Tune-up time

Electronic engineering senior Steve Steinberg fixes a bicycle in the University Union on Thursday. The Bicycle Fix was sponsored by Cal Poly Wheelmen / Daily photo by L. Scott Robinson

ENGINEERED for Success

Cal Poly welcomes back a long-standing tradition

Cal Poly has been involved with activities for the week since it started. The event always falls during the week of George Washington's birthday because he was an engineer.

"It gives something fun to do and allows the engineers a chance to have the spotlight," said environmental engineering sophomores Alister Young, the coordinator of National Engineers Week. "For non-engineers, it's a time to look at how engineers influence their lives."

The overall goal of the week is to celebrate technological accomplishments, said Joanne Aceto, director of college relations for the College of Engineering. Campus and professional organizations across the country celebrate the week.

Locally, the event was coordinated by the Engineering Council, and faculty participated alongside the students. "Dr. Ken Brown and Dr. (Paul) Rainey are completely supportive of the Engineering Council and all the engineering groups," said mechanical engineering junior Kristine Rusman. She also is vice-chair of ASI to cut costs by scaling back its accounting staff, yearly charges for payroll and accounting services will be more than $200,000, according to Don Shemenske, Foundation's director of financial and administration services.

Shemenske — joined by Foundation Executive Director Al Amaral — spoke to the ASI Board of Directors Wednesday night about the progress the two corporations have made in the transfer process. The cost of moving the accounting and payroll functions to Foundation could reach $70,000, Shemenske said. ASI has the option of paying that amount in installments over a three-year period.

Shemenske also said interest will be charged if ASI decides to make payments on the transfer. Last month ASI relinquished all of its accounting responsibilities to Foundation.

Using the accounting services will cost ASI $225,000 to $250,000 a year, Shemenske told the two-thirds of the board who showed up for the meeting.

"Compared to ASI's current accounting costs, considering its own accounting staff, yearly charging services will be more than $250,000 a year," Shemenske told the two-thirds of the board who showed up for the meeting.

Bill would allow California to sue tobacco companies

By Ken Farnsilt

SACRAMENTO — California would be able to sue tobacco companies to recover billions of dollars if the state has spent to treat smoking-related illnesses under a bill introduced Thursday in the Assembly.

The measure, by Assemblyman Richard Katz, D-Sylmar, would remove an exemption from product liability lawsuits that was given to tobacco companies in 1998 legislative compromise streamlining the state's system of liability law.

It would also allow private health care companies to sue for costs of providing health care to patients with tobacco-related illnesses, and allow both the state and private firms to sue for punitive damages.

"This is designed to get the burden of these products off the backs of the taxpayers of California," said Katz, who appeared with representatives of the American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, American Heart Association and California Medical Association.

The bill introduction comes on the heels of several court setbacks for the tobacco industry. The state of Florida filed a $1.4 billion lawsuit Tuesday against cigarette makers, seeking reimbursement of taxpayer funds used to pay smoking-related medical costs. West Virginia and Minnesota have filed similar suits.

The same day, a Mississippi judge allowed the state to pursue its lawsuit against tobacco companies to recover health care costs. The court rejected the industry's defense that smokers chose to continue their habits even though aware of the health risks.

Last Friday, a federal judge in Louisiana ruled that cigarettes are addicting. The court rejected the industry's defense that smokers concealing the fact that cigarettes are addictive.

Tobacco companies have appealed the judge's ruling. See TOBACCO, page 2
Glass may protect freeways in earthquake

LOS ANGELES — A new method of reinforcing freeway and bridge supports against earthquake shaking by surrounding them with lightweight glass fiber jackets shows promise as an alternative to steel reinforcement, engineers said Thursday.

Preliminary tests of the technology were conducted at the University of Southern California under a $35,000 contract with C.C. Myers, the contractor who rebuilt the damaged Santa Monica Freeway after the devastating Northridge earthquake.

Myers has licensed the technology, called Snap-Tite, developed by Norman C. Fawley, an inventor from Long Beach and hopes to convince the California Department of Transportation to use it on earthquake retrofitting.

Fawley’s method uses glass fibers bound in a plastic resin to give the strength to resist strong ground motions, without the weight of steel. The material is designed to resist 200,000 pounds of force per square inch and can be snapped into place around a column.

Preliminary tests of the technology were conducted at the University of Southern California under a $35,000 contract with C.C. Myers, the contractor who rebuilt the damaged Santa Monica Freeway after the devastating Northridge earthquake.

Additional tests will be conducted during the next couple of weeks, said USC spokesman Eric Mankin.

