Zedakah House gets temporary reprieve
By Shelly Evans
Zedakah House officially parked its buses for the homeless after making one last trip to El Chorro County Campground Monday night, but the Salvation Army will continue the service temporarily.

Director Brad Goans said he feels a duty to make sure the homeless don’t spend their nights in the cold.

"I’m doing everything legally possible to make sure everyone has a dry place to sleep," Goans said.

After Monday night, Goans said, "the money runs out, the possibility of a nitrogen tetroxide rocket fuel spill was not a consideration when the plan was revised in 1986."

A shipment of Air Force rocket fuel, expected to pass over Cuesta College and through San Luis Obispo sometime today, has the Cal Poly Public Safety department concerned. But in the event of a spill, they’ve got a plan, of sorts.

The "Disaster Preparedness Plan For Peace-time Emergencies" is a 385-page manual outlining safety procedures for every contingency. Included is what to do in the event of a chemical spill, earthquake, bomb threat, sniper attack or an accident at Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant.

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However, the possibility of a nitrogen tetroxide rocket fuel spill was not a consideration when the plan was revised in 1986.

Richard Brug, director of Public Safety at Cal Poly, said the steps followed would be the same as with any other chemical spill.

Brug said of the toxic fuel shipment: "This is kind of new, so it's got everybody uptight about it."

However, Brug said, except to cordon off the area and evacuate people who might be in danger, there is little local agencies could do in the event of a spill.

"Most agencies in the county don’t have the expertise or the equipment to handle a (hazard) of that nature," he said.

Cal Poly Fire Chief John Paulsen agreed. "We don't have the capabilities of handling anything like that other than arranging for evacuation," he said. "The Air Force, at this point in time, are the only people in the area that can handle some- thing like that."

To drink, or not to drink
Cuesta water test shows conflicting lab results
By Alison Kratt

Earlier findings that Cuesta College’s water contains chemicals under fire because of lack of confirmation and new lab results.

According to a Central Coast Analytical Services report paid for by the college, the findings of a WaterTest Corp. study were in error.

The Telegram-Record reported during the weekend that WaterTest Corp. had been hired by ill Cuesta employees, found traces of ethylene dibromide and dibromomethane — chemicals used in both fire retardants and pesticides — in water samples taken at Cuesta.

In response to hundreds of calls from concerned Cuesta employees and parents as a result of the article, the college blocked off its drinking fountains and brought in bottled water for the campus to drink, said Joe Greenhouse, vice president of the college.

Only water used for drinking and food preparation has been disconnected.

Cuesta asked that WaterTest recheck its sample.

See WATER, back page
A take-no-prisoners approach to outdoor fun

I was a calm, clear, warm morning as Russell and I arrived at Oceano Beach to surf. The waves were great, but we didn’t feel good about the experience. The reason? Off Road Vehicles (ORVs). We surf to get away from civilization and into nature. This holiday, our beach required 10 minutes for the exhaust of a stream of vehicles to pass until we dazed skirt across the sand to jump in the surf.

ORVs include huge trucks with oversized wheels (‘Bigfoots’), specialized motorcycles, four-wheelers, three-wheelers, four-wheel drive mechanisms whose main purpose is to go anywhere without roads. Promoters of these all terrain vehicles (ATV’s) want to undermine personal liberty, a sensa­tion of freedom, the tranquility of the American tradition.

I am all for fun, but it is possible to have fun in an environment that ensures a stable life to exist. There are designated ATV areas, which are less sensitive to abuse, where-off road enthusiasts can have fun. There doesn’t seem to be a legitimate reason for the continued co-existence of national and state forests. ORV’s lobby in Sacramento as if necessary for an ATV across the Sierra Nevada in Northern California and all the way to Mexico. They also vigorously support new Delaware Act by Senator Alan Cranston. Without this protection, these deserts and mountains could be irreversibly scarred.

