Let's wrap it up—The Christmas season is anything but wrapping up. Merchants and consumers are in the buying mood that typifies this time of year, and the Toy Center gift-wrappers are busy keeping pace.

Yule yule fasts to SLO

As the gobble of the Thanksgivukkah turkey is quickly forgotten, it is the jingle bells of cash registers that can be heard in downtown San Luis Obispo. Holiday shoppers have invaded downtown stores and are being greeted by green and red street decorations along with traditional Christmas tunes playing in many stores. But Beth Lee, owner of Lee's Hobby Center and co-chairperson of the Business Improvement Association, explained the reason Christmas starts so early is because the "public wants for it."

"Many citizens don't understand why things begin so early," she said. "They think we're rushing it but a lot of people want to start shopping early because they are sending presents overseas.

The Business Improvement Association, a downtown merchants' organization, is in charge of the decorations in the downtown area. The group has a contract with a Sacramento company who puts up decorations in cities around the state. Since the company has many contracts the organization must begin the process of putting up decorations more than a month before holiday season.

Several business have reported that the day after Thanksgiving brought out extra managers. Laura Burns of Open Records, said business will continue to pick up until Christmas is over.

"This year is not as bad," said Burns, a Cal Poly journalism major. "We are getting twice the business we got last year."

"One of our biggest sellers this Christmas seems to be "Barbra Streisand's Greatest Hits," because of the Streisand-Neil Diamond duet on it," he said. "Classical music always sells great this time of year—It's a safe thing to give as a gift."

Christmas music is expected to sell well at Qeen and Bing Crosby's Christmas albums are the best sellers, said Burns.

The Toy Center, on Higuera St., has been selling more electronic toys than anything else, said Assistant Manager Cheryl Trudel.

"The 10-17 year old, a co-worker with a personality, has really been selling," she said. "Anything electronic, like Mattel's electronic football or basketball, are very popular as gifts."

Because of the multitude of shoppers at the Toy Center, management has planned entertainment for its customers. Comic book characters "Spiderman" and "The Hulk" will make appearances at the store on the next two Saturdays.

"People would come in whether we had things planned or not but it just makes it more fun to shop," she said.

BY CAROL EVANS

Cal Poly administrative personnel and members of student government met this week with city officials today to discuss details of a proposed Multi-Housing Mediation Board.

The creation of the new board stems from conflicts brought about by the city's current housing ordinance. The ordinance prohibits more than three unrelated persons from occupying a single family dwelling and an employees' housing ordinance. The ordinance prohibits more than three unrelated persons from occupying a single family dwelling and an employees' housing ordinance. The ordinance prohibits more than three unrelated persons from occupying a single family dwelling and an employees' housing ordinance. The ordinance prohibits more than three unrelated persons from occupying a single family dwelling.

Although the original intent of the board was to handle problems related to the multi-housing ordinance, the boards function has expanded to include other aspects of housing problems, help the housing of the poor and prevent such complaints. The board will serve primarily as a mediator between parties involved in all student/employee housing conflicts. This would include "neighbor related" complaints concerning anything from too much noise to parking problems, said Krauskopf.

Although details about structure and procedure are yet to be ironed out, Krauskopf said the new board might work something like this: A member of the community calls police to complain that student neighbors are consistently causing a racket and keep their neighbors up all night. The police in turn may refer this person to the housing mediation board, which appoints two student "mediators" in the case. These mediators talk to both parties involved to ascertain what the problems are, and draft in writing a proposed solution which both parties will hopefully agree on.

"The board will serve as a bridge between students and the community," said Krauskopf. "It hasn't really been decided what exactly people will have to go through," she said.

The committee must still decide what should be handled by police and what can be taken care of directly by the board.

According to Associate Dean of Student Affairs Bob Timme, it is hoped that the proposed board will become "a go-between body" to help reduce the number of cases that require police action. "The only power the board members will have is the power of persuasion," said Timme. "They have no power to demand a change in behavior. Student mediators will only review the extenuating circumstances and make recommendations to the parties involved." he said.

