Trustees clear way for Poly Plan

$45 fee increase likely to begin fall quarter; Poly Plan final draft to be considered in June

By Steve Enders
Daily News

The California State University Board of Trustees unanimously passed a resolution Wednesday allowing CSU schools to increase student fees.

The vote means Cal Poly can go ahead with its final presentation of the poly plan in early June, according to Linda Dalton, interim vice president of academic resources.

Upon hearing the news, Dalton exclaimed, "That's terrific!"

"Before this vote, there were no rules authorizing (Cal Poly) to go ahead with a fee increase," she said. "Now the rules are in place and we can go ahead with the presentation of the plan."

The trustees are looking toward Cal Poly as a model for the university, leading the way in differential fee programs with the Poly Plan, according to President Warren Baker.

Wednesday's decision comes a day after the trustees' Finance Committee authorized CSU Chancellor Barry Mattz to let campuses increase fees.

Dan Howard Greene, executive assistant to president Baker, said the trustees' final vote will give flexibility to campuses to provide for specific programs.

"It provides us with a clear understanding of what we need to do to present the plan," he said.

At last Friday's Poly Plan Steering Committee meeting, President Baker said he expects to present the final draft of the plan within a week to 10 days of the trustees' approval.

Dalton wasn't sure of the timetable but said "early June" is when the Committee is looking to present the plan to the trustees.

If the trustees approve the plan in June, the first wave of fee increases will hit students' wallets.

See TRUSTEES page 3

Craft Center throws an all nighter

What would you do with a ton of clay?

The management and staff at the ASI Craft Center have come up with a plan: Throwfest '96, an all night 24-hour marathon of throwing clay.

"There's so many lame 24-hour marathons that we thought we'd do a cool one," Campos said.

"There are 24 hours of throwing clay," said Mike Campos, Craft Center Manager and architecture senior. "Our goal is to throw it all. It's open to everyone: beginners, experts, intermediate, happy people, sad people, everybody."

"The Craft Center was able to throw it all," Campos said.

"Twenty-four hours of throwing and 2,000 pounds of clay," said Mike Campos, Craft Center Manager and architecture senior. "Our goal is to throw it all. It's open to everyone: beginners, experts, intermediate, happy people, sad people, everybody."

"The Craft Center was able to throw it all," Campos said.

"There has been a lot of response from students and local schools because of the publicity aimed at a wide variety of participants, Campos said.

"We wanted to make it an event for everyone in the community. It's an event for everyone in the community, so it wasn't just the same old routine of people. We want to bring everybody here to try pottery out," Palazzo said.

The Craft Center was able to reach the community by associating the event with local art programs, specifically, the San Luis Obispo Arts Center downtown.

The Arts Center is a non-profit gallery that exhibits works of local community artists and teaches classes to children.

The marathon will raise

See CLAY page 6

Train arrives carrying peace and good will

By Sandra Mangold
Daily News Writer

Unlike most trains that roll into the San Luis Obispo railroad station, the 'Tuesday afternoon Coast Starlight arrived full of hope for peace, social justice and good will.

Thirteen representatives from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) were on the Amtrak train, declaring it an official "Great Day Peace Train" when they boarded it in Monterey.

The national WILPF office, based in Philadelphia, sponsored the West Coast peace train, which started in Seattle on May 4. After stopping in 11 cities for local activities and demonstrations, the train plans to end in Los Angeles on May 19.

"We are just trying to bring the issues of military spending to the people," said Carol Moore, a coordinator for the national WILPF office and peace train passenger.

"We want to remind people that 14 percent of the federal budget goes to military spending and corporate welfare while only about 2 percent goes to needy people," she said.

Several other community members spoke at the welcoming event, including representatives from the Mothers for Peace, the San Luis Obispo chapter of the National Organization for Women and the Universalist Unitarian Fellowship in San Luis Obispo.

See PEACE page 8

Craft Center Assistant Manager Anthony Palazzo came up with the idea to hold a marathon of throwing clay. "The Craft Center was able to throw it all," Campos said.

They have been a lot of response from students and local schools because of the publicity aimed at a wide variety of participants, Campos said.

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City Council kicks ordinance around, makes little headway

By Matt Lazier
This sat night

The City Council did not come to any final consensus Tuesday evening in establishing a distance that buildings must be set back from creeks in the city.

Council members did show support for an ordinance that more closely resembles the current setback policy, calling for all new structures to be "generally set back at least 20 feet" from creek banks. According to the council staff report, the city's general plan calls for an ordinance to take the place of this policy.