Up until 1972, ORV’s were allowed to ravage all of America’s public lands. That year President Richard Nixon issued an executive order establishing that the use of ORV’s on public land would be limited to designated trails and areas which would be set up to minimize adverse effects on the environment, harassment of wildlife, and interference with other forms of recreation. Jimmy Carter strengthened this five years later with an amendment making it clear that even where trails or off-road areas existed, ORV’s could be banned if the responsible agency saw evidence of environmental damage. The last seven years have seen an increased use of our public lands by ORV’s because of an administration that has skeletonized the staff of important individuals who watch over America’s public lands.

The vehicles that Russell and I crossed were headed into this system. During the past few decades ORV’s have disrupted thousands of bovine paths. One of the most beautiful lakes on the coast, Oso Flaco Lake, is being feasted in by shifting sand. ORV’s have destroyed the dune-stabilizing plants.

There doesn’t seem to be a reason for the ravaging and destruction of our ecosystem caused by off-road vehicles.

What is the rest of the story? Where is the rest of the story? I do have one question, however, for the Cal Poly Police. While you were arresting drunken pedestrians, who were supposed to be arresting the car thief, the car vandals, the video game thieves and purse burglars, and the bike thief also mentioned in the Feb. Mustang Daily.

— Brent Edwards
State

Court says Bible study ads not allowed at high schools

EL TORO (AP) — High school organizations advertising Bible study and prayer groups may be banned from school premises, a state appellate court ruled.

The Fourth District Court of Appeal on Monday upheld the legality of a rule at El Toro High School which bans from campus any clubs that are not sponsored by the school or related to educational curriculum.

The decision is part of an ongoing feud in the San Joaquin Valley Unified School District over the legality of religious proselytizing on school property during school hours.

A pair of students, Alexander Perumal and Frederick Read, members of the Christian New Life group, wanted to hand out flyers promoting their meetings and to advertise in the school yearbook.

"This is a straight free speech case," said David Liewellyn Jr., lawyer for the students.

FUEL

From page 1 thing like that."

The San Luis Obispo City Council is also concerned that local agencies might not be prepared to handle such an emergency. On Monday, in an effort to stop the proposed shipment, the council passed a law giving the city's fire chief authority to temporarily stop rocket fuel shipments if he feels they "pose an extreme and unreasonable risk" to city residents.

But as reported in a local newscast Monday night, city officials are doubtful the Air Force will comply with the ordinance that a restraining order be obtained in court to force compliance. Because of the supremacy clause of the U.S. Constitution, federal authority supersedes state and local powers.

In the event of a large spill, Cal Poly's emergency plan requires notification of the campus police and fire departments, the public safety director as well as assistant directors and, in the event of injuries, the Health Center. A command post would then be set up to monitor all information about the hazard and to determine the steps to be taken and whether evacuation was necessary. During any emergency the command post at Cal Poly would be in constant communication with city police and county Sheriff's departments, as well as other emergency agencies in the area, sharing information and duties.

Several systems could be used to inform students, staff and faculty of the emergency; a campuswide public address system, located on top of the Administration Building; a telephone "fanout" system, which simply involves notifying by phone the residence halls, the dean's office of each school and outlying agricultural buildings; and loud speakers attached to police and fire vehicles.

Countywide sirens, which were installed by the Pacific Gas and Electric company to warn of an emergency at Diablo Canyon, might also be used. If the sirens sounded, further information would be available on KUNA, 1400 AM, and KVYC, 920 AM, as part of the Emergency Broadcast System.

If evacuation of all or part of the campus was necessary, dorm residents could be put up for the night at Camp Roberts in Paso Robles or at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria. Those who live near campus and out of the danger area would be asked to go home.

The emergency plan was used two years ago during the Las Palitas fire, which forced the university to close but not to be evacuated. During that emergency the plan proved "very effective," Paulsen said.

At least twice a year Cal Poly Public Safety conducts emergency training with other local and state agencies. Paulsen said, "Each time we learn ways we can improve."

"The only thing we can do at this point is contain it and get people out of the area, and then get some people there that know what it is and how to get it cleaned up," Brug said.

World

U.S., China sign agreement to cut down on textile imports

BEIJING (AP) — China and the United States Tuesday signed a four-year agreement that limits to 3 percent the annual growth rate for China's textile exports to the United States.

