Justifying the Plan
Columnist gives the real reason behind the fee increase
Opinion, page 4

In deep
$50,000 debt keeps crew team on land
Sports, back page

A student decision?
Political science professor points a finger at
Opinion, page 4

Green and gold gladiators

KING FU FIGHTING: Materials engineering senior P.J. D’Aquaniel (left) and civil engineering senior Brian Johnson take each other on Tuesday in a pugil stick match at the Engineering Olympics on Dexter Lawn.

Campus park dedicated to Challenger shuttle victims

By Andrea Parker
Mustang Daily

Construction is underway on a new campus park near dedicated to the seven victims of the Challenger space shuttle disaster.

The park, next to the Math and Home Economics building, will provide outdoor seating and several picnic areas.

Jericco Farfan, a landscape architecture senior, designed the park as a dedication to the people who died in the 1986 accident.

Farfan said there are seven red plum trees, each a dedication to the astronauts that died.

"I came up with several designs, first to remove the trees and put them in a circular pattern. But (facility services) didn’t want to do that because it’s very costly," Farfan said. Greg Lampman, the project manager, said the site will have a retaining wall that can be used as seating and several picnic areas, two of which will be handicap accessible.

The landscaping endeavor began Feb. 2 and should be finished soon. "I would say at the rate they’re going,"

see VICTIMS, page 3

ASI votes on future of greek rush

By F. Xavier Lanier II
Mustang Daily

Associated Students, Inc. board of directors is scheduled to vote today on a resolution that declares an official stance against the deferred rush policy. The resolution criticizes the lack of student involvement in creating the policy and the restrictions the policy would put on students.

"Resolutions are the highest form of advocacy we have, so we hope the administration takes note of it," said Dan Geis, president of ASI. "A resolution is intended to speak on behalf of all Cal Poly students."

Deferred rush is a policy Vice President of Student Affairs Juan Gonzalez implemented that would ban first quarter freshmen and transfer students from pledging a fraternity or sorority. He believes the policy would decrease drinking among freshman pledges by allowing them to adjust to college life before pledging a fraternity or sorority.

"The relationship between active and pledge is about authority. There is an imbalance of power. If students are given a quarter to get settled they may be stronger and not drink with active," Gonzalez said. "Greens need to revisit their mission statements and change their culture."

The resolution states the University has yet to support their decision with quantitative data.

"National publications said there isn’t any concrete evidence whether pledging is positive or negative," said Ken Barbara, director of student life.

Gonzalez backed up his decision with other data.

"The two years previous to the decision the Greeks were behaving very badly," Gonzalez said. "There were 14 alcohol violations among Greeks, some of them involved hazes.

Gonzalez noted alcohol is also a problem outside the Greek community.

"In a typical year the residence halls have 500 to 700 write ups involving alcohol," Gonzalez said.

see RUSH, page 2

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**World War II guerilla fighter speaks at Poly**

By Lauren Nowensteinn
Mustang Daily

A World War II-era resistance fighter spoke of the power and determination of youth as a force against the Germans at a speech Monday sponsored by local Jewish organizations.

Neil Skov, an author and professor, spoke about his efforts to sabotage German troops occupying Denmark during World War II.

"The 'trouble-makers' are the young," Skov said.

Calling the optimum age to be a resistance fighter, Skov said he was part of a small underground force against the German occupation of his homeland.

"We didn't know the word 'guerilla-fighter', we were saboteurs," Skov said.

Though Skov did not have much access to traditional weapons, he was still successful in doing many destructive acts.

"All you need is a match, simple tools of any and, determination," Skov said, describing the procedure he used to destroy German cars during the war.

Saying his anger was fueled by German censorship of Danish newspapers, harsh punishments toward people opposing the Germans and the ordered collection of Danish Jews.

"Censorship is almost immediately one looked upon as an insult to one's self," Skov said.

Saying the creation of underground newspapers was the first step toward fighting German occupation of Denmark.

Anti-Semitism was not prevalent in Denmark and Skov and other Danish people did not relate to the principles surrounding the Holocaust.

"Anti-Semitism thrives on resentment, hate and negative feelings. The Jews were looked upon as people the Danes were proud of," Skov said.

In an effort to save Danish Jews, Skov helped to take some of them to Sweden using fishing boats.

"We didn't think much of the whole affair. We had no inquiring that our Jews, had they been caught, would have been murdered in Germany," Skov said.

Saying Skov was eventually arrested in May of 1944 for his resistance efforts and spent the last 11 months of the war in Danish and German concentration camps.

Skov was able to survive because he was strong, smart and determined — although many people died of starvation and exposure to the harsh and bitter winter weather conditions.

"We had to work outside in fewer clothes than I am wearing here," Skov said.

