Poly considers raising student fees

Matt Fountain

In the wake of Cal Poly's deepening financial crisis and the $300 million cut from the CSU budget last year alone, Cal Poly administrators and deans of the university's various colleges are proposing another increase in student fees beginning in spring of 2009.

The suggested increases, which are currently only in discussion, would impact Cal Poly students' college-based fees (CBFs). These fees, as opposed to state university and activity fees, are intended to go toward the needs of each college as designated by the deans.

Generally, CBFs go toward items students derive immediate benefit from: paying professors' salaries, funding a wider variety of classes, buying equipment for laboratories, setting up undergraduate research experiences and other specific instructional needs.

According to Provost Robert Koob, each college dean sent him a proposal for a $300 increase in CBFs per quarter. He forwarded the proposal to President Warren Baker who Koob said will likely modify it before sending it to the College Fee Advisory Committee (CFAC) for approval later this week.

If the fees increase, which may ultimately range from $100 to $300 per student, per quarter, is approved by CFAC, students could see the impact as soon as this spring. If the proposal fails, however, the impact on students and the university as a whole could be even more dramatic.

"The first step here is to find out if the students think that this kind of curriculum, and the kind of place Cal Poly is, is something they value and want to see continue," Koob said. "If the answer is yes, then they want to pay the increase in the fee. If the answer is no, we think you're fat, sloppy and lazy and we think you could cut services somehow, then we'll cut the services and try to see where the proper balance is."

$300: amount Cal Poly wants to increase college based fees

$300 million: amount cut from CSU budget last year

$5,000: amount of extra money students will spend over 4 years if proposal is passed

Loose python home safe and sound

Clint McGee

Parents of small children and pet owners can breathe a little easier today after a 23-foot, 130-pound Reticulated Python reported missing by a San Luis Obispo resident was found at approximately 1:15 p.m. Monday in a neighbor's backyard near Foothill Boulevard.

The snake's owner, Brandon Dennis, last saw the snake at 10 p.m. Sunday before it went missing. A search party was organized and Search and Rescue Team members Glen Sparks and Joe Calagno located it.

"They saw tracks on the ground, looking like somebody might have drug something there," said Dan Blanks, San Luis Obispo Police Department Operations Captain.

"It was found in the backyard of an elderly lady's yard looking in the sun," Blanks added.

After learning about the missing python, the Snakes and Reptiles Club snapped up the opportunity to handle the snake, which was found moving slowly behind a bush.

Brandon Dennis and a friend carry the missing python home after discovering her in the backyard of a neighbor's house.

"I was a little nervous," he said. "I wasn't going to be scared, but I was nervous about it too."
continued from page 1

Fee increases are a really big deal and I think we, as students, need to ask questions," she said. "I'm not against all fee increases, I definitely think we need to pay our share. However, the CSU is not about affording it, it's about access to education for those who can afford it, it's about access to education for all Californians." According to Director of Budget and Analytic Business Services Debbie Bothwell, if the proposal is approved, CSU's would account for approximately 21 percent of a student's total annual fees, more than double what students paid in 2008. Brothwell added that as college fees increase, so does an individual's eligibility for financial aid. How-

continued from page 1


wouldn't prosecute intelligence agents who participated in harsh interrogations. Leach singled out Texas Republican John Cornyn as one who wanted to "turn a blind eye to possible law-breaking before investigating whether it occurred." "No one should be seeking to trade a vote for such a pledge," Leach said.

When Cornyn rose to announce his vote against Holder, he did not make such a demand. However, he accused the nominee of changing his once-supportive position — on the need to detain terrorism suspects without all the rights of the Geneva Convention — to one of harshly criticizing Bush administration counter-terrorism policies. "His contrasting positions from 2002 to 2008 make me wonder if this is the same person," Cornyn said. "It makes me wonder what he truly believes." Cornyn and Sen. Tom Coburn said Holder was hostile to the right of individuals to own guns, despite a Supreme Court ruling last June affirming the right to have weapons for self-defense in the home. Holder said his confirmation hearings "I understand that the Supreme Court has spoken." But he added that he would not make restrictions on guns as strict as legal.

