Rain or shine, students celebrated

By Val Arzola Daily Staff Writer

The rain may have postponed Black History Month’s closing ceremonies, but it couldn’t put a damper on the positive feeling from a month well done.

The ceremony was originally scheduled for Thursday at 11 a.m. in the U.U. Plaza, but was rescheduled for 4:10 p.m. at Backstage Pizza.

Students read poems, made brief speeches and socialized at the informal ceremony.

The month was aimed at educating people and showing appreciation for accomplishments of African-Americans, said Black Student Union President Chris Edwards, who warmed up the crowd by battling a move as Michael Jackson in Chumash Auditorium.

Another panel composed of African-American professors and faculty spoke to students about Black Professionals in Business and Industry.

Inside Today’s Mustang Daily

Affirmative action is the hot topic and CSU spokesman Scott Platin came to Cal Poly to discuss it.

See page 2

1996-97 elections: Applicants flood ASI before the deadline

By Travis Money

The applicants for next year’s ASI presidency have come in after the 11 a.m. deadline Thursday, Reid said to the ASI Board of Directors meeting Wednesday night.

Although applications are due by the deadline for elections, Reid agreed that there are always students who would like to have seen more time to complete their applications.

Romero, whose plea did not surprise Pomeroy, is because of a previous DUI charge two days before the accident. According to police, the accident occurred Feb. 16 at approximately 1 a.m. when Romero’s Bosco collided with a Honda Civic driven by 22-year-old Christopher John Ruble near Madonna Road and Royal Way.

Romero’s plea did not surprise Pomeroy, who is prosecuting the case.

Reid considered “serious” yesterday, one dropped out of the race and the other was late turning in his application.

In fact, seven applications came in after the 11 a.m. deadline Thursday. Reid wants Tony Torres, this year’s chair, to ask for a special meeting of the board on March 23 to discuss whether to allow the late applicants to be included in elections.

Paying for modem use — which turned ASI on its ear at Monday’s workshop — popped up as the major question to answer at Wednesday night’s board meeting.

June Gonzales, vice president for Student Affairs, brought with her the proposed modem fee — $81 per month for the students who want access — to the board as President Warren Baker’s representative.

With Gonzales came David Walsh, interim vice president for information technology services (ITS) and Norm Johnson, director of communications for ITS.

While the discussion was fast and heated, board members decided in an unofficial vote that they preferred staying with the current modem poll rather than moving to split pay and free modem pools — even if applicants flood ASI before the deadline
UC and CSU affirmative action policies contrasted in UU talk

By Justine Frederiksen
Daily Cal Mailer

"The fight will be very difficult, and be very nasty. I'm not going to be as foolish as to say, 'Trust me.'"

Scott Plotkin
Director of governmental affairs for CSU

uncan citizens will get to vote on an initiative repealing much of the affirmative action programs in the state this year. While this fact has ignited debate in the University of California system, many are wondering why the California State University (CSU) system has stayed out of the fire. Scott Plotkin, the director of governmental affairs for the CSU, came to answer Thursday afternoon in a talk in the University Union.

"The affirmative action (debate) is probably one of the most interesting topics of my career," Plotkin said. "Nothing has drawn as much host and fire as the debate about affirmative action."

Plotkin began by explaining the reasons behind the current backlash towards affirmative action in California.

The change of power in the California Legislature is one reason, he said. The newly-elected Republicans saw an opportunity to move some of their issues from the backburner to the forefront of the legislative agenda. Taps on their list is "repealing affirmative action." However, these factors kept affirmative action programs alive: "I hope you have a better vision for the future." First of all, there are basic differences between the governing boards of the CSU and the UC systems, he said. "We don't have anyone on the governing board who is railing that agenda," he said. "Our board is a much more representative group. No one has a particular agenda; it is not polarized."

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Although the battle is raging in the UCs, the CSUs have not joined in. "Why aren't we having the same kind of debate?" he asked. According to Plotkin, the political upheaval in the legislature, Wilson's campaigning for the presidency, and the relative stability in the Senate led to no definitive action being taken.

All of the bills aimed at repealing affirmative action went defeated in the Senate and Assembly. "We had to fight," Plotkin said.

Now, however, the CCRI has been launched — the California Civil Rights Initiative. The CCRI aims to amend the California Constitution to eliminate race, gender, color, ethnicity and national origin as criteria in public employment, education and contracting.

Plotkin outlined four main thresholds of affirmative action, the initiative could affect. If passed, this legislation could:

• Eliminate the present "overall objectives and planning" for affirmative action.
• Repeal preferential hiring of faculty and staff in higher education.
• Repeal preferential student admissions in higher education.
• Repeal program and merit programs for minority-owned businesses.

