Arts Center abandons theatre dept.

Department head resigns after theater taken away

By Dawn Pillsbury

Theatre and dance department will not be permitted to use part of the new Performing Arts Center for instruction / Daily photos by Lawrence Rodenborn

Navy fighter crashes into 3 Tenn. homes; kills crew, 3 others

By Dede Reyes

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — An F-14 fighter, heavy with fuel for a return trip to California, crashed in a Nashville neighborhood Monday and killed five people.

Three of the dead were in a house that took a direct hit from the Tomcat, the Navy's front-line fighter plane. The other fatalities were the plane's two-person crew.

"One guy was just sitting in his couch. He never had a chance. They were all just sitting where they were," said firefighter James Dean.

The fireball could be seen for miles from the wooded, working-class neighborhood of brick homes where the crash occurred at 9:52 a.m. CST. Skies were overcast and there were light drizzles in the Nashville area.

At least three houses were struck by the fighter, which had taken off from Nashville International Airport on a routine training mission, Navy officials said.

The plane was attached to an F-14 squadron at Miramar Naval Air Station near San Diego.

The plane had landed and refueled at Nashville and was heading back to California when it crashed, the Navy said.

Police spokesman Don Aaron said the crash killed Elmer Newsom, 66, his wife, Ada Newsom, 63. Another man, whose identity was withheld while relatives were contacted, also was killed when the plane struck the Newsom house.

Kenny Newsom, 37, left work as soon as he heard about the crash. But he said he knew his parents were dead as soon as he saw their flattened house.

The couple were next-door neighbors of Joel and Anita Osbola, who left for work well before the crash and whose house was destroyed by the fire.

"I feel very fortunate that neither of us was home. We lost two great neighbors, two great people. That's where my heart is right now," Newsom said.

The crash site is 2½ miles southeast of Nashville's airport, which has an adjacent facility for the Tennessee Air National Guard.

The F-14 Tomcat is the Navy's first-line fighter aircraft. It has a crew of one pilot and a radar instructor officer.

The neighborhood was littered with plane parts. Parts of an engine were found in a yard across the street and another part of the plane resting in a field.

Student leaders sought for Wildflower Festival

By Carl Fentress

The Wildflower Triathlons Festival at Lake San Antonio is just around the corner, but first it needs Cal Poly's involvement to make it happen.

Terry Davis, owner of Tri-California Event Management, Marketing and Promotions, has a contract with Monterey County to put on this year's festival, scheduled for May 3-5.

This year, however, there have been difficulties finding organizations, clubs, faculty members and Cal Poly students to participate in the festival activities.

"We're concerned the word isn't getting out," Davis said. "We started the project back in October and still haven't found anyone.

"All we need is two student race directors, 20 student team leaders, and preferably a faculty member," said Colleen Davis, a Wildflower administration coordinator, "to make it happen."

"In previous years our department had five full-time faculty members, but this year we are down to only two."

This year, she said, the department just has no time, even though the department does consider the event to be valuable.

Being a Wildflower faculty leader for Cal Poly, she said,inearly seeing activities, signing time cards and being available to answer questions from students can be tough.

"We want to keep Wildflower at Cal Poly," he said. "Last year we had 500 students get involved, with 600 on a waiting list.

The Wildflower Triathlons Festival, which attracts more than 3,000 participants, is scheduled for May 3-5 at Lake San Antonio near San Luis Obispo and is sponsored by the Recreation Administration department.

In the past, many students from the Rec Administration Club and Rec majors filled the positions, but according to Colleen Davis, "there seems to be a different view.

See WILDFLOWER page 2

Ozzie Smith visits Poly for dedication

Ozzie Smith, Cal Poly alumnus and member of the St. Louis Cardinals baseball team, will be the honored guest at a press conference today featuring the announcement of future athletic site dedications, the athletic master plan and expected costs of athletic developments. The conference is scheduled for 10 a.m. at the Cal Poly Alumni house and is open to the public.

The new proposed athletic site, off Pinnacles Road near the Swim Unit and the Engineering Applied Research and Development facility, will include a baseball field, football stadium and recreational facilities for club and students.

