A plethora of pills: New contraceptive devices offer improved options.

Battling the boot: Step caging citlized vehicles.

For extended weather forecast, see Daily Dose, 2.

High: 77° / Low: 54°

Wednesday, May 9, 2001

Mustang Daily

Volume LXV, Number 130, 1916-2001

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN LUIS OBISPO

ASI election in question

By Kirsten Orsini-Meinhard and Karin Driesen

MUSTANG DAILY MANAGING EDITOR

AND NEWS EDITOR

Votes in today's Associated Students Inc. election may not count if the Board of Directors upholds a decision to strike off a candidate's name from the ballot.

Liberty Lewis, election committee chair, decided on Tuesday that presidential candidate Brent Vann should be removed from the ballot because of campaign violations.

Lewis said she does not intend to count the votes in today's election, unless the board accepts Vann's appeal at tonight's Board of Directors meeting.

Lewis will argue before the board that Vann did not comply with orders to remove his campaign signs and therefore, should be removed from the ballot. If the board votes in favor of Lewis' position, student votes in the runoff election would not be counted, and presidential candidate Angie Hacker would become president.

"This is the call I've made based on what the rules are," Lewis said.

Lewis' decision came after she was notified Tuesday morning that Vann had violated campaign regulations.

These violations included having signs up in Bldgs. 38 (Mathematics and Home Economics) where they are not allowed, and covering up ASI and Hacker posters with his own. Vann, however, claimed Lewis has no proof that his campaign is responsible for covering up posters.

"There are posters in hallways seen ELECTION, page 2."

Soaring gas prices fuel local outrage

By Katriona Corey

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Fuming with frustration, Greg Guy filled up his car at the Santa Rosa Street Arco Station. All he could think about was better ways to spend his money than a $1.87 per gallon of gasoline.

"I can't even afford to fill up my tank anymore," said Guy, an industrial technology senior. "I remember when gas used to cost less than a dollar."

Walking or riding a bike as opposed to driving may be more appealing than ever as price jumps at the pump are expected to reach a record-breaking high this summer.

As if $1.87 isn't high enough - and that is a low in San Luis Obispo - San Francisco and Orange County were hit even harder.

Current gas prices there are approximately $2.15 per gallon of regular gasoline and rising.

Gas prices now are already higher than they were in early May 2000, according to a recent article from Reuters Business Report. It remains to be seen whether last year's June record price at the pump will be topped this June. The national average price of gas has risen to $1.83 a gallon of regular gasoline which is 21 cents above the price of gasoline at this time last year.

The national average is already above the predicted $1.52, according to the report. The Energy see GAS, page 2

Fall classes may begin at 7 a.m.

By Adrienna Benjamin

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

An increased number of incoming students has prompted the class scheduling office to provide more sections for fall quarter. Students who cannot get into regular daytime classes may now have to take classes at 7 a.m. and after 6 p.m.

"Because of the increased enrollment, we had to expand the class scheduling," said Debbie Arsenau, instructional space and scheduling analyst.

Arsenau said it is better to spread classes out because it gives more flexibility for the students' schedules.

"It's better that students spread their class throughout the day and not take classes one after the other," she said.

With 1,700 course sections at Cal Poly and only 120 lecture rooms to fit all the classes, it takes time and energy to determine the appropriate schedule, she said.

"We only have three people making up the schedules, and it takes weeks to make up the schedule," Arsenau said. "We call the departments to send their information and we later assign rooms for all the classes.

In the early 1990s, there were more classes offered at 7 a.m. Yet after the budget cut, the scheduling was also decreased, Arsenau said.

The class scheduling office is trying to have the fall quarter schedule out by the end of today. At that time, the office will be sending verification out to the departments for final review and changes prior to publication.

Many students say they wouldn't take classes at 7 a.m. because it would get in the way of their concentration.

"I wouldn't take classes that early because I'm not a morning person," said Kerri Sundeen, a recreation administration sophomore. "I also can't concentrate around that time."