Saying and other Danish resisters had been recognized by the state for their efforts.


Stu Goldenberg, a math professor and advisor for the student Jewish club, Hillel, said Skov came to Cal Poly for free to tell his story.

Goldenberg said not all Cal Poly students are interested in listening to speakers on Holocaust-related issues.

"Some students wouldn't care to. It doesn't mean they shouldn't," Goldenberg said.

Randy Finger, a Cuesta College student, attends speeches like this one because he finds it interesting to hear what the speakers have lived through.

"I think it's important to keep history alive, so that we know what happened and so it won't happen again," Finger said.

**Planetary conjunction visible in SLO night sky with naked eye**

**RUSH continued from page 1**

Some ASI members do not think the violations involving Greeks justify such a policy.

"It's ridiculous," said Stephanie Xavier, an ASI board of director from the college of liberal arts. "Fourteen is such a small number compared to what is going on in the dorms."

The resolution also accuses the administration of not following the Campus Administrative Manual: Section 1714F of the manual states: "When committee functions or purposes involve student concerns, such committees shall include student representatives."

Venus travels around the sun faster than Jupiter.

**NEWS**

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VICTIMS
continued from page 1

weeks," Lampman said.

The project fixes a set of stairs that a tree pushed out of shape and will look similar to the stairs that were in front of the library, according to Lampman.

Farfan said he intentionally incorporated the library’s look into his project across street. “I wanted to imitate it and bring it to that area.” Farfan wanted to create a common theme between buildings like on other campus, which Cal Poly lacks.

The dirt area by the west exit of the library, according to Lampman.

Farfan designed the area to be secluded. “It’s going to look like a little park area.” he said.

Farfan said he designed the area to hold about 50 people. The area will also include an exterior theater to accommodate bands or presentations. Grass mounds will be built up surrounding the site to help block much of the noise and make the area more secluded.

Contractors are set to bid on the project by the theater in the spring and construction is scheduled for this summer.

RETURN TO CONTENT — NBC to air interview with Clinton newest assault accuser

NEW YORK LAD — NBC said it will broadcast its interview with Juanita Broaddrick, an Arkansas woman who claims she was sexually assaulted by Bill Clinton 22 years ago, on "Dateline NBC" Wednesday night. NBC’s Lisa Myers interviewed Broaddrick in January. While the network continues to check her allegations, The Wall Street Journal editorial page ran a piece Friday based on Broaddrick’s changes and other media organizations followed suit.

NBC News President Andrew Lack said the network wanted to complete its reporting on the story before airing it and wasn’t sure others had broken NBC. President Clinton’s lawyers and Broaddrick’s allegations were “absolutely false.”

Broaddrick said she first met Clinton in 1975 when he was running for governor and she was a campaign worker. A week after meeting him, she was in Little Rock, Ark., at a seminar and arranged to meet Clinton, then Arkansas’ attorney general, for coffee at her hotel.

They went to a hotel room, where Clinton forced her to have sex, she claimed.

“I was sexually assaulted by Bill Clinton,” she has told The Associated Press.

Myers’ interview with Broaddrick quickly circulated within the media, with some conservative groups charging that NBC sat on the interview because it was embarrassing to Clinton.

CLINTON: Accused again.

“It’s going to look like a little park area.” — Jerico Farfan landscape architecture senior

Cal Poly Associated Students Inc.

UU Hour Question of the Week — How can I get more involved with ASI and who can I talk to?

Please stop by the ASI Booth in the University Union every Thursday to respond.
Why students don't trust the administration

Editor:

Why does there appear to be so much opposition to the Cal Poly Plan? As a long-time faculty member I would not deem to comment on the merits or demerits of the Plan. That is something best left to the students to decide. I am, however, tempted to intersperse a few comments of a more personal nature that may explain why I've spotted members of the board of directors in the Avenue gulping down cartons of milk after finishing one of those huge brownies (which taste just like grandma's) — at 75 cents a carton, she wouldn't be able to indulge in life's simple pleasures without the discount.

Have I cracked open this previously unknown truth of information? Simply real, it is all built down to the Plan. For the financial loss the Foundation takes on the VBF people, they look to other sources to cover themselves. In case some of you aren't familiar with the business practices of the Foundation, allow me to enlighten you. A nice crispy treat will run you about $1.50, which is also the price you pay for a 32-oz boxed salad. But we can't argue with the Foundation — not only are they members, also I hear they have ties to the trash collection company.

So, to cover the deficits created by ASI employees who exploit their special privileges, Cal Poly has introduced, again, the Plan. The spin on it seems it's gonna benefit students through a variety of education enhancing proposals, but the truth is that all the money generated by the implementation of the plan will actually, quite literally, go into the mouths of a select few students and staff.

