed by Dustin Stone

"It was day, the moon was out and a large black dot moved slowly across the moon. I thought it was an alien..."

-Will Lennox, mechanical engineering freshman

"My dad and uncle... saw these two objects in the sky. They (said) it was the size of a football field."

-Daniel Siewars, mechanical engineering senior

"I've seen a couple of shooting stars... nothing too exciting. It's kinda hard to see stuff when you're not looking."

-Justin Silva, agricultural business freshman

"Meteor showers in August from up in the Sierras."

-Anna Schuler, liberal studies senior

Spice Girls Catch a Criminal

The driver of a tour bus for the Spice Girls has helped police in Michigan arrest a man suspected in a carjacking. The driver called 911 to report a possible drunk driver weaving in and out of traffic on Interstate 75 in the Detroit area on Saturday. The Spice Girls were performing that night at The Palace of Auburn Hills northwest of Detroit.

Police said they arrested a motorist and turned him over to police in the town of Burton in connection with the carjacking at a gas station.

Helpful Heidi

Heidi Klum wants to help Britney Spears. The 33-year-old model says she would be willing to open her home to Spears while the troubled pop singer puts her life back together.

"She can call me and come live in our house with us for a couple of months," said Klum, a mother of three.

Helpful Heidi

The man didn't return to pick up his car. Nicastro opened the trunk and placed the contents in storage.

Long Way Down

To conquer his fear of heights, "Good Morning America" host Chris Cuomo jumped from the roof of an Atlantic City casino Tuesday morning.

As part of the ABC morning show's series about overcoming fears, Cuomo and a stunt coordinator used cables to zip nearly 40 stories down the side of the Trump Taj Mahal. The stunt was carried live on "Good Morning America" as a crowd of onlookers cheered from the ground.

Before the trick, Cuomo told himself he was "on an elevator with no walls."
State

LONG BEACH (AP) — An FBI agent was wounded after accidentally shooting herself in a Long Beach parking lot.

FBI spokeswoman Laura Esmiller says the agent, whose name is not released, was wounded Tuesday afternoon from a “self-inflicted gunshot.”

Esmiller says it was “evidently an accidental discharge.”

The agent has been taken to a hospital for treatment, and her wound does not appear to be life-threatening.

• • •

LOS ANGELES (AP) — NASA has selected a veteran aerospace company to develop a new commercial space capsule that could possibly fly cargo to the International Space Station.

The announcement Tuesday comes four months after the space agency reopened the bidding competition after one of the original winners failed to secure enough private financing for its project.

NASA chose to invest $170 million in Virginia-based Orbital Sciences Corp., which makes small rockets and small systems. Orbital was selected out of 13 proposals. The other company receiving NASA money to develop a private spacecraft is California-based SpaceX.

“Threatening.

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and television work, he said. The strike by members of the Writers Guild of America began Nov. 5 and ended Feb. 12, after union members reviewed a tentative contract deal and voted to return to work.

Last week, Kyser pegged the cost of the walkout at $2.2 billion. The revised final number reflects a reassessment of data and the fact that entertainment is a difficult industry to track, Kyser said.

The industry typically represents a $54 billion annual share of the Los Angeles County economy, Kyser said.

A key issue in the strike against studios and other producers was compensation for shows and movies delivered over the Internet.

A membership mail-in vote on final ratification of the tentative contract ends Feb. 25.

The last writers' strike, a 213-day walkout in 1988, resulted in an estimated $500 million in lost wages.

Briefs

RENO, Nev. (AP) — The DNA of an unknown woman was on a pair of thong underwear found with Brianna Denison’s body along with the DNA of the serial rapist who kidnapped and strangled the 19-year-old college student. Reno police said Tuesday.

The black “Pink Panther” panties found with the body on Friday did not belong to Denison, police said.

Denison, a sophomore at Santa Barbara City College in California, was visiting her hometown near the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno.

• • •

YBOR CITY, Fla. (AP) — A southwest Florida church issued a challenge for its married members: Hankey panky every day.

Relevant Church head pastor Paul Wirth issued the 30-day sex challenge to his 76-year-old brother, who survived a challenge to take on high divorce rates.

