Latino social club seeks frat status

By Hope Hennessy
Start writer

Don't let the name fool you. Nu Alpha Kappa, or NAK, may sound Greek but the meaning is decidedly Hispanic. NAK, a new social club with a strong emphasis on Latino culture, hopes to be recognized as a fraternity by fall 1988. NAK is also a Spanish slang word for someone who gets along with everyone. So NAK's goal is to be the university "nak," so to speak, according to club members.

Like many other fraternities, NAK's focus is on brotherhood and unity. However, club members have combined this goal with a commitment to retain their heritages. Hector Mendoza, a junior electrical engineering major, said NAK feels strongly about culture since all of the club's founders are of Latino descent and many are bilingual.

"We intend to keep the cultural focus," said Mario Caballero, a Cal Poly engineering graduate and the designated NAK member of NAK. "We won't throw it out or forget it during club activities.

"However, we don't want to undermine the support of MECHA or any other Hispanic organization. Our focus is out of school and in the community where we can develop a brotherhood social." Caballero said although the basic makeup of the club is Chicano, members welcome anyone who would like to participate.

"It (having non-Hispanic members) would help both ways," he said. "It could help us deal better with what they do and they could understand us. That's why we want to keep NAK open and not discriminate against anyone else. We want something mutually beneficial."

This sentiment is widely felt by other members. "If they want to be involved then we are going to help them in any way we can — black, white or yellow," said Salvador Rutz, a senior interior design major.

Mendoza also agrees. "The purpose of NAK becoming a fraternity, rather than remaining a club, is to help ourselves to become involved with other fraternities. We can learn a lot from them and they can learn from us."

For Caballero, an inability to meet financial obligations of other campus fraternities and a feeling of uselessness kept him from rushing when he attended Cal Poly. "Frankly, I did feel uncomfortable many times," Caballero said. "It has to do with a lot of things like socioeconomic background. You can't do everything Anglo students do. Who's kidding who? For most of the fraternity you have to have a lot of money. You either work really hard to get it or someone gives it to you."

"Sometimes Anglos don't look at us as being part of a group because deep down in their hearts they might not want to. But you can still feel it sometimes," he said.

"Sometimes at Cal Poly you don't feel out of place if you are not the fraternities you have to have a bias toward a group because of the projects they do. They do things they do normally and often they are offensive to other people."

Caballero is quick to point out, though, that this is not always the case.

"I'm white. I'm brown. Sometimes there are no walls and you don't see each other's colors," he said.

See NAK, page 7

Nipomo Dunes represents imperiled coastline

By Ken Wiley

The raw wind walls as an unseen offshore storm driven a powerful and repetitious pattern of enormous breakers at the shore. As the huge swells break into waves, the wind shears off each crest into sharp, white lace that hangs for an instant in the air and disappears.

A massive group of pelicans, perhaps 200 strong, sits waiting, hunkered down on the sand just below the wetlands where the river empties into the sea. Overhead, a trio of Herrmann's gulls turns into the wind and hangs motionless in the sky.

Through my feet I can feel as much as hear the deep bass notes of the breaking sea. The whole scene has the overwhelming, pleasantly disturbing quality of wildness that is still so much a part of California's Central Coast. This is Nipomo Dunes.

The newest acquisition in the Conservancy's Wild California campaign, the Rancho Guadalupe addition to the Nipomo Dunes Project represents one of the state's most imperiled natural areas — its coastline. Of the dramatic coastline for which California is so famous, little remains of an especially rare natural commuinity, coastal dunes. Distribution of dune systems is limited to 12 sites on the California coast. One of the three best preserved of the 12 is found within the Nipomo Dunes Complex. A 19-mile stretch between Point Sal and Pismo Beach, the Nipomo Dunes area is considered the largest, relatively undisturbed coastal dune tract in California. The Department of Interior designated the area a National Park Landscape in 1974.

A Hard Place To Live

The Coastal Dunes are formed and maintained by the partnership of wind and sea. They represent one of the most challenging and interesting biological habitats along America's western shore. The soil here — sharp-grained, moving sand — is extremely low in moisture and seemingly devoid of nutrients.

