Despite qualms over timing, CSU execs get a pay hike

Michelle Locke
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Some California State University executives can look forward to fatter paychecks soon, much to the chagrin of faculty and students.

The 4 percent raises for 28 top-ranked employees were approved by the system's Board of Trustees, who wrapped up a two-day meeting in Long Beach Wednesday.

Leaders of the CSU, which has 400,000-plus students is the nation's largest four-year system, say they need to be able to pay competitive salaries to draw top talent. Even with the raise, administrators say their executives will still be well below the market.

But faculty, who are stalled in bargaining talks with administrators, and students, who are looking at a possible 10 percent fee hike, aren't convinced.

"Stop ripping us off," Roscio Navarro, a student at Cal Poly Pomona, told trustees Wednesday. "Students should be a priority but lately you seem to be more concerned about taking care of your executive friends."

"We are tired and have had enough of your misplaced priorities," said Maggie Gomez, a student at CSU Dominguez Hills. She brought her five-month-old nephew along, telling trustees they were looking at "a

Kerry says he won't run for president in 2008

David Espo
ASSOCIATED PRESS


"We came close ... certainly close enough to be tempted to try again," the Massachusetts senator said, recalling his defeat.

"There are powerful reasons to want to continue that fight now. But I have concluded this isn't the time for me to mount a presidential campaign."

His decision leaves a field of nine Democrats running or signaling their intention to do so, including Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton of...

New site rates professors, shows grades

Cassie Gaeto
MUSTANG DAILY

Students can see how teachers grade their classes thanks to the college information Web site Pick-A-Prof.com. The site allows students to research their professors through reviews and their grading history.

The site receives its information directly from a university's official records and reports the percentages of each letter grade a teacher has awarded in his or her classes.

Pick-A-Prof has only recently expanded to include the majority of California universities because of the UC Regent's and CSU system's opposition to turning over the grading records. In May 2006, the Los Angeles Superior Court deems public information.

My education is about my students, not about me. It makes me wonder what my students have seen or read about me before they even enter the classroom.

—Sally Martin
English professor

Web site won its legal battle and the school systems were given a writ of mandate for refusing to disclose what the court deems public information.

Pick-A-Prof is the only Web site to make the teachers' records and information accessible to the students.

"I think that students are underestimated; they are there for the education," said Karen Bragg, director of university relations at Pick-A-Prof. "Students know that if they don't learn what they need to know in Spanish 101, then they won't be able to move on to the next level. They are not there for the easy A's."

The site also boasts about 10,000 student reviews on teachers and courses. Every review submitted is looked over by Pick-A-Prof employees prior to posting to ensure there is not any profanity or personal attacks. This new network will rival the older professor-rating site Polyratings.com that has been posting Cal Poly reviews since 2005.

Faculty move into new housing complex

Janelle Eastridge
MUSTANG DAILY

After months of construction, challenges and much collaboration, the Bella Montaña residential community is finally starting to look less like an actual neighborhood.

Over the break, Cal Poly staff and faculty started the move-in process after the first completed phase of the three-part project. Bella Montaña, which has been under construction since May 2005, was designed as a way to make housing easily available and affordable to university staff and faculty. The project has proven to be successful, at least in the opinions of many of its new...
Kerry continued from page 1


The Republican field is similarly crowded, with President Bush constitutionally barred from seeking a third term in office.

Officials said Kerry would seek a six-year term in the Senate in 2008. The fourth-term lawmaker and decorated Vietnam War veteran said he would devote his time and energy to ending the conflict in Iraq.

He said he wanted Bush's successor to enter office with the United States having "a reasonable prospect of success" in Iraq.

"I don't want the next president to find that they have inherited a nation still divided and a policy destined to end as Vietnam did — in a bitter and sad legacy," he said.

Kerry, 64, made the announcement on the Senate floor at the end of a lengthy speech on Iraq. He briefly choked up.

Edwards said he knew the decision was a difficult one for Kerry "because we know his first instinct is always to respond to any call to serve his country." In a statement, he added that Kerry will work to find the appropriate exit from the Iraq war. "John Kerry has always fought the good fight for the right cause," Edwards said.

Obama said that from Vietnam to the 2004 campaign, "John Kerry has fought for his country and his ideals ... and will continue to serve his country with honor and distinction in the years to come."

Kerry's 2004 campaign drew widespread criticism from fellow Democrats after his defeat.

His critics said he had failed to make a forceful enough response to Republican criticism as well as charges by conservative groups that he did not deserve the medals he won for combat in the Vietnam War.

The senator stirred unhappy memories for Democrats last fall when he botched a joke and led Republicans to accuse him of attacking U.S. troops in Iraq.

He apologized, then hastily scrapped several days of campaigning for fellow Democrats as party leaders urged him to avoid becoming an unwanted issue in a campaign they were on the way to winning.

At the same time, he worked to keep his presidential hopes alive. Last October, people were asked in an Associated Press-AOL News poll who would like to see elected president. Kerry was named by just 1 percent.

Recent surveys indicated his standing was also low among Democrats.

In a CNN/ORC poll released Wednesday, 51 percent of Democrats said they would not like to see Kerry run in 2008. When asked to name from a list of candidates which one they would support, only 5 percent said Kerry, placing him fifth and far behind leader Clinton at 33 percent.

Kerry decided to clarify his political plans on a day in which he participated in a debate over the war in Iraq by smoking memories of Vietnam. At the committee hearing, he said a memorable question he first posed in 1971 had relevant today: "How do you ask a man to be the last person to die for a mistake?"

Despite his difficulties on a national level, Kerry customarily rolls up large victory margins at home in Massachusetts. He won his first term in 1984.

While Kerry was saying privately as recently as December that he would likely wage a second campaign, the tone among his aides changed in recent weeks as Clinton and Obama announced their White House bids.

Instead, aides began talking about Kerry's concern about the personal toll a campaign would take. Kerry had millions left from his 2004 run — a sore point with some Democrats. Despite the advantage, he would have faced intense competition with Obama, Clinton and Edwards for campaign dollars.

---

Finding ways to combat cold important during winter season

Laura Chapman
LINCOLN, Neb. — It all starts simply enough: People feel a cough, or perhaps a sneeze, and selflessly thinking of others, they cover their mouths with their hands.

But it doesn't end there.

The germs hit their hands, pass to the door handle and then onto the hands of the next person to touch the door.

The vicious cycle continues as the next unsuspecting person is infected with the virus.

It's cold season, and with it comes all of the usual symptoms. But there are ways of avoiding illness.

One way to prevent the spread of germs is by sneezing or coughing into the sleeve of one's elbow.

In a video found on the University of Nebraska Health Center Web site called, "Why Don't We Do it in Our Sleeves?" the key message is the importance of trapping germs in a place where it's less likely to spread than on someone's hand.

The sleeve.

"The best place to cough into is one's fabric," the narrator said.

The video then explains that fabric catches hold of germs and they will stay in it until the garment can be cleaned in the wash.

Despite being a little bit on the goofy side, Jeremy Anderson, a mechanical engineering senior and health aid, said the video gets across the message while still being fun.

"It's so corny," Anderson said of the video, "but at least it's entertaining to watch."

One way to prevent spreading colds from one person to another is to make sure to wash your hands, said Kara Pozehl, a junior biochemistry major and president of the University Health Center Student Advisory Board.

"Before and after you eat, after you go out in public — wash your hands," Pozehl said.

And contrary to popular belief, going outside in the cold doesn't cause illness. Coming inside from the cold is what puts a person at the greatest risk for getting a cold, Anderson said.

When a person is outside, the cold temperature lowers the body's ability to fight germs, he said. After walking inside, the person is exposed to a number of germs, which tend to dwell indoors, where it is warmer.

"Your body is more susceptible from the cold," Anderson said.

Another factor making the body more likely to get ill is a something most college students are well acquainted with — stress.

"The immune system is weaker when a person is stressed, so it is important to make a point to take time to relax every day," Anderson said. This can mean managing time better and organizing one's daily routine.

"Basically anything that reduces stress is beneficial," Anderson said.

Other tips to build up the immune system are drinking plenty of fluids, exercising and eating fruits and vegetables, Pozehl said.

"Generally, take care of yourself so your immune system is strong," she said.

In the event that a person does get sick, the best thing to do is to get lots of rest and keep drinking fluids to maintain hydration, Pozehl said.

Gargling salt water to clear a sore throat can also help, Anderson said.

And if a person doesn't get better, or if she or his symptoms worsen, he or she should go see a physician, he said.

---

Oooh so spicy!

Check out the Mustang Daily online at www.mustangdaily.net

Want to SPICE up your life?

Sushi Japanese Restaurant

1-877-SUSHIYA

50% off

Solution, tips, and computer program at www.sudoku.com

S u d o k u

HIGHER GROUND

Coffee Shop & Deli

Buy 1 food item at regular price, get the 2nd of equal or lesser value at 50% off.
Housing
continued from page 1

residents.
"I love its proximity to campus and town, and that we can
still drive to the ocean," said Seth Bush, a chemistry professor
in his second year of teaching at Cal Poly.
In response to the school's request, the CPHC broke
ground on the project with high aims in mind. "A big
disconnect for new (or potentially new) faculty
is moving here if they are not from the area, and especially if
they are from out of state," said Jim Reinhardt, managing
director for the Cal Poly Housing Corporation. "So far the
project seems to be meeting our goals, with the ultimate goal being to meet
the needs Cal Poly has concerning the recruitment and reten-
tion of faculty."

