Poly club tries to raise respect for health care

Brittany Ridley
MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal Poly club Raise the Respect rallied at the Universal Health Care Lobby Day in Sacramento on Wednesday.

Students joined from across the state to kick off the reintroduction of the California Health Insurance Reliability Act, a bill to provide all Californians with health insurance coverage. “Basically right now what we have is private health care insurance,” said Jim Fung, an electrical engineering senior at Cal Poly and Raise the Respect representative. “Under this bill, the government will assume all responsibility for basic health care treatment. Instead of consumers paying premiums to private companies it would be paid into a single government entity.”

The bill was introduced last year and passed by the assembly and senate, but was vetoed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2006. The rally marked the reintroduction of the bill to the assembly and senate and kick-started the awareness of single-payer health insurance, Fung said.

“Right now 6.6 million people are uninsured in California,” said Jacqueline Chan, co-director of Raise the Respect and microbiology junior. “That is 20 percent of our population in California. Most of them are late teenage years to adults. The majority fall between the ages of 24 and 34.”

Ninety percent of uninsured adults in California don’t qualify for Medicare or Medi-Cal and the majority of children without health insurance have parents who work full-time but

see Health, page 2

Taylor Moore
MUSTANG DAILY

The quarterly Pride Alliance and Gay, Lesbians, Bisexuals United (GLBU) Winter Open House took place Wednesday night at the Pride Center, as both organizations looked to increase their presence on campus and attract more Cal Poly students to the center.

“We want to raise awareness that there are a lot of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students on campus. It is a good time to meet at the beginning of the quarter and bring the two organizations together,” said Jessica Cresci, an animal science freshman and pride alliance coordinator. “I came to the event last quarter and that is how I got involved.”

Roughly 20 to 30 members of both organizations, along with students interested in the Pride Alliance and GLBU, attended the event, which featured no formal discussion or speakers — just a chance for students to interact.

The Pride Alliance is part of the Student Life and Leadership, one of three cultural centers at Cal Poly. The center’s goals are to promote awareness of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and sponsor events and activities concerning the organization.

GLBU is a student-run organization, similar to the Pride Alliance. As a campus club, its goal is to bring together the student LGBT community.

Cal Poly’s GLBU is the largest of its kind in the CSU system and is the organization behind the annual CommUNITY Pride held for one to two weeks each spring.

The GLBU also organized the same-sex hand-holding day, which occurs every year see Alliance, page 2

MP3 cell phones: Music to our ears?

Alex Frydman
THE CHRONICLE (DAILY)

Once upon a time, cell phones were just to make phone calls — but with the influx of phones that take pictures and videos and even stream TV shows, those days are long gone.

Many new cell phones also double as mp3 players, allowing users to do anything from transfer music from their PCs to buy music on the go. But just like the zany names of some of these new phones (RAZR, MOTOROKRZV, SLVR, eVo and Chocolate, just to name a few), the viability of this trend may also be a little far-fetched.

Users of the phones are divided on their opinions of this technology, so The Chronicle decided to break down the good and bad of MP3 cell phones.

The good

Based on numbers alone, MP3 cell phones have been a tremendous hit over the past year. For example, the Sony Ericsson W810 Phone, nicknamed the Walkman phone, currently reigns as the top seller in the Cell Phones & Services category on Amazon.com.

And in a recent poll by the IDG, listening to music topped the “Five Most Desired Services” category for cell phones.

Users have also praised these phones for their multitasking abilities. “It’s really convenient,” said Duke senior Blair Josephs of her Samsung A950 phone. “I was commuting into (New York City) over the summer and instead of carrying my cell phone and my iPod, I just used my phone.”

Ann Fields, a freshman, echoed Josephs’ comments, adding that she enjoyed the ability to buy songs straight from her Cingular C500 phone. Service providers, such as Verizon Wireless, have created stores similar to Apple’s iTunes Music Store that users can access from their phones. Songs are usually $1.99 apiece and are transmitted directly to a user’s music library.

see Phones, page 2
Health
continued from page 1
The Student Community Services of Cal Poly will hold the conference Change the Status Quo on Feb. 23 and 24. One of numerous conference workshops will focus on the awareness of universal health care.

"It's a conference built of workshops targeting the issues going on in campus. "Chan said. "It's inspiring students to make a difference in their communities."

Raise the Respect will also hold meetings every other week beginning Jan. 22, at 7 p.m. at Backstage Pizza. Raise the Respect is a program in Student Community Services that concentrates on educating students of current injustices and providing an outlet to make a change. "Chan said.

Prior to Lobby Day, Raise the Respect also held a health care awareness event in the University Union to help educate students about current issues.

"I think it is really important for students to educate themselves about all of the bills right now that have to do with the health care system," Chan said. "They are at a very high risk of falling into that uninsured group."

Phones
continued from page 1
"It's helpful if I'm on the go and just want to listen to a song that I want to listen to right then," Fields said.

The bad
But at $1.99 per song, $1 more than the iTunes store, providers seem to be putting the message that MP3 cell phones are convenient but for a price.

