**Stand up and be heard**

Caitlin Donnell  
**MUSTANG DAILY 2-PART SERIES**

This is the second part of a two-part series on women in engineering majors and the Cal Poly Society of Women Engineers and motivates her to do better in her classes. “The amount of guys that are in all my classes is pretty shocking to me because growing up, I had only girl friends.”

Being from an Indian background where you don’t really talk to boys that much,” Neetra Punnar, electrical engineering senior and corporate marketing director for SWE, said. “And now I find myself to be suddenly surrounded by guys.”

Danie Levill, civil engineering sophomore and philosophy director for SWE, explained that women have to gain respect from the men in male-dominated engineering classes. “I am in a materials engineering class with all guys, so, they have to respect me and understand me and see me as a person, and they do,” she said. “I haven’t faced any really difficult challenges yet. I have worked with groups of guys in many of my classes and they have been very open and they just see me as another person.”

Jennifer Reimer, chair of the CSSA and Associated Students President at CSU Fresno, approved the governor’s decision for buying out the fees in the 2006-07 budget year. “If this budget is approved by the legislature, fees will not increase for students,” Reimer said in a press release. “College is a drain for many low and middle-income families and by keeping fees low, the governor has made our dreams a reality.”

Reimer added that the proposal is quite a turnaround from late October 2005 when the CSU Board of Trustees approved an 8 percent fee increase. Joining seven Cal Poly students and many students from around California, Cal Poly ASI President Tylor Middlestadt traveled to Long Beach to participate in a rally to oppose fee increases. Anu Joshi, President of the University of California Student Association and Graduate Student at UC Berkeley, released a statement celebrating the victory of restoring California’s legacy of being able to offer affordable higher education. “We are ecstatic that the governor decided to prioritize higher education in his state budget proposal and take the first step in restoring the classic legacy of accessibility to higher education in California,” Joshi said in a press release. Carolyn Fiers contributed to this report.

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**Students applaud budget proposal**

Caitlin Donnell  
**MUSTANG DAILY**

The California State Student Association (CSSA) praised Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s budget proposal that he announced Tuesday would eliminate fee increases at California colleges and universities.

The proposed budget provides nearly $2.8 billion in state general fund revenue to the California State University (CSU) system. This represents a 7.3 percent increase over the current 2005-06 budget year appropri­ations, according to a press release from Clara Peters-Fellow in the office of the chancellor from the CSU sys­tem. There is $54.4 million included in this amount, which is above the state’s general fund commitment as part of the Higher Education Compact to eliminate fee increases for students. Jennifer Reimer, chair of the CSSA and Associated Students President at CSU Fresno, approved the governor’s decision for buying out the fees in the 2006-07 budget year. "If this (budget) is approved by the legislature, fees will not increase for students and their families next year, saving undergraduates $204 and graduate students $312," Reimer said in a press release. "College is a drain for many low and middle-income families and by keeping fees low, the governor has made our dreams a reality.

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The Society of Women Engineers is an organization that supports diversity in engineering, and is not restricted to female members. In fact, almost 40 percent of SWE is comprised of male members.

"If there are women who are intimidated in a class, it's not for the reason of being a female in engineering, not at Cal Poly anyways," he said.

LeBlanc said he is proud to not only be a part of SWE, but proud of the leaders who are able to put together a club "that does so many amazing things that it is a shame for people who wouldn't want to join and really participate."

Moving from the classroom and into the field

The lack of women in the classroom may seem grim, but the industry is an even more male-dominated world compared to academia.

"I think some of the challenges that women face in the industry is the 'old boys' networks and all the 'higher-up' males in the companies," Sale said. "It is the men who have been working in the industry for a long time and haven't had the experience of working with women; it is these men that don't have the mindset that we, as women, can contribute just as much as men," Sale said.

Times are changing and women are proving themselves as capable engineers and moving up in companies, she said. So, as time passes those barriers are going to be broken, but do they exist.

Just one out of a graduating class, Finger was once sent on a contracting job where she had to tell a group of male construction workers to re-do a job. She said she was not received very well because she was an engineer, because she was young and because she was a woman.

She remembers calling out to her, "Just like a woman, never satisfied." She said she didn't bother her too much because she was the one in charge of their paycheck, and like Sale, turning an uncomfortable situation into a positive.

Working with males on a professional level in the workplace doesn't always have to be a challenge.