A vote for the Plan isn't just a vote for the enhancement of facilities and services or for the future of this fine institution, it's a vote for lunch — but not mine.

Alan Dunton is a journalism senior who can sure go for a nice big brownie and some cool milk right now.

Wednesday, February 24, 1999

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"What is he... some type of mutant freak?"

Mustang Daily
Clinton's actions were not 'high crime'

Editor:

It is a great time to be an American. The deficit is almost gone, the crime rate is the lowest in 20 years, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer is a real estate agent. President Bill Clinton has proven that Democrats can win the country. The Republicans were apathetic to democratic posturing, media frenzy, and intra-party squabbles. Perhaps the American public is getting tired of all this posturing. Democrats have decided that in 2000 the only reason to be in the White House is to claim the credit for a Republican victory — the Republicans have already taken the credit for Bill Clinton's tax cut.

The last Senate trial was a charade the trial managers created. They saw what they wanted, a President that cared about them and what they wanted. The American people saw through the charade the trial managers created.

President Clinton did not commit acts that can be deemed as high crimes nor as misdemeanors. They did not jeopardize the security of this country nor his ability to lead. In fact, during the trial the American people who insisted this President is still in office had absolutely no feeling for the more liberal or able. The Republicans were apathetic to democratic posturing, media frenzy, and intra-party squabbles. Perhaps the American public is getting tired of all this posturing. Democrats have decided that in 2000 the only reason to be in the White House is to claim the credit for a Republican victory — the Republicans have already taken the credit for Bill Clinton's tax cut.

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Van Exel says the Lakers are better off without the worm

**SPORTS**

**Van Exel says the Lakers are better off without the worm**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Dennis Rodman is expected to begin his Los Angeles Lakers career Friday night. Nick Van Exel, for one, believes his former team could be making a mistake by adding the seven-time rebounding champion.

Of course, Van Exel, who was traded to the Denver Nuggets on draft day last summer after five controversial seasons with the Lakers, might not be the most objective observer.

"He (Lakers coach Del Harris) thought I was a problem. I want to see Dennis go over there personally," Van Exel said after helping the Nuggets beat the Lakers 117-113 in overtime Monday night in Denver for their second victory of the season.

"I want to see how Del handles it. My honest opinion is it depends on Dennis Rodman's attitude," Van Exel said. "If he comes in with his great rebounding, the intensity he always brings to the game, he's going to be great for that team. If he comes in with all his problems, just thinking about Dennis Rodman the show, he's going to kill that team."

A source told The Associated Press late Monday night that, while papers hadn't been signed, a deal between Rodman and the Lakers was basically done.

As of late Tuesday afternoon, the Lakers hadn't announced the signing of a contract, but it was expected to be announced today.

The source also said Rodman is expected to practice with the Lakers for the first time today.

The team said a limited practice would be held in the afternoon on the heels of a three-game, three-day road trip that finished Tuesday night in Vancouver.

The Lakers then play the Los Angeles Clippers on Thursday night in Anaheim and again Friday night at the Forum.

A member of five champi­onship teams, including the last three with the Chicago Bulls, Rodman announced during a rath­er 20-minute news conference Monday he intended to play for the Lakers and would make his debut later this week.

The Lakers responded by issu­ing a statement saying they hoped to have the eccentric forward signed and in uniform "sometime very soon."

"He's going to get some rebounds — he's going to be a big help," Lakers star Shaquille O'Neal said.

The Lakers could use some help. Thought to be prime con­tenders for the NBA champi­onship this year, they brought a 6-5 record into Tuesday night's game in Vancouver.

Rodman's announcement dur­ing a bizarre press conference met with mixed reaction among fans.

STRA Radio in San Diego's afternoon show kept count among callers and the totals were 34 in favor of Rodman's addition to the Lakers and 28 against.

Among the comments:

- "Let's get the player now and then get his (former) coach (Phil Jackson) next."

- "Cross off the cross-dresser from this list."

- "Have not won, will not win with Del Harris. Get Rodman."

- Nick Van Exel, who had a strained relationship with Harris, said he wasn't the problem with the Lakers — his coach was.

After the Nuggets rallied from a 12-point fourth-quarter deficit to beat the Lakers, Van Exel said, "I wasn't the cancer. The cancer is still there. He has white hair. And until they get rid of him, they're going to keep having lapses like this."

The reference was obviously to Harris.

"I was loving it," said Van Exel, who scored seven of his 16 points in overtime and had 13 assists. "It was exciting. Back to Del, beating their management. There was a lot of revenge in this room."

Woods geared up for first Match Play Championship

CARLSBAD, (AP) — With the flash of a smile, Tiger Woods spoke volumes about his anticipation of see­ing Nick Faldo on the first tee and anyone else who may follow over the next few days of the Match Play Championship.

