Microsoft, CSU hammer out software details

By Steve Noone
Mustang Daily

A four-year, $8 million agreement between the California State University system and Microsoft has been finalized and is expected to save the CSU system at least $7 million while providing students savings of hundreds of dollars on best-selling Microsoft products.

"The agreement extended and replaced the old contract this month," said Ken Swisher, spokesman for the CSU Chancellor's Office. "This agreement combines the purchasing power from all the campuses to give us a huge discount. It's beneficial to everyone because Microsoft software is already pretty much the standard — two thirds of the campuses reported that it was, and all campuses reported that this software was widely used."

The agreement provides 180,000 licences to students and 30,000 licences to faculty and staff to some of Microsoft's most popular products including Microsoft Windows and Windows NT Workstation, Microsoft Office Professional Edition, Microsoft Visual Studio Pro, Microsoft Office FrontPage, and Microsoft Back Office Client.

Distribution strategies at the different campuses are still being worked out, but Swisher suggested students may perhaps be able to download the software as a registered user from the web, have the software installed on their computers, or purchase the software on a CD-ROM for a nominal fee of about $15.

The price, if any, of the software is still uncertain.

see SOFTWARE, page 2

Dorm residents overload outlets

By Courtney Harris
Mustang Daily

It's tempting. Dorm residents often have more appliances than outlets, so multi-socket plugs seem to be the answer. These plugs, however, are against the rules, as stated in the resident halls handbooks, which all residents receive.

There are many types of electrical hazards beckoning in the dorms. With everything from computers, desk lamps and mini-refrigerators to irons and hair dryers, students can run into problems trying to plug in all at once. Without a surge protector, overloading can be dangerous.

"The dorms were designed for one plug in each outlet," said Yosemite Hall resident advisor Chris Kelly. "More could cause an overload and something could catch fire, he said."

"We try to tell the residents to read their handbooks when they come, to know the rules beforehand," said Kelly.

The handbook, issued by Housing and Residential Life, states that certain appliances, such as halogen lamps, hot plates, toasters and blenders are not permitted in the rooms.

"Christmas lights are allowed technically two weeks before the break, but they can't be put in the- windows," said Kelly. They must also be taken down before students leave for the break, he added.

In addition, RAs must check the rooms before Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring Break to make sure there isn't something still plugged in that could be hazardous.

"It's to make sure things like irons aren't plugged in," said Suzanne Fritz, an education and training specialist in Sierra Madre Hall. Students are given prior

see OUTLETS page 2

Poly theater major opens for six students

New students, transfers can enroll in Fall quarter 1999

Whitney Phaneuf
Mustang Daily

Two and a half years in the making, an official theater arts major now exists at Cal Poly. Six students are already enrolled in the bachelor of arts major program, and the theater department will be accepting its first freshmen and transfer students in Fall 1999.

Pam Malkin, associate theater department head, said the idea of a major was discussed for about 11 years. An alumni-based organization, Friends and Supporters of Cal Poly Theater, played an instrumental role in approving the major Malkin said.

"Both the chancellor and California Post-Secondary Education Commission said having a strong alumni association shows we have impressive networking and employment opportunities in the industry," Malkin said.

The College of Liberal Arts has put the capacity of enrollment at 40 theater arts majors and Malkin has already been busy showing candidates majors around the department.

The major curriculum is liberal-arts based and includes numerous classes outside of theater.

"To be a good theater person, you have to have a wide range of knowledge in many fields," Malkin said. "The theater department currently has four faculty members and one technical staff member."

Malkin said the small faculty works because they have the same goal — to have the major serve the students, not the students serve the major.

"We're a small, but committed, active faculty who provide a lot of individual instruction and enhanced opportunities for students," she said.

Those enhanced opportunities include regularly scheduled career panels and good contacts for internships and co-ops.

"(Entertainment) is one of the biggest growth industries and we are poised to help students enter the industry," Malkin said.

Mark Striko became an official theater arts major right before winter break. The former mathematics junior had been waiting for the opportunity since he came to Cal Poly.

