Legislation could bring $1 billion to higher ed

Lauren Rabaino
ASSISTANT MANAGER

Amid a $584 million budget deficit in the California State University system, an assemblyman is presenting legislation that, if passed, would bring a projected $1 billion in funds to state colleges and universities.

The legislation, Assembly Bill 656, introduced by Assemblyman Alberto Torrico (D-Newark), would put a 9.9 percent severance tax on oil and gas in California and give that money to California's higher education system. Of the money, 60 percent would go to the CSU, 30 percent to the UC and 10 percent to the community college.

Although early versions of the bill were intended to provide money toward renewable energy education, the most recent revision would direct money toward any and all facets of higher education — including new buildings, faculty pay, classes and more.

"That change is a direct response to the 20 to 30 years of depleting funds for California public education," said Lillian Taie, a professor at Cal State Fullerton and president of the California Faculty Association, which helped write the bill.

"Although money raised from the tax wouldn't solve the CSU's current budget deficit immediately, it could prevent a future deficit."

"If it were in existence now, maybe we wouldn't be talking about a 30 percent [student] fee increase," Taie said. "It's not a total problem-solver ... but at a time like this, it would be a safety net."

To date, California is one of the few states in the U.S. that doesn't already impose a severance tax on oil and gas companies for exporting the state's fossil fuels — which has been a selling point for the bill.

"The oil belongs to the state," Torrico said. "It's the people's money, not the oil companies."

This isn't the first time legislation has been pursued to tax oil companies. Legislators have tried passing a severance tax in California dozens of times since 1930. However, Brian Ferguson, a spokesperson for the CFA, said that this time it's different.

"We think we've remedied the issues that have plagued this in the past," he said. For example, a provision in the bill makes it illegal to pass the severance costs onto taxpayers.

Although there isn't a California severance tax, that's not to say that oil companies aren't paying. California oil companies pay taxes to the state and local governments, corporation taxes, sales and use taxes and local property taxes, which constitute the sixth-heaviest tax burden among the 10 largest producing states in the U.S., according to a 2009 report from Law and Economics Consulting Group (LECG).

Ferguson said they've taken that fact into consideration.

Cal Poly men's soccer team announced a competitive schedule on Monday.

More than 800 Potter fans lined up for the midnight showing. Check out video at mustangdaily.net

CSU cuts enrollment
CFA struggles to vote

Marcus Wohlsen
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A bill to tax and regulate marijuana in California would generate nearly $1.4 billion in revenue for the cash-strapped state, according to an official analysis released Wednesday by tax officials.

The State Board of Equalization report estimates marijuana retail sales would bring $990 million from a $30-per-ounce fee and retail sales would bring $392 million in sales taxes.

The bill introduced by San Francisco Democratic Assemblyman Tom Ammiano in February would allow adults 21 and older to purchase marijuana retail sales for $392 million in sales taxes.

Although marijuana use would likely increase by about 30 percent once the law took effect because legal marijuana is more affordable, the increase for students as well as faculty and administrators.

Furlough Vote

The California Faculty Association started voting on whether or not to approve furloughs Monday and has encountered a few technical difficulties. Due to a software glitch not all faculty members received the link to cast their ballot online or the votes that were cast were not counted.

CFA officers are re-running the election to make sure that all votes were counted and there is confidence in the results. In an e-mail sent to CFA members, CFA officers said the company handling the online voting had fixed the error and explained that all members that voted on the first link will need to recast them on the second.

BREAKDOWN OF FUNDS FROM AB656

IF PASSED, ASSEMBLY BILL 656 WOULD PROVIDE ABOUT $1 BILLION IN FUNDS FOR CALIFORNIA'S HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM BY TAXING STATE OIL COMPANIES.

CSU
California State University
60 percent = $600 million

UC
University of California
30 percent = $300 million

CCC
California Community College
10 percent = $100 million

see Oil, page 2
CIA hits teams canceled

Adam Goldman

WASHINGTON (AP) — A CIA director in 2004, George Tenet, terminated a secret program to de­ velop hit teams to kill al-Qaida lead­ ers, but his successors resurrected the program, according to former intelligence officials.

