This steel bridge spans 67 feet over San Luis Creek in Cuesta Park. It was dedicated Tuesday. Architectural Engineering students Jason Edwards, Bryan Frank, Damon Ho, Sally McFadden, Doug Mayer, and Jonathan Stafford designed the $16,800 structure with the Rotary Club for their senior project.

Poly seniors design, build bridge
Cuesta Park structure gives students ‘learn by doing’ experience

By Steve Fairchild
Summer Mustang

For many years visitors to Cuesta Park have been had to walk over a series of muddy planks set over San Luis Creek to reach the pristine park. Those mutlic days are over, thanks to a shiny new steel bridge built by six Cal Poly architectural engineering students, with the financial support of the Rotary Club of San Luis Obispo.

The students, Jason Edwards, Bryan Frank, Damon Ho, Sally McFadden, Doug Mayer, and Jonathan Stafford worked for more than three months on the bridge for their senior project.

The new bridge was the brainchild of Rotary Club President Dick Pottatz. "The Rotary's love community projects every year and the bridge was a high priority for us," Pottatz said.

Once the Rotary committed resources to the bridge, Pottatz looked to Cal Poly for interested students. Jonathan Stafford, a member of the student team, said the Rotary approached Facilities Planning, which in turn asked the architectural engineering department to seek out interested students.

"We had a really good group with a lot of diversity. We worked really well together," Stafford said. He said he and the other student designers are proud they were able to complete such a large-scale project in a short amount of time.

"We're glad to leave the school with a bridge intact."

See BRIDGE, page 2

Classes crowd seniors
Crashing English classes proves difficult for graduating seniors

By Julie O'Shea
Summer Mustang

It is the first day of summer quarter. Outside the doors of Jim Howland's Corporate Communication class there is a spill of students straining to hear if any add slips will be signed that day.

Howland, an English lecturer, is at the front of the room looking around at the throng of students assembled around him. Some are sitting, most are standing.

One of the first statements out of his mouth is an apology. Howland tells the class he would love for all of them to be able to take this class, but that he will only be taking adds through CAPTURE — dreaded words for most students trying to crash a class.

Howland took an add request sheet of 29 students to David Kann, assistant head of the English department, to see if another section of English 310 could be opened.

His request was denied. The reason: the department did not have enough money, a situation not unusual for English classes, Kann said.

The problem of English overcrowding surfaces quarter after quarter, and the lack of class offerings is not due to a shortage of professors, but rather, a shortage of funding.

Kann said, "The dean's office allocates the money as fairly as they can based on demand, but it's never enough

See ENGLISH, page 2

Congress OKs drop in fall student loans

By Shannon Pedrick
Summer Mustang

Students will face lower loan interest rates in the fall quarter.

Congress is revising the rates while making good on the 1993 Student Loan Reform Act, designed to lower interest rates without pushing away lenders.

The rate change will cover money borrowed from July 1 to Sept. 31. Since Cal Poly does not offer financial aid during the summer, all students applying for financial aid for the fall quarter will be affected.

Congress and lenders have been bickering over this issue and in May of this year agreed on a solution. Banks across the country did not want lower interest rates on

See LOANS, page 3
News Briefs

Fireworks laws strictly enforced

Fireworks laws will be strictly enforced this 4th of July, said Fire Chief Bob Neumann. All fireworks are illegal in San Luis Obispo County and will be confiscated as required by law, said Neumann. Violations can result in a misdemeanor and will require a court appearance. Parents can be held liable for their children’s use of fireworks.

Annual triathlon seeks volunteers

Three hundred volunteers are needed to help with the 19th annual SLO Triathlon. Everyone who volunteers will receive a water bottle, a T-shirt and a hearty lunch. The Parks and Recreation department needs people to help with the bike, run course and the pool area. For more information, call 546-7447.

Cal Poly awards outstanding seniors


Sometimes it pays to blame El Niño

A non-profit organization of writers and poets is sponsoring a writing contest about El Niño. The catch: the first five words of the opening sentence must be “Blame it on El Niño.” First prize is $150. Along with a $10 entry fee, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SLO NightWriters Short Story Contest, 5945 Entrada, Atascadero, CA 93422. For more information, call 546-9526.

