Thousands stolen in El Corral money scam

Students passed bogus checks and returned purchases for cash

By John Hubbell

Public Safety Inspector Roy Berrett

An estimated $6,000 was stolen through the passing of up to 22 phony checks, Berrett said. Public Safety was expecting to forward the case to the San Luis Obispo District Attorney's office on Wednesday, Berrett said. The D.A. will determine within two weeks if there is sufficient evidence to charge the suspects with a crime, he added.

According to Berrett, El Corral first reported the possible fraud on Feb. 10, when suspects were noticed using checks believed to be stolen during a Los Angeles-area strong-armed robbery. The alleged thieves were also signing fictitious names and using falsified identification, according to Berrett.

But the checks were returned to the bookstore by banks, according to El Corral Bookstore Associate Director Rick Brand — and they were appearing one right after another. "We noticed a lot of checks (being passed) real quick," he said.

That raised the store's suspicions, Brand said. And one student became suspect when different El Corral employees realized they knew the same person by different names, according to Berrett.

In one instance, bookstore personnel talked a suspect to his class before notifying Public Safety, Brand said. Police pulled the student from his class and arrested him.

"These people were not interested in being students," Brand said. "They were into small-time fraud."

"We've gone into a pattern of really trying to trust. But then they really got to us. These people were not interested in being students. They were into small-time fraud."

Rick Brand
El Corral Bookstore Associate Director

Talking tough at SLO High

Students are ready to flee state for a good education

By Marla R. Van Schuyver

During times of university budget cutbacks, discussions seem to center on how universities can continue to operate with current staff, faculty and students. But San Luis Obispo High School students say those discussions are omitting a crucial element — students who have yet to enter the university system.

Class discussions in two senior English classes last week showed local high schoolers are talking about college, but don't feel as if they are being heard.

"It's really frustrating with all the cuts they are making," said Lori Silver. "They keep cutting teachers and students until it feels like there won't be anything left."

Cal Poly is just one of the many state universities facing another year of budget slashing. Fees will most likely increase again, and class sections could be reduced.

"It seems like they are making us pay more and more fees, but they are still closing classes and making it harder to graduate," said Devin Best. "I'm really trying to trust," he said.

The concerns felt by these local high school seniors are apparently being felt across the nation. More students than ever before are opting to pay costly out-of-state tuition for guaranteed classes and quicker graduation. In fact, universities are making more and more students painfully aware of the time it takes to get degrees.

Statistics show the average Cal Poly student spends a minimum of five years in school, and many of the University of California schools are taking a comparable amount of time.

A recent discussion with 60 San Luis Obispo High School students showed these are factors they are taking seriously when deciding which college to attend.

Although Richardson said, "I wouldn't mind paying more if I know I'm going to get through in a reasonable amount of time. California can't get the classes I need."

"I'm worried because I want to become a lawyer, and that takes at least eight years," Bond said. "Eight years is long enough. I don't want to extend it by going to a school where I can't get the classes I need."

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By Marla R. Van Schuyver
Staff Writer

At least one San Luis Obispo High School senior will not know why she's not going to a California university.

"I don't want to be in school any longer than I have to," said 18-year-old April Richardson, who plans on beginning pre-veterinarian medicine at Colorado State University this fall. She hopes to be admitted to Colorado's veterinarian program after completing her undergraduate work.

"When I look at being in college, I'm just not worth it," Richardson said while sitting at home in her parent's dining room.

Budget cutbacks which translate into fewer and larger classes in the California State Universities are making more and more students painfully aware of the time it takes to get degrees.

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Californian soldier killed, Marines face shooting hearing

A pretrial hearing also is planned for Marine Sgt. Walter Andrew Johnson, 25, who killed a 13-year-old boy who rushed toward his vehicle holding what was perceived to be a suspicious object.

CNN 'believability' scores best

Washington, D.C.

