SLO trolleys Wally and Ollie make their downtown debut

By Anthony Moir

The new look for downtown San Luis Obispo is gliding down its streets. Trolleys Wally and Ollie made their debut Monday morning in front of the San Luis Obispo City/County Library.

"For those of you who have long felt that government should be more creative, ladies and gentlemen, today we bring you Wally and Ollie," said Dan Hampian, master of ceremoniess and assistant city administrator.

This new experiment seeks to improve downtown parking, traffic congestion and air pollution and to enhance business in the downtown area, he said.

The trolleys, leased from a San Diego company at a cost of $3,000 a month per trolley, will go for a four-to-seven month trial run before the city decides whether or not to purchase trolleys, said Harry Watson, San Luis Obispo's transit manager.

The 10-minute route begins and ends at the library, making a loop through the downtown area. Along the way, the trolleys stop at requested corners and pick up shoppers.

Scheduled operating times See TROLLEYS, page 4

Cal Poly professors attend Mandela's LA address

By Nadya Williams

Cal Poly community members were among the masses who filled the Los Angeles Coliseum last Friday in a rare evening of racial unity and harmony.

South African leader Nelson Mandela spoke to a near-capacity crowd of 80,000 on the seventh stop of his eight-city United States tour. Large and enthusiastic crowds of Americans of all races greeted Mandela and his wife Winnie on their 10-hour flight from South Africa.

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Average of eight events per day, ranging from speaking engagements to press conferences and receptions. At his Los Angeles Coliseum stop, he exhorted his audience to "keep up the pressure on the white minority government of South Africa by continuing economic sanctions."

He also stressed that the goal of the South African liberation movement and of his organization, the African National Congress, is to "abolish apartheid and create a democratic, unitary, non-racist, non-sexist government and society."

"Mandela represents issues which are larger than just South Africa," said Nancy Clark, a Cal Poly history professor, who attended the Los Angeles event with her husband and children. Clark's husband Bill Worger is teaching history at Cal Poly this summer, but during the rest of the year, he is a professor at University of California at Los Angeles.

"These are universal humanist values which we in the United States respect and are struggling to attain ourselves. This is why he has such mass appeal," Clark said.

There was a festive air Friday afternoon in the economic- or predominately-black neighborhood surrounding the coliseum. A multi-ethnic, multi-political march to the stadium was cheered on by the community. An airplane circling overhead proclaimed, "Palestinians Welcome Mandela!"

The audience, 80 to 90 percent of whom were from the black community, was entertained for more than two hours with music, dance and speeches.

"It's a good day to be a black person," comedian Marsha Warfield told the delighted audience, who roared back in agreement.

Actors Robert Downey Jr., Sara Jessica Parker and Cree Summer spoke to remind the audience of the key role of young people in South Africa and in this country against the apartheid regime. Downey spoke of the nearby 2,000 protesting African schoolchildren who were shot to death in the streets by South African police in the aftermath of the Painted Cave fire that devastated her hometown but left her house standing.

Latham, San Luis Obispo County's first service dog for the mobility impaired retired last week. After a hamburger, a son of one of the first students to return to the farm, he was ready for a quiet life on the farm.
Board should drop hospital proposal

The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors’ support of a proposal to build a new San Luis Obispo General Hospital facility should be dropped.

The proposal, which is also supported by the hospital’s administration, calls for the current structure to be torn down to make room for a new, modern one to be constructed in its place. The cost of the project is an estimated $40 to $50 million and would be paid for by the county’s General Tax Fund.

Consultants have said the existing 60-year-old structure is obsolete and the financial effect on this county. Dipping into the General Tax Fund for $30 million is no small affair. It will chock an already tight budget and force more cuts in other county programs such as mental health, welfare and children’s services. Frank Freitas, a county tax officer, has already expressed his concern to County Administrator Robert Hendricks about the potential problems this project would create.

Building a new General Hospital also would keep medical costs rising. Having three full-service hospitals in San Luis Obispo (General Hospital, French Hospital Medical Center and Sierra Vista Community Hospital) is becoming a sacred task that defies all logical rationale.

Finally, there is really no need to keep these three full-service hospitals in a town in only 40,000 residents. French Hospital and Sierra Vista alone can handle the patient load of the County and the Board of Supervisors have insisted that closing the hospital is not an option. It seems to me the administration of General Hospital and the Board of Supervisors have failed to see the future of this ill-advised and should be dropped.

Many are just beginning to work through the process of losing their homes, their pictures and having to start all over again from scratch.

And for Andrea Gurke, 37, it was a worry that she was blessed with the thanks of her house which was near the; an.