The council, which rejected the staff's original draft ordinance at the April 16 meeting, did agree on how to direct city staff to proceed. Mayor Allen Settle abstained from the discussion because of a conflict of interest.

In addition, the council directed staff to incorporate some of the recommendations presented by citizens in an alternate proposal at the April 16 meeting.

The residents submitted the proposal out of concern that the council's original ordinance provided too many chances for property owners to claim exceptions.

"Twenty feet should be the target (setback) here, understanding that there will be cases where we need to look closer," Roalman said. "But it needs to not be wishy-washy. That's why we're writing an ordinance."

Once it is written, the new draft ordinance will be presented in another public hearing so that residents may address their concerns to the city council.

According to the staff report, an ordinance would make recourse against violators of the setbacks much easier. In addition, it sends a message to the community that creeks are a priority in San Luis Obispo.

The canisters have been blamed for at least one fire on an airplane, in 1986. And the FAA has given special attention because of a conflict of interest.

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"I'm concerned that we need to have maximum flexibility," Romero said. "I'm concerned that we don't constrict what can be done in an attractive manner."

Council member Bill Roalman disagreed, saying that the principle of an ordinance required concrete aspects.

"That's what the administration wants," Romero said. "We're discussing an ordinance."

Promotion is under discussion by the council to answer the residents' concern.

The council's original ordinance called for 20-foot setbacks from creeks on developed land and 50-foot setbacks on undeveloped property.

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TRUSTEES: CSU Trustees unanimously approved a fee ceiling at meeting

From page 1

lets this fall.
With a fee raise of $45 per quarter during the 1996-97 school year, Cal Poly expects to raise about $2 million, which will improve technology and equipment on campus.

According to the plan, fees will increase by $80 per quarter during the 1997-98 school year and will peak at $120 per quarter in 1998-99.

Besides fee increases, an increase in private donations and a redirection of state revenue will fund improvements made by the Poly Plan.

In a recent student survey conducted by the Steering Committee, 75 percent of those polled said they support the goals and objectives of the plan, including a fee increase.

The steering committee expects to use the survey results as a reaffirmation of student support for the plan when it makes its final presentation to the trustees.

Trustees also approved a policy that would set limits on the fees each of the state campuses can impose on students in addition to tuition, the Associated Press reported.

In addition to paying $1,584 in annual tuition, CSU students must also pay other mandatory fees charged by campuses that can raise the total cost of attending university by hundreds of dollars.

At Cal Poly students pay $468 a year for items such as health services, the student body center and ASI. Fees range from a high of $486 at CSU-Sonoma to a low of $116 at CSU-San Marcos.

Fees have increased as CSU revenues from the state general fund have decreased over the years.

The CSU Board of Trustees unanimously approved the fee cap on Wednesday, said Karen Newell Young, a spokeswoman in the chancellor's office.

The process by which fees are created and increased has varied widely for the 22 campuses in the 326,000-student CSU system. Wednesday's policy vote will make the process more uniform, Young said.

Under the new policy, all campus fees, as well as tuition, would be capped at one-third the total cost of education. While no campus has reached the cap, that would mean fees could increase to a total of $2,949.

Each campus would have to create local financial aid programs to help low-income students pay the campus fees.

Munitz said the board does not intend to raise fees to reach that cap but felt a limit was necessary.

Each campus would be required to establish a fee advisory committee of mostly students that would give students a say in any increases or new fees.

A student vote on new fees or fee increases also would be required unless the president of the campus finds a better way to get student input.

California State Student Association representatives said the policy is an improvement but felt that a student vote on all fee changes should be mandatory, that the fee committees' opinion should be binding, and that students should chair each committee rather than have the university presidents appoint the chairs.

From page 2

from the Miami airport.
The generators are classified as hazardous materials. On Wednesday, federal officials said ValuJet was not authorized to transport such materials.

The crew of the DC-9 reported smoke in the cockpit and cabin before the plane went down. And investigators said Wednesday that they found soot-covered pieces of the airliner's floor and fire damage on one side of a beam that was clean on the other, indicating the possibility of a fire or explosion in the cargo compartment that runs underneath the passenger section.

The accidental triggering of an oxygen generator in the cargo hold of an empty American Trans Air DC-10 was blamed for a fire that destroyed the plane at Chicago's O'Hare Airport on Aug. 10, 1986.

NTSB investigators believe a mechanic inadvertently triggered one of the stored devices, and it grew hot enough to ignite seats and aircraft oil stored in the cargo compartment. Fire raced through the plane in less than 30 minutes.