Sundeen said she would only take 7 a.m. classes if they were the only recommended classes offered at that time.

"I would try to find a way around it, but if I had to then I guess I would do it," she said.

Arsenau said scheduling early morning classes and late classes are for the students' benefit. She said that when students' have three-hour lab classes, it's hard to fit other classes into their schedule.

Some professors feel the new scheduling will be detrimental to see SCHEDULE, page 2
ELECTION
continued from page 1

That I've personally seen and I've had people call," Lewis said.

As a penalty, Lewis informed Vann at approximately 11:40 a.m. that he would have to remove all campaign materials by 1 p.m. that day. When Vann objected to this deadline, Lewis changed the deadline so that all outdoor campaign material had to be removed by 1 p.m., and all material inside buildings had to be removed by 5 p.m.

"The time period that she gave us was absolutely unreasonable," said Tamas Simon, a member of Vann's campaign. "There was no time to contest. We skipped classes to take all the outside signs down, and Brent trying to contest would have eaten away at our time to get those signs down."

Vann and his campaign were unable to remove all materials from campus in the allotted time, so at about 5:30 p.m. Lewis informed Vann that the election had been cancelled. She later decided to allow the election to continue, but not count the ballots.

Her reasoning for this was, according to the elections manual, a candidate will be removed entirely from the election process after a third offense. The three counts against Vann were his posters hanging up in bloc 18, his inability to meet the 1 p.m. deadline and finally, his inability to meet the 5 p.m. deadline. Vann and his supporters disagree that those violations counted as three separate offenses since they occurred in the same time period, Simon said.

A heated argument took place in the ASI office between Lewis, Vann and his campaign members Tuesday evening. Vann and five of his supporters claimed that the ruling was unreasonable.

"We gave you until five, you agreed to it," Lewis said.

Vann said he had not been given enough time to remove all the signs, and the decision to cancel the election was unfair.

"Lewis presented Vann with photos she had taken of Vann signs still displayed after the deadline. One such photo showed Vann posters on stakes sticking out of the trash can in front of the Erhart Agriculture Building. Lewis claimed that months before Vann ever that any visible signs were in violation of her instructions, but Vann said the signs had been thrown away, and therefore weren't in violation.

"We got everything down that we knew of...everything outside of campus was gone," Vann said.

The intense argument between Lewis, Vann and his supporters continued for approximately an hour. Vann argued that Lewis had not taken similar action when damage was done to Vann's campaign. Earlier in the campaign period, some of Vann's signs and posters were defaced with the word "bitch." Lewis said she had not seen a "bitch" sign hanging up on campus.

The controversy surrounding Tuesday's elections comes one week after the initial election in which Vann and Hacker received the most votes, disqualifying presidential candidate Corey Redd. A runoff election was necessary so one of those two candidates would receive 50 percent plus one of the votes, which is necessary to win an election.

Vann has the option of appealing Lewis' decision to the Board of Directors tonight. If the board decides not to count the votes in today's election and Hacker becomes president, it will be without the 50 percent plus one vote.

Hacker currently holds the position of College of Liberal Arts representative to the board, which means she can choose whether or not she wants to vote at tonight's meeting.

Lewis said he doesn't know how the board will react to this situation, but he plans to stick by his position.

"I feel that I've made all of these calls as election chair and as far as I'm concerned, those ballots have never been seen," she said.

Vann said he felt this campaign is the dirtiest in Cal Poly history.

"How is this going to inspire anyone to get off their butts to run for ASI when this kind of stuff happens?" he said.

Lewis said he feels future candidates should pay the dues that one owes to the United Nations, because "The real losers in this equation are the people around the world who are struggling to be free. The United States is going to continue its role as a beacon of freedom and human rights, and the president will continue to speak out."

Meanwhile, the House International Relations Committee's leaders decided in agreement Tuesday that they hope will preserve the payment of $552 million in late dues to the United Nations.

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SCHEDULE
continued from page 1

for their students.