The CCRI's basic philosophy is "No discrimination, no preferential treatment. With which sounds good. And because of this, it is expected that it will pass."

However, three factors kept affirmative action programs alive: "I hope you have a better vision for the future." First of all, there are basic differences between the governing boards of the CSU and the UC systems, he said. "We don't have anyone on the governing board who is railing that agenda," he said. "Our board is a much more representative group. No one has a particular agenda; it is not polarized."

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"Where you will find it, is at those places that have impacted programs — and what is Cal Poly, but an impacted campus?"
The second biggest cost, at $200,000, is for improvements to the city storm drain system.

Wayne Peterson, a city engineer, said because hillsides above the city are so steep, rocks and debris are swept down the ditches, culverts, creeks and streets when it rains, wearing down the system.

"During last winter’s storms coming after the fire, the water acted like sandpaper coming down San Luis Creek," Peterson said.

Romero said the city has been having problems with the Army Corps of Engineers, the federal agency that has authority to authorize work on the water system.

"It used to be the corps were saviors," he said. "They came in and built walls to save cities from flooding. Their whole philosophy now is not to do projects, for everything to be natural. Our point to them is that we have a responsibility to repair," Romero said. "It may be years before we can satisfy their requirements. That’s frightening."

The city is trying to bargain the Corps down to $200,000 from the original request for a $500,000 study of the effects of the improvements the city has made to its water system, Romero said.

On the other end of the elemental spectrum from water, the fire chief asked for $120,000 for overtime pay.

"The overall size of our department is the same as 20 years ago," Neumann said. "And our duty has gone up dramatically. We now provide fire service to the university."

The city council reduced the firefighter staff, so the four stations in San Luis Obispo have only three firefighters per shift at most, and sometimes only two. Even so, a six-person staff is only at least three people are needed to effectively fight a fire, Neumann said. So when someone takes holiday time and the staff is reduced, someone has to go on overtime.

"The basic core problem is that we need four stations," Neumann said. "And it’s dangerous to run a station with two firefighters. You need three people. If you have two people, like we recently did at Ramona Street..."

"I’m not saying we lost a 62-year-old woman because it was a two-person team, she might have been dead when they got there. But it might have contributed."

The council sent the request to staff for discussion.

New computer software will also cost the city a pretty penny. When the council approved its 1996 budget, council members decided to invest in Microsoft 3.11. Now Windows ‘95 has usurped 3.11 and it will cost another $118,900, plus the $180,000 they already budgeted, for the upgrade.

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Hi. It's us again, the Sexuality Team. If you're just tuning in and don't know what this column is about, let us explain. Our team is part of Poor Health Education. We are writing this column to answer any sexuality questions you might have.

The topic on everyone's mind this week seems to be HIV. There are a few questions worth a few different ways. "Can you get HIV while kissing?" "Can saliva transmit the HIV virus?" We are writing this column to answer any sexuality questions you might have. So, after all that info did you get the answer? Yes, it is possible to get HIV from kissing. No, it's not because of saliva. And finally, "Would kissing be considered a no-risk activity?" NO, NO, NO. Kissing is, and should be considered, a low-risk activity. So that's it. We expect you to find this, or us, downstairs in the Health Center. Until next time.

SEX TALK is written by a student-run Sexuality Team.

LETTERS

Spit, dreams and blinkers

Editor,

What annoys me? Well, at the top of the list are drivers who refuse to use their blinker when changing lanes. I mean, how hard is it to flick the little switch? I would like to thank Jonathan Balcombe for his commentary on "Alternatives to dissection". I completely agree with his stand on dissection as a waste of life, not a gain for education.

Another voice for Kermy

Editor,

I would like to thank Jonathan Balcombe for his commentary on "Alternatives to dissection". I completely agree with his stand on dissection as a waste of life, not a gain for education.

Joseph M. Arnett, Editor in Chief

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BUDGET: Council approves a custom air handler to protect the ridgeline

From page 3

The council also allocated $25,000 for removal of the old steam boiler. "The boiler gave up the ghost last winter and we've put in the new boiler specified by the project engineer," Elliot said.

And City Hall's tidy appearance should remain intact — the council approved $15,000 for a custom air handler. A standard air handler would project 18 to 20 inches above the ridgeline and be visible from the street, Elliot said.

"This equipment is going to be around for 50 years," Elliot said. "I thought it was a small investment to hide it and preserve the appearance of City Hall."
SLO BUS SERVICE
PUBLIC HEARING

Are your transit needs not being met?