For example users of Verizon’s Chocolate want to transfer music from their PCs to their phones, they must purchase an optional cable and software that costs $50.

The Chocolate also does not come with a memory card, only allowing it to hold 64 MB worth of music, or about 16 songs. If users want to store more than 16 songs, they must purchase a $100, 2 GB memory card. This is in addition to the $450 the phone already costs.

Many users cite these hidden costs as the main reason they avoid downloading music to their mp3 cell phones.

"When I got the phone, they offered me a free one-month subscription to Z-Cast (Verizon’s downloading service)," said senior Briana Hanes, who owns a MOTORKRZR. "But I never took the time to learn it and it costs $10 a month so I cancelled it. Maybe if they made it easier and cheaper for us I would use it.

Another crucial drawback of these phones is that a multitude of technologies crammed into one cell phone may appeal to multitaskers, this same technology can clutter a phone for others."

"It's not convenient. In 15 minutes I can download thousands of songs onto my computer, while in that same time I can only download six or seven songs to my phone," Hanso said.

Other students agree.

"Who wants to listen to music on their phone?" said senior Stephen Reading, who owns a Sony Ericsson w910. "There's not enough storage space to have to switch out songs constantly and if you do listen to music then you run down your battery faster and might not have any left when you need to make a call.

The layout of the new phones is also a source of contention for many users.

"They're trying so hard to make me use the music thing that they put not one, but two buttons on the outside of the phone that cause it to start playing music if you accidentally hit them, "Reading said. "I don't have any music on my phone, it plays this horrible preloaded music that you can't take off that sounds like it Gibraltar Estefan made a tribal music album."

The future

But maybe all these phones really need is a little change in perspective, and the newly announced Apple iPhone may be just the thing.

Since the iPhone will be manufactured by the same company that makes the ubiquitous iPod, it should have a leg up on the current MP3 cell phones.

"It's not a phone that has a token operating system, it's an actual mp3 player," said Hanso. "If you have the money to buy it, it should be pretty sweet."

The iPhone will cost somewhere between $500 and $600, but comes in a 4 GB and 8 GB version, so ample storage space is ensured.

With cell phones, cameras, TVs and now MP3 players merging into one, gotta-have-accesories, one thing is for sure-you better not lose it.

Girls enter college with better study habits but lack confidence

Ingrid Norton
Staff Writer (This Week)

Cassandra Alvardo remembers a girl who was the first in her small town in East Texas to attend the University of Texas.

Alvardo, director of the First-Year Interest Group at Cal Poly, worked with her through the years, helping her to speak up in class and work out her teachers. Alvardo proudly notes that the girl went to law school and is now an attorney.

"I have always been concerned about finding their way," she said.

A report released this month by Nextivity, a market research and educational research center, said more female than male freshmen are prepared to find their way in college, but fewer are confident in math and science.

According to the report there is a 10 percent gap between male and female students in the confidence they feel toward their math and science abilities. However, female students reported better study habits.

More than 68 percent of female students from 292 colleges across the country reported that they reviewed notes before tests, compared to 47 percent of male students. But 53 percent of male students felt they had good grasp on course material, compared to 42 percent of female. The same 10 percent gap exists in psychology.

"Oftentimes the male students will create more confidence and with that confidence they do not have a clue of what's going on in class," said Tricia Berry, director of the Women in Engineering Program at UT.

Berry said the main challenge in encouraging women in math, chemistry and science is a lack of role models to show women that they can succeed. Women are also more likely to take a failure with the material personally, she said.

The report also found across the board that male and female freshmen students have the same expectations of graduating and want the same kind of institutional support.

Since math professor James Vick, vice president of student affairs from 1989 to 2004, started working at UT in the 1970s, equality has increased each year, said though women have notatched parity in math and science, he said the numbers are growing.

More women expect to succeed than when Vick started in the '70s, when a female Student Government president was an anomaly.

In general, Vick said students are better prepared. More students in his freshman calculus class raise their hands when asked if they've already taken calculus than ever before, he said.
Ahmadinejad condemns

critics of nuclear program

Ali Akbar Dareini
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEHRAN, Iran — President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad lashed out at the United States on Thursday, saying Washington is trying to impress on Iran that it needs to abandon its nuclear program.

The U.N. Security Council recently imposed limited sanctions on Iran for defying a resolution demanding that it suspend uranium enrichment, a process that can produce material to fuel nuclear reactors or, at purer concentrations, the core of nuclear weapons.

In Paris, the head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency, Mohamed ElBaradei, said he was concerned the sanctions could escalate Iran's standoff with Western powers.

"I don't think sanctions will resolve the issue ... Sanctions in my view could lead to escalation on both sides," he warned.

ElBaradei said the pressure has failed to break a consensus in Iran that the oil-rich nation needs to master the complex process of uranium enrichment. Iran this week said it is moving toward large-scale enrichment involving 3,000 centrifuges, which spin uranium gas into enriched material.

A diplomat and a U.N. official in Vienna said Thursday that much, but not all, of the hardware needed for the installation of the centrifuges was now in place at the Natanz facility designated to house Tehran's industrial-scale enrichment program.