According to Robert Kitanuro, director of Facilities Planning, much of the land proposed for development is used by the several departments within the College of Agriculture. These departments will now have to determine other suitable locations for things such as the rodeo grounds which will eventually be taken apart.

Major upgrades have also been proposed for Mott Gym in order to accommodate more people and provide better access to the front and rear entrances. Cal Poly will join the Big West Conference next year, which requires the campus to have a 5,000-seat capacity arena. There are also plans to build more recreational offices and better locker rooms.

New rest-rooms, storage facilities, seats to accommodate spectator events and the resurfacing of the rink have also been proposed.

There are plans to turn the basketball court into an indoor track and establish a new field house.

By Dede Reyes

Photo by Jeff Rosen

INSIDE TODAY'S, MUSTANG DAILY

INFORMATION

Devin Pillsbury writes about the various misconceptions about the gaming community.

See page 4

Ozzie Smith visits Poly for dedication

Ozzie Smith, Cal Poly alum­

Thus, the theatre and dance department will not be permitted to use part of the new Performing Arts Center for instruction. / Daily photos by Lawrence Rodenborn

Dawn Pillsbury writes about the various misconceptions about the gaming community.

See page 4

Magic Johnson makes Lakers fans happy as he returns to the NBA despite being HIV positive.

See page 8

By Dede Reyes

Photo by Jeff Rosen

See page 8


daily staff report

By Dede Reyes

The Wildflower Triathlons Festival at Lake San Antonio is just around the corner, but first it needs Cal Poly's involvement to make it happen.

By Dede Reyes

Photo by Jeff Rosen

See page 3
The San Luis Obispo County Health Department is offering free, anonymous HIV (AIDS) testing. Testing is offered Mondays, 1 to 4 p.m. Thursdays, 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. at 2191 Johnson Avenue.

Today
A study abroad meet held by AIFS is taking place Jan. 30 at 6 p.m. in room 201. The meeting is open to everyone. For more information, call Vanessa at 541-2310.

Upcoming
A seminar titled "The Importance of Mentors and Collecting Your Letters of Recommendation" is being offered Feb. 1 at 11 a.m. in Science north, room 201. Special guest speaker, Heidi Hamlin, D.V.M., will lead the discussion.

Women's Studies Potluck is taking place Feb. 8 at 6 p.m. at Dr. Shawn Burn's house. For directions and information, call 756-1525.

Cuesta president is Citizen of the Year
By Alison Levet
Tulay Ullman
The San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce has named Grace Mitchell, Ph.D., the president of Cuesta College, its 1995 Citizen of the Year.

Mitchell, who moved to the area with her husband Ron in 1965, has also been well-known in the community as one who can perform any task and positively influence the community at the same time.

Although all nominations remained anonymous, Mitchell received more nominations than any other candidate in the 24-year history of the award.

In addition, she is a founding member and past chair of Leadership San Luis Obispo, honorary director of the Children's Foundation of Morro Bay, cochair of the Children's Foundation of California and president-elect of the California Community Colleges Presidents' Association.

Mitchell has also generously given her time through many community-assisted programs. She has served as capital chair for Hopeus, volunteered for women's shelters fundraising programs, and has also chaired the Cuesta College Art and Community Affairs Committee. Mitchell also remains an honorary member of the Community College State CEO Board, San Luis Obispo Rotary Club, and Americanization of University Women.

Mitchell, the daughter of Italian immigrants, was a Rotary scholar in France for two years and Switzerland for two years before returning to the states to pursue her Ph.D. Mitchell now aspires her career. As her career progresses, Mitchell aims to be more involved in the community services.

Although many people have been greatly involved in the community, Mitchell said, “I have high hopes for this committee. I hope this event will bring people together and we can build a more reasonable and sensible group.”

“I think we might need a little more work,” said, “and for you to be united in our community service.”

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PLANE: Pieces of plane landed half a mile away

From page 1

"The plane done kind of half a cartwheel and tried to take off again and then it was like the nose was up in the air a little bit," Frank Zundt told WRKN-TV.