Wirth said Sunday “Sometimes life gets in the way. Our jobs get in the way.”

The challenge doesn’t extend to unwed congregants, however.

International

HAVANA — Now that Fidel Castro has retired, many Cubans are looking to his brother to let more people open businesses, own homes and even travel abroad.

But it will probably fall to a new generation of leaders to ultimately fulfill or frustrate their dreams of prosperity.

During his one and a half years as acting president, 76-year-old Raúl Castro has hinted at reform but made few major changes — a reticence many see as a sign of respect for his beloved, more doctrinaire older brother, who survived a more than 10 US presidents to bring him down.

BAGHDAD — The Iraq Interior Ministry ordered police on Tuesday to begin rounding up beggars, homeless and mentally disabled people from the streets of Baghdad.

The decision, which elicited a challenge for its married members: Hankey panky every day.

The challenge doesn't extend to unwed congregants, however.

striking film and television writers picket outside Paramount Studios.

Strike took $2.5 billion toll on L.A. County economy

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The 109-day Hollywood writers' strike took a $2.5 billion toll on the Los Angeles County economy but was less damaging than previously estimated, an economist said Tuesday.

The figure includes wages lost by writers and other entertainment industry workers when the strike shut down production on most scripted TV series, according to Jack Kyser, chief economist of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp.

It also represents damage done to Hollywood-dependent businesses such as limousine services and catering in the area that include most of the nation's film and television work, he said.

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The last writers' strike, a 153-day walkout in 1988, resulted in an estimated $500 million in lost wages.

CAL POLY PRESENTS
THE MLS CENTRAL COAST SHOWCASE

FRIDAY, FEB. 22 - SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES VS. COLUMBUS CREW - 7 P.M.
SUNDAY, FEB. 24 - SJ EARTHQUAKES VS. D.C. UNITED - 1 P.M.
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CAL POLY STUDENT PRICING - $6 SINGLE GAME/$10 FOR BOTH
TICKETS ON SALE AT THE BOX OFFICE AT THE REC CENTER OR AT 756-5806
WIN FREE TICKETS TO THE FRIDAY NIGHT GAME TODAY ON MOTT LAWN AT NOON - ANY CAL POLY STUDENT THAT CAN SCORE ON A PENALTY KICK AGAINST CAL POLY ASSISTANT COACH BRIAN REED WILL WIN A FREE TICKET TO FRIDAY EVENINGS' GAME!
Brian McCallen

In 16 months he wrote it down, transferred it to his computer, added a bit, and finished it. Three months later he had published a copy of "His Failed Mistakes" and gained the title of youngest published black author in Los Angeles. In 10 months, he plans for his second book to be in stores.

He likes to work on Friday nights. That's when you're back and don't have to worry about getting jacked up or aside to pursue football, becoming a first-team all-American. You just knew at a certain time, it's time to go back home. Grigsby said his inspiration to pen fiction began in third grade, when his teacher told him his writing stood out. "I was very descriptive and I know how to set up situations for emphasis," he said.

While playing quarterback, however, he was tackled and suffered a knee injury that eventually sidelined his football career. "I wish I could've played longer, but flag football, it's gonna hold it down for now. I've been trying to get back over and don't have to worry about getting jacked up or anything," he said.

He was cool. But once you went down the street, it was like a whole new ball game 'cause almost every night it was gunshots — it was pretty wild," Grigsby said.

The success of Matisyahu as one of the few Jewish rappers to be comparable to the rap Olympics. He has also spent time working with some other big names in the mainstream hip-hop community including famed Jewish emcee Matisyahu.

"I really liked battling; it seemed to be my forte," Dillz said. "I liked being in front of all those people, and I felt that I had a great presence that the crowd gravitated toward."

Since his impressive and encouraging start battling in the NYC project to his current 45-city tour, the appropriately named Sparc Change tour for the way the tour is funded.

Kosha Dillz spearheads Jewish rap movement

Phil Martinez

The 26-year-old emcee crafted his emcees chops in the New York underground scene, freestyle battling when he was a senior in high school. Dillz said he would attend the free-style battles with friends like fellow Jewish emcee Yak Ballz and eventually got the courage to step up and put his emcees skills to the test. Unsurprising to himself, Dillz won his first battle and the ball started rolling from there.

