Controlled fire turns into a wildfire near Lopez Lake

By Melissa M. Guider

What started out as a 1,400-acre controlled burn near Lopez Lake Thursday, scorched more than 3,250 acres and was still burning out of control at press time.

A windblown ember crossed the control lines at about 11:30 a.m. on an isolated, dry area on the Huasna Cattle Ranch, about 20 miles east of Arroyo Grande. The California Department of Forestry (CDF) started the controlled burn around 9 a.m.

Controlled burns are started by fires dropped from helicopters, said CDF Public Information Officer Ben Stewart.

"The wind shoved the fire outside of the control lines," Stewart said. "We were not expecting this to happen."

The winds picked up just at the right time, Stewart said, and started a "spot" fire, one which goes outside of the control lines.

CDF fireman Neil Bullock said the fire was 80 percent contained at press time and traveling in a southwestern direction. The east, north and most of the west side were contained, he said.

Stewart explained that CDF has been setting more controlled fires since the Highway 41 fire in 1994.

"One of the main things after the Highway 41 fire is that people said that we should have more controlled fires," Stewart said. "We are firmly behind controlled fires but these are some of the problems associated with (setting fires)."

"We are playing with fire," Stewart continued. "We are going to have things like this and they are just going to happen. They get out of control and that's the hard thing about them."

CDF had 20 fire engines, five air tankers, two helicopters, three bulldozers, and around 180 people fighting the wildfire, Stewart said.

Fire engines and firefighters were from all over the county, including some from Grover Beach, Ocean, Arroyo Grande, Pismo Beach, Santa Maria and San Luis Obispo.

No injuries were reported and no homes were evacuated.

Stewart showed concern about the approach of dusk and the idea of fighting the fire at night, the time of day that fires are most dangerous.

"If those winds don't die out soon we could be in for a long night," Stewart said. "It's the only thing we don't have control over in the weather."

Local residents angered by oil drilling meeting

By Calvin Colbyacut

Cal Poly students cruising along the information superhighway now have the chance to win a $10,000 scholarship. All they have to do is create their own home page and enter it in "The Vivarin There's No Place Like Home Pages Contest."

"(Vivarin) wants to honor students," she said. "Vivarin realizes that many of the true innovators on the World Wide Web are college students, not just corporations."

Entries will be judged on creativity, design, content, ease of use and the value of the service provided, Friedberg said.

"The study addresses the undeveloped offshore leases that already exist," Hargis said.

Someone countered that, asking, "Why bother if it is not going to go through?"

"We want to look ahead to a number of developments and say what if?" Hargis responded. "Then you can use the information in a number of ways. We really want your input."

It became clear the audience had no intention of following the agenda that the representatives for the OCEGGER proposal had set.

One man stood up and said: "We don't want it. If we say we don't want it, why do you keep coming back? If it's not going to happen, why?"

The same audience member became angry and threw his papers on the floor and shouted: "If I am not more drilling, I'm getting my gun. We don't want it."

When former Executive Director for ECOSLO Kurt Küpper stood and interrupted Barbara Luis, the consultants facilitator, when she began asking the
Today

The Ballroom Dance Club is having a Latin Dance workshop Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. The workshop will be held at Pat Jackson’s American Dance Studio, (Behind Smart and Final). There is a $2 charge for members and $5 charge for non-members. The workshop begins at 7:00 p.m. and registration begins at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 783-2571.

Upcoming

"Winding roads, dense chaparral, lakes, ocean views, and sand dunes are just a few of the natural settings this county can offer a film crew," said Jenni Engstrom, executive director of the San Luis Obispo County Film Commission in a press release.

"Since thousands of dollars a day are spent in the filming process, (San Luis Obispo County) can’t afford not to showcase it to the group," she added.

In the market for skis, hockey sticks, surfboards, and other sports equipment? The public is invited to the second annual Sports Swap at Laguna Middle School Oct. 28. The event is open from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Admission is $2 per person and proceeds go toward the Laguna Middle School PTA.

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New minor explores technology's effects

By Rebecca Bordelt
Staff Writer

Are you anxious about finding a job after graduation? The College of Liberal Arts is offering a new minor in values, technology and society to help you develop skills that are of value in a competitive job world.

The new minor is primarily marketed to the business and liberal arts students who plan to work for private companies later on, said professor Daniel Levi from the psychology and human development department.

"For example, there are thousands of management majors in business and the liberal arts who need this kind of minor in values, technology and society, you need to know something about the social impact of technical knowledge," Levi said.