The two — who requested anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss confidential information — emphasized that the facility had been ready for some time, and there was no sign

we have gone through the arduous
pases and we are ready for any­thing in this path," state-run televi­sion quoted the Iranian leader as
saying.

The president made clear he was not backing down in his tough rhetoric toward the United States, despite criticism at home. Conservatives and reformists alike have openly challenged Ahmadinejad's nuclear diplomacy.

Western remarks are doing more harm than good.

Ahmadinejad said their calls for compromise echo "the words of the enemy." At the same time, Ahmadinejad's top national security official, Ali Larijani, sharply denounced U.S. policy in Iraq, saying Washington is fueling Shiite-Sunni hatred.

Washington has accused Iran of backing militias in Iraq's violence, increasing tensions amid the dispute over Iran's nuclear program, which the U.S. says aims to produce nuclear weapons.

The United States sent an aircraft carrier to the Gulf this week — the second to deploy in the region — a buildup that Defense Secretary Robert Gates said was intended to impress on Iran that the four-year war in Iraq has not made America vulnerable.

In an apparent reaction to the deployment, Ahmadinejad vowed Thursday that Iran would not back down over its nuclear program, which Tehran says is being devel­oped only to produce energy.

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"Today, with the grace of God,
Iraq's Mahdi Army express siege mentality before security drive starts in earnest

Steven R. Hurst

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Two Shiite militia leaders said Saturday that Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has stopped protecting radical Shiite groups and that the Mahdi Army under pressure from Washington, while the fighters described their situation as a siege in their Sadr City stronghold.

Their account of an organization now fighting for its very existence could represent a tactical and propaganda feat, but there was mounting evidence the militia is increasingly off balance and has ordered its gunmen to melt back from what was seen as an effective roadblock to U.S. efforts to roll up the Iraqi insurgency.

A change of heart in late November has put the Mahdi Army, which has been the Sunni insurgents' main rival in Baghdad, on the defensive for the first time. Two top local commanders, the third regarding himself as the de facto leader of the militia in the capital, were killed in a joint U.S.-Iraqi raid.

Several other figures in the militia. A senior, a semiautonomous part of the Mahdi Army, was shot and killed in a joint U.S.-Iraqi raid last month as well. He was hunted down in Sadr City.

The third commander, who spoke anonymously to protect his identity, said U.S.-led raiding parties were now also engaged in mass arrests, searching homes andEvidence since the meetings in late November has put the Mahdi Army, which has been the Suni insurgents' main rival in Baghdad, on the defensive for the first time. Two top local commanders, the third regarding himself as the de facto leader of the militia in the capital, were killed in a joint U.S.-Iraqi raid.

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**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Friday, January 19, 2007

Heavy rain and strong winds in Northern Europe kill 25

By Danica Kirka

LONDON - Hurricane-force winds and heavy downpours battered northern Europe on Thursday, killing 25 people and disrupting travel for tens of thousands - including Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, whose plane was forced to circle for 15 minutes before landing amid winds gusting to 77 mph.

The storms were among the fiercest to batter northern Europe in years, ripping off part of the roof at Lord's Cricket Ground in London, toppling a crane in the Netherlands and snarling traffic on Europe's busiest highway.

By evening, weather-related accidents had killed 25 people, including a 2-year-old boy hit by falling brick from a toppled wall in London.

Rice cut short her visit to Berlin in order to leave for London before winds worsened, landing at Heathrow Airport in storm winds gusting up to 77 mph.

"It's not often you get winds of that sort of strength that far inland," said John Hammond of Britain's weather office. "(Rice) did well to land there, I wouldn't have fancied doing that."

German meteorologists recorded gusts up to 118 mph, forcing dozens of flight cancellations, shutting schools and prompting the national railroad to suspend services across a swath of the country.

"We are still at a standstill nationwide," with only a few trains running, Hans-Georg Zimmermann, the spokesman of the national railroad, Deutsche Bahn, told n-tv television.

Hartmut Mehdorn, chief executive of Deutsche Bahn, said: "We have never yet had such a situation in Germany."

At Berlin's central railway station, Lutz Mazur Reinhold, 79, sat disconsolately on a bench.

"First the buses couldn't cross the bridge because of the wind, and now this," said Paul Richardson, 26, a real estate agent trying to reach London Bridge station.

He swore, and turned back to retrieve his steps across the wind-swept bridge.

Traffic on the M-25 around London, the busiest highway in Europe, was backed up for miles after three tracks were knocked over by a single gust of wind near 11:30 p.m.

Traffic accidents accounted for many of the fatalities, including one in Shropshire, England, where a 54-year-old man identified as Richard Heard, managing director of Birmingham Airport, was killed when his car hit a fallen branch.

Ten deaths were reported in the United Kingdom while five died in Germany; four in the Netherlands, three in the Czech Republic, two in Belgium and one in France.

In Amsterdam, bicyclists who ventured out despite warnings from the fire department were blown over, in some cases, blown backward.

City workers trying to divert cars from fallen trees watched as the wind swept their traffic cones away.