After graduation, Striko plans on pursuing an acting
Lyme disease vaccine developed at UC Irvine

IVRNE (U-WIRE) — Infecting approximately 10,000 Americans every year, Lyme disease may soon be eradicated with the creation of the nation's first vaccine by a University of California, Irvine researcher. The vaccine was approved for immediate release by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Dec. 21.

"The action by the FDA is an important milestone in the prevention of Lyme disease," said Eddie Gray, vice president and director of LYMErix, which is the company reproducing the vaccine.

Lyme disease is currently the nation's most prevalent tick-borne illness. Realizing that this disease needs to be quickly controlled because it affects so many Americans, Dr. Alan Barbour's work has recently led him to uncover a solution.

Barbour's development for this vaccine began with the isolation of the bacterium that causes the disease in 1981 while he worked in a National Institute for Health laboratory. In 1986, he continued his research at the University of Texas and has been with UCI since 1997.

The bacteria Borrelia burgdorferi that causes Lyme disease is carried by ticks and transmitted to nearby mammals such as mice, deer and humans. Flask-like symptoms (fever and joint pain) and a bullseye rash are present at the onset of the infection.

According to Barbour, antibiotics have currently been effective in treating the disease; however, it is commonly misdiagnosed and left untreated which led to serious arthritis, cardiac and neurological disorders.

After isolating the bacterium, Barbour and his colleagues were able to discover the gene sequence (OspA recombinant) of the protein on the surface of the bacteria, allowing the cloning of the gene and its mass production for use in the creation of the vaccine.

According to a study published in Clinical Therapeutics, the economic burden for Lyme disease cases in the United States is projected to be approximately 2.5 billion in direct and indirect medical costs in a five year period. Beyond this cost, millions will be spent on pesticides and population-controlled programs. It is therefore understandable why the federal government and pharmaceutical companies would have an interest in finding a vaccine for the disease.

Though the disease is much more prevalent in the Northeast and Midwest, there were 171 cases reported in California in 1997. In 1998, health officials in Los Angeles county issued a warning for residents and visitors of the Santa Monica Mountains after a tick trapped in the area tested positive for carrying the disease.

"The tick has a blood meal in progress and the infecting bacteria in the tick is killed," said Dr. Vijay Sikand, principal investigator on human vaccine studies.

Clinical trials began in 1993 wherein 10,936 volunteers were injected with either the vaccine or placebo (saltwater). After a 20 month period it was found that (80 to 90 percent) of those injected with the vaccine were protected from the disease. There were minor side effects, including swelling at the site of the injection.

The vaccine LYMErix, made by the pharmaceutical company Smith Kline Beecham Biologicals, will be available as early as this week. Another company, Pasteur Merieux Connaught, will release their own version of the vaccine later in the year.

"The approval of LYMErix means the threat of Lyme disease may be significantly reduced for millions of Americans who spend time outdoors or plan to travel to endemic areas," Gray said.

According to Barbour and his colleagues, the public needs to stay away from or take the appropriate behavior, Britt said. Their opinion includes improved versions (increasing the success rate from 80-90 percent to 100 percent), reducing the threat of Lyme disease may be significant increase because they can not afford to defend themselves against the disease.

According to statistics from the police department, there were more alcohol-related incidents by students who continued from page 1

"I guess I would expect worse things to happen here," she said.

Students can help control potentially unsafe situations by thinking about the repercussions of their actions, especially when alcohol is involved, Conard said.

"If alcoholic can get in trouble," she said. "If you're careful, you can reduce your chances.

"The agreement extended and replaced the old contract this month," according to Swisher, spokesman for CSI's Chancellor's Office.

Swisher said that El Corral has not been able to access the software by using an emulation program, but Craig Schulz, Director of User Support Services for Cal Poly Information Technology Services said the agreement will benefit students regardless of their choice of platform.

Travis Moomy, a journalism senior and El Corral Tech Center employee, said that while the Microsoft agreement will probably not sour east market, it may not be as beneficial to students as it seems.

