Tuition would rise $120 for 2004-05 if both referendums pass. When a similar vote to increase college-based fees took place in 2002, the measures overwhelmingly passed. These fees returned to each student’s respective college to help pay faculty, classes and equipment. It is a different story this time around.

The fee, which is currently Referendum, page 3

Students to vote on fee increases

If both measures pass, tuition will be raised $120; funds will benefit Health Center, athletics department.

Health Center offers alcohol screening

Carrie McGourty MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal Poly Health Center is endorsing National Alcohol Screening Day on campus from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today to help students recognize and treat alcohol abuse.

Nationally, nearly 1,400 student deaths result from alcohol-related incidents each year. Helping students recognize and treat alcohol abuse remains an imminent responsibility for the Health Center, said Bob Negranti, projects coordinator for the Health Center.

“Even if they don’t perceive it to be a problem, it’s an outlet for them to get information,” doctoral intern for Health and Counseling Services Dan Fusselier said. “It’s rare for today’s culture that someone hasn’t been impacted by substance abuse.”

The event, which is recognized see Screening, page 2

Drinking habits of students analyzed

Ashlee Bodenhamer MUSTANG DAILY

Most Cal Poly students wouldn’t jump off a bridge if their friends were doing it. But would they drink more if they thought their peers drank more? As part of their senior project, 16 business students endeavor to answer this question.

The group will determine, through several hundred surveys, the drinking habits of Cal Poly students. They are nearly certain that students will assume the alcohol consumption of their peers to be much higher than it actually is.

“It has been proven at campuses across the nation that college students grossly overestimate how much the average student drinks,” business senior Lindsey Edwards said.

The project stems from a social-norms marketing principle, which maintains that consumers (or students) behave based on what they perceive the norm to be. Therefore, if the belief among students is that their classmates consume, say, seven drinks per week, as Edwards and business senior Lei-Lani Keelan think is true, students will assume the alcohol consumption of their peers to be much higher than it actually is.

“If we send out the message of ‘Guess what? You think the average Cal Poly student drinks this much, but really it’s a lot lower... it’s going to influence behavior’,” Keelan said.

Once the group has compiled the statistics, they will draft a marketing campaign that mainly tar- see Alcohol, page 2

Latest cuts may target Poly faculty

The current budget proposal by Gov. Schwarzenegger will equate a $9.3 million budget shortfall for the university.

Leah Mori MUSTANG DAILY

California’s latest proposed budget cuts will have a negative impact on staffing at Cal Poly, as well as other California state universities.

Cal Poly Vice President for Administration and Finance Larry Kelley and Interim Provost Robert Detweiler discuss the university’s budget shortfall as well as staffing cuts in a meeting Tuesday afternoon.

With the current budget proposal laid out by California legislators and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Cal Poly will have a budget shortfall for the next fiscal year of $9.3 million.

Due to the large deficit, the university plans to cut approximately 6 percent in the university’s instructional and fund-raising units and at least 7 percent in operating divisions.

About 80 percent of the university’s operating budget is spent on personnel, see Budget, page 2

Buchanan joins campus conservative lecture series

Dan Watson MUSTANG DAILY

Cars aren’t without wheels; zoos aren’t without animals and Angela Bay Buchanan isn’t without an opinion.

Buchanan expressed passion in a number of opinions Tuesday night when her racy lecture in the Business Silo auditorium ended in a fervent call to students encouraging debate in order to build leadership.

It was one of many things the President of the American Cane, an educational foundation dedicated to advancing traditional conservative issues, and sister of Pat Buchanan had to say in a continu- see Buchanan, page 2
sive. Buchanan has also served as campaign chairman for her broth­
er's presidential campaigns, is a reg­
lar political analyst for CNN's
"Inside Politics" and has co ­
terviewed." Buchanan continued her cri­
to her opinion on the negative
aspects of the feminist movement,
primarily pro-choice abortion
rights. Buchanan emphasized her belief
that abortion has two victims, the
child and the woman.
"It's not something you can
wake up and change your mind," Buchanan said on the affects that
abortions can have on women who
regret them later on in life.
Breast cancer was a danger, she
cited, resulting from abortion.
During the question-and-answer
portion, Buchanan was asked about
subjects ranging from Islamic
extremists to her opposition of free
trade and belief in the benefits of
protectionism.
"We believe in decent wages," said
Buchanan about protecting
American jobs and avoiding
exploitation. "Tariffs equal it." Buchanan jumped from eco-
nomics to what sparked the most
opposition in the lecture, the topic
of homosexual marriages and gov­
ernment.
Buchanan expressed her belief
that gay marriages are wrong.
Though she believed that people
have the choice to do what they
want, she stated that they shouldn't
try to change the intrinsic defini­
tion of the word "marriage" as
defined by the government.
"We're not trying to wag our finger at you and tell you not to
drink ... because then a lot of us
would be hypocrites," Keelan said.
"All we want to do is present cor-
rect information, and have that
influence your behavior," she said.
"We are a real university. People live, thrive and grow here, and athletics is a big part of that process." - ALISON CONE

interim athletics director

The entire voting process will be reviewed after the fact, just as is done after each election, Anderson said.

Until then, each department's future depends on the decision of the students.
State Briefs

SAN RAFAEL — Marin County officials will be using decoys to catch bartenders and liquor store operators who sell alcohol to minors. County officials, concerned that past strategies to slow alcohol use by minors have fallen short, on Tuesday announced a tougher plan that calls for conducting stings using decoys to catch bartenders and liquor store operators in appealing to local city councils to amend their zoning laws to prevent new alcohol outlets from opening. The steps are part of a five-year plan announced Tuesday to curb the abuse of alcohol and drugs in the county.