"I think it makes teaching hard," said Angelika Von Wahl, political science and sociology professor. "It's too early for students to concentrate on their work and to pay attention to the lecture."

Von Wahl said she would teach early classes, but her main concern is that her students stay awake in her class.

"I teach classes at nine in the morning, and it's hard to keep the students awake," she said. "If the classes start at 7 a.m. I would have to give the students Coke to keep them up."

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WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House expressed disappoint­ment Tuesday that the United States was ousted from U.N. panels on drug trafficking and human rights, and pre­dicted that U.N. efforts to address those issues will be weaker because of it.

The Bush administration feels let down by other member nations that pledged to support U.S. candidates for the U.N. Human Rights Commission and the International Narcotics Control Board, said White House spokesman Ari Fleischer. But, he said, President Bush was not inclined to take the defeats as a sign of discontent over the United States' long-delayed U.N. dues.

"The president believes that we should pay the dues that we owe to the United Nations," Fleischer said. "The real losers in this equation are the people around the world who are struggling to be free. The United States is going to continue its role as a beacon of freedom and human rights, and the president will continue to speak out."

Meanwhile, the House International Relations Committee's leaders decided in agreement Tuesday that they hope will preserve the payment of $552 million in late dues to the United Nations.
Mustang Daily ...

You'll miss us when we're gone.

Discover options for contraception

By Kat DeSakker
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

For those who have trouble remembering to take a birth control pill every day, two new options are now available.

More convenient methods of birth control (such as monthly shots or implanted devices) are emerging that eliminate the hassle experienced by many women, such as Sarah Gorodz, a recreation administration senior.

"Remembering to take [birth control pills] is always a big deal," Gorodz said. "She has been on birth control pills for three years, and admitted that the only way she remembers to take them is by putting them in a container with other pills, marked with the days of the week.

Gorodz said that she prefers an easier method of birth control, but she takes the pills for a medical condition and the pills themselves are part of the treatment.

Non-daily hormonal methods, such as the monthly shot and Mirena IUD (Intrauterine device), are designed to interfere with the release of an egg or sperm penetrating the egg.

Luneelle is being offered on a trial basis at the Health Center, according to Dr. Andrea Reusnier, head of women's health at the Health Center. There are presently a small number of samples available, and if interest is high enough, the center may begin to carry it regularly.

The Health Center does not insert IUDs, although staff can remove them if needed. Just because the Health Center is not offering IUDs to students does not mean that they are not recommended.

"It's not a matter of recommendation," Perez said. "It's just not within the scope of our practice.

There are also more mechanical barrier devices available for women, such as FemCap and Lea Shield, which block the cervix so sperm cannot get through.

A recent Los Angeles Times article described these methods as both convenient and, in some cases, effective as sterilization. According to the official Mirena Web Site, the Mirena IUD is 99 percent effective, inserted in minutes during a single office visit, and is effective immediately. The article also reported that the Mirena can be left in for up to five years.

The Health Center offers oral contraceptives, diaphragms, a Depo Provera injection every three months, condoms and emergency contraceptive pills, said Merina Perez, head of nursing services at the Health Center.

"Most of our clients are on oral contraceptives, so I believe it is the most popular," Perez said. Statistical data on the percentages of clients on each method was not available.

The article stated that some insurers may be unlikely to extend coverage to some of the newer birth control methods, such as the Mirena IUD, which can cost $350 to $395 plus insertion fees. The monthly Luneelle shot is more compatible to birth controls in price at $25 to $30 a month.

"Women have clearly demonstrated they are amenable to looking at new methods of contraception other than oral contraceptives," said Dr. Robert Rebar, associate director of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine in Birmingham, Ala., in the article.

There are several new methods of birth control for women waiting to be approved by the Food and Drug Administration, including a skin patch and a plastic ring that is inserted internally and releases hormones for approximately 21 days. It is unknown when these methods will be available to the public.