Jessica Wilbur, an aerospace engineering senior and vice president of college relations for SWE, has had an internship for the last three years where she is the only female engineer out of ten engineers at an orbital science corporation.

"All of the guys have really taken me under their wing, all of the technicians help me a lot and I don't think that they treat me any different than the men," she said. "If anything, they are excited to have a female engineer there to work with because there are so few women, but you have to remember to speak up and make your voice heard."

Wilbur said that is a pretty unique opportunity to be a woman engineer and that when she looks around the room in the building where she works, she feels empowered.

Sale has also had many experiences outside of the classroom working in the field with professionals. She worked for a large construction company in San Francisco a couple of summers ago and worked on a project where the average age of the engineers was 57.

She was one of three women out of a team of 60 engineers.

"I was working with older men who were not used to working with women, and they always treated me more like their daughter rather than someone who was on their team," she said.

"That only encourages me to make challenging situations like these into a positive and motivates me to prove myself as capable - something many women engineers are able to do to break down the strong barrier in this male-dominated engineering world."

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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

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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
WHO SAID THAT?

Getting ahead in a difficult profession requires avid faith in yourself. That is why some people with mediocre talent, but with great inner drive, go much further than people with vastly superior talent.
— Sophia Loren

The follies which a man regrets most, in his life, are those which he didn’t commit when he had the opportunity.
— Helen Rowland

Wordly

Insouciant: Calm and unbothered; carefree; indifferent

Wise

BREAKING NEWS

UPDATED AT THE SPEED OF COLLEGE LIFE

Name: Brittany Clyde • Year: freshman
Hometown: Fair Oaks • Major: journalism

Favorites

Muppet: Miss Piggy
Food item: Yams
Book: "Lord of the Rings"
Movie: "The Shawshank Redemption"

If You Could...

— travel to any place at any time where would it be and why?
Into the future.

— choose the world to be in one color what would it be?
Yellow.

— erase one musical artist from history who would it be and why?
Milli Vanilli

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— Now Times Readers’ Pick

Voted Cal Poly’s Favorite Pizza!
— Mustang Daily Readers’ Pick

Voted SLO’s

Best Pizza
17 times!

W O O D S T O C K
P I Z Z A
State briefs

PETALUMA (AP) — Archaeologists are scrambling to save artifacts from a historic site where Greg Mariana Valletta’s ranch workers lived 175 years ago.

The site was one of several on the North Coast significantly damaged during the New Year’s flooding. “We’ll try to salvage it, we will take out as much as we can before it’s late,” Beck Perkman, a senior archaeologist for California State Parks, said on Monday.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Supervisors voted to spend $340,400 for computer software and other equipment to block access to pornographic Web sites at county libraries.

The Board of Supervisors voted in October to install limited filters on adult computers and more restrictive filters on children’s computers to prevent library visitors from viewing sexually explicit sites.

MORENO VALLEY (AP) — Children under 18 now face a day without recess.

In an effort to reduce crime and keep kids in school, the City Council unanimously approved a new law Tuesday that bans juveniles from public places during school hours — 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Police officers can stop, question, issue citations and pick up truants.

Supreme Court clashes over fairness of California death sentence

Gina Holland

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court was split Wednesday in reinstating a California inmate’s death sentence, a decision that came down to the vote of retiring Justice Sandra Day O’Connor.

Justices voted 5-to-4 to overturn an appeals court ruling that declared Ronald Sanders’ sentence unconstitutional.

It was the first capital punishment decision under newly installed Chief Justice John Roberts and probably will be one of the last cases in which O’Connor is an influential vote.

Senators are considering President Bush’s nomination of Samuel Alito to succeed O’Connor. Alito’s views track those in the ruling against Sanders.

Replacing O’Connor with Alito in this opinion would not have made a difference,” said Kent Schederdeggt, legal director of the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation, a pro-death penalty group that backed California in the case.

Sanders was put on death row in 1982 for killing a woman a year earlier during a drug-related robbery in Bakersfield, Calif. Janice Allen was bound with a vacuum cleaner electrical cord, bludgeoned and beaten to death.

Two of the four special circumstances used by prosecutors in their case against Sanders — that the crime was committed during a burglary and was cruel or heinous — were later found invalid.

California argued that Sanders would have been eligible for a death sentence even without those factors. The Supreme Court’s five conservative members agreed.