The accord was signed in the Great Hall of the People by U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter and Zheng Tuobin, China's minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade.

China, a relative newcomer to the textile export industry, has become America's largest supplier of textiles and apparel in terms of volume.

Shipments in major import categories — such as cotton, silk and ramie — have been growing at an annual rate of 19 percent, far outdistancing growth by more established suppliers such as South Korea and Hong Kong. Chinese exports to the United States are estimated to be worth at least $2 billion annually.

Reverand claims rock album does more than Pope's visit

NEW YORK (AP) — Bruce Springsteen is a "Catholic minister" whose most recent album may have been "a more important Catholic event in this country than the visit of Pope John Paul II," says the Rev. Andrew Greeley.

The pope "spoke of moral debates using the language of doctrinal positions that appeal to (or repel) the mind," while Springsteen "sings of religious realities — sin, temptation, forgiveness, life, death, hope — in images ... from his Catholic childhood," the priest wrote in the Feb. 6 issue of America magazine.

He said Springsteen's images, "appeal to the whole person, not just the head, and that will be absorbed by more Americans than those who listened to the pope."

John Paul II should take no offense, because "troubles are always more importance than theologians or bishops," insists Greeley.
Paralyzed professor ready to get back to teaching after accident

By Rob Lopez

Computer science professor Sham Luthra can't wait to get back to work.

"I want to be functioning in school — above the hips I am fine," Luthra said. "That's all you need to teach."

"I can't stand laying around like this — I'm bored to death."

Luthra was speaking from the hospital bed to which he has been confined since injuries from a high-speed car accident left him paralyzed from the waist down.

Luthra and his daughter Swapna, a Cal Poly student, were hit almost head-on by an 18-year-old female driver on Jan. 16. The driver, who was uninsured, was hit as well.

Sham, 54, was diagnosed at first as having only broken ribs. But it was later discovered that he had sustained a punctured aorta, the chief artery of the heart, which required intricate surgery.

Swapa, 23, had to be rescued from the car by the "Jaws of Life" and had surgery on her left leg.

Frank Strieker, public affairs officer for the San Luis Obispo California Highway Patrol station, said the woman lost control of her car, which was traveling at about 55 mph, and crossed the median from northbound 101 to southbound 101, smashing into the front of Sham's car near the Higuera Street exit.

Both cars were destroyed.

Strieker said the driver of the other car broke suffered a broken leg and her passenger, a 21-year-old male from Atascadero, complained of a minor neck injury.

Sham was moved from French Hospital on Tuesday, where he had been for about two weeks. He was flown to a recovery center in Rancho Los Alamitos, near Downey, where he will stay for about three months.

With a cheerful look in his eyes and a slight smile wrinkling his mouth, Sham seemed optimistic about his teaching future.

He said he'd like to return to Cal Poly next quarter, but thought it would probably be too soon.

Through the support of his family, friends and colleagues, Sham said he has been able to cope with the unfortunate accident. He said the accident could have happened to anyone. "I feel lucky. I've seen a lot in life ... I've had a lot of good times and been through life's anxieties, but what if this had happened to a younger person," he said.

"It's like picking up a young flower and throwing it in the dirt; we shouldn't waste our young people like this."

Sham said the accident occurred about 7 p.m. when traffic on the highway was light. "My daughter was driving and I was talking to her and the next thing I saw was a car coming across the divider," Sham said. "It's absolutely ridiculous, there was no reason why this accident should have happened. We were practically the only cars on the road at the time."

Strieker said bad road conditions after a rain shower caused the accident. He said the driver was traveling too fast for the road conditions that day.

"There was no indication at all that the girl was under the influence of alcohol, she was driving too fast on the slick road," Strieker said.

He added that Sham's vehicle, a 1986 Mercedes-Benz, was See ACCIDENT, back page
Life in a shoebox

A lot of legwork is involved in matching dorm rooms

By Dianna Callesen
Staff Writer

Experiences that evolve from living with a total stranger come in all flavors. Thinking back to that first year of sharing a 150-square-foot box with someone you may have never met before can take on a rollercoaster ride through some of the best or worst times of your life.