Holder's confirmation will trigger reviews — and changes — to the most controversial Bush administration's Bush administration policies, from interrogation tactics to terrorism trials without all the rights of the Geneva Convention, to terrorism suspects. One of the most intriguing missions will be to review the Office of Legal Counsel, whose lawyers justified the use of controversial interrogation tactics and viewed themselves as attorneys for the White House. The Justice Department's inspector general, in a report on the Office of Legal Counsel, whose lawyers justified the use of controversial interrogation tactics and viewed themselves as attorneys for the White House. The Justice Department's inspector general, in a report on the removal of nine U.S. attorneys, said the legal counsel's office — in effect — thumbed its nose at department internal investigators and refused to provide a crucial document. The office stated the White House counsel's office directed it not to provide the information.

Holder also said he would review why career prosecutors in Washington decided not to prosecute the former head of the department's Civil Rights Division.

The three former top aides to Bush — Karl Rove, Harriet Miers and Josh Bolten — have declined to testify. If Obama reverses Bush's policy, it would create a new legal issue: whether a former president's order against testifying would still be valid.

Holder also will likely review civil liberties issues including warrantless surveillance, and he has said he will re-examine a ruling by former Attorney General Michael Mukasey that immigrants facing deportation do not have a right to government-provided lawyers.

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News editor: Kadiel Cílas; News designer: Omar Sanchez

"We're told that to capture the snake, a task that doesn't come easy, we need one adult person for every two..." Police officers were taking pictures of the two python's as they trekked back home, people surrounded them, taking pictures of the two men hunting the enormous python on their shoulders. "The guys that were holding the snake seemed happy to have it back," said Shurer. "Police officers were taking pictures and making jokes. Nobody really seemed scared that the snake was going to attack anyone. The python is fully domesticated and is one of two kept in a cage at the house on Ramona Street. It is believed that it escaped from its cage sometime after 10 p.m. Sunday, snuck out the sliding-glass back door, and slithered through fences before it found a resting place in a yard off Patricia Drive, police said. The other, smaller, 12-foot python also escaped, but was found not far from its cage under the front porch of the owner's house, Blanke said.

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WORD ON THE STREET

"Are you on Twitter? Why or why not?"

"I have an account because it can be a useful resource for networking and connecting with top bloggers in the industry."

-Rachel Roberts, journalism junior

"I signed up because my friend wanted me to follow her. I probably won't use it because I have a Facebook."

-Christina Boeryd, general engineering freshman

"I have heard of Twitter from one of my friends but I don't know anyone that has it."

-Aaron Bevan, journalism senior

"I have never heard of it. Where is the promotion for Twitter?"

-Megan Keating, art & design sophomore

Organic growers call for more fertilizer oversight

Organic grower Phil McGrath plays by the rules to keep his Ventura County strawberry and vegetable farm certified organic.

So suspicions that at least two fertilizer companies— one of which was recently raided by federal agents — have been peddling synthetic fertilizer as the natural stuff makes him fear they may cheapen the "organic" label he grows under.

"It brings the term and the industry down a notch," he said.

The state's major organic certifier, the California Certified Organic Farmers, Monday.
Waste, fraud in Iraq being repeated in Afghanistan

Richard Lardner
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Waste and corruption that marred Iraq's reconstruction will be repeated in Afghanistan unless the U.S. transforms the unwieldy bureaucracy managing tens of billions of dollars in infrastructure projects, government watchdogs warned Monday.

The U.S. has devoted more than $30 billion to rebuilding Afghanistan. Yet despite the hard lessons learned in Iraq, where the U.S. has spent nearly $51 billion on reconstruction, the effort in Afghanistan is headed down the same path, the watchdogs told a new panel investigating wartime contracts.

"Before we go pouring more money in, we really need to know what we're trying to accomplish (in Afghanistan)," said Ginger Cruz, deputy special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction.

Better oversight among federal agencies, more flexible contracting rules, constant oversight and experienced acquisition teams are among the changes urged by the officials in order to make sure money isn't wasted and contractors don't cheat.