The canisters are used in many Boeing jets, the DC-10, the L-1011 and some Airbus models to provide emergency oxygen.

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Juan Palomo

Religion and Beliefs writer for the Austin American-Statesman, Austin, Texas

"Can a Highly Opinionated Liberal Gay Latino Atheist Be a Successful Religion Writer for a Southern Metropolitan Daily Newspaper?"

Tuesday evening, May 21, at 7:00 p.m.
Building 52, Room E27.
The public is invited.


Mr. Palomo holds an M.A. in Journalism and Public Affairs from the American University in Washington, D.C., and a B.S. in Art Education from Southwest Texas University.


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An alarming statistic
by Lorri Sulpzio
Women do not usually come to mind when someone mentions the word of the month, most people think of race or ethnicity, not gender. However, Lorri Sulpzio, along with the faculty, women are a minority There are 495 male, tenure-track professors and 94 female, tenure-track professors. Even that, 495 men, 94 women, that statistic is not misread, misinterpreted or even a type-o. It is in fact a catastrophe.

Why does it matter?
Racism is no longer defined by diversity. As students read not only from the texts we teach, but from the perspective of the teachers. Different perspectives from different individuals are useful and beneficial to fully understand the world. Teachers who have the ability to relate to students with different obstacles to overcome than their male counterparts. Women have made the distinction, as do men, that they bring to an institution of higher education. However, with only male professors, every class becomes a limited opportunity — a limited education.

Female students deserve to have mothers — other successful, educated women to look up to and admire. Unfortunately, there has to be a female faculty for this to occur. Consider the college of agriculture which has a fairly even proportion of male to female students, approximately 50/50. The faculty in that department, however, is 89 men to 14 women. This college offers an even number of students has only 13 percent women students. What message does this send to the female agriculture students? I'm not sure this would encourage female applications or give them hope for success if only 14 of their professors are female. Might this suggest that women are not capable of holding a high position in the field of agriculture? Is this what we want to teach female students of Cal Poly? I hope not.

In order to achieve a world everywhere which has equal opportunity, everyone needs to be given equal opportunity. I am not sure this is the case at Cal Poly. At least maybe not for women.

In a recent interview with an associate dean, it has been suggested that Cal Poly has tried to hire women, but just aren't any in these departments. A faculty member shared that the current male professors are tenured and cannot just be removed to incorporate women. It has also been noticed that a little percent of the male tenured professors are older and women were not as recently hired as those in the 60s and 70s so it makes sense to have few women. Are these good excuses for the disparity to be maintained? What about gender bias?

There must be something for Cal Poly to do. I am not willing to settle for excuses that keep women in the minority.

I would like to invite you all to attend a Culture Talk today in University Union room 220 to discuss the status of women at Cal Poly. This talk is sponsored by the National Organization for Women. NOW encourages all people to attend and voice their opinions on this issue.

Why does it matter?
I want to say to the female students of Cal Poly? I hope not.

An alarming statistic

"What
come to Mental Health.
I was instructed to sit in a rusty metal chair and handed a pen. Several sheets of paper were in front of me, before, of which I was required to most uncaringly fill out in maximum detail. When I completed the paperwork, several measurements were taken—my heart rate, my blood pressure, my weight, all by people whose expressions seemed to say, "Darn kid, making me do my JOB!" Someone removed my keys and I was sent to bed. For the rest of the night I lay upon an hard, seasoned straw stuffed into a wooden box, in a wide, empty room, with only a few of my eyes. My heart kept beating faster. My breath thickened. I wanted to scream but could only continue crying. I could not breathe.

When morning finally came, and light dripped through the window across my window, I gathered my composure as best I could and re-entered the main room of the facility. Several people were sitting among chairs in one corner of the room, all their faces either red from crying or blank from medication. Later I went to see the receptionist for some sense of security. But all I found was another uncaring face on a person speedily doing a job he didn't want to do. "SO YOU WANT TO KILL YOURSELF?" he said to begin our "discussion." "YOU WANT TO DIE, HUH?! WHY?! "SO YOU WANT TO KILL YOURSELF?" he said to begin our "discussion." "YOU WANT TO DIE, HUH?! WHY?!

When the state deems that people are unfit to remain in a normal, functioning society due to mental instability, it seems that almost every week the news reports of another clinic being investigated for human rights violations. But does it really counter the negativity I endured and that I witnessed with my own eyes? I can sit here and swear to you all that I never held any desire to die. I can assert my "stability" and my "well being," but demanding an apology for a misunderstanding that forced me to endure a clininc prison. But, again, the assumption of people's sanity, whatever that entails, cannot be forced upon an individual.