The first awkward week of getting to know each other and adjusting to all sorts of new things, especially if you have never shared a room before, can be quite unsettling. It takes a little time to develop trust. But when you move into the dorms you are basically forced to blindly believe that humans are innately good.

After a few days or weeks roommates get to be family. "The housing office did a really good job matching us up," said Laura Daniels about her roommate, Yvonne Canada. Both Daniels and Canada are first-year students and live in Santa Lucia Hall.

But even roommates who seem to be destined to be best friends go through some awkward first meetings.

"I walked into the room right past Kristie (Ritschler) and looked around for someone who looked like the picture my roommate sent me before we met," said Lisa Faver, first year Santa Lucia resident.

"Then I realized it was her. You didn't look at all like the picture you sent," Faver joked with her roommate Ritschler.

For people who end up living together aren't best friends or don't even get along, they often stay in the same room because of the other people they meet in the dorm, said Mark Gasta, a resident adviser at Yosemite Hall.

When you have personal problems that aren't directly related to school, such as leaving a boyfriend or girlfriend at home or losing a feeling of belonging when you go back home, other students in the dorm can provide an important support group, he said.

"So many of the students are in the same position," he added. "They really understand each other's problems and often give good advice to each other."

Janet Roellig, a Yosemite Hall resident, compared living in the dorm to living in a fishbowl. "Everyone knows everything about everyone else." But it's good to an extent, she said. "The people you live with are going through many of the same things you are. And sometimes they can really help you out."

Mark Gasta, a Yosemite Hall resident, said, "I am a shy person and when I first moved here I was homesick. My roommate and neighbors really made me feel at home.

One of the mysteries to living in the dorms is how roommates are matched. What powers that be or strange twist of fate destined two people to spend nine months together?

Roommates are matched by housing office employees. "I don't want to tell people who come to the housing office to complain about their roommate that I had nothing to do with it — that the computer did it," said Bob Bostrom, Cal Poly Director of Housing.

About four people are hired each year to read applications and match applicants. It takes about five weeks to shuffle through the applications and assign rooms. There are usually 2,800 housing requests each fall and about 300 each other quarter.

"A lot of effort goes into the whole process," said Betty Smith, housing administrative assistant.

The first phase of the process is sending out housing request forms to new students. As the forms are returned, housing office employees separate the applications according to where the student has requested to live. Then the forms are divided according to whether the applicant is male or female. Then applications are matched by major, age and whether or not they smoke.

"We try to put together students who will have some of the same major classes. That way students can study together or share information about who to take for a class and the other things that might help each other during registration," said Bostrom.

Bostrom said he wants to help make college a good experience for students — especially new students. "We try to do whatever we can to make living away from home as anxiety-free as possible," he said. "One thing I like to do is if I can is match birthdays. If you're away from home for the first time it can be a big worry that someone might forget your birthday. If your roommate has the same birthday at least one person will remember.

Another factor taken into consideration is where the students are from. Bostrom said he likes to put together students from different areas. For example he would match a person from Northern California with a person from Southern California.

"This gives them a chance to go to other places. Maybe some people who have spent their whole life in Sacramento have never been to, say, Los Angeles. If we put those people together there is a possibility of both people getting to go somewhere they may never have been.

Some campuses have theme dorms and will place all the students interested in environmental issues together or all the students interested in football together, for example.

Bostrom doesn't agree with this type of housing arrangement.

"It is important to have a wide range of people in one area. That way there is an exchange of values and ideas, and maybe students will learn something. For example if there is one student who is concerned about the environment maybe that student can influence the other members of the dorm to work together to keep pollution, including noise pollution to a minimum."

Bostrom said he feels the same about putting all freshmen in one dorm and all transfer students in another dorm. "I try to mix them up because I hope that the transfer students tend to study a little more and might influence the first-time students to study. Also the transfer students can be a good source of information for first-time students."

"When a student requests a particular room or roommate we do our best to accommodate that request," said Smith. Smith said that going through the trouble to match the students and accommodate special requests is well worth the effort.

"It's really nice when someone comes into the housing office and thanks us for the good job we did," she said.

