College of Business reorganizes

Five departments based on concentrations replaced by three departments — undergraduate, masters and faculty — rather than the five based on concentrations.

Area residents don't want another Berkeley

By Silas Lyons

Area residents don't want another Berkeley.
Russian agents seize 21 pounds of uranium in string of nuclear thefts

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's counterintelligence agency said Wednesday it arrested two unemployed men and seized 21 pounds of industrial-grade uranium stolen from a nuclear complex.

News reports said the suspects' parents were involved in producing uranium-238 at Arzamas-16, a restricted-access nuclear city in central Russia.

The arrest was the latest in a series of cases involving theft of nuclear materials from Russian plants and research facilities. Russian authorities say security is often lax, but deny any weapons-grade material has disappeared.

German authorities have seized four shipments of contraband radioactive material since May, including small amounts of weapons-grade uranium and plutonium, and have suggested the material came from Russia. This week, Russia and Germany agreed to cooperate to combat nuclear smuggling.

Uranium-238 is used to make fuel for nuclear power plants. It can also be used to produce plutonium, the key ingredient in nuclear bombs, but the technology is extremely complex.

President-elect Zedillo strengthens mandate with 50 percent of vote

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A late surge of election results from rural areas strengthened President-elect Ernesto Zedillo's mandate on Wednesday, giving him just over 50 percent of the vote in a near-final tally.

Earlier results from Sunday's election had shown Zedillo with less than half the vote, meaning he would be forced to accommodate political rivals when he begins his six-year term on Dec. 1.

California's SAT scores fall with increase in number of test-takers

SACRAMENTO (AP) — California's SAT scores dipped slightly this year as more students took the college entrance exam then ever before, education officials said Wednesday.

Average verbal scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test fell two points from 1993 to 413, below the national average of 423 on an 800 scale. Math scores also were down two points to 482, but remained above the national average of 479.

The state Department of Education attributed the downturn to an increase in the number of low-income and minority students taking the SAT, as well as cutbacks in school funding.

First planes from El Toro Marine Corps Base arrive at Miramar

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The first contingent of Marine Corps jets flew into Miramar Naval Air Station on Wednesday, moving south from El Toro Marine Corps base, which will be closed in a military budget-slashing measure.

But officials complain a lack of federal money to carry out base-closing decisions is delaying the movement of more planes and troops.

"Money is basically the linchpin in this whole thing," said Capt. Margaret Kohn, a spokesman for the El Toro base. "We move as the money comes in."

Base closings are part of a U.S. effort to reduce defense spending in the post-Cold War era.
By Ajoy Bhomboni

As the Highway 41 Fire ravaged San Luis Obispo County last week and destroyed more than 30 homes, one man was fortunate enough to see his home survive the flames — again.

Harold Miossi, part owner of the Missio Ranch near Arroyo Grande, estimated the financial damage to his ranch at $5,000, much less than the $50,000 estimated by his insurance company.

"I feel I should be reimbursed for my losses," said Barbara Chavez, a victim of the Highway 41 fire. "I mean, I didn't start it. It wasn't my fault. I've lost everything. What am I going to do?"

According to Poletti, this will cost the ranch $25 to $30 per acre. More than 100 homes were destroyed in the fire, he said. "The fire was a tremendous asset to a ranch this size that had as much brush as we did," he said. "We'll receive an economic benefit from it, for the next several years."

Leroy Poletti
Eagle Ranch foreman

Preliminary reports indicate a loss of 20,000 acres of pasture land throughout the county, totaling a loss of $100,000.

Ketcham said his main loss came when the fire destroyed the natural boundary of brush which protected the ranch from the nearby Highway 101 on top of Cuesta Ridge. He added that they will need to build a 12,000-foot fence to contain the livestock.

Preliminary reports from Pat Kittle, county executive director for the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources, indicate a loss of 20,000 acres of pasture land throughout the county, totaling a loss of $100,000."
A wildfire such as the one we experienced last week makes you think of things. You see the smoke billowing high into the sky, the orange flames leaping up through the smoke and all along the horizon, smoke leaping through the gray and ash-laden air. You know the hills and meadows are being ravaged. Creature and plant life and property are in jeopardy. Livestock. Horses. Wildlife. All are in danger.