Coast Medical Research Group, Inc. is a local Medical Research Firm.

Do You Have a Skin Infection?

Volunteers ages 18 to 88 needed. Must have skin infection with drainage, such as: skin abscess, boil, impetigo, infected cut, animal bite or scratch, splinter, or infected stitches.

Are You coughing, wheezing, feversh?

Then you might have acute Bronchitis!

We are currently seeking individuals with Acute Bronchitis to evaluate the effects of an investigational research medication. You may qualify if you have a productive cough, fever, hoarseness & wheezing, are 12 years of age or older.

Medical Research Study for Sinusitis.

We are currently looking for individuals who are 18 or older and have been diagnosed with sinusitis infection. To qualify for this study you must have at least two of the following symptoms:

- Nasal Congestion
- Post-nasal drip
- Frequent coughing of throat clearing
- Frontal headache
- Sinus facial pain
- Purulent nasal discharge

Qualified patients will receive free study related exams, lab tests, study medication, and compensation for their time and travel. For more information regarding this study, please call us at 756-1771.

ENGLISH continued from page 1

because what the legislature budgets for the CSU is never enough.”

Krantz did not only edit English 310; he got hit hard, but there was a critical demand in English 218, 340 and 350. Forty students were trying to add 218 this quarter.

In response, Howlad offered to teach another section of English 310 for deferred payment, allowing the department to pay him at a later date. “They can pay me whenever they can,” Howlad said. “I would just like students to get the class they need.”

The English department did not approve Howlad’s suggestion. Krantz said the dean of the College of Liberal Arts wouldn’t allow it. If Howlad received deferred payment, that money would come out of Fall quarter and one less class could be taught.

Liberal Arts Interim Dean Harry Sharp said the students who registered through CAPTURE should have had no problems getting classes, despite demand. “I viewed that as more tempest than a tempest,” Sharp said. “What was a crisis on Monday ... was no longer a problem by Wednesday.”

Sharp said offering an additional class in the summer would force the college to offer one less class in the fall, winter or spring quarter, due to budget constraints. “If they had registered during CAPTURE, they would have gotten in it,” he said. “If I were graduating this quarter I would have captured the class, instead of waiting until the first day to crash.”

The National Council for the Teachers of English have guidelines stating the ideal number of students in a writing class is 15, or 20 at the most. Krantz said Cal Poly has been running with 28 students per class for years.

“I could let a writing class go to 40 students, but that wouldn’t be a writing class any more,” Krantz said. “Once it gets to 20 students, there are too many students for a teacher to teach them well.”

The Poly’s administration has heavily promoted summer enrollment. Flyers around campus and ads in Mustang Library last quarter promised students 10 percent more classes than last quarter in every major, not just English. Krantz said the money, however, never came through for the number of classes students demand.

“The bottom line is it costs a certain amount of money to hold a class, and the money is just not there.”

Hartmans’ dual wills give kids $1.23 million estate

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The nearly identical wills of Phil Hartman and his wife, which leave their $1.23 million estate to their children, 9-year-old Sean and 6-year-old Bub, are nearly identical wills of Phil Hartman and his wife, which leave their $1.23 million estate to their children, 9-year-old Sean and 6-year-old Bub.

Hartman’s sister, Katharine Wright, Their 50-page wills direct that first guardian who consents to take care of the children be given $50,000. Nobody contested the wills during the opening sentence must be “Blame it on El Niño.” First prize is $150. Along with a $10 entry fee, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SLO NightWriters Short Story Contest, 5945 Entrada, Atascadero, CA 93422. For more information, call 546-9526.

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Legal and illegal fireworks pose threat to child safety

INGLEWOOD (AP) — The trio of youngsters peering hungrily at the public fireworks display in this Los Angeles suburb got the bad news: "You have the news: "You have

of yeoung'sters peering hungrily at the

Legal and illegal fireworks explained.

fountain of red, gold, green and silver

seems there is always another stand

of the fireworks sold for home use.

