**Opinion**

Today's point/counterpoint focuses on one of Cal Poly's favorite past-times - the Rodeo.

**Sports**

Traditions... and all those quirky little things Cal Poly's sports teams have fun with.

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**Court’s decision upholding Prop. 209 felt by many campus minorities, clubs**

By Jason Scott

Daily Staff Writer

"It’s a nail, it’s a spike, it’s a dagger in the coffin of preferences," said a jubilant Ward Connerly, lead proponent of Proposition 209, appearing before a Sacramento news conference last Tuesday with Gov. Pete Wilson.

The statement came just moments after a federal appeals court ruling upheld the ban on affirmative action policies in corporate hiring practices and on the grounds in education, employment and government, amending the state Constitution to forbid such preferences in state and local government, employment and education.

Overturing a lower court ruling by a 3-0 decision, the San Francisco 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals declared the proposal constitutional, claiming the court could make no barrier against "a state law that says race cannot matter in public contracting, employment and education.

The majority opinion from Judge Diarmuid O'Scanlon's dictum noted affirmative action programs "work wholly to the benefit of certain members of one group and correspondingly to the harm of certain members of another group."

The measure's upholding did not go unnoticed on campus. As a part of the California State University system, Cal Poly’s Office of Admissions will have to abide by regulations handed down by the courts.

"I was disappointed in the ruling," said Pat Harris, head of Cal Poly's Office of Admissions.

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**ASU elections**

By Mary Hadley

Daily Staff Writer

A little "muddling" would have been more impressive than what took place at Monday night's debate between two ASI president candidates, according to one student observer.

The yellow flers on the walls at Santa Lucia Hall announced a debate, but there was more "discussion" than "debate" between Cindy Entzi and Steve McShane.

The third candidate, forestry senior Jed Whiteley, did not attend.

Entzi is a political science senior and McShane, the current ASI president, is a soil science senior. Both said that student involvement is a top priority, and stressed efficiency and accountability of ASI.

ASI, Associated Students, Inc., is the campus organization that runs the University Union, student government and student services such as the Rec Center and Children's Center. ASI funds nearly 400 campus clubs as well.

The ASI budget is $2.3 million, and the U.U. budget, that includes operation of the Rec Center, is $4.3 million, said ASI business manager Bill Ashby.

Of this combined $6.6 million ASI budget, 56 percent comes directly from student fees. All student pay for ASI, but McShane said not enough students make use of its services.

"I want to make ASI more accessible," McShane said when outlining his goals for next year's presidency.

Last year showed "tangible results" in this area, McShane said, as "the amount of students involved in ASI has doubled in one year."

Also looking to increase student participation in ASI, Entzi said she would like to see freshmen introduced to ASI sooner.

"We need to work with the residence halls. It's the job of ASI to figure out what the students need and give it to them," Entzi said.

Entzi promised to meet with the city council to find ways Cal Poly and the city can work together to get better housing for students.

Fielding questions from the audience of about 25 students, McShane and Entzi gave thorough answers that often echoed one another's.

Both candidates support the Cal Poly Plan, and both said student input is, and has been, an important part of plan negotiations.

"As a student I support it, but as ASI President, I'm going to scrutinize it," McShane said.

Neither candidate gave a precise answer when asked "Do you believe Cal Poly should be a wet or dry campus?"

---

**BIG SNAKE ON GRASS**

UTILIZILLA'S NEMESIS? This hedge design of a dragon-like creature was found on the lawn between faculty offices-east and building 52 on Tuesday.
 Mustang Daily

**Controlling Cal Poly's cat-astrophe**

By Kristen Hall

Daily Staff Writer

Cal Poly doesn't just have a student population, it also has a cat population.

For years, hundreds of unhealthly cats lived on campus, breeding and multiplying. Then in 1992 a student designed the Cal Poly Cat Program to help control and maintain the population.

"We had about 400 cats on campus when we started the program," said Edie Griffin-Shaw, program associate director and student member. "Now we estimate 125."

A non-profit organization run by staff, student and faculty volunteers, its goal is to trap every cat on campus, spay or neuter them, give them shots and then release them. The cats are either released to the place they were taken from or adopted out to good homes if they are domesticated.