Bagdad (AP) — Iraq's military clamped a vehicle ban Monday on the Sunni-dominated province of Anbar in a final effort to control Sunni-Arab violence that has left hundreds dead and wounded.

The ban on vehicles was lifted in Anbar after rebels took control of the province's capital, Fallujah, last week. The rebels have been fighting government forces for months over control of the area.

Cruz, along with Stuart Bowen, the top U.S. official overseeing Iraq's reconstruction, delivered a grim report to the Commission on Wartime Contracting. Their assessment, along with testimony from Thomas Gimble of the Defense Department inspector general's office, laid out a history of poor planning, weak oversight and greed that soiled U.S. taxpayers and undermined American forces in Iraq.

Bowen, who has made 21 trips to Iraq since he was appointed in October 2004, said the U.S. has financed a wide array of projects in Iraq — from training the Iraqi army and police to rebuilding the country's oil, electric, justice, health and transportation sectors.

Some of these projects succeeded, Bowen told the commission at its first public hearing, but many did not. Violence in Iraq and constant friction between U.S. officials in Washington and Baghdad were also major factors that undercut progress.

A 456-page study by Bowen's office, "Hard Lessons: The Iraq Reconstruction Experience," reviews the problems in an effort the Bush administration initially thought would cost $2.4 billion.
The hand job: is it going extinct?

Sex Ed with Denise Niles

Something happened in college. All of a sudden the classic bedroom sex analogy of rounding the bases no longer applied. What ever happened to the roundness of the bases? Every time we all were younger applied. Something is going extinct.

While there is sometimes some slight fondling action during intense sexual acts, people still crave the normal attention. The evidence is that people still get hand jobs; people take their partner's hands and lead it a few inches south of the border. Now, maybe this isn't a common occurrence, and I do not condone this action as it teters on deary, but it does happen. Maybe it happens more than people are aware of. Nevertheless, this simple statement gives support for a natural desire to do what we all once demanded.

Denise Niles is a journalism student and the Mustang Daily's sex columnist.

The hand job could be a quite painful experience.

...the second challenge of the H.J. is finishing the job. A true H.J. results in a messy situation, and while performing an H.J., it is important to keep this in mind in order to address the final obstacles.

Another complication with the H.J. is that it is like giving someone a gift that they already have. Either sex can draw the blanks and easily use their hand for a little self-satisfaction. Some people may struggle with lending a hand to someone whom frequently does it who. Why do the "j-s" when the person is fully capable of doing it on his or her own? An H.J. receiver can probably do it more efficiently and with a greater likelihood of reaching his or her precise needs. Making hand jobs mindread makes the H.J. and sex in general, hard. Perhaps one of the reasons why the regularity of the hand job is dwindling.

Although the hand job is in a recent, believe it or not, it is still in demand. Despite all of its deterrents, and the desire for greater sexual adventures, people still crave the normal attention.

"How did we let this happen?" This has been one of the biggest questions heard after a little hands-and-mouth action. The evidence is that people still get hand jobs; people take their partner's hands and lead it a few inches south of the border, the person is fully capable of doing it on his or her own. An H.J. receiver can probably do it more efficiently and with a greater likelihood of reaching his or her precise needs. Making hand jobs mindread makes the H.J. and sex in general, hard. Perhaps one of the reasons why the regularity of the hand job is dwindling.

The hand job is dwindling.

"What ever happened to the roundness of the bases? Every time we all were younger applied. Something is going extinct."

To address the final obstacles, it is important to keep this in mind in order to keep your hands busy. When there is sometimes some slight fondling action during intense sexual acts, people still crave the normal attention.

The first act of the film charts an intriguing trajectory..."
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Fall 2009
Tuesday, February 3, 2009

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Tuesday's New Releases

Books
The Yankee Years
Joe Torre

Music
Fray
The Fray

Changing Horses
Ben Kweller

Movies
Night Court
 Season 2

Hounddog
with Dakota Fanning, Robin Wright Penn, David Morse and Piper Laurie

Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist
with Michael Cera and Kat Dennings

Secret Life of Bees
with Queen Latifah, Sophie Okonedo, Paul Bettany and Alicia Keys

Zaeh & Miri Make a Porno
with Seth Rogen, Elizabeth Banks, Jason Mewes and Gerry Bednob

Reader
continued from page 5

background to the awful psychoanalytical exercises where character motivations are murky and underdeveloped in each scene.