"California Dreamin' (an $18.85

pt>pular than ever. The "Killer Bee,

Inglewood fireworks stand have $3

pose threat to child safety

eye, hand and facial injuries.

99 by illegal fireworks frt)m June 17

hospital emergency rixims, 82 pei>ple

nearly as many injuries as illegal ones

threat to life and limb.

through July 16 of 1997, according to

There were dozens of reports of

This week, Los Angeles County

Join the Fireworks at WOODSTOCK*S

students. Congress will be

because we are not able to tell

income from the exact interest

rate they will be paying on their

loans," Hinkle said.

Some students who receive

financial aid will have no idea

what this new decision means,

and may not.

"I am not going to worry about a

half-percent change for a loan that

I will not start paying back for

another five years," said John

Scammarela, a computer engi-

neering freshman and financial aid

recipient.

For now, interest rates will con-

titute to be debated in Congress.

While providing a temporary solu-

tion to the problem, the new inter-

est rates give Congress and lenders

more time to find beneficial agree-

ment for students and lenders.

BUENA PARK (AP) — Knott's Berry Farm is hoping to muscle its way

into Southern California's thrill ride market with the latest in scare hardware.

Employees who tested the $10 mil-

lion Supreme Scream before its public debut Friday found plenty to scream

about.

The three-legged steel tower yanks

riders 252 feet up, then hurtles them

back down in three seconds, faster than

a free-fall.

It is the sort of new thrill ride coming to Knott's, which launched the biggest spending program in its 78 years after new owners took over last year.

Sanodesk, Ohio-based Cedar Fair LP

plans to open Ghost Rider, the largest

wooden roller coaster on the West Coast.

Knott's is counting on Supreme Scream, Ghost Rider and other new attractions to change its image. Long

known for family ownership, jam and

fired chicken, now faces a destination test for thrill seekers.

Knott's drew a reported 3.6 million visitors last year and aims for more than 4 million. Nearby Disneyland pulled in 14.25 million people in 1997, according to industry analysts.

Magic Mountain in Valencia, which has also added scary new rides, remains the favorite among local teens.

For now, Supreme Scream is the only

ride of its kind in California. Knott's spokesman belt-Ochsner said.

"The fact that it's opening before the

peak of summer is a harbinger of good
times to come," he said.

WHAT

DID YOU DO

THIS SUMMER?

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Great gear for

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Aim

for

the

cup.

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fertility. EOC Health Services

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diseases.

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EOC Health Services

Arona Grande

498-4026

Cuesta College

544-2479

San Luis Obispo

544-2479
Where have all the father's gone?

Inquiring women want to know...

Men as fathers, women as mothers. Why is it the same in nature as it is the work force?

Women doing twice the work in the whole process, but reaping half the benefits, pay, credit, etc.

For instance, why is it that when a woman pushes a stroller down the street we smile at the baby or simply glance to see whether the baby looks like a doll or a swamp?

Oh, but let a man push a stroller down the street and he's the doll, automatically.

When a woman stands in line at the grocery store with a child in the cart, one at her side and one in her arms sucking a "maggie" (my sister's slang for pacifier derived from the Simpson's cartoon) we think, "Why didn't she take birth control?"

Find a man in that position, and we're more likely to wonder where the mother is.

I observed this once in a store and told the elderly woman from in front of me. One said to the other:

"Mom, Hmmp, I saw that.

"The mother shouldn't leave him with those kids. He doesn't know what to do with all those kids." I say, if he knows how to make baby food, he knows how to be left alone with them.

We congratulate men all the time for things that should just come naturally to any rational, socially responsible human being, regardless of whether you're a parent.

Things like taking care of children you created emotionally, mentally, physically, spiritually, and financially. The definition of a "deadbeat dad" should definitely include these five qualities. Let's not limit it to money.

I mean really, why do we have to have commercials to remind fathers to be fathers to their children?

Why do we have to have bumper stickers that say "Being a father is more than just a weekend visit."

Duh!! I've been in a workplace and heard a so-called dad say to a co-worker:

"My ex calls me up and tells me my daughter was sick and she wants me to stay with her while she goes to work. I had the kid the whole week-end, she's the one who wanted her all week, now she has to deal with it. I mean, she's sick. There's nothing I can do about that."

