Kim Kaaiai: ‘It feels great to be free’

Poly volleyball star found not guilty of attempted murder

By John Hubbell

Kimberly Kaaiai walked out of jail a free woman for the first time in more than three months late Tuesday after a jury cleared the Cal Poly star volleyball player of attempted murder.

Kaaiai, a 21-year-old business senior, greeted her mother, Joane Hiapo, grinning broadly as she walked down the steps with her mother, Joane Hiapo, and her grandfather, Raymond Falk. The full acquittal came on the heels of weeks of testimony by several witnesses who rehashed and analyzed Kaaiai’s uneven friendship with fellow former volleyball player Michelle Hansen. Kaaiai had stood accused of attempting to murder Hansen with a semi-automatic pistol after a December argument at Hansen’s apartment.

“Hansen’s testimony was, in my opinion, lacking...(Kaaiai) was definitely more believable.”

Patricia Morton, Juror

Kaaiai, right, and her mother Joane Hiapo smile after visiting Kaaiai’s former teammates at Mott Gym Tuesday.

Election committee changes voting procedures

By Mary Kay Duffy

The ASI Election Committee, under new leadership, is changing the voting process for the upcoming election.

Marc Peters, a Board of Directors representative from the School of Engineering, was appointed the committee chair after Dan Nail announced his resignation last Wednesday.

“I had too many things going on. School was starting to suff er,” Nail said. “It was a tough decision, but it’s something I had to do.”

Nail said he still plans to help the committee with this election, but he is confident in Peters’ ability to take over on such short notice. “Marc’s a good candidate. He’s very unbiased.”

A new committee was also chosen because some directors were involved with the campaigns, Nail said.

“Peters and his committee are responsible for organizing all of the elections that take place at Cal Poly. The committee spends much of its time with election security, Nail said.

Although the special election last November had the highest voter turnout in the history of the California State University system, it raised concerns about students voting more than once, Peters said.

“We evaluated the concerns expressed in the last election, and we have come up with ways to improve,” Peters said.

The committee is adopting precinct voting.

Peters explained how precinct voting will work. There will be six voting locations on campus, but a student can vote at only one of them.

Voters must show a valid picture identification, not necessarily a Cal Poly ID.

Once the ballot is cast, the student’s name is crossed off the roster, so they cannot vote again.

Students from the School of Agriculture will vote at the Ag bridge.

Those from the architecture and business schools will vote on Dexter Lawn near the business building, and engineering students will vote on the

Committee unveils downtown plan

Council approves 14-month study for formal review

By Bryan Bailey

Nearly three hours of slide shows and presentations on Monday night convinced the City Council to refer a plan by the Downtown Physical Design Committee to the City Planning Commission for formal consideration.

The special 7 p.m. joint meeting of the council and City Planning Commission was the culmination of nearly 14 months of work by the Design Committee, which was commissioned by the council to produce a plan to guide future development of the downtown area.

“We have a plan that we’re all very proud of,” said City Administration Officer John Dunn in introducing the five-member Design Committee.

The Downtown Design Plan’s focus is on the area bordered by Palm and Pacific streets on the north and south respectively, Santa Rosa Street on the east and Nipomo Street on the west. Included in the plan are numerous changes in existing landscape and building arrangements designed to encourage pedestrian traffic between the city’s center and a miniature downtown.

Among the more radical changes proposed was the reconstruction of the old San Luis Obispo City Courthouse into a six-story structure as part of the expansion of the county government offices.

However, Design Committee member Acrew Merrian assured the council and audience members near the beginning of the meeting that the plan required little change in San Luis Obispo’s existing plans for general land use and growth.

Pierre Rademaker, chairman of the Design Committee, said in a post-meeting interview that “there are two things that I see that are really key (points). One of those is the pedestrian quality of the whole plan and the discouragement of increased traffic.

“But really even more so than that are the mixed uses.”

Mixed-use development, Rademaker said, is the construction of residential dwellings above retail and office spaces, a theme emphasized throughout the plan.

Local gangs...

