CA budget hits CSU campuses

Allison Terry

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed 2005-06 budget honors the agreement he made with California State University officials, but it may still be inadequate to maintain or improve the quality of higher education in California.

On Jan. 10, Gov. Schwarzenegger released his proposed budget including his plans for California State University funding. According to a statement released by the California State University, the governor honored the higher education compact, which is a six-year plan that the governor will provide certain increased percentages of funds for specific programs.

CSU officials said they were pleased with the governor's proposed budget because California is experiencing a $9 billion deficit.

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CA budget hits CSU campuses

Abbas travels to Gaza for cease-fire talks

Ibrahim Barzak

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas traveled to Gaza on Tuesday for meetings with militants, saying he is hopeful he can persuade them to halt attacks on Israel, but a bombing attack shortly after his arrival cast a shadow over the prospects.

A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up near a major road used by Israeli settlers and soldiers in the southern Gaza Strip, wounding at least six Israelis. A Palestinian bystander was also injured, according to Palestinian rescue officials. The Hamas militant group claimed responsibility.

Earlier, as Abbas headed to the Gaza Strip, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon warned the Palestinians that time was running out for them to take action.

Abbas said in an interview that Israel must do its part in halting military operations.

"I am going to Gaza with the hopes of reaching an agreement," Abbas said in the West Bank city of Ramallah shortly before his departure. "I arrived in Gaza just before nightfall, meeting with leaders of his Fatah Party and security commanders. Officials said no meetings with militants were planned for the evening.

Abbas has ruled out using force against the militants, despite Israel's insistence that he crack down.

The bombing at the Gush Katif intersection came just two hours after Abbas arrived in Gaza, evidence that militants will not give up attacks against Israelis easily. Since Israel announced a year ago that it would pull out of Gaza in the summer, militants have been stepping up attacks, trying to show that they are driving the Israelis out.

Abbas met Tuesday with David Peirce, the U.S. consul-general in Jerusalem, and said he is serious about reaching a peace agreement with Israel. Abbas has talked to the United States, the European Union, the United Nations, and Arab leaders about his plan to stop attacks.

"It was a great ethnic and cultural experience," notes Jonathan McAlister, who coaches CA Poly football in all-star game.

The governor provided what was agreed upon in the compact, which was generous because many more agencies in the state were expecting more money," said Clara Poves-Fellow, manager of media relations for the CSU. "The state financial situation is still very precarious."

Under the compact, the CSU had to compensate funding by issuing a student fee increase for 2005-06, generating $101.2 million. The budget requests an 8 percent increase for CSU, page 2

East pounds West with 38 point unanswered run

IN SPORTS, 12

Interview with up-and-coming New York band French Kiss

IN ARTS & CULTURE, 6

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Black students travel to Washington

Impact, a Cal Poly bible study group, is trying to become a recognized club so it can participate in campus events

Caitlin Donnell

As part of Cal Poly's Campus Crusade for Christ, one Cal Poly student and one recent graduate joined 2,000 other black students at a national conference in Washington, D.C. from Dec. 27 to Jan. 1, representing a group on campus called Impact, a black Bible study group.

"The national conference was a life changing experience," says senior Daniel Wosonga. "It was a great ethnic and cultural experience for me."

Wosonga went to the national conference with the leader of Impact, Jonathan McAlister, who coaches ethnic student ministries through Campus Crusade. McAlister graduated from Cal Poly with an architecture degree in June 2004.

Impact is a national ministry reaching out to African-American students. Wosonga said, "Impact is now trying to change the focus from being a bible study to do more evangelism and reaching out to the community."

Impact at Cal Poly is part of the Cal Poly club campus Crusade for Christ, and is trying to get club status on campus. McAlister said that Impact is part of the Ethnic Student Ministries within Campus Crusade. There is also a group called Epic designed for Asian-American students and a group called Destino reaching out to Hispanic-American students.

"Impact is about mobilizing and equipping African American leaders to affect change on campus, in the community and throughout the world," McAlister said. "We are present on campus and our group hopes to play a role in creating a greater cohesiveness of the black community on campus."