So far the project seems to be meeting our goals, with
the ultimate goal being to meet
the needs Cal Poly has concerning the recruitment and reten-
tion of faculty.

---Jim Reinhardt
Managing director for the Cal Poly Housing Corporation

On May 30, five more buildings of 18 homes will be avail-
able, and nine final buildings of 30 homes will be comple-
ted by October. After its scheduled completion, the complex
will contain 60 "deminimely styled attached homes with
different floor plans" spread out over 21 buildings.

Some lawmakers had questioned
"I love walking to school! You can't beat that," said Seth
Bush, a chemistry professor in his second year of teaching at
Cal Poly.

P.ick-A-Pro
continued from page 1

Poly reviews since January 1994.
"In my opinion as an instructor, it's a little
bewildering that anxiety more
important than what you are going to
learn," said English professor Sadie
Pollack, who is from one of San Luis Obispo's surrounding
areas. "I love its proximity to campus and town, and that we can
still drive to the ocean. It's also big enough for the whole
family," said CJiris Clark, a computer science professor
in his second year of teaching at Cal Poly.

"I love its proximity to campus and town, and that we can
still drive to the ocean.""...

"I love its proximity to campus and town, and that we can
still drive to the ocean.""...

"I love its proximity to campus and town, and that we can
still drive to the ocean. It's also big enough for the whole
family," said CJiris Clark, a computer science professor
in his second year of teaching at Cal Poly.

"I love walking to school! You can't beat that," said Seth
Bush, a chemistry professor in his second year of teaching at
Cal Poly.

Amazon.com, to compare and get
the three largest book Web

meant to be competitive but recommended
"If you are going to base your
grade on the project with high aims in mind.

"I love walking to school! You can't beat that," said Seth
Bush, a chemistry professor in his second year of teaching at
Cal Poly.

"I love walking to school! You can't beat that," said Seth
Bush, a chemistry professor in his second year of teaching at
Cal Poly.

"I love walking to school! You can't beat that," said Seth
Bush, a chemistry professor in his second year of teaching at
Cal Poly.

"I love walking to school! You can't beat that," said Seth
Bush, a chemistry professor in his second year of teaching at
Cal Poly.

So far the project seems to be meeting our goals, with
the ultimate goal being to meet
the needs Cal Poly has concerning the recruitment and reten-
tion of faculty.

---Jim Reinhardt
Managing director for the Cal Poly Housing Corporation

On May 30, five more buildings of 18 homes will be avail-
able, and nine final buildings of 30 homes will be comple-
ted by October. After its scheduled completion, the complex
will contain 60 "deminimely styled attached homes with
different floor plans" spread out over 21 buildings.

Some lawmakers had questioned
"I love walking to school! You can't beat that," said Seth
Bush, a chemistry professor in his second year of teaching at
Cal Poly.

"I love walking to school! You can't beat that," said Seth
Bush, a chemistry professor in his second year of teaching at
Cal Poly.

Along with the social networking,
"I love walking to school! You can't beat that," said Seth
Bush, a chemistry professor in his second year of teaching at
Cal Poly.

"I love walking to school! You can't beat that," said Seth
Bush, a chemistry professor in his second year of teaching at
Cal Poly.

"I love walking to school! You can't beat that," said Seth
Bush, a chemistry professor in his second year of teaching at
Cal Poly.

"I love walking to school! You can't beat that," said Seth
Bush, a chemistry professor in his second year of teaching at
Cal Poly.

"I love walking to school! You can't beat that," said Seth
Bush, a chemistry professor in his second year of teaching at
Cal Poly.

"I love walking to school! You can't beat that," said Seth
Bush, a chemistry professor in his second year of teaching at
Cal Poly.

"I love walking to school! You can't beat that," said Seth
Bush, a chemistry professor in his second year of teaching at
Cal Poly.

"I love walking to school! You can't beat that," said Seth
Bush, a chemistry professor in his second year of teaching at
Cal Poly.
Question of the day:

Did you watch the State of the Union?

“No, I was too busy, but I’m for sure going to watch the highlights on ‘The Colbert Report.’”

“Yes, I watched part of it because my professor put it on in class.”

“I didn’t watch it because I had a midterm to study for and I went to Frog and Peach.”

“I didn’t because I don’t watch enough TV and I have night classes, but I’m going to look at it online.”

“Yes, because I think it’s important to know what’s going on in the world around you.”

- Spencer Waterman
  city and regional planning freshman

- Alli Navellier
  animal science freshman

- Michael Graves
  kinesiology senior

- Emily Carlip
  architectural engineering freshman

- Adam Wright
  business senior

---

EVERY HORNY DRUNK
NEEDS AN “UNDER FOUR” REMINDER. DRINK RESPONSIBLY.

MOST CAL POLY STUDENTS DRINK UNDER FOUR DRINKS IN ONE SITTING.
Message brought to you by Cal Poly students based on a survey of Cal Poly students.
State briefs

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hospital staff did not properly clean medical instruments linked to last month’s deadly bacterial outbreak at a medical center’s neonatal intensive care unit, according to a report by state health regulators.

White Memorial Medical Center closed off its neonatal intensive care unit Dec. 4 following an outbreak of Pseudomonas aeruginosa that sickened five infants. Two of the babies are believed to have died as a result of the pathogen.

In a report released Tuesday, inspectors from the California Department of Health Services faulted hospital staff for not sterilizing laryngoscope blades, which are used to insert breathing tubes, in accordance with manufacturer’s recommendations.

EUREKA (AP) — A small earthquake struck off the Northern California coast near Humboldt County on Wednesday, but there were no reports of injury or damage.

The quake at 5:42 a.m. had a preliminary magnitude of 4.4 and was centered about 40 miles southwest of Eureka, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The Eureka Police Department received no calls about the quake, a police dispatcher said. The earthquake was not felt at police headquarters.

Calabasas company to market Jimi Hendrix energy drink

CALABASAS (AP) — A new energy drink doesn’t promise you’ll have the juice to play guitar like Jimi Hendrix after taking a sip, but it does hope to give you a “Liquid Experience.”

Beverage Concepts, a new Calabasas-based company, recently announced it will launch a line of non-alcoholic drinks named for the title of Hendrix’s breakthrough album, “Are You Experienced?”

The Liquid Experience drinks will debut in April, but the concept is already irking some fans of the former, who many in rock still consider the greatest guitarist of all time.

“To see his image and the beautiful feelings it has created during my lifetime cheapened by base advertising...is very disappointing to me,” said bassist Michael Balzarv, better known as Flea of the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Hendrix, whose career ended with his 1970 death from a drug overdose in London, has been licensed to many companies for products including baby clothing, an air freshener, lava lamp and a Christmas ornament.
Minimum wage bill hits wall in Senate
Senators voted against the minimum wage bill, insisting that it include new tax breaks for restaurateurs and other businesses that rely on low-pay workers.

Democrats' promise of a quick increase in the minimum wage ran aground Wednesday in the Senate, where lawmakers are insisting it include new tax breaks for restaurateurs and other businesses that rely on low-pay workers.

On a 54-43 vote, Democrats lost an effort to advance a House-passed bill that would lift the pay floor from $5.15 to $7.25 an hour without any accompanying tax cut. Opponents of the tax cut needed 60 votes to prevail.

The vote sent a message to House Democrats and liberals in the Senate that only a hybrid tax and minimum wage package could succeed in the Senate. But any tax breaks in the bill would put the Senate on a collision course with the House, which is required by the Constitution to initiate tax measures.

In a separate vote, the Senate also effective- ily killed a modified line-item veto bill. The Republican-inspired measure would have permitted a president to pluck individual items out of spending bills and submit them to Congress for a vote.

Raising the minimum wage is one of the new Democratic Congress' top priorities. The wage floor has been unchanged for 10 years. New Democratic leadership in the Senate says it is part of its mandate to increase troops strength in Iraq on low-pay workers.


The House passed the increase two weeks ago. Since then Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Rep. Charles Rangel, the chairman of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee, have prodded the Senate to keep tax proposals out of the bill.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D- Nev., scheduled Wednesday's vote to demon- strate the Democrats' lack of Republican support for a straight minimum wage bill without tax cuts. Every Democrat present voted to end debate and five moderate Republicans joined them.

"There seems to be agreement to raise the minimum wage," said Republican Sen. Michael Enzi of Wyoming. "The difficulty has been how do we take care of some of the impact to small businesses that will result from this."

 Reid is backing an $8.3 billion tax package that would extend for five years a tax credit for employers who hire low-income or disadvantaged workers. It also extends until 2010 tax rules that permit businesses to combine nearly as much as $121,000 in expenses into one annual tax deduction.

The cost of the proposal would be paid with revenue realized from a proposed cap of $1 million on executive compensation that can be tax deferred. The tax package also would end deductions for court settlements or punitive damages paid by companies that have been sued.

A vote on the full tax and wages package is not expected until early next week.

The differences between House and Senate bills will require Pelosi and Reid to work out an agreement on how to move a similar tax package through the House.

Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., the chairman of the Senate's tax-writing Finance Committee and co-author of the tax proposals, said the Senate bill will be held in the Senate until the leaders resolve the impasse.

"It's just a couple or three steps away from the goal line," Baucus said.
An idiot's guide to modern American television and more

Are TV shows getting smarter, or are we just getting dumber?
Or is it more dumb? Whatever.

Allison Baker  
MUSTANG DAILY

As of late, popular television shows demand more than just an hour (or 12) of your day; they are increasingly requiring a viewer with an IQ more than 70. Sure, there still exists the brilliant programming of MTV and the Home Shopping Network to close the gap, but the networks are beginning to cater to those formerly bored by formulaic sitcoms and soapopera dramas.

This generation, filled with legions, is smarter than the average couch potato. They have wants and needs independent of toilet humor and "she slept with her brother's ex-boyfriend" plot lines. They crave innovation, novelty, and an excuse to feel good about spending hours at a time in front of an inanimate object.

Crime shows like "Law and Order" and "CSI" (with all of its illegitimate prime-time babies) are a whole new breed of television shows that use ballistics, DNA evidence, interrogation techniques and good old fashioned sleuthing to solve cases before you can say "When is Mariska Hargitay coming back from maternity leave?"

The two dimensional program becomes interactive, causing the viewer to use inferences and higher order thinking skills to follow Brisco and Greene into the East River on a dive to retrieve the body of an alien looking person. People enjoy watching these shows because they like solving the cases along with the experts. It makes them think — don't drink the night away.

Another development in recent years is the reemergence of the medical-drama genre. Such shows range from seasoned veteran "ER," to newbie "House" which earned its lead actor Hugh Laurie a Golden Globe earlier this month. These shows demand a breadth of knowledge from their audience, but especially from their writers who must constantly create accurate but interesting conditions each week. Smarter writers; smarter audience.

Even dramas like "Lost" and "Heroes" have incredibly complex mythologies that require their writers to keep viewers interested, yet able to follow plot twists and new developments. But smart as they are, the writers of "Lost" have made it clear that they don't know what is happening on Loomy Island. If it's even an island.

Dramas aren't the only ones cashing in on the upward trend of competence. Newer comedies are also abandoning slapstick and fart jokes in favor of political satire and pop media allusion. But in order to understand the jokes, you have to have an idea of what's going on in the world.

Steve Carell's Emmy-winning Michael Scott would fall flat without his mistaken historical references and hilariously offensive racial and sexual comments. And shows like "The Colbert Report" and "The Daily Show" have somehow made politics seem more ridiculous than they already are. We are currently living in the era of the "smart comedy," and I don't see it going away soon.

With its growth in popularity and even greater accessibility to the public, the once shunned retarded world of television is finally gaining credibility with better produced programming and more complex and diverse plot lines.

But if you still prefer less intellectually stimulating shows fit for a comatose patient, fear not — marathons of "Parental Control," "Next" and "The Real World: Monroeville" will be on the air for years to come. Reality TV is the only genre that seems to be actually regressing. The world needs a new reality show like a fish needs a new bike.

Don't worry. If it's mindless boob tubing that appeals to your widens and appetite, you still have the majority of programming to fall back on. Oh, and that new "Hey Paula" show looks like a winner too.
A capella group Take it SLO takes third place at UCSB

Cal Poly’s a cappella group Take it SLO took third place in last weekend’s International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella Quarterfinals, held at UC Santa Barbara. The group will not move onto the semi-final competition, but were happy with the outcome.

“This doesn’t bother me at all that we didn’t get to go on to West Coast Final,” said Nicole MacDonald, business junior and student manager of the group. Honestly it was a really good experience for us; no one in the group has ever competed before.

Take it SLO actually tied for second, but ended up in third place after the subjective judging portion of the competition. UCLA’s Scatteredtones performed a medley of “oldies” that was different from other groups that stuck to modern popular music.

Their vocals were really tight because they just recorded a CD and they were ready to perform,” MacDonald said.

However, Take It SLO found this competition to be an opportunity to get its name into the a cappella community and will consider competing again next year.

For now, the group has been asked by the athletics department to perform at different sports events. Coming up, Take It SLO will be singing the national anthem on Wednesday, Feb. 14 at the men’s basketball game against UC Santa Barbara.

“We are hoping to make it our own,” said civil engineering junior Alicia Baratta. “We are looking to get some type of foundation and then go and make it our ‘poppy’ style.”

Baratta also mentioned that the group had started practicing for their upcoming performance as of Tuesday, working on the national anthem and new pieces that will be challenge the group because they lost many of their male vocalists.

“We lost a lot of our guys so we are having auditions to build up a whole new repertoire and hopefully, by our next show, we'll have five new songs,” MacDonald said.

Along with auditions for male singers, Take It SLO is also looking for tenors and baritones, since the group lost two members this past winter.

Male vocalists, including baritones, help the group’s tempo and make the songs more recognizable, Baratta said.

Music senior and baritone Scott Johnson is one of the members that will need to be replaced after he leaves the group in June.

“I've been beatboxing for at least four years, mostly for fun, but recently it’s also to improve the sound of the group,” Johnson said.

Johnson said that in the fall the group was lacking a vocal percussophonist, and two friends in Take It SLO invited him to try out and he joined the group.

After competing as a member of the group since the fall and meeting in an underground a cappella group from another school, Johnson said he has enjoyed the experience.

“We were excited to be third in our first ICCA appearance, though we thought we earned higher,” he said. “We’ll keep doing the best we can.”

With new singers emerging and old singers leaving, the upcoming auditions are important because the group has always had a low number of males.

In 2005, MacDonald auditioned with 40 to 50 other students, and she estimated 15 to 20 were men.

The audition on Feb. 3 will be crucial for Take It SLO’s male voice and they are hoping to receive people that stand out from the rest and can truly demonstrate their distinguishing qualities.

For more information, check out the Take It SLO Web site at www.takeitslo.com

For some samples of the Take It SLO songs, visit its MySpace account www.myspace.com/cptitslo.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Forget the Oscars this year — it’s all about the Razzie Awards

Leann Ray
THE DAILY ACHRONYM

Oscar nominations were announced Tuesday, but many may have overlooked the more important nominations that were announced on Monday. That’s right — the Razzies.

The 27th Annual Golden Raspberry Awards take place on Feb. 24, the day before the Academy Awards. “Little Man,” and “Basic Instinct II” lead with seven nominations each.

The Razzie race for worst actor is going to be tough this year with Rob Schneider (“Little Man”), Tim Allen (“The Santa Clause 3: The Escape of Santa Claws” and “Zoom”), Nicholas Cage (“The Wicker Man”) and Larry the Cable Guy (“Larry the Cable Guy: Health Inspector”) all competing. Will Schneider win a second Razzie in a row after winning for “The Benchwarmers?” Last year? Or will voters realize that “Get ‘er Done” was not quite as funny and that whoever thought basing a movie around a catchphrase is never a good idea?

Unfortunately, Mr. Cable Guy would probably enjoy winning the Razzie and would proudly display it in his double-wide between his award for “Best Mancusted Lawn in Trailer City” and a six-point buck. The nominees for worst actress include Sharon Stone (“Basic Instinct II”), Jessica Simpson (“Employee of the Month”), Lindsay Lohan (“Just My Luck”), Kristanna Loken (“Bloodrayne”) and Hilary and Haylie Duff (“Material Girls”).

Lohan’s goal may have been to win an Oscar in the next 10 years, but it seems she may be more likely to win a Razzie. Stealing, smoking and boozing into the late hours of the night don’t add up to an Oscar nomination. Well, it might. I’m not really an expert. Just felt the need to point out that Lohan is a luth.

The best nomination is in the Worst Screen Couple category. Along with the Duff sisters and Wayans brothers is “Sharon Stone’s Lop-Sided Breasts” (X). For some samples of the Take It SLO songs, visit its MySpace account www.myspace.com/cptitslo.

Some of the Take It SLO women prove that they’re “Survivors.” (From left to right: Amy Lebetsamer, Nicole MacDonald, Alicia Baratta, Kristen Choi and Inness Pryor.)
Pranks: we love them because of the sheer joy that they bring. Whether it's art, film, music, theater or culture, POLYBILL posts the latest events.

P.S. We love them because of the sheer joy that we get from disturbing the peace of our closest friends; and because of the legends we create to tell our grandchildren about the "things we used to do for fun." Maybe we all didn't get to play the best pranks in the dorms because our RA's were sticklers, and maybe deep down, there's the little kid in us that just wants to mess with people. Whatever the reason, a friendly prank my friends and I played on the neighbors turned into an all-out war. This story is for people willing to go to great extremes to win the honor that inevitably comes with epic prank wars; to be victorious; to be the last man standing.

It all started with some harmless donuts. Between half-eating the powdered donuts and half-licking them out of our friend's window, we obviously ran out of them. Their sharp shooter busted out the Airsoft gun and hit my roommate in the eye (thanks). Luckily, our friend across the street was awake at 1 a.m. and was extremely helpful in teaching us the art of flour bombs. So, back we went to our dorms to see what really was going on (thinking immediately it was a joke). Through the window, I saw it...some sort of smoke looked-alike, literally pouring out of our kitchen door like a waterfall. Maybe she wasn't joking.