CNN has caught and perhaps passed the three commercial networks as the nation's most believable TV news source, according to a new survey that suggests NBC's credibility was hurt by its staging of the General Motors truck explosion.

The national survey by the Times Mirror Center for the People & the Press, released Tuesday, found that 63 percent of the nation's daily newspaper readers — or The Associated Press — gave their daily newspaper a high believability rating, down from 67 percent four years ago. 'The AP fell from 64 percent to 55 percent now,' said Fred Peck, director of the National Coalition of Abortion Providers, a lobbying group representing 180 clinics.

Almost 50 clinics from Florida to California were hit in 1992 and 1993, according to activists. 'Unfortunately, we're seeing a lot of cities where the local police just sit back and say, 'Honey, it's your business, you deal with it,''' said Ron Fitzsimmons, executive director of the National Coalition of Abortion Providers, a lobbying group representing 180 clinics. A spot check by The Associated Press confirmed 28 of the incidents cited by Fitzsimmons.

State clinics report acid attacks

Granite City, Ill.

Abortion rights activists are demanding more be done to stop a new tactic used by vandals against clinics around the country: squirting a putrid-smelling chemical to avoid a pedestrian and overturned, Peck said. Robertson was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas.

The object was not recovered, Peck said. Two other boys were wounded by fragments from the bullet. The shooting occurred Feb. 4 while Johnson, a machine gunner assigned as a vehicle escort, was near Mogadishu's market area.

Military spokesman said they had no information on Johnson's home base. After the hearings, investigating officers of the Army will meet with the men's commanding officers, who will determine whether a court-marital is appropriate.

The final decision rests with the coalition commander, Marine Lt. Gen. Robert Johnston.

Peck said at least two other shootings were being investigated for excessive force.

Under the rules of engagement for the U.S.-led coalition, troops are authorized to use deadly force if they feel their lives or the lives of others are threatened.

Troops riding in convoys in Mogadishu often face harassment from youths who hurl stones or steal food and other items from the back of their trucks.

State clinics report acid attacks

Granite City, Ill.

Abortion rights activists are demanding more be done to stop a new tactic used by vandals against clinics around the country: squirting a putrid-smelling chemical that ruins furniture and vandalism.
CSU Office: The 'free education' ride is over

By Marla R. Van Schuyver

Thou’s it happening slowly—and with some sadness—the California State University is facing major changes.

Those changes will come by means of a major restructuring in fee policies and financial aid, if a plan being discussed by representatives of the Chancellor's staff, campus presidents and student representatives is passed.

The plan was the topic of a Tuesday meeting at the chancellor's office in Long Beach.

The proposed changes call for students to pay at least one-third of their total cost of education.

CSU students currently pay about 10 percent of the cost. According to CSU Budget Chief John Richards, it's 'a place where we all realize that the state is in trouble,' Richards said. “The CSUs have lost more than $200 million in the last three years. The budget is too dismal to expect any kind of substantial gains in funding any time soon.”

That realization was a red flag for those attending the meeting, according to ASI President Kristin Burnett, who represented schools no longer affiliated with CSIRA.

"Everyone was kind of sad," she said. "This is a major departure from the philosophy this system has worked under for years. We are becoming aware that the equipment is getting ahead of us now.

If the plan passes, the CSU will increase fees to make them closer to the national average by using incremental increases, Burnett said.

"We are simply working out some sort of policy where we know what the fee increases are going to be at all times," she said. "This is something the Poly students said they would accept.

Perhaps one of the most obvious ways to see the change in philosophies occurring during budget talks is to look at the significance of changing the term "student fees" to "student tuition," Richards said.

"Tuition has been a word that was like a sin here in California for a long time," Richards said.

"Tuition means that students are paying part of their instruction costs, and we've always wanted it to be that they are not paying the actual instructional costs. We've wanted to offer a free education of sorts.

"... We see this as a means to make honest people out of all of us, and call it what it is. Students are paying tuition to support the total of their education.