"I really liked battling; it seemed to be my forte," Kosha Dillz said. "I liked being in front of all those people, and I felt that I had a great presence that the crowd gravitated toward."

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Since his impressive and encouraging start battling in the NYC project to his current 45-city tour, the appropriately named Sparc Change tour for the way the tour is funded. Dillz has spent the meantime briefly incarcerated for distribution (of what, Dillz would not say). Upon his release he was in the studio recording on his own label Matzah 4 Yo' Moul Records. His new album that is slated to drop this spring with performances by C-Rayz Walz and Wu-Tang Clan's Killah Priest. Dillz has been using his personal experience of incarceration and revelation along with rapping at times in Hebrew to purport positivity in the life of a second chance.

MUSTANG DAILY
Kosha
continued from page 5
mercerably, brings the question of whether or not other up-and-coming Jewish rappers will be taken seriously or looked at as nothing more than a clone of Matisyahu or a novelty act. Dillz said he has contemplated this thought and that for some aspiring Jewish emcees it might be a problem, but he said his roots are in the underground scene and that's where his credibility and following has come from.

"I've rapped in the projects," Dillz said. "It's not like I started in a synagogue. I was rapping in the streets."

Dillz said that rapping alongside popular acts like Killah Priest has also helped his credibility in the hip-hop community as well as his appearance on "BET's 106 & Park."

When people look at me, they think of me as someone who's on his grind," Dillz said. "When you walk in the door with respected people, they respect you and know you're doing something right."

While his appeal started outside the Jewish community, Dillz said that he is diligently working to reach out to his Jewish brethren and push hard to infiltrate the minimal but growing market. He said that for some reason, the Jewish community is more skeptical of Jewish emcees than the rest of the hip-hop world but wants to be the one to remedy that.

"Me rapping out to Jewish fans is like being from Wisconsin and going to California, and while you're there, you meet some people that are also from Wisconsin. It's just exciting to meet someone that come from the same place as yourself," Dillz said.

Along with his friend and fellow emcee, Roches One, Kosha Dillz will tour the country funded on a bucket of spare change. He will also hold a clothing drive, which proceeds will go to homeless shelters and drug-rehabilitation centers.

Grigsby
continued from page 5

Grigsby's first novel, "His Failed Mistakes," will soon be followed by a second, titled "Love's Lost Lyrics."

"From my perspective, it seems like she wanted that house to be like she wanted that house to be treat- worse," Grigsby said. "The house is still standing there, but the people who occupy the house aren't treating it the way that I feel my great-great-grandmother would have wanted it to be treated."

He said he's good at multitasking, both getting his homework done and writing his novel, even if he has to wake up early to finish a math assignment. Holding up his spiral notebook, he said, "If I didn't have any homework or something, I would just sit down and write in here all night."

But Grigsby isn't always hard at work on his story.

"I don't write every day; I have to be in the mood. If you force yourself to write, it's not gonna be good writing," he said.

Asked what kind of mood he has to be in, Grigsby replied, "There's an overall writing mood because I'm not one of those psycho writers who say something to the characters speak to me when they try to tell me what their book should be like." He then added, "I control what I write.

Asked what he would call this mood, he said, "The creativity mood," adding, "Every word has to come from my head, so I have to create it."

To Grigsby, the peak of success for any of his creations would be a big-screen adaptation.

"That's when I know that I've arrived, and it's gonna be all peaches and cream for the rest of my life," he said.

He added, "(The movie) would be like a funny drama, 'cause I come straight dramas have the tendency to be kinda sad sometimes and funny movies aren't deep enough for me, so I would have a mix of the two."

Movie aside, Grigsby wants his point of view heard because he feels it's fresh and needed in America.

"There aren't any young black authors that are really mainstream, and that's where I'm trying to get to," he said.

Grigsby also said he is in the process of writing a screenplay with a high school friend. It may seem like he has a lot on his plate, but given his life's motto — "If you strive to be the best, you will be the best" — he's doing the right thing.