The salt-laden wind skims over the dunes, eroding and desiccating those organizations that attempt colonization. The form of any kind survive here is noteworthy. That such a

See NAK, page 7

The following articles will run in the space below throughout the week to promote ecology awareness:

Central Coast Harbor project — by Elizabeth Brower, founder Earth Island Institute

A Hard Place To Live

By Ken Wiley

Nipomo Dunes

The 19-mile stretch between Pismo State Beach and Point Sal State Beach

See NAK, page 7

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SECOND OPINION

Los Angeles Times

On the 20th anniversary of Martin Luther King's assassination: King remained a master at applying pressure, as he put it, without bricks and bottles or Molotov cocktails. He stayed his nonviolent every American. He helped bring about the great progress. But, 20

and so unexpected that it could cause even a Talleyrand to gasp.

(Reagan) Administration picked up the rusty tools of diplomacy when a teacher or administrator has to physically restrain a stu­

broaden the university's traditional introduction to Western

On corporal punishment in schools: Certainly there are times

On Stanford University's courses on the classics: Stanford

Letters to the Editor

We are prisoners of Pandora's box

Editor — We live in a nuclear age in which weapons have

It is easy to be cynical or apa­

in a peaceful direction. When

off the earth 10 times over (and

It's sad that we and future

STEVE HARMON

Dirty campaign

Editor — The ASI ballot will

The cat, on the other hand, has little patience

Of course, war has been the

nuclear fall out, and the

nuclear fall out, and the

nuclear test. But I keep thinking about a nuclear

Unfortunately, nuclear

Cats are dogs for this pet owner

PAST DEADLINE

Donna Taylor

Donna Taylor, a journalism junior, is Mustang Dai­

The Christian Science Monitor

On corporal punishment in schools: Certainly there are times when a teacher or administrator has to physically restrain a stu­

mustard gas's lingering effects are

The决策 was a compromise in which Stanford will expand its

Stanford has set a pattern that other universities would do well to emulate.

Bloom County

by Berke Breathed

Mustang Daily is published daily by the Cal Poly journalism department. Unsubscribed editorials reflect the views of the Editorial Board. The newspaper is solely for informational purposes and does not represent an endorsement by the publisher or university. Produced by University Graphic Systems.
State

200 aviators join American forces in troubled Panama

FORT ORD, Calif. (AP) — For the second time in less than a month, members of the 7th Infantry Division (Light) left Fort Ord for Central America, this time lifting off Monday in helicopters to start a trip to Panama.

There, some 200 members of the division’s Aviation Brigade will join some 1,100 other American soldiers from around the country protecting U.S. interests in the troubled Latin American nation.

Carrying the troops to Travis Air Force Base 120 to the north, and accompanying them to Panama on Air Force transport planes.

Most of the aviation group used their helicopters to get to Travis, but 58 soldiers convoyed up in buses and trucks carrying additional supplies.

“My people are extremely motivated at this point,” Capt. Raymond M. Vargo, 30, head of the Blackhawk helicopter contingent, said on Monday. “Actually, I’m looking forward to it.”

DUNES

From page 1

diversity of life thrives here is almost unbelievable.

The Nipomo Dunes Complex contains one of the most unique and fragile ecosystems in California. It is unique because daily life for the dunes’ natural inhabitants requires a number of specialized adaptations. Specialized connections to the environment are easily disrupted.

The dunes themselves are of complex origin, composed partially of marine sediments. They have resulted in part from changes in sea level due to glaciation. The dunes are parabolic in shape, with long, low axes parallel to prevailing onshore winds. Stabilized dunes rise to a height of more than 160 feet. Their complex topography, together with a high water table and a variety of water and soil types creates a variety of microhabitats within the dune system.

18 rare or endangered species.

Nipomo Dunes are unusual by virtue of the limited extent of coastal dunes in California. Two additional factors compellingly illustrate the importance of protecting this land. First, nearly all of the other dune systems have plans.

April survey shows state’s water runoff half of normal

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Preliminary results from the April snowpack survey indicate spring runoff in rivers will be an average of less than 50 percent of normal statewide, making the already dry forecast for the summer even worse, officials said Monday.

The forecast dropped from about 60 percent a month ago because there has been little or no snowfall in the mountains, said Jack Pardee, a state Department of Water Resources snow surveyor.

Some of California’s water districts are Instituting voluntary conservation programs in the hopes that they will not have to go to mandatory rationing,” Pardee said. Some districts have already adopted rationing plans.