MARYSVILLE — Peach growers in Sutter and Yuba counties are hoping the U.S. Department of Agriculture will pay for a feasibility study on bringing a new peach-processing facility to the area. Three of the area’s processing plants have closed down since 2000, leaving growers struggling to find homes for their peaches.

“It will make this region less dependent on someone else to process our peaches,” Tim Johnson, executive director of the Yuba-Sutter Economic Development Corp., said of a new facility.

Last year, growers had a glut of 78,000 tons of peaches and uprooted trees and dropped green fruit to the ground to eliminate another 50,000 tons of peaches as the industry tried to expand its markets.

SANTA BARBARA — The county might have to pay the $400,000 cost of an upcoming study on a Santa Barbara County project.

The cost wasn’t unexpected and the state is bearing up to loan the county the money, but the amount didn’t appear until the latest revision of the governor’s budget. The split proposal, which must first be studied by a five-member commission, likely will be up for voter approval in the March 2006 election.

Related Activities Fee that we pay each quarter.

— Associated Press

National Briefs

HOUSTON — The wife of former Enron Corp. finance chief Andrew Fastow has withdrawn a plea agreement Wednesday after a federal judge balked at a sentencing deal that would have sent her to prison for five months and confined her at home for another five months.

The proposed sentence for Lea Fastow was part of a larger plea deal involving her husband’s criminal case, although prosecutors insisted her decision won’t affect his plea and cooperation agreement under which he faces up to 10 years in prison on two counts of fraud.

SAINT LAKE CITY — A woman charged with murder for allegedly delaying a Caesarean section that could have saved one of her twins pleaded guilty Wednesday to child endangerment in a deal with prosecutors.

Prosecutors said they will ask for no more than five years in prison for Melisa Ann Rowland, 28. They said they dropped the murder charge based on her “mental health history.”

WASHINGTON — An audiotope from a shadowy terrorist linked to al Qaeda is “probably authentic,” marking the first time Abu Musab al-Zarqawi has made a taped public statement, a CIA official said Wednesday.

The 33-minute audiotope, calling for Iraq’s Sunni Muslims to fight Shiites and claiming responsibility for high-profile attacks there, appeared Tuesday on a Web site known for distributing militant Islamic messages. The speaker introduced himself as al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian believed to be running a terrorist network that stretches from Europe to Central Asia.

NEW YORK — Thirteen same-sex couples sued the state of New York on Wednesday, seeking to have the state law that denies gay and lesbian couples the right to marry declared unconstitutional.

Plaintiffs include state Assembly member Daniel O’Donnell and his partner of 23 years, John Barra. The NYCLU, the American Civil Liberties Union and a private law firm are representing the plaintiffs.

The lawsuit charges that state health regulations defining marriage as being only between a man and a woman violates the state constitution’s equal protection, privacy and due process provisions.

— Associated Press

World Briefs

FALLUJAH, Iraq — U.S. Marines in the third day of a battle to pacify this Sunni Muslim city fired a rocket and dropped a 500-pound, laser-guided bomb on a mosque compound Wednesday, and witnesses said as many as 40 people were killed. Shiites-inspired violence spread to key cities in Iraq.

The fighting in Fallujah and neighboring Ramadi has killed 15 Marines since Monday and was part of an intensified uprising involving both Sunni and Shiites that now sprawls from Kirkuk in the north to the far south.

Marines waged a six-hour battle around the mosque with the militias holed up inside before a Cobra helicopter fired a Hellfire missile at the base of its minaret, and an F-16 dropped the bomb, said Marine Lt. Col. Brennan Byrne.

PIEDRAS NEGRAS, Mexico — Skies once filled with threatening clouds cleared and the cleanup of the destruction caused by flooding that killed 34 people got under way in this town on the U.S. border.

Even as hundreds began picking up the pieces of their damaged homes and water-logged belongings, many of their neighbors were burying loved ones.

Bulldozers rumbled through the streets, and soldiers and city employees tossed debris into garbage trucks, doing their best to pick through the rubble of toppled cars, demolished buildings and stripped furniture.

Torrential rain beginning Sunday night caused the Escondido River to overflow, triggering flash flooding that damaged 600 homes, destroyed 150 others and left 2,200 people in makeshift shelters.

HAMBURG, Germany — The only person convicted in the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks was freed by a court Wednesday, pending the outcome of his retrial on charges of aiding the Hamburg al Qaeda cell that included three of the suicide pilots.

Mounir el Motassadeq, 30, smiled broadly as he left the Hamburg prison where he had been held since November 2001. He walked past reporters without comment before his friends and lawyer whisked him away in a car to an unknown location.

Lawyer Josef Graessle-Muenscher said el Motassadeq was returning to his wife and two children in Hamburg.

— Associated Press

Another Fee Increase?

Why you should consider Voting no on the ASI Athletic Scholarship Fee increase

- Students have had insufficient time to make an informed decision—the fee referendum was not even announced until dead week last quarter.

- The University has not told students how much they pay already to support athletics—in addition to the $4.15 ASI fee, there is also $46.20 for athletics from the Instructionally Related Activities Fee that we pay each quarter.

- As student fees rise, the burden of paying for education shifts from the state to the students. It is the CSU’s mission to provide a quality and affordable education to California's students.

- Higher fees limit access to education for underprivileged groups. As fees creep skyward, we can only expect less diversity at Cal Poly.