The fire department warned people to stay indoors to avoid falling roof tiles and branches, and Amsterdam's historic canals were littered with fallen trash barrels, piles of toppled bikes and dozens of broken umbrellas.

In Utrecht, the Netherlands, a construction crane toppled onto a university building, crumpling the roof and injuring six people.

Authorities patrolled dikes in the northern Netherlands, looking for damage from wind-whipped seas.

There were no reports of breaches. Heathrow Airport, Europe's largest, canceled 280 flights. Other major airports - including Frankfurt, Munich, Amsterdam and Vienna - reported delays and cancellations.

At sea, coast guard ships and naval helicopters rescued the crew of a British container ship damaged and drifting in the English Channel.

Ferries were canceled or delayed in Britain, Ireland, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Finland.

In Ireland and Latvia, winds kept rescue crews from helping other ships damaged or missing after storms earlier this week. Seven fishermen from Ireland, Poland and Ukraine are missing and presumed dead off the Irish coast, while Latvian rescuers were unable to attempt to salvage a cargo ship that ran aground Tuesday off the Baltic port of Ventspils and has been leaking oil.

The stench reached The Hague, 20 miles away.

A ship burst loose from its moorings near Rotterdam and smashed an oil pipeline, leaking around 10,000 barrels of oil.

Austria's national weather service said storm winds could reach 105 mph at higher altitudes in the Alps, and officials cautioned skiers and snowboarders to get off the mountains and seek shelter well before nightfall.
Art featured in "Emergent Reaction" incorporates multiple artistic mediums and an assortment of materials in the exhibit. The show is comprised of pieces from professional artists who are well-known in the art community. Osorio said.

In this award-winning part of his book, Pierce uses satire and comedy to showcase the public's obsession with the news industry. It's a type of entertainment for us," Pierce said about "Newsworld." In his other books, Pierce has assembled a collection of short stories that are obsessed with American culture. It brings into reality the public fascination with entertainment, news and media, asking the question: do we want to know the news or do we just want to be entertained? "Journalism in part is the impulse to report, where entertainment makes people want to know what happens next," Pierce said. "And at a certain point, around after the O.J. Simpson trial, Americans have realized that they can make more money by turning the news into entertainment stories."

Throughout his literary perspective on these events, Pierce describes how the news is not what is used to be. It is not a fact-based market, but rather a forum for entertainment. "News used to be a place where people would meaningfully comment on what was going on in the world. But it's been a revenue-driven entertainment medium for the past 15 years," Pierce said. From magazines to news websites to the newspapers, Pierce comments on how the news has turned into a public that can't even tell the difference between what is news and what is entertainment. "We can't see the line between what is scripted and what is real. On YouTube, the difference between what is real and personal, and what is put up there to entertain people," Pierce said. And this is especially pertinent when it comes to television. "It's not what the audience wants. Most of our collective memories, the 2000 presidential election campaign, the Columbine incident, our national memories are television memories," says he. "It's a clip we saw on news channel, or on some evening TV show." College students are at an advantage with Pierce's book because understanding his style of writing involves a perspective typical of a younger crowd. "I would think that (college students) would have a better time with it. Part of being able to new gate that world is to be familiar with that kind of shock comedy that you see on Family Guy or South Park," Pierce said. "If you have those type of narratives in your head then you'll get the book. You'll have fun with the book." In his book, a section titled "Columbine: The Musical" talks about a high school that puts on a production reenacting the Columbine shooting. The characters' lives are influenced by the event and through corruption, ridicule and perspective, and shows how common situations like those in Columbine can happen. The main character Greg plays the role of the gunman Klebold, and begins to encompass the real feelings of his character in his own life. His selection is one of Pierce's favorites and will be a part of his reading tonight.

Other sections in the book include the title story that describes the construction of an amusement park with ride names such as "O.J.'s Bronco: The Ride" and "Sieg at Waco." The characters in the story design these attractions so that park visitors can experience them first-hand. "When it becomes a theme park or a state show or a wrestling match," Pierce said. "I've expanded this idea through parody so these stories can be used as a cultural commentary to them." Pierce's "Newsworld" won the Downtown English Literature Prize, a major American literary award for short fiction. This accomplishment comes with a $13,000 cash award as well as publication by the University of Pittsburgh Press. The senior judge of the awarding process author Joan Didion calls the book "ambitious and exhilarating, an original collection of short stories." It's a book that takes on the nature of political and cultural commentary to them. "Pierce's "Newsworld" is an extraordinary book," said Pierce. "I've expanded this idea through parody so these stories can be used as a cultural commentary to them." The "Newsworld" is a book that takes on the nature of political and cultural commentary to them. "Pierce's "Newsworld" is an extraordinary book," said Pierce. "I've expanded this idea through parody so these stories can be used as a cultural commentary to them."
Attending Companies:
Adams Grain Company
AgCareers.com
AGRIassociatesWEST.com
Agro Engineering, Inc.
American Ag Credit
Associates Insectary
Benchmark Landscape, Inc.
Blue Spruce Landscape & Construction
Bonipak Produce
Brickman
Britz Fertilizers, Inc.
California Department of Food and Agriculture
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
California Forest Products Commission
California Milk Advisory Board
California State Fair
Cargill
Church Brothers Produce
CoBank
Columbine Vineyards
Confidence Landscaping, Inc.
Cooperative Agriculture Support Services
Dow AgroSciences
Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream
Driscoll's
Earthbound Farm
Ecolab
E.J. Gallo Winery
Elanco Animal Health
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Farm Credit
Farm Credit West
Foster Farms
Fresh Express
Gallo Sales Company
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Ocean Mist Farms
Odenberg Engineering
PacFresh Produce Inc.
Paramount Citrus
Peace Corps
Reiter Affiliated Companies
Sensient Dehydrated Flavors Co.
Signature Fruit LLC
Southern Specialties
Syngenta Seeds, Inc.
Tanimura & Antle, Inc.
Target Specialty Products
Valleycrest Companies
Valley Utility Services
Westside Equipment Company
Western Farm Service
Wilbur-Ellis
Woodside Electronics Corporation

