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.

**Chalk it up to political activism**

Marlize van Romburgh

MUSTANG DAILY

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 on 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 Watt 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," Wattson 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 student can be held liable for those costs if they haven't received prior approval or if they don't clean the chalk up properly.

"At first I was kind of angry," McFarland said. "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 that Students for Barack Obama had decided to use chalk rather than just flyers to market their club's presence on campus. "People will come up to you and then to be condemned for that, I really felt like ASI was not being very conducive to student activism."

"If you didn't know that it was required," 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 later warned again about their chalk messages, and told they would be sent a bill amounting to $30 per hour for the time the university had to spend cleaning up their chalk.

"Chalk jumps out at people," she added, "but after a day of chalk, people commented on the club's presence on campus. "People will come up to us and ask, "Woo, how many Obama people are on campus? I see his name everywhere."'"

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.

**ASl hosting meetings for future board candidates**

Kory Harbeck

MUSTANG DAILY

Students who want to make a difference on campus will have an opportunity tonight to learn more about one of the most direct ways to bring about change.

Associated Students Inc. will host prospective candidates for the ASI general election tonight and tomorrow from 6 to 7 p.m. in the University Union, in rooms 218 and 219, respectively. The meetings will cover the details of campaigning on campus and the responsibilities of elected officials for any interested students.

"ASI is one of many vehicles for change on campus, but it is one of the better ways," said mechanical engineering senior and chair of the ASI Board of Directors Tony Guntermann.

There are 26 available board positions made up of representatives for any interested students.

**Obama beats Clinton for 9 straight**

David Espo

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Barack Obama won the Wisconsin primary Tuesday night, his ninth-straight triumph over a fading Hillary Rodham Clinton in their epic struggle for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Obama cut deeply into Clinton's political bedrock, splitting the support of white women almost evenly with her and making closer to the 1,191 delegates he needs to clinch the nomination at the party convention in St. Paul, Minn., next summer.

The Associated Press made its calls based on surveys of voters as they left the polls.

In a scarcely veiled attack on Obama, the Republican primary primary with easy, dismally slow, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and edged closer to the 1,191 delegates he needs to clinch the nomination at the party's national convention in St. Paul, Minn., next summer.

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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 polling location on Super Tuesday."

Michelle Broom, public relations and marketing coordinator for ASI, said that chalking is not something destructive or negative, "she said. "We understand the need to spread the word, but we want to see responsible use."

"We aren't the police for chalking activities," she said. "ASI 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 Watson
University Police Department chief

ASI does have specific guidelines outlined in its University Union policy for chalking. The policy spells out discouraging students from using chalk as a marketing tool, citing "the negative environment and resource impact associated with it (removal via washing wastes water and runs the risk of introducing pollutants into the natural storm water removal network of campus streams)."

The policy also outlines specific guidelines for chalking approval, including that it is only considered for members of the campus community. Co-organizing co-sponsoring a Cal Poly club event. Other policy details include that chalk is water-soluble, it's allowed to stay on for a maximum of five days, and is not allowed on building surfaces or walls.

Broom encouraged all student organizations to familiarize themselves with the full ASI chalking policy before submitting an E-Plan request.

Wattson said the policy 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," Wattson 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 oceans."

Wattson 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."

Obama continued from page 1

him to chip away at his advantage among elected officials within the party who will have convention votes in superdelegates.

Obama was in Texas, which has caucuses and primaries on March 4, and was in Ohio as the votes were counted in Wisconsin.

"Both Senator Obama and I would make history," the former first lady said in remarks prepared for delivery at a rally in Waukesha."But only one of us is on ready day one to be commander in chief, ready to manage our economy, and ready to defeat the Republicans.

"One of us has spent 35 years being a doer, a fighter and a champion for those who need a voice." Clinton's aides initially signaled she would virtually concede Wisconsin, and the former first lady spent less time in the state than Obama.

Even so, she ran a television ad that accused his rival of ducking a debate in the state and added that she had the only health care plan that would cover all Americans and the only economic plan to stop home foreclosures. "Maybe he'd prefer to give speeches than have to answer questions," the commercial said.

Obama countered with an ad of his own, saying his health care plan would cover more people.

The campaign grew increasingly testy over the weekend, when Clinton's aides accused Obama of plagiarizing for delivering a speech that included words that had first been uttered by David Patrick, the Massachussetts governor and a friend of Obama.