Sponsored by The Progressive Student Alliance and the Cal Poly Democratic Club
CSU Chico denies campus policy

CHICO, Calif. — After a student-driven committee took more than a year to prepare it, members of the California State University, Chico Academic Senate took only an hour to shred a proposed campus policy on academic integrity.

The proposal was the result of a student-led effort to do something to stem the flood of cheating and plagiarism that has swept the campus.

"The students came to us saying, 'The quality of our degrees is being degraded, and we know they are being degraded because we have observed a system of cheating in our classes, and the faculty is doing nothing,'" said Scott McNall, provost and university vice president for Academic Affairs.

But members of the Academic Senate Tuesday took issue with some of the proposal's stipulations, especially its definition of cheating: "using or attempting to use unauthorized study aids, information or materials in any academic exercise. This also includes either helping or attempting to help another person cheat."

Member Marc Siegall, a professor in management, asked if one of his students created a set of flash cards, would those be an "unauthorized" study aid?

Another professor criticized the proposal because it included no mechanism for students to turn in cheaters they discover.

The proposal was handed back to the committee, which is composed of both students and faculty. For the past year the panel has studied how other schools promote academic honesty on their campuses.

MURDER

Student charged with murder of baby

California State University, Chico student charged with murder and felony assault of newborn baby

OROVILLE, Calif. (AP) — A 20-year-old college student has been charged with murder in connection to the death of her newborn baby, prosecutors said.

Evidence indicates that Grinsell hid her pregnancy from her family and friends, Ramsey said, and an autopsy shows that Grinsell gave birth Thursday to a full-term, healthy baby boy in her room at the Kappa Sigma Delta sorority house in Chico.

Grinsell, who cried during the hearing, allegedly strangled the infant and placed him inside a can wrapped in a plastic shopping bag. The body was subsequently found by a sorority sister, Ramsey said.

Chico defense attorney Dennis Latimer was retained to help represent Grinsell. He said the student was "very sad and emotionally upset."

Latimer said he doesn't believe Grinsell was aware of a state law that allows mothers to leave newborns at a local hospital without questions or fear of prosecution.

Ramsey said authorities were given a first name of the baby's father and that additional investigation was under way to try to determine whether "he even was aware of this pregnancy."

Grinsell allegedly gave birth to the baby while a sorority function attended by 30 to 40 people went on downstairs, Ramsey said.

Gina Rose Grinsell appeared in Butte County Superior Court Tuesday. She was charged with murder in the death of the baby and felony assault on a child causing death.

Student Discounts available at both theatres

Let's Buck Tobacco!

Spit tobacco is addictive, deadly and disgusting. The spit tobacco industry uses rodeo to promote their product that kills when used as directed. To market their product to young adults, they sponsor the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NRA), doling out money to college rodeo competitors, including the Cal Poly Rodeo.

We think that's a bunch of spit!

Please email your opposition to spit tobacco sponsorship of our Cal Poly Rodeo to bucktobaccoop@hotmail.com. Tell the rodeo organizers to say 'NO' to tobacco money. We'll forward your emails to the rodeo organizers to ensure that your voice is heard loud and clear. With your help, we can Buck Tobacco Sponsorship.

Let your voice be heard!

League Against Spit Sponsorship at Our Rodeos (LASSO) Paid for with funds from the Public Health Institute/Tobacco Free Events Projects.
Democrats block malpractice bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans lost a third attempt to curb medical malpractice lawsuits Wednesday but said they will keep forcing votes on an issue they blame for rising health care costs.

On a 49-48 vote, GOP leaders fell 3 votes short of the 60 needed to force the Senate to consider their bill to cap pain-and-suffering damages that juries can award in malpractice suits against obstetricians and emergency room doctors.

Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., says the GOP won't give up on getting medical malpractice legislation wanted by physicians and insurance companies through the Senate this election year.

"We are going to keep bringing this issue back because the crisis is getting worse," he said.

Republicans say their measure could help reduce unnecessary lawsuits and higher malpractice premiums that make it harder for doctors to practice. They tried last year and again earlier this year to force votes on similar measures Init Senate this election year.

"I've never seen such special-interest legislation," said Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt. "Instead of going about doing the people's business, we seem to be going about the political action committees' business, and that's why, of course, nothing is getting done."

The American Medical Association and the American Insurers Association, longtime GOP allies, say frivolous lawsuits drive up insurance premiums for doctors. In several states, obstetricians have blamed higher insurance bills for forcing them to stop delivering babies.

The Association of Trial Lawyers of America, allied to many Democrats, says insurers' poor returns on investments are more responsible for premium increases. The group also argues that state-imposed caps on damages do not lead to drops in premiums.

A group opposing the bill filed a complaint against Frist, a heart surgeon, for participating in the debate since his family founded the HCA hospital chain and its subsidiary malpractice insurer, Health Care Indemnity.

The legislation, "would directly benefit his family's hospital chain and insurance company and increase his personal fortune," the Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights said in a letter to the Senate Ethics Committee.

Energy Department requires law change for nuclear cleanup

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Energy Department is threatening to withhold $350 million that was to pay for disposal of some of the most dangerous radioactive waste from Cold War bomb-making. First, it says, Congress and state officials must accept a cleanup plan already rejected in court.

The issue has pitted a half dozen states against the Bush administration — raising concern that some of the millions of gallons of highly radioactive waste that are supposed to be solidified and buried by the government may in fact, remain in place.

"I will not allow DOE to hold this budget hostage," Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, told the head of the Energy Department cleanup effort at a recent hearing.

On Capitol Hill and in the states facing the cleanup task, critics are accusing the department of trying to force states to accept less stringent cleanup standards to save money and finish the job more quickly. The department argues that some of the waste has a low enough level of radioactivity that it can be covered with cement ground and left in place.

