By Sandra Naughton
Daily City Editor

From meeting with an extraordinary group to gram­ming for three midterms to playing chess with some friends, many San Luis Obispo residents flock to coffeehouses for a home away from home. And like any home, these inhabitants spend extended amounts of time to those of them who, independent to corpo­rate coffee houses.

Although some of these coffee lovers are deeply loyal to one specific coffee-providing corner, most of the city's 10 coffee shops constantly try to lure customers through their own doors.

Such competition exists for reasons other than San Luis Obispo's limited size. Depending on low-priced drinks and bakery items, usually ranging anywhere from 50 cents to $4, coffeehouses depend on a high number of sales to make a profit.

"For coffee drinks the profit margin is extremely high," said Michael Carufo, owner of Bellissimo Coffee Consulting. "The aver­age cup of coffee costs less than 10 cents and the average milk drink, like a latte, costs under 40 cents.

"But you have to turn enough drinks to make it worthwhile. You have to sell enough volume to make money."

So, to ensure a steady profit most local coffeehouses employ various marketing tactics. Like many coffeehouses, the 12-year-old Linnaea's café, voted "Best Coffeehouse" in the New Times readers' poll that year, depends on a high volume of business to be profitable.

"You have to have turnover," said Chip Coffee Merchant and Nectar of the Bean, and gained Uptown Espresso, Barnes & Noble's Café, SLO Perk and a two Starbucks Coffee stores in return.

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Fires destroy Orange County homes; wildfire still burns north of Malibu

By E. Scott Reckard
Associated Press

TUSTIN, Calif. — Residents using garden hoses, swimming pool water, even ice chest water, squirted their rooftops Monday in a frantic bid to save homes in the path of a wind-driven firestorm that ravaged an exclusive Orange County neighborhood.

At least 13 homes were destroyed or damaged by flames that leapfrogged from house to house, pushed by fierce Santa Ana winds gusting to 71 mph. There were no reports of injury.

Some 60 miles away in Los Angeles County, firefighters battled a wildfire cracking through brush and oak trees in Calabasas on a march south toward Malibu, some 10 miles away.

The city of Malibu was on alert. "All city employees are on fire watch," said city spokeswoman Sara Freel. "We're advising people to pick up their things," said city spokeswoman Sara Maurer. "Malibu is a natural, built-in firebreak. Unfortunately, it's the Pacific Ocean."

The fire started at 10:34 a.m. near U.S. 101 and burned more than 1,000 acres in about two hours. Wind gusted to 60 mph.

"It could get ugly," said a sheriff's deputy at the Lost Hills Station, just a few miles from the blaze. No homes were in immediate danger and no evacuations were ordered. Malibu's Pepperdine University opened its emergency operations center and telephones were jammed with calls from concerned parents and students. University spokesman Jeff Bliss said. Classes continued, however, and there were no evacuations.

About 280 firefighters battled the blaze, said Capt. Steve Valenzuela of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Two airplanes and five helicopters dumped water on the blaze.

More than 200 miles to the north, light winds and cooler temperatures helped firefighters battling a 60th-acre blaze on the scenic Big Sur coast. The cause of the fire was under investigation.

In San Bernardino County, another wildfire quickly blackened more than 40 acres just east of the community of Chino. Winds gusted to 40 mph.

In Orange County, a half-acre brush fire quickly spread through the Lemon Heights neighborhood, home to some of the most valuable mansions in the county. The cause of the fire was unknown.

Some residents packed personal items and fled, but others stayed behind to battle flames with garden hoses, buckets, shovels, trash cans, ice chests, anything that would hold water, as smoke pushed by the season's first Santa Ana winds enveloped the neighborhood.

Water-dropping helicopters swooped down on hot spots among shells of burned homes. "It looks like a war zone at the time," said one resident.

See FIRE page 8

Full containment of Big Sur fire delayed

BIG SUR, Calif. — Rugged terrain hindered firefighters Tuesday as they battled the second wild fire on the scenic Big Sur coast in less than a month.

