Gone with the wind:  
SLO's only gay bar to close

By Brad Davis  
Daily Staff Writer

As the new year blows in, Breezes, San Luis Obispo’s only bar catering to a predominantly gay clientele, will close. The bar opened in February 1992 as a place where local gay and lesbians could comfortably meet and socialize, according to Breezes management. Business was steady from the start, and the bar never had any serious problems. But since new building owners have taken over and the lease is expiring, the bar’s owner is now stuck with a tense task of relocation.

In 1996, Randy Poltl and Associates took over management of the Village Shopping Center where the bar is currently located.

This past August, the company gave Breezes a 90-day notice for the non-renewal of its lease. Randy Poltl, the management company owner, said they “had a very good working relationship with Breezes,” but didn’t want to comment on the reasons for the non-renewal of the lease.

“The specifics of why Breezes is leaving or what its future plans are - it’s best if we don’t comment,” Poltl said. “When we came in they were having difficulties with their lease. It’s really best if you talk to them.”

According to Breezes owner Lisa Dean, “Things have been said about not wanting a gay bar in the shopping center.”

“Don’t want a gay bar in their mall.”

Dean, who’s been with the bar since it opened, decided to announce that the bar was closed after the current lease was set up by the previous shopping center owners. Shortly after new management took over things began to change.

“Within two to three months (management) decided they didn’t want a bar here,” she said. “I’ve spent a year and a half looking for a new lease.”

Dean has yet to find a new location for the bar.

Dean estimates that the population of the gay community in any given town is roughly 10 percent of the total population. In San Luis Obispo, which has a population of 43,000, the gay community alone would be comprised of about 4,300 people based on that principle.

“I believe some of (the reasons for non-renewal) are for homophobic reasons,” she said. “But it’s not like (Poltl) ‘They don’t want a gay bar in their mall.’

Dean is upset about the bar’s closing.

Dean said. “Or to sustain any kind of gay business for that matter.”

One Breezes patron, Alice Brown, said she is upset about the bar’s closing.

“I’m really disappointed that it’s closing because it’s the only place for openly gay people to hang out and be comfortable,” she said.

Two businesses in the shopping center, Cork ‘n’ Bottle Liquor and Albertson’s, declined to give comment about the bar’s closing.

Burger King Franchise Owner John White, whose business is in the adjacent building, said he hadn’t heard the bar was closing.

“I really didn’t know anything about it.”

See BREEZES page 5

Possible Iraqi chemical weapons factories searched  

By Waid Fakih  
Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.N. arms monitors searching for Iraq’s banned arsenal inspected 11 sites on Monday without interference, including pharmaceutical factories where biological or chemical weapons could be produced.

But a new confrontation could still develop if U.N. inspectors try to search dozens of other sites, including President Saddam Hussein’s many palaces, which Iraq considers sensitive to national security.

An American U-2 spy plane, which Iraq has threatened to shoot down, made another flight into Iraqi airspace Monday, its third since the crisis over weapons inspections started more than three weeks ago.

But a new confrontation could still develop if U.N. inspectors try to search dozens of other sites, including President Saddam Hussein’s many palaces, which Iraq considers sensitive to national security.

An American U-2 spy plane, which Iraq has threatened to shoot down, made another flight into Iraqi airspace Monday, its third since the crisis over weapons inspections started more than three weeks ago.

A Pentagon official in Washington said the flight over central Iraq — part of the U.N. weapons inspection program — was completed without incident.

He said the inspectors were searching for missiles and biological, chemical and nuclear weapons, as well as examining arms imports and exports. Some inspectors flew in helicopters to check for any inappropriate activity on the ground. U.N. inspectors have accused Iraq of sneaking documents out the back doors of weapons sites even as inspectors were entering the front.

The arms inspectors’ job is to certify that Iraq has complied with U.N. resolutions requiring it to eliminate weapons of mass destruction in line with treaties that ended the 1991 Persian Gulf War Economic sanctions, imposed after Iraq’s 1990 invasion of Kuwait that led to the war, have devastated the Iraqi economy.

Despite the latest cooperation in Baghdad, American and Iraqi officials were still arguing over whether inspectors should search Saddam’s many presidential compounds.

In Washington, deputy White House national security adviser James Steinberg said the United States

See IRAQ page 3
Dynamic storyteller to perform tonight

By Brian Johnson
Daily Staff Writer

Diane Ferlatte and her animated brand of storytelling will be showcased tonight at the Cal Poly Theatre.