While Richards and Burnett both agree there will be some opposition to the plan, both feel it will eventually pass in some form.

"We are going to have to unite," Burnett said. "It's good to be getting the minority opinion in there, but when it all comes down to it, we have to work together to survive.

"We are becoming aware that the equipment is getting old, teachers haven't gotten raises, and students aren't coming here because they can't get classes. We have to do something about it now.

Kristin Burnett
ASI President

Council approves new building despite objections

By Liz Weber

The proposed Palm Street Office Building received final approval from the San Luis Obispo City Council Tuesday night despite an appeal and several complaints regarding the structure.

Cal Poly political science senior Tim Farrell appealed the Architectural Review Commission's Feb. 1 decision to approve the demolition of four houses located between Palm and Santa Rosa streets. The removal of the structures is the first step toward construction of the new building complex.

Farrell said the houses—currently used as law offices—have historic significance and should not be destroyed.

"The proposed structure would destroy the residential character on Palm Street that past ARC actions have fought so hard to preserve," Farrell said.

Mayor Peg Pinard, who voted against the buildings, said the city needs to maintain its neighborhoods.

"Any of the (neighborhoods) are developed that way, in any area, what we are left with," Pinard said. "We try to figure out how we can balance future needs with what is perceived as an aesthetic advantage to the city.

Four people spoke out against the building while five voiced approval.

Proponents of the building claim an office core is necessary for the adjacent courthouse and that the existing houses are structurally unsafe.

Council member Dave Romero agreed.

"It has been the city's concern for a number of years to keep the courthouse in the downtown (area)," Romero said.

Council member Allen Settle said he wanted to maintain the neighborhood while making it functional for the occupants.

"I want to have a place in downtown for not just lawyers but the government center," Settle said. "How do you achieve that and not really change the character or nature of the particular location?"

Council member Bill Roaldman, who voted for the project, said it doesn't fit into the neighborhood.

"The project, basically, is overwhelming," he said.

Also during the meeting, the council:

*denied a proposal for a 10-unit residential project located west of Ferrini Road on Foothill Boulevard. The council told the applicant it would consider a reduced density proposal.

*voted unanimously to amend the Water and Wastewater Management element to begin securing a 2,000 acre-foot water reserve for only in severe drought; any other use of the water would be put to a vote by the people for approval.

*denied a request to rezone a 6.5 acre site at the corner of Broad Street and Orcutt Road. The land will remain zoned for service commercial light industrial use.

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541-4420

MEDIUM 12" One Topping Pizza $5.99
Medium order $2 off one coupon per
1000 Higuera
541-4420

Not good with other offers
Mon-Wed, 8pm-11pm
I've taken abuse all my life, but it hasn't always been in the newspaper. In high school I was on the wrestling team, and my coach tried to make me feel like I didn't amount to much, I can tell you how many people get slaughtered on a weekly basis. I was on my back much of the time, and I wonder how many lights there are on the ceilings of almost every gymnasium in the San Francisco Bay Area."

"And as for Poly, the feeling is mutual. I can tell you how many people have come to school who know nothing about the fall referendum. I even saw the woman who once had the toughest anti-athletics voice at a football game this year. But in the face of new budget cuts, I have seen a rise in anger toward athletics and I'm afraid it was just under 2.71. Of the 16 football theme. There's no place for academics. At the time, I learned, the Cal Poly school grade point average was under 2.5. Of the 16 students I spoke to, eight had grade point averages below their high school average."

"And despite my liberal anti-athletics program (and the lack of funds for students), the two new coaches (Brooks Johnson and Terry Crawford) have had annual salaries of $79,370 and $73,347 respectively. But in 1993, I was a beat reporter, an overzealous editor told me to find out and find out how bad the athletes' grades are so we can do something on it."
Ballet Folklorico to celebrate the dances of Mexico

By Dawn Sievers
Staff Writer

The spirit of Chicano culture and pride will come to life with Saturday night when Festival Folklórico '93, an evening of dance from each of the border, is presented at the Cal Poly Theatre.