E. & J. Gallo Winery
A capella group Take it SLO to compete for the first time

Jackie Pugh
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly’s a cappella group Take it SLO, will be competing this Saturday in the International Championship of Collegiate A Capella Quarterfinals at UC Santa Barbara.

This will be the first time the group has competed since it began five years ago. They are expecting some tough competition from schools like USC, UCLA and UCSD.

Six groups will perform a 12-minute piece compiled of their best pop-rock a cappella. They could then move to the semifinals in New York.

Take it SLO will perform an arrangement of three songs: Green Day's 'Boulevard of Broken Dreams,' Kelly Clarkson's ‘Because of You’ and Destiny's Child's ‘Survivor.’

“The reason we chose those songs is because we wrote all of them and we are judged on original arrangements,” said Nicolle MacDonald, student manager of Take it SLO. "Those were the ones we figured things out about ourselves when we are in performance mode,” Fratkin said.

The group has an exciting line-up of songs that they have made their own. Fratkin explained the basics of what goes into modifying songs for a particular performance.

Arrangements are done by ear into parts like alto, tenor and bass. "Note for note, it's not going to be exactly what's in the song, as opposed to piano or guitar,” Fratkin said. “There's a lot that goes into how to distribute the different instruments for the different voice parts and that's making it original.”

Fratkin gave examples within the group's performance that he hopes will "wow" the judges, like in the song “Because of You.”

“In one part of the song, that piece will be still going on and in the background you'll hear 'Since You’ve Been Gone'” Fratkin said. “Because of You” and “Boulevard of Broken Dreams” have been in the group's repertoire for a couple years, and both pieces have evolved with different solos and different choreography. "Survivor" is the group's newest piece. “We will give it our all because it's got a whole bunch of fun,” Fratkin said.

The performance starts at 7 p.m. and it costs $10 for students and $15 for the public.

For more information check out the group's Web site at www.takeitslo.com.

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In order to move on in the competition, two sections, including vocal performance and visual performance, have specific subcategories. These include sections like the balance and blend of the group, the arrangement of songs, rhythm/accuracy and the tone and diction of the group.

In addition, components like cohesiveness, effectiveness of presentation, stage presence and creativity of movement make up the visual portion.

“This is our first time competing, and we are trying to keep an open mind,” said Rory Fratkin, music director of Take It SLO. “This is really all about the experience, though, and I think it's going to be a really incredible experience for the whole group, and we are going to figure things out about ourselves when we are in performance mode,” Fratkin said.

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W hatever said patience is a virtue must have studied abroad. Before leaving for Bilbao, Spain, my home for the next six months, I spoke with various friends who had already experienced life in Spain. I was told that Spaniards work the entire year. And to think, they like it. They’d close their stores whenever they feel like it and “Most of the time they don’t even show up for work.” So, despite my attempt to have a completely open mind, I left for Spain with unavailing assumptions. The facts are true, businesses are open for roughly three hours in the morning, close for a couple of more hours siesta, and may re-open for a few hours in the late afternoon. The motives behind these facts, however, are contrary to what many Americans believe. It isn’t a matter of not wanting to work the day away, but a matter of not needing to. So many Americans live to work, with excessively long work days and minimal vacation time. A Spanish’s occupation doesn’t define who they are.

Just as there isn’t a need for people to work 50 hours a week, 50 weeks a year, there is no existence of get-did-quick plans or quick-drying detergent pens. Cafés with “to-go” signs are as rare as hand-carved canyons and I have yet to see a drive-thru. I have had to flag down servers to request the bill, whereas

America, most busboys are clearing the table while that last bite enters my mouth. Dinner is a multi-course leisurely event, not a value meal walloped down in the car on the way home from the office. Here, rushing is simply not an option.

But Spain’s different concept of labor and time should not be confused with apathy; their desire to learn and expand their realm of knowledge is greater than that of most Americans. I am living with a woman and her daughter, who on top of speaking fluent Spanish, is learning English, French, Chinese and Basque, an incredibly obscure language spoken in northern Spain. When she asked me which language I spoke, I was barely able to communicate to her that I only knew English. Pretty humbling considering she’s 12. And although she’s Spanish, she has no desire to associate with Americans; they are eager to improve English speaking skills, and thus engage in conversation, no matter how ridicuous your questions are.