Impact participated in many different seminars and focus groups while at the national conference. In addition, there was a day of outreach where students traveled to the rough neighborhoods outside of Washington, D.C. distribute boxes of Loving Food and items that the people needed.
WASHINGTON

Abbas
continued from page 1

"I want to bring back my passion and a new attitude from this conference," Wessonga said. "Impact brings more than just ideas, it brings people together."

Abbas
continued from page 1

about dealing with the militants but needs time to reach an agreement, according to a top Palestinian official.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Abbas had asked the Americans to pressure Israel to be patient with Abbas.

Washington
continued from page 1

Abbas ordered hundreds of police from firing rockets, but has held off a large-scale Israeli raid into Gaza to stop militants crossing last week that killed six Israeli soldiers, the militants said.

"The Palestinian people will be the ones to approve the orders and the commitment to the agreements," said the group.

A Hamas spokesman, meanwhile, said the group would only consider halting attacks if Israel stops military operations,

Abbas
continued from page 1

attacks are unacceptable and that the military must act quickly.

"We need to deal with this at the earliest possible stage," Sharon told the commanders. "The more time passes, and if we don't deal with this problem, it will affect the Israeli status quo, and it will be impossible to achieve the peace we seek," Sharon said.

Sharon met with his army chief and other top commanders at the Erez crossing on the Gaza border Tuesday, seeking answers on how to stop repeated rocket and mortar fire on Israeli communities. He said the

Abbas said Israel must help him. "It should stop all military attacks against the Palestinians, stop incursions, the assassinations and the building of the wall (separation barrier), release prisoners and accept a mutual cease-fire," Abbas said.

Abbas also said he expects to visit Washington after he forms a new government. President Bush, who refused to meet with Arafat, has invited Abbas to the White House.

A Hamas spokesman, meanwhile, said the group would only consider halting attacks if Israel stops military operations.

"We do not accept discussing a one-sided truce while our Palestinian people are the target of bloody massacres, brutal terrorism and daily murders," said the spokesman, Mushair al-

McIntyre said there are 10 active students involved with Impact on campus and the group follows the national Impact Movement in its mission of "African-American emerging leaders taking the truth of Jesus Christ to the campus, community and world."
STATE NEWS

REDDING — Four men were arrested on hate crime charges after allegedly vandalizing a display that symbolized the country's daily abortion rate.

The men are accused of knocking down nearly 3,000 white crosses erected by Redding churches and Christian organizations.

Police said a pager led to the arrest of Michael Lane, 19; Clayton Heath, 20; Brian Fitzgerald, 20; and Aaron Krzynski, 29. The four were booked on suspicion of felony vandalism and misdemeanor civil rights violations.

Damaging property to intimidate or interfere with civil rights based on religion is illegal, said police Sgt. Roger Moore.

UPLAND — A dive team found the body of a 7-year-old boy Tuesday who fell into a rain-swollen creek over the holiday weekend, authorities said.

Search-and-rescue teams continued to search for the boy's 3-year-old mother, who was swept away Monday when she tried to rescue him.

Frank Zavala of El Monte was found about a quarter-mile downstream from where he was last seen.

Monday, said Robin Haynal, a spokesman with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

The boy fell into San Antonio Creek while trying to wash his hands during a picnic at Mount Baldy. His mother, Sibilla Flores, jumped in after him and both were swept away by water moving as fast as 40 mph.

Another boy from Huntington Park drowned in the same creek after he was swept under by current moving up to 25 mph, authorities said.

— Associated Press

NATIONAL NEWS

WASHINGTON — An Iraqi-American businesswoman pleaded guilty Tuesday to charges that she received payments from Iraq to illegally act as its agent in the United States, including getting millions of dollars worth of oil from the United Nations' oil-for-food program.

Samar A. Vincent, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Amman, Jordan, entered the guilty plea in federal court in New York to four criminal counts, including conspiring to act as an unregistered agent of a foreign government and tax violations, according to Attorney General John Ashcroft. Vincent faces up to 28 years in prison.

— Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Outgoing Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman said Tuesday that in her new job as head of the U.N. children's agency she will focus on promoting education and health rather than on social issues such as reproductive health and sex education.

She was questioned on key youth-related issues after Secretary-General Kofi Annan introduced her at a news conference and said she would take over for Carol Bellamy as executive director of the United Nations Children's Fund on May 1 if confirmed by the UNICEF board.

— Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State nominee Condoleezza Rice told senators on Tuesday that a U.S. exit strategy from Iraq depends on that country's ability to defend itself against terrorists after this month's elections. She vowed to work to ease ties with allies frustrated by U.S. policy there.

"The world is coming together behind the idea that we have to succeed in Iraq," she asserted at a confirmation hearing on her nomination to replace Colin Powell in the top foreign policy post.

— Associated Press

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq will seal its borders, extend a curfew and restrict movement to protect security in the national election.

President Bush spoke Tuesday morning with Iraqi interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, the latest in a series of conversations between the two leaders on Iraq's efforts to ensure maximum participation in the election.

— Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A suicide bomber struck the Baghdad headquarters of Iraq's biggest Shiite political party Tuesday, killing three people, as the government announced plans to close borders and restrict movements to bolster security in the national election.

Three candidates were slain as insurgents intensified their campaign to subvert the ballot. The Cabinet member responsible for internal security urged fellow Sunnis Arabs to disregard threats by Sunni extremists and vote in the Jan. 30 election, in which Iraqis will choose a 275-member National Assembly and regional legislatures. Otherwise, the minister warned, the country will slide into civil war.

— Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — In the biggest test of his brief tenure, Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas told senators on Tuesday that a U.S. exit strategy from Iraq depends on that country's ability to defend itself against terrorists after this month's elections. He vowed to work to ease ties with allies frustrated by U.S. policy there.

"The world is coming together behind the idea that we have to succeed in Iraq," he asserted at a confirmation hearing on her nomination to replace Colin Powell in the top foreign policy post.

— Associated Press

SAINT JOSEPH, N.C. — A suicide bomber blew himself up on a settler road in Gaza, wounding seven other Israelis.

The Islamic militant group Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack — the first suicide bombing against an Israeli target since Nov. 1.

— Associated Press

OTHER NEWS

SAN JOSE — The city is hosting a convention this weekend of about 1,700 "furries" — people who love animals so much that they take on their identities and sometimes dress like them.

Part costume party and part role play, Further Confusion, or FurCon, gives grown-ups a place to act out their inter-species fantasies.

The convention includes workshops on such topics as puppetry, costume making, writing about mythical creatures and "furry anatomy."

"Just because it's weird, it's still perfectly normal to the people involved in it," said raccoon wannabe Lee Smolin, 36, of San Leandro, one of the event's founders.

Prancing through the lobby of the Doubletree Hotel as a fox among goats, tigers and other animals, Kathe Mathew, 20, said she likes the fun of dressing up and escaping into her made-up animal character, which she calls Shadow and has written about in stories.

— Associated Press

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — A man in a Batman suit spent several hours on a rooftop balcony atop a U.S. embassy in the Dutch city of Utrecht on Monday, protesting the treatment of fathers in divorce cases.

Police spokeswoman Wendy Albersen said the man, whose name was not released, struck a deal to surrender peacefully. Police offered him a ladder and he climbed through a window to safety, she said.

— Associated Press

UNDER FOUR? OR KICKED OUT THE DOOR?

80% of students haven't had trouble with authorities due to drinking. The average CP student drinks less than 4 in a sitting.
Mexico presses U.S. for new immigration agreement

U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, left, and Mexican Interior Secretary Santiago Creel shake hands at the end of a news conference Monday, Jan. 17, at the Calexico Port of Entry along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Elliott Spagat

CALExico — Mexico will continue to rally for an immigration agreement establishing a right for Mexicans to work temporarily in the United States, the country's interior secretary said after meeting with Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge.