Last year a federal judge in Idaho said that the Energy Department's plan to reclassify some of the waste in the tanks as "low level" and not remove it for burial violated the law.

He said Congress specifically said all waste, the byproduct of plutonium production during the Cold War, has to be treated as "high-level" waste and must be buried in a central facility, probably the planned site at Yucca Mountain in Nevada.

The cleanup sites in Washington, Idaho, South Carolina and New York is expected to cost tens of billions of dollars and take decades.

But the head of the cleanup program, Jessie Roberson, told congressional committees recently that the department has no plans to spend the $350 million earmarked for next fiscal year — and probably will not even ask Congress for it — unless it is allowed to reclassify some of the radioactive waste to make disposal easier and cheaper.

Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., reminded her that some people have characterized the department's strategy as "blackmail" in an attempt to get the federal nuclear waste law changed and circumvent the federal court ruling. The Energy Department is appealing that court case, but would prefer Congress change the law.

"They didn't get their way in court, so now they want the law changed," said Murray in an interview. "Everyone is for accelerated cleanup as long as it's done in a way that protects workers' safety, and we don't cut corners."
Two separate proposals

1. Increase Health Services Fee
2. Increase ASI Fee supporting student athlete scholarships

have been approved for a student referendum on April 14th and 15th

The following Open Forums have been scheduled where students can ask questions and learn more about these two important proposals:

- **Monday March 15, 8:30-9:30 p.m.**
- **Tuesday March 30, 8:00-9:00 p.m.**
- **Wednesday April 7, 3:00-4:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday April 8, 3:30-4:30 p.m.**

**Location:** UU 220

Additional information including an objective statement, financial analysis, pro and con statements, sample ballots, and polling times and locations are now available on the web, by clicking on the link located on Cal Poly's home page (www.calpoly.edu).

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Three student publications that put out spoof this year — those at Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Scranton and the University of Nebraska at Omaha — know all too well. Carnegie-Mellon's paper, The Tartan, voluntarily shut down for the rest of the semester after publishing a racially charged cartoon in its 12-page spoof edition. The cartoonist lost his job, and the editor in chief — who blamed fatigue for clouding editors' judgment — is taking a leave of absence until fall.

About 75 readers protested Carnegie-Mellon's The Tartan's depiction of female genitalia and poems about rape and mutilation. The school is forming a committee to investigate.

University of Scranton official Fred Engle said his school, which was written by Ono Udsin, was not imitating The Gateway's approach, but rather creating a spoof. The scranton edition titled The Ghettoow. One story, with the headline "Gateway cameras stolen during weekend," was written by Ono Uuds in.

Another fake byline: Mindjo Bideng. The news editor, who is black, told The Gateway that she thought the content was representative of pop culture in general. The NAACP's Urban League and many community members filed complaints with Nebraska's chancellor. Nancy Belch told The Gateway: "I find it (The Ghettoow) offensive, and we will not tolerate it on this campus."

CHICAGO — A woman in Mexico cut open her own womb with a knife and delivered a healthy baby in her rural home when problems developed during labor, doctors reported in a medical journal.

The woman and her son, her ninth child, both survived despite an eight-hour car ride to the nearest hospital and a wait of several hours once she got there, said co-author Dr. Rafael Valle, a Northwestern University obstetrician who learned about the case from a colleague.

"She was asked, 'Did you do that? Do you know you could have died?' She said, 'Yes, but I wanted to save my baby,'" Valle said Wednesday. He added: "This is heroic to me."

The authors of the report said there are other cases of women attempting the same thing, but none they could find in which the mother and child survived.

The woman, 40, lived in a dirt-floor house with no electricity or running water and had previously lost a baby during childbirth, the authors said.

She was done when she went into labor, and fearing the same thing would happen it appeared child­birth was not progressing, she decided to perform the crude C-section. She drank three small glasses of hard liquor first to numb the pain, he said.

"Rather than experience fetal death in stem again, she used her skill at slaughtering animals," the report said.

The nurse tucked up the woman's abdomen with an ordinary needle and thread, and the mother and baby were taken to a hospital in the Mexican state of Oaxaca.

In a second call for the president's impeachment, 2000 Green Party presidential nominee accuse Bush of deceiving Americans over war in Iraq.

Maura Kelly
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Independent presidential candidate Ralph Nader called Tuesday for President Bush to be impeached for "deceiving the American people night after night after night" about U.S. involvement in Iraq.

"When you plunge our country into war on a plat­form of fabrications and deceptions, and you bring thousands of American soldiers who are sick, injured or dead, and that war is unconstitutionally authorized to begin with. President Bush's behavior qualifies for the high crimes and misdemeanor impeachable offense at the Constitution," the 2000 Green Party presidential nominee said to applause from about 300 students at Columbia College Chicago.

Nader said President Clinton was impeached for "far less of an offense."

"Lying under oath is not a trivial offense, but it can­not compare with deceiving the American people night after night after night," he said.

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I burned this flag
because it has
ceased to be a
beacon of freedom
and has instead
become a symbol
of oppression and
imperialism

empassioned EXPRESSION

Art and design senior Sabiha Basrai has channeled her disapproval of U.S. foreign policy into an art exhibit at the UU Gallery. STORY BY CARRIE MCGOURTY PHOTO BY NATHAN CASWELL
Artist uses work to take strong stance against U.S. foreign policy

A photo of a burned flag, stars and stripes charred by the flames of an artist’s anger, lingers beneath free verse poetry harshly criticizing the war in Iraq. The piece is small, but the implications are large.