Two feelings are shared by Santa Barbara County’s thousands of lives and anger. Rage that this fire didn’t shell out the fire that the Painted Cave fire was deliber- ately started through some.

I toured the Rancho San Antonio area, where the majority of the town will be replaced by one large, block scar. As I drove, the same scene met my eyes time and time again: blackened metal pipes, mounds of rubble and a lone brick chimney — the remains of the beautiful houses that once stood there.

I am concerned about two extremely important issues that directly relate to our health and the condition of our natural environment. The first problem is this nation’s fascination and love for the consumption of animal flesh. It seems as if nothing matters as livestock (cattle, swine and fowl) are readied for marketing. And the cost of 25 pounds per pound. Why do we use vast amounts of fuel and energy to raise livestock (five to 10 times more than is used to grow general cereal or legume crops)? They emit enormous amounts of toxic substances such as methane and ammonia, which contribute to air pollution and contaminate our atmosphere, surface water and ground- water sources.

I am not trying to do away with the livestock industry or chemical use on crops. Both have helped this country establish the economic and social status of its people. Why can’t we use alternative, non-chemical ‘pest’ control methods whenever possible, transitional farmers (traditional farmers who are converting to organic farming methods) and organic farmers at least at half the rate of traditional farmers? I don’t understand. Our government supports unsustainable agriculture when sustainable methods are taught in our schools and are completely feasible with a fair amount of effort. Why?

I can only hope the Painted Cave fire is not a key example of what the rest of this year’s fire season has to offer, and I can only think one thing — what a waste.

If you would like to donate money to victims of the Painted Cave fire, you can do it through the American Red Cross or the Painted Cave fire. I would see people taking charred paintings or burnt BBQ pits, and I would think, “Why?” Then I realized that’s all they have left to remember what was once home.

You have to question what would cause someone to enjoy this destruction. Officials any arsonists anyone involved in burning a house and often feel powerful when they light fires.

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Controversy looms over the future plans for General Hospital

By Erika Dills

General Hospital’s plan to build a new $40-50 million medical facility with county funds is creating a lot of political heat among medical community members and county officials.

M. Mark Goldberg, General Hospital’s chief executive officer, said outside consulting agencies told hospital administrators if the hospital is to remain in existence, the county should either acquire an existing hospital facility, or build a new one. However, the consultants also warned that building a new facility could be a financial risk. Goldberg said that just closing the facility without replacing it was not an option in the administration’s eyes.

County Supervisor David Blakely said he supports the General Hospital administrators in their decision.

"Many physicians choose not to use General Hospital because .. the facility is not conducive to a patient/physician environment," Blakely said. By improving the overall design of the hospital, General Hospital will attract more privately insured patients, thus increasing the facility’s income, he said.

Goldberg said that because General Hospital would become more attractive to privately-insured individuals, the other hospitals might feel threatened.

Bernhardt said that currently, 40 percent of all indigent care, which consists of low-income families, is taking place in the for-profit hospitals, not General Hospital, which is a not-for-profit institution.

Bernhardt said that because General Hospital would become more competitive with other operating hospitals, its operations have been developed a “resentment that is totally separate from the issues.” He said he believes the most important issue should be “indigent care and community needs.”

Bernhardt said that three hospitals in a town of 40,000 is too many and agreed that the hospitals are worried. He said See HOSPITAL, page 5
Original service dog in SLO County retires

By Monica Ortiz

He picks up trash that students leave behind and is a favorite figure in the University Union. Although many students don't know his name, they have seen him around campus.

In honor of his retirement last Thursday, he was rewarded with a ceremonial ham­burger patty. His name is Lathum, and he's a doberman pinscher.

"Lathum's been with me since December 1984," said Beth Currier, assistant coordinator of Disabled Student Services program and Lathum's owner. "He's retiring to my 7/2 acre ranch to relax and chase chickens.

Lathum was the first doberman graduate of Canine Companions for Independence, a nationwide, non-profit organization that provides service dogs for people with impaired mobility, signal dogs for the deaf and social dogs for special schools and institutions.

Although Lathum's claim to fame is that he was the first service dog to work for a wheelchair-bound person in San Luis Obispo County, this has also been the cause of discrimination against him and Currier. Almost six years ago when Currier and Lathum became a team, the law did not recognize service dogs as a medical necessity and did not accord them with the same privileges as guide dogs for the blind.

"Guide dogs are taught to be the eyes of a blind person; service dogs are taught to take the place of legs, arms and hands," Currier said. "Lathum can jump onto high counters and pick up something as small as a quarter and as large as a can of tomato juice. His main function is to carry me up hills and pick up things that are normally too high or out of reach.