"The opinion of Microsoft products is pretty low on this campus," he said. "Their software is the most resource intensive and their prices are much higher then the competitors to begin with."

Moomy said that El Corral has not been contacted to distribute the software, and he did not know what titles would be made available to students. According to Swisher, the deal provide computer based training for students and staff who could use as instructional components in their classes.

This $350,000 CBT (Computer Based Training) contract will provide 650 information technology courses for the next three years, including sessions on web publishing, networking, Microsoft Office, Windows, and basic computer usage.

"The tick has a blood meal in progress and the infecting bacteria in the tick is killed." — Dr. Vijay Sikand

human vaccine investigator

"If the university wasn't here, this community is relatively safe, with few instances of "brutal" crime. She added students should feel secure in State College."

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Show to air Kristin Smart segment

By Andy Castagnola

Mustang Daily

The story of missing student Kristin Smart has a new outlet today: The Maury Povich Show.

John Walsh of America's Most Wanted will present Smart's case on the show with Mustang Daily. The show will air tonight at 10 a.m. on KCAL channel 9.

Denise Smart said she agreed to The Maury Povich Show because of the affiliation with Walsh and America's Most Wanted. "We've turned down lots and lots of offers because it's pretty drawing, Smart said.

In November, People Magazine and the San Francisco Chronicle featured Kristin in separate stories.

In response to the People Magazine article, two women who worked with Paul Flores have come forward with information. Flores was the last person seen with Kristin on the night of her disappearance in May 1999.

Anytime Kristin's case receives media attention, the public has a resurgence of energy and awareness, Denise Smart said. "It's probably not the answer," Smart said about The Maury Povich Show, "but you never know."

"It makes it much easier to know that people are working to solve this," the continued. Denise Smart criticized both Cal Poly and the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department for their handling of the case.

"The college has not been supportive at all," she said.

In a letter sent to Cal Poly parents following the November disappearance of student Rachel Newhouse, Kristin Smart was never mentioned.

"It's like a slap in the face," Denise Smart said. "But we're calloused to that by now."

However, since the election of a new sheriff and the assignment of a new detective to the case, Smart said law enforcement has recharged the investigation.

"We feel we're getting some help," Smart said. "Some things are getting better. We don't have to go out and beg."

Newhouse, Cal Poly's other missing student, will appear on America's Most Wanted on January 23.

Denise Smart said she thinks Cal Poly has made it easier for Rachel's family, "I feel good that Kristin's disappearance has made it easier for Rachel's family," she said.

The theater department is unique because of its small size. The theater department is a 2nd home to Wiley, and it's a family atmosphere she doesn't experience in any other classes.

She has a double major in theater arts and liberal studies, with plans to teach children's theater. The new major allows to Wiley because it recognizes theater as a legitimate major.

"Throughout the education system, education in the arts is lacking, which affects our culture as a whole," Senior Katy Wiley agrees that the theater department is unique because of its small size. The theater department is a 2nd home to Wiley, and it's a family atmosphere she doesn't experience in any other classes.

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"I've always been involved in theater, since elementary school," she said.

Moving from the minor to the major was an exciting step for her, since she can now concentrate more on theater. Malaymink emphasized that department will always remain very dependent on non-majors and will continue to welcome students from every major to participate in major theater culture.

Sitko views the major as one of the last left with a main emphasis on learning. "The degree isn't really the valuable thing, but it's getting the education that matters," she said.

Cholesterol-lowering drug works for kids, yearlong study finds

CHICAGO: (AP) — Boys born with a cholesterol disorder that virtually dooms them to heart disease can benefit from taking a cholesterol-lowering drug that is widely used among adults, a new study indicates.

In the yearlong study, the drug lovastatin significantly lowered inherited high cholesterol among 22 boys age 10 to 17. The genetically caused disorder, which affects about 500,000 Americans, cannot be controlled by diet.