Although the symbol of a burned flag has historically been used to denote America, the artist says it is her love for America and democracy that inspired her to take such a radical stance.

“I hope to inspire people to think about what’s happening in Iraq instead of blindly accepting what’s going on,” said Sabiha Basrai, the art and design senior who created the piece.

The illustration is part of a series of Basrai’s art entitled “Art for the Peace Movement” that will be on display in the University Union Gallery from April 12 through May 4. As part of her senior project, Basrai created 15 pieces that she said she hopes will bring awareness to the impact of U.S. foreign policy on the Middle East.

Her work is very striking, forceful and effective at getting the message across of showing the need for peace and the horrors of war,” said Clayton Whitt, a social sciences senior and co-director with Basrai for the Progressive Student Alliance.

In other illustrations, Basrai portrays young Iraqi children who suffer from leukemia as a result of the depleted uranium weapons used by the United States in the Persian Gulf War.

The source of Basrai’s art is derived from her experience as an activist and the information she received from humanitarian groups stationed in the Middle East, she said. Voices of the Wilderness, a group that brings books and medicine to Iraq, and Iraqbodycount.com provided Basrai with the information and inspiration to document the effects of the United States in other parts of the world.

“I’ve met and worked with activists from Iraq,” Basrai said. “I understood what was happening and I felt compelled to paint portraits.”

Basrai said her Muslim religion also influenced her art. There is a strong connection to Iraq and Islamic religious sites influencing her to stay informed during the 12-year gap between the Persian Gulf War and the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq, she said.

“I feel a religious connection to that country even though I’m not Iraqi,” said Basrai, who grew up in Mountain View. “An equivalent would be Christians visiting Bethlehem; if Bethlehem was being bombed I’m sure Christians would be very interested about what was happening.”

But Basrai said she does not want to bombard the average Cal Poly student with a didactic political message.

Instead, she co m b i n e s graphic design with research and information to convey a critical view of U.S. foreign policy to her peers, she said.

“The visual communication medium is a very powerful tool,” Basrai said. “When students walk away, I hope they think analytically about (the war) and know why they believe what they believe.”

Throughout her artistic career, Basrai has united art with activism to demonstrate her sense of social justice.

She was very involved with “United We Heal,” a student art exhibit that addressed the United States’ handling of post-Sept. 11 Afghanistan. The purpose of the show was to raise awareness and support for the children’s center in Kabul, Afghanistan.

“She is an extremely passionate and talented young woman,” said Susan Carriere, the associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts, who has known and worked with Basrai since she came to Cal Poly in 2000.

“She’s done more already than many others have done in their lifetime.”

During her time at Cal Poly, Basrai has been an active leader in the PSA, organizing protests and designing and distributing information, Whitt said.

Basrai was the recipient of the “Mothers for Peace Scholarship,” an award given to a student who worked for social change.

Basrai interned at Design Action, a design firm in Oakland whose clients are all non-profit or who are trying to achieve “peace or social justice.”

An opening reception for the “Art for the Peace Movement” show will be held April 12 at 7 p.m. in the UU Gallery, located upstairs in the Epicenter. For more information, call (805) 756-6119.

"Be prepared to see something to say," said Michael Miller, an associate professor in the department of art and design. "She’s got something to say.

The pieces of Sabiha Basrai’s “Art for the Peace Movement” exhibit calls attention to the United States’ involvement in other nations’ affairs.

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New artist finds broader fanbase, open minds on tour

Joe Firstman doesn't care if you get his music; he'll play it anyway

Leah Mori
MONDAY DAILY

Fifteen seems to be Joe Firstman's midway, as his debut album "The War of Women," contains 15 tracks and is the same number of relationship claims he has had with women.

"I would definitely say that is a war of women," Firstman said of his relationships. "I chose the name of my record because it's a tongue-in-cheek way to put a heading on the silly games boys and girls play."

Not concerned with following trends, Firstman classifies his album as "old-fashioned throw-back hill-war of women," Firstman said of his leurs anyway today. "I chose the name of his music. These performers remain influential by Elton John, The Beatles, and are important in Firstman's career.

"My music is traditional, real music," Firstman said. "It's not based on style or coolness."

While Firstman says he can play any instrument badly, he plays the piano, guitar and occasionally the drums live in concert. His piano skills come naturally; he had no lessons while growing up, although he believes it could have benefited him in his career today.

"I think anyone with the drive to better themselves as a musician should have picked an instrument up at a young age," Firstman said.

Firstman began performing at an early age, when he and his brothers put shows on for their father and their friends. The first time he stepped on a real stage at a big concert, having already been accustomed to performing in various barrooms and clubs, he was not overwhelmed at all.

"It's like work," Firstman said. "I'm working to sell out Shea Stadium. I feel like I have more work to be done."

Touring with Michelle Branch has been strange for Firstman because of a difference in demographics. He said he feels his music is a little more mature than Branch's but says crowds have been good to him and his band.

Firstman is unfazed about being a virtually unknown artist playing on such a large stage; the Virgin College Megatour will stop in 15 major markets across the country in two months.

"You just go out and play the best you can. As long as another day in the office like it would be for anyone. Hopefully (my music) will touch someone. If not, they're too stupid to understand it."

The greatest success in Firstman's life thus far has been putting his songs together and finishing the record.

"It's a record that anyone in any part of the world can pick up and buy," Firstman said.

Firstman is proud of his accomplishments so far, having traveled to Los Angeles from his North Carolina home at the age of 25 in order to pursue his music career and make a name for himself.