The secretary, Santiago Creel, also denounced an Arizona ballot measure approved by voters in November that limits government services for illegal immigrants.

"It's incompatible with human rights and does a disservice to both countries, the United States and Mexico," Creel said Monday following the meeting in Calexico, a border city about 100 miles east of San Diego.

Ridge, who is departing his job Feb. 1, said an immigration agreement was a high priority for President Bush in his second term, but added that a temporary worker program would be an uphill battle in Congress without provisions for stricter enforcement of immigration laws.

He emphasized that the United States would reject any amnesty proposal for Mexicans who are living in the United States illegally or any plan that gives priority to temporary workers when they apply for permanent residency.

Ridge avoided criticizing the Arizona ballot measure, saying that states have a right to deny state but not federal aid.

The measure requires proof of legal immigration status when obtaining certain government services and proof of citizenship when registering to vote.

Government workers who don't report illegal immigrants who try to get benefits could also face jail time and a fine.

Ridge said other states were unlikely to follow Arizona's lead if the United States introduces a program for temporary workers.

"There will probably be far less inclination by any states to vote a similar law again ... because the people that will be here will be here legally and they will certainly be in a much better position to support themselves without relying on any public funding," Ridge said.

The meeting was billed as a progress report on a 2002 agreement aimed at beefing up border security without disrupting trade.

The two Cabinet secretaries also used the occasion to formally open a new lane for prescreened truckers to enter the United States or Mexico, Calexico is the sixth southern U.S. border crossing since September to introduce the fast track lane for truckers. The others are San Diego, El Paso, Laredo and Brownsville.
In Slovakia, a new generation grows up largely ignorant about communism

Andrea Dudikova
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia — They confide Stalin with Hitler, echo their parents' nostalgia for a supposedly golden age and think the worst part of the communist era was not being able to travel freely.

Fifteen years after communism collapsed across eastern Europe, some people worry about the generation born since then growing up largely ignorant of the hardships, repression and lack of basic rights and freedoms when the Marxist nations ran things.

The lack of knowledge may be especially acute in Slovakia, which took a five-year detour from the path to democracy after splitting off from the Czech Republic in 1993. Critics here blame parents, the education system and the absence of a spirited public debate about the recent past for the skewed picture many young people seem to have about it.

Young Slovaks like Marian Timm, 14, admit they don't know much about the system that held the former Czechoslovakia in an iron grip until Vaclav Havel — the playwright who would become president — galvanized the masses into a Velvet Revolution that ended decades of oppressive rule in 1989.

Asked what he knows about communism, Marian first debates with a teenage buddy whether it was Adolf Hitler or someone else who was behind the regime.

Eventually, they agree it wasn't Hitler, but their mental picture is still murky. Marian says his parents described their early lives as a time ruled by "golden communism" who offered "lots of jobs and discipline."

"People dressed in a funny way then, but things were cheaper," he says. "We keep hearing that rolls were cheaper, but also that it was not good, as I don't understand what it was about. My mind is full of chaos."

Levic in southern Slovakia.

"We keep hearing that rolls were cheaper, but also that it was not good, as I don't understand what it was about. My mind is full of chaos."

"I don't understand what it was about. My mind is full of chaos when it comes to this, because we haven't lived through this."

— LINDA RECNA

Slovakian university student

Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar, his regime was marked by cronyism and little commitment to democracy, isolating the young country from the West. Meciar's loss of power in 1998 has been followed by rapid political and economic reforms that have brought Slovakia back into the democratic mainstream. Last spring, it joined NATO and the European Union.

But the sheer variety and speed of changes over the past 15 years — the sudden availability of freedom of choice, free elections, free travel, consumer goods — have left many youngsters with and warped view of the preceding era.

"When I teach them about communism, some nod in agreement, but some just smirk," she says.

Martin Simcsek, editor in chief of the national newspaper and son of an intellectual who was imprisoned as a dissident under communism, thinks the worry about youths is not unfounded, but he feels it's simply too early for people to clearly see and understand the past.