But above all, "The Reader" is a carefully modulated study in watching people cry. It feels more like a two-hour boxing match of a therapy session than an invigorating emotional exploration.

It never directly probes the "why" of the characters, always choosing to talk about things that aren't the central conflict, as if that somehow qualifies for a subtext.

Its production design is suitable enough, but even the visual construction of the film only helps escalate the clanging drama.

Good acting can't save wretched storytelling and melodrama can't cover up a scattershot plot.

"The Reader" holds its arms out wide, gets on its knees and begs for Oscars. Too bad it's too stilted and suffocating for its own good, as if pedigree alone makes up for dramatic inadequacies.

Ashley Cisullo

Landscape photographer, book designer and part-time Cal Poly and Cuesta College fine art instructor Patty Arnold has found new respect for the little grain that feeds the world.

Integrating a mixture of agricultural, recreational, environmental, political and historical research, her "Season of Rice" documentary photo exhibit of eastern and western rice farming is on display at the San Luis Obispo Art Center.

The photography documents Arnold's experience in California and Bali rice paddies.

Arnold said "Season of Rice" was a part of deep desire she has to study the effects of human intervention in various landscapes, which can be either constructive or destructive.

In 2005, Arnold photographed a 190-day cycle of rice and the harvest season during September and October at a rice paddy field in Marysville, Calif. The motivation behind her research was to find out what happens when wetlands become housing developments, how wildlife responds to dramatic changes that are introduced to the land and if these alterations can operate in balance with the environment.

Being able to study a specific place over an extended period of time allowed her to record the changes that occurred with her camera, documenting issues involving land and water use and the general habitat.

The wild life Arnold observed included nesting swallows, beaver, shorebirds, insects, crawfish, egrets and herons.

It was while visiting the rice paddy that Arnold realized just how significant environmental change is. She noticed that farmers at the paddy were attracting and supporting 11,000 migratory birds, some of which are endangered species, during the process of farming rice.

"I discovered in Marysville that it wasn't just farmland affected, it was habitat, and I didn't expect that. Part of my education became to tell the story so that people will be aware that there is more going on than just farming. There's a bigger story than just the food," she said.

The "Season of Rice" project expanded globally in 2007 when she photographed a rice paddy field in Bali, Indonesia. The Eastern methods of terrace farming were very different from Western methods of contour farming. Westerners view times as linear, so everything had a beginning, middle and end, without the luxury of multiple harvests she said. Bali, on the other hand, is unique in producing three harvests a year while a fourth is rotated in with something to replenish the soil, such as beans or flowers.

Because of the unique growing pattern, Arnold was able to observe an entire planting and harvesting in two weeks while she was in Bali. Arnold said that Bali is the most spiritual country she has ever been to. "They acknowledge the importance of rice; it is considered a life-sustaining food and it is in every part of their culture. They wear rice on their heads and thighs to enter a temple. I have come to respect the grain which feeds half the world," she said.

Arnold believes that similarities between cultures rest in the knowledge of how important water use in farming rice. Irrigation systems in both styles make use of simple constructions and devices to control water.

"Farmers might actually be the best chance we have in preserving the habitats. We have to stop seeing them as an enemy and allow them to become more educated and aware of their husbandry position and responsibility of the land, hopefully to make good decisions based on biological understanding," she said.

The "Season of Rice" exhibit is displayed simultaneously with the "Hungry Planet: What the World Eats" photo-narrative exhibit at the San Luis Obispo Art Center which will remain on display through the end of February.
Cal Poly should ‘focus the nation’ all year long

Will Cal Poly prepare you for California’s growing green collar economy in solar, wind, cleantech, nanotech and biotech? Cal Poly “graduates in majors will be prepared for sustainability-focused careers” according to the Draft Strategic Plan for 2009 through 2014. But what distinguishes a “green” or “sustainability-focused” job from any other job? And why can’t all students be prepared for such careers?