CONFLICT: Department cannot afford to pay rent

From page 1

said Peter Wilt, manager of the Cal Poly Theatre.

But regardless of the budget, members of the theatre and dance department are disappointed they do not have what they consider a necessary facility.

Mike Malkin, a professor in the theatre department, resigned as its head over the loss of the studio theater.

"I kept thinking, 'What did I do wrong or what did we do wrong?'" Malkin said.

Forcing the theatre department to pay for access to a studio theater is the same as asking science or engineering classes to pay for access to their labs, Malkin asked. "Does the chemistry department have to rent their labs?" Malkin asked. "Does the biology department have to rent their labs?"

"I have an ethical problem with any large amount of state funds being used for a non-instructional facility," he added. "They don't give any of the departments enough (money) to rent these facilities.

However, there has been an effort to allow the theatre and dance department greater access to the Cal Poly Theatre, according to Irvin. "They need a (studio theater) for the musicals," Irvin said. "But the Performance Arts Center is not an educational, and not an instructional facility."

In fact, Irvin said, the Performance Arts Center wouldn't be able to meet the needs of the theater department anyway. Lack of facilities, such as a shop to produce scenery, proves that there is no place for performances to be put on, he said. "It is not set up to produce works, it is to accommodate performances," he said. "Over the long haul, the university may erect buildings for theater instruction."

However, Malkin said he believes the university is not keeping up with the times. "As soon as the CSU not to have at least a minor theater dedicated to the theater department," Malkin said.

"Although he's sure the administration has excellent reasons for not giving the theatre department a studio department, Malkin still feels like he got the short end of the stick. "No one in 212 (the current studio theater) is going to know us," said Malkin. "If we're doing a regent's play or a play where someone has a part, we'll be convinced," he said.

"I think this whole episode is embarrassing and humiliating for the University of California," said Lt. Gov. Gray Davis, a Democrat, who also serves as a regent of the university.

Davis conceded Atkinson made a mistake by not notifying the board before announcing the delay last week, but said the 10 regents who authorized the review "appear to want his head on a platter."

In his letter of apology, Atkinson assured regents he was not trying to subvert their 14-10 July vote to drop race- and gender-based factors in admissions decisions. He conceded he mishandled an abrupt announcement Jan. 19 that the change would not be made—within a 1998-99—until the following fall, later than expected.

"I erred in not adequately consulting with The Regents before deciding to postpone implementation of the new policy," Atkinson wrote. But he stressed that a complete surrender, offering to drop race- and gender-based admissions by spring 1998, not the fall 1997 implementation date some regents, including Wilson, have demanded. The actual policy revision carries an effective date of Jan. 1, 1997.

Atkinson defended throughout the crisis that his timetable does not change the new policy but is a pragmatic response to the work needed to draft and print new policies and notify students.

At the meeting, Atkinson gave no timetable as to when changes would go into effect. He also said Lt. Gov. Gray Wilson, who has backed the move to drop race-blind admissions, did not return a telephone call Monday to The Associated Press.

Malkin said: "I... erred in not adequately informing the Regents of the nine-campus system, was hired by the 26-member board only four months ago and hailed as the best candidate to handle the situation during turbulent times.

Conflict of Interest

Like the eight other chancellor candidates of the nine-campus system, Atkinson opposed the move to drop the school's old affirmative action policy.

His appointment followed an arduous search process that included the embarrassing episode of first choice E. Gordon Gee of Ohio State University withdrawing from consideration a day after he was to have been confirmed.

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From a tense meeting with Wilson only to release a statement criticizing his handling of the fall 1998 timetable.

Later, the UC president said the changes would go into effect by fall 1997 for graduate and professional students.

The special review session followed, the first since Clark Kerr was fired as UC president in 1967. Kerr, the only president fired in UC's 127-year history, was ousted by regents who accused him of being too soft on student protesters.

Campus turmoil had been a key issue in the 1966 gubernatorial race between incumbent Democrat Edmund G. (Pat) Brown and Republican Ronald Reagan. Reagan, the victor, and his fellow UC regents voted Kerr out of office at their first meeting after the inauguration.