Because of this discrimination against ser­vice dogs, Currier and Lathum traveled to Sacramento in 1986 to lobby for a bill that would give service dogs the same privileges as guide dogs. They demonstrated a service dog's duties and capabilities, convincing California congressmembers that the service provided by the dogs is a medical necessity for people in wheelchairs.

Their lobbying succeeded, and in 1986, state health and service codes were amended to include service dogs, giving them the same privileges as guide dogs.

Currier said people should not pet or feed a dog in a harness without the owner's permis­sion because this distracts the dog while at work and may unwittingly cause harm to the owner.

"I remember one day, Lathum was pulling me up a steep and carpeted theater pathway," Currier said. "One of the people in the aisle stuck his hand out to feed Lathum a tomato juice. His main function is to carry me up hills and pick up things that are normally too high or out of reach.

"I only found 10 people in the U.S. who were willing to lease their trolleys, most for at least one to two years at prices ranging from $3,000 to $4,000.

"I've found about a 40 percent failure rate in cities with trolleys; it seems to have a direct correlation to tourism," Watson said. "In a big tourist town is very successful and operates 30 top-notch trolleys. Anaheim and Boulder are also doing well.

Trolley programs in other towns such as Seattle and Portland have failed, and San Luis Obispo's trolleys are always empty, Watson said.

But Watson added that San Luis Obispo's trolley system has several factors that enhance its chances of success.

"A few things we have going for it are the fact that it doesn't duplicate the city transit route, and the fare is free, compared to the average of 50 cents in other cities," he said.

"I think once the trolley system is in effect and shown to be effective, we may want to take a second look at our existing park­ing program.

"We're looking to be on time or ahead of time, depending on the day, but I do think it could be better," he said. "I think once the trolley system is in effect and shown to be effective, we may want to take a second look at our existing park­ing program.

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Eight retired Poly employees
given honorary emeritus status

By Marie Byrne

The former vice president of Cal Poly, and seven other retired employees, have been awarded an honorary emeritus designation, along with seven other retired employees, have been awarded an honorary emeritus designation, along with seven other retired employees.

Malcolm Wilson served as both senior vice president of Cal Poly and vice president for Academic Affairs before he retired last November. He has been a member of the faculty in education and an administrator at the university since 1968.

Other emeritus designations were awarded to Fred Casillas of Plant Operations, James Emmel from the architecture department, Richard Nelson from the biological sciences department, Edward J. Ward from the city and regional planning department, and Smiley E. Wilkins from the personnel and employee relations department.

Emeritus designation was also awarded posthumously to Bruce Kennedy, who had been a professor and chemistry professor at Cal Poly until his death in 1988.

Companies often give awards for years of service upon retirement, but emeritus status is unique to institutions of higher education.

Emeritus status gives people who retire an opportunity to retain their involvement in the university, said Don McBride, director of public affairs.

Emeritus faculty and staff are entitled to the use of library services, visitor parking spots, the staff members' dining room, university computer facilities, office space, and staff assistance for continued university service and research upon availability.

Many retired faculty members have used the library or office space to do continued research, McBride said.

There have been 330 former faculty members and 160 former staff members who have been granted emeritus status, according to Susan Bethel, administrative analyst for personnel. She said Cal Poly has awarded so many emeritus designations because many people who come to work for Cal Poly stay for life.

Wilson said he plans to use his library privileges to do research. Since his retirement, which was due at least in part to depression, Wilson has gone to Costa Rica to help Cal Poly's School of Agriculture set up the Escuela de Agricultura de la Region Tropical Humedas, Costa Rica's first humid tropic agriculture school. Wilson has helped with the instruction of the first year of the school by setting up curricula and a class structure.

Wilson said he plans to use his emeritus privileges to remain involved with Cal Poly.

HOSPITAL

From page 3 that right now, both French and Sierra Vista hospitals are making a profit, but that a third facility could change this.

"I don't think the community is well served by having three hospitals which are only marginally financed ... and I don't think a $40 or $50 million hospital built by the county has a very good chance of breaking even," Bernard said. "I think it will continue to lose money.

In addition, if the facility is built, HOSPITAL taxpayers will pay the price, Bernard said.

"While the community will still pay the same taxes, programs (such as) children's services, welfare services and mental health services will all have to endure more budget cuts," he added.

Goldberg said even though the number of existing hospitals seems excessive, rapid county growth is another reason that adding another hospital may be feasible.