According to Myers, wrapping a concrete column in steel costs about $10,000 for a 20-foot column. He estimated that the glass fiber reinforcement would be at least 30 percent cheaper.

The USC engineers expect to complete a report for Caltrans in April.

Rick Holland, a Caltrans spokesman in Los Angeles, had no information on the technology.

Myers has said that 26,000 freeway supports are candidates for retrofitting against earthquake forces not anticipated when they were designed. Snap-The works best with round columns and could be used with square or rectangular designs. It cannot be used with tapered columns found in some California structures, Mankin said.

TOBACCO: Strong anti-smoking opinion may move lawmakers to action

If page 1 appealed to the Florida Supreme Court to stop that state’s law suit, and are certain to mount a powerful opposition to the California proposal.

“States generally get millions of dollars in cigarette-related tax dollars each year,” said Maura Ellis, spokeswoman for R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. in North Carolina. "We generally feel that the momentum created by lawsuits in other states may pressure lawmakers to favor the bill this year."

"The public attitude towards smoking in general has changed significantly, and the public pressure on legislators has changed dramatically, and the public pressure on legislators has changed significantly," since the 1996 exemption was approved, Katz said.

Katz said he would pursue an initiative to accomplish the bill’s aims if it fails legislative passage.

Swanton Pacific Ranch.

Spring is a beautiful time of the year in Santa Cruz County! Spend it working on the ranch planting crops, managing cattle and goats, or forestry work and have time to enjoy hiking in the hills and forest or at the beach.

Earn credit for the internship, AG-X/50 Applied Resource Management, Ethnic Studies 10-Intro to Ethnic Studies, AGB 401-Ag Labor Relations classes taught at the ranch, Senior Project, Special Problems. The program is flexible and can be made to fit your needs!

Contact Brenda Smith for more information at Swanton Pacific Ranch (408) 427 1718 or on campus Wednesdays 3-4 PM in 11-226.
Clinic blaze destroys community's tranquility

By Jeff Meyer Associate Press

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Pastor Randy Nash says abortion clinic violence was a big-city problem until an arsonist set fire to the local Planned Parenthood facility.

"Most of us are in a state of shock," said Nash, who opposes abortion. "A lot of us moved here because it's a nice little sleepy town and a good place to raise kids. We're saying, 'Hey, We came here to get away from that.'"

Home to a state university and surrounded by ranches and farmland, San Luis Obispo has been thrust into the national spotlight over abortion.

The blaze, set in the early morning hours of Feb. 15, is one of more than a dozen arson fires in central California coast.

A fourth clinic in the Santa Cruz County community of Soquel sustained minor damage Tuesday when three lighted road flares were thrown on its roof in an apparent arson attempt.

While all the facilities perform abortions, federal investigators are reluctant to say the fires are the work of a serial arsonist.

"It's foolish to make too many assumptions," said Larry Associate Medical Group clinic director. "We had this kind of violence. We never stopped seeing it's OK to torch a clinic."

A 25-year-old patient at the San Luis Obispo clinic said the fire wouldn't frighten her away. Still, she was reluctant to give her last name for fear of retribution.

"We never stopped seeing it's OK to torch a clinic."

"Their comments — calling us murderers and baby-killers — have created an environment that allows a fanatic to think it's OK to torch a clinic."

A 25-year-old patient at the San Luis Obispo clinic said the fire wouldn't frighten her away. Still, she was reluctant to give her last name for fear of retribution.

"I'm one of the 13 million Americans who don't have health insurance," Janine L. said. "This is my only out."

The clinic has received the support of many in this community, about 40,000 people.

More than 200 people gathered Monday at a rally sponsored by the National Organization for Women.

Polling shows Gov. Wilson not Californians top presidential candidate

Jodid Pan

SAN FRANCISCO — Californians don't favor Gov. Pete Wilson as their top presidential candidate, a poll released Thursday shows. Miller, with the state Republicans would rather see U.S. Sen. Bob Dole win their 1996 presidential primary were held.

Among all California voters surveyed, Dole ranked well below Wilson in the former chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, and above Miller, with the state Republicans would rather see U.S. Sen. Bob Dole win their 1996 presidential primary were held.

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FROM THE HIP:
What do you think happens to people after they die?

"First, God tells you to climb a really big fig tree. Then, a blue bird drops you into a hole in the ground. You land on a big white fluffy cloud."

Katie Gamble
Mechanical engineering sophomore

"The soul goes to a resting place and waits for the day of judgment."