"The best doesn't just happen to anybody, you need to work for it," he said.
Despite the sex scenes, Lipstick Jungle falls flat

The show fails to compare against its 'Cashmere Mafia' counterpart or 'Sex and the City' predecessor

Cassandra Carlson

A famous yet struggling fashion designer, a high-profile movie producer, and an esteemed editor make up the cast of characters on NBC's new show "Lipstick Jungle," but the only thing that makes this show stand in the sex.

The show, which premiered Feb. 7 at 9 p.m., is slotted at the same time Thursday nights as ABC's "Cashmere Mafia," which took over the "E.R." spot. Yet, it seems unlikely that the show's depth and chemistry among its characters will be able to stand up next to "Cashmere Mafia," a show that is relatively the same in terms of characters and plotlines.

"Lipstick Jungle" is based on the book of the same name written by Candace Bushnell, the author of "Sex and the City." These two shows mirror each other in angles, but the only thing that makes Darnielle is something quite different. His catalog numbers well into the standard singer-songwriter-types. He's something quite different. His catalog numbers well into "Cashmere Mafia," the author of "Sex and the City," they are still enjoyable.

When Kirby entered his first scene in episode one, the show improved greatly. The show should have been all about him. Nico met him at a party, where she was captivated by him and escaped to the lady's room. But Nico didn't get away, as Kirby followed her to the bathroom and pushed her up against the sink, kissed her and, as he lifted her pant leg upon leaving, writes his number with black, permanent marker on her leg.

Nico struggled with the decision to call and meet with him, but she finally met him at his apartment for an afternoon dinner. That's when it gets hot (yes, pantyhose-ripping hot). The saga continues in the second episode.

Although the sex scenes are not as graphic as those in "Sex and the City," they are still enjoyable with Kirby in them. It is only when there are no lines that the show is truly extraordinary.

Other than the hot sex scenes, the show exudes a shallow plotline as characters deal with their jobs and personal lives.

Wendy is a studio producer played by Brooke Shields, who in the first episode tried to get Leonardo DiCaprio to sign on for a movie. In what is supposed to be a poignant climax, Wendy finally got him to sign, while co-workers gathered around her and anxiously waited for his reply. Last week, she battled a former nanny who wanted to ruin her career with a scandalous book dishing on Wendy's bad parenting.

Shields' role in the show is dispicable, and as the plotline transpires throughout the hour-long slot, the show seems more and more fake. She not only looks bad on camera, but she cannot act along with the other characters.

There are also various cheese factors in the show. Lindsey Price plays fashion designer Victoria Ford, whose career is declining after a recent fashion show. On a trip to Tokyo, she has a horrible meeting with the company financing her line. In a dramatic phone call to her "barbillionaire," he saves the day as he sends a jet to pick her up and bring her back to New York, where he meets her with his limo to sweep her off her feet.

All in all, this show sums up in one sentence: three middling-aged women competing in a professional world while simultaneously struggling with their lives and finding validation in the men that surround them.

I want to be honest here. Writing this isn't easy for me. The Mountain Goats occupy a unique and very personal section in my convoluted, cognitive filing system. The tab reads this: "Music: The Mountain Goats: Darnielle's "So Desperate."" What is different from the last three records is the subject. After the cluster of autobiographical records from the last few years, "Heretic Pride" is more evocative of the short stories like those styled in Darnielle's glorious "All Hail West Texas" days. These vignettes are more on the side of universality than specific literal reality, but I think this type of storytelling is something that the Mountain Goats really come alive, and I'd rank this release as their best since the mind-numbingly brilliant "Tallahassee" back in '02.

The opener, "Sex Roamer #1," immediately kicks my ass with its catchy, emphatic chorus: "I am coming home to you/With my own blood in my mouth." (Check out the video on YouTube!) But my personal favorite is the clever toe-tapper "Autoclave," which had me tappering "Autoclave," which had me tappering, "I'm not going to tell you to listen to this record simply because it's great (with it to) or that it's the most important thing that happened in music, ever (which it isn't). Just... do it for me. Please.

Josh B. Weidman is an architectural engineering senior and a business director for KCPK, San Luis Obispo, 91.3 FM.

