Governor terminates college fee increases

Gov. Schwarzenegger eliminates the approved 8 percent fee increases for the CSU system in a new state budget plan that he announced Wednesday.

Tom Chorneau
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO — California's tax revenues are surging ahead of expectations, giving an election-year jolt to the state budget and providing more money for public schools, health services and higher education, according to a budget proposed Tuesday by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The Republican governor revealed a $125.6 billion spending plan for the 2006-2007 fiscal year that does not raise taxes while providing a 7 percent boost in spending over the current fiscal year.

The plan also marks the first time in several years that the state projects enough tax revenue to cover spending without significant borrowing, a reversal from budget deficits that reached into the billions before Schwarzenegger took office.

The governor's budget proposal includes $97.9 billion in general fund spending and $25 billion in spending from special funds, which is money such as a gas tax that is dedicated to specific programs such as highway repairs. The rest of the spending, $27.7 billion, is to repay bonds.

"This budget continues California on the path toward fiscal responsibility and economic recovery," Schwarzenegger told reporters in releasing his budget.

Among the highlights of the governor's spending plan:

• Does not raise taxes.
• Reduces the state's structural deficit by $2 billion, from $16.5 billion when Schwarzenegger took office in 2003 to $4.7 billion in the next fiscal year.
• Fully funds Proposition 42, which dedicates a portion of the sales tax on gasoline to road and highway improvements.
• Repays $1.7 billion the governor says is owed to public schools.
• Eliminates fee increases at colleges and universities.

see Budget, page 2

Women in Engineering

In a world of their own

Caitlin Donnell
MUSTANG DAILY

Trudging along in her steel toes and her long blonde hair concealed under a construction hard hat, Betsy Sale grips her set of construction tools, said she is just as capable as the men in her classes, and that qualification should not be based on gender.

Instead of feeling timid and burdened by often being the only woman in a classroom and/or professional setting, because she is a young woman.

But to Sale, it has never been much of a challenge at Cal Poly, as one of the few women in a male-dominated engineering world.

"I have always used the difficulty of being a woman in engineering as a positive energy, a positive motivation to show people that there is no need to single me out simply because I am a young woman. I am just as capable as the other people in my classes," she said.

Sale, civil engineering senior and president of Women Engineers (SWE) president, said she is just as capable as the men in her classes, and that qualification should not be based on gender.

Cal Poly has the largest student section of the National Society of Women Engineers in the country with over 500 members. Women in engineering majors are a growing trend, especially at Cal Poly.

SWE is an organization that supports diversity in engineering," Sale said. "Our goals are to recruit and retain women engineers and to focus on professional development, campus and community outreach, social events, and academic support."

Helene Finger, the group's faculty advisor and director of Cal Poly's Women in Engineering Program, explained that there are two missions that SWE tries to accomplish: recruitment of women engineers through a variety of outreach programs to young girls and retention of women engineers through activities aimed at connecting women engineers and to focus on professional development, campus and community outreach, social events, and academic support.

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California insurance act seeks to provide universal health care

Jessica Jeffrey & Michael Johnson
DAILY BRONX (N.Y.)

LOS ANGELES — The California Health Insurance Reliability Act currently in the California State Senate, seeks to provide universal health care coverage for individuals residing in California.

Over 6 million people in California, of which many are 80 percent are employed, lose without health insurance.

Currently, California law provides health services for people with various eligibility requirements, such as low-income. But programs like Healthy Families and MediCal only benefit a small portion of Californians. The rest of the population not receiving public medical assistance must face the quickly rising cost of insurance premiums.

Universal health care coverage in California will ensure that all individuals living in the state for more than 90 days have health coverage. The California Health Insurance Reliability Act utilizes a publicly funded, single-payer health care model. Under this act, the newly created California Health Insurance Agency will negotiate to get set fees for health care services provided through the system.

Health care services covered under this new system include hospital, medical, surgical, and mental health; dental and vision care; prescription drugs and medical equipment, such as hearing aids; emergency care, including ambulance services; nursing care after hospitalization; substance abuse recovery programs;
Budget
continued from page 1
• Increases social services spending that, in part, will provide more medical care to poor children.

"As far as the current budget is concerned, we made a real effort to present a really good and credible deficit," Schwarzenegger told reporters.

Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles, said he was concerned about a proposed $199 million cut to welfare programs, as well as plans to remove cost-of-living adjustments for some public-assistance programs.

"Over the past several years, we balanced the budget on the backs of the disenfranchised, the poor and the disabled. We are not going to do it this year;" Nunez said. "It is just not going to happen."

Schwarzenegger touted his budget as part of a continuing effort to eliminate a record deficit that grew in the years before he took office.

The structural deficit results from the state spending more money each year than it takes in. The problem in recent years is largely the result of decisions the state made in the good economic times of the late 1990s to expand services — especially education and health care — that tax income could not sustain. In some cases, the state was mandated to support the expanded programs. In others, the Legislature lacked the political will to make cuts.

As with previous budgets, the 2006-2007 plan proposes to spend more — $79.7 billion — than the state expects to receive — about $71. billion. But Schwarzenegger is able to avoid a significant cut because of an unexpected $7 billion in tax revenue the state is currently collecting.

That allows him to boost funding for education, road improvements, health care and other programs in the fiscal year that begins July 1.

Schwarzenegger proposed a $4.3 billion boost in funding for kindergarten through 12th grade education and community colleges, boosting peer student spending to its highest level ever in California — $11,500.

Education groups have said they will seek even more money once the budget gets submitted to lawmakers, yet the increase has succeeded in partly defusing some of Schwarzenegger's most vocal critics.

Education groups attacked Schwarzenegger last year after he floated proposals about pay and teacher tenure. They also claimed the governor failed to repay billions of dollars educators said he owed to public schools.

Education spending, from K-12 to four-year public universities, accounts 52.2 percent of this year's budget.

Students at California State University and University of California campuses approved of Schwarzenegger's plan to halt a series of recent fee increases that were prompted by a deal university administrators reached with Schwarzenegger.

Democrats and student groups said the increases amounted to a tax increase on the middle class and lower-income residents.

The governor also tempered fears that he would neglect spending on social services as he sought to placate education groups with a huge spending boost.

His budget proposes spending $72 million to enroll more children in the Medi-Cal and Healthy Families programs. The additional money is expected to provide medical services to about 300,000 uninsured children over two years and is part of a $1.2 billion funding increase in health and human services programs.

"That is important because we still have 400,000 children who are uninsured but who are eligible for Healthy Families or Medi-Cal," Schwarzenegger said. "I want to get these children enrolled as quickly as possible so they are covered."

By proposing increases in school and health funding, Schwarzenegger seeks to avoid an extended budget confrontation with the Democrats who control both houses of the state Legislature. Such a skirmish could complicate his re-election campaign and distract him from pushing the $22.6 billion public works spending plan he announced last week.

That plan is separate from the state budget proposal revealed Tuesday and seeks to raise money over a 10-year period to repair California's freeways, transit systems, levees, schools and government buildings. As part of that plan, Schwarzenegger wants voters to approve nearly $25 billion in bonds this year.

the students to their careers.

"The Women in Engineering Program is one in the same with SWE," Finger said. "The program has an advisory board that looks strategically to achieve our goals of building a network for female engineering students."

In the fall of 2004, 15.4 percent of all engineering students on campus were women, Finger said. According to a study conducted in 1996, the female retention rate, meaning those freshmen female engineering students who graduated with their original engineering degree, was 53 percent, whereas the male retention rate was 46 percent. On a positive note, the Cal Poly figures are opposite of the national statistics, where women usually have a 40 percent retention rate and men have a 60 percent retention rate.

"The reason Cal Poly's numbers are so favorable to women has to do with the fact that the students coming to Cal Poly are phenomenal," Finger said. "We have an environment on this campus that focuses on connecting students to their careers, as well as supporting them through organizations such as SWE and the Women in Engineering Program with very active and successful members."

See Thursday's Mustang Daily for the second part to this story.
WHO SAID THAT?

Wonder is what sets us apart from other life forms. No other species wonders about the meaning of existence or the complexity of the universe or themselves.
— Herbert W. Boyer

The only thing wrong with immortality is that it tends to go on forever.
— Herb Caen

Wordly Wise

Dubietiy: The condition or quality of being doubtful; also, a matter of doubt.