Cal Poly educates “market-ready” young professionals that are currently in high demand. Classes emphasize becoming well-prepared for the working world through its cherished hands-on approach. However, the working world is rapidly transforming and Cal Poly is struggling to keep up with the professional change.

Students understand the need to be green. They understand the cool factor and the broadened consumer experience that results from shifting personal values and readily available information. What once were classified as green jobs are ever increasingly becoming the basis for California’s future economy.

If Empower Poly Coalition, an alliance of sustainability organizations on campus, is any indicator of the change in the professional and social climate of Cal Poly students, than it is worth noting that the enrollment of member clubs has nearly doubled since this time last year. Some of these clubs and organizations are what would traditionally be considered sustainability-focused, but there are also a growing number of clubs that have rejoined their mission to align with the goals and principles that emphasize providing products and services that conserve energy and resources, utilize renewable sources, reduce pollution and reuse waste.

This week, Cal Poly will be hosting the second annual Focus the Nation event; a national teach-in on climate change brought to you by the Empower Poly Coalition. Last January, the first Focus the Nation event, Global Warming Solutions for America, was a wild success on campus, with over 5,000 students, faculty and administration discussing how technical, political and environmental tools are available to solve some of the greatest challenges of our time. Every college on campus participated in this discussion, which proves that the impacts of a changing world transcend every sector of our economy.

From today through Friday, the Empower Poly Coalition brings you the Nation: Building a Sustainable Economy. During the four-day-long festivities, there will be a Green Job Fair and Trade Show, Sustainable Projects Showcase, Student-Led Sustainability Workshops, Panels of Experts with a wide array of topics—from appropriate technology, sustainable business and innovation—and a SLO Renewable Energy Educational Forum (held off campus at the SLO Vet Hall).

I applaud the students involved in organizing Focus the Nation for their dedication and commitment to their fellow peers, campus and community. This event is a massive undertaking to coordinate for students, one that shows that Cal Poly should take institutional leadership in promoting and advancing campus-wide dialogues on issues relevant to society.

I’d like to thank the generous support from both faculty and administration for making this event come to life, and recommend that the Cal Poly Administration take bold steps to address the growing demands of students to have access to system-wide sustainability education.

The next generation of young professionals demands a massive overhaul of the way we perceive sustainability. Students should not have to plan a job fair with environmentally and socially responsible organizations; instead, the university should seek them out for all job fairs. Cal Poly is ranked as one of the best schools in the nation, but it will fall behind if it does not rapidly change campus procedures.

Join us this week in the Focus the Nation events, held in locations all over campus. And tell the administration that being prepared for the emerging economy matters to you. They are nice and responsive people, they just sometimes need a little reminder of what is important to students.

For more information about Focus the Nation, go to www.focusnationso.com

Nancy Cole is the city and regional planning major, the former vice-president of the Empower Poly Coalition and a Mustang Daily columnist.
Dec. 14, 2008; Feb. 2, 2009: The shoes heard around the world

People used to duel to resolve their grievances. One man would hit the other with a glove, rules were set and everything was carried out quite politely despite the savage nature of dueling.

Nowadays, it seems that people would rather throw a shoe at world leaders to get their points across — even if it doesn’t work. A protester threw his shoe at Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao during a speech at Cambridge University Monday, making it the second instance — and third shoe — thrown at a world leader in the last two months.

Unlike former President Bush, who had to duck as an Iraqi TV journalist threw both shoes at him during a news conference in Baghdad, Jiabao didn’t have to avoid the shoe, as it landed several feet away from him.

Jiabao’s visit was protested throughout the UK because of China’s actions in Tibet and human rights issues. Of course, so are many visits by influential people to other countries, a trend.

Zaidi, was celebrated in Iraq the shoe at him. Muntadar al-Iraqi TV journalist threw both shoes at him during a news conference in Baghdad, Jiabao’s visit was protested by members of the Chinese Prime Minister’s office.