Tenet ended the program because the agency could not work out its practical details, officials said. The As­ sociated Press has spoken on condition of anonymity to discuss the classified program.

Porter Goss, who replaced Tenet in 2005, restarted the program, the for­ mer officials said. By the time Michael Hayden succeeded Goss as a CIA chief in 2006, the effort was again flagging because of practical challenges.

CIA Director Leon Panetta, during the final stage into the effort in June after learning about the program. He called an emergency meeting with the House and Senate Intelligence com­ mittees the next day, informing law­ makers about the program and saying that as vice president Dick Cheney had directed the CIA not to inform Congress about the operation.

The CIA declined to comment on the officials’ comments.

One former senior intelligence official said Wednesday that the idea never quite died because it was a pabylity — the details of which are main classified — that the CIA want­ ed to keep as its card.

As a case wore on, the official said, it need became less urgent.

Another former official said that the CIA relies on foreign in­ telligence services and on drone­ launched missile strikes proved over time to be less risky yet effective in targeting al­Qaida chief for death or capture. President George W. Bush authorized the killing of al­Qaida leaders in 2001.

According to one congressional official, the agency spent more than $1 million over the eight years that the CIA considered launching the hit teams. The official would not de­ tial the exact amount or how it was spent.

The House Intelligence Commit­ tee is laying the groundwork for an investigation of the program and its concealment from Congress. In late June it asked the CIA to provide documents about the now-cancelled program to kill al­Qaida leaders.

Agency officials say it is complying with the request. Panetta has at the same time ordered an internal review of the program.

The committee will likely focus on any decision or determinations were made, said the congressional official said. Those factors would determine whether the program had progressed enough to require congressional notification.

Oil

continued from page 1

“Obviously, it’s going to hurt them down the line, but we think that money will be much bet­ ter spent going to education and making it more affordable,” Terric­co said.

Rock Zierman, the CEO of the California Independent Pet­roleum Association, said a sever­ ance wouldn’t only hurt oil com­ mpanies.

“Studies show that this would cost 10,000 jobs,” Zierman said. “Those are jobs of 10,000 fami­ lies in California that want to send their kids to higher educa­ tion too. There are ramifications not just to the industry, but the people who work for it as well.”

The study he referenced was released by the RCG and cites four reasons for a decrease in jobs as a result of the severance tax.

Marijuana

continued from page 1

a tion would lead to falling pric­ es, the board said.

Estimates of marijuana use, cul­ tivation and sales are notoriously difficult to come by because of the drug’s status as a black-market substance. Calculations by mari­ juana advocates and law enforce­ ment officials often differ widely.

“That’s one reason why we look at multiple reports from multiple sources — so that no one agenda is considered to be the de­ ciding or determining factor,” said board spokesman Anita Gore. Advocates and opponents do agree that California is by far the country’s top pot-producing state. Last year law enforcement agen­ cies in California seized nearly 3.4 million plants.

If passed, Ammiano’s bill could increase the tension between the state and the U.S. government over marijuana, which is banned outright under federal law. The two sides have clashed often since the 1990s, when the Justice Department would de­ fer to state marijuana regulations.

Ammiano’s bill is still in com­ mittee. It is laying the groundwork for a step toward putting the legaliza­ tion measure to the state ballot if passed. Advocates of legalizing marijuana say they will take the vote sooner rather than later.

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Sotomayor sidesteps on abortion, guns in grilling

Julie Hirshfeld Davis
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor sidesteps on opinions mostly private as she nears the end of a marathon Senate grilling on the road to all but sure confirmation.

After two long days of questioning by Judiciary Committee senators, Sotomayor had yet to make a slip — certainly not the gaffe that even Republican senators would consider necessary to derail her nomination to be a justice, instead using legal doctrine, carefully worded deflections and even humor to ward off efforts to pin her down.

The appeals court judge, 55, avoided weighing in on any major issue that could come before her as a justice, instead using legal doctrine, carefully worded deflections and even humor to ward off efforts to pin her down.