Well, I'm not convinced that men don't get it about the "kid" thing. No, no. It's just that some men are too selfish to acknowledge their social responsibility.

I know from experience that mothering isn't always a natural instinct, but it is definitely my social responsibility. For adults, they should respect and exercise that toward anyone's kids.

Have you ever heard a man say, "Thanks, but he's not mine, it's my girlfriend's son." I have.

I've also heard many women accept responsibility for children that they didn't give birth to.

When a man says, "He's not mine, but I treat him just like he is," that's crap. If it weren't, he'd simply claim the child.

What I'm really getting at is this:

We live in society where you have to devote the cover of Sports Illustrated to the issue of male parental irresponsible to get men to acknowledge their wrongdoing.

I propose the bottom line is that men have historically chosen to let selfishness override their social responsibility.

Women have chosen to be more naturally capable of nurturing, self-sacrifice or whatever, but because women have chosen to be more responsible about the impact their actions and choices have on society, that is why there will never be a commercial reminding women to take responsibility for their children.

Amy Lowell is a journalism junior and a staff writer for the Mustang Daily.

Cal Poly mustang remembers a special individual

It is with great sadness that we received the news of the passing of Maurice L. Wilks, Professor Emeritus of the College of Architecture at Cal Poly. Wilks was that rare finding that we, as his colleagues and close friends, make a statement of affirmation of his personal contribution to our time, Maury fought during World War II with honor and distinction.

He served as a lead bombardier on a B-18 in the eighth Air Force in the air war against Germany.

He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with oak leaf cluster, several air medals, the European theater ribbon with three battle stars, the American Defense Medal and the Victory Medal for his valor. He survived 25 missions as a lead crew bombardier.

He was married and accepted into the graduate program at Yale University at the end of the war. He graduated cum laude with a degree in architectural engineering.

He practiced in Newport Beach until he received a teaching appointment as an assistant professor of architectural design at Kansas State University in the late 1950s.

After teaching there, he returned to private practice in Los Angeles. Later, he became a faculty member in architectural design at the University of Utah.

He then returned to private practice in southern California and was the lead designer on the Fox building in San Francisco.

He was also the design manager of the development of the Twentieth Century City Complex in Santa Monica and many others.

His personal connection to us came about in our collegiate relation at Cal Poly. He was President of the local chapter of the American Association of University Professors. He was a defender of the principles of academic freedom and tenure. He was a member of the Cal Poly Academic Senate and was a faculty force in fairness and honesty in academic disciplines.

His students in architectural design will remember him for his logical development of design concepts, as well as his ability to recognize and to define the factors leading to sound original planning and design.

Among his other accomplishments, it must be mentioned that he had a strong pre-war background in the fine arts. He was an accomplished watercolor artist. Furthermore, he was expert in photography and was exceedingly competent in fashion jewel design and meteorology.

He was a private individual who held firmly views and enjoyed life. He was an artist with a keen eye for beauty and structure.

We frequently went painting and had long lunches in which he enjoyed discussions of art, literature, music, religion, science and other subjects.

His paintings have a profound depth of insight into his subjects which included land and seascapes, still life and people. There is a rock on Moonstone Beach which he painted for us which stands out from the canvas as if it were alive.

Maury was an excellent colleague who uneasily spent hours of his own time counseling and helping juniors in a number of different fields.

He was an artist and an intellectual who was dedicated to the cause of academic freedom and the enrichment of humanity.

He used to say with pride in being a man that "humans were the only species who could leave a reasoned monument or mark after them when they passed on."

We frequently went building, paintings, sculptures, ceramics, and other creations will continue to live. His wit, humanity and keen intelligence will always be in our hearts and will not be forgotten.

We have lost a good friend and one who made a positive difference for us all.

The words of the poet John Donne, here quoted in the original Elizabethan English, are appropriate to describe our feelings for Maury and Maury's dedication to the human spirit:

"No man is an island entire of itself, every man is a piece of the Continent, a part of the main; if a Clod be washed away by the Sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a Promontory were, as well as if a manner of thy friends of of those one's were, any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind; And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee."