Carlye Teason
Buchanan sophomore

"I believe in the Bible. Jesus became the only Savior. If you want to get to heaven, it's only through Jesus Christ."

Steve Arndt
History senior

"Your body can decompose, but the energy of your soul has to pass on. Everything's a big cycle; you are reincarnated into something else. I don't think there's a hell."

Brad Daone
Graphic design junior

"You go to heaven, you get judged, and if you are reincarnated into something else, I don't think there's a hell."

Jaimie Hanson
Mathematics/Innovators

Photos by Scott Robinson

God's view on Sunday mornings:
The Catholic checkbook charade
By Mario Perotti

For twelve long, painful years, I suffered through Catholic school — not just the Sunday school where kids go once a week; I'm talking about the whole enchilada — nuns, priests, mass every week and Bible study. Ever since I can remember, religion has been a part of my life, whether or not I accept it (for those who do not know what I'm talking about, well, feel lucky). Now that I'm on my own I have made a choice that makes my parents quite unhappy — rejecting religion. When I came to Cal Poly, I looked for the local Catholic church, to go to mass once a week, and was generally living life the way I had been taught. The ways of my previous schooling had been so ingrained into my brain I felt guilty when I missed mass. I was living life on someone else's terms, not my own.

To be brutally honest, I rather disliked going to mass every Sunday. We'd put on the same clothes and attend 12:15 mass every week like clockwork. The parking lot was usually full, so we'd end up walking about a mile to the church. Most of the time we were late and the priest had commenced mass; when my family and I walked inside, everyone turned and stared at us. Once seated, the reality hit me that I was stuck for at least an hour and a half.

As I sat there, my attention would quickly wander all over the church. Most of the people in the congregation were not even paying attention. At first, I would think they were just praying. But closer inspection revealed that they were either trying to balance their checkbooks, writing grocery lists, or just plain snoozing. This would not be a big deal had it only been one or two, but I saw over half the congregation doing this. I was more than a little shocked, but the real blow came when I eyed my own father balancing his checkbook. What was I to think? Is this what religion is all about — balancing checkbooks? It makes me wonder if anyone takes mass seriously.

As I enter into my third decade of existence, the question of God and religion has come to the forefront of my mind. I have often wondered if God even exists. Did all the events in the Bible actually happen, or was there some guy a long time ago who decided to write a book about a man named Jesus? What do I believe — the book of Genesis or a theory of evolution? Is there a heaven? Is this what religion is all about — balancing checkbooks? It makes me wonder if anyone takes mass seriously.

For by attending mass or sending their children to Catholic school, people are trying to better themselves in the eyes of the rest of the world. Religion has become, for me, something of a charade. After those long years through good old St. Victor's Catholic school, people are trying to better themselves in the eyes of the rest of the world. By attending mass or sending their children to Catholic school, people are trying to better themselves in the eyes of the rest of the world.

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Carter returns to Haiti to oversee shift to democracy

By Michelle Faul

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Former President Jimmy Carter, who averted a U.S. invasion by persuading Haiti's military leaders to step down, arrived Thursday to work on the next step in Haiti's experiment with democracy.

Carter said he planned to help prepare for peaceful elections and assess progress on security and economic issues. Carter overview the December 1990 presidential election that Jean-Bertrand Aristide won by a landslide.

The next major democratic test for Haiti is scheduled for June 6, when the first round of legislative and local elections take place. Presidential elections are set for December.

Carter, accompanied by his wife Rosalynn, was to be joined Friday by Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., and retired Gen. Colin Powell, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. All three were instrumental last fall in inducing the departure of Haiti's military rulers, who were widely expected to stay in power for almost a month and then leave for exile.

Carter was upbeat as he stepped from the plane. "I've always been welcomed when I return to Haiti — this time by President Aristide, who invited us to come, and also, I understand, by a graffiti artist who in red paint wrote words of welcome." Carter said with a smile.

Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras and Brig. Gen. Philippe Biambay went to Panama and Police Chief Michel Francois to the neighboring Dominican Republic.

Several Haitian youth groups and neighborhood political organizations spoke out against Carter's visit, but a threatened demonstration at the airport did not materialize.

Venel St. Trouice of the Avenue Poulaard Youth Movement said Thursday that U.S. troops "must avert another carnage and keep the peace." He also wanted the U.S. forces to stay for a month and then leave for exile.

Carter's visit coincides with a scaling down of U.S. forces from a peak of 21,000 troops to 3,000 by the end of the month. Americans are expected to comprise slightly less than half of a 6,000-member U.N. force that takes over from the American-led force on March 31.