The drug, introduced in 1987 and sold under the name Mevacor, caused no harm to boys' growth or sexual development, which can be a concern when adult drugs are used to treat children, researchers said in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

Without treatment, 23 percent of boys with inherited high cholesterol will die of heart disease by age 50, he said. His colleagues noted, citing previous research.

THEATER

continued from page 1

high school or university level. Even though the theater department at Cal Poly is small in comparison to other universities, Sitko finds it much more intimate.

"You can try your hand at anything," he said. "I've acted, directed, stage manage, been on a make-up crew, set crew and lighting crew for a show."

Senior Katy Wiley agrees that the department is unique because of its small size. The theater department is a 2nd home to Wiley, and it's a family atmosphere she doesn't experience in any other classes.

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COME OUT TO THE THURSDAY NIGHT FARMER'S MARKET to see a showcase of Cal Poly clubs and departments. The Downtown Association has been working closely with the Department of Student Life and Activities to bring Cal Poly clubs, organizations and departments out to Garden Street on Thursday evenings. Both the Downtown Association and the Department of Student Life and Activities are very excited to see a showcase of Cal Poly clubs and departments. The Downtown Association has been working closely with the Department of Student Life and Activities to bring Cal Poly clubs, organizations and departments out to Garden Street on Thursday evenings. Both the Downtown Association and the Department of Student Life and Activities are very excited to see a showcase of Cal Poly clubs and departments. The Downtown Association has been working closely with the Department of Student Life and Activities to bring Cal Poly clubs, organizations and departments out to Garden Street on Thursday evenings. Both the Downtown Association and the Department of Student Life and Activities are very excited to see a showcase of Cal Poly clubs and departments. The Downtown Association has been working closely with the Department of Student Life and Activities to bring Cal Poly clubs, organizations and departments out to Garden Street on Thursday evenings. Both the Downtown Association and the Department of Student Life and Activities are very excited to see a showcase of Cal Poly clubs and departments. The Downtown Association has been working closely with the Department of Student Life and Activities to bring Cal Poly clubs, organizations and departments out to Garden Street on Thursday evenings. Both the Downtown Association and the Department of Student Life and Activities are very excited to see a showcase of Cal Poly clubs and departments. The Downtown Association has been working closely with the Department of Student Life and Activities to bring Cal Poly clubs, organizations and departments out to Garden Street on Thursday evenings. Both the Downtown Association and the Department of Student Life and Activities are very excited to see a showcase of Cal Poly clubs and departments. The Downtown Association has been working closely with the Department of Student Life and Activities to bring Cal Poly clubs, organizations and departments out to Garden Street on Thursday evenings. Both the Downtown Association and the Department of Student Life and Activities are very excited to see a showcase of Cal Poly clubs and departments. The Downtown Association has been working closely with the Department of Student Life and Activities to bring Cal Poly clubs, organizations and departments out to Garden Street on Thursday evenings. Both the Downtown Association and the Department of Student Life and Activities are very excited to see a showcase of Cal Poly clubs and departments. The Downtown Association has been working closely with the Department of Student Life and Activities to bring Cal Poly clubs, organizations and departments out to Garden Street on Thursday evenings. Both the Downtown Association and the Department of Student Life and Activities are very excited to see a showcase of Cal Poly clubs and departments. The Downtown Association has been working closely with the Department of Student Life and Activities to bring Cal Poly clubs, organizations and departments out to Garden Street on Thursday evenings. Both the Downtown Association and the Department of Student Life and Activities are very excited to see a showcase of Cal Poly clubs and departments. The Downtown Association has been working closely with the Department of Student Life and Activities to bring Cal Poly clubs, organizations and departments out to Garden Street on Thursday evenings. Both the Downtown Association and the Department of Student Life and Activities are very excited to...
Hot dogs, pretzels, and pizza ... but where's the spirit

It's very popular to compare the University of Mississippi to Cal Poly; however, I'm not talking about the sunshine. Contrary to what the athletic department would like us to believe, Cal Poly is not an athletic powerhouse, and everyone knows it. Despite our Danton, I ranking, the university fails to recruit the caliber and quality of athletes actually students too. This may have a lot to do with the poor facilities our school has to offer its teams. The university is willing to kick back financially or at least plug the university.