Are there gangs in San Luis Obispo County? Officials say yes: there are nine of them.

Page 3

Insight...

Students returning to school after a few years often have more to worry about than a traditional ‘student life.’

Page 5

FYI...

ASI will hold an open forum during activity hour in the U.U. on Thursday to preview the upcoming election and interview ASI board candidates.

Page 8

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Official urges more Jewish capital in China

BEIJING (AP) — China seeks increased investment from Jewish businessmen worldwide now that Israel and China have established formal ties, Vice Premier Wu Xueqian said Tuesday.

Wu said China is pleased by the increase in exchanges between Chinese and Jewish people, the World Jewish Congress said in a statement.

Wu made his comments while meeting with 17 World Jewish Congress officials and Jewish scholars during a three-day Chinese-Jewish Colloquium in Beijing — the first such meeting involving Jewish and Chinese representatives and scholars.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Navon told Wu that Israel believes normalization of relations will enable China to play a constructive role in the Middle East peace process.

Pipeline explosion kills one, flattens houses

BRENHAM, Texas (AP) — An underground pipeline exploded in Brenham Tuesday morning, flattening homes and killing at least one person, officials said.

The explosion occurred about 7:15 a.m. in a rural area about seven miles south of this East Texas town of 12,000. It rattled homes and buildings as far away as Galveston, more than 90 miles away, and Vidor, 140 miles to the east.

“The DPS center in Bryan has said there are numerous casualties,” said Department of Public Safety spokesman Mike Cox. He put the number of injured at at least 16.

The only confirmed death was that of a 6-year-old boy who was blown out of a flattened mobile home, authorities said. Rescuers were searching damaged homes in the area for more victims.

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Note: If you have already signed-up, meet at Chumash Auditorium Thursday, April, 16 at 4:00.
By Romina Vitols

Police keep eye on emerging county gangs

Staff Writer
By Romina Vitols

"San Luis Obispo County" in the same sentence, and you're bound to get a few laughs.

Tobler and Frank Huitema, gangs are anything but invisible on the Central Coast.

"What we're seeing are small gangs cropping up, trying to emulate the gangs in big cities," Tobler said. "So far we're doing a good job of keeping our thumb on what's going on."

And what's going on is gang activity.

A gang is legally defined as three or more people who come together with a common name or identifier — such as a tattoo — to commit criminal acts for the benefit of the gang.

Huitema said nine gangs have been identified in San Luis Obispo County, and there are approximately 700 members and associates.

Tobler said a 14-point criteria system is used to determine whether a person is a gang member or an associate. Some of the criteria include gang tattoos, appearance in gang photos or the appearance of a name or nickname in graffiti.

If a person possesses three or more of these characteristics, he or she is identified as a gang member, Tobler said. Having two characteristics makes a person a gang associate.

Members and associates are no longer primarily black or Hispanic males as is commonly assumed, Huitema said, but rather they vary in race, gender and age.

Because members often join gangs at young ages, Tobler and Huitema feel early education is a necessity.

"We need to start with 5- and 6-year-olds by sending them the message that gangs are not cool," Tobler said.

As a result, Huitema spends a few hours each day with community schools, touching base with students who are on probation and assisting with peer counseling groups and parent training.

"Many large cities have already chalked the gang problem up as a loss," Huitema said, "and we don't want to do that here."

Tobler said the most common crime committed by gangs is assault. Of all gang-related crimes, only 15 percent are committed against other gangs, Tobler said, with the remaining 85 percent being against innocent victims.

"Gang crimes are tough to prosecute because of witness intimidation and the strength of gangs' codes of silence," Tobler said.

Tobler also said, however, that once members are put on probation, their chances of probation are so restrictive and clear that "they're in trouble if they don't walk the straight and narrow."

Tobler and Huitema are members of the county's gang task force, which was established four years ago.

The force consists of approximately 25 members and includes representatives from county law enforcement and social service agencies.
I know there are times when things are tough and we want to throw in the towel. I get it. I get it. In a world of uncertainty, it is very difficult to find solace in one's ability to achieve material comfort; I say material comfort especially, because the vast majority of people have been raised to believe that material gain is the answer to a healthy whole in the face of difficulties.