This premiere event is an artistic collaboration of three university dance companies: El Ballet Folklórico de Cal Poly, the Ballet Folklórico de Stanford and Danza de Artesan. formed to increase campus awareness of Mexican and Latino cultures. 

Maria Junco, artistic director and adviser of El Ballet Folklórico de Cal Poly, said this is the first time in the history of Cal Poly that there will be an evening of Mexican dance.

The three groups will perform traditional dances from a variety of regions of Mexico including Tamaulipas, La Costa, Pacifico and Oaxaca. The Cal Poly group will perform dances from El Norte, North and South.

Though many of the dances have been rearranged by choreographers for the show, traditional Chicano dances have been passed down from previous generations, and Junco said El Ballet Folklórico de Cal Poly wants to keep these dances alive.

To expand its repertoire, the Cal Poly group will learn new dances from the Stanford and Fresno dances during their visit. Some of these will be dances from regions in Mexico they have not previously performed.

"We would like to perform dances from other regions," said Mardonio Reyna, public relations officer for the group. "The problem is the funding — each dress costs about $250."

The costumes are an important part of the dances. For the Jalisco dances, the women wear colorful skirts they whirl about in choreographed harmony. The men wear large black sombreros. In the Veracruz dances, both men and women are dressed in white. Women's dresses are made of white material and lace with black lace aprons. They dance with large white fans.

El Ballet Folklórico de Cal Poly was founded in 1990 as part of MECHA, a Cal Poly Latino student organization whose goal is to increase campus awareness of the Mexican and Latino cultures. 

Junco said El Ballet Folklórico de Cal Poly is open to anyone — not just Latinos or those who already know the traditional dances. According to the group's informational brochure, the only requirement for membership is "a desire and commitment to learn, practice, and perform various dances from different regions of Mexico."

For each region students choose to dance, there are four to six hours of rehearsal a week. Junco said some students dance for all three regions.

Junco, who also is a faculty member in Cal Poly's theater and dance department, said she is impressed with what the group has gone through. "I thought, if this group was interested, they are now."

"They have struggled all year with finding a place to rehearse," she said. "The first time I saw them rehearse it was in total darkness behind the music building. I thought, if this group was that dedicated, they deserved a lot of support."

Junco said it was after realizing the group's dedication that she agreed to be their adviser. 

El Ballet Folklórico de Cal Poly has performed for the community at various schools, Farmer's Market, La Fiesta, the International Festival and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers banquet.

Campus events in past years have included the Chicano Commencement, Cinco de Mayo, Dia de la Familia and the MECHA Statewide Conference.

The Ballet Folklórico de Stanford was founded in 1972 and has toured throughout California and Mexico.

CSU Fresno's Danzaacta De Artesan, also founded in 1972, has toured the United States and Spain. It is directed by Ernesto Martinez, a professor in Chicano studies.

Though the three groups featured Saturday night have never rehearsed together, they will be performing the final number, "A Dance of Love and Death." 

Festival Folklórico '93 takes place this Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are $6 for the public and $4 for students and C.A.S.E. members. They can be purchased at the Cal Poly Theatre ticket office from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Reservations can be made by calling Fine Arts Line at 755-4121.

"Some of the (portraits) in the series are really good at showing texture and some are good at the graphic properties of it."

Darren Sullivan
Artist

Darren Sullivan's exhibit will be on display March 5-19. The Photo Option Gallery is located around the stairwell of the Kennedy Library and is open during normal library hours.

The Ballet Folklórico de Stanford is part of Saturday's show.

By Elayne S. Takemoto

A unique series of self-portraits will be on display in the Photo Option Gallery by an artist with a "bent" outlook on the human form.