The shoes heard everywhere, raising the alarm ringing on the bedside table is a constant reminder that maybe drinking wine on a Sunday night was not the best of ideas. You open your eyes and the thought of the impending day of classes is almost enough to make you want to pretend that all of this is just a horrible, very realistic dream.

For a moment, imagine having to relive the agony of Monday mornings twice in one week. Brace yourselves kids; this horrifying nightmare will become reality during the week of Feb. 9-13.

Due to a policy in the CSU scheduling system which states that two Monday holidays cannot be observed in the same quarter, Friday Feb 13 will follow a Monday class schedule.

What happened to the good old days of celebrating both Martin Luther King, Jr’s and George Washington’s birthdays without consequence? Personally, between studying for untimely midterms (honestly, week 3 is not the middle of the term) and pumping out papers and projects like nobody’s business, I feel that the students at Cal Poly deserve both of these days off without question. Am I right?

Now, to be honest, I’ve been quite spoiled in the nine quarters that I have attended Cal Poly. I have never had a Friday class. Never. I do realize that for some majors, avoiding a Friday class just is not in the cards.

As a journalism major where the majority of my classes are scheduled on Mondays and Wednesdays, it makes it easier to find general education courses that fit my ideal schedule. Along the same lines, though, I make it a point to spend as much time as necessary on PASS, sometimes even weeks before my registration appointment, creating many options of different class schedules to secure myself the perpetual three-day weekend that I’ve been accustomed to.

Now hang on a second before you jump down my throat and point out my hypocrisies. I would like to add that I use those three-day weekends to earn money. As it is, my weekly work schedule consists of three 8-hour shifts Thurs from noon until 8:30 and Friday and Saturday from 9:30 until 6. It is really fair to have to take off work to go to classes that I had already allotted time for in the week?

Help me out here, Cal Poly. In the current economic downturn, it’s a sad reality that for some classes don’t have the same amount of scheduled class time as others? Isn’t this what technology is for, to provide a means of passing on information that doesn’t rely on face-to-face communication?

For now, instead of following my normal routine of working on my day off, I guess you’ll see me grudgingly making my way to class. Literally, it’ll be just another case of the Mondays.

Cassandra Kreye is a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily reporter.
Help Wanted

Survey Takers Needed: Make $5-$52 per survey. GetPaidToThink.com
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According to his mother, Vance has always been a loving and giving person. He has a great relationship with his sisters, Nicola, 28, and Nicole, 30. She remembers that as a child, he never passed an opportunity to help out. “Oh, we miss him,” she said of the long distance relationship. “We miss him a whole lot. His little niece, Kiara is always texting him, or talking to him, and his dad always seems to be on the phone with him.”

Although making the decision to leave was difficult for the self-proclaimed “momma’s boy,” it was a decision that, once made, required no extra thought, Vance said. “My parents and sisters couldn’t be any happier with me finishing college and then getting an opportunity to follow my dreams,” he said. “They are very loving and supportive.”

Vance’s next step: playing in the NBA. “It’s very hard to get in the NBA, but anything is possible. As of right now, that is my next goal.”

—Desireah Vance

Vance’s classmates stems from his off-court concerns about others over himself. Among his list of hobbies, which includes singer, cooking and writing poetry, Vance also said he loves to give advice. “I talk to him four or five times a week,” Anderson said. “I look at him as a mentor.”

It’s very hard to get in the NBA, but anything is possible. As of right now, that is my next goal.

—Desireah Vance

Mustang Daily

Phelps

continued from page 12

blames his handlers, who should have done a much better job protecting him from the foibles of youth, from newly won freedom, and from piles of money.

“He’s probably a nice boy. who didn’t get enough guidance,” said Salzman — especially after a drink­ening arrest following the 2004 Olympics. “I think he accomplished that huge dream in Beijing, and then his people just relaxed.”

Or course, smoking pot, assuming that’s what Phelps was inhaling from that bong, is not nearly as serious as endangering lives on the road.