Due to the drastic changes in our economy, more than ever before, genuine human relations are becoming the soul bedrock of mental and physical stability. Since the existence of America, most Americans have been brought up in the "Bermond Tri- angle" of material pursuit. I believe that when you actually consider material wealth is slowly but surely ebbing, the vast majority of the poorest of the poorest Americans have lost sense of, that is, the means of life.

In September 1990, I decided to resign from a job in Los Angeles. All around the world and once again carve out new ground for myself. The time before, I was a belief in myself, an unshakable faith in God, my books and my future friends I believed I could be strong for new real in the eyes of adversity. My life is no

The tenured political science faculty's assertion that Mr. Aguiniga has been removed because he is not qualified is a transparent prevarication which insults the intelligence of the students and causes unnecessary strife. It is astonishing that the

tenured political science faculty fails to realize the harm these bullheaded tactics cause. It is always time to examine prejudice, but it is now also time to examine motives and effects, especially the effects of putting departmental power before the needs of the students.

Gary Awdey
Materials Engineering

Correction

In the April 7 issue of Mustang Daily, on page 6, a wrong date was listed for some events during Liberal Arts week. The celebration for Liberal Arts is on Saturday at 11 a.m. on Dexter Lawn. The barbecue is on Saturday at 3 p.m. in poly Grove. Mustang Daily apologizes for the errors.
Students combine school with 'real-life' demands

By Cynthia Nelson

Wearing the hats of student and parent

The burdens of back-to-school

A career change was what Sam Turner, 34, had in mind when he applied to Cal Poly.

Turner is a social science major with a concentration in ethnic studies. After receiving his bachelor’s degree, he said he wants to obtain a master’s degree in counseling.

He said he returned to school to broaden his career options. Since the age of 11, he has spent his life performing manual labor.

His wife Meg, 34, is majoring in bilingual liberal studies and has aspirations of pursuing a master’s degree in bilingual education, but it’s been a very much of a struggle mostly financially because my husband is also a full-time student.

When asked about her experience at Cal Poly Meg said, “It has been a difficult haul, a good one, but it’s been very much of a struggle mostly financially because my husband is also a full-time student.”

She said living off financial aid and meager paychecks never provides enough for their three children and themselves.

Being a full-time student at Cal Poly entails many pressures trying cramming for exams until one in the morning for an 8 a.m. class. Then to be awakened at 3:30 a.m. by a child with an earache can be very frustrating. 

“You have to keep a day-to-day focus on what you are doing and on your family. You have to keep a balance,” Sam said.

He said it is easy to get caught up in school work and that he often has to remind himself that his family is the reason he is at Cal Poly — they will still be a part of his life once he gets his degree.

Sam said he feels blessed to have his wife.

“Meg is the strong backbone of the family,” he said. “She holds the family together. There have been some real tough times. She also is a woman of tremendous courage.”

Meg said the Turner family has grown closer during the tight financial struggles of her and Sam’s time at Cal Poly. She also said her not being around the house as much forced the children to become more independent and self-reliant.

She feels those traits are important in any child’s development and his or her success later in life.

Sam said his 9-year-old daughter Rachel is a great help with the other two children, Nathan, 6, and Sarah, 1.

Rachel said life became more difficult when her parents started school, especially on the weekends when she looked forward to being snuggled, but now she is a student with a younger-old son, Ethan.

Meg said she also came to a better relation with the other two children.

Rachel said life became more difficult with the other two children.

When it comes to assimilating information she said, “I don’t take your time and fit in what you see. Be a thinking person. Don’t take things too much for face value.”

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MUSTANG DOWNTOWN

From page 2

I'll be the first to recognize that everything's relative. An ASI president can't start a world war and a board of directors can't get you free ice cream and longer lunches, but they will certainly affect progress or merely make a minor hesitation in what seemed to be an almost ecstatic acceptance of the plan on both the part of the City Council and the members of the audience who filled the community room of the San Luis Obispo City-County Library.