According to Krauskopf, a personnel selection committee made up of student government and administrative staff members will interview potential student mediators at the beginning of next quarter.

Krauskopf said included on the selection committee, besides herself, will be President Larry Robinson, Coordinator of Off-Campus Housing, Wall Lamber, Dean of Students, Russ Brown, and Timme.

Krauskopf said that any member of the student body is eligible for the board and can pack up an application at the University Union, Room 317.

IN REMEMBRANCE—The flag in front of the administration building, along with others all over San Luis Obispo, flew at half-mast today in honor of San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk who were slain Monday.

SETTING THE SCENE—With 24 days until Christmas, San Luis Obispo wastes no time in getting into the spirit. Decorations can be seen throughout the city.
Editorial/Opinion

Checking it out

The Union of Concerned Scientists, a national group, recently issued a report charging the federal government with being "much and insufficient" in enforcing safety regulations at nuclear power plants across the country. The report has a special impact for the people of San Luis Obispo. With the final licensing hearings for Diablo Canyon's Diablo Nuclear Power plant scheduled for February 6 and 7 of this year, safety plans for the plant could be operating by January or February. The issue of having such a potentially dangerous structure in our own backyard with the chance that it's safety regulations may be lax must be seriously considered.

Nuclear power is a tough risk to take, but when the Nuclear Regulatory Commission fails in its duty to check and enforce the safety standards set for plants, the chances that a "nuclear holocaust" occurring are greatly increased.

The report issued by the Union of Concerned Scientists cited quotations in which government officials expressed concern over the safety of nuclear power plants. "The chance of regulation at nuclear power plants not being properly enforced is too high," said one official. "Every nuclear power plant has its own problem. The responsibility of deciding which of these plants poses the greatest danger is left to the public that the plant will be kept up to par." Indeed, the officials went on to state that nuclear power plants should exceed those of other industries and enforcement of the regulations should be carried out under the scrutiny of an unbiased group of experts. One of the report's charges was that penalties were too limited. It said there are no higher fines than $200,000 for violation of any law. Even that, it said, was insufficient for the safety standards act for plants. The chance of regulation will not be properly enforced back yard with the chance that it's safety related activity at nuclear plants were increased. An official added, "The responsible group of experts at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission have put their time looking at company records, not better track record than one to two percent. Canyon Nuclear Power plant, the situation early December for the licensing of Diablo Nuclear Power plant will help provide electricity to the central state. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is an unbiased group that has the power to act. We would like to see the safety regulations for nuclear power plants inspected and regulated with more effort. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has the ability to enforce safety regulations to get results.

Letters

Editor's Note

As the final licensing procedure begins in early December for Diablo Canyon's Diablo Nuclear Power plant, a government official expressed concern over safety issues up to the last day. It seems that only one group is responsible for the safety of nuclear power plants. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has put its time looking at company records, not better track record than one to two percent. Canyon Nuclear Power plant, the situation early December for the licensing of Diablo Nuclear Power plant will help provide electricity to the central state. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is an unbiased group that has the power to act. We would like to see the safety regulations for nuclear power plants inspected and regulated with more effort. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has the ability to enforce safety regulations to get results.

Fauls

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I'm in prison... I ain't got nothin' to hide'--Ormand

Ray is a prisoner. He's been in prison for over a decade. He's seen the world and he's learned a thing or two about it. He's not afraid to speak his mind, even if it means going against the grain.

Ray is a man of few words, but his story is one of determination and resilience. He's been in prison for various reasons, but he's always found a way to make the most of his time behind bars.

The story of Ray's life is a testament to the power of the human spirit. He's been through a lot, but he's come out the other side stronger and wiser.