Not only is the culture slow-paced; being a foreigner causes seemingly simple tasks to take hours instead of minutes. Let’s say, hypothetically of course, that you needed to arrange a prepaid cell phone plan, in a foreign language. One may have no idea where to begin. OK, I had no idea where to begin. Luckily the saleswoman at the mobile phone store was very patient. The whole situation started out as a mess, and may have ended up a mess, but still don’t know what plan I actually signed up for. Regardless, I kept calm and left three hours later with a new phone and new appreciation for the kindness of strangers. With each humming encounter I can feel myself grasping the Spanish language and letting go of need to get everything done exactly when I want it done.

I haven’t yet abandoned my American ways and often get frustrated with this country’s different way of life. The other day, for example, I finally had to give up after repeated attempts to withdraw money from a foreign ATM I couldn’t go into the bank because it was some Spanish holiday, so I couldn’t go to an internet cafe to check my online bank statement, as it was siesta. I couldn’t even call my home bank since the store where I added minutes onto my cell phone was also closed for siesta. Everywhere I turned Spain’s leisurely concept of time was against me. So I had to suck it up and, gap, wait.

There are so many things about studying abroad I consider to be breezing; tourists grace cathedrals and palaces, viewing epics of art, sampling mouth watering tapas. Pretty nice life I wish you ask. But there comes using foreign ATMs and buying cellular phones and I realize the fluidity of the constant sense of urgency unfamiliarity that defines most American

Mail can be read without warrant

H e doesn’t even need a warrant. At least, that’s what the latest news from the Hill implies. The House just passed H.R. 6407 in December, The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006. One provision (among others) is that First Class mail cannot be opened without a warrant. It’s not as far a cry to believe that our mail is being opened (or will be) opened without any judicial oversight.

There are many people who will argue the information gleaned from such an endeavor is essential to the discovery of terrorist attacks. This is absolutely irrelevant; there’s a grand scheme in place to stop terrorist attacks, right now, from within the country, using the mail system to communicate. I want these people’s mail opened and read, but I want it done with the express permission of the court. Bush cannot justify obtaining a warrant.

In 1978, Congress passed the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which was specially designed to give the president and law enforcement maximum authority to spy on whomsoever they deem a threat to national security. The president can begin on any person in the United States a full two weeks before he has to obtain a warrant from the FISA court. Also, all of the FISA court’s proceedings are classified, so there is no problem with public disclosure.

Why then, would Bush want to ignore a provision that protects American citizens from warrantless surveillance? The only explanation is that he’s unconcerned with the separation of powers mandated by the Constitution. This is apparent in numerous aspects of his administration’s policies. Take the “signing statements” mentioned above. A signing statement in this example is a tool almost every United States president has used to ignore or interpret a certain specific piece of legislation. On a whim, the president can take any bill he’s signing into law and write a statement allowing him to ignore any part of it. Because the president is not vetoing the bill, there is no way for Congress to respond to short of passing another bill. Over the past 212 years, 42 presidents have issued about 600 signing statements total. Over the past six years, Bush has issued well over 800 signing statements. This astronomical figure shows Bush’s contempt for Congress and the separation of powers. When he uses signing statements to bypass the judicial branch, he effectively removes the teeth from a check on his power. Congress, trying to reign in Bush’s use of signing statements, passed legislation limiting his authority to issue them. But Bush signed it into law and in his signing statement asserted his authority to ignore it.

This kind of executive bravery cannot be tolerated. Each branch of our government has checks on the others to prevent tyranny. This administration has already illegally warrantless its own citizens, suspended the writ of habeas corpus, and asserted in ability to prevent law-abiding Americans from entering or leaving the country, all with judicial oversight. When Judge Anna Duggan Taylor ruled against the National Security Agency’s domestic spying program, she reminded the president that “there are no hereditary Kings” in America. We can only hope the new Democrat Congress would never again be so pleased with the constant sense of urgency unburden that defines most American
Shaq to miss at least 2 more games

In the four games he has played his regular season, Shaquille O'Neal averaged only 14.0 points, 7.5 rebounds and 1.0 blocks.

Tim Reynolds
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Shaquille O'Neal comeback watch will continue for at least a few more days.

O'Neal, who's recovering from surgery to repair torn left knee cartilage, will miss at least two games before returning to the Miami Heat lineup, interim coach Ron Rothstein said.

He missed Mimi's home game Thursday night against Indiana and will not play when the Heat visits Philadelphia on Friday. The earliest he could come back is Sunday, when the Heat hosts Dallas in a rematch of last year's NBA finals, which Miami won in six games.

Shaq is working out, feeling better, before deciding when to return, Rothstein said after the Heat's shootaround Thursday morning. "That's the case today."

Thursday's game was the 32nd O'Neal has missed since the Nov. 19 surgery. He took part in a full contact, five-on-five workout Wednesday for the first time since the operation and said a decision on playing against the Pacers hinged on how his knee responded from that.