Briefs

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — This city is dreaming big as it puts together a blueprint for its rebirth in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, considering such audacious ideas as re-creating a long-gone jazz district, building a network of bike paths and commuter rail lines, and establishing a top-flight school system. In the coming days, beginning Wednesday, a commission appointed by Mayor Ray Nagin will unveil a grab bag of ideas that could become part of the master plan for rebuilding this devastated city.

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran removed U.N. seals on uranium enrichment equipment and resumed nuclear research Tuesday, defying demands it must maintain a two-year freeze on its nuclear program and sparking an outcry from the United States and Europe. The International Atomic Energy Agency said Iran plans to enrich uranium as part of its experiments with the nuclear fuel cycle. An IAEA statement issued in Vienna, Austria, said Iran told the agency the scale of its enrichment work would be limited.

JERUSALEM (AP) — Doctors report progress by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, saying he moved his left hand.

Either/or...
Coke or Pepsi: Pepsi
Lefty or righty: righty
Boxers or briefs: boxers
Toilet paper — over or under: over
Winter or summer: summer

If You Could...
— be any animal what would you be and why?
A dolphin so I could go surfing and have sex all day.
— be Paris Hilton or Britney Spears who would you be and why?
Paris Hilton because she has "so many monies."

Other

What do you want to do when you grow up?
Take over Bill O'Reilly's job and make it the "Haines Factor."

Name: Jon Haines • Year: senior
Hometown: Tiburon • Major: journalism

Summer in Mexico

Spanish Language Immersion Program
Summer 2006 - Cuernavaca

General Information Meeting
Thursday, January 12, 11 am - 12 pm
Erhart Agriculture Bldg. (10), Rm. 222

For Application visit our website: http://continuing-ed.calpoly.edu/travel_spain.html or call (805) 756-2053

Summer in Spain

Spanish Language Immersion Program
Summer 2006 - Valladolid

General Information Meeting
Thursday, January 12, 11:00 am - 12 pm
Erhart Agriculture Bldg. (10), Rm. 221

For Application visit our website: http://www.continuing-ed.calpoly.edu/travel_spain.html or call (805) 756-2053
Turkey scrambles to contain deadly outbreak
as bird flu causes jitters across Europe

William J. Kole
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey raced to contain an outbreak of bird flu Tuesday, destroying 300,000 fowl and blaming warnings from mosque loudspeakers, after preliminary tests showed at least 15 people have been infected with the deadly H5N1 strain.

As the country recorded the first human deaths outside eastern Asia, jittery European governments stepped up border checks and banned Turkish trucks with disinfectant.

Fifteen cases in one week is a short time in Asia, where 76 people have died since 2003.

European governments, scrambling to avoid the specter of a mutation that could trigger a pandemic capable of killing millions, sprayed trucks from Turkey with disinfectant. In Italy, a consumer group urged the government to impose a ban on travel to Turkey, and in Greece, veterinary inspectors stepped up border checks.

Underlining the vulnerability of neighboring countries, Bulgaria began issuing its citizens special instructions on how to deal with an outbreak.

Turkey’s government, anxious to demonstrate to its citizens and the European Union that it was taking decisive action, ordered more than 300,000 fowl destroyed as a precaution. Health officials said Tuesday most of the 70 or so people hospitalized with flu-like symptoms had tested negative for bird flu.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan dismissed the notion that "an idea of panic was created, as though the country was invaded."

"Everything is under control," he said, adding that Turkey had no shortage of vaccine or medicines.

Erdogan spoke during a visit by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan, whose government said Tuesday up to 77 Japanese — most of them chicken farm workers — may have become infected by H5N2, a less potent strain not previously known to infect humans.

The bird flu outbreak comes at a difficult time for Turkey.

The country has been eager to improve an image marred by allegations of human rights abuses against minority Kurds.

"I think that the legitimacy of the court would be undermined in any case if the court made a decision based on its perception of public opinion," Alito said.

Democrat Sen. Edward Kennedy told Alito that his judicial opinions suggest otherwise.

"Time and again, even in routine matters involving average Americans, you give enormous, almost total deference to the exercise of governmental powers," said the Massachusetts senator.

Later, asked to respond to the criticism, Alito said that he has tried to decide each case on its merits, "Sometimes that means siding with the government, sometimes it means siding with the party that's claiming a violation of rights."