Earthquake watchdogs on shaky ground in Washington

WASHINGTON — Responding to pressure from Republican budget-cutters, the head of the U.S. Geological Survey said Thursday he has streamlined the agency dramatically.

"The need for a national earth science agency is clear," USGS Director Gordon Eaton told a hearing of the House Resources subcommittee on energy and mineral resources. He said eliminating the agency, whose duties include monitoring earthquakes, would be like "pulling an emergency alarm off the wall: the earthquakes, volcanoes, floods, fires and landslides won't stop, but our ability as a nation to anticipate their occurrence and deal swiftly and effectively with them will be seriously eroded."

GOP budget-cutters have proposed abolishing the agency, which is part of the Interior Department, thereby ending the nation's only federally approved quake prediction experiment before a $20 million investment has a chance to show results.

Supporters of the proposal say getting rid of the USGS would save $3.3 billion over five years. The Clinton administration has requested $540.4 million for the agency for the next fiscal year.

At Thursday's hearing, subcommittee chairman Rep. Ken Calvert, R-Calif., said Republicans don't want to "abolish the USGS and the Bureau of Mines, another Interior Department agency, "without a second thought." However, Calvert added, the GOP has pledged to balance the federal budget by 2002 and therefore no government agency will escape close scrutiny of its spending.

"We cannot and will not exempt any bureau or program from such review," Calvert said.

Eaton testified that since he became USGS director 10 months ago, he has reduced the number of top-level officials by more than 40 percent, cut the agency's staff by 1,130, or about 10 percent, eliminated six programs, reduced 13 programs and consolidated 14 others.

"For each program or activity ... we are evaluating whether or not it should be stripped, commercialized, privatized, transferred or continued," Eaton told the lawmakers. "I am committed to streamlining our organization and making our programs more relevant to societal needs, with emphasis on customer satisfaction and cost savings."

But Rep. John J. Duncan Jr., R-Tenn., noting that the Clinton budget request for USGS for fiscal 1996 is up nearly $15 million from this year, told Eaton: "Actions speak louder than words."

Rep. John Kasich, R-Ohio, new chairman of the House Budget Committee, has in past years tried to eliminate the geological agency. This year, he could prevail if the new Republican congressional majority gets its way.
ENGINEERING: Week celebrates ingenuity

From page 1

the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and mechanical engineering chair for Society of Women Engineers.

Some students incorporated senior projects into the week's activities, according to Areno. Most of the students participated in activities and beyond schoolwork.

"It's a chance to socialize with all the engineering students and find out what all the clubs are about," Koosman said. "The week also allows new students to check out the department."

"It builds camaraderie, pull­ing varying majors together to focus on a lot of different dis­ciplines (in the College of En­gineering)," Areno said.

"The week brings them all together for some common goals and ideals." Engineers affect all things that touch our daily lives," he added.

National Engineers Week highlights technological advances and also informs the public about what engineers do.

The week was kicked off with a special slide show at Tumen on Wednesday to celebrate the accomplishments of engi­neers nationwide. Approximately 1,500 students out of 6,000 from the College of Engineering were estimated to attend the free barbecue on Dext­er Lawn on Thursday.

It was sponsored by the En­gineering Council to give some­thing back to the engineering students, according to Areno.

The week's events are spon­sored by 18 engineering societies, 11 major corporations and local mer­chants.

The Associated Press obtained a pretty full plate," he said. "This is not something we were seeking. We're trying to get everything transferred by July 1, and we're giving the best estimate based on the informa­tion we have."

Shemenske said the amount they are understaffed by two people, we believe we can save you money," Shemenske told the board.

"Amiral barracks only having an accounting-type staff," he said. "We might take some residents down if I have time," he said.

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LOUGANIS: Olympic gold medallist didn’t tell trainer he was infected with HIV before being treated

From page 8

"I was under water before I realized I'd hit my head," he wrote. "Once I did, the first emotion I felt was embarrassment. As I swam toward the side of the pool, I thought: What if I'm bleeding? Is there blood in the pool? In the formal circumstances that wouldn't have been such a big deal, but these were anything but normal circumstances. I didn't even pause to think that I might be badly injured. I was in total panic that I might cause someone else harm."

Medical sources said there was little chance of that happening. "Such a tiny amount of blood in a huge amount of water is not really a risk," said IOC medical director Dr. Patrick Schamasch.

Puffer recalled treating Louganis. "Unfortunately, there were no gloves," he said. "I had to make a decision. I made the decision. I was going to close it without waiting. Otherwise, he might not have been able to get to the next round. The risk, while there, was much smaller." 