Ray's story is one of hope and inspiration. It's a reminder that no matter what you go through, you can always find a way to rise above it and make the most of your life.
An old-fashioned Christmas
begins with a good book

NEWSLINE

Friday, December 1, 1978
Mastody Daily

Oxford students egg Nixon

OXFORD, England (AP) - Richard M. Nixon, braving a heat of criticism that he showed a lack of statesmanship in the "Crepuscule" and "Nixon is dead!" told British students yesterday he will "speak up for what I believe...as long as I can."

The former president also told the Oxford University audience that with his appeal for a peace talk-up a Palestinian guerrilla "network" in the United States through writing and speaking, he is attempting to "right the deck" for his administration's efforts in the Middle East. Nixon's appearance came just before his resignation in the midst of the Watergate scandal.

A phalanx of security guards accompanied Nixon to the lecture hall, with an angry crowd of 300 students demonstrating, many of them Americans and some flogging eggs, when he arrived at the Oxford Union debating chamber yesterday. The示-tracking was reported in the local press.

The future secretary of state was expected to finish his talk today and an American Senate committee will hear his views in Washington.

SF funeral draws 400

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - San Franciscans today voiced a requiem high Mass for slain Mayor George R. Moscone as three of his children read passages from the Scripture and his fourth child broke down while reading her remarks from the Book of Wisdom which concluded: "He pleased God with his love."

Mass death, mass bill

WASHINGTON (AP) - Ten days after the mass murders in Guyana, the Carter administration is faced with an array of humanitarian, legal, budgetary and public relations problems that may take weeks to sort out.

One problem is what government agencies will foot the bill for the sheriff and related costs of the more than 500 victims flown to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

As of last week, the cost was estimated at between $21 million and $33 million. But that figure was based on an estimated cost of $1.5 million per body for a month, which was too low but have not yet come up with a revised figure.

One official in the Office of Management and Budget is consulting with a number of federal agencies in try to derive a formula for which ones should bear the cost of the operation.

No bargain for ascapists

FRESNO (AP) - An escaped inmate cannot negotiate the terms of his return to prison, an appellate court ruled in the case of an escapee from California Men's Colony at San Luis Obispo.

John L. Obeyw walked away from the prison July 10, 1977, because he had been denied treatment for a pinched nerve in his neck that authorities said was causing his pain.

Obeyw was arrested in San Luis Obispo Aug. 3, 1977, then undertaken an operation at San Quentin Prison to correct a pinched nerve in his neck that authorities said was causing his pain.

The state's 5th District Court of Appeal upheld Obeyw's conviction for escape, saying that "we have sought not in abscess corpus to tell a judge that the fed-medical treatment was needed."

Legislature faces tax shift

SACRAMENTO (AP) - A more conservative, less expansionist legislature in 1979 version Monday with a prepping, six-month-old problem facing it - financing government in a Proposition 13 world.

It's an issue past for months is bound to dominate the working hours of the California's 120 legislators. 33 of whom have never been before a session in Sacramento.

Lawmakers fashioned a stopgap solution last June to shore up local governments during the first year of Proposition 13 - the property tax revolt, leaving a long-range answer for 1979. But that answer would be difficult to find, and there are those who say local governments may have to settle for a stopgap before the Legislature agrees on a more permanent plan.

GOP declares candidate

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Republican Party has a second declared candidate for its 1980 presidential nomination - a millionaire business executive in Boston who converted a religious holding house as the son of Mexican immigrants.

Benjamin Fernandez, 52, of Los Angeles, told a news conference Wednesday that he is ready to head a $35 million fund-raising drive to finance his run for the White House. It will be his first attempt at elective office, but he is a friend of California Gov. Jerry Brown.

"I can raise the 15 million bucks, and anyone who can do that is going to be a serious candidate," said Fernandez.

Fernandez gained experience in political fund-raising in 1972 when he worked on the finance committee for former President Richard M. Nixon's re-election campaign. Afterwards, he was named chairman of a Republican committee to set up party organizations among Hispanics in nine large states.