The blaze grew from 468 acres to 875 acres and containment lines decreased from 85 percent to 59 percent, said Masten Freol of the Los Padres National Forest.

Authorities had hoped for full containment by 6 p.m. Monday, but a firebreak that establiswed the blaze "just didn't hold," said Freol.

"It's in terrain so rugged we have to cut landing sites for helicopters," he said.

About 623 firefighters fought the blaze burning in grass, oak and coastal redwoods.

The cause of the fire, located about 30 miles south of Monterey and Carmel, remained under investigation.

Many of the firefighters on the scene were veterans of the force that battled an earlier Big Sur fire about 30 miles to the south.

That fire — an arson-sparked blaze that scorched 26,000 acres — was controlled last week.

Before the two latest blazes, Monterey County's last major wildfire was the Marble Cone, which burned 178,000 acres in 1977.

In 1989, a fire at Andrew Molera State Park burned 2,655 acres.

From page 1

Haley said his station's position is not to take a stand and to accept political advertising whether it's pro-choice or pro-life. "This part of the issue is emotional for both sides," Haley said. "I don't know if you can change somebody's mind with a television commercial. This one (commercial) is more of, are you aware?"

According to Thorfinson, the Central Coast was selected because nationally it is an affordable media market and has had a history of clinic violence and harassment.

Last February arson destroyed the San Luis Obispo Planned Parenthood on Santa Rosa Street. The fire was the fifth in a series of incidents along the coast. Fires at a Ventura family planning center and a Santa Barbara doctor's office were also suspect to arson.

The Pro-Choice Public Education Project will be implemented nationwide, with a special focus on the states, where the role of government in abortion rights is a matter of growing concern.

It will state its pro-choice messages through television advertising, newspaper and radio advertising, press conferences, editorial board meetings and radio and TV talkshow appearances.

ADS: New campaign to inform on free choice
Fresh from the farm

Owners Bob and Katie Davis bring 19 years of hospitality to the Central Coast's only four star hotel

By Cosima Colmeyer
Campus Editor

Every corner has been decorated to a tee. Fresh plants and flowers dot the air with sweet smells. Tea cups, ceramic rabbits and vases line the walls and tables, most of which are for sale. Canopy beds, fireplaces and large bathrooms envelop the visitor in unique rooms — no two are alike.

Apple Farm — a hotel, restaurant, gift shop and mill house in San Luis Obispo, is an example to those in the service arena of how to run a successful business. From the way it treats its employees to the way it keeps its customers coming back, the hotel has been, as owners Katie and Bob Davis said, "Blessed."

Rugged between the hillsides of San Luis Obispo, Marketing Director Jane Nichols said their biggest sell is word of mouth. "Above all the advertising, we see more people who come here because their brother or friend has suggested it," she said.

The Davises have created an atmosphere reminiscent of old "Americans," Nichols said. "They wanted to create a feeling of the home and hearth." Nichols said, "with the quilts and flags in their gift shop, to the home cooked style meals. That's why they choose the name Apple Farm."

Bob and Katie came to San Luis Obispo in 1977 to raise their two sons Tim and Mark, and to start a restaurant. They left their jobs in Southern California. He owned a design consulting firm and taught in the business school at Cal State Fullerton. She worked at the college preschool. When they arrived in San Luis Obispo they took over a small coffee shop on Monterey St. and renamed it Apple Farm.

The Davises added the hotel in 1988, and a few years later added the the Motel Trellis Court formerly known as Franciscan Motel. Mrs. Davis said the idea for the gift shop came after people kept buying the decorations she made on the small shelves in the restaurant.

"I kept having to redecorate them because of the demand from the customers," Mrs. Davis said.

There are 69 rooms in the Inn and 34 in Trellis Court and prices vary for the rooms, but all include uniqueness. Of the 163 rooms, not one is decorated the same. Its Nineteenth century floral motifs strike the eyes with patterns at every turn of the head.

"Every room is decorated differently, which to most people who own a business realize how difficult that is. But it makes it like a quaint bedroom in a home," Nichols said.