"I think that in 10 years this generation of 15- to 20-year-olds will start to ask their parents: 'How could you hear little about it at school, and many of the parents of the news generation aren't eager to discuss the communist years in detail."

While history textbooks in schools spell out the communist era accurately and clearly, teachers say they have little time to cover the material.

"It's dealt with very briefly. We never go too deeply into these themes," says Anna Gregorovska, a history teacher at a primary school in Levic in southern Slovakia.

Iva Andrackova, who teaches at a high school in the central town of Revca, says her students — who live in an area saddled with high unemployment — tend to look at things from the perspective of their parents, some of whom are nostalgic for the old days.

"When I teach them about communism, some nod in agreement, but some just smirk," she says.
The French (Kicks) are coming soon!

Sunday night, San Luis Obispo will get a little more continental when the French Kicks tap SLO Brew. The prominent, young NYC band is currently touring in support of its album, “The Trial of the Century.” They are performing Sunday with Dios Malos, Red Lights and Service Group, boasting a tight, post-punk melodicism and some seriously intriguing lyrics. They’ve been hailed by MoJo, Maxim and Time Out New York for their “perfect pop restraint” and “seduction.” Even more importantly, they care about their fans. Their Web site, www.frenchkicks.com, hosts a feature called “W.W.F.K.D.” which features the wittiest, most acerbic commentary ever to arise from a rock band’s advice column of questionable religious allusion (high praise, surely).

The Art Beat interviewed lead singer/drummer/keyboardist Nick Stumpf late last year. He proved to be an articulate and friendly gent who spoke with Capitol Hill poise and, at one point, pulled the impressive coup of turning the tables and interviewing himself.

Yep, the guy could really go places.

But, President Stumpf, you might want to declare your American allegiance now by renaming to the Freedom Kicks, perhaps?

Art Beat: What are you listening to? What bands can you recommend?

Nick Stumpf: The Joggers are great. They’re an unsung, great band. There are some bands we’ve done tours with I really like — Ambulance is one. The Unicorns I really like, too.

AB: What music changed your life and made you want to be a musician?

NS: Well, I studied classical piano as a kid and I never really took it. I was never in love with it because I didn’t listen to the music. When someone taught me to play songs I was actually listening to, I thought that was one of the most exciting things, and not just to do that, but to write your own and have it affect you.

AB: I was looking on MTV.com and I saw your band has a bio online...

NS: We do.

AB: Yeah, you do! So...

NS: What do I think of MTV?

AB: Yeah, what do you think of MTV and the music it normally plays?

NS: Wait, do they play music? I sorta thought they play, like, really shows, MTV2 still plays stuff. There’s a show called “Subterranean” that plays new obscure videos. (Thoughtful pause). Actually, I think we’re supposed to host it in a couple of weeks.

AB: Would you ever want to be on mainstream MTV someday?

NS: Yeah, for us, it’s the more the merrier. I think what you’re maybe good at is... well, change the way you write, changing the music itself. Like, if you change the way you dress to improve the mainstream, then that’s selling out. But as long as you’re good at what you do, and it makes sense to you, and feels right to you...

...the more the merrier.

AB: And your New York City music scene exploded a few years ago with the Strokes, and all of a sudden everyone was looking to New York for music. How did you feel about that, and how did it compare to the scene today?

NS: Well, there’s several angles to that. I think that whole craze was partially a creation of lackluster journalism — it was an easy story, about this “sound,” and I would defy anyone to define that “sound.” Like for awhile, everyone was being compared to television. With things like that, it forces everyone involved to be pushed through a very narrow filter and talk about it all the time. And I’m sure no one wants to do that, they want to be taken for what they’re specifically doing. But then, there was some pretty cool music that came out of here. I think the reason for it was that there’s like a million kids here, more art kids than anywhere else in the country, probably. So for a lot of bands to happen here, it makes sense.

AB: What’s been your most rock-star moment?