“The erroneous factor could not have ‘skewed’ the sentence, and no constitutional violation occurred,” Justice Antonin Scalia wrote in an opinion joined by Roberts, O’Connor, Anthony M. Kennedy and Clarence Thomas.

In a dissent, Justice John Paul Stevens and David H. Souter said this decision is more likely to complicate than to clarify our capital sentencing jurisprudence.”

Justices Stephen Breyer and Ruth Bader Ginsburg filed a separate dissent, complaining that the court’s finding could “deprive a defendant of a fair and reliable sentencing proceeding.”

Without O’Connor, the court would have been split 4-4, which would have left in place the lower court ruling in Sanders’ favor.

Officials find tunnel at U.S.-Mexico border

SAN DIEGO — U.S. Border Patrol agents stumbled on a cross-border tunnel after it caved in and the asphalt roadway above it collapsed, officials said.

The 35-foot-long tunnel, which was found Monday, ended in a patch of vacant land on the U.S. side near the San Ysidro port of entry, said Lauren Mack, a spokesman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the investigatory arm of the Department of Homeland Security.

The primitive tunnel was about 3 feet by 3 feet and appeared to have been used recently, she said.

The exit on the U.S. side was sealed with sandbags and metal strips, Mack said. Authorities did not know when it was built and whether it was used for smuggling drugs or people, she said.

The tunnel is across the border from an area that is either owned or leased by Mexican Customs.

No arrests were made. Also on Monday, authorities in Nogales, Ariz. discovered a 40-foot-long border tunnel. Two men were arrested as they hauled 300 pounds of marijuana from the tunnel, authorities said.

Thursday, January 12, 2006
Bush says hearings on eavesdropping program will be “good for democracy”

Deb Richehann
AP WASHINGTON

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — President Bush said Wednesday that congressional hearings to investigate his domestic eavesdropping program will be good for democracy as long as they don’t give secrets away to the enemy.

Bush was initially opposed to having the program investigated in a public forum, but made it clear that he is resigned to open hearings that are scheduled to begin in coming weeks.

Bush’s decision to authorize the National Security Agency to monitor — without warrants — people inside the United States has sparked a flurry of questions about the program’s legal justification.

Bush defended the program during a campaign-style town hall meeting, saying he understands concerns about it but monitoring the phone calls of affiliates of the terrorist network al Qaida is necessary to protect the United States.

For the second time in a month, Bush took questions from audience members during an appearance to win support for his war on terror.

In his opening remarks, he defended the global war on terrorism and the U.S. effort in Iraq. He said insurgents in Iraq were trying to drive the United States out and the enemy was revealed. Bush called for democracy, “Here’s what they do — adjust.”

While saying he wanted to bring American troops home, he said, “I don’t want them to come home without achieving the victory.”

In a question and answer session, Bush was asked about Iraq, education priorities, immigration, the economy, health care and other subjects. He said the war on terrorism would not end with an enemy surrender, as was the case in World War II. “I don’t envision a signing ceremony on the USS Missouri,” Bush said. “The peace won’t be the kind of peace we’re used to.”

White House press secretary Scott McClellan said questions from the audience were not pre-screened, and Bush himself said that while the event was about terrorism, no questions were off limits.

Kentucky, where Iraq is taking center stage in politics, provided an appropriate backdrop for Bush’s remarks.

Kentucky Rep. Anne Northup, a Republican ally of Bush who joined him at the event, described the situation in Iraq as “painful.” Yet, she stands firmly behind his decision to invade that country, a potentially divisive issue in Northup’s upcoming re-election campaign.

In contrast, Iraq war veteran Andrew Horne, a Democrat running for her seat, said the invasion was a mistake because the threat of weapons of mass destruction — a key justification for the war — never materialized.

In addition to a question and answer session, Bush addressed the National Security Council.

He defended the program, saying it was based on the program’s legal justification.

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Levy attacks female disunity in 'Pigs'

Katie Koxton
The Post/Report

ATHENS, Ohio — A male chauvinist pig was a title given to men who believed they were superior to women. From the man who refers to his waitress as "tostie" to the man who can't let his female classmate play in a game of kickball — the term "male chauvinist pig" has been around for a while.