David R. SNECKER is a Professor of Architectural Engineering and a Retired Navy Captain. Judy D. Saltzman-Snecker is a Professor of Philosophy.

SUMMER MUSTANG

"No one wants to see your mustache!

Sunset Ray Bocce, editor in chief

Jeremy Reo, news editor

Jaime Zaffolentz, opinion editor

Mark Hartz, Arts Weekly editor

Michelle Bucyin, copy editor

David Wood, photo editor

Freed Klimowski, information technology

Claude Lofrus, circulation

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Summer Mustang

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Greg Manifold, campus advertising manager

ad representative

Trevor Bober, Alex Garber, Jason Joyce,

Kimberly Duffler

04 Thursday, July 2, 1998
It's not about conspiracies, it's about education

Regarding last week's letter from Keith Spencer about deferred rush:

Awwww, did the greeky-weekies get their wittle feewings hurt?

Tell me, is this guy just a little paranoid, or what? "This is a nationwide conspiracy to destroy greeks!" he declares. Give me a break!

In case you forgot, the first priority of freshmen going off to college should be getting an education. Many of them are leaving their parents for the first time in their lives, and they need time to figure out their priorities. Jumping into a beer-drenched sorority or fraternity right away is not exactly the best way to get acquainted with adult life.

Consider the case of Scott Krueger, the MIT freshman who died of alcohol poisoning after just his fourth week of school.

According to Newsweek's June 15 issue, this kid was no dummy: an honors student who graduated seventh out of 339 in his high school class, Scott was also accepted to Cornell, Rochester and Michigan as an engineering major. The frats started recruiting him before he headed to MIT, and he decided to join Phi Gamma Delta and live in their house.

Several of Scott's high school friends said in the article he was not known to drink, but when the Krueger family frantically sped to the hospital last September, they found their son and his brother unconscious, with vomit caked in his hair and a .41 blood-alcohol level. They pulled the plug on his brain-dead body four days later.

What happened between high school and the time of his death?

The answer is the overwhelming peer pressure he faced from his bought friends, his "brothers." If MIT practiced the deferred rush policy that Cal Poly now has in place, Scott wouldn't have met his awful fate.

He would have moved into the dorms at the beginning of the year and almost surely would have just finished his freshman year, probably joining the crew and lacrosse teams like he was planning.

Perhaps this summer he would have been thinking about joining a frat for next year, along with making other plans for his future.

What I'm driving at here is two things. First, greek organizations are allowing underage students to live in their houses and drink at their parties, and these people are dying.

Second, after Kristin Smart's disappearance and other fraternity drinking incidents, Cal Poly administration needed to put some kind of policy in place to cover their butts from lawsuits.

They recognized the fact that the frats are not teaching people to "party responsibly," as Spencer claims, but getting themselves into trouble that makes the whole university look bad.

Spencer also said that if freshmen can't join fraternities and sororities, then they shouldn't be allowed to join other campus clubs in their first year either, because they all have alcohol-abuse incidents that are just never reported.

Oh, please! I sincerely hope that he, as a graduate of this school, is not so naive as to actually believe that. The greeks are the ones caught holding the bag; therefore, they are the ones who get punished.

Cal Poly administration is not trying to destroy the greeks. If it really wanted to do that, it would have banned them altogether. It has just put up with 14 hazing or alcohol-related incidents in the last three years.

That sounds pretty tolerant to me.

If Spencer was planning to give money to the university, which he now plans to withhold because of this new policy, then he obviously didn't learn much while in residence here.

If greeks want to stop getting blamed, they need to get their acts together and stop letting underage students drink.

Michelle Boykin is a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily copy editor who doesn't really dislike the greeks, just the misinformed ones.
Canadian legend to perform at PAC

By Jeff Biofore
Summer Mustang

If folk music is the tune that sets you swaying, then the name Gordon Lightfoot, the “Canadian Troubadour,” should be no stranger. A July 9 Performing Arts Center concert gives San Luis Obispo-area residents a rare opportunity to see a Lightfoot concert.