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MEXICO

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www.continuing-ed.calpoly.edu/travel.html
Benjamin Franklin once said, "Those who would trade in their freedom for protection deserve neither." That quote appropriately describes the Democratic Congress’s mantra as they fight against the president’s ridiculous domestic spying laws.

For those unaware, the Bush administration’s Protect America Act (a law the name) recently expired because Democrats refused to extend many of the act’s superhumanities, not to mention unconstitutional provisions.

Nevertheless, Republicans are flailing over this new turn of events, claiming once again that the Democrats don’t want to “Protect America.” In fact, Rep. Ted Poe (R-Texas) went so far as to say that “there is probably joy throughout the terrorist cells throughout the world that the United States Congress did not do its duty today.”

Obviously, the purpose of these illiberal Republicans’ ramblings is to create the perception that if Bush’s legislation isn’t passed, our intelligence community will have to shut down operations and will no longer be able to conduct surveillance on suspected terrorists— which is completely absurd.

Republicans are arguing that we must OK this expansion of presidential power because the old laws of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) were too restrictive and we cannot go back to being less safe. This argument is laughable on so many levels, the first being that the Protect America Act has only been around for about six months, yet it is apparently now an indispensable piece of legislation that we cannot live without.

Furthermore, that “old and restrictive” FISA law that Republicans rail against still allowed you to wiretap suspects without a warrant, just as long as you filled out the paperwork for a warrant three days after the illegal search.

However, the best argument to this Republican notion that FISA is less safe than Bush’s new act is that the Bush administration’s own Justice Department deemed FISA completely adequate to their counterterrorism efforts from 2002 to 2004. Immediately after Sept. 11, 2001, Congress went to the president’s Justice Department and told them that they could “honor” the FISA laws to help track terrorists, but the administration said the current laws were more than enough.

Of course, all this begs the question: If the current surveillance bill isn’t about strengthening the “outdated” FISA act, then what is it about?

The answer: Immunity from prosecution for the telecom companies that helped the Bush Administration illegally spy on innocent people for the past six months.

During the time the Protect America Act was enacted, all the major telecom companies (AT&T, Verizon, Sprint) openly handed the mammoth of international and domestic phone calls, e-mails and Web browsing logs for the government to inspect, even though they knew the government didn’t have a warrant to see such items.

However, now that the constitutionality of the president’s act has been questioned, the telecoms have pulled the plug on such spying measures since they now fear lawsuits from their customers. As a result, they have demanded that any spying legislation going forward protect them from all legal consequences they might incur.

Now the Republicans and the telecom lobbyists in Congress are arguing that these companies helped illegally spy on Americans out of their patriotic desire to “protect America” and thwart potential attacks. But this argument is flimmy at best when you consider that point in 2007, when some of the telecom giants actually cut the government’s wiretaps on suspects because the government had not paid all the bills they owed to the company.

Ultimately, I alluded to with Benjamin Franklin’s famous quote, we will always have a debate in this country about how far we need to go to protect American lives, and what personal freedoms we are willing to give up to accomplish that goal. I welcome the debate and believe it strengthens our democracy. However, the current “debate” over President Bush’s new version of FISA is far too ludicrous to tolerate. It is clear after looking at all the facts that the Protect America Act adds nothing further to the old FISA laws and in fact makes America less safe by allowing telecom companies to spy into anyone’s private communication records without fear of judicial action.

Patrick Molnar is a business junior and a Mustang Daily liberal columnist.
Hapy National Engineers Week! This National Engineers Week, I hope that engineers here at Cal Poly take time to reflect upon what it truly means to be an engineer. As an engineer in a global community, we are often tasked with tackling small and large problems across the world, ultimately in the hopes of making this world a better place. Cal Poly has a world-renowned reputation as one of the best engineering schools. As such, other schools and institutions have often consulted Cal Poly for our expertise. One such school is Jabiul University College in Saudi Arabia. In September, a proposal was authored by several officials in the College of Engineering, including Dean Mohammad Noor. On the surface, this deal seems like a simple exchange program for professors, but when you look deeper, it seems to really jeopardize the honesty and integrity of our institution in the name of money.