Ferlatte will tell stories from many cultures in a variety of ways. That’s about all that can be predicted however, since she doesn’t go into a performance at set formula.

“My routine is shaped by the audience,” Ferlatte said. “What I do depends on how an audience responds.

“Just a little while ago I made up a song on the spot. I was performing for some children, and they were just acting silly, and it just slipped out,” Ferlatte said. “It just comes out.”

Ferlatte said her style of storytelling involves many avenues of communication.

“Storytelling is not just straight narration,” she said. “It’s many things. It’s singing, acting and talking. A lot of people think of storytelling as this monotone voice going on and on, but it’s not that.”

Melba Jones, director of the San Juan Capistrano Story Telling Festival, said Ferlatte is a joy to watch because of her ability to liven up any place in which she performs.

“She’s got a lot of rhythm with her storytelling. She’s got a lot of song, a little bit of dance. She’s not afraid to just cut loose and just entertain,” Jones said. “When you say ’storyteller’ you have the image of something quiet. Diane is not quiet. The whole room is filled with energy with Diane.”

“Diane is able to connect with every person in the audience. She is so upbeat and she’s got depth. You’ll feel like you know her,” Jones continued.

Ferlatte characteristically encourages her listeners’ participation.

“I point to people. I ask them to do things. I get the audience involved,” Ferlatte said.

Ferlatte said she developed her style of storytelling when she adopted a 3 1/2-year-old boy in 1976.

“He had no attention span,” Ferlatte said. “He grew up in a foster home and was put in front of the TV all day. I would read stories to him and he would whine for TV. I was reading to a TV brain. So I changed the way I read. I made sounds and different faces, and it was like TV to him.”

Ferlatte, originally from New Orleans, said her career in the art started when she performed once in front of her church. Someone saw her and asked her to perform at their school, and her act quickly spread by word of mouth. So far, she has performed in the United States, Sweden, Austria, Australia, New Zealand and Bermuda. She even performed for the kids’ session at President Clinton’s 1993 inauguration.

Children are a big part of her audience, but Ferlatte wanted to make clear that storytelling is for everyone.

“I went to this funeral where someone got up and told this long, beautiful story. It was about their memories and experiences with the person,” Ferlatte said. “When you leave this earth, what you leave behind are stories. Stories are everywhere.”

Ferlatte said we especially need storytellers today.

“We really need storytelling now in the computer age. We can’t let computers separate us from human touch,” she said, adding, “Storytelling is the glue that keeps us together.”

The show begins at 7 p.m. Tickets can be bought for $6 to $10 by calling 756-2787.
Man claims Denny's firing stems from his HIV infection

San Diego — A man who filed suit against Denny's claims the new manager of a local restaurant fired him because he is gay and has HIV. But a Denny's spokeswoman said Monday that Gary Hardin was fired because he violated the company's anti-discrimination policy.

"We conducted a detailed investigation, and what we found is that he was refusing to serve all the guests, and that he had made racial slurs," said Denny's spokeswoman Karen Randall.

"The issue was discrimination solely. It has nothing to do with anything else," Hardin, 48, said bosses had praised his performance as a server and even encouraged him to apply for a management position until a new manager was hired in April. He said the firing devastated him and he sued the restaurant on Nov. 12.

"I went from being very self-sustaining to being very dependent financially, mentally and physically," Hardin said.

But Randall said by telephone from Rancho Penasquitos that Denny's denied that any manager ever refused to serve all the guests and that he had made racial slurs.

"That's news to us that he even had it," Randall said. "That's not an issue."

Randall would not elaborate on what Hardin allegedly did to discriminate against customers, other than to say he would not serve black and Hispanic customers. She said the Denny's legal department had not yet reviewed the suit.

"As you may know, we settled two discrimination cases in May 1994, and we've made a number of changes at the company," Randall said. "We're a new Denny's organization."

Three years ago, Denny's agreed to pay $46 million to settle claims by black customers who said they weren't served or were ordered to pay before receiving their meals.

Just last month, a former Denny's restaurant worker in Phoenix was awarded $30,000 in back wages after the company let his co-workers and customers know he was infected with HIV.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission found that the company violated federal law by discriminating against the man, Hardin said.

Randall said Denny's requires all employees to attend diversity training, and as a result of the Arizona incident, they plan to place even more emphasis on confidentiality of medical information.

Dr. Bob England, chief epidemiologist for the Arizona Department of Public Health, said in October that fears that workers with HIV could contaminate food were unfounded.