We went outside to offer assistance and immediately water balloons filled with shaving cream bombard us. Turns out, a fog machine being set up in your kitchen is a good diversion and ploy to get your target out in the open. Really, what kind of sick people have fog machines? Aren't we all poor, starving college students? Maybe we all didn't get the reaction.
Anatomy of a first date: the good and bad

In a highly scientific and structured approach, the Mustang Daily conducted a general survey of friends' and acquaintances' impressions of the 'first date.'

(Actually, statistics majors would shudder if they knew how unscientific any data-gathering methods are.)

The common response was something along the lines of "ugh," "bleh," "eww," or a general combination of those three. We're accustomed to this less-than-enthusiastic reaction. Blind dates, lunch dates, group dates, rec dates -- the other qualifiers don't matter quite as much, if it's a 'first date.'

Most, if not all, firsts in life are memorable due to their inherent annoyance and tension. Remember your first day of school? (What to wear? Don't want to look dorky.) Your first day on the job? (What to do? Don't want my bruses to catch on h/hers.) Even if you're recalling fondly, undoubtedly there was an awkward quality to the experience (if not, count yourself lucky; but no one believes you).

First dates seem to have a stress all their own, mostly due to the fear of the possibility of a screw-up in the presence of a desired other. No wonder first dates are so dreaded, since the risk factor of a screw-ups increases given the number of arras in which one could take place. These things are what make a first date so nerve-racking.

Shallow though it may seem, we visual beings, and appearance is important to us. Yes, we stress about the way we look. On a first date it's especially important because it's your first shot at the impression you're aiming for.

However, the object is to impress with an accurate representation of your personality. How you are going to learn about your compatibility with your date if the persona you present (and the one he/she presumes) isn't genuine? There's a delicate balance to be achieved between staying true to your personal style and looking reasonably nice. Of course, physical appearance is the easy part of the whole ordeal. Assuming this date will somehow incorporate a meal, let's not forget the logistical nightmares of consuming food and drink within your designated limits. Rest assured, you'll be in the same boat.

There's tradition to be wressted with, too. Do you pick her up, or is it presumptuous to think she'd take her own transport? Do you sit him pay for dinner (assuming he offers), or is it presumptuous to think he'd take his own transport? There's tension for both of you, how are you to initiate or respond to post-date activities suggestion (like, coffee?)

For most, the overarching concern of the date is conversation. Small-talk in the car and while waiting for a table; hopefully an actual verbal exchange throughout the rest of the night; transitions, winding down at the end of it.

Maybe you'll be entirely lost while he/she goes on for an hour or two about quantum mechanics homework.

Or maybe, just maybe, you'll find out you have a lot in common, and that you can actually talk with this person about more than just quantum mechanics homework.

Perhaps it isn't the date itself that is so dreaded, but the expectations to build up prior to jumping into it.

Certainly, no one goes into a first date noting the question, "What if this person is the One?" (If that were the case, there would be a lot less dating going on.)

However, it cannot be denied that the happily-ever-after archetype still exists. None of us would ever admit it, but there's a good number of us who ask ourselves that question.

(OK, so not all of us actually go so far as to ask. Some of us just posses. Others barely allow it to enter our consciousness for more than a split second. My point is, the question, 'in any of us: not only in unshackled unconscious realms.'

The truth is, we're not actually worried about our hair, perspiration, or verbal blunders. Our initial first-date fears are from fear of disappointment that the date won't lead to a second, and that fair-tale ending we've dreamed a thousand times to aspire to will evade us yet again.

On the other hand, fear could come from the potential success of the date. What does it mean if the first date goes well and does lead to a second encounter? What does it mean if you get along? Is this the end of my single life for good? I'm not ready for that kind of commitment.

All told, a first date, while understandable fun, doesn't have to be the ordeal we've established it to be. Sure, it will be a little awkward; that's a given, but you can deal with it. And perhaps it will teach you something about another person while you're at it.

In a highly scientific and structured approach, the Mustang Daily did a story on the memoir service in honor of Richard Spencer. "Why's Wood" Wood on the first page.

The class of this sub_par newspaper has just sunk to a new low. If you want to warn people about the dangers of drinking, then stick with the "less than four campaign." This showed a complete lack of respect for the mourning.

Do you realize that those who knew Spencer but as well could have never heard about his passing? I had to break the news to someone the other day. And top it off, you make a comedy out of it with pictures containing ban­ners that say "Party State," "Puke University," "Beer Tech" and "Brew CU." Do you not see how insensitive that is? The editor of this periodical owes an apology to all those in mourning.

Moreover, it's a major disgrace to Wood's friends, family.


On the opinions page, his life was turned into a public service announcement for moderation of college drinking habits.

This was a completely ill-timed article written by the editorial staff. Some people were never able to attend one of the memorials for Spencer and the other possible memorial staff at the Mustang Daily turned his life into a PSA. This is completely disrespectful to Spencer's friends and family. If someone's grandma died of emphysema, you would run an anti-smoking campaign? How dare you change the life of my old nounmate and friend? What you did was trample on his grave.

What if his family read that?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The class of this sub_par newspaper has just sunk to a new low. If you want to warn people about the dangers of drinking, then stick with the "less than four campaign." This showed a complete lack of respect for the mourning.

Do you realize that those who knew Spencer but as well could have never heard about his passing? I had to break the news to someone the other day. And top it off, you make a comedy out of it with pictures containing ban­ners that say "Party State," "Puke University," "Beer Tech" and "Brew CU." Do you not see how insensitive that is? The editor of this periodical owes an apology to all those in mourning.

Moreover, it's a major disgrace to Wood's friends, family.


On the opinions page, his life was turned into a public service announcement for moderation of college drinking habits.

This was a completely ill-timed article written by the editorial staff. Some people were never able to attend one of the memorials for Spencer and the other possible memorial staff at the Mustang Daily turned his life into a PSA. This is completely disrespectful to Spencer's friends and family. If someone's grandma died of emphysema, you would run an anti-smoking campaign? How dare you change the life of my old nounmate and friend? What you did was trample on his grave.

What if his family read that?

The class of this sub_par newspaper has just sunk to a new low. If you want to warn people about the dangers of drinking, then stick with the "less than four campaign." This showed a complete lack of respect for the mourning.

Do you realize that those who knew Spencer but as well could have never heard about his passing? I had to break the news to someone the other day. And top it off, you make a comedy out of it with pictures containing ban­ners that say "Party State," "Puke University," "Beer Tech" and "Brew CU." Do you not see how insensitive that is? The editor of this periodical owes an apology to all those in mourning.

Moreover, it's a major disgrace to Wood's friends, family.


On the opinions page, his life was turned into a public service announcement for moderation of college drinking habits.

This was a completely ill-timed article written by the editorial staff. Some people were never able to attend one of the memorials for Spencer and the other possible memorial staff at the Mustang Daily turned his life into a PSA. This is completely disrespectful to Spencer's friends and family. If someone's grandma died of emphysema, you would run an anti-smoking campaign? How dare you change the life of my old nounmate and friend? What you did was trample on his grave.

What if his family read that? 
Monday's editorial meant to help not hurt

The Mustang Daily editorial allowed its report to cause more harm than good to anyone offended or otherwise dissatisfied with Monday's editorial. "The Mustang Daily doesn't want to write your obituary." After speaking with close friends of Spencer Wood, it became clear that the editorial made it sound as if Wood's death was a direct result of alcohol consumption. Several of Wood's friends have told the Mustang Daily that he had been drinking and that alcohol was a factor, but a coroner's report was inconclusive. This means that we will never know whether or not his fall was attributed to alcohol.

A front page article on Monday accurately reported the cause of death, which was a fractured skull and hematicoma, which he suffered when he fell. The editors acknowledge that the illustration that ran simultaneously with the story, falsely associates Wood's death with inebriation and apologizes for printing it. The intent of the editorial was to remind students of the dangers that come with drinking and to urge them to be wary of themselves and their friends to avoid the unfortunate deaths that result from alcohol-related accidents each year.

The editorial staff in no way meant to imply that the death of a fellow Cal Poly student whose loss is both tragic and heartbreaking. As members of the editorial, writing about the deaths of students is the hardest kind of article a reporter can face. The Mustang Daily wrote an obituary commemorating the life of Spencer Wood on Aug. 5, 2006, where friends were able to speak about their memories of him. This article can be viewed on www.mustangdaily.net.

The Mustang Daily editorial staff prides itself in its reporting and regrets any misrepresentations of Wood's character that the editorial may have caused.

Editorial: effect the opinion of the Mustang Daily editorial staff.

Wood: a brilliant, charming and incredible friend

Trying to verbalize the meaning, influence, impact, and power to which Spencer had upon our lives does not serve him merely enough justice, but a coroner's report was inconclusive. This means that we will never know whether or not his fall was attributed to alcohol. Spencer's friends would have asked for a friend in a friend and a dream come true in a man. Spencer was charming, witty, exceptionally intelligent, kind, brilliant and incredible. He had that refinement and knowledge that allowed him to speak with such a power and fortitude along with an aptitude to impact the lives of those around him. The wonders of his mind and spirit of Spencer has been left upon all of our hearts and minds. We always hold such personal, gorgeous looks, or genuine charm, I was drawn to him.