You think, just maybe, the fire might reach the campus. You have subliminal flashes of Pepperdine and remember how they had to huddle together hoping the fires did not invade the campus. You remember the stories about the last time wildfires came to Cal Poly and even the transcripts and records of that time of destruction. You see the fire, the blackened, scorched earth in the aftermath. . . . And you appreciate the good, green garden of earth most common to us. You appreciate the garden we know as the Cal Poly campus.

This recent wildfire made me realize again how much of a great green garden we have around us here at Cal Poly. Perhaps not as big as some gardens may be — not quite the Garden of Eden, but we do enjoy a very beautiful campus. The garden is a wonderful metaphor, symbol and reality. America itself was once much envisioned as a garden. And it still is, notwithstanding all the pollution which plagues us.

There’s something very courageous as well as beautiful about a garden. Something very brave about bushes and trees and shrubs and flowers and grasses and plants generally. When a drought comes, they wait it out. When their seeds decay, they wait — rooted, planted, “there,” daring and willing and resisting. I don’t know the names of all the gardeners around Cal Poly, but would like to presume to tell them here at the end of summer that everyone appreciates how very beautiful the campus looks — especially now, but throughout the year.

I don’t know the names of all the plants and trees and shrubs I admire around here, not being a native Californian, but they are special friends to us all. A fire, a fire such as the one we experienced makes you “see” them in a new light. You think, just maybe, the fire might reach the campus. You have subliminal flashes of Pepperdine and remember how they had to huddle together hoping the fires did not invade the campus. You remember the stories about the last time wildfires came to Cal Poly and even the transcripts and records of that time of destruction. You see the fire, the blackened, scorched earth in the aftermath. . . . And you appreciate the good, green garden of earth most common to us. You appreciate the garden we know as the Cal Poly campus.

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Famous Lipizzaner horses to entertain at Poly arena

Beauties called a "form of equestrian art"

By Brooke Richardson

Although the performers' steps may remind audiences of ballet, the dancers are a different breed than normally.

The artists aren't in tights and tutus. In fact, they wear nothing at all — except a person on their back.

The Royal Lipizzaner Stallions, performing at the Cal Poly Rodeo Arena Aug. 30 at 7:30 p.m., as part of the 25th Anniversary Tour of "The Wonderful World of Horses."

The Lipizzan is a rare breed of horses known worldwide for its silky white hair and ability to fly through the air with the greatest of ease.

But the Lipizzans didn't learn their dancing or aerial maneuvers in the circus, but in life or death situations. The horses' ability to leap and maneuver in the air helped protect their riders on the battlefield.

The horses are more than strong and agile though; they are also beautiful.

"The gentle intelligent white mares became the coach horses of the elite," said a press release for the show. "They became almost exclusively the property of the nobility and the military aristocracy."

"Their music doesn't have a lot of deep meaning, but it's fun and gets you dancing and sweaty," said Losey. "They're kindred with The Mighty Mighty Bos Tones."

Losey said that while they carry all three Skankin' Pickle albums in his store, they're hard to get since the group is so small and does its own distribution.

"Anyone who has listened to The Untouchables or Rock steady would like Skankin' Pickle," he said. "They are one of the last of the ska scene."

Advance tickets are on sale for $6.

San Luis Obispo will continue to host a number of well-known bands throughout September.

New York avant-garde saxophonist Charles Gayle will perform at Linnane's Sept. 13 at 8 p.m. Considered a giant in the jazz world, Gayle played a sellout show in December, "so get tickets fast," Losey said.

"Charles is something special," Losey said. "He's the closest thing we'll have to John Coltrane in our time. He lives in a flat with no heat in New York; he's extremely spiritual and played in the subways for many years. He is amazing."

Bill Crawford, Vince Meghrouni and Tony Atherton are Bazooka / Photo courtesy of Royal Lipizzaner Stallions

Funky jazz trio Bazooka will play at Brubeck's Cellar. Sept. 18 at 9 p.m. A $3 ticket will get you real loose, slamming jazz-based fun, said Losey. Group members Tony Atherton, Bill Crawford and Vince Meghrouni employ sax, bass and, fort, they prefer jazz standards to jazz-up versions of Edgar Winter's "Frankenstein."

Losey said that while they carry all three Skankin' Pickle albums in his store, they're hard to get since the group is so small and does its own distribution.

"We sell their stuff the second we get it in," Losey said. "They have in the past played sellout shows at places like Loco Ranchero when it was still here. I would suggest getting tickets as soon as possible."