This problem is rampant and widespread. It seems that almost every week the news reports of another clinic being investigated for human rights violations. But does it really counter the negativity I endured and that I witnessed with my own eyes? I can sit here and swear to you all that I never held any desire to die. I can assert my "stability" and my "well being," but demanding an apology for a misunderstanding that forced me to endure a clininc prison. But, again, the assumption of people's sanity, whatever that entails, cannot be forced upon an individual.

My point is definitely not that people do not need help. Nor that that notion is completely unfounded. It is not just a problem for those few. It is the problem of all people. It is the problem of those few who are hidden away. The help of a chosen few who are truly alone, regardless of how they got there. The help of a chosen few who are truly alone, regardless of how they got there.

Let me know if you are interested in following my story and being a part of the University Union. I am interested in finding out how I can help others, especially those who are living in mental institutions. Let me know that my words are not falling on deaf ears. Let me know that maybe, just maybe, I can do more for people who are always getting less.
They looked like little kids building a fort, feverishly working to construct something that would provide them with hours of entertainment.

There was one problem — these were adults, not kids, and instead of couch cushions and chairs, they used speakers and amps.

But that does not mean they didn't enjoy their labor. For them, it was a special day. It was the first time in almost five months that the reunited band members faced their fans and played their hearts out.

Who were these adults with the enthusiasm of children? Itchy McGurk, the band that has entertained Cal Poly students at many U.U. hours.

What better way to kick off its comeback than in front of its biggest fans? It was obvious to everyone that Itchy McGurk's members knew what they were doing and were thrilled to be doing it again.

See Band / Page B4

By Shan Coffenberry
Daily Staff Writer
Summer release 'Twister' gains momentum through special effects that storms over lack of characters, plot

"Twister" is the quintessential summer film — short on plot, but long on action. Having said all that, I still think "Twister" is a movie worth seeing. Who cares about plot and characters when you have... tornado scenes were convincing enough to have several audience members gripping their armrests just for good measure. Did the crowd hold back when it came to finding out what it really wanted to know? Brown wandered through the audiorium Donahue-style with a wireless microphone, and Carolla stood before the crowd answering questions from the young audience members about oral sex and his own bodily functions. "I love this town," Carolla said sarcastically to the crowd, mocking the typical cut-out-of-town rock-star banter. "Los Angeles...all those assholes in a rush." While the tall, clean-cut talk show host played to the audience's curiosity, representatives from the AIDS Support Network passed out condoms and red-ribbon stickers to the audience.

"This is very important because it not only reaches out to a high-risk age group, but it also raises money," said Susan Hughes, executive director of AIDS Support Network. "The band and three-year Polypalooza veterans, Itchy McGuirk, started out the musical part of the show a little before noon as people began to make

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**Summer release ‘Twister’ gains momentum through special effects that storms over lack of characters, plot.**

**Psycho Rain was just one of several bands that performed for big crowds at Polypalooza. Profits from the event will go to the AIDS Support Network / Daily photo by Maureen McDowell**

"I would say it’s young women experimenting with lesbianism and threesomes. That’s the biggest trend," Carolla said. "We never get those calls from guys. We get a lot of pot-smoking questions, too." Carolla said people calling in from L.A. tend to be the sickest, while San Luis Obispo and the rest of the country follow its lead. "It’s like fashion," Carolla said. This is very important because it not only reaches out to a high-risk age group, but it also raises money," said Susan Hughes, executive director of AIDS Support Network. "The band and three-year Polypalooza veterans, Itchy McGuirk, started out the musical part of the show a little before noon as people began to make

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**My Head brings rock/medial to SLO**

**By Jennifer English**

Daily Student Writer

The lead singer of the band My Head calls the sound "California Acid Rock." Their first album, "Endless Bummer," is likened to a '90s version of Grand Funk Railroad influenced by Pearl Jam and fellow Los Angeles area musicians Beck. It features heavy, Black Sabbath-like drums and gritty vocals that are often buried deep beneath the guitar and bass.

Adam Siegel, singer/songwriter and lead guitarist for the group, said they will show off a more energetic rock-based side of their music when they play live at SLO Brew on May 16.

"Our album has a more '90s feel than our live show," Siegel said. "We love the crowd reaction and the energy we get from each other, pushing ourselves to have fun."