Spencer had that certain magnetism that made him truly unique and charismatic. He was extremely offensive and makes his death preventable, because the lack of sobriety most likely caused him to fall down a shallow drainage wash, which is where his body was discovered the next afternoon. "The "Wood" death paragraph of the article, the last line states that, "Wood's death particularly struck us because this was the second paragraph of the article goes on to say "Friends speculate that the lack of sobriety most likely caused him to fall down a shallow drainage wash, which is where his body was discovered the next afternoon." This line continued on to say that "While his life should be celebrated, his death is preventable as a lesson." These lines in particular really sparked my anger and I felt it was necessary to contact Ms. Hall and discuss the article with her. When speaking with her on the phone, I asked where she got the information that they presented in this editorial. She refused to disclose her sources and I further proceeded by asking what official documents they had seen regarding Spencer's death. I asked if they had obtained or seen the police report, the toxicology report, or the autopsy report. She responded "No" to all questions. Then I asked her why her "close friends" had speculated on the cause of his death; but she refused to say which friends they were and only assured me that it was someone close to him. The "facts" presented in this editorial are completely fabricated.

The truth is that his death was in no way preventable. Had the editors actually read any document of merit, such as the autopsy report, they would have known that the cause of his death was head trauma and internal bleeding. Spencer was walking down a hill, in an unlit, pitch black area, where he then slipped, fell and hit the soft area of the head behind his ear on a rock. Doctors explained this event as a "freak accident" and that it was in no way related to alcohol consumption. The toxicology report shows that his blood alcohol level was not significant enough to report, and a detective on this case explained to me that a completely sober person with 20/20 vision at night could have just easily slipped and fell down the same hill. He further stated that when Spencer hit the ground, he hit a "sweet spot." He could have fallen down that same hill 100 times without being able to reproduce the one fatal blow that he received. Please tell me Spencer, what part of this actual story makes his death preventable, because I fail to see how we pretend a freak accident, and am appalled that the editors of the Mustang Daily would make the audacity to say so. As a further step to the editors of the Mustang Daily, I ask them to reflect on what I consider to be the only logical explanation for his death and to then look at the forensic reports that they obtained. We didn't have a lack of sobriety, it could have happened anywhere at any point.

Spencer gave me my most valued gift. It was a perspective on life itself that would have gone unforgotten without him. Spencer taught me how to unconditionally believe and support my siblings. He was very expressive in talking about and teaching his family. He taught me that loving and accepting my friends for all that they were, was essential in understanding them. He gave me a strength and love that is truly unmatched and irreplaceable. His kindness, warmth and acceptance were extraordinary.

Last year is filled with my most favorite moments in his presence. Reliving those memories will bring a tear to anyone's eye, as Spencer was extremely intimate and lovable. His presence is forever embedded into the souls of all the people who had the pleasure of knowing him. He has become unforgettable. Irreverent, surreal and completely bizarre to think he's not here anymore. Incorporating and incorporating his ascent to heaven has been so difficult and so many unanswerable. The pain that his family and friends shared was so easily instigated with a simple conversation and will forever dwell, and exist in my own heart. I am so lucky to have known him, befriended him, and love him. In the short time Spencer and I spent together, I knew that I had discovered a blessing and I am indebted to him.

The position he held for his life is reflected in those he touched, changed, and amplified. Whether it was the students he helped us or loved us, or ultimately Spencer moved us. He was truly an amazing son, brother, and friend.

Sarah Lelani Allen is a business administration major and a friend of Spencer Wood.

Got something to say?

Send your opinions (with your name, year)

Mustang Daily
www.mustangdaily.net

Editor's Note
Jennifer Hall, the managing editor of the Mustang Daily, disputes some of the claims made in this commentary. When she spoke on the phone to Dave Dougerty, she said that the editorial was not meant to make an example out of Spencer Wood. Also, the Mustang Daily did see a copy of the autopsy report. However, reporters from any media organization are unable to obtain police reports as they are reserved for family and friends only.

---

Saturday, January 25, 2007

STAFF EDITORIAL

Wood's death not preventable but a 'freak accident'

To anyone who had the unfortunate experience of reading "The Mustang Daily doesn't want to write your obituary." My name is Dave Dougerty, and I was the president of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. On Monday afternoon, Jan. 22, I had the misfortune of reading the Mustang Daily's editorial. I say this because the "editors" of the paper decided to "make an example out of Spencer Wood" as Jennifer Hall, managing editor of the Mustang Daily, said to me in a phone conversation Monday evening. In this article, the editors could not have been any more lighthearted in their information based on supposed conversations with those who knew Spencer and also included their own speculations as to the cause of his death.

What the editors failed to mention in this editorial were their information came from, and how much truth it actually contained. Spencer's friends would have wanted to see him respected in this way is absolutely appalling. Please take the time to read this response to the editorial and let me shine light on the actual facts regarding his death.

In the second paragraph of the article, the last line states that, "Wood's death particularly struck us because this was the second paragraph of the article goes on to say "Friends speculate that the lack of sobriety most likely caused him to fall down a shallow drainage wash, which is where his body was discovered the next afternoon." This line continued on to say that "While his life should be celebrated, his death is preventable as a lesson." These lines in particular really sparked my anger and I felt it was necessary to contact Ms. Hall and discuss the article with her. When speaking with her on the phone, I asked where she got the information that they presented in this editorial. She refused to disclose her sources and I further proceeded by asking what official documents they had seen regarding Spencer's death. I asked if they had obtained or seen the police report, the toxicology report, or the autopsy report. She responded "No" to all questions. Then I asked her why her "close friends" had speculated on the cause of his death; but she refused to say which friends they were and only assured me that it was someone close to him. The "facts" presented in this editorial are completely fabricated.

The truth is that his death was in no way preventable. Had the editors actually read any document of merit, such as the autopsy report, they would have known that the cause of his death was head trauma and internal bleeding. Spencer was walking down a hill, in an unlit, pitch black area, where he then slipped, fell and hit the soft area of the head behind his ear on a rock. Doctors explained this event as a "freak accident" and that it was in no way related to alcohol consumption. The toxicology report shows that his blood alcohol level was not significant enough to report, and a detective on this case explained to me that a completely sober person with 20/20 vision at night could have just easily slipped and fell down the same hill. He further stated that when Spencer hit the ground, he hit a "sweet spot." He could have fallen down that same hill 100 times without being able to reproduce the one fatal blow that he received. Please tell me Spencer, what part of this actual story makes his death preventable, because I fail to see how we pretend a freak accident, and am appalled that the editors of the Mustang Daily would make the audacity to say so. As a further step to the editors of the Mustang Daily, I ask them to reflect on what I consider to be the only logical explanation for his death and to then look at the forensic reports that they obtained. We didn't have a lack of sobriety, it could have happened anywhere at any point.

Spencer gave me my most valued gift. It was a perspective on life itself that would have gone unforgotten without him. Spencer taught me how to unconditionally believe and support my siblings. He was very expressive in talking about and teaching his family. He taught me that loving and accepting my friends for all that they were, was essential in understanding them. He gave me a strength and love that is truly unmatched and irreplaceable. His kindness, warmth and acceptance were extraordinary.

Last year is filled with my most favorite moments in his presence. Reliving those memories will bring a tear to anyone's eye, as Spencer was extremely intimate and lovable. His presence is forever embedded into the souls of all the people who had the pleasure of knowing him. He has become unforgettable. Irreverent, surreal and completely bizarre to think he's not here anymore. Incorporating and incorporating his ascent to heaven has been so difficult and so many unanswerable. The pain that his family and friends shared was so easily instigated with a simple conversation and will forever dwell, and exist in my own heart. I am so lucky to have known him, befriended him, and love him. In the short time Spencer and I spent together, I knew that I had discovered a blessing and I am indebted to him.

The position he held for his life is reflected in those he touched, changed, and amplified. Whether it was the students he helped us or loved us, or ultimately Spencer moved us. He was truly an amazing son, brother, and friend.

Sarah Lelani Allen is a business administration major and a friend of Spencer Wood.

Got something to say?

Send your opinions (with your name, year)
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mustang Daily wrote its own obituary
To the Editorial Staff of the Mustang Daily:

It would be very easy for me to use this letter as a means of bashing you and your representatives for your ghostly unprofessionalism and erroneous reporting, however I believe that the aforementioned facts have been made more than obvious by the level of feedback you have received for your editorial entitled, "The Mustang Daily does not want to write your obituary." In fact, it would seem that someone had published and article, the staff of the Mustang Daily has indeed written the obituary of their own credibility and their future as respectable journalism. Rather, I will use this letter to honor the memory of Richard Spencer Wood and life that was so dear to many of us.

Richard Spencer Wood was born on June 15, 1984 and was tragically, and senselessly taken from us on July 22, 2006. Through Spencer's 22 years on this earth, he touched more lives than most of us could ever dream of. His caring and good nature made him a friend to all. His confidence and charisma made him a professional to his peers and adults alike.

He was not the drunken frat guy whose inhibitions, and the inhibitions of those around him, canceled his own dreams, especially in Mustang Daily's editorial. Over consumption may be a growing issue among college-aged youth, but it has absolutely nothing to do with the tragic loss of Spencer Wood, nor did the Mustang Daily have any right to assume or justify such a claim.