When he arrived in Los Angeles, he explained, "I had to struggle, hustle, cheat and steal to make it happen."

His efforts have paid off, as the 24-year-old went from playing in barrooms and clubs to being named Singer-Songwriter of the Year at the Los Angeles Music Awards in 2001 and signing a record deal with Atlantic Records in 2002. He premiered with his "Wires Take" EP, which was released in March 2003, and in August 2003 released "The War of Women."

He has opened for Sheryl Crow and played at Radio City Music Hall in New York. He also has collaborated with songwriter Bernie Taupin, writing two songs, including "Thin Cars and Tear Drops," which was written for an upcoming Willie Nelson album.

Firstman has more goals for the future. "Sometimes goals are lofty," he said. "I just work my ass off and let the road take me where it's going to take me."

Firstman will make his appearance at Radio City Music Hall on April 9. The concert begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are $25 and are available through Valtiis.

Tattoo clothing: Now getting ink done doesn't have to hurt

Doris Dadayan
THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE (COLUMBIA COLLEGE)

CHICAGO — Yeah, the tough guys in Hollywood are hard-core and all — with their wounds, scars, burns and bruises from some major kick-assing scenes — but when it comes to suffering for their art in the form of tattoos, it's a different story.

Christen Timely, the makeup and tattoo artist for stars such as Vin Diesel, Brad Pitt, Josh Hartnett and Jim Caviezel, has bridged a historic, cultural tradition with the effects of modern style, creating a look that has become more popular today than any other time in history.

"When you're doing the actor's tattoo, it's one thing to have the time to apply tattoos, but it's another thing to do three other people's tattoos who are stunner, body doubles or stand-ins," Timely said. "And from there, other makeup artists started inquiring more about those kinds of tattoos for their actors as a way of keeping continuity."

To test out reactions of the clothing line, Timely and his co-workers wore the clothing on "Dawson's Creek" and other places, and the idea turned out to be just what the public wanted.

"We just got a real positive feedback," Timely said. "We had lots of people just walking up saying, 'I wish I could find something like that, where did you get it. I'd love to get one for my friend or for love or have one.'"

The material that the artwork is printed on is a four-way stretch, polyester/spandex and is stronger than spandex but has similar sheerness.

The shirts come in five designs for men and women. "(Tribal), which is "a modern interpretation of pat tribal tattooing," "Tribal 92," a more colorful, pop-culture-inspired design and "Japanese," a shirt that "embodies designs of dragons representing courage which were emblazoned across the most noble."

The company's newest and most colorful addition, "Full Print," "embraces traditional Japanese chest plates."

The shirts are made to be worn without underwear, or with a bladder or "tattoo pants."

The sheer-material shirts are $60 and come in black, white and ashphalt. The material of the feedback has been positive, Timely recognizes that there are those who aren't big fans of the tattoo shirts.

"When it comes to true tattoo individuals, there's a certain amount of skin that (Sleeves Original Tattoo Clothing) gets for doing what we do, because the real commingling believes in the commitment of the tattoo and the meaning behind it," Timely said.

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Now that Wal-Mart has dominated North and South America, it is moving toward taking over the rest of the world. Of 3,530 stores in the United States and sales of nearly $259 billion last year, weren't enough, Wal-Mart has been trying its hand in the global economy.

Wal-Mart has been ranked No. 1 three years in a row in the Fortune 500 list, Fortune Magazine's annual ranking of America's largest companies. If it were in own economy Wal-Mart stores would rank 30th in the world. Not all cultures are in as much of a rush as the United States to get as much done as possible in as small amount of time.

"In Mexico there are already 640 stores running productively. But your outrageous cuts to the Mustang Express budget are over the top. Claims of who should vote are over the top. I'm not a feminist, nor am I a homosexual, but I respect the rights of those who are. The fact that you seem to want to generalize all homosexuals based on the "Queer Eye" stereotype is merely an attempt to differentiate themselves, rather than a desire to know someone else better."


**Overworking obscenity**

**Commentary**

I was watching an NBA pre-game show on ESPN the other day when an unusual sight happened. During an interview, a coach expressed his opinion that sports journalists should not quote the term "balls" to identify himself or herself. The comment wasn't all that surprising. What struck me was that ESPN bleeped out the word "balls" during a basketball pre-game show. They censored the word "balls" during a ball game.

It is now official: The obscenity police have gone too far.

Oh, sure. Censorship absurdity was rampant in the past. I can remember ages when MTV bleeped out the word "poop." But MTV, despite its branding, has never had a backbone — or balls, if you will — to confront this issue of self-censorship. In today's age of corporate thinking, what the network's broadcast president, Tom Bergeron, said in a letter to Congress last week read remarkably similar to, say, a source if the source "doesn't have enough self in print."

In the New York Times' February 14 story, Bergeron ruled that Bono's use of the F-word was technically decent since he was using it as an "adjective." But, according to the case, the FCC would have to prove it was an adjective, not an expletive. During an interview, a coach expressed his opinion that sports journalists should not quote the term "balls" to identify himself or herself.

We should learn two lessons from this matter. First, human beings lose to scarecetter than mutually discuss what the word "balls" is doing during a ball game.

The second lesson we should learn is that we need more people on the floor of Congress to address these matters.

Lies and contradictions have reversed their decision after it received nearly 250,000 comments. It wasn't enough for Congress, so it decided to ignore what Bergeron had said. And for all its efforts, right or wrong, the fanfare over sex appears to be worth something. Not all of us are stumpy virgins. Most virgins attribute their chastity to religion. While not an expertise topic, I think it's something to do with the eternal damnation of the soul and boiling forever in the fires of hell. That, or something to do with Jesus.