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Coming soon: Sex in the Mustang Daily

Guess what's coming your way this quarter. Another new column about your favorite topic. You guessed it — SEX!

What? You've never heard of SEX, T.A.L.K.? No, it's not the talk about the birds and the bees. T.A.L.K. stands for Talking About Loving Carefully. This is that talk column — people presented by the Student Health Team to answer any questions or concerns about sex.

We promise not to tell your mom or significant other — it's totally anonymous. You don't even need to be here in person — just feel alone and frustrated when these things aren't there. So people else. This is not a new concept, but one we too often forget. We patronize ourselves for failure, criticize ourselves — the friend inside is worth finding. We have ourselves. We have our own way to get info. The Sexuality Team also does workshops (don't go there — I'm talkin' about consultations) and we've got tons of free literature with cool pictures. But that's not all that's free. We've got C O N D O M S, C O N D O M S (and they're right in this box).

And we're not just about sex. We also have information on sexual assault and rape, STD's including HIV/AIDS and contraception. Look for us in the Mustang Daily two weeks from now, one week after A D O L C E.

Nobody plays D&D anymore. Oh, some people play something they call Dungeons & Dragons. But it's nothing like what Gary Gygax cooked up in his living room back in 80. I don't play from those white booklets, either. Even if I could find them at a con, they'd be way beyond my means. I bear a single one in good condition can run $200, and beacause I already have the 'First Edition' books, investing in the really old ones seems silly. Besides, I'd have to go to a gaming convention.

Not that I've never been to one before. I've been to LosCon twice, but it was really for the firk (science fiction folk music. Don't worry, you've never heard of it). The only game they were really playing was Magic: the Gathering, and I have no desire to sully myself with such perversion.

The friend within by Julie Hancock

Hope. Love. Happiness. These are the only virtues we have left. If we can't do something for ourselves looking for these things — then feel alone and frustrated when these things aren't there. Most people often get scarred and stop looking. They close up. They are living, but just going through the motions — not feeling for an unlike hurt. But nothing can be credibly great. Either was the last time you felt incredibly great and leave it in the Sex Talk Box. If you don't feel like showing your face, call us at 756-5525 or write us at: Sex Talk Box c/o Health Services California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

This isn't the only way to get info. The Sexuality Team also does workshops (don't go there — I'm talkin' about consultations) and we've got tons free literature with cool pictures. But that's not all that's free. We've got CONDOMS, CONDOMS (and they're right in this box).

We often forget we have ourselves. We have ourselves when we have no one else. This is not to say that we don't need other people, because we do. But we must not forget to be friends with and be at peace with ourselves.

It's amazing the strength I feel when I simply remember who I am. I'm my own best friend. It sounds silly, but try supporting yourself. Talk to yourself, especially when you're scared. The first time I did was in tenth grade. I was extremely uncomfortable speaking in front of groups, and I had to give a speech in my government class. As I was sitting at my desk waiting for my turn, I started getting nervous. It kept building.

But if you should get interested in what D&D used to be, you'll probably see me in one of those shops, still holding a staff and one for my 8-foot-tall female Amazon. Most of all, I'm still in denial. I liked the feeling that I had all of the books. It was like how you get a great, top of the line computer. Then, six months later, it's totally obsolete and being sold as a paperweight at garage sales, and you're still going through the user's manual.

I was confident in first edition. Now that I'm playing a hybrid of the two editions and becoming more confident with the new rules, they come out with a new set of books. Oh, they claim the new ones are still just second edition, just with the type-o's and master graphics. But I know what they're doing. It's why they call the company TSR. They do what they want.

Not that I don't understand. It's expensive to be in such a small niche. And there must be a genuine need for second edition. And there must be a genuine need for second edition.

Most of all. I'm still in denial. I liked the feeling that I had all of the books. It was like how you get a great, top of the line computer. Then, six months later, it's totally obsolete and being sold as a paperweight at garage sales, and you're still going through the user's manual.