"I really don't think this is too big of a deal," the Obama said, eager to bury the narrative for good. He said Clinton had used his dogma, too.

Even before the votes were tallied in one state, the campaign's message was clear.

In Texas and Ohio hold primaries on March 4, and some of Clinton's backers have said the one-time front-runner cannot afford to lose either. Already, she and Obama have begun advertising in Texas, with 193 delegates, and Ohio, with 141, and both visited the two states in the days before the Ohio primary.

The Pennsylvania primary, with 158 delegates, is April 22, the last big state to vote.

ASI continued from page 1

from the colleges of liberal arts, engineering, agriculture, business, architecture, science and math.

McFarland was able to save money while also increasing the convenience for voters.

"There are lots of graduating seniors, so there is room for fresh ideas from excited students who want change," said Angela Kramer, a political science junior and a member of the board from the College of Liberal Arts.

To run, students must return the application packet that can be picked up in the ASI offices in the UU Epicenter.

Society of Women Engineers

Welcome men and women of all majors to...

Marian Khan of Amgen Speaking on IS & Career Paths

Wednesday, February 20th @ 6pm

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For more information, go to:

www.calpoly.edu/student affairs/cew

(805) 756-2417

The League for Women Voters, the League of Women Voters, and the League of Women Voters of America are non-partisan citizen organizations. We do not support or oppose candidates or parties. We are committed to the principle of equal treatment of all candidates. The League for Women Voters, the League of Women Voters, and the League of Women Voters of America are non-partisan citizen organizations. We do not support or oppose candidates or parties. We are committed to the principle of equal treatment of all candidates.
**Spice Girls Catch a Criminal**

Wednesday, February 20, 2008

AP 123

"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, thought it was an alien for sure."

-Will Lennox, mechanical engineering freshman

"My dad and uncle ... saw these two objects in the sky and one of them dipped away faster than anything humans can build. They (said) it was the size of a football field."

-Daniel Silveira, 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

**Celebirety News**

**Overdue Ovation**

Little Richard got a standing ovation at the Ryman Auditorium — and he didn’t even perform. The 75-year-old rock ‘n’ roll pioneer was seated at the rear of the auditorium during a concert by 1960s Monterey-revivals The Temptations and the Four Tops.

He got an extended outburst from the sold-out crowd of about 2,400 Sunday night after being introduced by Otis Williams, an original member of The Temptations.

**Conrad Split**

Pink and motocross racer Carey Hart have separated after about two years of marriage.

"This decision was made by best friends with a huge amount of love and respect for one another," Pink’s representative Michele Switzer said Tuesday in a statement.

"While the marriage is over, their friendship has never been stronger."

**Naked Marilyn**

A Las Vegas man plans to unveil what he says is a rare photo of Marilyn Monroe posing as a nude hitchhiker.

A news conference is scheduled Wednesday. Lawrence Nicastro says he found the photo last year while going through storage items at his Las Vegas home.

Nicastro was running a service station in New York’s borough of the Bronx when a man dropped off a Ford Sunliner convertible for repairs on New Year’s Eve 1962.

When 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."
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 caterers in the area that include most of the nation's filmed 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 $3.2 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 153-day walkout in 1988, resulted in an estimated $50 million in lost wages.

State

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

FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller says the agent, whose name is not released, was wounded Tuesday afternoon from a "self-inflicted gunshot." Eimiller says it was "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 spaceship 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.

The selection comes four months after the space agency chose three companies in September to design, develop and possibly fly cargo to the international space station.

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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.
ALEX G. SPANOS STADIUM

HAVANA (AP) — Now that Fidel Castro has retired, many Cuban leaders 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 despite the efforts of 10 U.S. presidents to bring him down.

BAGHDAD (AP) — The Iraqi 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 response from the Saddam-era ministry, aims to improve the safety of Iraqi residents in the capital.

The order was announced after the death of a Palestinian woman who was shot dead by a police officer on a Baghdad street.

The woman was one of hundreds of people who have been killed in the city since the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime in 2003.

The order was welcomed by some residents who said they hoped it would help reduce the violence and improve safety in the city.

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Earth science freshman Vincent Grigsby, the youngest published black author in Los Angeles, talks about the creative process.