Save the music by sharing it

**Commentary**

Mistrust of most capitalistic enterprises was the argument behind the op-ed columns of college newspapers everywhere, so why stop there? Lirs, and contradictions have pushed many people to take the proscriptor dungeon-disable toward trees, or trees if they think it doesn't even make dollars.

Music follows a similar course, flowing into people's minds and creating new ideas and feelings many of which bear no resemblance to the original ideas behind them. The free downloading of music has become the scapegoat of a failing music industry populated by people who listen to music while hearing only the sound of cash registers.

In the early days music sharing was illegal. With the dawn of the Web, copyright holders realized that their business was free for the taking. More and more people are using music sharing. Record companies claim that people circumvent paying their royalties by downloading them for free, yet Harvard's extensive study concluded that it would take 5,000 downloads to equal the loss of one CD purchase. This may imply that many people are hearing music that would not normally have made it to them. It definitely implies that the blame does not rest on file-sharing for the failing profits of the music industry. Harvard's College students ran for the hills, and for a couple of days, not even a tumbleweed bounced its way through the streets of Kazaa. This is the way the world ends. If Americans believe the way they're taught and run for loopholes from copyright holders, the music industry will be back on its feet.

Harvard has been getting a lot of attention recently for its study on music sharing. Record companies claim that people circumvent paying their royalties by downloading them for free, yet Harvard's extensive study concluded that it would take 5,000 downloads to equal the loss of one CD purchase. This may imply that many people are hearing music that would not normally have made it to them. It definitely implies that the blame does not rest on file-sharing for the failing profits of the music industry.

James Whitaker is a business senior and Mustang Daily columnist. He can be e-mailed at jwhitaker@yahoo.com.

**Virginity: To sex or not to sex?**

**Commentary**

Unlike writing a weekly column for this fine publication, it doesn't take a towering genius to know that our society is obsessed with all things sex.

Society is fluxed with sex—sexual norms, boundaries and understandings. This is the place where Janet Jackson's saggy flapjack causes a national uproar, where Christina Aguilera feels the need to show those four bony boots of candy just to stay in the game. In her defense, the Peruvian Honda pilot has been known to take on four minutes of night vision hardcore. Flip to MTV, and college students the world over are inundated with images of Tri-strobe boning her rommates and spring breakers grinding rakishly toless music. Magazines from Maxim to Esquire are creating a virtual image to convince us that certain brands of beer, tennis shoes or suntan lotion will transform us from normal people into raging sexual carnivores, immovably attached to the act of propping, fucking, and pulling like a pro.

And for all its efforts, right or wrong, the fanfare over sex seems to be working. Sex is everywhere. It's on our newspapers, our movies, our music and in our colleges. It's even in Mustang Daily. I don't see why so many letters need to be blanked and phrases that are always punished.

What started all of this? Well, it's mostly due to the amount of bad language and the source "doesn't have enough self in print."

Lies and contradictions have reversed their decision after it received nearly 250,000 comments. It wasn't enough for Congress, so it decided to ignore what Bergeron had said. And for all its efforts, right or wrong, the fanfare over sex appears to be worth something. Not all of us are stumpy virgins. Most virgins attribute their chastity to religion. While not an expertise topic, I think it's something to do with the eternal damnation of the soul and boiling forever in the fires of hell. That, or something to do with Jesus.

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James Whitaker is a business senior and Mustang Daily columnist. He can be e-mailed at jswhitaker@yahoo.com.
Blurry line between campaigning and governing for Bush

Nancy Benac
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Treasury Department analyzes John Kerry's tax proposals and the numbers quickly find their way to the Republican National Committee. The Health and Human Services Department spends millions on ads promoting President Bush's prescription drug plan. The House Resources Committee posts a diatribe against Kerry's "absurd" energy ideas on its Web site.

Some critics say the president is going so far beyond his predecessors in using taxpayer resources to promote his re-election. And House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., regularly uses his daily chat with reporters to critique "John Kerry & Co."

"We've never seen a political operation like this White House does, and that includes the maximum use of government resources," said Allan Lichtman, a presidential scholar at American University. "We've never seen a political operation like this White House does, and that includes the maximum use of government resources."

Bush is flying Air Force One to battleground states at a clip that eclipses any incumbent president "would be crying foul," said Kerry campaign spokeswoman Stephanie Cutter, adding that the administration has "crossed the line" and gone beyond what is acceptable.

"This is the most say-anything, do-anything-to-get-re-elected administration in history," said Kerry campaign chairman, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, Richard Darke, the former Bush administration official who criticized the president's terrorism policies. And House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., regularly uses his daily chat with reporters to critique "John Kerry & Co."

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"We've never seen a political operation like this White House does, and that includes the maximum use of government resources."

Some Democrats, predictably, are off in areas that are way over the line to attack Kerry on an official congressional Web site. Other Democrat tried to get the Medicare prescription drug ads yanked from TV and asked the General Accounting Office to examine whether that was proper use of taxpayer dollars.

Doug Sounik, who was White House political director during Clinton's re-election campaign, says any incumbent president "would be crying foul" to take advantage of all opportunities of incumbency to get re-elected, but these guys have gone off in areas that are way over the line and I can't imagine that the American public will fill for any of it. Some Democrats, predictably, are off in areas that are way over the line and I can't imagine that the American public will fill for any of it.
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**The Juice is Loose**

**Column**

Dan Watson

**MUSTANG DAILY**

It is a subject that the media is devoicing entering the 2004 Major League Baseball season. It has been a bit friendlier toward Barry Bonds. Bonds always came through for me. A confident, hitting athlete who seemed better than an equal-speed superhuman. He was real; he was a superhero to me.