Apparent more at ease in the witness chair, Sotomayor defined a tense exchange on gun rights by joking about shooting a GOP critic and charmed Democratic supporters with nostalgic praise for fictional attorney Perry Mason.

Republicans, frustrated in their attempts to undercut President Barack Obama's first high court choice, said they were still worried Sotomayor would bring bias and a political agenda to the bench.

"It's muddled, confusing, backtracking on issue after issue," complained Sen. Jim Web, D-Carn., after a vote by the full Senate to confirm her is expected in early August, time enough to allow her to do the rules of a justice before a scheduled hearing on Sept. 9 on a case involving federal campaign finance law.

The career-hearing room on Capitol Hill was filled for a third straight day, and tourists waited in line outside for their few moments of history.

Among the audience members at Frank Rizzo, the New Haven, Conn., firefighter whose reverse discrimination claim was rejected by Sotomayor's court panel. The Supreme Court overturned that ruling late last month, and Republicans plan to showcase Rizzo on Thursday as part of their effort to portray her as a judge who has let his biases trump the law.

On Wednesday, Sotomayor de nied repeatedly to respond to questions designed to elicit her personal and legal views about a woman's right to end a pregnancy, saying she couldn't address it in the abstract and wouldn't do so in any specific way once the issue is likely to come before the court.

The Supreme Court in 1992 "re affirmed the core holding of Roe v. Wade that a woman has a constitution al right to terminate her preg nancy," said Sotomayor, page 4.
Wildlife advocates claim off-landers endanger plover

Environmentalists want dune buggies banned from Ocean Dunes because they are claimed to be a danger to the bird above, a snowy plover.

Reed Saxon Associated Press

Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor talks with Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., the Senate Judiciary Committee's ranking Republican, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday.

“Do you think the Senate will confirm Judge Sotomayor into the U.S. Supreme Court?”

“Second Amendment confers a right to personal self-defense. Sotomayor posed a hypothetical in which the senator threatened her with bodily harm and she went home to get a gun and shoot him. "I don’t want to suggest I am, by the way," Sotomayor said, to laughter from the audience and Coburn. Coburn responded with his own line: "You’ll have lots of ‘splainin’ to do.” His remark echoed a refrain often heard on a 1990s sitcom comedy, "I Love Lucy," in which the main character’s Cuban-born husband, Ricky Ricardo, would often say with exasperation, “Lucy, you got some ‘splainin’ to do.”

—Associated Press writer David Esac and Anne Sanner contributed to this report.

Sotomayor continued from page 4

nancy in certain cases," Sotomayor told Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., adding that the ruling said the court should consider whether any state regulation "has an undue burden on the woman’s constitutional right." But she refused to be drawn out by Coburn, a leading abortion-rights foe, on whether a late-term abortion would be appropriate, or whether technological advances that allow an early-term fetus to survive should have any bearing on the legal standard for ending a pregnancy.

"All I can say to you is what the court’s done and the standard that the court has applied," Sotomayor said. "We don’t make policy choices on the court; we look at the case before us.

Earlier, Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, asked how the Obama administration could have known her position on the issue.

"I was asked no question by anyone including the president about my views on any specific legal issue," she said.

She was no more forthcoming on the issue when pressed by an abortion rights supporter, Sen. Arlen Specter, D-Pa. Asked whether the 1992 ruling reaffirming Roe was a kind of “super” precedent, she didn’t respond directly.

Second day, second day, second day, Sotomayor sidestepped when Cornyn asked whether she stood by or disavowed a controversial 2001 remark that a “wise Latina” judge often would make better decisions than a white male.

She said she stood by her exploration Tuesday that the word was a rhetorical flourish gone awry.

Cornyn persisted, asking whether she would regret if her audience of students understood her to be saying that the quality of a judge depended on race, gender or ethnicity.

"I would regret that," she said, among other misunderstandings of remarks that have caused more pre-confirmation controversy than any other issue.

Sotomayor, appearing more relaxed on the third day of nationally televised Senate hearings, shared a few light moments with her interlocutors while fielding questions on serious issues.