As it stands, this deal does not really promote an exchange, since the Saudi Arabians are not interested in sending students to Cal Poly or having Cal Poly students go to Saudi Arabia. If this were truly about an exchange of ideas and culture, then students should be directly involved. If Cal Poly truly wishes to be an agent of change, it should demand that Jubail University accept whatever professors we send regardless of their religion, gender or sexual preference. As such, other schools and institutions have come in to make better deals, since the Saudi Arabians are more interested in a different direction.

Happy National Engineers Week! This National Engineers Week, I hope that engineers here at Cal Poly take time to reflect upon what it truly means to be an engineer. As an engineer in a global community, we are often tasked with tackling small and large problems across the world, ultimately in the hopes of making this world a better place. Cal Poly has a world-renowned reputation as one of the best engineering schools. As such, other schools and institutions have often consulted Cal Poly for our expertise. One such school is Jabiul University College in Saudi Arabia. In September, a proposal was authored by several officials in the College of Engineering, including Dean Mohammad Noor. On the surface, this deal seems like a simple exchange program for professors, but when you look deeper, it seems to really jeopardize the honesty and integrity of our institution in the name of money.

As it stands, this deal does not really promote an exchange, since the Saudi Arabians are not interested in sending students to Cal Poly or having Cal Poly students go to Saudi Arabia. If this were truly about an exchange of ideas and culture, then students should be directly involved. If Cal Poly truly wishes to be an agent of change, it should demand that Jubail University accept whatever professors we send regardless of their religion, gender or sexual preference. As such, other schools and institutions have come in to make better deals, since the Saudi Arabians are more interested in a different direction.

If Cal Poly truly wants to be an agent of change, it should demand that Jubail University accept whatever professors we send regardless of their religion, gender or sexual preference.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Please get your facts straight! Troy.

First of all, "Bringing Bias to Class" was written by a Mustang Daily reporter, and was in no way affiliated with the College Republicans. If you want to make any sort of respectable commentary on your end, please get your facts straight.

Second, I was asked by the editor in chief to write an article based on my experiences as the president of the College Republicans — how I got involved and to comment on the current state of politics on campus. Maybe you need to go back and read again — nowhere in there was a "poor me" statement. I don't know about you, but I don't know of anyone who would put themselves out there in the leader of the College Republicans for the past two years who was not "comfortable with it."

Finally, I think everyone needs to be aware of the reason behind our "schizoid" articles.

We have chosen to be the five writers who are all part of the College Republicans and all describe ourselves as "conservative," yet we are independently expressing different types of conservative viewpoints every week. We don't believe in the "one size fits all" mentality, and people are free to agree or disagree with each article every week viewing us as a singular entity or considering each topic/columnist at their own face value. I would hope that a liberal such as yourself could appreciate our diversity.

Now here is one concept I really can be comfortable with: Stop writing in and prefacing your expletive-ridden tirades. There still seems to be plenty of slots still available.

Why can't we have POWER back?

I have a hard time feeling remorse for your dilemma. Over my tenure at Cal Poly I have had nothing but successes in obtaining the classes I need. This comes from ability to foresee registration problems. I email my professors and I have never had trouble being their class. Only twice have I not been able to get a specific class. Hopefully you can use some of these techniques in the future so that the entire student body can be spared from your negative-ridden trado.

Speaking of which, I suggest you enroll in ENG 145. You will learn how to format and present arguments based on sound facts and not foundationless rhetoric or foul language. You are also in luck. There still seems to be plenty of slots still available.

Nicholas B. Leone
Architecture senior

Why can't we have POWER back?

I have agreed with Will, the new registration system does suck. And I thought the old CPReg was bad...why can't we just have POWER back? All you had to do was make a schedule (in only 3 steps), click the "enroll" button, and you were done. For being so old, it was lightyears ahead of what we have now.

David Nelson
Computer engineering senior

I think Dan did a great job introducing people to the event at the fact that being a "radical" today isn't necessarily what we consider radical in the future. While most of us would agree that all human beings deserve equal civil rights, many people considered Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King radicals for standing up for the fact that they believed every human being deserved the same treatment. Just don't be naïve. I think we all know that ALL beings — animal or human — deserve equal treatment. He says the revolution has started, but someday we'll look back upon our torture and slaughter of helpless animals as normal. It's obvious now...others will learn this over time.