It was written up in the Los Angeles Times' Travel section as being the most popular place to stay for under $100 for being a "Strategically located, billboard advertised, well-groomed San Luis Obispo institution."

It is also the only four-star hotel in the San Luis Obispo area.

There are many marketing techniques that keep customers happy and coming back. In a room on the creek side, books which the visitor may take home for free line the fireplace, a live begonia sits on a table in the corner and another flower arrangement sits in a small vase on the mirror in the bathroom.

Nichols said that all the rooms have live plants and flowers. She also bent down on her knees, looked up and smiled as she pulled a card out from under the bed. It read: "Yes, we even clean under here."

Other marketing techniques include

UC Santa Cruz expands engineering programs

Associated Press

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. — The University of California at Santa Cruz said Tuesday that it is expanding its engineering programs, a key step toward eventual creation of a School of Engineering.

UC-Santa Cruz, funded with $2 million from the UC system, plans to hire 16 faculty members over the next three to four years starting this fall.

The university will seek additional funding from private industry, said Chancellor M.R.C. Greenwood.

"We will begin building toward what we know will be a distinctive 21st century School of Engineering," she said.

Such an institution — the university's first professional school — "will provide a huge boost to our abilities to educate students to meet the changing demands of society," Greenwood added.

The new instructors will allow the university to establish two new departments, one in electrical engineering and the other in applied and engineering mathematics. UC-Santa Cruz already has departments of computer engineering and computer science.

Other disciplines being considered for an engineering school include applied mechanics, biotechnology engineering, engineering management, environmental engineering, manufacturing engineering and mechanical engineering.

UCSC hopes to win approval for a School of Engineering this year from the UC Board of Regents. The university will then decide when there are enough programs to establish a professional school, something not expected to happen for several years, Iron said.

Eventually, however, UCSC hopes to have more than 1,000 undergraduates and several hundred graduate students in the School of Engineering.

Creating a school of engineering could make UC-Santa Cruz a player in Silicon Valley's continuing technological and economic boom. High-tech leaders have said an engineering school could help attract more businesses to the Santa Cruz area.

Experience the Excitement!!!

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Enterprise www.erac.com

We'll be interviewing on campus at the career center October 28, 1996
SEX TALK
Date Rape

Hi! Here we are again, the Sexuality Team. In case Sex T.A.L.K. is new to you, let us explain. We're part of Peer Health Education. We've never heard of that either! Well, long story short, we are one of five teams available to you on campus for questions, concerns or info. We live downstairs in the Health Center at 756-5252. And we have this cool anonymous Sex T.A.L.K. is new to you, let us explain. We're part of Peer Health questions, concerns or info. We live downstairs in the Health 315 class. Sam approaches Carla at the Party. Sam: "Hey Carla, what's up? Looks like you need that beer topped off." Carla: "Sure, thanks." Sam returns with full beers and asks Carla to dance. Sam: "Don't make my beer trip a wasted one; let's finish these drinks and Sam. Carla: "Mmm, that was nice." Sam: "Hey, you wanna check out my new truck? It's right out front." Carla: "Um, OK." Carla walks outside with Sam, forgetting to tell her friends where they are going. They ended up going for a drive. Sam promises he has only had a couple beers and can control his frenzy. They go to Bishop Peak and park. The kissing starts up again, but this time, with more vigor and passion. Things are moving a little too fast for Carla. Sam forces himself on her. Crying, Carla tells him to stop, but he doesn't. This is a very real scenario.

Imagine this scenario (it's not too far out there):
Carla and her friends decide to go to a party. There's music, drinks and Sam. Sam is a guy Carla's been eyeing in her History class. Sam approaches Carla at the Party. She's flattered. Sam: "Hey Carla, what's up? Looks like you need that beer topped off." Carla: "Sure, thanks." Sam returns with full beers and asks Carla to dance. Sam: "Don't make my beer trip a wasted one; let's finish these drinks and Sam. Carla: "Mmm, that was nice." Sam: "Hey, you wanna check out my new truck? It's right out front." Carla: "Um, OK." Carla walks outside with Sam, forgetting to tell her friends where they are going. They ended up going for a drive. Sam promises he has only had a couple beers and can control his frenzy. They go to Bishop Peak and park. The kissing starts up again, but this time, with more vigor and passion. Things are moving a little too fast for Carla. Sam forces himself on her. Crying, Carla tells him to stop, but he doesn't. This is a very real scenario.