To trap a new cat, Griffin-Shaw monitors its patterns. She places a metal cage with food inside of it in an area that the cat usually goes. Griffin-Shaw then checks the cage every few hours. If a cat is pregnant or sick, it is harder to catch, so Griffin-Shaw has volunteers assist her.

Once the cat is caged, it's taken to the vet clinic on campus for an exam. The cat is clipped to identify the cats that have been trapped and fixed. If a cat appears to be domesticated, it's likely it lives in a house nearby and wandered onto campus.

"In those cases we try to find their owners," Griffin-Shaw said. "Some cats are dumped here but not to be here."

Volunteers monitor 10 feeding stations throughout campus daily and each buy dry cat food for their station. They look for any new, sick or pregnant cats. Volunteers also monitor for abnormalities and amount of food consumed.

The Cal Poly cat population is overwhelmingly white with blue eyes. Deafness is common due to inbreeding.

Griffin-Shaw was a Cal Poly science senior and pre-vet student in the early '80s and said the cats were a problem back then as well. They usually had skin cancer and poor coats.

"The cats in the '80s used to be sick," she recalled. "Their eyes were infected and they were half dead." She said the program has helped the cats live a better life instead of the hard suffering and that many of them had before.

A few years before the program was developed, the college tried to get rid of the cats by taking them to Animal Regulations and having them humanely destroyed. Volunteer Heidi Lorge said this method didn't work and the cats just repopulated.

"Wiping them out leaves an empty space that can be filled by more cats," said Lorge, an animal welfare senior and pre-vet student. "The answer is to get them healthy because they are territorial and will keep other cats away."

Lorge has been with the program since its beginnings. She's seen the program change over the years from relying solely on the campus vet clinic for medical care, to now receiving the majority of help from outside clinics.

"Outside vets began donating services," she said. "This helped us save money and get the community involved. I think it opened the community's eyes."

Through the program, more than 300 cats have been adopted out. Lorge has a Cal Poly cat of her own named Bunny.

"Bunny was in the shelter for a long time, so I decided to take a chance with her," Lorge said. "It's inevitable that volunteers end up with at least one cat."

Students can volunteer in many ways. People are needed to work in the shelter where the cats in transition are kept. The cats need to be fed and played with. Students can also help in areas like public relations, fundraising, fostering of kittens for adoption, kitten socialization and educating the public.

Students who aren't volunteers can still help by not feeding the cats wet food. When the cats are fed by other sources, it discourages them from eating at their regular stations, making them harder to monitor. Students are also advised not to pick them up because most are wild.

Senior projects are available in the program for students of all majors, not just pre-vets. One student created a website, another student built the cat shelter.

Lorge said the open-mindedness of people at the university has made the program a success. Some of the funding for the program is from donations.

**Unocal tentatively agrees to pay $80 million for toxic leak**

Associated Press

MARTINEZ, Calif. - Unocal Corp. has tentatively agreed to an $80 million settlement with residents sickened by a chemical leak from an oil refinery in 1994, lawyers said.

The refinery in Rodeo, a blue-collar suburb about 20 miles northeast of San Francisco, released toxic Catacarb into the air for 16 days. In 1995, the company agreed to pay $3 million in fines after pleading guilty to 12 misdemeanor charges.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported Tuesday that less than two weeks after Teeco Refining Corp. took over the refinery, Unocal agreed to the settlement, but details still have to be worked out and approved by a judge.

Attorney Michael Meadows, who represents about 600 plaintiffs, said Unocal managers intentionally kept the refinery operating during the leak to meet production schedules and "get their money and their promotions."

Unocal spokesman David Garcia refused to comment, except to confirm the proposed settlement amount.

Catacarb is a caustic chemical used to purify hydrogen for gasoline production. Little is known about its health effects.

Plaintiffs' attorneys said many residents of Rodeo and nearby Crockett suffered effects ranging from dizziness and eye irritation to memory loss and miscarriages.

Judith Weitzner, a social worker who lives in Crockett, said her health quickly deteriorated after the leak.

"I had a very bad year of chronic coughing and difficult breathing and not being able to work without getting asthma," said Weitzner, 55.