According to Leslie Elliott of DBL Entertainment, who is producing the concert along with KOTR and KCPR radio, the Gordon Lightfoot show in Bakersfield recently sold out. With 19 albums - not including two greatest hits albums - under his belt and hits like “Canadian Railroad Trilogy,” “The Wreck of Edmond Fitzgerald,” Lightfoot will even include songs from his new release, “A Painter Passing Through.”

Over his illustrious and noteworthy career, Lightfoot has become one of the most recognizable folk performers. He describes his latest album as “very autobiographical.”

With songs like, “On Yonge Street” and “Ringneck Loo,” the album describes life as a working man in his native Canada, his biography said. Lightfoot is proud of his new recordings and says his music does not fit into any one category.

“My stuff has always been considered to be ‘adult contemporary,’” though some people still refer to me as a folkie ... I’ve had stuff in the mainstream and country field,” he said in a biography.

One thing is sure, people take notice of the songs Lightfoot writes and sings. Since starting on the Toronto folk music club scene in the early ‘60s, Lightfoot has won many prestigious awards, including five Grammy nominations and 17 Juno awards, the Canadian equivalent of a Grammy.

He also has been honored by the Canadian government, who presented Lightfoot the prestigious “Order of Canada” citation for his international efforts in spreading Canadian culture.

Lightfoot’s songs also have been recorded by Bob Dylan, Glen Campbell, Elvis Presley, Peter, Paul and Mary; and Barbara Streisand.

Now into his 60s, he has not shown signs of slowing down. He is currently on an extensive tour crossing the United States and Canada.

With his core band of guitarist Terry Clemens, bassist Rick Hayes, keyboardist Mike Hefterman and drummer Barry Keane, Lightfoot sings songs and plays an array of acoustic guitars.

One stop on the tour schedule is the July 9 San Luis Obispo show. Tickets are on sale now at the Performing Arts Center Box Office, or charge tickets by calling 756-2787.

PAC summer season to start

Director predicts ‘largest, most diverse’ schedule of performances at Cal Poly

By Amy Lovell
Summer Mustang

The Cal Poly Performing Arts Center has a line-up this season its planners hope will be as hot as the weather.

Summer highlights at the PAC include singer Kenny Loggins, the musical “West Side Story” and a 33-member dance troupe which combines Irish step-dancing with dance from around the world.

Ralph Hoskins, director of Cal Poly Arts, calls this season “the largest, most diverse line-up ever.”

The summer season promises more playtime for students electing to take a break from school. Even if students are working, summer deadline pressure has dropped significantly for some, completely for others. For free time, the PAC has some tempting offers.

Tickets will go on sale Monday, July 6 for anyone who wants to be a four-event subscriber. For those who prefer to buy tickets separately, single tickets go on sale August 31.

Hoskins said he wants to get the word out about the benefits of subscriber status:

- The best seats are reserved for subscribers.
- Subscribers may receive up to 15 percent off any show in the series, whether they purchase now or later.
- When tickets are made available exclusively on a single-ticket basis, which happens when shows are added later, subscribers are notified first.
- If a subscriber can’t make an event they may exchange that ticket for another series event with a week’s notice.
- Renewing subscribers receive first choice of seats.
- Seating priority gets better each season.
- “Sundays in the PAC,” a series of free concerts, begins July 12 and goes through Aug. 30. Shows start at 3 p.m. and parking is free.
- Each performance is in The Pavilion, the finest performance and rehearsal space located within the PAC. The performances are local and each performance is sponsored by a different community non-profit organization each Sunday. Hoskins said these are good sources of low-cost family entertainment or a place to take a date.
- The series begins with Blue Water Triplets, an acoustic, melodic folk trio mixing covers and original tunes.
- On July 19, traditional Irish music including bagpipes, Irish banjo, and hammered dulcimer.
- Barber of Seville.
- Jonathan Mixxly for several selections and esteemed composers.
- The Central Coast Jazz Quartet will feature accompaniment by vocalist Keller Moody.
- Then on August 2, the New World Baroque Orchestra will trace the roots of musical heritage that resulted in the blending of Colonial America with Baroque Mexico.
- On August 16, an organ concert will feature accompaniment by vocal selections and esteemed composers.
- On August 23, a classical film screening for all ages is scheduled.
- On the final Sunday, August 30, The Central Coast Jazz Quartet will display a fresh approach to jazz standards.
- For information and updates on these and other performances, call the PAC’s information line at 756-7222.
Local bands plan concert