Indeed, perceptions of marijuana use have changed since 1987, when federal appellate judge Douglas Gins­burg withdrew from consideration for the Supreme Court after reports surfaced about his smoking marijuana while a student and a law professor. In 1992, candidate Bill Clinton admitted he’d tried it as a student in Eng­land, didn’t like it, and, famously, didn’t inhale. Fast forward to 2006, when Barack Obama said just as fa­mously: “I inhaled frequently. That was the point.”

Still, as Bain points out, “No matter what we may have done in our youth, you can’t be saying to kids that it’s not so bad. First, it’s illegal. And also, it can lead people to make bad choices.”

The Phelps affair is sure to revolve the debate over whether athletes should even be considered role mod­els. “I don’t think they are,” Salzman said. “We have a tendency to deify the athlete. It’s aspirational, perfect, it never works.”

Especially in 2009, when a simple visit to a party can be recorded on a cell phone camera. “The whole ques­tion of role models is a big problem in the age of 24/7 connectivity,” she said.

So maybe our expectations of a 23-year-old exploring his freedom and new celebrity are too great. On the other hand, Phelps signed con­tracts with morals and behavior clauses, which allow sponsors to cancel deals over egregious behavior, noted Carol Weston, an author of books for young girls and the advice columnist for God’s Life magazine.

“She knew he was being hired just because of his accomplishments in the pool, but also for his ongoing behavior in public,” Weston said. “It’s part of the deal.”

That said, Phelps’ apology sounded genuine to her. “It wasn’t the fame, ‘worry-of-anyone-get-offended’ kind,” she said. “And in the athlete’s defense, she added, “I often think, ‘Wow, he spent a lot of time underwater. Where did he even get to hang out with friends?’”

It remains to be seen what happens with Phelps’ sponsors. Apparel compa­ny Speedos, luxury Swiss watchmaker Omega and sports beverage PureSport all say they support him. But other big sponsors, such as Visa Inc. and Kellogg Co., aren’t talking yet.

His agency, Octagon, said Phelps has spoken personally with his spon­sors to apologize and that the agency was encouraged by his sponsors’ sup­port.

Weston, the author, fears that if Phelps emerges unscathed, parents seeking a teachable moment are go­ing to have a tricky situation on their hands. “If this all works out for him, parents are going to have a pretty hard time saying drugs are bad,” she said.

Whatever happens, syndicated ethics columnist Randy Cohen sees a different problem. He takes no issue with possible pot smoking — only with what he sees as hypocrisy im­plicit in Phelps’ apology.

“So the guy smokes pot,” Cohen said. “For once I’d like someone to say, ‘Yeah, I smoke pot, it’s harmless and I enjoy it.” Instead, he said, Phelps is lying by pretending he’ll never do it again.

As for whether Phelps is a role model for kids, Cohen dismisses the notion that any athlete or celebrity,for that matter, should be seen that way.

“The people who should be shaping our kids’ conduct are parents, friends, people they know in the community,” Cohen said. “Michael Phelps’ glory is that he’s an incredibly talented swim­mer. Unless your child happens to be a fish, why do you want him to be a role model?”

— Associated Press writer Emily Feder

in Milwaukee, Wis., contributed to this report.
Don’t forget about Dre

Former Cal Poly guard Dreshawn Vance is living his dream of playing professional basketball

Clinton McGue

ASSOCIATED PRESS

People don’t usually end up living the life they dreamed about when they were young. There just isn’t enough room for everyone to become a doctor, astronaut, actor, athlete or any other title that made the lofty list of possibilities. However, there are those select few who ignore that reasoning, stick to the initial plan and prevail anyway.

As one of those people, Dre was a Cal Poly graduate and former Mustangs guard, known that hard work and determination can deliver you to the promised land.

Last summer, Vance signed a one-year contract with the Aalborg Basketball Klub in Denmark to solidify himself as part of the elite group that turns dreams into reality.

Since before Vance knew how to tell time, he knew that he wanted to spend it playing basketball. And once high school started, he had convinced his parents that the sport was a realistic option for him. Vance’s mother Elvonne said, “Watching him play in high school, I knew that he could do it.” Elvonne said, “He always gave a hundred percent no matter what. And I knew that he could play professionally.”

She was right.