Art and design senior Darren Sullivan's black and white series, "Portrait of Human Form," will throw viewers a curve or two. Instead of being mounted on mat board, the 19 high contrast photos are mounted on curved aluminum sheets.

Sullivan said he chose aluminum as a medium partly because it made "jet-black" and "bright whites" stand out.

"Basically, I want the pictures to be able to hold people's interest when they look (at them)," he said. "I liked the results," he said. "I expanded it using a tripod and mirror to make sure he learned, practice, and perform various dances from different regions of Mexico."

"It was an assignment in one class and I liked the results," he said. "I expanded it and ended up with a series of work." Sullivan started the project in September and just recently finished it.

"Some of the (portraits) in the series are really good at showing texture and some are good at the graphic properties of it," he added.

Sullivan said the idea for mounting the pictures on aluminum came out of a discussion with another art student. Because he was interested in sculpture, the student suggested that Sullivan create an aluminum sculpture and mount the pictures on it. Sullivan decided to modify the idea.

Sullivan began his college career studying computer science. He changed his mind, and his major, after he got a job as a computer programmer.

"It was a good job and it paid well, but I couldn't stand it," he said. "So I changed to art, which is something I've always wanted to major in."

Sullivan took all of the photographs in the exhibition by himself, sometimes using a tripod and mirror to make sure he was in the frame.

"No one else helped," he said. "Just pure self-portraits." Sullivan said he doesn't want a job with a commercial company when he finishes college.

"I would like to study sculpture abroad," he said. "I just want to explore art. I love it; it's fun."

"Some of the (portraits) in the series are really good at showing texture and some are good at the graphic properties of it."

Darren Sullivan
Artist

Darren Sullivan's self-portraits are mounted on curved aluminum sheets.

"Portrait of Human Form" will be on display March 5-19. The Photo Option Gallery is located around the stairwell of the Kennedy Library and is open during normal library hours.

Sullivan's self-portraits are mounted on curved aluminum sheets.
Street performer's show lights up Farmers Market

By Stephen Lamb

Robert Heart gives Farmer's Market that extra spark on Thursday nights.

The first-time street performer has blazed a trail world-wide and recently located in San Luis Obispo to awe downtown crowds with his high octane performance.

A self-taught fire dancer, Heart mesmerizes audiences by twirling six-foot-long sticks set ablaze while artistically dancing about. Twirling at more than 100 miles per hour, Heart developed the sticks' unique design, which he has kept "top secret."

Entertainment is Heart's main objective, but safety for himself and his audience is a top priority as well. If he misses his stick, which he says he rarely does, it will fly toward the ground because of the positioning of his arm and wrist in relation to the stick.

Heart wears protective clothing, uses a fire blanket to extinguish his sticks and has a fire extinguisher present. He also allows for fast safety zone between himself and his audience.

When Heart first started twirling, he used a 36-pound steel bar. Eventually, he graduated to a wood stick when he began to feel competent and comfortable.

Initially, Heart said, he was wary of spinning his sticks in public. But after receiving positive feedback from those who saw him twist, he no longer felt self-conscious about his art.

Heart's street-performing career took off in 1987, after living and training in Hawaii for two years.

In addition to traveling the United States and performing at private parties for Tina Turner, Tom Sellick and Linda Evans, Heart has performed in Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

Heart said his fire dance is ritualistic and people are attracted to the fire because it shows them a way to release their fears.

His twirling has taken him to many street performer festivals and in 1988 he won the South Australia bookes (street performer) championship.

He also participated in the Halifax, Nova Scotia International Street Performers Festival, where he was one of the featured acts.

While visiting New Zealand, Heart became the first to bungee jump from the Kawarau Bridge while twirling his blazing sticks.

While fire dancing may have catapulted Heart to the top of street performing, he has many other projects he is working to perfect in the near future.

He recently led the San Luis Obispo Mari Gras parade as "King Fuzzy," a multicolored, tasseled character who moved rhythmically down the street, delighting the crowd.