NS: Oh man, I don’t know. We’re sort of light on those. I dunno, I got onto jumping into the crowd a lot during the tour we did with Hot Heat, but that was because there were enough people there and I was drunk enough that it seemed like a good idea. In general, we’re a little Bookish about that stuff... I guess we’re musicians first, and still kind of nerdy about it.

AB: Why do you think some rock bands last longer than others? Is it musicianship, the way they package themselves?

NS: I think there’s always a little bit of both. It’s really songs, though — they keep you around. It’s amazing how powerful (packaging) is and...
Protect yourself with a fender.
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KISS ME!
I work at the Mustang Daily

Art Beat
continued from page 6
how people respond to it, but that's more important in the beginning for bands, so people can digest something up front. In long term, it's about the songs and not doing the same thing over and over, wanting to take chances, change what you're doing so when people buy your next record, they know there will be some surprises on it.

AB: Any tips for young bands? Pitfalls to avoid?

NS: The thing to do is become the biggest band in your hometown first, and then a lot of other things will follow from that.

AB: Even if your hometown is New York?

NS: Yeah, even then. Find out what's the best venue in town, and sell it out. Make sure that you can step out in front of people and feel that if they don't like it, they're stupid.

AB: What's the best question you've gotten for "What Would French Kicks Do?"

NS: I was doing an interview once and this guy told me some incredibly personal and embarrassing story in the middle of it, something about how he'd had an office party and, like, screwed his best friend's girlfriend, and he asked what he should do? I didn't know! I was like, "You... shouldn't have done it!" It's surprising how personal some people get.

AB: How did the band name come about?

NS: It was a late-night session—we gave ourselves an ultimatum and wouldn't leave without a name. Everyone was throwing names out, and we sort of chortled at that one. Hey, we hated it the least. Now we've grown to sort of like it.

AB: What do you think a French Kick would feel like?

NS: (laughs) I don't know. I don't think I want to imagine it.

Stacey Anderson is a journalism and music junior, KCPR DJ and expert Chinese-Norwegian kicker. Catch her Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon on 91.3 FM or e-mail her at standers@calpoly.edu.
80's Night On Wednesday Night

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One fish, two fish... red fish, blue fish

Tactics to shut down
Mani Guris are a joke

Neither I nor my close friends parted on Mani Guris, however, that does not change my view of the city's tactics toward shutting down the festivities are a joke, at best.

The Web site devoted to this cause is pure, demonizing propaganda. In my opinion, the city should do the following to "fix" Mani Guris: reduce police presence, ignore noise parties, help drunks get home safely and allow people to make choices.

This scene counter-intuitive to stopping the problem, but it allows people to learn what works through experience, not propaganda (after all, isn't our motto learn by doing?)

If someone wants to drink themselves to death, fine; should enough do it, we'll either need to put the stupid or learn to watch out for one another. If a woman wants to expose herself to the world, that's her choice; it can only come back to haunt her later. If your neighbors are too loud while enjoying themselves, then get yourself some random DJ's won't stop drivers from avoiding them.

More police in riot gear escalates problems, and kicking drunk people out of houses, into the streets causes the exact opposite of what is intended. It's time to stop the problem by propaganda tactics, making demonic the act of a good party. Instead, focus Mani Guris toward community celebration, in whatever form that happens to take.

Tim Herrman
Computer engineering junior

Battle of Christmas is twist on the English language

Merry Christmas, happy holidays!

This battle is mentioned every year, but with the optimism of Christians as of late... even the Los Angeles Times has taken notice to the escalating concern.

I wish I had a copy so I could quote it properly when it spoke words like these: "God played a major part in America's history; to cancel your words around this fact is inappropriate."

Yes, like the time he walked across the oceans to sink Britain's ships, could for that time he touched the earth with fiery words. Letters should include the writer's full name, phone number, major and class standing. Letters must come from a Cal Poly e-mail account. Do not send letters as an attachment. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.