Vance dominates the court with his 6-foot-8 frame and has become the center of what Aalborg does as a team. Under his leadership, the team is in first place of Denmark’s First Division and is currently undefeated (13-0).

“My teammates here look up to me as a leader and the go-to-guy on the court. They trust me in any given situation, which is nice to know when the game is on the line,” Vance said of his team in Denmark. “At Poly I was more of a role player, coming off the bench, providing energy to the team and the fans.”

Since leaving his days as a back-up guard, Vance has worked hard to perfect his game, which has paid huge dividends. He has nearly doubled his rebounding average (6), more than tripled his scoring average (25.2) and more than quadrupled his amount of assists per game (4) while playing for Aalborg.

“The success is all due to working hard out here, having great coaches around and not being selfish,” Vance explained.

The success that Vance has had overseas comes to no surprise of his former Mustangs teammates, who attribute it to his character.

“Playing with Dre was a great experience,” Cal Poly junior guard Charles Anderson said. “He was a very unselfish player and was very productive coming off the bench. He brought a lot of energy to every game and practice and was an overall great guy to play with.”

“Any conversation you can have with your kids about the choices people make, especially those they hold up as role models, is a good thing,” Brian said.

Bynum out 8 to 12 weeks for ligament tear

Los Angeles center Andrew Bynum, middle, watches from the bench during the Lakers’ 126-117 win over the Knicks yesterday in New York.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Los Angeles Lakers center Andrew Bynum will miss 8 to 12 weeks after tearing the medial collateral ligament in his right knee.

Bynum was hurt in the first quarter of Saturday night’s win at Memphis. Kobe Bryant drove into the basket, missed the shot and crashed into Bynum’s right leg. Bynum immediately grabbed his knee.

Bynum is the Lakers’ third-leading scorer and second-leading rebounder, averaging 14.0 points, 8.2 rebounds and 1.9 blocks.

The 7-0, 285-pound Bynum’s injury brought about the end of last season for the Lakers. He went down in mid-January and was expected to be sidelined 8 to 12 weeks after being bowed in his knee and braced for a month.

Instead, he missed the final 46 games of the season, as the Lakers lost in the final two weeks. He underwent arthroscopic surgery May 21 to remove cartilage debris and smooth some rough spots on the underside of his knee cap.

“This is a team that went to the finals last year that we put out on the floor, so they’re confident in what we’re doing,” Los Angeles Lakers head coach Phil Jackson said at the Lakers’ shootaround Monday afternoon, before they announced Bynum’s injury. “We’re going to miss his presence, his rebounding ability. But this is a very capable team.”

The injury came as the 21-year-old seemed to be taking a major step forward in his fourth NBA season. In the five games before he was hurt, he was averaging 26.2 points, 13.8 rebounds and 3.2 blocks and shooting 65.3 percent from the field.

“It changes our team, and the rhythm that we’re playing with,” Bryant said at the shootaround.

“Obviously we found a great rhythm together there with him in the lineup, particularly the last week or so. So we’re going to have to make some adjustments,” Bryant added.

Bryant insisted the Lakers could still win a title without Bynum.

“There are teams that lost in the finals that go back and win the next year,” he said. “I think having Andrew in the lineup makes us a different team. With him out of the lineup, we’re still a great team. You put him in the mix, it takes us to another level.”

For more on the Lakers, see Phillips, page 11

Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps reacts after hitting his knee on a desk during a press conference yesterday.

NEW YORK — A young man appears to be smoking pot at a party. Big deal, right? Our new president has freely admitted doing just that in his youth — inhaling, too — and it didn’t derail him one bit. So should we expect more of Michael Phelps?

It depends on what we want and expect our youthful role models to be, perfect, or flawed like the rest of us.

And so the Olympic swimmer’s many corporate sponsors were wrestling with their options Monday, a day after an embarrassing photo emerged of the decorated athlete appearing to inhale from a bong, scenes were looking at the bright side.

“We should grab this teachable moment,” said Lisa Bain, executive editor of Parenting magazine. “It’s a good opportunity to talk to your kids about role models. They’re human. They’re not gods.”

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