Heart said his fire dance is ritualistic and people are attracted to the fire because it shows them a way to release their fears.

Heart, as King Fuzzy, led San Luis Obispo's Mardi Gras parade.

Heart has a vision of expanding beyond street performing. He said he would like to take his twirling and dancing acts to bigger venues so more people can enjoy his art.

He also indicated he would like to train individuals to perform with him and assist in his acts.

Heart can be seen Thursday nights performing during Farmer's Market on the corner of Chorro and Higuera Streets.

Photo by Kevin Graf

In his act, Heart twirls his fire sticks as fast as 100 miles per hour.

Local bands, radio shows keep live jazz breathing

By Elayne S. Takemoto

Stiff Neck

Is live jazz dead in San Luis Obispo?

Many would say yes. Many also would say there never was much of a scene here in the first place.

But for those select members of the San Luis Obispo community who have a passion for jazz, they seek out and savor whatever going on, and spread the word to those who are interested.

There are a couple of new names in live jazz and a few worthwhile shows on KCPY's that jazz aficionados (or any open-minded, creative individual) shouldn't miss.

Two new straight-ahead jazz quintets have been making their names known and hope to give a greater following, if not room for improvisation and personal expression. Although it's only been playing since the beginning of the quarter, the group already has one thing in common with another local quintet, Moment's Notice.

"Hayward gigs aren't happening at all," Little said.

Moment's Notice composer and journalist junior Mike Curtis agrees. "It's not difficult to play a lot, its difficult to get paid a lot," Curtis said. He said the band has been playing local gigs at Embassy Suites and at Outlaws Bar and Grill in Atascadero for meals and bar tabs.

Little said when Rhythm Akimbo played in town, the band was paid $800 to $1,000 per show. He added that when the Absolute Quintet played that there's music out there that's very free, non-constructive and without boundaries," he said.

KCPY's music director, John King, is host of another of the station's jazz shows. The show, which airs every second and fourth Tuesday at 8 p.m., is hosted by three different disc jockeys.

"Relative to other college stations we have the resources to put together a good show," he said. "But we could go a lot further with jazz here."

The Absolute Quintet plays Sunday nights at The Coffee Merchant at 8 p.m. Moment's Notice plays every Sunday at 4 p.m. at Outlaws Bar and Grill in Atascadero.

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Little said when Rhythm Akimbo played in town, the band was paid $800 to $1,000 per show. He added that when the Absolute Quintet played the Coffee Merchant the other week, the band was home with a whopping $10 in tips.

But money can't suppress the passion, and, as Curtis added, "it's better than not playing."

"I guess what we're looking to do is constantly challenge ourselves," he said. "Everyone's trying to find their own voice."

Moment's Notice is composed of mostly Cuesta College students and trios to play twice a week. Each performance is different since guest musicians are always welcome to play.

"That's kind of the way jazz is; we welcome people to sit in," Curtis said. "Our attitude is very open...we want to share the music."

Curtin also hosts KCPY's late-night jazz show "Round Midnight" which airs on Wednesday from 1 to 4 a.m.

Curtis said he would like to expand his show to include live in-house performances and interviews with local and traveling trios and quartets. He also would like to use the airwaves to promote jazz.

"Relative to other college
Escape Route offers trips for spring break

By Linda Aha
Staff Writer

Tucked in a corner on the first floor of the University Union is a place where students can get away from the structured institution of classes and assignments.

The Escape Route has a different kind of educational environment, where the outdoors is the classroom and homework involves having a good time.

The great thing about it, just about every Cal Poly student is entitled to take advantage of this adventure opportunity through a program called ASI Outings.

"Right now there is a big misunderstanding on campus that (ASI) Outings is some sort of club that people need to join — we want to make it clear to the student body that they are already members," said Ann Pistacchi, publicity manager for the Escape Route.