Asked by Coburn whether the

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WORD ON THE STREET

"Do you think the Senate will confirm Judge Sotomayor into the U.S. Supreme Court?"

"As far as I know, she is the first Hispanic lady to be appointed to the Supreme Court. I think she’ll be confirmed because this country is getting more diverse."

-Nestor Gutierrez, microbiology senior

"I really don’t know. I haven’t been keeping up so I’ve only seen her in the headlines. I couldn’t say either way."

-Carrie Jordan, political science senior

"I think they will confirm her because the Democrats are the majority party."

-Phil Pinedo, Poly Prints manager

"I think so because she’s a fresh face and she seems to be making headlines."

-Gerard Siazon, general engineering sophomore

Thursday, July 16, 2009
Charity keeps daughter's spirit alive

Daniel Triassie, Mustang Daily
Perhaps the clearest view of Rita Goelwer's legacy of love can be found through the double doors of her family's country home. Inside, one can't help but see the endowment emanating from colorful works of art, framed pictures of Rita and her friends, and multiple colleges filled with memories.

In addition to keeping the memories of Rita alive, with these keepsakes, the Goelwer family has turned tragedy around in the form of a nonprofit charity called Rita's Rainbows.

On July 23, 2008, Rita's charity was approved by the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit. Rita's Rainbows uses the 100 percent of funds raised directly to those in need. Their officers receive no compensation, enabling children to get maximum benefits from donations.

The impetus for their charity was the death of 16-year-old Goelwer in a car accident in April 2006.

"My mom has really been the driving force behind this getting off the ground and being successful. We all pitch in but she really has done an amazing job of getting a lot done in a very short period of time," Rita's sister Sara Goelwer said.

Aside from Rita's loving and compassionate personality, her mother Goelwer remembers the quirky mundane moments that made her daughter unique.

At Starbucks "she created a drink where the boxes were checked. She never gave her real name either, because she joked she didn't want to give them her soul," Goelwer said.

Like Goelwer herself, Rita's Rainbows is distinct and different in its approach to helping children. Thinking outside the box, creativity is a cornerstone of their charity. The organization keeps Goelwer's spirit alive by the type of donations they receive.

A few weeks after Rita's Rainbows was approved as a non-profit, Goelwer's grandmother died. The Goelwer family requested that donations be made to Rita's Rainbows in lieu of flowers, marking the start to Rita's Rainbows.

Goelwer had an expressive imagination. In March 2009, rather than donating them pillows to the Hospice Partners' Brevetment, Rita's Rainbows opted for pillows that transform into stuffed animals.

Goelwer celebrated and cherished the after her accident her parents contacted Photobucket, a photo sharing Web site, for her password. Here all the boxes were checked.

Rita's Rainbows has gone over and beyond covering our homeless children's basic needs. They continue to come back and say 'what can we do to help?'" Shawn Ben, Maxine Lewis Memorial Homeless Shelter director of the Art Center Karen Kile said. "Talking with Casey Goelwer about how Rita enjoyed coming to the Art Center for summer art camps and what her family is doing to help other children was one of those special moments."

Various child pictures of Rita including her student of the week award. Each photograph captures a special moment.

The charity has donated children's coats and hosted a party to gather and donate new blankets, toys, games and art and craft supplies.

"Rita's Rainbows has gone over and beyond giving our homeless children's basic needs. They continue to come back and say 'what can we do to help?'" Shawn Ben, Maxine Lewis Memorial Homeless Shelter Manager said.

Goelwer was an avid artist. In the face of increasing school cutbacks, families are being stretched even further to provide an arts education for their children. Rita's Rainbows donated funds to help children in need with full and partial art camp scholarships at The Art Center.

There are feel good moments that come unexpectedly in this kind of work. Moments that remind us why we provide the services that we do. Moments that reinforce our commitment to public service in the nonprofit sector," executive director of the Art Center Karen Kile said. "Talking with Casey Goelwer about how Rita enjoyed coming to the Art Center for summer art camps and what her family is doing to help other children was one of those special moments."