By e-mail:
opinion@mustangdaily.net

LETTER DAILY POLICY

SEND YOUR LETTERS, HATE AND MORE TO THE EDITOR 26, Room 226 Cal Poly, SLO, CA 93407

MUSTANG DAILY

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Appendix

MUSTANG DAILY

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LETTER DAILY POLICY

Send your love, hate and more to the Editor.
Iraqis from California to London register to vote in historic elections

Gillian Flaccus

IRVINE — Enduring long drives, tight security and sometimes disorganized polling stations, thousands of Iraqi expatriates have begun registering to vote in their homeland's first independent election in nearly 30 years.

Potential voters drove from as far away as Phoenix on Monday to add their names to the list of some 35,000 Iraqi immigrants expected to register at the polling station set up at a decommissioned Marine base in Orange County.

Many shared tales of their escape from Saddam Hussein's rule and hopes for the future of the country, saying any difficulties of the voting process paled in comparison to the troubles that have grabbed Iraq.

"I don't mind even going to Alaska to vote because I left Iraq as a high school teacher and there was oppression," said Nick Kenaya, 60, of San Diego.

"For these people, it makes a difference to vote. This is the first time in three decades that people have that freedom," he said.

Cities in Michigan, Tennessee, Maryland and Illinois have also opened registration sites for a seven-day period ending Jan. 25.

About 240,000 people are eligible to vote in the Jan. 30 election in the United States, according to Roger Bryan of the International Center for Migration, which is in charge of the overseas voting for the Iraqi government.

Eligible voters can be American citizens, but must be 18 or older, have been born in Iraq, hold citizenship or prove that their father was Iraqi.

Preparations for the election around the world mirrored those in Iraq itself, where the top U.S. general there predicted violence during the national election but pledged Monday to do "everything in our power" to ensure safety of voters.

The U.S. polling stations were monitored by armed guards and metal detectors. In Nashville, those seeking to register could not go directly to the two election sites, but had to gather at a hastily arranged location to board a bus.

Still, parents brought along their children to share the experience, and some said they felt overwhelmed at the opportunity to vote for Iraqi leaders.

"I can't explain how I'm feeling right now," said 29-year-old gas station manager Shaker AlKudah, holding a registration card in the town of Southgate, Mich. "My whole life, I hope this day would come. I want to cry now."

At a Maryland polling station, Nazar Mohammadali, 22, of Richmond, Va., said his family was hoping their votes would reduce continuing violence in Iraq.

"We are happy that Saddam is gone; we had hoped the U.S. government had better plans for safety and security," he said. "Hopefully, the election may end that."

Some complained about too much security at the polling station in Nashville, where 3-foot concrete barriers forced vehicles to zig-zag as if entering a checkpoint. An armed officer checked credentials.

"Everybody saw the barriers coming in here. Some people are saying, 'We're not in Baghdad,'" said Ahmed Mossa, a volunteer at the polling place.

In Irvine, the few Iraqis that made it to the polling site said they had spent hours searching for an address that doesn't exist.

Eligible Iraqis abroad — estimated to number 1.2 million — can vote in Britain, Australia, Sweden, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Iran, Jordan, the Netherlands, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and the United States.
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SPORTS
Wednesday, January 19, 2005
11

By Will Shortz
No. 1208

CLUES
20 Decrease (from)
21 Ski (down)
22 Women (tail)
Wrestling's Ryan Halsey
Nicole Stivers
MUSTANG DAILY

Wrestler Ryan Halsey won't be content with a remarkable college career. He's already got his eyes on the Summer Olympics in 2008. The Mustang Daily got a chance to sit down with the bruising junior and talk about his personal goals, how he balances school with wrestling and the team's relationship with Ultimate Fighter Chuck Liddell.

Q. - What got you interested in wrestling?
A. - My dad wrestled and he got me involved in a bunch of sports when I was younger. Wrestling was the one I stuck with. If the one I succeeded in and enjoyed the most.