Committee Chairman Arlen Specter, R-Pa., questioned Alito about abortion and privacy rights, divisive issues that loom large as the Senate decides whether to confirm the conservative jurist.

Alito told the Senate Judiciary Committee: "I did it because that's what I thought the law required."

In 1985 memos as an official of the Reagan administration, Alito described a legal strategy for chipping away at abortion rights. Questioned about the document, he told the committee, "That was a statement that I made at a prior period of time when I was performing a different role and, as I said yesterday, when I was performing a role that I would not have to put aside the things that you did as a lawyer at prior points in your legal career.”

Bush’s pick to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O’Connor told the Judiciary Committee that courts in general should follow their earlier decisions and avoid being moved by public opinion on controversial issues.

"I think that the legitimacy of the court would be undermined in any case if the court made a decision based on its perception of public opinion," Alito said.

Alito, who has been criticized by opponents for advocating broad presidential powers, said he did not believe war allowed the president to bypass the Constitution.

"No person is above the law, and that means the president and that means the Supreme Court," the judge said.

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Alito told the panel that he agreed with "the underlying thought that when a precedent is reaffirmed, that strengthens the precedent."

Alito said he doesn’t believe in the idea of a super precedent — or, he added, in a moment of levity, "super-duper" precedents either.
Autolux revs up

A unolux is luminous. The Los Angeles trio (DMZ Records) flows like a breeze with gorgeous, soft melodies, densely textured backgrounds and smooth, reverb-rattling voca/leads. And they're taking all the good things that have been happening in the past, and using modern technology. It's trying to do something different that the artists' percep-
tions, sonically, of what the room is.


Eugene Grohrester (vocals, bass): Industrial Revolution.

Greg Edwards (guitar/vocals): Turn of the century.

Eugene: The nice thing about the museum is that it's quiet, generally. It's a kid will yell, a shoe will squeak, but that's it. We wanted something that matched the frequency of the room. It's all one note — it has a coarse it takes, but it changes. It doesn't distort you.

Greg: That's really cool. You're also covering a Joy Division song for an upcoming movie, right?

Eugene: Oh yeah, we're excited.


Carla: Wait a minute, there were rock star moments, on the Queens (of the Stone Age) tour! What about that girl? The lobster room! A lobster room? Carla: Let's just leave it at that. They'll know what I'm talking about.

Greg: At one point, it was part of their rider that they would have thousands of live lobsters in a room, crawling all over each other.

Carla: No, no. The security would bring back girls, but they couldn't get girls in the back.

Greg: So the opening band, which was us, was forced to walk through the lobsters.

AB: So you're saying you walked through live lobsters.

Greg: No, I'm kidding.

AB: I was hoping you weren't. I would've gone with it.

Greg: I should've.

AB: Let's change the subject, then. You guys are often described as ambient, shoegaze, etc. What do you think of that?

Carla: Not only do I not wear shoes onstage, I look for a shoe, and I Carlan. I wish I could find a shoe to gaze at.

Eugene: Me too. I'm too busy looking at my fingers, trying to get the right notes.

Carla: We're fingerprints.

Eugene: That's funny, because I know what you're talking about, but I don't know where that came from. I think it's a conjecture, a journalistic thing that started a long time ago. And people tried to craft that image.

Carla: There are influences here and there, and it's dense sonically, so I can see that. But generally, I don't think it fits that description.

Greg: The truth is, if you really analyze it, it's really just polka. Slowed down and straightened out.

Carla: Polka.

Greg means to demonstrate what, apparently, lethargic polka sounds like.

AB: Sorry, I can't take you seriously after the lobster thing.

Carla: (laughs) Good. Don't listen to that guy.

AB: OK, I'm sorry I have to ask, but I heard a rumor that your elbow was shattered during a show.

Carla: Yeah! You want to see? Carla: Roll up her jacket, revealing a scar several inches long. Everyone, even her bandmates, gasp.

AB: Wow. Did you just...fall?

Carla: It was at the Kodak Theatre in L.A. The stage was really tall. I jumped down and just flew onto concrete. They took part of my hip and put it in my elbow. This part (gashes upwards) broke off and moved up an inch. Part of it was crushed. So they rebuilt part of it, but most was broken into pieces and they had to screw it back together.

AB: Wow.

Eugene: There are also rumors that Greg had a face transplant.

AB: Hmm. That's true, Greg.