Hundreds lined the streets for Harry Potter premiere

Lauren Ramone, Mustang Daily
More than 800 people lined the streets of downtown San Luis Obispo Tuesday to watch the midnight premiere of Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince, the sixth film in the series.

Decked out in impressive costumes and huddled under blankets, some Potter fans waited in line as early as 6:20 a.m. Go online to mustangdaily.net for a full review of the premiere and video of the line.

"Untitled"
Love selflessly
Dive into the unknown
All you have is today
Care about people
Who don't care back
And hope that they will be okay

Be yourself
And no one else
And know
If you feel as if you're in an empty room
Arms stretched out
I'll be there to hug you
-a poem by Rita Goelwer

SUMMER SOUNDS
EVEN HOTTER
HERE!

CARRIE UNDERWOOD JUL 22
JOURNEY & HEART JUL 23
KELLY CLARKSON JUL 24
STYX & REO SPEEDWAGON JUL 25
TIM McGRaw JUL 26
NAT & ALEX WOLFF JUL 27
KISS JUL 28
JUDAS PRIEST & WHITESNAKE JUL 29
BLACK EYED PEAS JUL 30
DAVE KOZ, BRIAN CULBERTSON & PEABO BRYSON JUL 31
COUNTRY RODEO FINALS & LITTLE TEXAS AUG 01
PRO BULL RIDERS AUG 02
Research enters realm of Hogwarts

This week on the big screen, the world will be watching the latest adaptation of J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" series. Defying reality, Harry Potter does a magic invisibility cloak to become invisible. The invisibility concept is simple, assuming that light bends in the same way as it lines when passing from air to water, it makes light bend in the same way as it is reflected by the light reflector and travel backwards. When an object is seen through the manipulation of light, rather than the cloaking region being consumed with the device, Minton suggests that ability lies outside the device.

According to the National Science Foundation, the super-lens theory "cloaks a nearby object by making light behave in an unusual way. Instead of having a positive refractive index that makes light bend in the same way as it does when passing from air into a medium like glass or water, the superlens has a negative refractive index that in effect causes light to reverse and travel backwards. When an object is placed next to the superlens, the light bouncing off the object is canceled out by the light reflecting off the superlens, rendering the object invisible. Minton said the phenomenon is somewhat analogous to the noise cancella-

light. However, research is not yet ready to be applied in real-world situations, scientists are now testing the theory. Researchers at the University of Tokyo have developed optical-camouflage technology while scientists at the University of California-Berkeley have created a "carpet cloak" from nanostructures that allows the presence of objects placed under it from optical detection. Technology will continue to surprise us and achieve things we never thought possible. We won't need to try to be invisible. The invisibility application and other creations from science fiction novels will continue to come increasingly faster and as we continue to develop devices that can make objects invisible. It’s nice to know that there are people at the University doing such interesting work. But to those at the university, such as Minton, who put the University on the map.

Looking at the campus crowd, it's about 20 percent the size of the normal school year. Even if every single enrolled student bought a car and parked on campus at the exactly same time, still nearly half of the school's reported 7,785 parking spots would remain empty. So why doesn't the school charge 20 percent of what we pay during the normal school year for a parking pass? The answer would surely have something to do with the California Public Utilities Commission systems nearly $600 million debt. But is overcharging for summer parking really worth it to get us out of such a gigantic debt? If 4,000 students bought a parking permit every summer, surely that wouldn't climb out of debt until about July of the year 3279. But since we all know the world is ending in 2012, that's just not going to cut it.

So until you make those permits more affordable, I'll just be one more student that shows up on campus sweating and draging — and trust me, no one wants that.

Scott Silvey is a journalism senior, Mustang Daily sports editor and beer connoisseur.