Carter won't back down

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Carter said Thursday he would not scale the 1980 budget that is pushing for a "sanctions, " policy where defense issues are concerned. And he vowed that the new budget under preparation for fiscal 1980 will meet social and domestic as well as military needs.

Death rule prompts appeal

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - A District Court judge refused Thursday to overturn a state death penalty law which grants the governor the power to stop an execution if he believes it would be cruel and unusual punishment.

President Carter has said the budget will be tight, and that this, in part, is what is being reflected by the fact that the federal government is one of a sample of what's to come.

The American Bar Association's criminal law section says that the court when a courtroom become available for the trial.

The executions are scheduled for Dec. 17, Utah is the only state in the nation that has a death penalty. When he arrived at the courthouse to stay the execution of two convicted killers, parked and Andrews were convicted of the torture killings of 40 people during a robbery at the Oglesby Hi-Fi Shop April 24, 1974.

Groups vie for tight budget

WASHINGTON (AP) - As budget time nears, a line will form outside the White House. Groups with one pet project or another will try to get the President's attention.

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Actor's case pends years

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A stung court calendar delayed the start of a landmark trial Thursday - the suit against actor Lee Marvin for alimony in a non-marital living arrangement.

The case, expected to establish ground rules for divorce without marriage throughout the nation, was placed on "standing" trust on the civil court calendar.

Attorney Marvin Mitchell, representing Michelle Trilla Marvin, was given a beeper to carry for instant notification by Superior Court Judge Richard Krassen.

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Cults bent on dual roles

(AP) - Religious cults, those synonymous misfits of Eastern and Western beliefs that have managed to win acceptance of dominant of the old school here, are said to be operating in the United States. These groups are termed by some as having their origins in Eastern religion, but are now in the life and system of the group, the society is said to be dominated by the cults and their followers. This movement also seems to be gaining strength in the life and world of the group, the society is said to be dominated by the cults and their followers.
Movie Review
‘Watership Down: For everybody’

BY KATHY MCKENZIE

For those of you who will be pushed into taking little brothers and sisters to the movies over Christmas vacation, there is a light in the darkness. Take them to see “Watership Down,” and you may even find yourself enjoying the role of the brave rabbits journeying to new territory. “Watership Down,” adapted from Richard Adams’ best-selling novel of the same name, is one of those rare movies that are suitable for the whole family. The story involves Fiver, a rabbit, with extraordinary powers, who foresees the destruction of his warren by relentless developers. No one believes him but a small group of his friends, and together they travel to establish a new warren at Watership Down. Along the way the rabbits encounter opposition from all sides—from a rival warren, headed by the evil General Woundwort; from dogs, messmates, and, of course, humans. The film’s turbulent moments come when the rabbits behind a sturdy snail, whose excellent vocal characterization is provided by the late Zero Mostel, interestingly enough, the movie is rated PG, apparently to cover some of the gory fight scenes. The largest hurrer, however, must go to the film’s animators for the excellent work they did. The background painting looks as though it belongs in a watercolor gallery, and in feet at times the rabbits look out of place on such a richly made background.

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**Oh, God!**

...he is smiling.

---

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Produced by JERRY BENTHAL

Music by JERRY BENTHAL

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5:00-7:30 & 8:00-10:00

Chumash Auditorium

Price: $5

presented by the Allergy City, Chumash Theatre

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**Tears from a piece of granite**

BY JON IVESON

**I was conceived one night in April 1949, at the Croanroad Motel in La Verne, California...nine months later on a Sunday morning, I was born in the back seat of a Yellow Cab on a hospital loading zone and with the meter still running. I emerged needing naps and shouted "Times Square and 7th."**

Thus began the career of a soon-to-be legendary artist. Tom Waits. With a voice that sounds like gravel falling on sheet metal, Waits belts out songs in his unusual folk-jazz style.

"My music is very urban. I like it. A but I enjoy going to New York. I feel very at home there...just hanging out."

Waits says.