RAPE: A crime of violence; an involuntary sexual act in which a person is forced to comply against his or her will. Carla was raped.

Now, what do you think was on Carla's mind when she left that party? She probably thought they would do some talking, kissing, maybe even make out and then go to Bishop Peak and park. The kissing starts up again, but this time, with more vigor and passion. Things are moving a little too fast for Carla. Sam forces himself on her. Crying, Carla tells him to stop, but he doesn't. This is a very real scenario.

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Gore denounces Prop. 209 in fiery speech

LOS ANGELES — Counting the black and white votes, Vice President Al Gore forcefully con-
demned Proposition 209 Monday, tellins residents of South Central that affirmative action's oppo-
' sition "has to be broken to injus-
tice."

With a fiery inflection that sounds like the Rev.
Jesse Jackson, Gore growled: "I will say to this straight to you, clearly and loudly, President Clinton and I are opposed to 209! Opposed to 209!"

"Wrong, it's unfair, it sets a bad

example for the rest of the country," Gore said.

"I don't understand how any-
one with eyes to see, or ears to hear, and the ability to experi-
cence the reality in the United States of America today can possibly come to the conclusion that all the prejudice is gone, and all the barriers have disappeared," Gore said.

"They have to be blind to injus-
tice! They have to be deaf to unfairness! They have to be numb to the lack of opportunity!" Gore shouted. "We have a chance to set it right."

The crowd of several hundred students, parents, administrators and local dignitaries gathered at Locke High School responded with chants of "Four more years!" and "Viva Clinton-Gore!"

The vice president said the Clinton-Gore agenda was about creating opportunity and fighting prejudice.

"The other side is the group
offering smoke and rear-view

mirrors," he said.

On Clinton's watch, unemploy-
ment among blacks and Hispanics has fallen below double digits for the first time in 25 years and con-
tinues to drop, Gore said.

Calling the Clinton adminis-
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He also boasted that the gov-
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Arizona man killed while jumping off El Capitan

BY SUE KERRY
CAPITOL CORRENS NEWS

SACRAMENTO — Governor Pete Wilson Friday rejected a request signed by 39 lawmakers to call a special session of the Legislature to take up the Smog Check II program, a Wilson spokeswoman confirmed.

The one-sentence letter to Wilson was initiated by Sen. Richard Mountjoy (R-Monrovia), an outspoken critic of Smog Check II.

The letter — signed by Republicans and Democrats — asked the session be called only "to address the issues of" Smog Check II. "We don’t have any intention to act at this time," Wilson spokeswoman Lisa Kastian said about the likelihood of a special session. Kastian said Wilson has taken sufficient steps to address the program, citing his appointment of an outside commission to evaluate it, his signing of an amendment to the law last month, and his scheduling of public hearings.

But Mountjoy has re-circulated the letter in an effort to step up pressure.

Citizen complaints about the 1994 law have increased sharply in recent months because most of the program’s key provisions — such as toughened penalties for "gross polluters" — were implemented July 1.

From May through October 16, the agency reported 1,360 complaints — about 10 every business day — said Maria Chacon Rondestvedt, a spokeswoman for the program. That’s up 44 percent from the 943 complaints tallied in the same period in 1995, she added.

Some legislators who want to suspend the law did not sign the Mountjoy letter because they disagree with his approach.

Senate Pro Tem Bill Lackey (D-Hayward) supports suspending the law, said spokesman Sandy Harrison. But Lackey thinks a special session is unnecessary.

Parody of U.S. anti-Cuba law introduced in parliament

TORONTO — Bringing satire to foreign policy, two lawmakers introduced a parody of the controversial Helms-Burton bill on Tuesday in the latest show of Canadian disdain for U.S. efforts to deter foreign investment in Cuba.