Although some water experts are using the word “drought” to describe the situation, he said, the department has no official definition for drought and therefore has made no declaration.

World

Tibetans arrested in bloody demonstration to be released

BELING (AP) — More than 200 people were arrested after a bloody March 5 independence protest in Tibet, but most will be released, the Panchen Lama, Tibetan Buddhist’s No. 2 leader, said Monday.

It was the first time an official figure has been given for the number of arrests linked to the demonstration, during which thousands of Tibetans stoned Chinese armed police and burned vehicles to protest more than 37 years of Chinese Communist rule.

Foreign reporters have not been allowed into Tibet’s capital, Lhasa, since the protest, but Western travelers there have reported widespread arrests with estimates ranging up to 1,000.

The Panchen Lama, speaking at a news conference in Beijing that was televised live, also said Tibet’s exiled king-government, the Dalai Lama, would be free to live in Tibet if he returned. The Dalai Lama, a former religious and civil leader of Tibet, fled to India in 1959.

Japan Air Lines complains about Boeing quality control

TOKYO (AP) — Japan Air Lines has written The Boeing Co. about defects found in two Boeing aircraft types and demanding the giant U.S. airplane manufacturer tighten its quality control, airline officials said Monday.

They said the March 30 letter by JAL’s president, Susumu Yamaji, to Boeing chairman Frank Shrontz reported the mistaken installation of engine heat detectors in Boeing 747’s, found last December, and the discovery last month of wrong wiring in fire extinguishers in the cargo hold of 767s.

The letter demanded Boeing make greater efforts to achieve better quality control, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity. But they stressed the letter merely was intended to call Shrontz’s attention to the problems and was not a formal complaint.

Craig Martin, director of public relations for Boeing Commercial Aircraft in Seattle, confirmed Yamaji’s letter was received.

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**CALENDAR**

**tuesday**

- The American Marketing Association will sponsor a guest speaker Tuesday at 11 a.m. in Architecture 225. Ray Montoya from Porter Graphics, a Los Angeles-based advertising agency, will speak. For more information, contact Scott at 541-4129.

- The Multi-Cultural Center will present the first of its weekly cultural views Tuesday at 11 a.m. in U.U. 217D. William Alexander, a political science professor, will present "Visiting the Philippines," a slideshow of his trip to the country. For more information, call 756-1405.

- Tuesday is Disabled Awareness Day in the U.U. Plaza from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sponsored by Disabled Students Unlimind.

**ORIENTATION**

From page 1 about," she said. "We've had several people interested in hosting. We may end up with more hosts than we have students for.

The idea for the orientation began last fall, when Tu and fellow electronic engineering major Harold Kraemer held a survey in their major asking others what they thought of the idea.

Then the organizers contacted Chevron, who agreed to sponsor the program.

Tu said, "They donated approximately $1,000 towards the orientation and the department is paying $500.

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The Cal Poly Wheelmen spent a productive weekend in Santa Barbara, as the team was Saturday's race overall, and had top finishes in both Western College Cycling Conference titles. Results are not yet available for Sunday's Race Criterium in Goleta.

“We're currently leading the WCCC because of the depth of our team. We have a lot of strong riders,” said Wheelmen Robert Enzerink, adding that they emphasize teamwork strongly.

The Buellton race was a 32-mile loop with rolling hills and wind. Enzerink was the top Cal Poly finisher in the 54-mile A race, placing second. Following Enzerink was Angelo Guinasso, placing third.

Enzerink credited teammates Eric Benson and Mike Bennett in helping with the top placings. Benson broke away early in the race, letting his teammates rest.

When the pack finally caught up, Benson lead a final field sprint to spread it out. His teammates were then able to pull ahead to take second and third.

The 54-mile B race came down to a big field sprint and Cal Poly's Pete Sweeney, Jim Long and Myong-Jae Kim took fifth, sixth and seventh.

Wheelman Cameron Fraser placed fourth in the C1 race and Paul Petri placed fifth in the C2 race.

In the women's race Cuesta's Chris Smith and Cal Poly's Chris Pappas broke away from the pack, taking first and second. Mindy Trask came in 10th.