An alternative to these contraceptives is the relatively new morning-after pill. This pill, according to a handout from the Health Center, is emergency contraceptive containing high doses of hormones. This is available at the Health Center, and should be taken up to 72 hours without unprotected intercourse, and may cause nausea, according to the Health Center handout.

Planned Parenthood's Web site stated that it is difficult for researchers to come up with effective birth control methods for men because men are always producing sperm. Their continuous fertility prevents intervention methods.

The Web site did state that men in Italy are currently testing a contraceptive pill containing synthetic hormones. However, there’s no information on when or if it will be available in the United States.

Some birth control methods available at the Health Center are contraceptive foam, Depo Provera, Luneelle and hormone pills.

With spring here, thoughts of fresh summer fruits may drift into one's mind, along with images of hot days by the pool or beach. And what’s better than enjoying a cold fruit smoothie or eating a handful of ripe strawberries on a warm day? Strawberry season has begun— a treat well worth waiting for all winter!

Strawberries vary in size, shape and color (some are off-white or yellowish). In general, smaller berries have the best flavor. Strawberries have been available recently on an ever-lengthening calendar. Fresh strawberries are available year-round in many regions of the country, with the peak season from April to June. Choose brightly colored, plump berries that still have their green caps attached and which are uniform in size. Do not wash until ready to use, and store in a moisture-proof container in the refrigerator for 2 to 3 days.

Strawberries are an excellent source of vitamin C and also provide some potassium and iron. In fact, it’s possible to get your daily dose, or 60 mg, of vitamin C from just 8 medium-sized strawberries. One of the main functions of vitamin C in the body includes role as an antioxidant, as it helps to prevent damage to tissues, which may be important in preventing disease.

Fresh strawberries are wonderful eaten in a fruit salad, with yogurt, or on top of cereal. A special treat is to use strawberries in desserts, with dough cake being one of the most popular.

Shelby Wilson is a nutritional science senior and a Peer Health Educator.

Strawberries are a local fruit favorite

Ever thought about being homeless? Neither did they.

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Mustang Daily ...

You’ll miss us when we’re gone.
Approach future with confidence, embrace change

A
donning the balloons of the business building hang a number of inspirational posters. One of them caught my eye Tuesday. Under the title "Risk" and a picture of a sturdy-looking ship read the quote "A ship in the harbor is safe, but that’s not what ships were made for.

I began to reflect on people’s attitudes toward the future and change. Change is always scary - as creatures of habit we enjoy things with which we are comfortable. Think about how much consistency and predictability there is in our everyday lives. For the most part, we see the same people, go to the same places and do the same things each day. While consistency is necessary and unassailable, we often get too comfortable, in one place and cling to things that don’t challenge us.

I am not too fond of the whole “you must step out of your comfort zone” viewpoint. Because I also believe that one of our greatest indications of where we are supposed to be in life. Two words uttered by a pastor have turned out to be the greatest and most lasting advice I have ever received. The message was simple - follow peace.

A distinction must be made between following peace and remaining in one’s comfort zone, and I think the main difference is in the attitude. If we are stuck in our comfort zone, fear is most likely what binds us from moving forward. But something that is scary can still feel peaceful. We can look at it and know that it will be difficult or challenging or frightening yet still have peace doing it. This peace is what we are to seek in life. It doesn’t mean that we must follow certain situations and certain opportunities and be absent in others. While our comfort zone may provide a pseudo-sense of closure and control, it will eventually break down our confidence as we continue to succumb to the choking grip of fear.

Each day holds something new for us as does each place of our life. We cause ourselves harm when we hold on to the past and refuse to move forward. Taking a step forward means that we are going to have to let go of certain things, but we must notice that letting go does not mean losing those things, it means replacing them. This concept is hard to grasp when we are in the midst of change, for we do not see our clear picture of what will fill those places that are being vacated as we let go of what we used to occupy them. But without releasing the old we will have no room to embrace the new.