Levi, who has adopted last year, stems back to 1978 when President Bakker said he wanted to create a minor in values. Levi said.

Levi said that the three-year-departmental period "seemed like a lifetime" to get it placed in the curriculum and available to students.

The design of the minor offers students the chance to learn how technology shapes and influences modern life. It increases the understanding of the social, environmental, economic and political implications of technology in the 20th century.

"We had a long time deciding what courses not to include in the curriculum because each major offers lots of classes pertaining to these three areas," Levi said.

The courses provide an overview of each field with an emphasis on the impact technology has had on organizations and society. Students are able to tailor their minor program to fit their interests through the selection of electives in the technological and values areas.

The minor will help students with learning the terminology used by engineers, allowing for better communication, he said.

With the widespread importance of technology to businesses and society, this minor is an important addition to a student's curriculum in many different majors.

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Opinion

The rape of Poly Canyon

Editor,

Barring a corner you see it. The earth turns up and polluters dumping into the air. This act that you have just witnessed is taking place beneath your own eyes. Down in Santa Maria Valley it is designed to be laid in the ground. This pipe-laying task is coming closer and closer to us. This is to be specific, Poly Canyon. Poly Canyon is one of the last places on campus that any student, parent or staff member thinks will be destroyed. Contrary to their belief, Poly Canyon is going to be destroyed. Oak trees that were here before your grandparents were alive are going to be ripped out of the ground like they were sticks in the mud. Yes, declarations are going to be planted, but who has a cent for them to grow? In the near future, there will be problems arising from the "wonderful" pipeline. What will stop the erosion from the fresh spring filling their yard? During the rains last year the water was a rich brown from all of the dirt that was washed out of the hills. This was when there was erosion protection. What is going to happen when this protection is stripped from the land? Next, what happens to this thin-walled pipe when there is an earthquake and the ground shifts? If I am not mistaken, in the Northridge earthquake, the water pipes under the city cracked and split. Will not this pipe in the hills crack too if there is the slightest shift in the Earth's crust?

I see that the Great White Terror over at the Mustang Daily has reared its ugly head again, doing their best to promote White Superiority and suppress the poor, discriminated-against Black man. If only they would take off their hoods and stop burning crosses in their office, perhaps the Daily writers would be a bit more objective in their reporting.

The chant, there were not "more than 200 people" there protesting. More like 120. Being an engineer, I can appreciate the importance of significant digits in a number. 120 is not "more than 200." You can't even round up to that number! A harmless miscalculation. I'm sure.

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Further down in the article she writes, "According to Gingrich, the proposed plan that Congress recently approved will increase the amount of money paid to recipients by $1,900 per year..." If the plan is approved, they will receive $6,700 per year per person. The wording is what is important here, because it can be interpreted two ways. One way, the wrong way, is that the plan will increase the amount paid by $1,900 each year. The other way, which is how it should have been reported, is that by the year 2002, the amount seniors will receive will be $6,700, an increase of $1,900 from today's amount of $4,800. That makes much more sense than the way she reported what Gingrich said. A harmless grammatical error, I'm sure.

What we need to realize here is that this goes on all the time, and very seldom do we actually call the media on their mistakes. Sure, they may print a correction or retraction, but the damage is already done to those who don't read the correction. Critics complain of "willing accomplices in the media." Well, I'd say they have a pretty valid complaint.

My other gripe is with those protesters who were there on Saturday. I was wearing a shirt and tie, holding a sign in support of Andrea Seastrand, amid crowds of angry people saying things and holding signs that were hardly polite. Collins reported on the chants, "Can't stand Seastrand" and "Give Newt the boot". But she didn't say anything about signs that read, "Nuke Newt," and chants like, "Newt is a white Farkkahn."

I, myself, was told by a protester that "All people who wear suits are fascists." Oh, really? Well there happened to be a protester there who was wearing a suit. And I guess that means that, by extension, President Clinton is a fascist, and for that matter, is President Baker (I certainly don't believe any of this is true). These protesters also labeled me and my companions as extremists and oppressors. Well, I guess when a crowd of people decides it would rather block your sign with their signs than let you express your opinion, you must be the oppressor. But then again, to them, I am the extremist and they are the tolerant one.

Keith Spencer is an electrical engineering junior.

On Halloween weekend...

Be very careful, there are lots of weirdos out there. If you haven't been already, keep your dogs and cats inside. It's not just black cats that the sickos leave staked on graveyards gates.