The bill mockingly suggests Canadians deserve compensation for lands seized from their Tory ancestors during the American Revolution. But the legislation is no joke, and neither is the anger behind it.

Canada is Cuba’s biggest trading partner, active in sectors ranging from tourism to mining to beer-brewing. It is deeply annoyed by Washington’s efforts to sway its diplomatic policies with Cuba. For example, a Canadian firm doing business with a Cuban sugar refinery could face a lawsuit from the family that owned the refinery before it was seized by Fidel Castro’s government.

The satiric Godfrey-Milliken bill says the 3 million Canadian descendants of 80,000 uprooted Yankees have as much of a right to compensation.

The bill is designed to discourage foreign firms from doing business with Cuba. For example, a Canadian firm doing business with a Cuban sugar refinery could face a lawsuit from the family that owned the refinery before it was seized by Fidel Castro’s government.

The bill “is one expression of our displeasure,” said Sen. David Chilton, a Liberal from Moncton, and Sen. Jean Charest, a Conservative from Quebec.

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Parody of U.S. anti-Cuba law introduced in parliament

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Canada: Parliament is serious about new law

Canada's Parliament is serious about new law that aims to protect the nation's economy from foreign companies. The bill, which is currently being debated in the House of Commons, is designed to give Canadian citizens the right to sue foreign companies for damages caused by their actions. The bill is supported by many politicians and is believed to be a strong move against the threat of foreign companies exploiting Canada's resources.

The bill is expected to be passed in the near future, with many politicians expressing their confidence in its success. The government is determined to protect Canada's economy and ensure that foreign companies do not take advantage of the country's resources.

Apple Farm: Cozy rooms make you feel like you're at home

One of the many cozy rooms at the Apple Farm. / Daily photo by Shoshano Habibi

From page 3

the wooden apple all visitors receive... for free. Mrs. Davis said. "We make it more of an experience, like our servers and sales associates are here to serve you" motto. We respect people's lives as far as working too many hours. We've worked together with families, football moms, water polo moms, PTA mothers. "The colleges have been a great blessing to us as far as quality. Those that are working for us now will some day be going to graduate school or will be chem- ists, engineers," Mrs. Davis said. Marketing junior Eric Fischel, who works at the front desk checking the visitors in and out of the hotel, said that he "absolutely" loves working for Apple Farm.

(CANADA: Parliament is serious about new law)

From page 6

growing resentment toward the U.S. and its view of itself as the "moral conscience" for all nations," said the co-sponsors, John Godfrey and Peter Milliken of the governing Liberal Party. More than 100 Canadians have contacted the lawmakers to inquire about claiming compensa-
tion. Godfrey says he plans to press for return of his family's ancestral home in Carter's Grove, Va., while Milliken says he would claim property in the Mohawk Valley of New York.

While both see the humor in the bill — and neither expects to actually claim U.S. property — they are deadly serious about making a point about what they see as outrageous U.S. policy. Prime Minister Jean Chretien has not endorsed nor opposed the bill, but opposition parties were supportive during Tuesday's House of Commons session.

"This is not a partisan issue," said Godfrey's legislative assis-tant, Alan Papp. Several more serious chal-

lenge Helms-Burton also are in progress. Canada is backing a European Union bid to have the World Trade Organization reject the U.S. legislation, and a bill is moving through Parliament to protect Canadian firms against the effects of Helms-Burton.

Canada also has threatened to complain formally that Helms-Burton is a violation of the North American Free Trade Agreement, though it is waiting to see whether President Clinton, if re-elected, opts to waive some of the bill's provisions.

President Clinton signed Helms-Burton into law after Cuba shot down two civilian U.S. planes off the island's coast in February. The provision allowing U.S. citizens to sue foreign companies does not come into effect until next year. But the law already denies those foreign firms' execu-
tives — and those executives' families — entry into the United States.

Top officials of the biggest Canadian firm in Cuba, Sherritt International, already have been banned. But Sherritt has not been deterred. It recently held a board meeting in Havana, and outlined ambitious plans to expand into a wide range of industries in Cuba.