Cal Poly
Response to "PETA speaker faces enraged audience"

Letters to the editor

Read it and replace it

When I leave the dorms, I go to dinner and most have gone home, there's still big stacks of Mustang Dailies left over. I think many people read them and throw them away or leave them laying around. Mustang Daily should encourage people to read them and put them back where they got them if they don't want to keep it, and then just print fewer. Reusing is always better than recycling.

Chris Ray
Landscape architecture freshman

Response to Mr. Hurley

I have a hard time feeling remorse for your dilemma. Over my tenure at Cal Poly I have had nothing but successes in obtaining the classes I need. This comes from ability to foresee registration problems. I email my professors and I have never had trouble being their class. Only twice have I not been able to get a specific class. Hopefully you can use some of these techniques in the future so that the entire student body can be spared from your negative-ridden trado.

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Cal Poly
Response to "PETA speaker faces enraged audience"
Kidd continued from page 12

Nets, who went to back-to-back NBA finals in 2002-03. Now Joey hadn't made a long playoff run since, and Kidd started talking trade a year ago, when he al­most went to the Los Angeles Lakers. He went public with his latest trade demand last month.

"We're talking 90 minutes of un­interrupted action on the pitch in one of the nation's top fields to celebrate the most sto­rious moment in our country's history," said national mens gold medal­ist alumnus and a sports inform­alist. "Finish the job we started by bringing the American flag home.""We are an alumnus and a sports inform­alist. "We understand the competition is fierce, but we're not afraid of the competition."

Mavericks coach Avery Johnson said.

Kidd's arrival should be a boon to the starting center Erick O'Neal. How­ever, he just knows how to win."

For an inside look at the game, contact the Sports Department at Cal Poly.
Waggoner, Benefield expected to lead swimming and diving teams at Big West Championships

Young talent has spurred a record-breaking season for the Cal Poly swimming and diving teams this year

Coral Snyder

The Mustangs, whose men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams have broken seven of their prior records since the beginning of the season in September, compete today through Saturday in the 2008 Big West Championships at the Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool in Long Beach.

“We're going to have a pretty good showing all the way across the board,” head coach Tom Milich said. Milich said that the teams posting the most competition are UC Santa Barbara, UC Irvine and Pacific.

The Mustangs, whose men’s and women’s teams each placed fifth in the coaches’ preseason poll, look to upset those predictions, while UCSB is favored to win both Big West Conference crowns.

“This is what the season is all about for these kids,” Milich said of the championships.

Milich predicted that freshman Matt Waggoner, who holds three Cal Poly records, will lead the men’s team. Waggoner is presently the second-fastest in the Big West in the middle-distance events of the 500, 1000 and 1650 freestyle. Freshman Peter Kline, who broke the Cal Poly record in the 400 IM this season, will compete in the 200 breaststroke this event as well as the 400 IM. Sophomore Carter Richards, Cal Poly’s leader in the 200 and 500 freestyle, will compete in the aforementioned events.

“The guys freshmen class is ultimately talented, but we still don’t have a ton of depth,” Milich said.

Milich said that Cal Poly’s representation at the championships is a great improvement compared to last season because on the men’s side, there is at least one competitor in every event except the 50, 100 and 200 freestyle. Freshman Gloria Benefield, along with Waggoner, boasts three Cal Poly records and is figured to be one of the leaders for the women’s team.

She is ranked in the Big West top three in the 200 and 500 freestyle and the 200 fly as well.

Freshman Melody White will compete for Cal Poly in the 1000 freestyle and senior Tracey Sorensen will compete for top spots in the sprint events.

“All the girls added a great deal in depth,” Milich said of the improvement in the women’s team from previous seasons to now.

Qualifying rounds will begin at 10:30 a.m. and final rounds will be held later at approximately 6 p.m.

Waggoner, Benefield expected to lead swimming and diving teams at Big West Championships

see Kidd, page 11 at 34, Jason Kidd still poses a threat in the Western Conference due to his versatility and passing.