Drive very cautiously, if you're around any residential neighborhoods, assume that the children will try to throw themselves under your wheels. A lot of them can't see too well in their costumes, and they won't see you coming, so drive very cautiously.

And remember, the veil between this world and the next is very thin this time of year... Just a friendly reminder from your Daily Opinion editor witch. -D.P.
Kermit, Miss Piggy return to television in "Muppets Live!"

By Scott Williams

NEW YORK — Kermit the Frog, Miss Piggy and the rest of the Muppets are headed back to prime-time television.

"Muppets Live!" will originate from the chaotic studios of KMUP-TV, with weekly guest stars and a menagerie of Muppet characters new and old.

"Of course, if this doesn't work out, we'll start visiting people," Kermit, flanked by his sidekick Gonzo, told reporters at ABC studios. "Going door to door!" Gonzo amended.

There were no other specific projects announced, and the terms of the deal were not disclosed.

The deal between Jim Henson Productions and Capital Cities/ABC Inc. gives the two companies equal ownership of Henson programming.

"It's perfect for us," said Brian Henson, president of Jim Henson Productions. "It allows us to continue producing for cable outlets and all the outlets we have in the past."
SACRAMENTO — A judge removed an Orange County Democrat from Assemblywoman Doris Allen's recall ballot Thursday, after other Democrats complained the woman was an imposter planted by Republicans.

It was the latest twist in a long-running battle between former Assembly Speaker Allen and the fellow Republicans who are seeking to throw her out of the Legislature.

Ford took the action, requested by the Democratic Party, because Campbell signed a statement saying she personally collected the 43 signatures that qualified her for the ballot when someone else actually obtained them.

The judge said he initially did not want to issue the order, which will cost financially strapped Orange County $50,000.

"The integrity of the election process has to be paramount in my view and no one has ever said democracy is cheap," Ford said.

Republican fears that if they succeed in recalling Allen, their four candidates will split the GOP vote and give the election to Moulton-Patterson.

In a low turnout, Linda Moulton-Patterson will win this race easily, predicted Gil Ferguson, head of the committee to retain Allen. "She needs only 8,000 votes total to win."

Enter Campbell, a 35-year-old legal secretary and political unknown who moved to Orange County this year from Glendale. After she turned in the 43 signatures that qualified her for the ballot, Democrats began questioning her motives. Democrats noted, for instance, that Campbell is anti-abortion.

"She was certainly encouraged, if not recruited, by the Republicans to potentially dilute the Democratic vote," former Democratic Assemblyman Tom Umberg of Garden Grove said last week.


Mr. Twister — a 26-year-old Cory McDonald — had deliberately courted a citation for violating what he called the Anti-Good Samaritan Law.

Mr. Twister, who makes his living entertaining at birthday parties, said, "some of the best legal mimes in the country offering to help."

"Right on the face of it, the law makes no sense," Mayor Katherine Beiers said.

"All right, Mr. Twister, all right!" a man crossing the street yelled.

"Honk, honk," Mr. Twister brayed in acknowledgement.

On Thursday, Mr. "rwister — in white face, rainbow-striped pants, a polka-dot tie, shaggy black hair and red ballless red shoes — was downtown again, dropping quarters and getting laughs, as he has for the last six years.

"People ought to be nice to one another like that," Karen Silva said, grabbing his hand.

Another stranger ran across the street to thank him.


"Just good P.B.," was how Mr. Twister explained the City Council's retreat as he strolled the sunny sidewalks of this coastal community 75 miles south of San Francisco. "I'm out here being nice to people all the time. How can they not be nice to me?"

Mr. Twister, who makes his living entertaining at birthday and office parties, giving clowning classes and performing on the street, has never had to depend on the kindness of meter-plugging strangers. He has no car.

Instead he commutes by skateboard from the mobile home he shares with his mother and stepfather.

He said he started plugging meters when he saw a friend's car being ticketed. Soon, Mr. Twister was plugging everyone's meters, reasoning, "Random acts of kindness can last an eternity."

Soon, people began giving him quarters. He took satisfaction in beating parking enforcement officers to expired meters. He estimates he spends $2,000 a year — 5 to 10 percent of his income — on meter feeding and other charitable contributions.

But the meter readers warned him they had found an ordinance that forbade anyone but the parker to plug a parking meter. On Oct. 9, police slapped him with a citation.