How are we to see and be prepared for what lies ahead if our eyes are fixed on the rearview mirror and the things that have passed? Our journey through life matches on regardless of our state of mind, but where is our focus? How wonderful it would be to approach the future confidently and remain open and optimistic about what is in store for us.

There are elements of good in everything we encounter, but we must be looking for them. Our outlook on life and our attitude toward change serve as the lens through which we perceive everything else. It is amazing how much the world and our lives would change if we could get ourselves about the presence of thorns among roses, and start being thankful for the presence of roses among thorns.

Jenny Rosner is a political science senior.

Mustang Daily

Opinion

Give the Cal Poly boot the boot

The parking police at Cal Poly are stepping up their ticketing tactics and bringing back the parking boot.

The police will use the boot on anyone who has five or more outstanding parking tickets, forcing students to pay before the boot is removed.

The retraction of the boot will inconvenience anyone who fails victim to the implementation of this complex, unnecessary device.

Picture this: You’re asleep. Then, panic sets in, because it’s Wednesday and the parking due in your 8 a.m. class is not going to get there by itself. So you go from complete and utter confusion in your own little utopia known as bed to standing in theExact moment trying to find your alarm clock.

After missing the bus and muttering a couple of swear words, you give in and decide to drive.

Not having a parking permit, and figuring that it’s too late to get anything out of this class session you decide to park as close as you can. Then your luck finally kicks in, and, for the first time ever, you find a parking place without having to search for 45 minutes. With that, your 15-second lucky streak runs out, because the second you pull in, there’s a parking meter glaring at you. Your mind automatically goes to that candy bar that you needed badly yesterday at 3:30 p.m. and the only thing you need is the 55 cents in your pocket to pay for the 10 minutes it takes to drop something off.

Now don’t get me wrong, there are some parking violations that should be punished. Parking in a handicapped spot is definitely one of them. Simply parking on a campus you are paying money to attend shouldn’t be a ticketable – or bootable – offense.

What about those of us who live on nearly pure checks from month to month, and don’t have the extra $42 to spend on a permit every quarter? To replace the commission lost due to students who don’t buy a permit, the parking Garage stocks the tickets on the windshield. And don’t think for a second that if you’ve already got one they’ll leave you alone for the day. They have no problem parking it with another. Bringing the boot on even faster. Granted, it isn’t everyday that a situation like this takes place, but it’s no belief that there is somebody out there who has a life similar to mine, somebody who drives to school about eight times a year, almost always under a situation such as this.

It’s pointless to spend money we don’t have on a parking permit.

For those students who have in excess of five tickets, this little paper ticket will turn into a steel boot. This is not the first time the boot has been used on law-breakers at Cal Poly. Only a year ago, the boot was put onto the immediate reserved list at the police station, after a couple of trails were found in the ticketing system. But after a thorough upgrade which cost a lump sum of around $25,000, the boot is back in service.

This is a clear misallocation of funds. Is there no better place to spend this money? Is the parking situation really so bad that police are resorting to disabling somebody’s car because the driver can’t afford a parking permit or doesn’t have the 35 cents in their pocket to pay for the 15 minutes it takes to drop something off?

Now don’t get me wrong, there are some parking violations that should be punished. Parking in a handicapped spot is definitely one of them. Simply parking on a campus you are paying money to attend shouldn’t be a ticketable – or bootable – offense.

Jenny Rosner is a political science senior.
I am not a patriarch. I understand the benefits of life in the United States and the rights I enjoy. Unfortunately, this was not the case for many in Cuba. In my opinion, the “Star Spangled Banner” does not bring Cuba to life. The embargo against Cuba has not brought Cuba to life.

In a previous issue, Rex Krebs wrote about the embargo against Cuba. He mentioned that the embargo has never been lifted. This is not true. The embargo against Cuba has been lifted many times, including in 1999.

The embargo against Cuba has caused suffering for many Cubans. Many have been denied the basic rights that we take for granted. For example, the right to travel freely. The embargo has prevented Cubans from leaving the country to seek better opportunities elsewhere. This has limited their ability to pursue education and career opportunities.