Greg: Yeah. I tried to kill myself and my dog ate my face off. You know about that story?

AB: No. But hey, if it happens. So you guys are recording a new album, right?

Carla: We'll be, yeah. It will be something new. It's very top-secret.

Eugene: It's nail-gazing.

Stacey Anderson is a journalist and music critic and KCPR DJ Catches her Sundays 7 to 8 p.m. and Thursdays 3 to 5 p.m. on 91.3 FM or e-mail her at stander@clpf.edu.

STACEY ANDERSON
SALT LAKE CITY — "Hostel" would probably be a better movie if it were about two gay cowboys shipping each other silly in the Wyoming wilderness instead of three moron adult adolescents chasing skir in Europe. It's hard to feel sorry for these jocks when they end up being the subjects of sadistic torture and murder.

The young men in question are Paxton (Joey Hernandez), Josh (Derek Richardt) and
tanging along with them is a friend they met along the way, Oh (Eythor Nekle) Paxton and Josh have just graduated from college and are spending a few weeks backpacking around Europe, staying in hostels and getting as much prothesis as as possible. For the first 30 minutes, "Hostel" thinks it's a sex comedy and it gets pretty old pretty fast. They eventually meet referred to one particular hostel in Slovakia, where they are promised they will find the lowest women in Europe. Only it's not just a hostel — it's a front for a vast torture chamber, featuring a cornucopia of fun and inventive ways to maim, disfigure and mutilate unsuspecting tourists. OK, so we don't expect too much of a plot in a movie like this. All we want is to be scared, or horrified — suspense a little instead of just trying to disgust us), and people die in a lot of inventive ways to maim, disfigure and dismember them. And there's nothing to really grab onto. For the first .30 minutes, "Hostel" probably delivers the goods. But most truly good horror works because it builds tension and suspense — and there's little of that here.
COMMENTARY

Change your world

W
tember your New Year’s resolution
for this year. University President Warren Bakes is asking that we consider
the world. It’s not too far
touched considering the accom-
plishments of some of our high
profile alumni like Burt Rutan
inventor of SpaceShipOne, the
first private manned spacecraft
launched to the atmosphere at an
altitude of over 69 miles; Paul
Ortalea, founder of Kinko’s and
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launch...
Frankly
continued from page 8
or vacat"ing in a warmer part of the world (like Bangkok where it reached an impressive 96-plus degrees in late December), the Cal Poly volleyball team is already practicing and posing impressive wins.

For example, the Mustangs upset then No. 14 Nebraska and nearly upset No. 8 Iowa State in a pair of top-25 caliber matches last year.

Meanwhile, Cal Poly looks to form one of the most talented 4x400m relay teams in the school's history.

5) I know it's early to be talking about this, but how about a Cal Poly three-peat in the Buck Buchanan Award balloting?

A year ago, Mustang middlebacker Jordan Beck, now of the Atlanta Falcons, won the award. This year defensive end Chris Gogong was named the top defensive player in Division I-AA. Let's hope the '06 campaign begins with Ryan Shorewell as Cal Poly's third consecutive Buck Buchanan winner?

6) The emergence of Cal Poly volleyball as a top-25 caliber program. Word around the volleyball office is that coach Jim Stevenson is putting together a schedule that includes several nationally prominent programs. And why not? If the selection committee said the Mustangs were denied a tournament bid due to strength of schedule, a tough schedule is just what the Mustangs need. You can take my word that when the schedule is announced, it will be one of the toughest in the nation.

There it is, my short Christmas wish list for Cal Poly athletics. Among the others considered: A huge cash donation from John Madden, perhaps in the sum of $156,000,000 to top billionaire Boone Pickens' donation to Oklahoma State athletics by one million. Hey, a guy can dream, right?