Like many others, Weitzner said she did not suspect anything was wrong after the odorless leak until about two weeks later when a brown, gooey substance collected on her windshield.

"We thought we had landed in heaven for a while," Weitzner said. "We bought our little house in Crockett."

Weitzner said it was not until about six months later that the company paid plaintiff attorneys said the company managers intentionally kept the refinery operating during the leak to meet production schedules and "get their money and their promotions."

Unocal spokesman David Garcia refused to comment, except to confirm the proposed settlement amount.

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Wednesday, April 16, 1997

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 1997

M U S T A N G D A I L Y

Cal Poly student population reflects diversity

"The idea of Liberal Arts Week is to put emphasis on liberal arts as a source of pride for students, and to show the value and worth to a College of Liberal Arts degree," Larkin said.

Psychology junior and CLASC treasurer Krista Hoyer said she hopes to enjoy the week's events.

"The council's very excited about the College of Liberal Arts week and we hope to emphasize the liberal arts students, and to show the value and worth to a College of Liberal Arts degree," Larkin said.

The College of Liberal Arts Student Council (CLASC) is sponsoring the events.

Council Chair Chris Larkin reminds liberal arts students to attend the events.

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Spirit of rodeo is a way of life

By Kristin Hall

I always thought I'd marry a cowboy—a brown-haired, blue-eyed angel with a wild spirit. It's attractive. It's what they do. It's a tradition, for many it's a way of life.

On weekends, my family and I would travel to the Oakland Coliseum. I used to enter the arena from a chute, the calf entered the arena from a chute, the calf would be thrown to the ground and tied three of its legs together. Anyone who has tried to ride a horse can respect the talent of the men and women who compete. If you watch the way they ride, you'll see it's their nature. No one would risk their lives or limbs to ride a bucking horse if it weren't in their nature.

The entire place would echo with danger. It was incredible! The entire place would echo with the sounds of the event: a bull's hooves stomping the ground while it bucked and an excited announcer describing the competition. The horses actually enjoy the competition. The rodeo participants' callous attitude toward animals was epitomized for me by a Cal Poly rodeo participant who was cancellation due to lack of ticket sales and funding.

The public seems to be listening to the facts which is helping to make a difference in the lives of rodeo animals. Some of the worst cruelties have occurred at California rodeos. Nine animals have died at California rodeos from 1994-1996. At a rodeo at Earl Warren Fairgrounds in Santa Barbara, a horse was gored to death by a bull. Three terrible occurrences, along with those I have witnessed at Mid-State Fair and Cal Poly rodeos, have helped convince me that it is time for the American public to express its outrage at the cruelty inherent to rodeos.

Peggy Kotten is North County Humane Society Animal Rights Committee Chairperson and Animal Emancipation Inc., Director of Operations for San Luis Obispo.
company offers insurance to people with HIV virus

By Herbert G. McGann
Associated Press

CHICAGO - Acknowledging extraordinary medical advances against AIDS, a company has become the first in the nation to offer life insurance to people infected with HIV.

Guarantee Trust Life Insurance, a Glenview-based company that specializes in insuring high-risk individuals, is test-marketing the coverage. "From a life insurance risk perspective, we believe many otherwise healthy HIV-positive individuals are more appropriately viewed as having a treatable chronic illness rather than a terminal disease," said Richard Holson, president of the 60-year-old company.

See INSURANCE page 6

The debate was entirely too tame for architecture senior Alan Bednersh. "I almost would have liked to see some mudslinging," Bednersh said. "I thought both cared a lot about the students and both were interested in helping the students, but they didn't separate themselves on the issues enough."

Liberal studies freshman Kerry Schultz said MeShane won the show. "He had better knowledge and backup," she said. "He was effective and straightforward. I didn't have background on either candidate, but he got people's attention and kept it.

ASI elections will be held on campus May 7 and 8.

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CPE, CSC, EE students
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6-8:30 at

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INSURANCE from page 5

"We would expect that while this is the first, there will be others," said Ken Vest of the Washington-based American Council of Life Insurers, an industry group. "It fills a need." State Farm and Allstate, two of the nation's largest insurers, said they have no plans to offer life insurance to HIV-positive individuals.