"The ASI at the beginning of our name means that every student becomes a member as soon as they pay quarterly fees with their tuition," she added.

The Escape Route offers a plethora of outdoor adventure possibilities, such as organized backpack trips at low prices.

"These trips are so inexpensive because we are a non-profit organization run by students for students. Our trip leaders are not paid (as we) to keep costs affordable," said Pistacchi, an English sophomore.

Coming up this spring break, are four trips ready to quench any student's thirst for the outdoors.

For the beginner, there is a backpacking trip along beautiful Willow Creek in the Ventana wilderness near Big Sur.

The five-day trip costs $22 and includes gas, food and equipment. No camping experience is required. Melanie Meredith, one of the trip's leaders, said the group will hike about six to seven miles a day.

Canyoneering in Utah is another of the exciting excursions planned. This is an intermediate level backpacking trip which requires some previous packing experience.

For five days the hikers will be taken by two leaders through some of the most beautiful country in Southern Utah, exploring Fish and Owl Creek Canyons according to Pistacchi.

The group will be doing some mild climbing and maybe even a little swimming. There also will be a chance to see desert Indian cliff dwellings.

The price is $60 and includes transportation and group equipment.

For a different twist to camping and climbing, there is a trip headed for the snow.

Winter mountaineering in Sequoia National Park is the destination for an intermediate trip led by Ross Newby, a senior ecology and systematic biology major, and another guide. Snowshoeing and rock-climbing experience is required.

Newby, last year's supervisor of the climbing wall (located just outside the Escape Route), said the trip will include three days of snow-climbing on Alta Peak. The group will focus on avalanche awareness and safety.

Newby, who started snow-climbing in 1991, said that this type of excursion "certainly takes a lot more preparation."

He added that one learns to appreciate water, since hikers have to take fuel on the trip to melt snow.

The trip costs $35 and includes gas and equipment.

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Big news... but not big enough

Anyone who can sing, dance, paint, draw, play an instrument or make people laugh is invited to compete in the second annual Spotlight Talent Show. The event, a fund-raiser for PolyArts for Youth programs, is being put together by the Cal Poly Arts Student Support club.

Showtime is Sunday, April 4, in the Cal Poly Theatre at 7 p.m. The entry deadline is Friday, March 5. For further information, call 756-6556.

"A Gathering of Song," featuring folk singer Jill Knight, will culminate the sixth annual Women's Week at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria this Friday. Sevreron Theatre will be transformed into a 60s-style coffeehouse complete with music, poetry, coffee and desserts when Knight takes the stage at 8 p.m. Tickets are $5 and can be purchased at the Performing Arts Center Box Office. For reservations, call 922-8313 or 1-800-849-7272. For further information, call 922-6966, ext. 3209.

"La Fantuilla del West" ("The Girl of the Golden West") by Giacomo Puccini will be broadcast live on KCPR 91.3 FM, this Saturday at 10:30 a.m. The broadcast is in conjunction with the Texano-Metropolitan Opera International Radio Network. For further information, contact 756-9277.

The San Luis Obispo County Symphony will join radio station KCIX FM to host "Classics A la Carte" at the Maison Deutz Winery this Sunday at 11 a.m.

The musical program will feature the debut of The Thros Strings, a group of musicians from the County Symphony's orchestra. Tickets are $15. For more information, call the County Symphony at 543-3333, or KCIX at 544-9229.

Photographer Linda Center's "Sacred Places from Around the World," a photo exhibit of ancient rituals and rock art sites from around the world, opens this Sunday in the Cuesta College Art Gallery and will run through March 25. A reception from 1 to 3 p.m. at the gallery will open the exhibition.

Conner will follow the reception with a lecture about her work, and Chumash elder Phlaw will discuss the significance of rock art sites to the Chumash culture.

Philina is a women's prison in San Luis Obispo County. Those interested should send a cassette recording of their voice by March 15 to Cal Poly Arts, 205 Jepson Hall, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407.