---

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1130

ACROSS

1 1930s s. Chrysler (9)
2 Totally lost (9)
3 No goods (9)
4 Coin tossed in the 15-45-77-69-90-7-4-63-15-90 lottery (14)
5 "Three coins..." (9)
6 Genesis victim (9)
7 Unwelcome visitor (9)
8 "Friends" spinach (9)
9 My Cousin Vinny (9)
10 Do not play (9)
11 Wavy design (9)
12 Duplicates, for one (9)
13 Totally crush (9)
14 They may be called upon (9)
15 Blue-ribbon (9)
16 Like a bad apple (9)
17 Like some man (9)
18 Answer to previous puzzle (9)

DOWN

1 Drown (9)
2 Hold builder, maybe (9)
3 Mafioso mutt (9)
4 Banjo player (9)
5 True weight (9)
6 In A-B-C order (9)
7 167-figure answer (9)
8 İstanbul inspired (9)
9 Whirled (9)
10 Fool (9)
11 Combine name (9)
12 More arful (9)
13 Painter of 1944 (9)
14 Rockie, beagle (9)
15 Salsa queen (9)
16 Weaver (9)
17 Reader's goal (9)
18 Several, perhaps (9)
19 See 57-Down (9)
20 Report letters? (9)
21 Weep (9)
22 57-Down figure (9)
23 While at the beach (9)
24 16 coins..." (9)
25 T. Monocots (9)
26 Like a bad apple (9)
27 Like some wink (9)
28 Ticked off (9)
29 "C'mon, my word!" (9)
30 "Cruel sorts" (9)
31 "Cmon, my word!" (9)
32 Illustrated models (9)
33 "We do" (9)
34 "Rather than" (9)
35 "Like to do..." (9)
36 "Like some starts" (9)
37 "Ticked off" (9)
38 "In or near" (9)
39 "Bring down" (9)
40 "Roll of the dice" (9)
41 "Rake"..." (9)
42 "Jeez, what a day!" (9)
43 "Small nervous" (9)
44 "T. Monocots" (9)
45 "T. Monocots" (9)
46 "T. Monocots" (9)
47 "T. Monocots" (9)
48 "T. Monocots" (9)
49 "T. Monocots" (9)
50 "T. Monocots" (9)
51 "T. Monocots" (9)
52 "T. Monocots" (9)
53 "T. Monocots" (9)
54 "T. Monocots" (9)
55 Minimal wearer (9)

SUDOKU Today's Solutions

Su Doku

3 4 5 8 7 1 2 6 9
4 7 8 9 5 3 1 6 2
5 9 2 3 1 4 7 8 6
6 1 3 2 7 9 5 4 8
7 6 8 1 2 3 9 5 5
8 5 7 1 9 4 6 2 3
9 7 4 6 5 2 8 3 1
2 6 9 5 8 7 4 3 1
1 3 5 7 6 4 9 2 8
3 1 8 9 7 6 4 5 2

3 8 5 2 1 4 9 6 7
7 4 9 6 3 2 1 8 5
5 1 4 9 8 2 7 6 3
6 9 2 8 3 4 7 5 1
7 3 6 5 2 1 3 4 8
5 4 3 9 8 6 1 7 2
1 9 8 4 5 3 6 2 7
7 6 5 3 4 1 9 2 8
8 1 5 7 6 4 9 3 2

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Wednesday, January 11, 2006
**NCAA seeks changes in hiring**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The NCAA wants more women and minorities in coaching and administrative positions. The governing body has set up a task force in an attempt to address a situation in which almost 90 percent of NCAA women's teams were coached by white men. The situation is even more extreme at the universities and almost 60 percent of women's teams were coached by white women.

The statistics, presented Sunday during a Division I forum at the NCAA convention, were collected for the 2003-04 school year, the most recent study by the NCAA.

The task force, appointed by NCAA president Myles Brand, also will look for ways to enable female coaches and administrators to better balance home and work responsibilities. Brand gave the group no timetable.

"We have not had a strategic road map with clear expectations for the membership," said Charlotte Westerhaus, NCIAA vice president for diversity and inclusion and chairman of the task force.

The NCAA survey also showed 7.2 percent of male head coaches and 7.7 percent of female head coaches are minorities. Twenty-six percent of male athletes and 14.9 percent of female athletes are minorities.

And Brand said that under the passage of Title IX legislation requiring gender equity in educational programs, "diversity and inclusion are values of the university. They must also be the values and practices of intercollegiate athletics programs."

"Diversity and inclusion are values of the university," he added. "They must also be the values and practices of intercollegiate athletics programs."

The NCAA also recinded increases in Division I scholarships in women's sports this past Saturday, a setback for smaller schools fearing even greater disadvantage if more players were recruited to larger universities.