Louganis returned to the competition, qualified for the final, and then won another gold medal.

About a year ago, Louganis advised Puffer of his condition. Fortunately the doctor tested negative.
By Nathan Adlow

The Cal Poly (7-7) wraps up its season this weekend and competes in the Pac-10 championships at Oregon State where both the finishes and eight wildcards will quality for the NCAA Championships.

"We're looking to have a good tournament this weekend," Coach Marc Townsend said. "We're looking to have at least six kids qualify for the NCAA's."

"I think we have a chance to do well," said senior Tim Cano, who enters the tournament with a 19-6 record, "if our wrestlers who enters the tournament with a dual match."

McCool will wrestle in place of Rodriguez who is out with a sore knee.

Pepperdine senior leftfielder Matt Dreis has two home run and RBI singles — both by sophomore shortstop Marc Townes and sophomore outfielder Jen Macalutas in the fourth inning.

Mustangs fall to Waves; let six-run lead slip away

By Hal Bock

Pepperdine senior leftfielder David Newham hit his third home run of the game in the bottom of the 10th inning to lead the 24th-ranked Waves to a 8-7 victory over visiting Cal Poly.

The Mustangs (4-6) blew a six-run lead as Pepperdine (6-4) rallied for three runs in the fourth, and four runs in the fifth and seventh inning before Mustangs solo shot off Mustangs sophomore reliever Ron Snodgrass capped off the comeback at Eddie D. Field Stadium.

Cal Poly built an early 6-0 lead on sophomore catcher Matt Dreis' two home run and RBI singles — both by sophomore shortstop Marc Townes and sophomore outfielder Jen Macalutas in the fourth inning.

Rodrigo, Mason, and Lashey will be the only Cal Poly wrestlers returning to the Pac-10 Championships.

At last year's championships, Rodrigo placed fifth, Mason placed third and Lashey placed fourth in their respective weight classes.

"Cal Poly definitely has a chance to break into the top three or four," Stanford Coach Chris Horpel said. "They have to have a great day to challenge for the title."

Horpel said 17th-ranked Arizona State, 12th-ranked Cal State Fullerton, and 13th-ranked Arizona State will be the teams the rest of the Pac-10 must shof to for the tournament.

The Aggies used a 25-4 first-inning to bring the Mustangs’ lead to 7-5, Newham lead off the seventh inning with his second home run of the game to tie the lead one again.

After an error by Mustangs' sophomore first baseman Jason Vance allowed Pepperdine pinch-runner Chris Conboy to reach second base, the Wave's Mark Lopez drove him in with an RBI single to tie the game at 7-7.

Rodrue (9-1) took the loss for the Mustangs' and Pepperdine reliever Matt Wesi (2-1) earned his second win shutting down Cal Poly in the final two innings.

Cal Poly will return home this weekend for a three-game series against 17th-ranked Fresno State.

Louganis admits being HIV positive before '88 Olympics

By Hal Bock

NEW YORK — Greg Louganis said that at first he was surprisingly calm when told he tested positive for the HIV virus that causes AIDS. Then he learned the T-cell count was 256, alarmingly below the positive threshold of 500 and close to the cutoff point for full-blown AIDS.

"I always say I do what my head tells me," Louganis said in his new book, "Breaking The Surface," which could hardly anything except that.

The diving and amateur sports community remained in shock Thursday following the disclosure by Louganis, who speaks freely of his contracting AIDS in a "20-20" interview with Barbara Walters to be broadcast by ABC on Friday night.

An advocate for DPNF who represents the United States on the International Olympic Committee, was saddened by the news.

"It's clear it's a plague that can come into anyone's house, and the Olympic movement is no exception," she said. "I care about this athlete, who gave the world so much."

Steve McFarland, president of U.S. Diving, saluted the two-time Olympic champion.

"Throughout his career as an athlete, Greg Louganis was an outstanding representative of both the sport of diving in particular and the Olympic movement in general," he said. "U.S. Diving shares in the grief felt by family, friends and fans of Greg Louganis. Our hopes and prayers are with him as he prepares for the future struggles with this deadly illness."

In excerpts from the book, "Breaking The Surface," published in both People magazine and Out magazine, Louganis writes of his contracting HIV in 1986 after testing positive for the HIV virus in March, 1988, before the Seoul Olympics.

Louganis, 35, says in the book that he had an lip bleeding in South Korea during a diving competition. His doctor Jim Puffer about his condition before the Seoul Games but decided against it. "It was irresponsible for me not to let him have the burden of keeping such a difficult secret,"

Louganis writes of his fear after testing positive for HIV.

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