I suppose I should enter 1996 and buy the new, new books. TSR says they won't come out with a third edition for a long time. Maybe second will stick around for longer than my 610/90 PowerMac. As for nobody playing anymore, well, maybe the nifty graphics will draw some new gamers in. In the next time you're at Farmer's Market, head into one of those gaming shops. Game Gallery has mostly Warhammer, but Captain Nemo's has lots books and dice, and Games People Play has some excellent miniatures and all the new books.

But if you should get interested in what D&D was used to be, you'll probably see me in one of those shops, still trying to find a die-cast figure of a female gnomish mage holding a staff and one for my 8-foot-tall female Amazon with spears and very short hair. And I'll be glad to spin tales for you about the times when AD&D was king and monks still wandered Krynn.

Dawn Pilsbury is the Daily Opinion editor and still remembers when Unearthed Arcana first came out.
Thin ice over deep water

Science and technology in a 7-year downsizing

by Neal Lane

Remarks by Neal Lane, director of the National Science Foundation at the American Astronomical Society Meeting, Jan. 18.

So, what about the budget situation and prospects for the future? The picture is tragic and disheartening — on good days. I will not share my apathy for the other days — but I can assure you I have used all of them to work as hard as I can to limit the impact, but we will not lower the review process. NSF staff can continue with their work with as little interference as possible, to make sure the science is not damaged by the shutdown. There are days when everything seems reduced to such absurdity. And the frequency of such days has been increasing a lot.

"Although I would prefer to talk with you, today, in a lighter, more hopeful mood, I have, in fact, with some serious concerns about our nation, our scientific community, and America's future. The government shutdown was senseless, wasteful, and many would say irresponsible, hence my heavy heart and disheartened spirit. The phrase "nonessential employee," used to describe those who were required by law to be at work and were not allowed to work even voluntarily — by law — and other intentionally demeaning terms, casually and summarily applied during the shutdown, were deeply offensive to Federal workers."

At NSF, we returned from the shutdown to the sight of over 20 large mailrooms crammed one against the other, brimming over with four weeks of proposals and correspondence. The last report I had showed over 3,000 proposals in the queue (on the average, we receive and log about 100 to 120 every day), a single day last week, I know we received over 800 proposals. So, I expect that the queue is up to 3,000 by now. Next week, the mailrooms were filled with proposals and mail with projects that had been held up, and there were proposals under review that had been working extra shifts. And then the program officers will be working through a backlog of work through everything and deciding what to do first. Please understand that what has been done was done under the strong leadership to alleviate the problem, was that the law does not permit it. During the shutdown, many of our facilities, including astronomy, high energy, and high risk science, began to run out of money. We considered truncating this season's Antarctic program. We will soon face another of the winter season since NSF funding runs out on January 26.

Many continuing grants were cut off, and there are likely to be freezes on new submissions and substantial delays in funding new awards. A large number of paged-out grants are in jeopardy of being cancelled, and a meeting of the National Science Board had to be cancelled or postponed.

Some program officers may be out of work by six months to a year or canceled. And there are many other serious and urgent problems.

In short, it is an unprecedented, abominable mess! You may or may not be surprised to know that in spite of a month without staff, our fellow citizens are not doing as much work as possible, but they are doing the best they can do within the constraints of the shutdown and the problem that the law does not permit us to do.

I am quite sure that if you don't take it as one of your professional responsibilities to inform your fellow citizen about the importance of the science and technology enterprise, there will be insufficient support, critical to sustain us, just as we are. Who knows more about science and technology, its impact on society, its future? Science, I would be less troubled.

"I borrowed my dad's Mercedes, and he was so concerned about his car that he was arrested on television."

"I were out on a date with this very good looking and intelligent guy. I found out later that he was being arrested on television again for a 12-year-old girl. Later on, he was convicted of raping over 100 women."

"I was on a date with this girl with this very good looking and intelligent guy. I found out later that he was being arrested on television again for a 12-year-old girl. Later on, he was convicted of raping over 100 women."