In all my years of watching football, I think John Madden has mentioned Cal Poly twice, both times briefly. Chris Thomas, currently with the Redskins and formerly with the Bills, was the only coach to ever capture the national lights. Andre Patterson, a guy who went to rivalry to get students excited about home games, took off for a bet in Mississippi. Until Lead is climbing the ladder for the Bills and currently is our K'st choice for drawing the crowds when they win. I think meayer showing's at home. I'm not willing to pack the team. It that doesn't say Si'methint'.

The trials and triumphs of my trip into adulthood

During this last break I went home to visit my family, as many others from Cal Poly did. I look forward to going home, but after this last visit nothing will ever be the same.

I ended up getting kicked-out of my house. Actually, in my eyes, it was my own fault to leave. I've either that or "as long as you live in my house, you will live by my rules." But I realized something during that last visit: there comes a time when you just don't live at home anymore, you don't have to live by their rules. Your parents don't have to like it - most won't even accept it, but that's just the way it goes. It finally happened for me: I've transformed into that "thing" most of us dread, "adulthood." Now, if you were to ask my father, I'm far from being there. That's because all of us will always be children to our parents.

So what brought about this epiphany? My new surfboard. The seven-footer I bought on sale for a little over three hundred dollars. My father thought it was an irresponsible way for me to spend my money, and the more he thought about it, the angrier he got.

"That's way too much to spend on something that stupid!" "You're still in school, aren't you?"

"That's the one thing I have saved for and wanted for a long time, no matter what the cost. I don't ask for money, and when I have in the past, I've waited and scrimped and saved until I've had to make that call." "I hear many students talk about how they called their mom and asked if they could put that 100 dollars on their charge card. Not me. I guess I could, but I feel too lucky to have what I already don't get me wrong though, it my parents had a lot of money and no other children, I'd be all over their bank account, but that's not the reality of things. The reality is that just because my parents have money does not mean they owe it to me, and likewise when I have money I don't have to spend it as they would deserve spending.

It's called the real world, and we all live in it. I live in it. And so does my father. If only my father would realize spending money on my hobbies (bobbies which he does not approve of) does not mean that I don't love or respect him or think his suggestions on how to manage my money are valid, it just means that I am not him. I am my own person. I guess I'm also just a gout from now on.

Jaime Zullofetto is the opinion editor for the Mustang Daily who hopes that her father will understand she is sorry for what happened, but not for how she lives her life.
The sinful acts of cellular phone users

I believe there are three major sins a person can commit when using a cellular phone: bringing a cellular phone into a movie theater, taking a cellular phone into class and talking on a cellular phone while driving.

Cellular phone users should avoid causing these unnecessary distractions to avoid danger to other people.

The first sin can easily be avoided. I personally do not understand the concept of wanting to talk on the phone when going to the movies. I thought most people went to the movies to escape reality, not to bring a reminder of their reality with them. A person expecting urgent phone calls should not even be going to the movies to escape reality. A person expecting urgent phone calls should not even be going to the movies to escape reality while talking on the phone while driving.

The second sin relates to talking on a cellular phone while watching a movie, in class or driving. The third, and most deadly sin, is when people talk on their cellular phone while driving. The reason this is so dangerous is because of the human phenomenon to make hand gestures while talking on the phone. If one hand is holding the phone, and the other hand is moving this way and that, then there are not any more hands left to steer. Cars do not drive by themselves. Driving violations I've witnessed from people talking on their cellular phone while driving: speeding through red lights, swerving back and forth between lanes, and driving 20 mph in a 45 mph zone. I believe that for the safety of other drivers who have to put up with this carelessness, talking on a cellular phone while driving should be banned. I realize that sometimes emergencies do come up and people need to call someone while driving, but most people I see talking and driving seem to be engaged in a long conversation with their best friend. Is spending a few minutes chatting with a friend worth risking getting into an accident?