Furthermore, the embargo has also had a negative impact on the Cuban economy. The lack of access to goods and services has made it difficult for the Cuban people to maintain a decent standard of living.

Rex Krebs is a valuable contributor to Mustang Daily and his articles often provide valuable insight into current events. However, this article contains inaccuracies and oversimplifications. It is important to fact-check and critically evaluate information presented in the media.

The embargo against Cuba should be lifted. Doing so would be an important step towards promoting human rights and freedom for all people. It would also help to foster economic growth and development in Cuba.

I encourage all readers to question the information presented in the media and to seek out multiple sources of information. This will help to ensure that we have a more accurate understanding of the world around us.

Let's work together to promote a better world for all people.
News

Study indicates homosexuality may be in mind

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — An explosive new study says some highly motivated gay people can turn straight.

That conclusion clashes with that of major mental health organizations, which say that sexual orientation is fixed and that so-called reparative therapy may actually be harmful.

Gay rights activists attacked the study, and an academic critic noted that many of the 200 “ex-gays” who participated were referred by religious groups that condemn homosexuality.

Dr. Robert L. Spitzer, a psychiatry professor at Columbia University who led the study, said he cannot estimate what percentage of highly motivated gay people can change their sexual orientation.

But he said the research "shows some people can change from gay to straight, and we ought to acknowledge that.”

He is scheduled to present his findings Wednesday in New Orleans at a meeting of the American Psychiatric Association, and he said he plans to submit his work to a prestigious journal for publication.

The issue has been hotly debated in the scientific community and among religious groups, some of which contend gays can become heterosexual through prayer and counseling.

Major mental health groups say nobody knows what causes a person’s sexual orientation. Theories tracing homosexuality to troubled family dynamics or faulty psychological development have been discredited, the psychiatric association says. The APA says most scientists think sexual orientation probably comes from a complex interaction including biological and environmental factors.

Spitzer spearheaded the APA’s 1973 decision to remove homosexuality from its list of mental disorders. At the time, he said homosexuality does not meet the criteria for a mental disorder, and he called for more research to determine whether some people can change their sexuality.

Spitzer, who said he does not offer reparative therapy and began his study as a skeptic, said the research was paid for out of his department’s funds.

He conducted 45-minute telephone interviews with 200 people, 143 of them men, who claimed they had changed their orientation from gay to heterosexual. The average age of those interviewed was 43.

They answered about 60 questions about their sexual feelings and behavior before and after their efforts to change. Those efforts had begun about 14 years before the interviews for the men and 12 years for the women.

Most said they had used more than one strategy to change their orientation. About half said the most helpful step was work with a mental health professional, most commonly a psychologist. About a third cited a support group, and fewer mentioned such aids as books and mentoring by a heterosexual.

Spitzer concluded that 66 percent of the men and 44 percent of the women had arrived at what he called a good heterosexual identity.

That term was defined as being in a sustained, loving heterosexual relationship within the past year, getting enough satisfaction from the emotional relationship with their partner to rate at least seven on a 10-point scale, having satisfying heterosexual sex at least monthly and never or rarely thinking of someone of the same sex during heterosexual sex.

In addition, 89 percent of men and 95 percent of women said they were not bothered only slightly, or not at all, by unwanted homosexual feelings. Only 11 percent of the men and 17 percent of the women reported a complete absence of homosexual indications, including same-sex attraction.

Psychologist Douglas Haldeman, who is on the clinical faculty of the University of Washington and has published evaluations of reparative therapy, said the study offers no convincing evidence of change.

He said there is no credible scientific evidence that suggests sexual orientation can be changed, “and this study doesn’t prove that either.”

He also said the participants appeared unusually skewed toward religious conservatives and people treated by therapists “with a strong anti-gay bias.” Such participants might think that being homosexual is bad and feel pressure to claim they were no longer gay, Haldeman said.