Thanks to author Ariel Levy, the term "female chauvinist pig" is introduced into popular culture. In her first book, "Female Chauvinist Pigs: Women and the Rise of Rancour Culture," Levy raised an interesting point: Women must unite in order to advance in today's culture. But how can they when there is a wave of women out there that claim they hate girls? The feminist chauvinist pig shuns girls who care about their looks.

Levy interviews a variety of women, from college females who flash their breasts for "Girls Gone Wild" cameras, to those who hate girls. Her choice of vocabulary vividly embodies her message, which can be appreciated by the "girl-girls" or the female chauvinist pigs that want to be "like a man."

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I am starting a new research field and anyone who wants to join me can feel free to contact me. What study are you asking? It is the study of the migratory pattern of the downtown drinker. If you have drank downtown you have probably witnessed this occurrence: drinkers roaming the streets moving from bar to bar for some reason or another.

The best example of this is the Tuesday night pint night war that has been going on for a few months now. Up until a few months ago, you could see crowds of drinkers making their way towards Frog & Peach Pub, past glass in hand every Tuesday night. Now there is a new bar in town, Downtown Brew (the old NO Brew), and they have implemented a new Tuesday night pint night. The migration has begun, but soon there will be an overcrowded population problem.

The crowd has come to Downtown Brew to try out the new deal: $1 for a pint of their own house beer or a few select drafts, as opposed to $1.25 for Bad or Bad Light at Frog & Peach — if you have a glass.

When I first got there, the place was only 2/3 full. The new droves of people using the bar were shocking, and before I knew it that dollar I was spending was only getting me a plastic cup full of beer. This scene seems to mimic the rise of America. The early settlers came to this country for open spaces and new opportunities. But then the great migration began, after everyone saw what was great about America, and soon the early settlers became bitter about the new shooters of people using the resources, crowding the land and ruining what they had.

Levy attacks female disunity in 'Pigs'
WHO tries to allay fears over bird flu outbreak in Turkey

Kadyr Toktogulov special correspondent

ANKARA, Turkey — International agencies warned against panic but cautioned Tuesday that Turkey's neighbors may be unable to keep out the bird flu that has infected at least 15 people across the country in the last week.

Nations bordering Turkey continued to step up preventive measures, disinfecting cars at border crossings, handing out leaflets and blocking people carrying birds. But health officials said the measures may prove insufficient.

"The virus may be spreading despite the control measures already taken," said Juan Lubroth, senior animal health officer at the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization.

Preliminary tests in the last week indicate that 15 people in Turkey have been infected with the deadly H5N1 strain — the largest number of cases in a single week since late 2003, when the virus began sweeping Asia. Three children have died, but only two of those cases were confirmed to have tested positive for bird flu.

Greece was sending 500 veterinarians to border areas and spraying cars and trucks from Turkey with disinfectant. Bulgaria said it will not let the virus into its territory.

Greece also is gathering enough antiviral drugs to supply 3 percent of the country's 11 million people. "We must not panic and we must not relax," Greek Health Minister Nikitas Kaklamanis said after an emergency ministers' meeting on bird flu.

Danzon said there were no signs that the deadly strain was being transmitted to people in Turkey, where all of the cases appeared to have involved people who touched or played with infected birds.

Health experts have been watching closely for indications that H5N1 is mutating into a potent form passed between people, which could cause a pandemic capable of killing millions.

Turkey's government, anxious to demonstrate its preparedness to combat the disease, on Tuesday began vaccinating its 60 million poultry flocks, even though there is no vaccine available to contain it.

A senior WHO official for communicable diseases, Guenael Rodier, said the virus cannot cross national borders of countries where it is endemic. An official for the World Organization for Animal Health said it was "impossible for the virus to be transmitted outside the borders of a country with infected poultry."
Cell phones may cause cancer

Susan Thomas
THE ORACLE (EU SOUTH FLORIDA)

TAMPA, Fla. — It has been estimated that there are 1.2 billion cell phone users according to Network World magazine. Whether these cell phone users are in danger of adverse health effects such as cancer is still a concern. Are these cell phone users in danger of getting cancer, brain tumors or other health problems as a result of cell phone radiation?

According to The Associated Press, companies such as Motorola, Nokia, Sprint and Cingular Wireless are facing charges that the radiation their cell phones emit is at a dangerous level and these companies had previous knowledge of the radiation danger.

"My parents didn't want me to use my (cell) phone too much because they were afraid it was going to be harmful," junior Quang Lee said.