Waits now has six albums out; with the release of his newest "Blue Valentine." But it all started back in 1973 with the release of Waits first album, "Closing Time." The album was a critical success, and the Eagles even recorded a song from it (of 55), but the hits were never the same.

The second album, came out a year later, titled "The Heart of Doors." Soon emerged.

This album contains some of the best jazz and rock singing Waits has done to date, but was criticized for having too much story-telling and not enough music.

Waits went into the studio again and came out with his fourth album "Small Change." This time record sales began to pick up and Waits began to be heard on the radio with "The Piano Has Been Drinking."

By this time, Waits pencil was becoming fine tuned to rolling stones from a piece of granite, and wringing stories out of small time cocktail bars.

"Foreign Affairs," his fifth album, tried something different: full orchestration, and even a guest appearance from Bette Midler on the song "I Never Talk To Strangers."

Then came "Blue Valentine," the newest Waits to date. Cleanly produced once again, the songs are shot full of new energy. Waits is using electric guitars and organ now, something he usually doesn't do, and his style again shifts ever so slightly.

The most notable cuts on the album are: "Whistling Past the Graveyard" which moves with a jazzy syncopation, "Christmas Card From A Hooker In Minneapolis" which has to be heard to understand Waits style, and "Romeo Is Bleeding" that moves with lyrics like:

"But Romeo is bleeding as he gives the man his ticket and he climbs in the balcony at the movie and he'll die without a whisper like every hero dream just an angel with a bullet and Cupid on the screen."

"Romeo Is Bleeding" says a lot about heroes in the life, and Waits is developing himself into one of those heroes. You can save this man by listening to him right now, so you can turn the page.
BY TONY TRANFA

Harry, a young American college student on vacation abroad, is involved in a sadistic hazing of some hacs from Istanbul, Turkey, to his friends back in the United States. Five years later, he is still trying to get out of the club.

"Midnight Express," playing this week at San Luis Obispo's Fremont Theatre, is the true story of Billy Hayes and his traumatic and life-draining experiences in Turkey's most notorious prison, Sazaklar.

Although the movie begins with Hayes trying unsuccessfully to smuggle two kilos of hash out of Istanbul, the focus of the story is the brutal Hayes faces as a foreigner, or "yob," attempting to liberate himself from the confines of the prison.

Hayes is played by Brad Davis, a relatively unknown actor, even by his own admission. Davis was known for being able to "put myself into the role," his center of what he played as a level-headed, intelligent man turned empty-headed, mindless nobody.

Davis is called upon to show several sides of the real Hayes: when his smug student-turned-smuggler, the conservative, frightened young man trapped in hell, a fighting, angry jail inmate turned to a still calm, cool, and determined man when Hayes, after being killed his witness has been killed, makes a rebuttal to the arguments of the prosecutor (Ervan Mabliykan). He begins solemnly, turns to the prosecutor, and finally explodes in anger and profanity, calling the judge, "you bloody names and stripping the man in his neck in disgust.

THE AGONY OF TURKISH PRISON—Brad Davis is Billy Hayes, an American college student busted for drugs in Istanbul. Here he is comforted by his father, actor Mike Keaton.

When Hayes faces the prison, he is finally a calculating prisoner who figures a way out. After serving nearly four years of a 20-year sentence, the high court in Turkey rules to send Hayes to prison. The government appeals to the Supreme Court in an additional 10 years for smuggling. Hayes learns, tells him the government wanted to make Hayes a scapegoat. One of the most significant scenes in the movie comes to the real man Hayes: the nervous, cool student-turned-smuggler; the concerned, frightened foreigner trapped in a living hell; a fighting, angry jail inmate turned to a still calm, cool, and determined man.

 mismo prison room as Hayes. He believes Mass, who later suicide in an en- dured escape attempt, and turns against R.K., a trustee of the prison known as a fight. The performances by both men are worthy of praise. And even with the remarkable performance by Davis, the acting contributed by his co-workers.