Siegel will be joined at SLO Brew by band members Dave Silva on bass and Greg Saenz on drums.

All the band members have been together since 1992, when Siegel and Saenz first joined My Head to join Silva, who was looking for a group after a stint in Bad Radio, a group that included Eddie Vedder.

The band signed with Capital in 1993 after a brief period on a smaller label that went bankrupt. Siegel said an industry executive from Capitol heard about the group, which rarely played live, in a local trade magazine.

My Head has played in SLO before, at a Din Pedals release party at the Fortress last month. This time, they will be part of a show that includes Geffen recording artist, Hog.

"Our sounds don't match up," Siegel said, "but we've just playing with what we got."

Tim Reed, promoter for Backbumer Productions, said he chose to bring My Head to SLO Brew because they were touring plenty of parking

"We work well together," Siegel said. "We'll keep together as long as Capitol will have us."
Professor, student to receive art award at Art$alute Gala

By Michelle Castillo
July 18, 1996

Two Cal Poly artists will be honored at the ninth annual Art$alute Gala. The Cal Poly Arts annual fund-raising dinner and auction will take place Saturday, May 18, at 6 p.m., in Chumash Auditorium.

Music Professor Craig Russell has been selected to receive the 1996 President's Art Award. According to a press release, President Baker has chosen Russell for his outstanding musicianship, teaching and dedication to humanity. "I'm elated and honored considering the previous recipients (Warren Sinsheimer, III and Cliff Swanson)," Russell said. "I'm excited to be part of their company."

Russell was enthusiastic as he spoke highly of Cal Poly's faculty and students. "Any teacher will tell you that they can make more money elsewhere, but I love to teach. "I can't believe they pay me to do this."

Barretto is from San Mateo and serves as art director of Cultures magazine, a publication of the university's Multicultural Programs and Services, as well as art director for Mustang Daily. "I was advised not to take on both jobs," he said. "But I've learned that taking risks is really important and most beneficial."

"Barretto's work can be seen weekly on the cover of the arts and entertainment insert every Thursday in the Daily. "It's weird to know that your work gets thrown away at the end of the day."

Cal Poly Arts annual fund-raising dinner and auction will take place Saturday, May 18, at 6 p.m., in Chumash Auditorium. Itchy McGUIrK now has been scheduled for only a few performances. "You can't just pick up where you left off," Kafoury said. The Wildflower Triathlon was their first big gig, followed by PolyPalooza on May 11. They knew they were lucky to get on the bill because they just came back into the picture. "It was nice of (Truth About Seafood) to let us play at Wildflower," Groshart said. "They're really good people, and it was fun to play with them.

In the four years they have played at Wildflower, they have never had a better crowd. Unlike the usual Wildflower crowd, this one was mellow and did not get out of hand. "They never turned off the power, so we just kept playing," Groshart said. "We didn't stop until almost 11 p.m."

Friday, May 17

• Take Back the Night presents Jill Knight at Activity Hour in the University Union Plaza at 11 a.m. No cover.
• Big plays after the opening act, My Head, at SLO Brew at 9:30, $3 cover.

• Monty Mills performs at McLa­ tock's Saloon at 10. No cover.

• Shooter Boy and the Natural Blues plays at Mother's Tavern, $3 cover.

• The Vagabund performs jazz for Frog and Peach at 8. No cover.

Saturday, May 18

• Kaks al Belhaj celebrates heart and soul through dance at the Jewel of India Restaurant at 7 and 8:30.

• Grove Turtle gives their rock to SLO Brew at 9:30. No cover.

• The Danconi Castillo Quartet brings in "Jazz of the '90s" to Oss Street Susha at 9. $3 cover.

• Big Daddy Blues Band plays at Mother's Tavern. $3 cover.

• Renegades deliver acoustic blues and rock to Frog and Peach at 9. No cover.

• Mighty Beat Vonni and Autopilot perform alternative to Nectar of the Bean at 6. No cover.

Highlights

• The San Luis Obispo County Youth Symphony, Junior Strings Ensemble and Preparatory String will present their Spring Concert on Sunday, May 19 in Saint Timothy's Church in Moro Bay. The public is invited to the final performance at 3 p.m. Call 54-MUSIC for more information.

• The Claire Garvin Big Band plays at Mother's Tavern on May 19 from 4 to 7 p.m. No cover.

Calendar

Thursday, May 16

• Take Back the Night presents Jill Knight at Activity Hour in the University Union Plaza at 11 a.m. No cover.