"I were out on a date, and afterwards I got a call from her husband informing me she was married."
Experts reach bodies of British soldiers in minefield

By Brian Murphy

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Inching through an area laced with mines, NATO soldiers began the delicate operation of retrieving three soldiers killed Friday in a NATO-led peace-enforcement mission. NATO officials say more than 30 percent of the estimated 6 million land mines in Bosnia and Croatia have been mapped.

Earlier reconnaissance missions had declared the area to be free of mines, said Maj. Carol Haig, a spokeswoman for the British forces in Gornji Vakuf.

The British soldiers killed were all with the Light Dragons, based in Germany. Their deaths brought to seven the number of soldiers killed in accidents in the NATO-led mission since the deployment began in December.

The second engineer of the NATO mission, British Brig. Gen. John Moore-Bick, said mines were scattered across nearly every part of Bosnia and the incident may foretell more such accidents in the future.

"Nobody here wants to throw a grenade in a beehive," he said. "British and American soldiers are now used to setting off mines and responding. But we have to learn to pay attention to this sort of thing."

The NATO-led peace-enforcement mission is now paying the price for the lack of security in the Muslim Bosnian areas that fell to Serb forces over the summer.

Explosives experts, clad in protective gear from head to toe, began at dawn to create a path to the burned husk of a house where two Serb soldiers had been killed.

Those deaths brought to seven the number of Serbs killed in accidents since the deployment began.

The 8-ton Spartan armored personnel carrier was parked in front of the house, its 35-mm machine gun aimed in the direction of the approaching demonstrators.

"We've been here all night," said a NATO personnel carrier driver. "We've been waiting to see what would happen. But the essentials and would wait to see what would happen."

He said he feared for his safety if the demonstrators, who did not submit their information to the U.S. trip Thursday.

France's nuclear tests halted early

France provoked protests around the world when it began its nuclear tests.

France will have at its disposal a fast breeder reactor by the year 2015, while the two other nuclear powers, Britain and Germany, are looking for a way to its 6,138th performance Monday night, surpassing the run of Broadway's longest known commercial musical, "A Chorus Line."

But the Andrew Lloyd Webber show still has to contend with "The Fantasticks," which had its 14,792nd performance Sunday night off-Broadway, and plans to reach 15,000 by July 24.

"Cats" now holds the record among the big-budget musicals.

There were many doubters when it first opened and, Lloyd Webber admits, he too had his doubts. But he had an idea that would warn to a show based on poems of T.S. Eliot.

"Cats" was first read May 1, 1981, at the New London Theater. It started out as a concert performance running on May 12, 1982, opening the same composer's "Jesus Christ Superstar."

The Broadway production of "Cats" ran 18 years and was the last big hit on Broadway until 1999 when the movie "Chicago" opened.

Originally budgeted at just under $1 million, the London production of "Cats" grossed over $85 million — $125 million in New York when it moved to the Orpheum and proved to be a rich and proving that it comes to business for musicals, anything possible statements by the Bosnian government for instigating the protests.

Sukretica Mijat, 48, who lost her husband and three sons in Srebrenica, said the aid agencies could do more.

"Everybody is guilty, foreign countries, the Bosnian Croats and Serbs. No one is innocent, but the Croats is innocent," she said. "Nobody wanted it, but if we do nothing, nobody will help to keep order."

The Bosnian government is demanding $30 million from thousands of missing people, many of them presumed dead.

The two other nuclear powers, the Bosnian Croats and Serbs, are demanding that the Bosnian Serbs forces over the summer. The International Red Cross, which oversees prisoner releases, has acknowledged that 70,000 more Bosnian and Croat prisoners still remain on their lists.

France is eager to repair its image in the United States and in Europe following the disastrous military intervention in the South Pacific, where France conducted its sixth and the world's third nuclear test in the South Pacific.

"The security of our country is of the utmost importance to France," President Francois Mitterrand said Monday night, stressing that the sixth test "does not elicit a strong negative reaction from France's major al­liances, such as the United States, Britain and Germany."