"The reasoning is, those who are HIV-positive are infected with a disease that is associated with high health costs and early death," said Murray Payne, a spokesman for State Farm Insurance Co. "The underlying principle is the same for anyone otherwise seriously life-threatening disease.

An advocate for people with AIDS called Guarantee Trust's move "an incredible first step."

"I'm certainly amazed that the insurance industry is starting to recognize that there is some real hope out there for people living with this disease," said Javier Salazar, a lobbyist for Washington-based AIDS Action. "There is some hope that this may be seen one day as a chronic disease and that we'll be able to benefit from the securities that everyone has access to."

"The treatment that has helped prolong the lives of people infected with the AIDS virus involves an expensive cocktail of drugs that includes a new kind called a protease inhibitor. Guarantee Trust's policies range from $25,000 to $250,000 of whole-life coverage, with this disease," said Javier Salazar of AIDS Action noted. Those who qualify must be under 50 years of age, have certain levels of the virus and infection-fighting T-cells and not have full-blown AIDS.

Guarantee Trust initially will offer the coverage only to Illinois residents.

The price will be substantially higher than insurance for an average person without an illness. A fairly healthy 30-year-old man who doesn't smoke would pay about $85 a month for a $50,000 universal life policy, said Monty Edison, Guarantee Trust senior vice president for marketing. If that same person were HIV positive, the policy would cost about $300 a month, Edison said.

Salazar of AIDS Action noted the cost would be prohibitively high for most people.

Don't miss this event! Information available on graduation & senior portraits. Prize drawing for graduation items.

April 22-25 (Tuesday - Friday)
10AM-4PM
Grad Center opens May 1st for cap, gown, sash, and grad tickets.

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MUSTANG DAILY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 1997

WELSH from page 8

but we are an old, mature team

strategy they put in front of us," he said. He said Welsh didn't

ever since then, the softball teams have honored that turkey

Then Welsh knows there is a big dif-

He said he always thought

"Change isn't a bad thing, as

"I honestly don't like the guy,"

"I don't think you're going to fail then you aren't going to

success is what everyone wants for the football team.

"Everybody has the same goal of doing well next season so it

"If you don't believe you're going to fail then you aren't going to

said the turkeys are 100 per-

"Try and keep your share of money.

said the team has proved to be about 80 percent suc-

Wednesday April 16

The turkeys are a traditional

Ever since then, the softball teams have honored that turkey

"The ball was hit with such power that the poor turkey, which

this season's winning record (32-11) and their No. 8 national rank-

The team has recently started a new tradition, which Bauer

"

"Fingers crossed for many years. It involves a cheer that has been pulled up from

"We bring you all the

"There's no wave. There's a warm wave. There's a surf wave..." Bauer said.

Traditions, the bonding mater-

MUSTANG DAILY

backer Ken Pohl.

but we have now we can handle any

Player disagrees. "I honestly don't like the guy," he said. He said Welsh did not make a very good first impres-

sion, but he knows he has to accept the coach or his football career is over.

Welsch knows there is a big dif-

ference between college and high

school football. He is going to adapt his play to his new players' abilities. He said it looks like it is going to be a great time.

"You don’t believe you're going to fail then you aren’t going to fail," Welsh said.

Success is what everyone wants for the football team.

"Everybody has the same goal of doing well next season so it should be a good year," said senior outside linebacker Brett Sagner.

TRADITIONS from page 8

try unit that used to house

Turkeys are a traditional

There's a surf wave...," Bauer said.

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Traditions practiced by the team as a whole serve as a way for the members to come together outside of the playing field. Beyond the pre-game meals and post-game parties, several Cal Poly teams are rich in unique traditions, especially involving birthdays and rookies.

Mike "DQ" French, a sophomore stand-out on the wrestling team, knows the price a wrestler pays on his birthday. French said he walked into practice on his birthday last year when he was suddenly pinned to the floor. "I thought I was in with the team, then I'm on the floor getting pounded on my stomach," he said.