Q. - You would like to work on as an individual?
A. - With both wrestling and academics, there is always room for improvement. It's hard when you're practicing twice a day to keep your academics up. Time management is a big thing. On the wrestling mat, I'm trying to make all the improvements. I can be ready by the end of the season for nationals. I'm just working hard, getting in shape and putting my best effort out. I think if I do all those things it'll come together at the right time.

Q. - When you're on the mat, are you able to stop thinking about class?
A. - I think it's easier to stop thinking about school. When I'm stressed out over school and go and have a really good wrestling practice, I think it takes a little bit of the stress off me. It's hard with all the traveling. You've got to bring your studies on the mat. This whole week I've been trying to catch up. It's harder when you're in school not to think about wrestling.

Q. - What's the relationship between Ultimate Fighter Chuck Liddell and Cal Poly wrestling?
A. - Chuck is a big supporter of Cal Poly wrestling. He wrestled for Cal Poly back in the late 1980s and he still comes in when he's training for fights. He works out and wrestles with the team to get himself in shape. He's also a booster and he's a good guy to have as an alumnus. He's helping out himself and some guys on the team.

Q. - Why do you plan on doing after you graduate?
A. - I'm thinking about trying to go for the Olympics. If it looks like I've got a shot at making the Olympics, then I'll dedicate a few years to that. If that doesn't work out then I'll probably go into the work force. I might do some coaching. I've been going to kids programs the last two years to that. If that doesn't work out then I'll probably go into the work force. I might do some coaching.

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Beck shines in the Shrine
Graham Wenzack
MUSTANG DAILY

SAN FRANCISCO - In the highest-scoring East-West Shrine Game since 1979, it was two well-acquainted pairs that provided offensive fireworks in a 45-27 East win over the West at SBC Park.

Quarterback Stefan LeFors found his Louisiana teammate J.R. Russell twice on two broken plays for touchdowns as the East paraded all over the West in a 21-0 third quarter. The third quarter became part of a larger East bunching, a 38-0 run.

The game encoded a week of workouts as hundreds of scouts, coaches and media personnel scrutinized the events looking for talent. On Saturday, the top seniors in the nation showcased their skills before an ESPN audience and 25,558 fans. LeFors and Purdue quarterback Kyle Orton also hooked up with wide receiver Taylor Stubblefield, who finished with 145 yards and two scores.

Special rules enrage the game to address the lack of preparation both sides have before the game. Neither side is allowed to move in motion, blitz or rush the quarterback. These rules, primarily defensive, can put a damper on some of the play-making abilities of defensive stars, such as Jordan Beck.

Nevertheless, Beck still put an asterisk in the myth that top Division I-AA talent cannot compete with the higher talent. Sac State wide receiver Fred Arney did his part.

"It's big-time players from the small-time schools," Arney said. "We were representing for Division I-AA and Div. II and showing we can play with anyone in the nation."

Both Beck and Arney's performances were part of numerous inspiring stories.

Running free
It's a challenge playing behind one of the top players in the country.

Running back Brandon Jacobs was playing behind two last year when he was third on the Auburn chart behind both Carnell "Cadillac" Williams and Ronnie Brown.

Jordan Beck finished with six tackles to co-lead the West on Saturday.

"Being at Auburn, I loved my experience and the players," Jacobs said. "I didn't feel I had anything besides Carnell and Ronnie. I stole a few things from Ronnie."

This year, Jacobs transfered to Southern Illinois, a team Cal Poly consistently viewed atop the Division I-AA standings. Jacobs' stellar play helped lead Southern Illinois to a No. 1 national ranking for the entire season.

Long time coming
A year ago, quarterback Dustin Long was fighting for a chance just to get a few snaps in at Texas A&M. This year, Long transferred to a Division I-AA school, Sam Houston State, and turned around a program that went 2-9 the previous year.

This year, the team went 9-2 and won its conference, one of the biggest turnarounds in all of football. Saturday, Long threw for 129 yards and a score.

Amey improves his stock
Though many look forward to see Notes, page 11

The East team bumbles before the game and after a week of practice in front of hundreds of scouts and coaches.