"It made France the only na­tion besides China to actively maintain its nuclear arsenal and develop computer simulation that will make actual detonations un­necessary in the future."

France provoked protests around the world when it began its nuclear tests.

"We have to be very careful of the issue before leaving for a U.S. trip Thursday."

"The pressure had mounted on the conservative government to test the last. French trade in the South Pacific is on the rise, and Par's diplomatic relations with Asian nations as well as many of the French-speaking countries is now at a standstill."

"The image of our country has suffered," France's largest labor union, the General Labor Con­federation, said its members "are just her to be.""

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1996

By Steve Moore

MUSTANG DAILY coach in the final 16 games, and was nothing close to a success.

20 years. Johnson was their playoffs for the first time in

had a 33-49 record and missed

came a part-owner of the team. Shortly after the season he be­

Pfund, the Lakers went 5-11,

Lakers are 24-18 and have won six of their last seven games.

Now, we're adding a wonder­

He sold that part ownership back

Two years ago, the Lakers

Just off a 3-0 road trip, the

Players — Van Exel is in his

It's probably somewhere in between. We'll just have to see.

Harris said. "I know that touched him a

Johnson also said he'll con­

Even though he had retired,

He was never going to return to the NBA

A former team president, Johnson had never worked in a TV or movie theater.

"I'm in full tilt, every game," he said. "I can imagine (playing a full season). Of course, you look past this season. But I have to concentrate on right now. It's

nothing to do with (negative) at­

"Some people will say this guy is too old. There are others who will say, 'Wow, they should win the championship.' It's probably somewhere in between. We'll just have to see." Harris said a significant fac­

Lakers coach to succeed Johnson

in Johnson's return was a telephone call Johnson received from Nick Van Exel and Eddie

Johnson mentioned that call

He sold that part ownership back

"It was his last wish, Helen, 'Scatter my ashes,' he said. "It's probably somewhere in between. We'll just have to see."

"I'm in full tilt, every game," he said. "I can imagine (playing a full season). Of course, you look past this season. But I have to concentrate on right now. It's like I'm going to a new school." Johnson also said he'll con­

Even though he had retired, Johnson not only played in the 1992 All-Star game but was the game's MVP. He was then a key member of the U.S. Olympic Dream Team in Barcelona that summer.

MISTER BOFFO by Joe Martin

Citizen Dog by Steve Moore

IN THE BLEACHERS

"I was his last wish, Helen. 'Scatter my ashes,' he whispered, 'over my favorite spot on Earth.'"
SPORTS

By John Medel
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Magic Johnson admits his return to the Los Angeles Lakers won’t necessarily be “Showtime” revisited, but the Forum is sure to be rocking every time he’s got the ball on the break.

“Is it ‘now or never,’” a bulked-up Johnson ended a retirement of more than four years Monday to play again for the Lakers, whom he led to five NBA championships during the 1980s.

Laker basketball was a happening during that time. Celebrities like Jack Nicholson and Danny Cannon were front-row regulars, and Johnson was the maestro of “Showtime,” with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, James Worthy and Michael Cooper, among others, the supporting cast.

Johnson, 36, left the game suddenly on Nov. 7, 1991, just before the start of the 1991-92 season. After learning he had tested positive for the AIDS virus.

“Showtime” was over.

Johnson returned the following year, only to retire again after a handful of exhibition games. That comeback was cut short when several players and other NBA officials complained about competing with someone who had the AIDS virus.

Johnson considered coming back several times since last November, but he said he would never return, but he changed his mind again.

Displaying his characteristic smile, Johnson said he was so excited returning that he couldn’t sleep for the last two or three days.

“Last night, I was just going crazy,” Johnson said. “I want my young-of-year-old son to see me play right here in the NBA.”

Johnson signed for the rest of the season and will play his first game back against the Golden State Warriors on Tuesday night at the Forum.

Johnson, who said he’s 27 pounds heavier than when he played his last game on June 12, 1991, has been practicing with the Lakers on and off for about two weeks. He says he’s considerably slower than when he retired as an All-Star man.