Class action lawsuits against these cell phone manufacturers have been filed in Pennsylvania, Maryland. The cases eventually were taken to federal court in Baltimore but were dismissed by Judge Catherine Blake. The Fourth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals then reinstated the five cases. Four of the cases have been sent to the state courts again, and the fifth will be tried at the federal level. On Oct. 31, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected an appeal from cell phone manufacturers, who were hoping to have the cases dismissed once again.

Cell phones are potentially linked to brain tumors, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, fatigue and headaches. Even though the phones emit only a low level of radiation, cell phones are still thought to be dangerous because of the proximity to the head during use.

"Because hand-held cellular telephones are used close to the head, there is concern that the RF (radio frequency) energy produced by these devices may affect the brain," the American Cancer Institute said on Cancer.gov.

Rhode Island becomes latest state to legalize medicinal marijuana

Danielle Novy
DAILY TEXAS TECH

LUBBOCK, Texas — Winter may be far from over, but Rhode Island is already starting to see green, it recently became the 11th state to legalize medicinal marihuana.

The Ocean State's decision came about six months after the U.S. Supreme Court's June ruling that those who use the drug, even for medical purposes, still can be prosecuted under federal law.

Joining the ranks of California and Colorado, Rhode Island now allows marihuana to be both grown and used for medicinal purposes.

State law now allows patients being treated for illnesses such as AIDS and cancer to purchase up to 2.5 ounces or grow up to 12 plants of marihuana after registering with the state and gaining an identification card.

Paul Armentano, the senior policy analyst for the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, said Rhode Island's legalization of medicinal marihuana aligns with the wishes of the public.

"It is an indication that at least some state's politicians have caught up with the wills of voters," he said of the ruling.

Politics and the issue of health care should be separated, Armentano said.

"Politics shouldn't play a role in health care," he said. "Yet, in this case they do. Unfortunately, because it is marihuana, it's held up to a different standard (than most other varieties of medicine)."

Armentano said despite the federal ruling that prohibits medicinal marihuana across the nation, state laws similar to those adapted by Rhode Island generally have proved to have a deep impact.

Armentano said state laws provided adequate protection to the patients using hemp as a form of treatment.

"Less than one percent of the annual arrests for possession of marihuana are done federally," he said. "Instead, they are often done locally."

Armentano said figures such as this provided support for the notion that the new state law would have an effect upon the Rhode Island citizen.

Despite the ruling, doctors are still not permitted to legally prescribe marijuana as a treatment under federal law. In 2001, one Oregon doctor had his license suspended after approving half of the state's medicinal marihuana applications. The suspension came about three years after medical marihuana was legalized in the state.

With the spotlight now secured on a new horizon of reforms, Armentano said other states have been emerging into various stages of the marihuana debate.

"New Jersey, Michigan and New Mexico have bills pending," he said. As for Texas, Armentano said the Lone Star State would likely ponder the issue in coming years.

"Texas had a bill that was considered last year," he said. "It hasn't had a lot of success in moving the issue. My assumption is that the bill will be reintroduced and be a subject of debate for the Texas Legislature."

Armentano said he suspected 2007 might prove to be a pivotal year for Judge Supreme Court would likely ponder the issue in coming years.

"Politics shouldn't play a role in health care," he said. "Yet, in this case they do. Unfortunately, because it is marihuana, it's held up to a different standard (than most other varieties of medicine)."

Armentano said despite the federal ruling that prohibits medicinal marihuana across the nation, state laws similar to those adapted by Rhode Island generally have proved to have a deep impact.

Armentano said state laws provided adequate protection to the patients using hemp as a form of treatment.

"Less than one percent of the annual arrests for possession of marihuana are done federally," he said. "Instead, they are often done locally."

Armentano said figures such as this provided support for the notion that the new state law would have an effect upon the Rhode Island citizen.

Despite the ruling, doctors are still not permitted to legally prescribe marijuana as a treatment under federal law. In 2001, one Oregon doctor had his license suspended after approving half of the state's medicinal marihuana applications. The suspension came about three years after medical marihuana was legalized in the state.

With the spotlight now secured on a new horizon of reforms, Armentano said other states have been emerging into various stages of the marihuana debate.