The finalists will be asked to perform before a panel of judges on Monday, March 29. The winning performances will air on KCBS radio. For more information, call 756-6556.

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Some are looking to more expensive private schools as means to avoid crowded state institutions.

"I'm going to Arizona Pacifice because they have smaller classes and will be able to work with more," said Brandon Bond. "Because I'm having to go to a private school, it's especially important for me to get school funds. If I didn't get those then, I wouldn't be able to attend.

Years of budget crises have also had an effect on the way students plan for college, said San Luis Obispo seniors said. "I started working at a grocery store, and I have been putting $50 a month into savings for college," Best said. "I knew it would be expensive. That's why I started putting (money) in reserve a long time ago. I'm not working for personal gain. I'm working because I have to go to college."

RICHARDSON

From page 1

she likes the idea of going to school out of state, more important was being able to attend, where she could complete her pre-veterinarian and veterinarian degree.

In California, UC Davis was her only choice, Richardson said. "I could have gone for pre-vet at Poly, but I still would have had to transfer to another vet school," she said. "It's hard enough to get in as it is."

Richardson's educational fate was sealed when she and her parents started looking at the costs of veterinarian programs. The Richardsons began to realize that April would have spent at least eight or nine years trying to finish her seven-year veterinarian degree in California.

"At UC Davis, she'd never be able to get through in seven years because you can't get classes— that's a tragedy. "California schools aren't as accessible as they used to be and the education isn't as good."

Class sizes are another reason the younger Richardson said she is looking forward to Colorado. "My mom asked them about getting classes and they laughed at her," she said. "That's not a problem at all there. And it seems like the school is a lot more personal. It's not that it's a real small school, but they make it more of a personal level."

Richardson admits she's very focused for so 14-years-old.

"I think a lot of it has to do with my sister," she said. "I've watched her switch from major to major and not really know what she wanted to do out of high school — or even now. It put me in a position where I knew it was going to be even harder for me to get into college than it was for her. I just realized that I have to be directed."

"I think I have a lot of confidence," she said. "I think a lot of people lose that belief in themselves and that's why they fail. I know what I want to get the grades, and I know I'll make it to being a vet."

From page 1

Mustang Daily takes an in-depth look into the California State University budget crisis Monday, March 1 through Friday, March 5.

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"it's not how big you are, it's what you do with it"
Poly hitters rusty, lose 5-3

By Peter Hartlaub
Editor-in-Chief

Cal Poly's baseball team had trouble Tuesday living up to its top-ranked billing. The Mustangs, playing their first game in nearly two weeks, were beaten by Westmont 5-3 in a non-conference road game.

The loss dropped Cal Poly — the No. 1-ranked team in NCAA Division II — to 7-3 overall. But simply having the opportunity to play was a comfort for the Mustangs, who last played on Feb. 17 and had their next six games rained out.

The skies were dry Tuesday, and so were Cal Poly's bats. "We really struggled offensively and couldn't get anything going," said Cal Poly coach Steve McFarland. "We just have to get ourselves working in the right direction.'

Cal Poly didn't get a hit until the seventh, when Todd Coburn singled to bring home Graeme Munger for the Mustangs' first run.

But by that time, Westmont — an NAIA team — had jumped to three Westmont runs and the lead was too tough of an adjustment on the team. "They're good enough and healthy enough that with a little luck we could get three All-Americans," Cowell said.

Cal Poly went into the final round with a two-game lead over Bakersfield for the third place position.

But a series of losses in the consolation bracket, combined with a well-timed Bakersfield victory, dropped the Mustangs to fourth place.

Four pitchers also gave the Mustangs strong fifth-place efforts. They were Julie Rome (136 pounds), Don Miller (158 pounds), Charles Hall (150 pounds) and Eric Schwartz (177 pounds).

Seth Woodill was a Pac-10 champion last year and was selected as an alternate for this year's NCAA Championships.