"The population of the county is supposed to increase by 100,000 people by the year 2000," Goldberg said. Bernard said that he believed two facilities would be sufficient, and that additional hospitals would just increase medical costs. Hospitals would then have to compete with each other technically by purchasing the latest medical equipment available in order to be the best hospital in the area, he explained.

The Medical Society of San Luis Obispo County, an organization of health care professionals, has publicly come out in opposition to building a new General Hospital.

Bernard said one way to decide if the hospital should be built would be to leave it up to the voters.

"It is curious that more consideration has not been given to putting the issue on the ballot. ... That seems like it would be a good solution."

Summer Mustang Thursday, July 5,1990

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"Is your car begging for attention?"
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Volunteers lend their ears
San Luis Obispo hotline celebrates 20 years of caring

By Deborah J. Holley

Every day of the year, 24-hours-a-day, professionally-trained hotline volunteers are available by phone for crisis intervention, emotional support or for anyone who is feeling lonely, confused and just needs someone to listen.

This year, Hotline of San Luis Obispo County celebrates its 20th year of service to the community. Volunteers have donated more than 22,000 service hours listening to, talking with and helping county residents from all walks of life.

"We really do care," said a Hotline volunteer who asked to be called Maggie. "We help people feel connected, let them know they're not alone."

Maggie, a social science major at Cal Poly, has been on the lines assisting callers for the past year and plans to continue doing so.

"Volunteers and callers maintain a policy of anonymity to allow complete freedom between both parties to speak honestly and openly about very personal issues without fear of subsequent identification," Maggie said.

Sharon Winslow, executive director of Hotline, said that the anonymity policy also prevents bonding.

"The caller may feel a closeness to the volunteer because finally they've found someone who cares, but we want our callers to learn to do things for themselves," she said.

Additionally, Hotline is a 24-hour resource phone line for 17 social service agencies including the Rape Crisis Center, and the North County and San Luis Obispo's Women Shelters.

"The caller may feel a closeness to the volunteer because finally they've found someone who cares, but we want our callers to learn to do things for themselves," Winslow said.

"Volunteers assess callers in a non-judgemental way and patch them to other agencies that can help them."

Sometimes, however, just talking it over with someone who will really listen and helping the caller focus on the primary problem and look at the options is all that's needed, Winslow said.

"Hotline is not just an answering service," Winslow said. "Volunteers assess callers in a non-judgemental way and patch them to other agencies that can help them."
Beginning July 2nd, your friend old SLO Transit will have a new helper. *Old SLO Trolley.* This new addition to your transit team will be your friend too.

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8th Annual Downtown San Luis Obispo
New program will expedite civil court process in county

By Rim Jarrard Summer Mustang

For those who have been waiting for years for their civil case to be heard in San Luis Obispo County courts, the wait may be reduced by a long shot.

A new county program should speed up the process for civil cases, Reiner said. The Civil Trials Program will provide 65 extra judges on a rotational basis. They will handle the backlog of civil cases that have accumulated in San Luis Obispo during the last 10 years.

"The backlog developed as a result of a lack of judicial resources over that (10-year) timeframe," said Larry Reiner, the administrative jury commissioner.

A different judge from the program will come in each week to hear the cases. The Civil Trials Program allows for 250 working days a year — equivalent to the number of days put in by a full-time judge — it is comparable to adding a sixth judge to the county courts.

The Board of Supervisors recently approved a $255,000 budget to provide additional salaries for the additional judges, who will be paid $377 a day and an additional $83 a day for food and lodging. The $255,000 also includes money for a court reporter, court clerk and bailiff.

"You're thinking selfishly," she said. "Let (growth) take care of itself. Use some common sense!"

"The county has told you they don't want you to take the easy way out," he said. "I hate to see you turn this issue into the Vietnam of San Luis Obispo County."

Several methods are being considered in order to fairly allocate limited permits, Hinds said. These methods include a lottery or a first come, first served basis for application consideration.

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Hotline

From page 6

"It's okay if they confuse, sometimes, frightening," she said. Maggie said, "Hotline buys itself the time to talk, and we help them put the issue and time element into perspective. If they want to cry, that's okay. We wait patiently and listen.

"Today's society expects quick fixes, immediate gratification, but when people are in a crisis, they need someone who will take all the time with them," she said. "That's what we do."

"Most people say, 'I feel a lot better,' at the end of a conversation," Maggie said. "Most calls last between five and 10 minutes — not a Cinderella ending — but the feeling that we care, that we're listening, they're reaching out. Their chances of recovering are good, if they are able to tell them they say feel better."

"The hotline volunteers are trained to interact with the community at the elementary level. Training workshops will be available next fall and spring."

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