• Big plays after the opening act, My Head, at SLO Brew at 9:30, $3 cover.

• The Guy Budd Band brings local blues to Boo Boo Records at 6 p.m. No cover.

• K. Bohler and the Kingpins plays at Mother's Tavern. $3 cover.

• Keith Forest combines all musical styles for Frog and Peach at 8. No cover.

Friday, May 17

• Michael DeGraffen-Reid gives acoustic originals to Julianne Cafe at 8. No cover.

• Northum Lyghts will rock SLO Brew at 9:30 p.m. No cover.

• The Go' Bud Band brings local blues to Boo Boo Records at 6 p.m. No cover.

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DOLE: Both parties hope Dole's departure will reduce partisan tensions

From page 1

Clinton said he told his troops: "We just have to stay on track." Yet for the first time in months, there was an obvious sense of nervousness and uncertainty in the Clinton camp. Several White House advisers privately conceded Dole was likely to benefit, at least in the short term.

If Dole begins to narrow Clinton's lead, White House aides

In that job, he served as a loyal lieutenant to GOP Presidents Reagan and Bush — even when he disagreed with them — and has been a constant thorn in Clinton's side since the Democrat took office three years ago.

Kansas GOP Gov. Bill Graves will appoint a successor; fresh­man GOP Rep. Sam Brownback immediately said he was inter­ested.

With Dole stepping down, there was a distinct possibility of a fight to succeed him as majority leader. Majority Whip Trent Lott of Mississippi was considered the favorite, but he has begged more senior GOP senators to win that post in 1995 and could face a challenge.

Senators in both parties voiced hope that Dole's departure would reduce partisan ten­sions in the Senate, where virtually every piece of legislation has been clouded by presidential politics. Yet there was no im­mediate indication Dole's departure alone would end the logjam over GOP proposals to cut gas taxes, or Democratic efforts to raise the minimum wage.

If nothing else, strategists in both parties suggested Dole's move could help him shake off the negative public view of House Speaker Newt Gingrich, though not all who raised this point cast it in a favorable light.
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**MISTER BOFFO**

by Joe Martin

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**CITIZEN DOG**

by MARK O'HARE

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**IN THE BLEACHERS**

by Steve Moore

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"Mom! Can my role model stay for dinner? He's suspended for three games and has nowhere to go."
Pygmy Mammoth skeleton returns to Santa Barbara

Associated Press

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — The most complete skeleton of a prehistoric pygmy mammoth ever found has come home. Or close to it.

The skeleton of the pony-sized animal, found off the coast on Santa Rosa Island in a bed of sand and calcium carbonate, has been brought to the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

Geologist Larry Agenbroad, America’s leading mammoth expert, personally drove the bones to Santa Barbara from the Mammoth Site, a private research center in Hot Springs, S.D.

“I felt very responsible,” Agenbroad said. “It is the only one in the world, and I didn’t want it to get damaged.”

The remains, Agenbroad believes, are those of a 49-year-old male who after he died was quickly buried under a sand dune before condors or other scavengers could scatter the bones.

“It’s remarkable how the bones were held in position by hide or sinew until covered by sand,” Agenbroad said. “From a mammoth hunter’s perspective, this is tremendously exciting.”

PEACE

From page 1

local activists on their enthusiasm and giving the event motto a local flavor.

“It will be a great day when San Luis Obispo has a WILPF chapter to help you in your work,” she said with a broad smile.

Although the train was an hour-and-a-half late, the spirits of the more than 20 people waiting to greet the riders were not dampened. Lively discussions, friendly chatter and warm greetings filled the sunny cement train platform.

Many held up cardboard signs, paper plates with painted peace symbols and colorful banners.

Jill Zemek, an Arroyo Grande resident involved with the Mothers for Peace, brought her two children along.

“I always bring them with me,” Zemek said. “And this is an important event because it is another spark toward change.”

Her 10-year-old daughter Suzanne agreed.

“It’s great what they are doing because I think peace is a really good thing for the earth,” she said.

Gean Gordon of the Unitarian Fellowship, who is also concerned with promoting peace, said the event was necessary.

“There are always a lot of peace activities when there is a war going on, but we need to be reminded of it all the time,” she said. “We also have to take a good look at how much we spend on the weapons of war, whether they are used or not.”

A forum addressing military spending, led by Gore, was held at 7 p.m. at the Universalist Unitarian Fellowship after the group dined together at Pete’s Southside Cafe.

The train riders were scheduled to leave San Luis Obispo Wednesday to continue their journey of raising awareness.