We speak art (fluently)

GRAHAM'S ART STORE
982 Monterey Street
Aggie Invitational opens for 9th year

BY BANDY BAKER

The seats will be tight, the players will be prepared, and according to Cal Poly's head basketball coach Ernie Wheeler, this weekend's Ninth Annual Aggie Invitational Tournament will be close.

"It's going to be pretty close," said Wheeler. "All four teams should be ready to play." The tournament begins this evening in the Main Gym when Milwaukee State meets Cal State Dominguez Hills in a 7 p.m. match. Cal Poly will battle UC Ken Diego in the 9 p.m. tilt.

The Mustangs, coming off wins from their first two games, are looking to capture the tournament title which has eluded them the past two years. Chapman College, who was not invited this year, grabbed the title last year from Cal Poly in the championship game.

Coach Wheeler admitted, as do most coaches at beginning of respective seasons, that it is very hard to tell if his young, inexperienced players can produce an effective attack before the conference begins in January.

"We won our first two games but who that could lead to is really hard to say," Wheeler said. "Right now, we can play anywhere from 8 to 10 players," continued the Mustang coach of 12 years. "We're going to start the same five we have but that could change."

Entries for the Mustangs in the two 14-game games, against U.C.S.B. and the University of Redlands have been 6-4 forward Mike Evans, 6-6 forward Mark Robinson, 6-8 Ernie Wheeler III at guard, 5-10 forward Rob Wrage, and at center 6-1 Andy Guillet.

Championship and consolation winners will be decided during Saturday's competition with the losers scheduled for 7 p.m. followed by the winners bracket beginning at 9 p.m.

Women Cagers on road

El Corral Before Christmas

"This El Corral before Christmas, when all through the store.
Not an item was stirring, all was quiet on the floor;
The merchandise was stacked on the shelves with care.
In hope that students would soon be here;
And Mammas in their jeans and 1 in my cap,
Had just settled down and started to rap."

When out on the plaza there arose such a clatter.
I sprung from my seat and to what was the matter.
When what in my wondering eyes appeared.
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeers;
Into the house and to the round they flew.
With a sleigh full of gifts—and St. Nicholas, too.
He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the shelves then turned with a jerk.
And giving the word to the crows on the floor.
The time had now come to spring open the doors.
The students poured in and to their delight,
It was 20 off almost everything in sight.

El Corral's 20% off Christmas Sale

Dec. 8, 9, 11 and 12
our present to you
for a
very special holiday season.

Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year

(Discounts Taken on Real Items, Pajamas, Underwear, Calendar and Accessories. Photo Processing, Clothing, Glass, Keepsakes and Special Orders, Not Included)
BY VINCEN BUCCI

Ultimate frisbee, a sport much more than simple throw and catch and one gaining
popularity, has found its place
at Cal Poly.
The San Luis Obispo
Frisbee Freaks have been
playing ultimate, as it is called
by those who play, for two
years and have organized a
team that may be world class
soon.
Ultimate, one of the few
team games played with the
Frisbee, started in 1967 on the
East Coast. Teams such as
MITE Turtles, Princeton, Yale
and Cornell started the Frisbee
crew with a twist. Today it is
enjoyed around the country.

Ultimate is a sport requiring
strategic passing and plenty of
running. Two seven-man
teams compete on a 100-yard
field trying to get the frisbee
past a goal line without drop­
ping it. To advance, throwers
must release the frisbee in 10
second results in a turn over.
In official play, the teams play
two 24-minute halves.
The San Luis Obispo
Frisbee Freaks, including
many Poly students, traveled
to Santa Barbara November
19 to scrimmage the world
champion Condors. The
Freaks came out on the losing
side 11-6 in the first contest
and crept closer in the second
frame 12-10. The Condors
defeated Cornell University at
this year's World Frisbee
Championships at the Rose
Bowl.

Tom Kennedy of the Con­
dors, who was recognized as
the best ultimate player in the
world, thinks the Freaks will
be world class soon.