Some 41 percent of the sample had been referred to Spitzer by “ex-gay ministries” that offer programs to gay people who seek to change, organizations Haldeman said are chiefly sponsored by religious conservatives.

An additional 23 percent were referred by the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality, which says most of its members consider homosexuality a developmental disorder.

David Elliott, a spokesman for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force in Washington, also criticized the study because of the main sources of its participants.

“The sample is terrible, totally tainted, totally unrepresentative of the gay and lesbian community,” he said.

Spitzer said he has no proof that participants were honest. But he said several findings suggest their statements cannot be dismissed out of hand.

For example, he said, participants had no trouble offering detailed descriptions of their behavior before or after the change they reported indicates “it is not a simple made-up story.”

Jackson asked child’s mother for secrecy

CHICAGO (AP) — The Rev. Jesse Jackson acknowledged Tuesday that he tried to get the mother of his out-of-wedlock daughter to sign a confidentiality agreement, saying it was to protect the toddler.

He commented one day after the woman, former Jackson aide Karin Stanford, said she rejected a request by Jackson’s lawyers to sign the agreement.

She said no money was offered as an enticement.

“I really need to clear up some misinformation about me,” said Stanford, a 39-year-old author and former professor. “I’m not a blackmailer. I’ve never received any payoff money.”

Jackson’s spokesman said no money was offered. On Tuesday, Jackson bristled at questions about Stanford.

“The law is that the agreement for the sake of the child and the parent should be comfortable,” Jackson said after a reporter pressed him. “Really, that is a matter of law. What we’ve sought to do throughout is be honorable and responsible with dignity and privacy, and we will maintain that.”

Stanford has said Jackson seeking to formalize a child-support agreement. Jackson has been sending $3,000 a month to support his daughter, who turns 2 this month.
SPELLING continued from page 8

not and give up. I knew I had to do what I could do.

Last season, sophomore Natalie Carrillo started every game as the Mustangs' shortstop.

Junior second baseman Kasey Poet said it didn't matter that Sparrey was a freshman because she was able to do her job.

"She's awesome because she can hold her own," Poet said. "It doesn't happen very often that a freshman does that, but she is one of those players because she is so good."

Sparrey started every game as the shortstop because she was able to do her job.

"That made it easy to coach her because she had a lot of knowledge coming into the program," Boyer said.

Sparrey's hitting took a small downhill run toward the end of the season, but she said she picked up her defense more to make up for her lack of hits.

"I knew I had to do what I could do," Sparrey said.

Playing softball with the Mustangs has been one of her best experiences and she said the team members are all good friends. She said they are all capable of playing hard at any time.

"Everybody is there and we are all supportive of each other," she said.

Boyer said that Sparrey is easy to coach because she came in with a very high skill level.

"She knows the game well," she said. "That made it easy to coach her because she had a lot of knowledge coming into the program."

Sparrey attended Cal Poly so she could stay in California, by the beach and be away from her home town, but not too far away. She also said she liked the team when she went on her recruiting trip last year as a senior at Valleyjo High School.

Sparrey's parents, Bill and Cherie, followed the team around the country so they wouldn't miss any of their daughter's games. She said she has a strong bond with her parents.

Sparrey said that next year will be a better season for her because she will be more experienced and know what to expect.

"It's especially tough for a guy like me, who doesn't have the stature, like 6-foot-2, 215 (pounds)," Young said. "I'm a little guy who relies more on my quickness and shiftiness."

While Young waits to hear from the 49ers or any other team that takes an interest, it's understandable that he is disgruntled with the system and with the lack of connections that Cal Poly afforded him.

"I began to lose a little bit of appreciation for college ball when you think about how much politics gets played in who goes where and who gets drafted," said Young, who transferred from Pacific after they canceled their program when he was a freshman. "If you're not from a big-time school, like Ohio State or Michigan or somewhere like that, it's difficult to get yourself out there, even if you have the stats."