"Diversity and inclusion are values of the university," he added. "They must also be the values and practices of intercollegiate athletics programs." "We expect merit will determine who will play and who will lead," he said in his State of the Association speech Saturday. "But coaching women's teams than coaching men's teams than coaches were black, compared with 19.4 percent of male athletes and coaches being black, compared with 19.4 percent of male athletes and coaches being black.

The decision by Division I delegates came during their opening business session at the annual NCAA convention. It reversed the scholarship increases approved last year by the NCAA board of directors.

"It was democracy at work," NCAA President Myles Brand said.

"This is a membership association, and members have spoken.

The only sport that failed to get the five-eighths majority of voting delegates required for an override was soccer, in part of concerns about injuries that might require a greater number of players.

The board last year approved increasing scholarships from 12 to 14 in gymnastics and soccer, from 12 to 13 in volleyball and 18 to 20 in cross country/track and field. The override votes were prompted by requests from more than 100 schools. This was the first time the NCAA has gone to the membership to accept or reject a board decision since Division I adopted its current structure in 1997.

"It is about equity, it is about opportunity for women," said Butler University athletic director John Patry, who supported the override. "But I can tell you the answer for those who are struggling with opportunities for women is to add more sports, don't just add scholarships in selected sports."

Many schools were concerned about the costs of adding two more scholarships in those sports.

"But there are more concerns about competitive equity," Patry said. "We've seen in a number of sports when there have been reductions that it's been much more competitive across the country. It's logical to conclude that if we go up in the number of scholarships, then a number of schools will stockpile and therefore make competitive imbalance.

The votes were 188-111 with 23 abstentions (62.9 percent) to override the increase for gymnastics; 204-117 (63.6 percent) for volleyball; and 202-117 (63.3 percent) for cross country and track. Delegates feared the override for soccer 191-125-1, but the 60.4 percent approval was not enough to pass.

Rutgers athletic director at Missouri, supported the Division I scholarship increases, saying there's no persuasive data that adds one would hurt smaller schools.

"I can think of no easier way to get people to be able to support what we're doing in higher education than for scholarships for women athletes," he said.

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**Frankly Speaking**

Frank Straniz

SPORTS EDITOR

The setting: Christmas Eve.

I was sitting in front of a crackling fire, Christmas music serenading the room (real Christmas songs, like "Joy to the World" and "The Little Drummer Boy" - that "PC" crap doesn't fly in our house). But anyways, some childhoodChristmases were much better in the air while we sang. Maybe it was the Christmas spirit, or maybe it was the eggnog we downed by the fire. No. We were having a grand ole' time.

OK, so the crackling fire and Christmas songs were actually coming from the TV, a Christmas tribute by the W.B. And, in all honesty, the fire wasn't even crackling - it was silently flickering.

There were no childhood chums, and I sure as hell wasn't singing along as I sat alone in my room.

Most importantly, there was no eggnog (can't stand the stuff).

But details aside, I decided to write the first Frankly Speaking of the New Year with a holiday theme, even though Hanukkah, Christmas, and that other one, Kwanza, have long since passed.

Here for you now is my Cal Poly athletics 2006 wish list.

1. A clean slate for the men's basketball team as they enter Big West Conference play. The non-conference schedule might have been ugly, but it could've been worse. Take, for example, Big West rival UC Riverside. The Highlanders finished the non-conference schedule at a gruesome 0-10, drawing time on ESPN.com's "Bottom 10" teams of the week on several occasions.

2. Some love for Cal Poly swimming. While you might have been skipping the slopes at Whidler see Frankly, page 7

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**Men's bball AP top 25, page 7**

**BILIONNAIRE DONATES $165 MILLION TO OSU**

Billionaire alumnus Boone Pickens will donate $165 million to Oklahoma State, the largest single gift given to an NCAA athletic program.

"This isn't just about football or basketball or our major sports," athletic director Mike Holder said Tuesday. "It's about every sport, giving every coach here and every athlete here the opportunity to strive for excellence."

The amount surpasses the $100 million Las Vegas casino owner Ralph Engelstad gave the University of North Dakota in 1998. Only half that sum was to be used to build a hockey arena, but the project eventually consumed the entire gift.

Pickens' donation is aimed at creating an athletic village north of the football stadium that already bears the name of the 77-year-old Texas oil tycoon.

"Associated Press."