This is absolutely nonsense. Technology should be embraced in class- rooms, but due to logistics devices only offer distraction. Teachers can learn from students. They can ask students to verify information via their cell phones — from dates, to events, to speeches any reference at all. Professors can even send questions, reminders, or homework assignments via text. Using phones keeps students on task and provides them with a learning opportunity. Who in their right mind would use their cellphone to verify information? Have you tried scouring a professional or educational journal network? They are hard enough to navigate on a full computer let alone a miniature web browser best suited to Facebook. What is wrong with asking students to spend a little time out of class doing fact checking and researching hard data instead of doing this anyway. Being skeptical and not taking lectures for fact without verification is key to the learning process. However, there is not nearly enough room to discuss this further, and again if you check Wikipedia, check out sources, question the teacher and still take notes and understand lectures.

Also, I get enough useless garbage electronically, I don't need a teacher to remind me that something is due tomorrow. I'm 25 years old, I'm fully capable of managing my time. If something must be committed outside of class, an email is much simpler and better for technical purposes anyway.

— Todd Wilkinson

Response to "Fisting taboo: Should it be allowed in classrooms?"

"This is totally a shame! Those of us that pick the NYT up every day. If the campus truly didn't want to get rid of it, they could have held fund raisers or at least asked for communi-

ty help before just agreeing to not carry it anymore. I don't understand why they can't back things up that set the campus apart while still paying President Baker so much. The students are what runs the college along with the teachers. It's ridiculous that this campus manages its money in such a horrid manner. This is all the alumni around them could easily get money for things like keeping the NYT on campus. I'm all about asking people. But unfortunately our school has gotten lazier and more restrictive over time. It's ridiculous."

— Melissa

Response to "NYT ends ride campus distribution"

NOTE: The Mustang Daily features select comments that are written in response to articles posted online. Though we list all the responses and their dates, the Mustang Daily prints comments that are coherent and foster intelligent discussion on a given subject.

Editor in chief: Emilie Egger
Managing Editor: Alex Kuck
mustangdaily@gmail.com
Mustang Daily Sports

UCI, Cal, UCSB mark 2009 men’s soccer schedule

Mustang Daily Staff Report

Fresh off arguably their most successful season at the Division I level, the Cal Poly men’s soccer team released in 2009 season schedule Monday afternoon.

The Mustangs, who won their first Division I postseason game 1-0 over UCLA in the first round of the NCAA Tournament last year, will kick off their season Aug. 26 by hosting San Diego State in an exhibition match.

Cal Poly will compete in two preconference tournaments next season including the Cal Legacy Classic where they will take on Cal and Stanford. The Golden Bears advanced to the third round of the NCAA Tournament last year before falling to national champion Maryland. They will also visit the Pacific Northwest to battle Portland and Washington in the Husky Fever Classic.

Other notable games include an Oct. 7 visit to rival UC Santa Barbara and a Nov. 4 return match of the two conference foes. Last season the two teams combined to draw a sellout crowd of 11,075 at Alex G. Spanos Stadium, making it the third-highest attended regular season conference match in history.

The Gauchos, perennial Big West Conference frontrunners, defeated Cal Poly 1-0 in double overtime in a game nationally televised on Fox Soccer Channel.

Cal Poly will also get another crack at UC Irvine, the team that knocked them out in the second round of the NCAA Tournament. The teams will meet in Irvine on Oct. 21.

If the Mustangs are to get back to the NCAA Tournament this year, they will have to do so without some key members from last season. Goalkeeper Eric Branaou-Franco was a member of the Big West Conference first team and also named conference Goalkeeper of the Year last year.

Defensive midfielder Anton Peterlin also finished his eligibility last season. Peterlin recently made his Everton debut in a preseason loss to Bury last Friday. The former Cal Poly star is the first former Mustang to play professionally for an English Premier League side.

While Cal Poly will miss several players, they will look to some returning faces to further improve on their game.

Junior forward David Zamora, a former conference Freshman of the Year and Freshman All-American, was fourth in the Big West last season with eight goals and six assists. Zamora is already sixth on the Cal Poly all-time goals list and needs just one more to tie Rhyshem Henderson for fifth.

Sophomore midfielder Wes Freighner and defender Patrick Sigler will return looking to build on their successes as freshmen. Freighner scored four goals in his first year and Sigler is the first former Mustang to play professionally for an English Premier League side.

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