But the housing office isn't always successful in matching roommates.

"I changed roommates this quarter because my other roommate had an obnoxious alarm clock that made cowboy noises like 'YEE HAAA!' every morning. And he usually woke up about five," said one dorm resident, who preferred to remain anonymous.

"If two people absolutely cannot live together we will assign them to another room," said Bostrom. However, he stressed, when students come in and complain about their roommate situation he really encourages them to try to work things out.

"It's important to learn to live with other people. I often tell them to try to be more flexible," Bostrom said.

Faver agreed: "At first it's hard, but you learn to overlook a lot of little things. It's better to ignore some things than to be fighting all of the time."

Gasta also added that the little things are the ones that cause the most problems. "When students come to me with complaints about their roommates it's usually things like he leaves the light on all night or she's too loud when she comes in at three in the morning."

He said he usually helps the students make up a contract. "The contract will tell them when the light should be turned off or that the window should be left open or closed. It usually helps a lot," he said.

Gasta said that out of the 58 residents in his tower, only two requested housing changes.

"Some towers have more requests, but for the most part the failures are far fewer than the successes," he said.
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HOUSE
From page I
had its 1-year anniversary Jan.
31.
The program started when
Goans attended a city meeting
aimed at dealing with the
homeless. Goans suggested buy­
ing a bus and taking the people
to a park overnight.
"Everyone said, 'That's im­
possible,'" Goans said, so he
went out, bought a bus and
started taking people to El
Chorro Park.
"I picked up three guys (at
Mitchell Park) the first night," 

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Poly’s academic rules still above NCAA’s

By John Alexiou

Cal Poly student-athletes will have to maintain higher grades even though NCAA Division II schools have approved a measure that will allow students to compete with C-grades. Effective August 1989, Division II schools will need a 1.6 cumulative grade-point average after their first year of competition to remain eligible. The standard increased to meet the second season and 2.0 after the third.

Cal Poly athletes, however, must continue to maintain at least a 2.0 every semester.

Before the Division II requirement was approved last month, the only standard for athletes was the “satisfactory progress rule.”

It stated that athletes had to take 36 units between seasons and make satisfactory progress according to the rules. The rule did not specify whether they had to take courses or just fulfill credits. Supporters of the new rule say it will improve graduation rates. But Steve Beason, Cal Poly’s head basketball coach, said the new standards are too lenient and probably will have no effect on graduation rates.

“GPA is not a barometer for graduation, he said. Some students may take the required number of units and maintain the minimum GPA, and still not take any serious classes. In essence, they may continue on toward graduation.”

Before Cal Poly’s standards are higher than those of many other Division II schools, the Mustangs are at a disadvantage in recruitment, said Beason. “But I’d still rather remain there (disadvantaged),” he said.

“...To give in to the majority would be wrong in this case. I think we’d be compromising our own integrity.”

— Steve Beason

‘It’s more difficult than they think

The students here are competing against a higher caliber of student.”

— Marilyn McNeil

Mustang Daily Wednesday, February 3, 1988
WATER

From page 1

by Monday.

Steve Havlicek, vice president of CCAS, said his lab's method only differed from WaterTest's because CCAS used a mass spec

trometer which makes a "chemical fingerprint" that can be matched exactly to standard samples of certain chemicals.

"It's a technique to get (the chemicals) to stand up and wave their hands," he said. "And they didn't."

WaterTest uses testing methods approved by the Environmental Protection Agency.

A group of 10 Cuesta employees paid for the WaterTest report. All were victims of a mysterious illness that has stricken more than 30 Cuesta staff members during the past 18 months. They wanted to be sure that Cuesta's water could be eliminated as a cause of their maladies, said Kris Wayland, one of the ill workers.

Wayland, with symptoms of severe headaches, partial paralysis, digestive problems and partial loss of vision, has been suffering from the unknown sickness since August 1986.

"I'm really sorry that it's gone to this extreme measure," said Wayland, who has worked as a clerk at Cuesta since 1983. She went on to say she only wanted to get better and keep others from going through the same thing.

"All we ask is to prove us wrong," she said.

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