The Canadian counter-legisla-
tion stipulates that Canada will not recognize court rulings issued in accordance with Helms-Burton and will not help collect judg-
ments issued against Canadian firms. The bill would allow target-
ed Canadian firms to file counter-
suits against Canadian subsi-
diaries of American firms that make use of Helms-Burton to pur-
sue damages.

He added that they do whatever they can to accommodate the stu-
dents' schedules. "They do what they can to support whatever your goals are in terms of education," he said.

Lodging manag-
er Jami Kiff gradu-
ad just a few feet from Apple Farm. It was created in 1925 and is now closed for renovation. "The economy is such that we want to make it a garden oasis. Not only architecturally beautiful but also interesting garden." Mrs. Davis said what keeps her and her husband going is per-

severance.

Mrs. Davis, who has been mar-
rried to her husband for almost 31 years, said that owning a busi-
ness with her husband has been great.

"I think being a couple has its unique challenges but it has a special reward," Mrs Davis.

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From page 6
essary because he believes the governor can simply suspend the program himself, Harrison said.

John Nelson, a spokesman for Assembly Speaker Curt Pringle (R-Garden Grove) said Pringle did not sign the Mountjoy letter because he favors re-convening the Legislature instead.

Mountjoy is appointed in the fight against the program by Sen. Ray Haynes (R-Morretta) and Assemblyman Larry Bowler, (R-Elk Grove) who have led attacks on the program in the past five weeks.

The two lawmakers Oct. 3 asked the agency about TV and radio commercials to publicize the program. The car repair bureau spent $85,000 on 1,050 television spots and 1,900 radio spots.

**Fires:** Winds ranged from 17 mph to 45 mph From page 2

moment," said Dean McCormick, 43, helping out his parents and grandparents who both have homes on one street where several houses burned.

At one home two people shuttled containers of water from a pool, up to the roof to douse shingles lined by tongues of fire. Another resident, Street for quality goods and customers, by name and their drinks."
located across from the verso letter machines. Begin your day with a delicious breakfast con-
sisted or breakfast burritos. For lunch, as well as breakfast, sit at the "bar" of the "cabinet store" from a selection of over 40 items. Mon-Fri 7:00am to 4:00pm.

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Sun: Noon-9pm.

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cy of contemporary and ethnic dishes.
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and Sweet Perceptions. Mon-Fri: 7:30am-3:30pm.

CAMPUS STORE
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THE CELLAR
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Located on Poly View Drive, near the mail
drop, between the Rec Center and U.U. Fresh, hot, fresh juice drinks from apple juice to
smoothies (good... no sugar juice). Blended drinks made to order while you watch, from great
ingredients like pure fruit juice, white juice, non-
fruitmilk, yogurt, sherbet, probiotic powder, wheat
gem and other delicious and nutritious stuff.
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Grad Center opens Nov. 13th for cap,
gown, tassel, grad tickets and diplomas.
The men's and women's basketball teams were introduced during halftime of Saturday's football game at Mustang Stadium. Both teams have started practicing and play their first games in mid-November. Daily photos by Dawn Kalmar.

SABATINI: Last victory in 1992 U.S. Open

From page 12

Selected tournaments or make a farewell tour.

Sabatini captured her lone Grand Slam title, the U.S. Open in 1990, in New York where she put together her most aggressive and acrobatic performance to beat Steffi Graf in straight sets in the final.

Four years later in the Garden, Sabatini ended Martina Navratilova's career with an emotional victory in the first round of the Virginia Slims Championships. Then Sabatini went on to capture her first title after a 42-tournament drought, beating Lindsay Davenport in the final.

For all Sabatini's success on the court, which earned her $8,785,850 in prize money, she made millions more from a perfume bearing her name, modeling clothes in fashion magazines, and endorsements that far exceeded those of more accomplished players like Martina Navratilova and Monica Seles.

Sabatini even had the honor of having a fiery orange-red rose named after her in 1992, putting her in the company of such celebrities as Ingrid Bergman, Grace Kelly, Audrey Hepburn, Elizabeth Taylor and Queen Elizabeth.