The SLO City Council wants to hear from you!!!

March 5th @ 7:00 pm
City Hall, 990 Palm Street
For Transportation Info: 541-BUSS

If you are unable to attend, please write the City of SLO
at: 955 Morro Street, SLO
93401, ATTN: Harry Watson
If you are unable to attend, please write the City of SLO
at: 955 Morro Street, SLO
93401, ATTN: Harry Watson
For those who plan to
attend this hearing, evening service will be available on SLO transit

An Interdisciplinary
General Education Course
SPRING 96

Perfoma 6214 CD
8MB RAM
10GB Hard Drive
Quad-spin CD-ROM
75MHz PPC 603
Software Included
Keyboard Included

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Add $179.00
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$500.00 on select bundles end March 17th

Apple Days '96
CAL POLY

El Corral Bookstore

WRESTLING
From page 8

But Miller may still have trouble winning because he doesn't have much experience against his opponents. With a 4-4 season record, he has only wrestled in three dual meets.

Sophomore Dan Long has also been struck by the team's ring of injuries, but Cowell said he will be wrestling this weekend.

Long's 15-10 record could help him place in the tournament, but he will be going up against two ranked Pac-10 wrestlers that he has already lost to this season — No. 1 Steve St. John from Arizona State and No. 3 Jeremy Ensrud from Oregon.

In the 142-pound weight class Cal Poly has a dangerous weapon.

Sophomore Bobby Bellamy, rated in the top four in the Pac-10, has a good chance of leaving with a medal and is very capable of winning, Cowell said.

Bellamy's weight class has two ranked wrestlers that he has yet faced and he is 1-1 against the No. 1 and No. 4 in the Pac-10.

Freshman David Wells may be wrestling this weekend in the 150-pound weight class if he recovers from an injured ankle he suffered during his challenge match for the team spot against senior Marcial Cruz.

If Wells is unable to wrestle, Cruz may face two top-ranked opponents that he has lost to during the season — Stanford's Tod Surmon, ranked third in the nation, beat Cruz in the dual meet, 10-4, and Oregon's Scott Norton, No. 4 in the nation, beat Cruz, 10-5. But Cowell said the weight class is up for grabs.

Junior Jason Protz, 5-7 in dual meets, is a possible contender in the 150-pound weight class. Pratt beat CSU Bakersfield's Mickey Ritter last week, but doesn't have much experience in the division this year.

"I don't know if it will give him much respect," Cowell said.

Due to the loss of Miller in the 167-pound weight class, senior Dan Nessingh takes the spot in what is probably the hardest weight class in the division.

"It'll be a good test for him," Cowell said.

Adding to the list of injured wrestlers is freshman Mike French at 177 pounds. He is recovering from a banged up rib, but will still wrestle this weekend. His weight class includes Oregon State's Les Gutches who has won his last 57 matches.

Wrestling at the 190-pound weight class is junior Scott Adamo, with an 11-12 season record.

"Adams could be in the finals easily, or not do anything at all," Cowell said. "It depends on what Scotty will see that day."

Freshman Eric Rodriguez will wrestle at a weight class that is wide open, Cowell said. Rodriguez pinned two of the top four wrestlers in the 275-pound weight class, but lost to Boise State's Shawn Stipich and Bakersfield's Stephen Neal in dual-meet competition.

The Pac-10 Championships will be held at CSU Bakersfield on March 2 at 1 p.m.
BASKETBALL: Cal Poly will face AWC fourth-seed Sac State Friday

From page 8

making them the No. 1 seed.

The Mustangs may be in for a more of a game than they first imagined against Sacramento State, who is 0-2 against Cal Poly.

The Hornets have won their last three regular-season games with huge upsets over Southern Utah, Northridge and Northern California. Sacramento State pulled out last time they met on Feb. 3. "When they've gotten through our press, they've had some monstrous dunks," Schneider said.

The Mustangs may be in for a more of a game than they first imagined against Sacramento State, who is 0-2 against Cal Poly

Arizona, all teams who have given the Mustangs some trouble during the season.

I've said all year that they've got talent," Schneider said, with memories of some big plays Sac State pulled out last time they met.

Cal Poly junior guard Shanita Craig said Southern Utah still sits in the back of his head, and he can't help but think about a possible championship rematch against the Thunderbirds.

Tipoff against Sac State is at 7 p.m. in the Northridge Matadome.

A win over Sac State will place the Mustangs against the winner of the Northridge and Southern Utah game.