The main problem that scouts keep coming back to is that Young is the school where he put up those record-shattering statistics was Cal Poly, a school that does not regularly produce professional football players.

"I'm happy about where I've been," Young said. "Situations happen, as they will. I just look at everything on the positive side and how it's benefited me. I've become a more well-rounded person."

Young's dream has not yet been touched and his future is still uncertain, but he said his self-imposed deadline for moving on with his life is about now. He could join his close friend Warren, who plays for the Calgary Stampedes in the Canadian Football League, but Young figures it is more important to get his life together.

"My theory is to be big-time or nothing," Young said. "Get your life together and do something else. I'm not one of those guys that's going to try and hold on to a dream. I've realized what my athletic ability is compared to some other people and maybe that's enough for me to know."
Young still working toward NFL

By Joe Nolan
SPECIAL TO MUSTANG DAILY

His too short.
His too small to be an every-down back.
He didn't play very good competition
as a Division I-AA player.
Despite all the knock-off NFL scouts
have come against him and the
fact that he hasn't played in more than
a year, Cal Poly career leader
Craig Young is still working for a spot
in the NFL.

"Even if they don't believe in my
ability, I personally believe in my own
ability," said Young, who is 5-foot-9,
197 pounds. "I've seen people that
come from these so-called schools
with their so-called great athletes and
then put their pants on one leg at
a time, just like I do. In some cases, I
think I put some on a little better."

It was still the 20th century, 1999,
to be exact, when Young was putting
on his Cal Poly uniform and striking
to the goal line for the Mustangs.

After setting the school rushing record
a year after his backfield mate
Antonio Wanam accomplished the
same feat, Young was a likely
candidate to be a late-round draft choice.

Although he played a different
position, his draft status was very
similar to that of his old teammate, wide
receiver Kamal Loud, who was a
Buffalo Bills seventh-round pick in
April 1999. They both formed
road-runner-like speed and the ability
to break the big play, but neither of them
hit the ideal prospect mark.

There was also the standard question that
surrounds small-school star athletes every
year. Would he have done as well
against the best teams in the conference?

"If there's a LOAN-and-rather
from Cal Poly and a 1,000-yard runner from
Michigan, the Michigan guy gets a lot
more respect because of the quality of
opponents and not necessarily because of
his ability," Young said.

But in the spring of his junior year,
Young set up a workout for scouts in
Mustang Stadium, a standard practice
for small-school players. However,
Young blew out his hamstring a week
before while running track and was
unable to show off his skills. A year
later, he was not selected in the NFL
draft.

For the last year, Young, who
graduated with a degree in business,
has kept his future on hold. He has maintai­
ned a rigorous workout schedule and
last year worked at a graduate
assistant coach for the Mustangs.

While coaching, he would talk to scouts,
and Young said they were typi­
cally impressed.

"They would ask me to see my tape,
see YOUNG, page 7

Sparrey caps end of
successful rookie year

By Megan Munday
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The softball team calls her "Stumpy" because she has little
hands. In fact, her hands are so little,
her fingers are as long as junior pitch­
ner Erin Blankenbeker's toes.

Freshman shortstop Roni Sparrey
started every game this season for the
Cal Poly softball team, and was the
only freshman this year to do so.

"It's kind of cool to be able to have
that chance to come in and start as a
freshman," she said. "I have a lot of
confidence in myself, and I used that
through the season."

Sparrey was recruited by head
coch Lora Boyle while playing for
the San Francisco 49ers last month and is awaiting word from the
team.

Craig Young, Cal Poly's all-time leading rusher, had a tryout with the
San Francisco 49ers last month and is awaiting word from the
team.

Craig Young, Cal Poly's all-time leading rusher, had a tryout with the
San Francisco 49ers last month and is awaiting word from the
team.

COURTESY PHOTO/AARON LAMBERT/MUSTANG DAILY

see SPARREY, page 7

Roni Sparrey was a leader for the Mustangs on the field and at the plate.
see SCOTT, page 7