The mystery of Sabatini's career is why she didn't win more major titles.

"She definitely could have won more Grand Slams, for sure," Seles said Tuesday after hearing of Sabatini's decision to retire.

"I don't know why she didn't; she had so much talent. Some of the volleys she could hit were unbelievable. It was just pure talent and great touch."

Sabatini could attack at the net, as she did against Graf in the 1990 U.S. Open, but relied instead almost exclusively on her topspin strokes from the baseline to wear down opponents.

Sabatini missed three months this year because of a pulled stomach muscle and was unable to play in the French Open and Wimbledon. She lost in the third round of the U.S. Open.

In Argentina, where Sabatini is the greatest female tennis player in the nation's history, newspapers blared word of her retirement in big headlines.

"She was one of the very few players who was a great competitor, but as soon as she came off the court she was a normal person," Seles said. "She had aura, she just shines. She had something that brings out the best in other people."

Sabatini turned professional in 1985. Among the top 10 women players for nearly a decade and winner of 27 singles titles, Sabatini was ranked as high as No. 3 in 1989, 1991 and 1992. She is now ranked No. 28.

Her last title came in an Australian Open tuneup event at the New South Wales Open in January 1995, where she again beat Davenport in the final.

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Still no coach for the Saints

By Mary Foster
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS - The shakeup of the New Orleans Saints coaching staff continued Tuesday after Chet Franklin, the team's director of pro personnel, turned down the interim head coaching job.

One day after head coach Jim Mora resigned, his offensive coordinator, Carl Smith, was fired by general manager Bill Kaharich, who confirmed he had offered the job of interim head coach to Franklin.

"He felt it would not be in the best interest for him to take the job," Kaharich said.

Franklin said he did not believe he was the man to ensure a smooth transition for the remaining eight games.

"I didn't feel like I was going to be that effective," Franklin said.

Several assistant coaches declined comment on the job having been offered to Franklin. Tight ends coach Bruce Arians acknowledged there had been no outpouring of enthusiasm among the staff for the choice.

"It's nothing against Chet. We all like him and respect him. I think we just all felt the new guy would come from one of the coaches," Arvins said.

Kaharich said that if Franklin had taken the job, they would have discussed Smith's future.

Since Franklin turned down the coaching job, Kaharich made the decision to fire Smith.

"Based on our 2-6 record and our production offensively, I felt we needed a new decision maker, play-caller," Kaharich said.

The Saints are ranked 27th in total offense, 28th in rushing and 21st in passing in the league.

Who will replace Smith? Kaharich said the new interim coach will play a role in determining that.

Smith, who was told of his firing 15 minutes before the news conference, left the Saints camp after the announcement without commenting.

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NBA: Teams bulking up on talent to stop Chicago Bulls' run for a second-straight league title in the NBA

From page 12 Murray and re-signed Jowann Howard to a $101 million, seven-year contract after the NBA voided Howard's earlier free agent deal with the Miami Heat.

With Chris Webber and Gheorghe Muresan around, the Knicks figure to be the most improved team in the Eastern Conference if everyone stays healthy. Muresan has been sidelined by nagging injuries over the first three weeks of training camp.

The New York Knicks have added Johnson, Allan Houston, Buck Williams and Chris Childs, and the Orlando Magic, despite losing Shaq, still have Penny Hardaway, Nick Anderson, Horace Grant and Dennis Scott, who will be happy to divide up the 20 shots O'Neal used to take.

Before re-signing Reggie Miller, the Indiana Pacers also retooled some parts, replacing point guard Mark Jackson with Jalen Rose and Travis Best and adding Reggie Williams to the mix.

In the Western Conference, the SuperSonics demonstrated how crazy the free-agent frenzy had become when they gave McMillan, a 24-year-old center whose career average as a backup is 2.1 points and 2.5 rebounds, a $32 million, seven-year contract.

Add Gary Payton's $84 million, seven-year deal, and it's no wonder Shaquille O'Neal - the best player on the team - was left feeling vastly underpaid at $3 million this season. To make his point, Kemp held out for the first three weeks of training camp.