"You can spend all your time trying to imagine fanciful scenarios of getting AIDS, but I know of no cases where restaurant workers transmitted the virus," he said.

In San Diego, Hardin and his attorneys, Traci Kuchta and Elizabeth Brady, said the accusations against him were simply an excuse to fire him, because Denny's has a policy of firing without delay any employee who discriminates against customers.

"This was a way he could be fired immediately," Kuchta said.

Hardin worked as a server for seven years at the Denny's restaurant in Mission Valley. Hardin said he told his managers he had HIV 1½ years ago when he learned of his condition. He said in his lawsuit that he encountered no difficulties until a new manager started working at the restaurant in April.

Hardin said the manager required that he bring in his prescription bottles to prove that he was taking the medications. Hardin also alleged the manager demanded he bring in a doctor's note — unlike other employees at the restaurant — if he was sick.

Randall said Denny's fired him because he refused that employees infected with HIV notify their manager or the company.

Hardin was suspended for three days in late August and given a document stating that four employees claimed he used a racial slur against a customer. He denied the incident occurred and said he still has no details of the allegation.
Two students tell why Mustang Daily empowers the penis vandal

Editor,

Recently several red handprints—valuable to the school as well as victims of assault—were defaced by some unknown vandals. I think that the Mustang Daily did a service to the students by publishing this subject. I don’t like what the vandals did, but I also don’t like what Mustang Daily did either in its feint of action around campus.

If anything, printing the stories would save the victim any more embarrassment than they have already suffered. By doing things quietly, vandals would learn that we won’t stand for this anymore and it won’t be accepted. If you do something again, big or small, we will not be any better than just writing your name in the paper.

To the vandals anything, quietly take down the destroyed property and don’t harp on about it. That only helps build the desire to do it again. That would teach vandals that we won’t get the fame they are after, and it will discourage them from doing it again. If you’re just like anything I am, you are probably just laughing their heads off at Mustang Daily for making such a fuss around campus.

Each of the three colleges I’ve attended have had been faced with specific issues. Regardless of the school, I’ve learned that these issues are fundamentally the same. For example, consider the infamous parking issue. I have yet to hear about a campus that doesn’t have a parking crisis. But, rather than add to the multitude of complaints expressed, how hard is it to find parking or fear of parking lot accidents, I’d like to offer a solution.

Don’t drive. It seems so simple, yet so many find it difficult. So I’ve taken it upon myself to offer a few suggestions intended to make driving to campus less desirable.

Before I propose my own solutions to the parking issue, let’s look at what the university is doing to improve the parking situation. If you haven’t noticed by now, the old tennis courts on California Blvd. north of Mustang Stadium have been converted into one 48-space staff parking lot (just what we didn’t need — more staff parking). Yet despite university efforts, it has come to my attention that the lot is virtually empty. What a waste of valuable space.

Beginning early 1999, the university plans to build a four-level parking structure, providing 506 additional spaces. The planned location is near the track, on top of six tennis courts. This is all fine and dandy, but it appears to me that the real problem still hasn’t been addressed. Still nothing is being done to stop people from driving to school. Spending millions of dollars to create more parking only intensifies the parking dilemma by communicating to more people that it’s okay to drive to campus.

The following proposals are addressed to those students, faculty and staff who live within walking and biking distance from campus, live near a bus stop, or avoid taking advantage of carpool opportunities. My solution to Cal Poly’s parking involves motivating students to refrain from driving to school the old fashioned way — by punishment and reward. It’s important to remember that parking is a privilege, not a right.

Keeping this in mind, I suggest a parking permit increase to $72 each quarter. Half of that money could be dispersed in the form of prizes to students and faculty who choose alternative methods of transportation.

Another way to entice students to stay out of their cars would be to increase student registration fees by $72 for full-time status. This fee would include a parking permit. However, if students relinquish their parking permits, they would be reimbursed $36, the cost of a parking permit. This would be like paying people not to drive to campus.

I also firmly believe there should be a law prohibiting people who live within a certain distance from campus from being allowed to purchase a parking permit (provided you do not have a disability). Maybe it would be just as beneficial to get rid of parking permits altogether and rely solely on three-hour metered parking. It seems to me that these are effective ways to motivate people leave their cars at home.

Finally, I’d like to propose one last solution. Instead of parking permits, parking fees should be paid on a daily basis each time a person drives to school. Vehicles carrying only the driver should be required to pay a double rate to park. Vehicles with three or more passengers should pay half the daily rate. What a bargain for thinking before driving!