"New Jersey, Michigan and New Mexico have bills pending," he said. As for Texas, Armentano said the Lone Star State would likely ponder the issue in coming years.
COMMENTARY

No, you da ho

Thursday, January 12, 2006

Editor in chief: Dan Watson
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www.mustangdaily.net

COMMENTS

The tale of Jimmy Stewart and the banana penis

BY JANICE EOM

Thursday, January 12, 2006

I

How could I even begin to answer such a question from my proper, sweet mother, who in my mind had sex three times to produce me and then called it a day? Well, gosh. Mom...do you mean the parties where everyone gets wasted and two people drunkenly search for an empty room where the guy will casually lick the girl after ten minutes of hard work? In that case, yes, I know those parties, and I attend them regularly and have occasionally been caught. Or the crazy swinger ones where people abandon every article of clothing upon entering some erotic mansion and love it up with twenty or thirty strangers? Because those parties I haven’t been to...yet.

It’s not just my mother. A high school friend found herselfamotoed beyond words when her mother recently declared, “Did you know some married men like to put their prunes in their wives’ baths?” I read an article about it. Clearly a generational gap concerning hot sex has emerged. According to the National Study of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles conducted in 2006, the average age at which most young people lose their virginity is now 16 — that’s quite a difference from high school dances in the 40s movie “It’s a Wonderful Life” was, how Jimmy Stewart can barely muster the courage to give Donna Reed a goodnight kiss, and how nakedness on the dance floor and jack each other off. Somehow a lot of these kids, aged 16-18, were completely disoriented of the parenting partner chaperones and the crowd of hundreds, happily masturbating each other to their heart’s content. I found myself wondering about how drag queens were permitted to dance in the high school dance in the 40s movie “It’s a Wonderful Life.” Clearly, kids’ increases! private time at home after school, and pornographs. the cultural normalization of female masturbation, kids’ increased private time at home after school, and even the significance of email replacing the written love letter.

My theory is that the youth’s “perceived maturity” has gone up. What I mean is that with the rise of technology and the growing open-mindedness and social acceptance of sexuality (sexuality is even a part of politics now) kids are getting exposed to the stuff at younger ages, and are deciding for themselves that they are informed enough to experiment sexually. You put yourself in the shoes of a 14-year-old the year 2006. Think about how you probably even a cell phone on which you can have private conversations with members of the opposite sex. If not, Nielsen/Netratings says that 95 percent of all homes in the U.S. have the internet, so you can probably use email or IRC (Internet relay chat) like MSN or AIM to communicate. It was only a decade ago that I had to ask my parents for permission to use a phone when I wanted to play baseball with my buddies, and surely I would never dare to request a phone call with a girl. And these days, unless your Vonchips got programmed or your parents pay a lot of attention to your TV habits at home and away, you have seen half a million soft-core sex scenes on daytime TV. If you stay up past your bedtime, you will surely see sex on HBO.

I think sexuality is a very natural, healthy thing. I don’t necessar­ily agree with losing personal virginity at 14 years old, but what I do think is important given that we can’t seem curb the interest of our youth, we must abandon dated abstinence pro­grams and focus on sex education. I was fortunate enough to have a lady in 5th grade come to the class and show me how to put a condom on a banana, and for the sake of preventing unwanted pregnancies and STIs nationwide, every kid should, metaphoric­ally, handle a banana penis.

Questions? Comments? Meet an e-mail at janiceeom@calpoly.edu if you have any of those pangs...yes, those pangs.

Laiga Young

Assistant News Editor

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If you don't know what I'm talking about, just look at any 13-year-old boy with a wispy mustache. Now imagine it instead on a college basketball superstar.

"Retire" - Brett Favre

I'd love to use this space in my column to make excuses for Brett Favre, but I can't. With 29 interceptions and his worst career passer rating (70.9) this year, it's time to hang it up. It's gotten to the point where a 3 and 10 for the Packers is like a 1 and 9 for your opponents (the defensive backs have a better shot at a TD than do the receivers). Don't stay and tarnish your legacy - in the words of the immortal Ron Burgundy: "Maybe sit the next couple plays out."

"Never Retire" - Joe Paterno

A year ago the press was calling it. He's getting too old for his retirement from Penn State. Now, after winning the Orange Bowl and finishing the season 11-1 ranked No. 3 in the nation, the press is voting him Coach of the Year. After winning 354 games and enduring a dramatic triple OT game at the age of 79, who's to say when he should stop? I want him to be on a college football field with a frisbee if that's what it takes to keep him happy.