Seattle, which quietly won 64 games last year and then buried its reputation for stinking up the playoffs, still appears to be the team to beat in the West - even with a discontented Kemp.

The Sonics' strongest challenge should come from the Lakers, Rockets and Jazz.

Los Angeles signed O'Neal for $120 million to begin a new era that should finally make people stop longing for the days of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Magic Johnson. The Lakers won 53 games last season but self-destructed toward the end after Johnson came out of retirement and threw himself into an already volatile mix of young players.

Houston gave up several components of its 1994 and '95 championship teams when it sent Robert Horry, Sam Cassell, Chucky Brown and Mark Bryant to the Phoenix Suns for Barkley.

Coming off one of the best years of his career, Barkley will team with Hakeem Olajuwon and Clyde Drexler to form a trio of All-Stars that should match up with any other team's three best players.

Only Karl Malone's two missed foul shots in Game 7 of the conference finals kept the Jazz from making the NBA Finals.

If Utah can pull off a trade for a legitimate center, or if Greg Ostertag is as ready as Jerry Sloan thinks he is, the Jazz have a fair shot at duplicating - or better - last season's success.

Malone and Jeff Hornacek are 33 and teammate John Stockton will be 35, but the rest of the NBA is younger than ever.

A pair of 18-year-olds will play in the Pacific Division straight out of high school - Kobe Bryant with the Lakers and Jermaine O'Neal with Portland.

Sharif Abdur-Rahim, a 19-year-old who left Cal after his freshman season, will play for Vancouver. Stephen Marbury, 19, who left Georgia Tech after one year, will play the point for Philadelphia. And Kevin Garnett, 20, and Joe Smith, 21, will be veterans.

From time to time, their paths will cross with the Bulls.

They'll play against Jordan, 33; Rodman, 35; Ron Harper, 32; and 43-year-old Robert Parish, who opted to put off retirement for a while longer in pursuit of another championship ring.

It'll be old vs. new. And just like last year, Chicago should get the best of everybody. But it will probably be the last time we see the same Bulls together.
SPORTS

Sports

Wheeleman take 5th at Mountain Bike competition

Top: Wheeleman Greg Gilbert grabs water on the way to a 24th place finish at the National Collegiate Mountain Bike Championships in Kentucky. Bottom: Stacie Gregory placed 19th to help the Wheeleman to their 5th place finish / Photos courtesy of Randy Warren

NBA youth movement meets the Bulls

By Chris Skelton / Associated Press

They spent the summer as the Sitting Bulls. Everyone else went out and spent megamillions trying to catch up with the NBA champions. The Lakers got Shaquille O'Neal, the Rockets got Charles Barkley, the Knicks got Larry Johnson, the Sonics got — well, the Sonics got Jim McIlvaine. But more on that later.

The Bulls, meanwhile, basically sat still and set themselves up for one more year of greatness by giving one-year contracts to Michael Jordan, Dennis Rodman and coach Phil Jackson. The team that won an NBA record 72 games last season will look almost exactly the same when the season opens Friday and the league celebrates its 50th anniversary. But after this year, the Bulls as we've known them may cease to exist.

"Personally, I just want to do one more year with this team. It'll be as enjoyable and creative, hopefully, as last year was," said Jackson, who realizes the salary structure of the NBA has gone berserk, even for coaches.

He will be a free agent next summer, as will Jordan after his $30 million, one-year deal expires, as will Rodman after his $9 million, one-year deal is done.

"We understand the process of what's going on in the game," Jackson said. "The players are attuned to it." Jackson said. "I don't think anybody in their right mind in the NBA these days really thinks about the future. It won't be easy, especially if the Bulls start the season strong and get people talking about 72 or 73 victories.

"Everybody will be shooting for the next season, and it only gets tougher for someone on top of the world," Jackson said. "I don't think anybody in their right mind in the NBA these days really thinks about the future. It won't be easy, especially if the Bulls start the season strong and get people talking about 72 or 73 victories.

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