By Julie O'Shea

Local bands Glider and My Strange Friend are giving a psychedelic concert at Morro Bay Vets Hall, 209 Surf Street, following the fireworks shows this Fourth of July.

The theme of the concert is inter-dependence. Both bands say their idea of inter-dependence is countries coming together and depending on one another, not proclaiming their independence from each other.

"Independence Day celebrates one country finding its independence from another country, but in this day and age, should we really be doing that?" said My Strange Friend's keyboard player, Stephen Matteson.

"We use music as a tool to try and express what makes us all human," said Glider's Tyvon Leonard, who plays the electric violin.

Glider will be selling their self-titled CD at the concert. My Strange Friend hopes to have their self-titled album out sometime next month. Right now, their music can be heard on the internet at www.calcoast.com. People of all ages are encouraged to come celebrate inter-dependence and help support these local bands.

The bands themselves are very inter-dependent; coming together to support each other and the art of making music.

My Strange Friend's guitarist, Brett Hennan, said both bands are one in the same.

We have original music and we want to play to people who come to hear the music. We're not a drinking band. We want to reach a different audience; not the usual club scene," Hennan said.

Though the bands have similar ideals, their tunes are slightly different. My Strange Friend's singer Tara Clapham's voice fluctuates from hard, sometimes bitter rock, to husky jazz melodies, while Glider's tunes reflect more of a cross between Jane's Addiction and Pink Floyd.

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The show will start at 9 p.m. and will include on-stage dancing and a light show. Cost is $5 in advance, $7 at the door. Part of the proceeds will go to Morro Bay Parks and Recreation.

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Concert series starts off swinging

Free Mission Plaza shows open with local band Sugar Daddy Swing Kings

By Amy Lovell
Summer Mustang

The Sugar Daddy Swing Kings kicked off the "Concerts in the Park" series in Mission Park Plaza downtown Friday in front of about 2,000 people.

The eight-member band placed a dramatic and maintained high energy from start to finish. The platinum blonde Paul Brown, clad in a suit, black and white dress shoes and having the height of an NBA player, displayed enough showmanship to rival James Brown. The flamboyant lead singer reminisced playing the same gig a year ago "to about five people when the act started."

Guitarist Greg Timmons chimed in, "and none when we finished," a perfect example of the bantering that is part of their stage show.

Pete E Fire, promotions coordinator of the Downtown Association, opened the event by saying, "I can hardly speak right now, it's so nice to see all these people here today."

The crowd appeared enraptured by the music, and more people joined the crowd as time went on. The event looked like an advertisement for peace through diversity. Attendees were young, old, conservative, wild, black, white and everything in between.

One older man seemed to dance with every girl there — Energizer batteries couldn't outlast him. He never stopped smiling or moving. One young man, who refused at first to dance with his date, quickly changed his mind several songs later when his girl and the older fellow began attracting attention with exciting moves. The twirling, dipping, skirt-flying and hip twisting came to an end between those two, but not for the rest of the crowd. Once the floor was three-deep it stayed that way.

Palindromes Pizza sponsored the show. Cowboy Cookie and Outub were selling cookies before they could even set up their cash register. Lots of soda and a few beers here and there with the "SLA Brew" label were tilted skyward by folks having a great time.

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LEFT: Sugar Daddy Swing Kings singer Paul Brown struts his stuff in front of the "hep" crowd.

ABOVE: The Sugar Daddy Swing Kings lay down their thick sound as Brown croons out the old, familiar tunes from swing's heyday.

RIGHT: Almost 2,000 music fans showed up swinging for the free show last Friday. The concert series continues next week with the Creole Syncopators.