Rothstein said O'Neal did not have a setback and was able to take part in the shootaround, but the team is continuing to exercise caution. O'Neal will continue working out on a daily basis.

"Each individual knows when they're ready," Rothstein said. "He wants to play. You think he wants to do all those court drills?"

Now, here comes a real big one — especially for the defensive backs.

The Saints led the league in the first 14 games with 37 completions of 20 or more yards, and Brees was the NFC leader with 26 touchdowm passes of 50 or more yards.

Brees' 88 catches led NFC rookies and others to a decision that Brees is not playing in the backups as well.

Both teams mix up formations, although the Saints show more variety and movement in the backfield and 2010 s.

And their receivers will test the second- and third-stringers that Brees is working on the road.

"We're going to keep him, our paths would have crossed eventually," Brees said. "It's not 1 (K) percent," Belichick said.

"I assumed the Patriots would be a good team this year just as I assumed the Colts would be a good team. So I figured if we kept winning, our paths would have crossed eventually," Belichick said.

"It's not 1 (K) percent," Belichick said. "I assumed the Saints would be a good team this year just as I assumed the Patriots would be a good team. So I figured if we kept winning, our paths would have crossed eventually," Belichick said.

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The Saints ranked sixth against the run last week, but was second in the league with 24 interceptions and 21 sacks.

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The reasons for the drop-off on defense include injuries, most notably to safety Mike Brown (foot), the leader of the secondary, and tackle Tonnise Harris (hamstring). Then, as if the injuries weren't enough, secondary man Dwight Freeney and Robert Mathis.

"They play very well on the turf," Brady said. "Freeney is fast everywhere. He was fast on our field, if you can imagine that, when it was that mud and panned dirt. Mathis is good. All those linebackers have been tested a lot more because of injuries and the secondary is really playing well."
Serena Williams upsets Petrova, advances to fourth round

Serena Williams won 1-6, 7-5, 6-3 at the Australian Open.

John Pye

Candidiasis. Are you 18 years old? Vaginal itching, burning or discharge? If you suspect candidiasis, you may benefit from a clinical trial.

CMRG is actively looking for Research Candidates to participate in a clinical trial. If you are 18 years or older, diagnosed with a Sinusitis Infection and have symptoms for less than 7 days and less than 28 days with the following: Facial Pain, Purulent Nasal Discharge, Frontal Headaches, Maxillary Dental Pain, for 10 days, then you may qualify for this clinical research study. Please call Coastal Medical Research Group at 1-805-549-7570 for more information.

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Help Wanted

Research Candidates
Coastal Medical Research Group, Inc. is conducting a clinical research trial for participants with Candidiasis. Are you 18 years of age or older? Do you have vaginal itching, burning or discharge? If you do, you may qualify to participate in this research study. Qualified participants will receive study related medical exams, investigational medication and reimbursement for time and travel. For more information: Coastal Medical Research Group, Inc. 805-549-7570

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

“And in the end, it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years.” - Abraham Lincoln

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LOST AND FOUND

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FOUND: Amanda’s Ford Keys Call Bryan 805-234-4337

REWARD: Lost Ti 80 Calculator Call Joe at (805) 234-3934

Lost and Found ads are FREE

CROSSWORD

Across
1. "Yuc--...yn" virus (8)
3. Sex Day War (9)
4. Apathy of a classic (7)
5. Minnesota-brewed beer (6)
6. Specify, in a way (6)
8. Gunfish (5)
9. Novel of the South Side (3)
10. Implement with a sharpened front edge (4)
21. Stir (4)
22. Fresh (4)
23. Biblical possessive (5)
25. J.R. Ryans (2)

Down
1. Hey, dept. (6)
2. Opera (6)
3. Back of a second-rate chef (5)
4. End of all time (6)
5. Little (6)
6. It's rea-- for a price: Abbrev. (7)
7. Bad thing to live (4)
8. Whippin (6)
9. A century in American politics (6)

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

Across
11. "Yo-o, kickin' in the m--...du-..." (13)
21. "I felt like I was doing every-thing to --... in the 10th." (8)
30. "The first one I understand, fine --... in the outside courts." (9)
39. "Dial---..." (7)
40. "This is what I mean." (22)
45. "I'm having so much fun, I feel like playing another game right now.

49. "I am excited," Williams said. "I am having so much fun, I feel like playing another game right now.

54. The 23-year-old Australian won the last of her seven majors in Melbourne in 2008. She also won the Australian title in 2003, her two triumphs at Melbourne coming after she saved match points in earlier rounds.

57. Williams will face No. 11 Jelena Jankovic or Victoria Azarenka in the fourth round.

59. On the men's side, 14th-seeded Novak Djokovic beat Thailand's Danai Udomchareon 6-3, 6-7, 6-1 and will face the winner of Friday's later match between Fermner and Mikhail Youzhny in the fourth round.

60. "I was trying to figure out what to do." Williams said. "I didn't play good in the third set, but I felt like I was doing everything to --... in the 10th.