"You can feed the meters all he wants," said Santa Cruz down the parking agency. "You can keep an ordinance that forbids anyone but the parker to plug a parking meter."

Mr. Twister related a story about media coverage as well as the three-ring one, Mr. Twister walked over to the local newspaper, and word spread quickly.

With publicity, the laugh was soon on the parking agency. Supporters donated $332 in quarters to keep up the lawbreaking. And a lawyer, Ben Rice, stepped forward to represent him "pro bono."

"I had a downtown street person... " Rice said, "some of the best legal mimes in the country offering to help.

The city dropped the citation last week.

On Thursday, a meter worker only waved as Mr. Twister walked by the mobile home he shares with his mother and stepfather.

"You're our spiritual leader," Robert Forte declared.

"You're our leader," Mayor Katherine Beiers said.

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"Let's get it over," when he walked into Sand Lake Hospital for the surgery. His mother, Lucille, accompanied him and stayed with him during the operation.

FOR THE 'MAKE A WISH FOUNDATION'

FOR MUSTANG DAILY

MUSTANG DAILY

"Somebody needs to do something," he said. "I think some coaches tell their players to come in and chop me and hope I get mad and throw a punch or something and get thrown out. I've got to be able to protect myself."

"But somebody needs to do something," said Shure, a specialist with Jewett Orthopaedic Clinic. "Without investigating advertisements, I don't know."

"We have been sporadic," Gardner said. "Sometimes we've been spectacular offensively, and then we suddenly get quiet."

"They don't have the greatest record right now, but they have very skilled players," Fens said. "Jason Martinez is very big and fast. Hutcheon, who has been sidelined for much of the year, might add Cal Poly's needed spark on offense."

"They will move to the midcourt and Scott Hutcheson will come off a knee injury to also strengthen the midfield. P.J. Woolridge will move from midfield to forward to see if he can rekindle his early season form."

"I think it will just be more consistent with this lineup. We have been sporadic," Gardner said. "Sometimes we've been spectacular offensively, and then we suddenly get quiet."

"The one consistent player who offensively is just a menace to the other team is Clay Hartley," Gardner continued. "He usually has double coverage, yet he has come alive again scoring-wise even with all the coverage he's getting."

"Though Hartley has been carrying the brunt of the load for the team, though coach Glenn Fens said he hopes other players on the team can alleviate that burden."

"We need to take the scoring load. Hartley has used a couple of our other players to pick it up and put the ball in the net," Fens said.

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"Though Hartley has been carrying the brunt of the load for the team, though coach Glenn Fens said he hopes other players on the team can alleviate that burden."

"We need to take the scoring load. Hartley has used a couple of our other players to pick it up and put the ball in the net," Fens said.

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"They don't have the greatest record right now, but they have very skilled players," Fens said. "Jason Martinez is very big and fast. Hutcheon, who has been sidelined for much of the year, might add Cal Poly's needed spark on offense."

"They will move to the midcourt and Scott Hutcheson will come off a knee injury to also strengthen the midfield. P.J. Woolridge will move from midfield to forward to see if he can rekindle his early season form."

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The Mustangs, 8-4-1, have only played three home games all season. They finish off the year with four straight home games, with the first game Sunday at 5:30 p.m. against San Jose State.

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The NCAA playoffs are still within reach for the Mustangs despite a recent setback to Westminster College.

The 2-1 loss to Westminster appeared to be the straw that broke the camel's back, because Westminster isn't a member of the NCAA, but instead a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA).

But as Gartner explains, the loss may not hurt them as badly as everyone first thought.

"We've allowed one game out of your division, that does not count against you," Gartner said, "It counts in the win-loss record, but in the ratings process to decide which team goes to the playoffs, they ignore that game."

"I think we have the personnel to win it all," he added. "If we win the next four games, we have certainly earned a right to be included in the tournament. I think we will be included, and then we could be a major surprise."

Because the Mustangs are an Independent team, they will need to receive an at-large bid to get into the playoffs. These next four games against other teams that are battling for at-large bids are crucial must-win games for the Mustangs.

"I wish we had one less loss, that would give us a little breathing room," Gartner said. "In four games, something can go wrong, and you can lose one you don't deserve to lose. The fact is we didn't give ourselves any flexibility for this last run at home. We have to win to win it all."

The Mustangs have a distinct advantage playing the remainder of their games at home.

"We are capable of it, because fatigue won't be a factor," he said.

Playoff chances rest on outcome of home games

By Greg Manifold
Daily Staff Writer

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