His mere presence on the field would ensure a 500 record. They don't have to drive him up and down the sidelines or stop him to prep athletes for housing. In fact, he could even replace the national anthem and Calm Peterson could be college football's version of the NFL Stanley Cup as he is passed around from player to player at the end of the season. I will now step away from the keyboard before I am struck by lightning.

"Meet Bob Barker" - Mark Schremmer

Speaking of human statues — this is completely unrelated to this column — or so you think. While I'm sure everyone reading this had much better things to do this winter break than watch The Price is Right, I didn't. As a result, I happened to be watching one of my favorite game shows.

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Early as it is, March Madness is on the horizon and the post-season picture becomes clearer every week. While and his Tigers the NCAA Tournament as an at the end of the season, a rare multi-team appearance from the Big West, Pacific coach Bob Thomas said the winner of the conference tournament will likely be flying solo.

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**Sports**

Thursday, January 12, 2006

**Big West: A big fall down**

UC Irvine leads the conference while pre-season favorites Cal State Fullerton and Pacific both fell victim to upsets in week one

Frank Stranzl

O’how the mighty hath fallen. University of the Pacific and Cal State Fullerton were the consensus pre-season picks to top of the Big West, but early conference upsets have thrown the standings into upheaval.

Cal Poly (4-10, 2-2) and UC Riverside (2-12, 2-2) entered Big West play as the proverbial long shots to win the conference championship. But not so fast, both schools scored huge upsets in the opening week of Big West play.

First came Cal Poly’s victory against the pre-season favorite, Fullerton (8-6, 2-2). The Mustangs kept it close at halftime, trailing 35-30 and found a familiar friend in many modern day upsets, the three-point shot. Cal Poly connected on 8 of 13 three-point shots and posted a 9-Point in the second half to pull away from the Titans.

Next, UC Riverside followed up a fulfilling trip to the Central Coast, beating UC Santa Barbara (6-8, 1-3) 81-78 for its first win of the season, by defeating highly touted Pacific (10-5, 1-1). Riverside’s Rickey Porter was the story, scoring 40 points on 13 for 19 shooting, including seven-for-seven from three-point range.

That’s right, the same Riverside that lost to Div. III Puget Sound 115-111 earlier this season.

Despite his team’s non-conference struggles, Riverside coach David Spencer said in a Big West conference call Wednesday that every team must be considered a contender.

“It would appear to me that the conference is wide open,” Spencer said. “The only team that has a chance to go undefeated at this point is Irvine.”

Irvine (6-8, 2-3) stands alone atop the Big West after narrowly escaping Mott Gym with a 69-67 win over Santa Barbara.

Add it all up and the answer seems quite simple: The Big West is weak this season. Even if Pacific or Fullerton runs the table into March, neither has the non-conference wins necessary to receive an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament.

Coaches across the league were quick to point out the conference isn’t as weak as it appears on paper.

Cal Poly coach Kevin Bromley said scheduling is an issue for teams throughout the Big West.

“You ask any coach in this conference and they can’t get the mid to high major schools to come in and play them at home so you can’t even get your team’s RPI up unless you go on the road,” Bromley said during Wednesday’s conference call. “I know Stanford’s down, but it’s anything but easy.”

“Here’s to four feet for an NBA three,” -The Warriors

Gabe Stephenson and the Mustangs are tied for second in the Big West at 2-2 with Cal State Fullerton and UC Riverside. Early season upsets, including Cal Poly over Fullerton, have the Big West standings in disarray.

“All three games were played at Stanford.

“Our conference gets beat up a lot in the non-conference because we have to go on the road,” Bromley said. “Then we get beat up on each other in the conference and they think we’re not any good, but I disagree.”

Looking at Bromley’s assessment, this year should be no different in the eyes of people unfamil­iar with the Big West.

Though upsets have dominated the headlines thus far, UCSC coach Bob Williams said there are two teams who stand above the rest.

“When all is said and done, I see Stanford, UCSC and UC Santa Barbara on the top of the conference. But it’s not the only one.”

Shooting the basketball is dependent on rhythm. Pounding the ball inside and taking easy shots is methodical. In a seven-game series, you can beat the other team into submission with an inside approach that can be maintained through the ups and downs in momentum. The shooting touch is fleeting, you may be able to steal a game or two, but you’ll never ride them all the way to an NCAA championship in the Big West.

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