Please try not to reach out and touch someone by a cellular phone when watching a movie, in class or driving.

Joellen Smith is a journalism senior and reporter for the Mustang Daily who promises to never to bring a cellular phone into any movie, no matter how bad the acting is.

Protecting animals is not a money making scheme

Editor:

This is in response to Justin Ruhge’s nauseating letter “The EPA is pro-environment, but anti-people,” which ran on Monday, Jan. 11.

Mr. Ruhge, you make me ashamed of our species. How can you make blatantly false, uneducated statements such as “We are becoming the endangered species.”

The human population is fast growing and as a result we are trashing natural habitats while the animals get pushed into an ever decreasing space. And you are so selfish, greedy, and unhinging that you would want the Brown Bear, the Bald Eagle, and the Spotted Owl suffer at the hands of man and eventually get wiped off the face of the earth because you “cannot afford such luxury as saving species.” Then you propose that we become more selective about which species to invest in saving … do you really think you or anyone has the right to decide which animals deserve to continue living? Please open your eyes and realize the earth and the animals are not just props for your money making schemes.

Meredith Rogers is a nutritional science sophomore.

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**SPORTS**

Niners coach signed to new five-year contract

SANTA CLARA, (AP) — Forget those rumors Steve Mariucci was on his way out as San Francisco 49ers coach.

Mariucci was signed Tuesday to a new five-year contract worth about $2 million per season, quashing speculation about his future with the team.

The deal, which replaced the three years remaining on his original pact, binds him to the 49ers through 2003.

"This is a happy day," interim general manager John McKay said. He completed this week the negotiations that started 21 months ago by Larry Thrall, who resigned Saturday as interim team president.

"The team, and the ownership and the organization are delighted to have this done and to have the comfort of knowing that we're going to have Steve here for five years on a new contract," McKay said.

Meanwhile, Mariucci said he planned to meet today with Bill Walsh to discuss Walsh's return to the organization. Walsh could be hired by Thursday or Friday.

Walsh, the Hall of Fame coach who led San Francisco to its first three Super Bowls, is expected to help in personnel evaluation and oversee the draft. The 49ers fired their director of player personnel, Vinny Cerrato, late Monday.

Mariucci, whose job security was the subject of constant speculation despite his winning record, said he was relieved the deal was finally done.

**Chris Ford to be Clippers coach**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former Boston Celtics and Milwaukee Bucks coach Chris Ford will be hired today as coach of the Los Angeles Clippers, The Associated Press learned.

The Clippers have been without a coach since Bill Fitch was fired last April 20, two days after the team completed a 17-65 season that was third-worst in the NBA.

Fitch coached the Clippers to a 99-229 record in four seasons. He has a career record of 944-1,106.

Clippers spokesman Jill Wiggins refused comment except to say there will be a press conference today at 3 p.m. at the Los Angeles Convention Center to make what she called a major announcement.

Ford, 50, coached the Celtics from 1990-95 and the Bucks for the last two seasons. He was fired 4½ months ago with one year remaining on his contract after the Bucks went 36-46 and failed to make the playoffs for the second straight year.

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McGwire's 70th home run ball sells for record at auction

NEW YORK (AP) — Mark McGwire topped the Babe and Sammy again.

McGwire's 70th home run ball sold at auction Tuesday night for $3.05 million — well above November's record price of $1.26 million for a ball that Babe Ruth hit for the first home run in Yankee Stadium.

An anonymous telephone bidder bought McGwire's record home run ball, which was sold by Guernsey's auction house at a special sale at Madison Square Garden.

The total price includes the bid of $2.7 million plus a $300,000 commission to the auction house.

"$3 million is an extraordinary accomplishment. It's 23 times the world record for any baseball ever sold, and five times the record of any sports artifact," said Arlen Briggs, president of Guernsey's.

The ball, hit on McGwire's last swing of the season-breaking 349th home run, was retrieved at Busch Stadium Sept. 27 by Philip Ozersky, a research scientist at Washington University. He had turned down $1 million from private collectors.