"It's really intriguing," Vice Mayor Penny Rappa said after the meeting. "I think it shows the kind of vision that San Luis Obispo is all about."

Council member Peg Pinard, who posed the question of financing the plan to the Design Committee, said her concern was merely to expose potential investors to the project at the earliest possible time.

"If (the investors) don't see where we've come from and what we value, and where this committee would like us to be going, then when we turn around and look for support financially, we're going to find a void," she said.

"It's very important that we bring these people on board at a very early point."

"My initial view is, 'I love it','" Pinard said. "It brings in two important areas that this community has long said were important."

The first, she said, is the development of residential areas within the city's center, and the other is a reinforcement of a pedestrian-oriented downtown.

Ken Schwartz of the Design Committee told the council that the committee kept the "spirit" of San Luis Obispo in mind while working on the project. "We look at our downtown and we see that it is a place that people enjoy. We saw that it needed to be preserved and maintained."

From page 4

While the mixed-use theme is perhaps the most ambitious aspect of the plan, it is also probably the main "stumbling block," Rademaker said.

The question of financing the mixed-use clause was only a minor hesitation in what seemed to be an almost ecstatic acceptance of the plan on both the part of the City Council and the members of the audience who filled the community room of the San Luis Obispo City-County Library.

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From page 5 appreciated the support of the English faculty members who also worked and were parents when they were in school.

When she receives her degree next December, Kreeger would like to teach English as a second language in Asia.

She takes classes while her son is in school. She also teaches an English 114 course. She has to work. She said her degree is important to him.

Although she has made tough choices, she never always come last — but not by choice.

"I don't think about how hard it is. I just do it," she said.

Encouraging others in the juggling act of balancing time for her son and work. She said her son is in school in the mornings.

She further encouraged people to not be afraid to tell other students about their children.
ELECTION

From page 1

corner of Dexter Lawn. Liberal arts students will vote in the U.U. plaza, and professional studies students will vote at the postal kiosk. Students from the School of Science and Math will vote on the lawn between Fisher Science and Science North.

The committee will have billboards and maps around campus to show students where to vote.

One concern with precinct voting is that it might cut down on voter turnout, said Bob Walters, assistant director for Student Life and Activities.

"But last election proved that the integrity of an election itself is the primary concern," he said.

The committee is also considering Scantron ballots that would be specially coded for ASI precincts, Peters said.

But the committee must find a proper programmable form before they can use Scantrons. Walters said.

"It's strictly a mechanical process that might stop us from using them," he said.

If a student is caught voting more than once, he or she can be charged with a felony and be expelled from school, Peters said.

The Board of Directors decides whether or not to press charges.

KAAIAI

From page 1

dict was read and declined comment afterward.

Ilan Funke-Bilu, the lawyer who represented Kaaiai, walked leisurely down the hall, smiling.

"I'm just glad it's over," he said.

The decision was met with sheer elation by Kaaiai's grandfather, who had sat vigilant throughout the proceeding and spent the past day and a half anxiously pacing the courtroom halls. Once outside the courtroom, he quickly phoned several friends and relatives in Hawaii.

Kaaiai had declined to be present at the 4 p.m. verdict reading, saying she wanted to spare both herself and her family from the large amount of media attention her trial has attracted.

But by 4 p.m., she was smiling again.

She arrived jubilant at Matt Gymnasium, where she was greeted by her former teammates and coaches.

Volleyball Head Coach Craig Cummings hailed practice temporarily at 5:30 p.m. when Kaaiai and her mother arrived.

The two were soon encircled by the entire team.

An hour earlier, as Joane Hiapo stood in the jail lobby waiting for her daughter to be freed, she could barely contain her emotion as she recalled the torment of the last three months.

"She's out of here," Hiapo said. "I'm taking her home to Hawaii."

Joane Hiapo, Kaaiai's mother

"I'm just glad it's over."

Ilan Funke-Bilu, defense attorney

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