The last night Spencer was with us, at a concert in Avila, he was surrounded by the things he loved: music, the beach and his friends. Let Spencer always be remembered as he would want, with the appreciation for such beautiful things that he enjoyed so much. Spencer will forever be a reminder that we have found all around us in the things he loved and the things he took the time to do. May each of us take an extra moment in the day to thank God for how lucky we are, with friends and family with nature, and music, and with everything else we may take for granted. Let us continue our journey in pursuit of knowledge and happiness. Spencer does not merit any more, but we will miss him for it.

Andrew Batson
Business administration senior

STAFF COMMENTARY
For Americans, stress leads to ultimate comfort: sweats

According to a recent study by Tswani Chesshire, a bookkeeper for the University of Texas at Austin, stress leads to the wearing of sweats. For Americans, stress leads to ultimate comfort: sweats.

Chesshire's findings show that Americans are the most likely to wear sweats to work or school, with 80% of respondents reporting wearing sweats to work or school at least once a week. The study also found that Americans are more likely to wear sweats on stressful days, with 90% of respondents reporting wearing sweats on days when they felt stressed.

The purpose of these items is comfort, but not in the classroom or workplace. The use of sweats is a trend that has been embraced by many of you. Far too many people are wearing sweats on a daily basis, even on days when they are not stressed.

It seems as though Americans value physical comfort (through what they choose to wear), but also seem to make their lives more complex than they should. Spaniards take the opposite approach to life. They enjoy the beach and their friends. Let's learn from them.

I will continue to wear my sweats, I'm sure, but I have experienced an awe-inspiring glimpse at a society in which we are not virtualized by our electronic devices. I have learned from them.

Jaelle Eastridge, a journalism junior and Mustang Daily staff writer

QUEST COMMENTARY

Generation Y rude and lazy in the workplace

Taryn Cheshire

I had the idea for this article while standing in the checkout line last week waiting for the professor. Most of my classmates were there, and naturally, we all got into line. A guy standing directly opposite me responded by saying, "I just want to watch kids. Well, not really, I just want to watch kids work or anything. Just want to make money."

From the number of people my age I come into contact with every day, I can assume this is an idea seconded by many of you. For too many people from the generation we want to gear toward without having to put forth any effort. An article in USA Today about the work ethic of Generation Y or GenNext (that's an folks) compared the phrase an "off- putting sense of entitlement."

What does this mean exactly? It means that our generation feels that the world owes them just something — everything. This lazy trend makes me worry about what will happen in 10 to 15 years when our generation holds up the key to producing the necessities of our economy.

If we look to how well our generation is doing in the workplace now, the forecast is not promising. Walk into any establishment serviced by people in the 18- to 24-year-old range, and we find many asking about. An overwhelming number of them are lazy, rude and resentful of their customers. Why resentful? Because customers mean work, and people our age hate anything that is "upwork." It is not wrong that my classmate desired a money. A study done by the National Center for Health Statistics found that a 10 GenNexters consider getting rich their first or second most important life goal. This is a problem because you can't rely on your parents to take care of you. In fact, you can't rely on your parents to take care of you. In fact, you can't rely on your parents to take care of you. In fact, you can't rely on your parents to take care of you. In fact, you can't rely on your parents to take care of you. In fact, you can't rely on your parents to take care of you. In fact, you can't rely on your parents to take care of you. In fact, you can't rely on your parents to take care of you. In fact, you can't rely on your parents to take care of you.

What's so bad to do? We are the ones who are responsible for this generation. Why? Because we have the ability to get on track. Luckily, there is a very easy solution. All we have to do is change the fact that we are the ones who are responsible for this generation.

So what's so bad to do? We are the ones who are responsible for this generation. Why? Because we have the ability to get on track. Luckily, there is a very easy solution. All we have to do is change the fact that we are the ones who are responsible for this generation.
Israeli president defiantly rejects rape charges, says he won't step down unless indicted

Ravi Nessman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Shaking with fury, Israeli President Moshe Katsav rebuffed growing calls for his resignation Wednesday, saying accusations he committed rape and other crimes were "poisonous, horrible lies" that were part of a broad conspiracy against him.

Katsav asked parliament to temporarily suspend him from office while he fights to clear his name.

At a stormy, nationally televised speech at his official residence Wednesday night, Katsav professed his innocence and accused the police and media of working together to bring him down, using terms like "witch hunt" and "McCarthysticism." He angrily pounded the podium and his voice cracked during a rambling diatribe that lasted nearly an hour.

"Don't believe the libel, the defamation, the lies. There is only one truth ... I am the target of one of the worst attacks in the history of the state of Israel," Katsav said.

In an effort to blunt the protests, Katsav asked the parliament on Wednesday to grant him a leave of absence, which could last up to three months.

Katsav asked parliament on Wednesday to grant him a leave of absence, which could last up to three months.

"Under these circumstances, there is no doubt in my mind that the president cannot continue to fulfill his position and he must leave the president's residence," Olmert said.

Impeachment requires a three-fourths majority in parliament, and analysts said that might be difficult to achieve. In contrast, a majority in a parliamentary committee could approve Katsav's request to stand down temporarily.

The president's main ceremonial post, was traditionally filled by statesmen and national heroes who were expected to serve as the moral light of the country. Accusations that Katsav used his position to force himself on female employees have inflamed Israelis.

At a stormy, nationally televised speech at his official residence Wednesday night, Katsav professed his innocence and accused the police and media of working together to bring him down, using terms like "witch hunt" and "McCarthysticism." He angrily pounded the podium and his voice cracked during a rambling diatribe that lasted nearly an hour.

"Don't believe the libel, the defamation, the lies. There is only one truth ... I am the target of one of the worst attacks in the history of the state of Israel," Katsav said.

In an effort to blunt the protests, Katsav asked the parliament on Wednesday to grant him a leave of absence, which could last up to three months.

Katsav asked parliament on Wednesday to grant him a leave of absence, which could last up to three months.

"Under these circumstances, there is no doubt in my mind that the president cannot continue to fulfill his position and he must leave the president's residence," Olmert said.

Impeachment requires a three-fourths majority in parliament, and analysts said that might be difficult to achieve. In contrast, a majority in a parliamentary committee could approve Katsav's request to stand down temporarily.

The president's main ceremonial post, was traditionally filled by statesmen and national heroes who were expected to serve as the moral light of the country. Accusations that Katsav used his position to force himself on female employees have inflamed Israelis.

At a stormy, nationally televised speech at his official residence Wednesday night, Katsav professed his innocence and accused the police and media of working together to bring him down, using terms like "witch hunt" and "McCarthysticism." He angrily pounded the podium and his voice cracked during a rambling diatribe that lasted nearly an hour.

"Don't believe the libel, the defamation, the lies. There is only one truth ... I am the target of one of the worst attacks in the history of the state of Israel," Katsav said.

In an effort to blunt the protests, Katsav asked the parliament on Wednesday to grant him a leave of absence, which could last up to three months.

Katsav asked parliament on Wednesday to grant him a leave of absence, which could last up to three months.

"Under these circumstances, there is no doubt in my mind that the president cannot continue to fulfill his position and he must leave the president's residence," Olmert said.

Impeachment requires a three-fourths majority in parliament, and analysts said that might be difficult to achieve. In contrast, a majority in a parliamentary committee could approve Katsav's request to stand down temporarily.

The president's main ceremonial post, was traditionally filled by statesmen and national heroes who were expected to serve as the moral light of the country. Accusations that Katsav used his position to force himself on female employees have inflamed Israelis.

At a stormy, nationally televised speech at his official residence Wednesday night, Katsav professed his innocence and accused the police and media of working together to bring him down, using terms like "witch hunt" and "McCarthysticism." He angrily pounded the podium and his voice cracked during a rambling diatribe that lasted nearly an hour.

"Don't believe the libel, the defamation, the lies. There is only one truth ... I am the target of one of the worst attacks in the history of the state of Israel," Katsav said.

In an effort to blunt the protests, Katsav asked the parliament on Wednesday to grant him a leave of absence, which could last up to three months.

Katsav asked parliament on Wednesday to grant him a leave of absence, which could last up to three months.

"Under these circumstances, there is no doubt in my mind that the president cannot continue to fulfill his position and he must leave the president's residence," Olmert said.

Impeachment requires a three-fourths majority in parliament, and analysts said that might be difficult to achieve. In contrast, a majority in a parliamentary committee could approve Katsav's request to stand down temporarily.

The president's main ceremonial post, was traditionally filled by statesmen and national heroes who were expected to serve as the moral light of the country. Accusations that Katsav used his position to force himself on female employees have inflamed Israelis.

At a stormy, nationally televised speech at his official residence Wednesday night, Katsav professed his innocence and accused the police and media of working together to bring him down, using terms like "witch hunt" and "McCarthysticism." He angrily pounded the podium and his voice cracked during a rambling diatribe that lasted nearly an hour.

"Don't believe the libel, the defamation, the lies. There is only one truth ... I am the target of one of the worst attacks in the history of the state of Israel," Katsav said.

In an effort to blunt the protests, Katsav asked the parliament on Wednesday to grant him a leave of absence, which could last up to three months.