Brian McMullen
 MONDAY, FEB. 18

In 16 months he wrote it down, transferred it to his computer, added a bit, and finished it. Three months later he had published 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 added, "I wish I could've played longer, but being a high school graduate to 'now I'm a published author,' that's what I'm doing." Grigsby said. "That's really what made us come to the rash decision to publish it so quick."

He later added, "It was pretty amazing, 'cause you go from being a high school graduate to 'now I'm a published author,' that's what it amounted to." Dillz said. "It's the result of the hip-hop movement that seems lost in most of today's times in Hebrew to purport positivity is the central message."

"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 debut, Kosha Dillz has gone from the projects to the big house to the synagogue, and for the past two years he has been relentlessly playing shows and recording with the likes of 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 portray positivity that seems lost in today's hip-hop music.

"Positivity is the central message. I've been around the way before and exerting the positive energy to the crowd plays an important role in someone's life," Dillz said. "It's the connection and the ability to identify with people that everyone can appreciate."

The 26-year-old emcee crafted his emcees chips 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 Balz 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," 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 Spare Change tour for the upcoming album is slated to debut this spring, with performances by C-Rayz Walz, it is titled "Freestylin'. Writin'. "He recently took third place in the End Of The Weak competition that Dillz said would be comparable to the rap Olympics. He also spent time working with some other big names in the mainstream hip-hop community including famous Jewish emcee Matisyahu.

The success of Matisyahu is one of the few Jewish rappers to be considered
Kosha

continued from page 5

mentally viable; 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 as a novelty act. Dilll said he has contemplated this thought and that for some aspiring Jewish emcees it might be a problem, but he said his music is in the underground scene and that's where his credibility and following has come from.

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

Dilll 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," Dilll 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, Dilll said that he is diligently working to reach out to his Jewish brethren and pushing 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.

"To me being Jewish isn't just a religion; it's a bloodline. It's what I represent," Dilll said. "I've succeeded so well and I've been doing this whole thing in the other market, and now the Jewish scene is finally coming together."

With the demand for Jewish emcees growing, Dilll said that while it's not the most important thing, he is hoping that there will be some Jewish fans in the crowd because of the connection and relation he feels they will get out of his performance.

"Me reaching 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," Dilll said.

Along with his friend and fellow emcee, Robens One, Kosha Dilll 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. The only completely fictional character in the book is the main character, James Thomas, who Grigsby said isn't him.

"He starts off as a cool character. You're like, 'OK, I can get into this guy, but by about part five, part six, this dude like totally went psycho,'" he said.

Since being published, Grigsby said that he's made more than $1,000 from "His Failed Mistakes."

"However, he said, "I don't want that to be my flagship book because it could be written better."

So, Grigsby said he intends to maintain some momentum with his next project, "Love's Lost Lyrics," a novel based on the story of his great-grandfather's home in Los Angeles.

"From my perspective, it seems like the woman that house to be here for all generations that followed her," 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-grandfather 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 poets, writers who say 'the characters speak to me when they try to get into their book.'"

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 hand, 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 straight-up 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, then you'll 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.

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Thursday, February 21st, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Business Building Breezeway

Find out about the full range of study abroad opportunities available to you. Just look for the USAC table!

If you can't make the fair, pick up a USAC catalog at the International Education & Programs Office.

**Mini Study Abroad Fair**

This mini-fair is a great opportunity to talk to coordinators and representatives of study abroad and internship programs offered at Cal Poly.

**Grigsby continued from page 5**

close friends.

"I just took their character and made 'em all crazy and elaborated them," he said.

Asked if his friends know that they are characters in his book, Grigsby responded, "'Nah," and began laughing. He then added that he doesn't plan on让ing them know, because "they won't see it from my point of view."

They're gonna be like, 'Oh, so you think I'm some crazy, deranged person, but they're not gonna understand what I was saying."

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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  Mustang Daily

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 out is the sex.

The show, which premiered Feb. 7 at 9 p.m., is slotted at the same time Thursday nights as "Cashmere Mafia," a show NBC's new show "Lipstick Jungle," on the other hand, has both predictable and unrealistic plotlines with awkward acting in them. It is only able with Kirby in them. It is only able with Kirby in them.