This isn't cruel or unusual punishment that the wrestling team participates in. It's simply a birthday tradition called "pink belly." The wrestlers pin the teammate to the floor, then slap his stomach until it's pink. When it comes to birthdays, members of the women's soccer team are no more sympathetic to the wrestlers. "Butts up" is the birthday tradition that the women participate in on the lucky teammate's day.

The celebrating woman must stand "Butts up" on the field, while her teammates wish her a happy birthday by shooting soccer balls at her over and over. The butts up tradition also holds true for those who forget any gear or equipment at practice or wear bows in their hair.

The "Boogie Woogie" dance and "Butts Up" bonded the women's soccer team enough to help them capture the Big West Championship title.

The new head coach Larry Welsh in his three years at Cal Poly. He hopes to build on that solid foundation. Ecklund said that Welsh told the players he would try to make it an easy transition. Ecklund said that Welsh left Cal Poly to accept a position with the New England Patriots.

Ecklund said that Welsh told the players he would try to make it an easy transition. Ecklund said that Welsh left Cal Poly to accept a position with the New England Patriots. Welsh said that the week is, "all in good fun." Which is, of course, what sports teams' traditions are all about, fun. Take the men's lacrosse team. For three years, the team has been the proud owner of the "Chico boot." The boot, which is actually a lacrosse cleat with a handle bolted to its side, once belonged to the Chico Poly lacrosse team, but was stolen by Cal Poly members. Ever since that day, the teams have played for it at each match, where it sits on a mount as an inspiration for a win. The team also incorporates the boot into its rookie tradition by requiring each new member to take a drink from its grungy inside.

The boot will be mounted this Sunday at the home game against Chico. Along with the boot, the lacrosse team holds another tradition involving what is known as the "footer stick." Football players 'cautiously optimistic' about transition to Welsh

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times," wrote Charles Dickens in his novel "A Tale of Two Cities." This describes the contrast of feelings surrounding the Cal Poly football team right now.

The new head coach Larry Welsh met with players for the first time Monday. Whenever a new head coach comes in, players aren't sure about what will happen. The Cal Poly football players are no exception. Most of them are questioning what Welsh is all about and how his style will affect the team and their own personal careers.

Even players who played under Welsh at Atascadero High School are unsure of what he will be like. "He will be a good asset to the team, but it is hard to say how different (from former head coach Andre Patterson) he will be," said Dan Loney, a freshman guard. He said it is "weird" to have a different coach in high school and college.

Welsh's winning record (281-55-5) precedes him. This ability to be successful seems to be the one thing the players are sure of right now. "He must be a very good coach and if he continues here then he might be that one who can lead us to a national championship," said quarterback Nate Ecklund. Ecklund, the quarterback at San Luis Obispo High School, remembers playing against Welsh's team.

Many players on the Cal Poly football team have played against Welsh's team or on it during high school. They all hope Welsh will help make good things happen for them.

It is all starts with practice and everyone is anxious to get started with the spring season. "We can finally get pointed in one direction, we can finally move on," said freshman wide receiver Kamil Loud. The team is doing just that. Welsh is meeting with the assistant coaches to discuss philosophies and to prepare for the spring practice starting April 25.

Welsh said Patterson made a lot of improvements with the team in his three years at Cal Poly. He hopes to build on that solid foundation. "Andre was on step five or six of his plan and we are going to expand on that and move up to step nine or ten," Welsh said.

Patterson left Cal Poly to accept a position with the New England Patriots.

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"He scared me for a minute; I think he was joking. I hope he is balanced," Loney said. Welsh said the coaches haven't decided on any strategic plans for offense or defense yet. They will need more discussion to decide who will run the offense. He said they will work their way through it and learn from each other.

"We have to be able to move the football and at the same time be physical," Welsh said. "It's a fundamental game; no matter what you got to block and tackle." The players are expecting to travel down a bumpy road at first, but most feel the changes will benefit the team in the long run.

"His philosophies are different and we will have to adapt to them," said Welsh.

By Kimberly Kaney
Daily Stall Writer

By Martha Blackwell
Daily Stall Writer

By KimbeHy Koney
Daily Stall Writer

Every time that the team wins a match, the losing school's colors are painted on a feather, which is then glued to a lacrosse pole.

Adam Stowe, an assistant coach for the team, said that the tradition is, "better than