61. Williams broke to tie it at 5-5 and will face No. 11 Jelena Jankovic or Victoria Azarenka in the fourth round.

62. "The first one I understand, fine --... in the outside courts," Williams said. "I didn't play good in the third set, but I felt like I was doing everything to --... in the 10th.

63. "It was tough, if you're not sure to pass him, go to the middle and play fast. I know he's not used to play so good volleys. For me, it was just a normal play.

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**Sports**

**Poly women's indoor track team confident for '07 season**

The Mustangs opened strong at the Dempsey Indoor Preview meet last weekend in Seattle.

Janelle Eastridge  
MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal Poly women's indoor track and field team has set the bar high this season and is already off to a good start.

Last Saturday, the Mustangs ushered in the new season as seniors Sharon Day and Danielle Ayers-Stamper competed in the Dempsey Indoor Preview meet hosted by the University of Washington in Seattle.

Day, who won an outdoor national championship in the high jump two years ago as a sophomore, was second in the event with a mark of 5 feet, 8 inches. After tying for first at 5-8, Day and Portland State's Ashley Quay went to a jump-off and Quay won with a leap of 5-8 3/4.

Ayers-Stamper placed fourth in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 9.17 seconds. She also tied for first in the high jump, clearing 5-4 1/2 and was 13th in the shot put with a distance of 9.66 meters.

Cal Poly competes next at the University of New Mexico Invitational from Jan. 26-27.

Indoor track and field, while more popular in cold-weather areas, contains many of the same elements of the outdoor variety, with a few exceptions, such as the oval.

The season, though, is much shorter than outdoor, enabling its athletes the opportunity to compete from mid-January through early February or early March.

At Cal Poly, the women's indoor track and field program began about nine years ago after the athletic department made the transition to the Division I level.

"We've had some success -- we have had several All-Americans," said Cal Poly head coach Terry Crawford, who has coached the team for 15 years. "We definitely have made a mark, though the indoor season is not, as I like to define it, a season of emphasis.

For many athletes, and especially those in California where "indoor is not of major significance," as Crawford put it, the shorter indoor season is used as training grounds for the upcoming outdoor season.

"Indoor is like getting back into things, and then in outdoor I hope to get back to where I was before I was injured," Day said. "I feel good fitness-wise, but I have a lot of form, technique and timing to work on in order to get back into the rhythm of jumping."

Day spent seven months last year recovering from a foot injury after breaking her fifth metatarsus. But now she's back and ready to continue perfecting her performance in the high jump.

"We're excited to see Sharon back in uniform, to see her get back to a national-level indoor (standing) that will enhance her outdoor season," Crawford said.

For Ayers-Stamper, this is her last chance to compete at the collegiate level in indoor events. And she wants to make the most of it.

She competes in the pentathlon, a one-day, five-part event which consists of 60-meter hurdles, high jump, shot put, long jump and 800-meter run. At the New Mexico Invitational, she hopes to qualify for nationals for a second consecutive season. Last year she was 13th at the NCAA Indoor Championships.

"If we have a good chance to make it to nationals, then why not?" she said.

Added Crawford, "We feel like our team is much ahead of where we were last year. Our coaching staff is looking for this indoor season to help us jump into, and compliment, the outdoor season."

Colts acknowledge the Patriots mystique

Indianapolis will host the first-ever AFC title game to be played in a dome, but New England has won three of the last five Super Bowls.

Joe Goldberg  
SPORTS STAFF

Tony Dungy calls it "the Patriot mystique" and acknowledges it's nothing he and the Indianapolis Colts have to overcome to get to their first Super Bowl.

That has to be something Bill Belichick loves. One reason New England has won three NFL titles in the past five seasons is because it gets into the heads of opponents -- none more so than Peyton Manning and the Colts.

This the theme for Sunday's AFC championship game at the RCA Dome -- the Patriot, a bit undermanned compared to previous years, against the talented but frustrated Colts, who twice have been knocked out of the playoffs by Belichick's team en route to the Super Bowl.

"You have to play them and not their mystique, and that's hard to do," says Dungy, the Colts coach who has reached this point twice before without making it to the NFL's marquee game despite a regular-season record of 114-62, a win-

Brees, Saints to test Bears' secondary

New Orleans' quarterback threw for 4,418 yards this season.

Andrew Seligsman  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chicago Bears cornerback Charles Tillman joked that he covers less ground in his car than Drew Brees does in the air.

"He's paced over 4,000 yards," Tillman said. "I don't even drive that fast."

With a win over New Orleans, Chicago would advance to its first Super Bowl in 21 years. Standing in the way is the NFL's No. 1 offense and a quarterback who passed for a league-leading 4,418 yards during the regular season.

They have one receiver, Marques Colston, who had 1,038 yards, and three others with more than 600: Devery Henderson (745), Reggie Bush (742) and Joe Horn (679). Bush also ran for 365 yards and Deuce McAllister gained 1,057, so the Saints don't mind handing the ball off, either.

"It's easy to see why Bears defensive coordinator Ron Rivera called them "dynamic," Why Tillman used words like "great," "fierce" and "explosive." And why cornerback Nathan Vasher said the Saints will "make due" whether or not Horn is able to see NFC, page 10