Katsav asked parliament on Wednesday to grant him a leave of absence, which could last up to three months.

"Under these circumstances, there is no doubt in my mind that the president cannot continue to fulfill his position and he must leave the president's residence," Olmert said.

Impeachment requires a three-fourths majority in parliament, and analysts said that might be difficult to achieve. In contrast, a majority in a parliamentary committee could approve Katsav's request to stand down temporarily.

The president's main ceremonial post, was traditionally filled by statesmen and national heroes who were expected to serve as the moral light of the country. Accusations that Katsav used his position to force himself on female employees have inflamed Israelis.

At a stormy, nationally televised speech at his official residence Wednesday night, Katsav professed his innocence and accused the police and media of working together to bring him down, using terms like "witch hunt" and "McCarthysticism." He angrily pounded the podium and his voice cracked during a rambling diatribe that lasted nearly an hour.

"Don't believe the libel, the defamation, the lies. There is only one truth ... I am the target of one of the worst attacks in the history of the state of Israel," Katsav said.

In an effort to blunt the protests, Katsav asked the parliament on Wednesday to grant him a leave of absence, which could last up to three months.

Katsav asked parliament on Wednesday to grant him a leave of absence, which could last up to three months.

"Under these circumstances, there is no doubt in my mind that the president cannot continue to fulfill his position and he must leave the president's residence," Olmert said.

Impeachment requires a three-fourths majority in parliament, and analysts said that might be difficult to achieve. In contrast, a majority in a parliamentary committee could approve Katsav's request to stand down temporarily.

The president's main ceremonial post, was traditionally filled by statesmen and national heroes who were expected to serve as the moral light of the country. Accusations that Katsav used his position to force himself on female employees have inflamed Israelis.

At a stormy, nationally televised speech at his official residence Wednesday night, Katsav professed his innocence and accused the police and media of working together to bring him down, using terms like "witch hunt" and "McCarthysticism." He angrily pounded the podium and his voice cracked during a rambling diatribe that lasted nearly an hour.

"Don't believe the libel, the defamation, the lies. There is only one truth ... I am the target of one of the worst attacks in the history of the state of Israel," Katsav said.

In an effort to blunt the protests, Katsav asked the parliament on Wednesday to grant him a leave of absence, which could last up to three months.

Katsav asked parliament on Wednesday to grant him a leave of absence, which could last up to three months.

"Under these circumstances, there is no doubt in my mind that the president cannot continue to fulfill his position and he must leave the president's residence," Olmert said.

Impeachment requires a three-fourths majority in parliament, and analysts said that might be difficult to achieve. In contrast, a majority in a parliamentary committee could approve Katsav's request to stand down temporarily.

The president's main ceremonial post, was traditionally filled by statesmen and national heroes who were expected to serve as the moral light of the country. Accusations that Katsav used his position to force himself on female employees have inflamed Israelis.

At a stormy, nationally televised speech at his official residence Wednesday night, Katsav professed his innocence and accused the police and media of working together to bring him down, using terms like "witch hunt" and "McCarthysticism." He angrily pounded the podium and his voice cracked during a rambling diatribe that lasted nearly an hour.

"Don't believe the libel, the defamation, the lies. There is only one truth ... I am the target of one of the worst attacks in the history of the state of Israel," Katsav said.

In an effort to blunt the protests, Katsav asked the parliament on Wednesday to grant him a leave of absence, which could last up to three months.

Katsav asked parliament on Wednesday to grant him a leave of absence, which could last up to three months.

"Under these circumstances, there is no doubt in my mind that the president cannot continue to fulfill his position and he must leave the president's residence," Olmert said.

Impeachment requires a three-fourths majority in parliament, and analysts said that might be difficult to achieve. In contrast, a majority in a parliamentary committee could approve Katsav's request to stand down temporarily.

The president's main ceremonial post, was traditionally filled by statesmen and national heroes who were expected to serve as the moral light of the country. Accusations that Katsav used his position to force himself on female employees have inflamed Israelis.

At a stormy, nationally televised speech at his official residence Wednesday night, Katsav professed his innocence and accused the police and media of working together to bring him down, using terms like "witch hunt" and "McCarthysticism." He angrily pounded the podium and his voice cracked during a rambling diatribe that lasted nearly an hour.

"Don't believe the libel, the defamation, the lies. There is only one truth ... I am the target of one of the worst attacks in the history of the state of Israel," Katsav said.

In an effort to blunt the protests, Katsav asked the parliament on Wednesday to grant him a leave of absence, which could last up to three months.

Katsav asked parliament on Wednesday to grant him a leave of absence, which could last up to three months.

"Under these circumstances, there is no doubt in my mind that the president cannot continue to fulfill his position and he must leave the president's residence," Olmert said.

Impeachment requires a three-fourths majority in parliament, and analysts said that might be difficult to achieve. In contrast, a majority in a parliamentary committee could approve Katsav's request to stand down temporarily.

The president's main ceremonial post, was traditionally filled by statesmen and national heroes who were expected to serve as the moral light of the country. Accusations that Katsav used his position to force himself on female employees have inflamed Israelis.
Beca named Player of Week

SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

Cal Poly senior Matt Baca was selected as the Big West Conference Player of the Week for men's tennis.

The announcement came Wednesday afternoon from the conference office.

Baca defeated Fresno State's Jakub Cech by a score of 6-1, 6-4 Sunday. Cech is ranked No. 26 in the nation by a score of 6-1, 6-4 Sunday.

Fresno State duo of Cech and No. 1 doubles, falling 7-5 to the Bulldogs.

Baca and teammate Kyle Roybal nearly pulled off an upset in the FILA Intercollegiate Tennis Association poll.

Baca and teammate Kyle Roybal nearly pulled off an upset in the FILA Intercollegiate Tennis Association poll.

Baca fell 6-2, 6-1 to USC's Jamil Al-Abgha, Baca and Roybal also lost at No. 1 doubles as the Mustangs dropped a 7-6 decision to the No. 43-ranked Trojans.

Baca's record stands at 6-4 on the season and 8-5 in doubles play with Roybal.

Cal Poly returns to action Feb. 2 when the team travels to Las Vegas to take part in the UNLV Tournament.

Sidney Crosby and Alexander Ovechkin combined for only one goal.

Stephen Hawkins
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sidney Crosby and Alex Ovechkin will have to wait to dominate an All-Star game. The young sensations will surely get their chance.

This season belonged to one of the NHL's old stars.

Colorado's Joe Sakic, making 12th All-Star appearance, had four assists to lead the Western Conference to 12-9 victory Wednesday night.

Well-traveled Yanic Perreault of Phoenix, Columbus' Rick Nash, Minnesota's Brian Rolston and Martin Havrlik of Chicago each had two goals for the West squad.

Daniel Brotein, one of three starters from Eastern Conference-leading Buffalo, had a goal and four assists and was selected the MVP.

The league's first midseason showcase since 2004 was a high-scoring affair featuring post-lockout rules and new streamlined uniforms designed, in part, to make the players faster.

Crosby and Ovechkin started on the same line and played most of the game together for the Eastern Conference, but just never could get into the flow. Ovechkin's goal in the second period was the only point credited to the duo that's being compared to Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux.

The 19-year-old Crosby of the Pittsburgh Penguins, who was the top vote-getter for the All-Star game, leads the NHL in scoring with 72 points. Ovechkin, the 21-year-old Moscow native who was Rookie of the Year last season has 65 points for Washington, his 29 goals just one shy of the league lead.

Boston defensemen Zdeno Chara, at 6-foot-9, the tallest player in NHL history, scored two goals for the East squad.

Neither Crosby or Ovechkin were in the NHL when the last All-Star game was played, before the lockout and then the Olympics last year put the game on the shelf. They were among 20 first-time All-Stars.

Sakic, who has spent his entire 18-year career with the Colorado/Quebec franchise, was the MVP of the last All-Star game when he scored three goals, and the most tenured All-Star this season.

His hat-trick wasn't enough for the Western Conference in a 6-4 loss, only the second of 16 All-Star games since 1996 in which 10 or fewer goals were scored. The goal-count Wednesday night might still come short of the 2001 game when the North American squad beat the World team 14-10.

This time, Sakic was playing set-up man. He assisted on consecutive goals less than a minute apart midway through the second period that put the West ahead to stay at 7-5. Those were among four goals in a 4 1/2-minute stretch against New Jersey goalie Martin Brodeur, who allowed six goals in 16 shots he faced during the second period.

Sakic's four assists pushed his All-Star total to 16, surpassing Mark Messier's record 14 in 15 games. Sakic moved into third on the list of All-Star points with 22-14-36, only behind Gretzky (25) and Lemieux (23).

Well-traveled Yanic Perreault of Phoenix, Columbus' Rick Nash, Minnesota's Brian Rolston and Martin Havrlik of Chicago each had two goals for the West squad.

Daniel Briere, one of three starters from Eastern Conference-leading Buffalo, had a goal and four assists and was selected the MVP.

The league's first midseason showcase since 2004 was a high-scoring affair featuring post-lockout rules and new streamlined uniforms designed, in part, to make the players faster.

Crosby and Ovechkin started on the same line and played most of the game together for the Eastern Conference, but just never could get into the flow. Ovechkin's goal in the second period was the only point credited to the duo that's being compared to Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux.