SLO Brewery manager Pat Johnson guarantees Skankin' Pickle to be a sellout because they're "a huge name", in the fast reggae world.

"They're big and they'll sell out fast," he said.

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Tickets sell for $8.

STT Records, the group's record company, described the Orange County trio's sound as "bass-driven jazz with a current of raw, gritty energy. They have an intense and powerful sound that draws the audience into their world."
Texas twosome finds fans on Central Coast

By Larry McShane

NEW YORK (AP) -- Sitting right there at No. 2, it's the most surprising album on the Billboard charts -- and nobody is more surprised than its two creators and the "Forest Gump" soundtrack that the folksters featured on the record.

Roger McGuinn was sitting at home when the phone rang last month. It was his son, who had just seen the movie. Did Dad know the Byrds' "Turn, Turn, Turn" was in the flick?

"I don't know how it happened," Eddy said. "I'm just the artist and writer. There was no wheeling and dealing -- none of that good stuff. I went to see the movie, and it blew me out of my seat."

The soundtrack does include a chunk of instantly recognizable material: Elvis' "Hound Dog," Dylan's "Rainy Day Women 12 and 35," Willie's "On the Road Again," Aretha's "Respect." McGinn had another -- and more cogent -- explanation: "It's a wonderful collection, really eclectic. It's kind of like free-form radio was back in the '60s."

But that doesn't explain why this is outselling even last year's surprise soundtrack hit, "Sleepless in Seattle."

"Gump" director Robert Zemeckis, in the liner notes to the album, offered this: "The music of 'Forest Gump' is as vital as any character -- it is a character -- complex and exhilarating, humorous and heartbreaking, the essence of what we once were and will always be."

McGuinn had another -- and more cogent -- explanation: "It's a wonderful collection, really eclectic. It's kind of like free-form radio was back in the '60s."
"There have been some people who have said, 'We don't want all those screaming kids in our backyard,'" he said. "The minute we undersell (the possibility of problems), then we shouldn't be in the education business."

"I see over time a huge turnaround in retail sales throughout the county — that's where I see a significant positive impact of students over soldiers."

"It gives you cold chills, it's so much responsibility."

"You're being watched every step you take," Hendrickson said. "Are you really doing what you set out to do? Is your vision attainable?

"We had an overwhelmingly positive response from the students and the professors," Haile said. "A great year for the department of research and extension, and for the university.

"The university will be the nation's first post-Cold War conversion of a military institution into an educational center."

"Philosophically, that means being the symbolic point guard for America's movement from a society based on defense and technology to one based on knowledge and information."

"You're being watched every step you take," Hendrickson said. "Are you really doing what you set out to do? Is your vision attainable?"

"It gives you cold chills, it's so much responsibility."

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Wrestling signs recruits

By Ajay Bhamhori

Competition for a starring role on the Cal Poly wrestling squad will be intense as the Mustangs begin practice this fall with possibly their strongest recruiting class.

Coach Lennis Cowell signed 11 wrestlers to letters of intent to enroll at Cal Poly this year.

"The overall quality as far as an athlete and student is the best I've ever had," Cowell said. "We've got a nice foundation for quality athletes.

None of the 11 wrestlers are from California, with the others from Washington and Hawaii, who wants to come here (for the academics)."

The development of a "Just-in-time" executive development program is also underway. The no-degree program will entail custom training for corporate employees, and the recruitment and training of graduating students for specific company positions.

The last step of the three-point plan focuses on the faculty. "Two administrators, Director of Research and Professional Development Collette Frayne and Director of Faculty Administration Joe Biggs will coordinate the faculty's needs and the resources available."

Not all of the college's changes will be implemented in a formal setting, with Haile including other brainstorming techniques to assure the college is meeting its goals.

Weekly retreats for business faculty have also been going on since September of 1993.

"We have not forgotten the professors," Haile said. "We want to provide opportunities for faculty to grow, to get 'pointed' and to stay in step with what's going on in the marketplace.

"The way you experience the good life is to experience the knowledge and technology industry through education," Haile said. "If we don't deliver it, we'll all go down the tube."

Sayonara from the 'Stang Gang

Editorial staff members: Steve Chesterman, Matt Clawson, Brooke Richardson (top); Ajay Bhamhori, Tim Vincent, Heather Clarke (middle); Cordelia Rockley, Hans Hess, Linda Aho, Amy Hooper / Photo by Hans Hess