It’s obvious that there are alternatives to eliminate the poor parking situation on campus. Motivating people not to drive is a place to begin. Hopefully some of these suggested actions will be taken seriously and implemented in the future. Do the environment a favor — more importantly do yourself a favor and don’t drive to school.

Staff writer Carrie Cardoza owns a car but would, bikes, or carpools to school.

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BREEZES from page 1

...as another factor in the equation.

"For a college town it's unfortunate that San Luis Obispo is so conservative," she said. She also identified the local atmosphere as another factor in the equation.

"It was very informative, and he used language that students could really relate to," Hersom said. Dymond added, "One of his main points was that he's not here to teach us not to drink, he's here to teach us how to drink responsibly, and he did it by telling us about personal experiences."

 Alpha Phi member P.J. Axtman said she thought Green's presentation style was very effective.

"We need to be our brothers and sisters' keepers. We need to take care of each other," Green said.

Super Bowl commercials sold out

Associated Press

NEW YORK — NBC got a record $13.1 million per 30-second spot for Super Bowl commercials and sold out of spots — more than two months before the game, network and industry officials said Monday.

The amount paid for each 30-second unit of commercial time was up from about $1.2 million for last year's game, the trade magazine Advertising Age reported.

Industry executives cited strong demand by advertisers for sports programming and a rush of last-minute studios to book time for upcoming releases as reasons for the increased price.

The game traditionally attracts the biggest TV audience of the year. Commercials during the Jan. 25 game will generate more than $755 million at the rate cited by Advertising Age. In addition, NBC sells commercials during pre- and post-game shows and got another $5 million from Royal Caribbean International cruise lines to be the sole sponsor of the halftime show.

Ed Markey, a spokesman for NBC Sports, said the last available slots for the game sold out about three weeks ago, earlier than last year.

"We need to be our brothers' and sisters' keepers. We need to take care of each other," -- Mike Green 

Alcohol speaker and take care of each other"

"He really made us aware by making us look at ourselves," she said. "In a short time, he made us evaluate ourselves and our drinking habits."

His goals go beyond Friday night bongos. Which means if he drinks, he does so responsibly. And that's what BACCHUS is all about. Students helping students.

Three ways to use Discover Card: Buyback and take care of each other. — Denny Bresnahan, Breezes Daily, March 25, 1997

Green from page 1 one side. "How many of you have ever had the bedroom scene again at 90 mph?" and "How many have ever slept with a truck can beside the bed?"

Green said there is a distinction between being an alcoholic and having an alcohol problem. Most college students, he said, have "one-night problems."

"That's a short-term problem of one night that could have a lifetime consequence," he said. "And they're not even close to being an alcoholic, they're an average college student and every once in a while they get that little attitude and say, I'm getting drunk tonight because I deserve it. That's when you have a one-night problem."

Green illustrated some of the troubles heavy drinking can bring by telling stories of students across the country. Most of the stories had been told to him by students after having witnessed his presentation.

A bash fell over the crowd when Green told the story of a man he had met while giving a presentation at the University of Connecticut. Green said it was the worst story he had ever heard.

"He'd drank one time in his life," Green said. "He'd drunk one time in his life, two years before. He went to university, he's still struggling for acceptance three years after its inception. Incidents of GSU, hosting smoke bombs were also included in past Daily reports.

Today, Gays Lesbians Bisexuals United (GLBU) takes the place of the GSU, hosting about 30 individuals at its weekly meetings.

He made a statement by passing the bar. Not entering one.
OSORIO from page 8
her, especially last fall, when she last some family members. "My teammates were really great," she said. "In the fall, my grandparents died and we had to go home twice. They were really supportive. I got cards and the team sent flowers to my family. They were just very supportive."

She considers her teammates a family away from home. "They're there for you, when you need them. Just like I'd be there for any of them," she said. Bona Bevien, forward on the basketball team, agreed Osorio is someone she can count on to be there for her.

"She'll put anybody or anything ahead of herself," Bevien said. "She's really giving and totally modest."

As a player, Bevien said Osorio is not only modest, but also gifted. "Stephanie's not like that, she doesn't blow her own horn," she said. "I think she's an excellent player, especially to be so young. Whenever we need a spark, she's it. She's a natural scorer."