Summertime's final home run of the season, his 66th, sold for $150,000.

Also up for sale Tuesday were other home runs from the 1998 season, his 66th, sold for $150,000. The minimum auction price apparently was not reached, although the auction house did not disclose what that price was.

A ball sold to the Rockies' Mantle's 500th homer, hit May 14, 1967, also was withdrawn from sale after questions about its authenticity.

In September 1996, the ball Eddie Murray hit for his 300th home run was sold for what one day could be $500,000. Michael Lasky, the founder of the Psychic Friends Network, paid $200,000 that was put in an annuity to be paid over 20 years. With interest, the annuity will be worth about $500,000, according to a spokesman for Lasky, who also operates as syndicated handicapper Mike Warren.

Sonny's No. 66 was sold by Albert Chapa, who grabbed it Sept. 25 at the Astrodome.

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In September 1996, the ball Eddie Murray hit for his 300th home run was sold for what one day could be $500,000. Michael Lasky, the founder of the Psychic Friends Network, paid $200,000 that was put in an annuity to be paid over 20 years. With interest, the annuity will be worth about $500,000, according to a spokesman for Lasky, who also operates as syndicated handicapper Mike Warren.

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Jordan set to announce retirement today

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Jordan said he would go out on top. Apparently, he will.

Jordan planned to announce his retirement today at a news conference in Chicago, a source with close ties to the NBA told The Associated Press on Monday night.
If so, it would be the second time in five years that the greatest player in NBA history and the most popular athlete since Muhammad Ali wilted away from the game.
"I don't have any reaction. I don't have any comments," said Bulls owner Jerry Reinsdorf when reached at his Arizona home.
When asked about Jordan's retirement, Bulls spokesman Tim Hallman said, "At this particular time, I can't comment."

However, Jordan's retirement also was reported by The New York Times, USA Today and The Denver Post.

There had been considerable speculation about Jordan's future ever since he hit the final, shattering shot in Game 6 of the NBA Finals in Utah to lock up the Bulls' sixth championship of the decade. That speculation intensified last week, when the NBA players and owners reached a settlement to end the six-month lockout.

Jordan will turn 36 next month. He is a five-time league MVP, and led the NBA in scoring 10 times and averaged 31.5 points per game.

His agent David Falk said that "until he announces whether he is retiring or returning, anything else is speculation." With NBA players preparing for a truncated season to begin Feb. 5, Jordan was expected to announce his plans before training camps opened Monday. He had been in the Bahamas on vacation, but returned to Chicago, presumably to finalize this earlier week. Another source, who also requested anonymity, told The AP that Jordan had spoken recently with Scottie Pippen and Ron Harper to his home to discuss the team's future.

Jordan retired from the Bulls the first time in October 1995, saying he had accomplished everything he wanted to in basketball and planned to devote more time to his family. Instead, he spent 1996 playing in the league baseball for the Double-A Birmingham Barons, a farm team of the Chicago White Sox.

The budding outfield prospect left baseball in the spring of 1995, and decided to return to the game he loved.

While his skills were still considerable, Jordan quickly learned he could no longer dominate the game the way he once did. The Bulls were knocked out of the postseason in the Eastern Conference semifinals by Orlando.

But then, just as he had in every previous offseason, Jordan went back to work. He added a nearly unstoppable fadeaway jump shot to his arsenal and after a grueling weight-maintaining and conditioning program, he came back the next season better than ever. The Bulls then set off on another three-peat that ended last June in Utah with Jordan stealing the ball and going coast-to-coast for a thunderous game-winning layup.

It was precisely the lack of obstacles work this past summer that had many of Jordan's teammates doubting he would return.

"He prepares as well as anybody but from all I hear, he's been playing golf and going to the Bahamas," teammate Scottie Pippen said recently. "We're not sure if he's working out in a hidden gym somewhere down in the Bahamas, I don't think he's really preparing to play."