The AWC championship game will be on Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Mustangs host four-way meet

By Allison Levitt
Pdly Staff Writer

The Cal Poly track team will have home field advantage this weekend as it takes Fresno State, Stanford, and Sacramento State, on Saturday morning at the Cal Poly field.

Junior Nikki Shaw, who won the 1500 last weekend, believes that each event will play a key role in the Mustangs' success this weekend.

"Fresno and Stanford have always had strong teams, so every point we score will be crucial," Malnekoff said.

One team member to watch is junior transfer Sean Brown. Last weekend, he not only tied his personal best, but also won the men's pole vault. Brown is hoping to not only beat his personal best of 17' but also to break the school record of 18' 10".

"If the weather is warm I should be able to not only qualify for nationals, but also break the record," Brown said. "One jump will do both."

Last weekend, the Mustangs beat the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Cal State Bakersfield with an impressive win.

CLASSIFIED

Campus Clubs
St. Patricks **Dance**
Elks Lodge
March 9th, Sat
5:30-6:00 PM
Elks Lodge
Prerace Party
Ticket Sales Mon-Thurs.
10-2 at the Student Union
Half Price ticket
1/2 Price door

Annnouncements
It's the
WOW BOOTH!
Check us out in the DU Plaza
for Info on Spring Traveling 96
NO on 199

ORDER OF OMEGA
INITIATION
Sunday, March 3
11:00 PM
Professional Dress Required

Theta soccer
rules! Good
luck on
Saturday
at 2!!!

Funnies

CITIZEN DOG

BY MARK O'HARE

I'M AND I'VE CONVINCED THAT DOWNTOWN MIAMI, FL IMP.

IN THE BLEACHERS

BY Steve Moore

"Oh, wow. This is so typical ... He's up there, I can see him. My God, that's the nose, OK? But he won't take it."

MISTER BOFFO

by Joe Martin

"YOU NICKNAME FROM EARLY RABEY STICK"
SPORTS

Hitting the road one last time...

The Cal Poly basketball teams head into their final stretch of season play for the American West Conference tournament this weekend in Northridge.

By Matt Berger
Daily Slop Window

Four months ago an eager, young gang of wrestlers banned together with questions and curiosities. Their futures were undiscovered and unforeseen — hidden behind the many matches awaiting them in the upcoming season. Now, it's all behind them.

The Cal Poly wrestling team finished its dual-meet season 10-6, with a 5-3 record in the Pacific 10-10. "This is the year we have overcome our potential," said Head Coach Lennis Cowell.

The Mustangs wrestled intensively manna-a-man to prepare themselves for the tough matches they knew they would have with nationally-ranked teams in the Pac-10. "We all help each other out on the mat," said freshman Mark Perryman one month ago, a wrestler who has proven to be one of the team's strongest competitors. "We're all going to learn from each other."

And learn they did. But now the dual-meet season is over and what lies ahead is the Pac-10 Championships.

This weekend, the Mustangs return to the Bakersfield arena to compete in the Pac-10 Championships.

The championships will be the end of the road for some, but for others it will be the ticket to the NCAA championships or even an All-American award.

If the Mustangs keep the momentum gained from their underdog season, the team could easily find themselves wrestling to the NCAA. But Cal Poly will be better prepared by the unceasing injuries to some of its most important wrestlers who will be sitting out.

"It just seems to be very poor timing," Cowell said about the injuries. "We aren't happy with the officiating of USD's West Coast Conference (WCC) referees, and openly voiced his displeasure after the game.

Schneider vowed, after the game, to never return to play a WCC team on the road again because he was completely fed up with the referees.

He added that he has had trouble in the past with road trips to WCC schools such as St. Mary's and Loyola Marymount.

One day later, however, he put more thought into his words. "I'm not allowed to comment on the officiating," Schneider said and then faded to silence.

During the USD game, Schneider snagged his second technical in a week for a slight disagreement with the officials.

But the technical fouls and losses are now in the past.

The Mustangs have a chance to put a nice, pretty bow on their landmark season with wins in the American West Conference Tournament which concludes at Cal State Northridge.

The four-team tournament will give Cal Poly a chance to build on its honors after winning the regular-season championship and becoming the most-improved Division I team in the nation.

The Mustangs have a 15-12 record and a 7-3 WAC record.

By Teresa Gelardi
Daily Slop Writer

Junior Jeremiah Miller is one of many Mustangs not wrestling this weekend / Daily photo by Dawn Kolmar

Junior Jeremiah Miller is one of many Mustangs not wrestling this weekend / Daily photo by Dawn Kolmar

MUSTANG DAILY