Besides being home sick, Osorio said she didn't expect to play in so many games during her freshman year. She started 20 of 26 games last season. "I'd heard that it's not common for freshmen to make the starting line-up," she said. "So I wasn't expecting to get a lot of time in the court."

"I've added more depth to my game," she said. "In high school, I wasn't shooting much, but when I came here, I'm looked upon as a scorer. I penetrate more and shoot off the dribble more. I've added a lot more options to my game, other than shooting."

Osorio's teammates and coach consider her a team leader, as evidenced by the way she operates. Megan Carmola, guard for the team, said Osorio is very competitive but she never forgets about the team.

"She's always there for any of them," she said. "In high school, I never played a lot because she's an outstanding player."

"It's unusual these days for freshmen to be major contributors at the Division I level," Mimnaugh said. "They usually need a year or two to develop and get some valuable playing experience under their belts. She's a tremendous player and somebody who just brings the team to a higher level."

Mimnaugh also agreed with Bevien about Osorio's talent as a three-point shooter. "Her role on our team is to shoot the basket," Mimnaugh said. "She's doing some other things for us as well right now. She's probably the leader in our assists, the first two games (of this season), and she has a complete game. But I think her greatest strength is that she is a consummate team player and her work ethic inspires others to work as hard as she does."

Mimnaugh added that Osorio has constantly improved her game over the year. Osorio agreed that she has improved as a basketball player by becoming more well-rounded. "I've added more depth to my game," she said. "In high school, I wasn't shooting much, but when I came here, I'm looked upon as a scorer. I penetrate more and shoot off the dribble more. I've added a lot more options to my game, other than shooting."

"Stephanie is definitely a person I can count on to help the team, like her actions more than her words," said Bevien. "RR Donnelley offers competitive wages, opportunities for advancement and an inclusive benefits package: Medical/Dental, Tuition Reimbursement, 401(k) Retirement, Result Sharing Bonus Plan and much more!"

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FLEMING from page B

Fleming’s family. His father was a star at Weber State University before playing in the NBA with Detroit. But Fleming said his father did not pressure him to play basketball. The decision of whether or not to play has always been up to him. "My dad never threw a basketball in my hand and said, ‘play soccer,’" he said. "He saw that I could have been up to him. He has always told me ‘if you don’t love the son,’ " he said. "He saw that I been up to him. I think I could have been a good defender, plus he’s a really good rebounder," Schneider said.

According to Ketcham, "When Fleming puts his mind to it, he can rebound with the best of them. He can kill people on the boards."

Maybe this explains why his enthusiasm and his coaching, and I wanted to be a part of some-

And a part of something he was. Schneider was able to con-

Fleming was the first player to suit-up for the Mustangs. He is also the first player to suit-up from page 8

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Sophomore guard Stephanie Osorio, who leads the Mustangs in assists, puts a three-point shot up over an opponent.

Osorio soars over opponents

By Selena Lay
Daily Staff Writer

She may have plenty of achievements under her belt, but Stephanie Osorio, guard for Cal Poly women's basketball team, isn't one to toot her own horn.

Osorio, business sophomore, received an honorable mention in the All-Big West Conference selection in 1996-97 season her freshman year. Among her other achievements as a freshman are scoring an average of 10.9 points per game and making 88 of 192 three-point attempts, breaking the school record.

This season, she leads her teammates in assists.

"I've been playing since I was in the fourth grade," Osorio said. "I don't know why I like basketball. I just love it. I love the competition."

Competition is something Osorio said she's used to. She came from Oregon City High School and was a member of its basketball team, which USA Today ranked No. 1 in the nation in 1995-96. Her high school team also finished that season undefeated.

So when Osorio decided to come to Cal Poly, she wasn't one to question her skills.

"I came from a really competitive high school," she said. "Intimidation wasn't a factor at the beginning."

What she did experience her first year at Cal Poly was a huge dose of homesickness.

"Being away from home was difficult," she said. "I spoke to my family and friends every day for a month."

Osorio credits her teammates for being there for and takes a lot of pride," Cal Poly head coach Steve Schneider said. "His enthusiasm is contagious."

"He's an inspirational leader. He adds a lot of excitement on the court and he really gets the team going," Cal Poly forward Ross Ketcham said. "He gets the team pumped and jumping around."

Fleming likes his role at Cal Poly.

"Sure, scoring points is fine, but I like to grab rebounds or get tip-in dunks or just completely shut a guy down," Fleming said. "I get more of a charge off of that, I get more pumped off of that than anything."

Basketball runs deep in