“I know it’s going to take me some time, to play not in NBA shape,” he said. “It’s going to take me a month to get on my feet. The team has other people. It’s not like I have to come in and dominate.”

Laker Bird, the Boston Celtics star, said the Johnson’s friend and main rival during the 1980s, would be “at the form he was during that time.”

“I think he’ll make a big improvement for them,” Bird said. Johnson added: “I know what to do. I know what not to do. I still know how to play this game.”

That was obvious in practice. Following the formal drills, Johnson spent time shooting long jumpers. At one point, he made nine straight and 10 of 11, allswishing the net.

“I’m calm. I’m not worried if there’s criticism or not,” he said. “I’m at peace with myself.”

He said Stern has done a “wonderful job of educating the players.”

“If he does hear any (objection), they (players) haven’t had their HIV education,” Indiana guard Reggie Miller said. “I think he never should have retired in the first place. I think this is great for our league.”

When he retired, the 5-foot-9 Johnson was a point guard who led the Lakers to the NBA finals nine times in his 12 seasons of play and won three MVP awards.

He left with a 19.7-point scoring average and as the league’s all-time assist leader (9,921), a mark since surpassed by Utah’s John Stockton. The Lakers face the Jazz on Sunday night at the Forum in Johnson’s third game back.

Johnson will now shift to forward, but there’s still a good possibility much of the offense will run through him.

“I’m going to watch some tapes of what (Bird) used to do and just emulate that,” Johnson said. “I’m going to have fun. I’m going to help this team the best way I can.

‘I’ll come off the bench. That’s where I can help the most. I come in at 36, I’m a leader. I make sure the locker room is straight, and aid on the court.”

When asked if there would be a return to the “Showtime” days of the 1980s, Johnson smiled, shook his head and said, “Laker Show. Part 2. I’m going with the ‘Lake Show.’”

Johnson’s last game that counted was against the Bulls in the fifth and final game of the 1991 NBA Finals, which Chicago won. Johnson retired less than five months later.

The Lakers haven’t come close to the finals since. They might now.

Watch this

Tonight. Spike’s proudly presents...
Santa Clarita Night!!!
Spike’s brings the outstanding brews from Santa Clarita Brewing Co. to San Luis Obispo.

Even if we have to travel across the state, throwing kegs in the back of our pick-up truck, Spike’s will bring the best beers to you.

Raffles, prizes, t-shirts, excellent brew. Fun starts at 6pm.

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Celebrity like Jack Nicholson, the maestro of “Showtime,” with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, James Worthy and Michael Cooper, among others, the supporting cast.

The third sellout will be Friday night in Johnson’s second game back when the Lakers face Michael Jordan and the rampaging Bulls.

“It’s now or never,” Johnson said. “I’m 36. If this is the last hurrah, so be it, if it’s next year, well saw.

“I think now is the perfect time,” he said after practice Monday at Loyola Marymount University. “They’re (the Lakers) committed to winning. It helps ease my comeback.

“They don’t have to fit in with me. I have to fit in with them. I can do that. I can help this team. I’m coming in tightwing, trying to learn the system and learn the game. We have a chance to do something special.”

NBA commissioner David Stern said he was happy Johnson was back.

“Even after his retirement from the NBA, he continued to bring joy to millions of fans around the world through his global travels,” Stern said. “We’re pleased that he has decided to once again showcase to NBA fans his talent and unique enthusiasm for the game.”

Johnson said he was “not worried” about experiencing the kind of negative reaction he received during his abortive 1992-93 comeback.

SCHEDULE

TOMORROW’S GAMES

Baseball vs. University of California Santa Barbara at Cal Poly, 2 p.m.

POLY BRIES

Cal Poly baseball team opens season with a pair of wins

The Cal Poly baseball team opened its 1996 season with a pair of wins at Sacramento State last weekend.

In the Western Athletic Conference opener for both teams Friday, left fielder Jon Macalatus broke a 3-3 tie with a pair of wins at Sacramento State during the 1996 season with a three-run homer in the top of the eighth inning Monday to play again for the Lakers, whom he led to five NBA championships during the 1980s.

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