Each of the women has personal flaws, but the most exciting character flaw exudes from the married Nico, played by Kim Raver, who meets Kirby Arwood (Robert Buckley) at one of the parties her magazine hosts. For "Lipstick Jungle,"—obsessed, this is a Jared Smith-Simantab scene. (Translation: HOT, young, 20-something man seduces sway-yet-older career-driven woman.)

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 up her pant leg upon leaving, wrote her 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 de-light. That's when it gets hot (yes, pantyhose-ripping hot). The saga continued in the second episode. All in all, this show sums up in one sentence: three middle-aged women competing in a professional world while simultaneously struggling with their lives and finding validation in the men that surround them.

The three main characters portray the typical, high-powered, career-driven women who rule high society. Although each of the women have achieved different levels of success, they struggle to keep up with their workloads while juggling their 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 awaited 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' rule 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. Lindsay 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 "baillarino," she saves the day as she sends a jet to pick her up and bring her back to New York, where he meets her with his limousine to sweep her off her feet.

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

The answer better be no

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 (gotta love the name) recently expired because Democrats refused to extend many of the act's superfluous, not to mention unconstitutional, provisions.

Nevertheless, Republicans are fuming 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 idiotic 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 allow 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 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 "loosen" 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: The president's desire for protection 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 over the tons 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 face lawsuits from their customers. As a result, they have demanded that any spying legislation go forward protecting 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 flimsy 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 hadn't paid all the bills they owed to the company.

Ultimately, as 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 ridiculous 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 pry into anyone's private communication records without fear of judicial action.

Patrick Molnar is a business junior and a Mustang Daily liberal columnist.
Happily, 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 Jubail University College in Saudi Arabia. In September, a proposal was authored by several officials in the College of Engineering, including Dean Mohammad Noori. 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.

Let's face it, Saudi Arabia isn't the most tolerant place in the world, and Jubail University explicitly excludes women from its engineering department. To own, the deal was "morally and ethically weak. After consulting with administration officials at different universities, he also felt the deal violated agreements with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under the Civil Right Act of 1964, which forbids entering into a contract that discriminates on sexual preference, religion or sex. Instead, he thinks "Cal Poly must be aggressive in the support of rights of women." Beigie is part of the College Republicans and all students entitled to attend, the mechanical engineering department voted nearly unanimously against the program.

First of all, "Bringing Bias to Class" was written by a Mustang Daily reporter, and I think the old CRReg should encourage people to read our torture. For some of us, it's obvious why can't we 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. Even if you don't want to enroll in ENGL 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.

We thought of ideas and culture, then students should be encouraged to share their ideas and culture, it's important to adhere to their laws and customs. With this in mind, it's easy to make the legitimate argument that it is a necessary evil or setback to exclude these groups of professors from participating in the program in the interest of promoting an interaction between Jubail University and Cal Poly and, on a larger scale, between the United States and Saudi Arabia. However, this fact should be freely admitted and honestly discussed among the faculty and students.

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.

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**Girls & Sports** by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

**Last Ditch Effort** by John Kroes

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**The New York Times Crossword**

Edited by Will Shortz  
No. 0109

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**Pop Culture Shock Therapy** by Doug Bratton

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Brian could not get any peace in the backyard once Senator Larry Craig moved next door.
Kidd
continued from page 12
 Nets, who went to back-to-back NBA finals in 2002-03. Now Jerry has made a long playoff run since, and Kidd started talking trade a year ago, when he al­ lied himself to the Los Angeles Lakers. He went public with his latest trade demand last month.

"We're in a one-in-a-lifetime type of guy to play with and coach," Nets coach Frank Stram I said. "He's had an unbelievable impact on everyone in this organization and we wish him nothing but the best."

Cuban, who was a Mavericks seas­ son ticket holder the last time Kidd was in Dallas, is essentially gambling that the 1 ½ seasons he'll have Kidd is worth more than the 4 ½ seasons left with Harris running the offense.

"Kidd, of course, is a proven com­ metery, but he turns 35 next month and is a decade older than Harris.

"In any business there's half," Cu­ ban said. "Everybody was waiting for the postseason to start. You can't just say, 'OK, turn it on in the postseason.'"

"I think Jordan... being that iconic. Ali­ Star will spark a lot of people."

Nets president Rod Thorn saw the same problem on New Jersey's end. He said the Nets struggled this season, Kidd lost some of the intensity that defines him as a player, making the trade imperative.