Sunday's Goleta race was an eight-mile flat loop with a hairpin turn. Enzerink took second place, and his teammates were then able to pull ahead to take second and third.

For the women, Pappas came in third, and Trask followed with a seventh-place finish.

Next weekend the Wheelmen will travel to UCLA for a time trial and a criterium.
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From page 1 Ruiz said that by getting Hispanics involved it will make it easier for them to get involved with other students socially. "My hope is that throughout all the clubs on campus," said Ruiz. "That we will start a Hispanic chapter together."

Tony Valenzuela, a junior electrical engineering major, said building a chapter was important with other students socially. "Hispanics together it will make it right," he said. "We are not operating by laws which were made 30 years ago and are predominantly Anglo."

For now, the fraternity will be loosely structured to allow input from members and other Greek organizations. "Is it too expensive? What should or shouldn't we be doing? We would welcome any suggestions from other fraternities. If they want to lead a helping hand it would be greatly appreciated," said Caballero. NAK has received enthusiasm and offers of help from members of other fraternities. "It was very encouraging to learn that they were excited," said Valenzuela.

But beyond initial enthusiasm and support from the Greek community, Caballero feels NAK will have to be careful in its approach. "Subconsciously we have to keep in mind that other people are going to be watching us," he said. Caballero, "We are doing something that might be seen as negative, I think we are going to be scrutinised very carefully.

These people are either going to help or hinder us."

Valenzuela said the fraternity will have to be careful in its approach, "It is not because NAK is a Hispanic club. It is because NAK as new and people are always watching to see if something new happens."

"Frankly, there might be people who want to see us fail," said Caballero. "They might be threatened by what we are doing. We want to keep our culture but we want to get involved. We are not trying to separate ourselves but we don't want to lose our identity as Latinos either. If someone had what they needed, we wouldn't have to do this."
DUNES
From page 3
in the state have been severely degraded or destroyed. And sec­ond, Nipomo Dunes harbor high numbers of endemic plant species and a wide diversity of species due to geography: centrally located in California, the dunes contain a number of species at the northern and southern boundaries of their ranges.
The California Native Plant Society lists at least 18 species as rare or endangered or of very limited distribution within these dunes. The 567-accred parcel now under conservancy ownership, directly south of the Santa Maria River, supports known populations of the rare la graciosa thistle, surf thistle, the soft-leaved dunes Indian paintbrush, and good representations of the coastal dune scrub community.
This rare plant community is unique to stabilized coastal sand dunes. Most of its dominant and sub-dominant species grow only on sand dunes and are found nowhere else. Many have adapted themselves in specialized ways in order to survive the harsh environment. Some of these adaptations, such as a low-spreading form and extensive root systems, are important in producing and stabilizing the dunes. Vegetative cover causes wind-blown sand to accumulate, and prevent further sand move­ments.
As an example of a sand-stabilizing plant is the surf thistle. Pro­ducing robust flower stalks with dense, white flowers, the thistle can be found flowering at any time of the year, although the maximum period of bloom occurs in late May. It grows on the leeward side of sand dunes which are accumulating sand. Distur­bance from off-road vehicles is harmful because it causes sand to become unstable and en­courages sand to move out from under this sensitive species’ roots.
Least Tern Nesting Habitat
With one of its last known nesting colonies located on foredunes south of Santa Maria River, the federally endangered California least tern finds critical habitat on the Nipomo Dunes. The least tern is the smallest of North American terns. A nesting colony can range from a few to several hundred pairs.
Least terns require long strips of open sand for nesting. In ad­dition, they need an adjacent source of small fish and freedom from predation and disturbance. They usually forage in small flocks by hovering, diving and plunging into the water. The tern’s greatest threat is intensive recreation and development along the coast, most notable the uncontrolled use of this dune area by ORVs. In 1978 only 600 pairs of least terns could be found in California. Recent popu­lation trends indicate that the least tern can recover given pro­per protection. Populations have increased to more than 2,000 to­day. One of the Conservancy’s management priorities will be continued efforts to enhance the tern colony.
Nipomo Dunes is the best preserved dune complex in cen­tral and southern California. It is one of the few places left in our state where the sea and land connect to create a small and irreplaceable natural community. As such, it merits all the atten­tion to The Nature Conservancy.
Ken Wiley is preserve manager at Nipomo Dunes.

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