Frisbee golf
this weekend

Jack Nicklaus won't be
there and the course isn't Pleb­
rie Beach but the competition
will be just as heated when
the San Luis Obispo Frisbee
Freaks sponsor frisbee golf.
The tournament, co-
sponsored by the intramural
department, will be held at
Mustang Stadium Saturday.
The frisbee golf tourney is
Sloff's first ever and will
begin at 10 a.m.

Invited players should
bring a disc or discs to play the
one-hole free play round.

Prizes will be awarded for
the best scores, to leave your
clubs at home and be there
Saturday to ton your way into
frisbee stardom.

FLYING HIGH—Ultimate frisbee can sometimes
involve close encounters of this kind. The San
Luis Obispo Frisbee Freaks are one of the few
teams to play this unique game.

DON'T STALL —Tim Hankel prepares a side arm throw, as Bob Wolf looks
on. In Ultimate, teams can be penalized for holding on to the frisbee too long.
Mat men match up in Arizona

Rugby plays this weekend at home

BY WENDY JACKSON

Football is a popular sport on the Cal Poly campus. But there is another sport on campus very similar to football that many students aren’t aware of. The Rugby Club is a club that hosted a Cal Poly stand out this weekend.

BY WENDY JACKSON

Football player of the week

MIKE RAYMO

The 6-2, 215, senior linebacker from Santa Monica was a defensive mainstay in Poly’s 17-0 playoff loss to Winston Salem [NC] State University last Saturday. He has been a Cal Poly varsity standout for three years.
Friends Outside is link to prisoners

By Marian Flandrick

Down the road from the California Men's Colony is a small, unassuming mobile home with a sign that reads "Friends Outside and Free from a lifetime of crime." The mobile home houses the Friends Outside, a group that provides support to inmates and their families. They are trying to take some of the loneliness out of the lives of prisoners and their families. Friends Outside deals with the prisoner's family -- their grief, tears, and confusion. The group is there to give them the support they need.

"We are a viable organization now," said Donna Weisz, supervisor of Friends Outside.

Varied lifestyles found in prison

Friends Outside began in 1984 and is the chapter in San Luis Obispo that started seven years ago. "It's not very pleasant to visit a loved one in prison," Weisz said. "The families fear for their home and they try to relieve that in small ways. We offer friendship and companionship and don't try to change them in our beliefs. We represent the widest aspect of humanity."

As well as offering friendship to the families who often come from all over the United States, they provide child care, transportation, and help in crisis situations.

"Last weekend a family's car broke down so we took them home so the car was fixed. Sometimes a person will have lost his money and we will buy him a return ticket," said Weisz.

Lani Vann, juvenile social service major, volunteers her time at Friends Outside and has received credit for her help. "I find a small thing goes a long way," said Vann.

She said she has learned more working with Friends Outside than in any class at Cal Poly.

"I'm learning about different people and their needs and a bit about what it's like to have a loved one in prison," she said. "You can't assume anything about anyone."

"We're not playing the do-gooders but we are just helping by being there," said Vann. "I learned a lot more than I ever experienced. I'm really being made aware and I think we all need to be made aware to what's happening just over the hill from us."

A big need of the Friends Outside is volunteers. Even an hour a week is priceless to them.

Weekends are especially busy. Many people visit prisoners and with new visiting laws established at the prison certain people can't visit or their children can't visit so they stay at Friends Outside.

"Sometimes we have up to 25 kids," said Vann. "It would be a perfect internship for a Child Development major."

Friends Outside works in close cooperation with professional and private agencies but especially with the California Department of Corrections. They are encouraged by the staff at the Men's Colony and are funded by various churches and organizations.

"Friends Outside is like a guild who doesn't have a way to the bus station. She only speaks Spanish. But I was taking a bus to the bus station and she wanted to go to the bus station. We talked the whole way," she said. "That's Friends Outside."

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