The 19-year-old Crosby of the Pittsburgh Penguins, who was the top vote-getter for the All-Star game, leads the NHL in scoring with 72 points. Ovechkin, the 21-year-old Moscow native who was Rookie of the Year last season has 65 points for Washington, his 29 goals just one shy of the league lead.

Boston defensemen Zdeno Chara, at 6-foot-9, the tallest player in NHL history, scored two goals for the East squad.

Neither Crosby or Ovechkin were in the NHL when the last All-Star game was played, before the lockout and then the Olympics last year put the game on the shelf. They were among 20 first-time All-Stars.

Sakic, who has spent his entire 18-year career with the Colorado/Quebec franchise, was the MVP of the last All-Star game when he scored three goals, and the most tenured All-Star this season.

His hat-trick wasn't enough for the Western Conference in a 6-4 loss, only the second of 16 All-Star games since 1996 in which 10 or fewer goals were scored. The goal-count Wednesday night might still come short of the 2001 game when the North American squad beat the World team 14-10.

This time, Sakic was playing set-up man. He assisted on consecutive goals less than a minute apart midway through the second period that put the West ahead to stay at 7-5. Those were among four goals in a 4 1/2-minute stretch against New Jersey goalie Martin Brodeur, who allowed six goals in 16 shots he faced during the second period.

Sakic's four assists pushed his All-Star total to 16, surpassing Mark Messier's record 14 in 15 games. Sakic moved into third on the list of All-Star points with 22-14-36, only behind Gretzky (25) and Lemieux (23).
Poly softball team picked second by coaches in Big West preseason poll

The Mustangs, who will pursue their fourth straight NCAA tournament berth, earned 48 points from the Big West Coaches Poll released Wednesday. The Mustangs, who finished third in the Big West last season with an 11-7 mark, collected 35 points to edge Long Beach State (33), UC Santa Barbara and Pacific garnered 25 points apiece to tie for fourth, and Cal State Northridge earned 17 points and the final first-place vote. UC Riverside (10) completed the seven-team field.

"As a team, we feel great about our second-place selection. It's earned by peers so the Big West coaches feel we have a strong program," said Condon, whose Mustangs finished 27-23 in 2006 to cement the program's first back-to-back winning seasons in nine years. "We're excited to prove we're worthy of the recognition and honor. We don't feel slighted at all in our second selection. Cal State Fullerton is the defending-champion and returns a solid team."

Cal Poly, seeking the program's third-consecutive top-three Big West showing, proved to be one of the conference's more offensive aggressive clubs in 2006, leading the league with 69 stolen bases and placing second in batting average (247), runs (223) and total bases (534). Cal Poly's 13 returning letterwinners accounted for 83 percent of the Mustangs' stolen base and run total in 2006, 79 percent of the hits, 78 percent of the at-bats and 80 percent of the runs scored.

OFFENSIVE SUPPORT

But Brady was nowhere to be found. Brady, obviously furious at the result, could not comment on the game any differently than if he had won.

by Todd Rains

By all means, these are the two best quarterbacks in the NFL and one of the best of this decade.

You just expect more out of a superman. But like Tomlinson, the Patriots have no choice but to shake hands with the quarterback as the best in the business.

That's sure one accusation that you have never heard when referring to the Colts, especially when you talk about Manning or Tony Dungy.

Maybe that's because they have — that word? — Class.

Poly softball team picked second by coaches in Big West preseason poll

The Mustangs, who will pursue their fourth straight NCAA tournament berth, earned 48 points from the Big West Coaches Poll released Wednesday. The Mustangs, who finished third in the Big West last season with an 11-7 mark, collected 35 points to edge Long Beach State (33), UC Santa Barbara and Pacific garnered 25 points apiece to tie for fourth, and Cal State Northridge earned 17 points and the final first-place vote. UC Riverside (10) completed the seven-team field.

"As a team, we feel great about our second-place selection. It's earned by peers so the Big West coaches feel we have a strong program," said Condon, whose Mustangs finished 27-23 in 2006 to cement the program's first back-to-back winning seasons in nine years. "We're excited to prove we're worthy of the recognition and honor. We don't feel slighted at all in our second selection. Cal State Fullerton is the defending-champion and returns a solid team."

Cal Poly, seeking the program's third-consecutive top-three Big West showing, proved to be one of the conference's more offensive aggressive clubs in 2006, leading the league with 69 stolen bases and placing second in batting average (247), runs (223) and total bases (534). Cal Poly's 13 returning letterwinners accounted for 83 percent of the Mustangs' stolen base and run total in 2006, 79 percent of the hits, 78 percent of the at-bats and 80 percent of the runs scored.

OFFENSIVE SUPPORT

But Brady was nowhere to be found. Brady, obviously furious at the result, could not comment on the game any differently than if he had won.

by Todd Rains

By all means, these are the two best quarterbacks in the NFL and one of the best of this decade.

You just expect more out of a superman. But like Tomlinson, the Patriots have no choice but to shake hands with the quarterback as the best in the business.

That's sure one accusation that you have never heard when referring to the Colts, especially when you talk about Manning or Tony Dungy.

Maybe that's because they have — that word? — Class.
Mustang women's indoor track team goes to UNM invite

Cal Poly is coming off the Dempsey Indoor Preview meet, at which senior Sharon Day was second in the high jump.

Brittany Ridley

The Cal Poly women's indoor track and field team will attend the University of New Mexico Invitational, its first big event of the season, on Friday and Saturday.

Danielle Ayers-Stamper and Sharon Day will compete against Mustangs over the weekend's event, Hoyt said. Day and Ayers-Stamper also participated in the Dempsey Indoor Preview meet at UNM. The meet was on Jan. 13 in order to prepare for this No. 46 Toreros at 2 p.m. Friday.

Tristan Aird

When the Cal Poly baseball team opens the season at the University of San Diego on Friday, it will do so with a new pitching coach.

Head coach Larry Lee announced Monday at a weekly athletics department press conference that former Cal Poly pitcher Jason Kelly had been hired to replace Jerry Weinstein, who resigned earlier this month after five seasons to become manager of the Modesto Nuts, a Class-A affiliate of the California Rockies.

"He sees things just like I do," Lee said of Kelly. "It's a real good fit for our program."

As the pitching coach at Chico State, Kelly helped the Wildcats reach the Division II College World Series each of the last two years. He was an administrative assistant at Cal Poly in 2004 and previously an assistant coach for both Cuesta College (2003) and the San Luis Obispo Blues (2002-03).

Kelly was 3-1 with a 7.91 ERA at Cal Poly in 1999 before he redshirted (2000) and transferred to Cuesta (2001) and then Missouri Valley College (2002).

Cal Poly will open its quest for a fourth straight winning season when its three-game nonconference series against San Diego State begins at 2 p.m. Friday at Cunningham Stadium. The Toreros are ranked 46th in the Collegiate Baseball Newspaper's preseason poll, in which Cal Poly is unranked but received an undisclosed number of votes.

The Mustangs are coming off a 29-27 season after which they lost six players to the Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft and two more who signed free-agent deals. Cal Poly has lost seven juniors early to the draft in the last two years.

In fact, the Mustangs will have almost a brand new team. They must replace:

• All three starting pitchers and their closer.
• Five of their eight position starters.
• Sixty-six percent of their at-bats, 65 percent of their runs scored and 69 percent of their RBI accounted for by players last season who are no longer with the program.

Still, Lee is confident that a talented crop of freshmen can make a quick transition to the Division I level. Cal Poly's recruiting class was ranked by Collegiate Baseball Newspaper in October as the 20th-best in the country.

At the forefront of that group is shortstop Kyle Smith, who hit .481 with eight home runs and 42 RBI at Buchanan High in Clovis last year.

Lee said Smith, who will lead off, "could be one of the top hitters on the West Coast."

"Our shortstop, Kyle Smith, is as good as anybody," Lee said. "Total baseball guy."

At this point, Cal Poly's lineup consists of either Adam Buschini or Wes Dorell at first base, Pat Preet or Brett Morel at second, Smith at shortstop, Morel or Buschini at third, Luke Yoder or Adam Melker in left field, Logan Schafer in center and Grant Donee in right. Joshua Thomas or Dorell will start at catcher with either Bryan Keppner or Quentin Cure as the designated hitter.

The No. 1 starter for the Mustangs will likely be sophomore right-hander D.J. Mauldin, followed in the rotation by freshman southpaw Matt Leonard and sophomore right-hander Thomas Eager. Mauldin and Eager combined for three wins and fanned 35 batters in 50 1/3 innings last year. The closer could be junior right-hander Marc Nobriga.

As was the case last year, Cal Poly has a notably difficult schedule. The Mustangs faced the 10th-toughest schedule in the nation last season, according to Boyd's World.

Things only ramped up this season, as Cal Poly plays three of the last four College World Series champions in Rice (gates), Big West Conference for Cal State Fullerton see Baseball, page 14

Above, Cal Poly sophomore infielder Adam Buschini — shown as a freshman — hits .266 and drove in 10 runs last season. Below, junior right fielder Grant Donee — shown as a sophomore infielder — batted .287 with eight home runs and 33 RBI in 2006.