Thorn said he first noticed it in December, an indirect reference to an incident in which Kidd cut out a game against the New York Knicks with a migraine, a move some considered a one-day walkout to force a trade.

"Over the course of time it became very evident that his heart wasn't in it," Thorn said. "The kind of player he is, if his heart's not in it then he's not the same player, and it became evident to me that his heart wasn't in it anymore."

His presence also will open things up for Josh Howard, plus let Jason Terry spend more time at shooting guard.

"Harris numbers have gone up in each of his four seasons, helping him earn a five-year contract worth roughly $42 million for this sea­ son. However, he's nowhere near the distributor Kidd is, nor is he liable to get a triple-double. He may eventually have that well-rounded of a game, but the Mavericks decided they couldn't wait."

"We feel (Kidd's) skill set can help us finish stronger, finish games better," Johnson said. "Obviously he's not the guy we're going to lean on for points, points, points, points. He's going to help us because at the end of games, he just knows how to win."

"Losing Dirk hurts Dallas' front line, as he is the primary backup to starting center Erick Dampier. How­ ever, Doop — who is a free agent after this season — had fallen out of favor lately. Allen was averaging 5.4 points in almost 16 minutes per game for the Nets. Dallas also announced it waived forward Nick Fazekas, the 34th pick last year.

For an inside look at the women's basketball game, check out Cal Poly senior center NICOLE YARWASKY's player perspective blog online at MUSTANGDAILY.NET

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Kidd re-introduced in Dallas after 8-player trade with New Jersey

Schuyler Dixon
ASSIST. SPORTS EDITOR

DALLAS — Jason Kidd is a member of the Dallas Mavericks. Again. Finally.

The long-discussed, once-scuttled and ultimately reconfigured deal to bring Kidd from New Jersey back to the team that drafted him was finalized Tuesday. He was reintroduced in Dallas 14 years after the Mavericks made him the No. 2 pick.

Back then, Kidd was supposed to help turn around one of the worst franchises in sports. Now, as one of the league’s best point guards, he’s seen as a crucial piece in the Mavs’ pursuit of a championship.

“There’s no bigger reward than to have that championship trophy in your hand,” said Kidd, who lost in the NBA finals twice with the Nets. “That’s why I’m here. Because Dallas has an eye on that prize.”

The eight-player deal, in the making since before the All-Star break and talked about longer, sends Kidd, forward Malik Allen and guard Antoine Wright to Dallas.

The primary piece headed to New Jersey is point guard Devin Harris. The others are center DeSagana Diop, swingman Maurice Ager, forward Tristan Hamill and retired forward Keith Van Horn. New Jersey also gets two first-round draft picks and $3 million.

Van Horn and Hamill replace Jerry Stackhouse and Devene George in an original trade proposal. Stackhouse’s presence in the deal was muddied by plans to get him back to Dallas — within the rules, although in a way the league frowned upon — and George used his veto power to block his involvement.

“It’s been the most amazing, interesting trade we’ve ever done, and we’ve done some amazing trades,” Kidd said. “I’m not the only one happy about this decision.”

Kidd wasn’t the answer in Dallas a decade ago, and he was shipped to Phoenix after two V 4

At 34, Jason Kidd still poses a threat in the Western Conference due to his versatility and passing.

**Waggoner, Benefielip 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
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

The Cal Poly men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams, which 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 held 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 possesing 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 UCSC 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 and Matt Waggoner currently hold Cal Poly records and is figured to be one of the leaders for the women’s team.

He is ranked in the top three in the 200 and 500 free style and the 200 fly as well.

Friday and the ‘Quakes against the Columbus Crew and the San Jose Earthquakes — the other “football.”

That’s right, Major League Soccer is coming to San Luis Obispo for a pair of exhibition games — the ‘Quakes against the Crew at 7 p.m. Friday and the ‘Quakes against United at 1 p.m. Sunday.

Some people out there might still be under the pasté impression that soccer is foreign and boring. Let’s face it, folks — soccer is in. It’s trendy. It’s hip. It’s the new bottom jeans, the new haircut for your son; it’s low-cut diets, going green and “The Office.”

Although United is not a European team, it is coming to San Luis Obispo for a pair of exhibition games — the ‘Quakes against the Crew at 7 p.m. Friday and the ‘Quakes against United at 1 p.m. Sunday.

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