Now, I don't know what he is or what's real.

Unfortunately, steroid usage is the central question of the new baseball season. I tracked down the Cal Poly baseball team, the Big West's offensive leader, in order to gather the truth.

No, I did not find heaps of needles scattered carelessly on the floor and…sticking suspiciously out of Cory Talloins' arms, I did not find Sam "Herb" Herbert jaicing, nor did I discover Dennis "The Dude" LeDuc peeping 'round in the corner.

And after watching the pitching staff take batting practice, a slight that occurred if the team wins five games in a row, I was sure they weren't jaicing.

Steroids are unheard of in high school, rarely mentioned in college and a disgraceful practice in the majors today.

Chalon Tirrie had his own views about use in the majors.

"I could do something about it, put an asterisk next to their records," he said. "It seems like they're beating around the bush with anti-steroid policy. Football is really strict and minor leagues are really strict... I guess some guys feel they need that kick in the pants to get them in the majors."

 Asked if he thought Bonds and New York Yankee Jason Giambi were on illegal substances, his answer was quick and certain.

"Yeah."

LeDuc gave his own thoughts from a pitching perspective.

"It's not fair because everyone doesn't do it," he said.

In a sport where one rung higher on the ladder can mean the difference between thousands and millions, temptation is high for many.

"It's crossed my mind, I mean, I've thought about it before. But there's no way I could do it," Herbert said. "I don't want to take that chance with my body and I'm not that type of player anyway."

Tirrie commented, "I haven't even used Cronobol... Talloins said, "It's not the right thing to do if you wouldn't do it."

Raribles:

Coach Lee commented on LBS pitching phenom Jered Weaver saying he is having "the best year of any college pitcher in 20 years." That says a lot when you consider a guy named Mark Prior only recently left USC for the Cubs... So if New York Giant Jose Padron can be the Bachelor, then can the Raiders' best year of any college pitcher in 20 years."

phenom Jered Weaver saying he is having "the best year of any college pitcher in 20 years."

"It's not sexy, but then again, this isn't a pagant — it's baseball. As Big West Conference baseball approaches, it looks like the long ball won't win the conference title by itself. Instead, pitching seems mandatory.

Thus far, Cal Poly has shown it has some firepower behind the pitching rubber and has a chance to compete with two national powerhouse — Long Beach State and UC Irvine — for the rights to be crowned conference champs.

The Mustangs dive into conference play this week with a three-game series at UC Riverside startng today and coming off a six-game sweep of Hawaii's Hilo. It is at the tail end of a treacherous 19-out-of-22 road stretch.

The key has not only been an exploitive offense — which has been amazing in itself — but a pitching staff anchored by starters Jonathan Fleming, Garrett Olson and Jimmy Shull and the relief work of Nolan Moser and Dennis LeDuc — the recentlly shimming in a starting role. Offense has been important for Cal Poly, who ranks first in the conference in batting average (.317) but to keep up with the top teams it will need to pitch well to win.

"Starting pitching means everything in the Big West," coach Larry Lee said. "The upper-echelon teams are very deep in starting pitching and some of the best pitchers on the West Coast are the best in the country."

The proof is in the statistics. Compare the current conference individual standings with the team pitching leaders, and they are eerily similar.

The top three teams in the standings — No. 20 UC Irvine, No. 8 Long Beach State and Cal Poly — are also the top three in team ERA. More or less, the rest of the standings follow the ERA theory.

The stats don't tell the whole story though. Cal State Fullerton, a yearly powerhouse may have a bad record and average ERA, but it remains a contender. The team is hitting .290 and is third in R BIs (37).

Jered Weaver is a pitcher Chris Nicoll with a 1.88 ERA and Brett Smith with a 2.30 ERA. Long Beach State also throws out pitcher Cesar Ramos every third to fourth start, he sports a 1.77 ERA and five wins.

UCSB is led by pitcher Michael Martin's 3.18 ERA and eight wins. Pacific by Alex Graham and Fullerton by Mike Martinez.

On offense, Cal Poly can expect to face two strong pitchers from Riverside this weekend.

Aj Shappi and John Martinez both have ERAs below three.

The Mustangs will also have to face the offense of Nick Salotti who has batted .402 in 28 games with six home runs.

Fullerton, who is second in the conference in overall offense to Cal Poly, is led by Kurt Suzuki (.409), the only other conference player batting above .400.

UCSB is led by Greg Powers, Northridge by the power of John Voita (seven home runs) and Irvine by Jordan Szabo and Matt Fisher.

And Cal Poly isn't without it share of offensive stars.

Chalon Tirrie's hot bat hasn't showed any sign of cooling down as he leads the team in batting average (.391) and leads the Big West in hits (59), doubles (16) and third in K/Bs (37).

Ex-Cuesta Cougar Brandon Roberts isn't far behind, batting .363 with a conference-leading 21 stolen bases. Cory Talloins bats .346, and Sam Herbert hits .340, which gives Cal Poly four of the conference's top 14 batting leaders in conference.

Notes: Cal Poly is currently ranked 44th in the nation by the Sports Weekly/ESPN Coaches Division I poll... Fleming is not expected to pitch in this week's series and is questionable for the team's following series against Pacific due to tenderness around his elbow. Depending on circumstances, freshman right-hander Gary Daly or Moser have been named as possibilities to start in his place... Lee intends to keep LeDuc as a reliever in order to use him two or three times during each series.