With one swing of the club, he showed why the smile isn't for show.

"Give me the driver," he said to Preston Bell, a childhood friend who is caddying for him this week. "I've got a bet to settle."

He even locked on a white truck beyond the 48-foot mesh net at the back end of the driving range. Woods swung with all his might and watched the ball arc majestically into the blue skies north of San Diego and disappear over the fence in 1983.

"Give me another one," he said. This one sailed so far that no one was exactly sure where it landed — if it ever did. Woods let out an approving laugh, put his money in his pocket and walked off to the clubhouse.

Chalk another up for Tiger, and let the matches begin.

"I have always enjoyed playing one-on-one," Woods said. "I have always enjoyed having a chance when a tour­name­nt comes down to one-on-one situation. I love the feeling of that. In this sport, we don't get that very often."

That's about to change.

The Andersen Consulting Match Play Championship, which begins Wednesday with the top 64 players in the world, brings match play back as an official event for the first time since the two-year Tasman experiment ended in 1997.

Only this will never be confused for Tasman or any other regular stop on any of the five tours behind the $5 million World Golf Championships.
Wednesday, February 24, 1999

**SPORTS**

CRUENT continued from page 8

Duke Energy has since purchased the Morro Bay PG & E plant. "At this point, ASI may be left with two choices for the facility — move it or leave it."

"Part of the original deal for using the land was that it could not be used for something else, but we haven't done that," Adly said. "When the club disbanded, we did a study to see how much it would cost to move it to a location on campus."

"So, we found that it would cost more to close it down and have it moved than to demolish it — if we'd use it there or probably just walk away from it, but we haven't gone into negotiations."

Many people associated director of Rec sports club programs, said the demise of the club, and has taken steps to avoid similar situations with other clubs.

"I saw the downfall," she said. "I understood that they were quite a success and planned a lot of events, but they had some turnover and the leadership just wasn't there."

"But the most important concern is that this never happens again," she said. "Since this has happened all the committee members have come under direct supervision."

Despite the high costs involved, a new group of Cal Poly students are attempting to rebuild interest and restart the club.

Darlene Kinney, an architectural engineering sophomore, is trying to rally support for a new team. "There definitely is an interest in rowing on this campus," she said. "But so far, nothing is organized."

"The equipment is all pretty expensive — between 13 and 20 thousand dollars for a boat, the car alone is about a thousand and you'd need a motor boat to follow. Fifty grand might be a decent estimate for starting a team," Kelly-Sneed said.

"But I've heard Cal Poly athletics fund a woman's rowing team," he said. "Perhaps an agreement could be worked out to share the equipment."

Maloney said Rec Sports would be supportive of a new rowing club as long as they could keep their costs under control.

"Nothing is ever out of the question," she said. "The bigger question is always the money.

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WASHINGTON (AP) — The NCAA is not subject to a federal sex­ bias law because it does not receive federal funds, a federal judge ruled Tuesday.

But the justices unanimous decision left open the possibility the govern­ ment could seek to nullify schools' access to federal funds.

Renee Smith, an Ohio woman who says she was illegally declared ineligible to play college volleyball, had argued the NCAA could be sued under the law known as Title IX of the Education Acts of 1972.

Renee Smith, an Ohio woman who says she was illegally declared ineligible to play college volleyball, said she was pleased with Tuesday's ruling, contending Smith has a good chance of convincing a lower court that the association acted unlawfully in capping the salaries of entry­ level women's coaches.

The NCAA is also being sued over its decision to require metal alloy baseball bats to perform more like traditional wooden bats.

Smith's lawyer, Karen Phillips, dis­ missed the importance of this latest ruling, contending Smith has a good chance of convincing a lower court she should be allowed to sue the NCAA because schools have given it control of athletic programs.

Most of the NCAA's 1,200 schools receive federal funds and therefore are covered by Title IX. The NCAA's lawyers said during arguments Tuesday in the association itself was not a federal aid recipient and that ath­ letics should take up discrimination complaints with the independent schools.

NCAA President Cedric Dempsey said he was pleased with Tuesday's decision and was confident lower courts would reject Smith's other arguments for allowing her suit to go to friendly, but Dempsey added: "We have con­ stantly said that the NCAA shouldn't be in compliance with Title IX on a voluntary basis and have worked to achieve that compliance."

It would have to be restored or PG & E funds.

Hancock said. "We found that it would be a study to see how much it would cost to move it or away from it, but we haven't done that yet."

"Our highest concern is that this never happens again," she said. "Since this has happened all the committee members have come under direct supervision."

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Call 756-5806 for more info.

"Part of the original deal for using the land was that it could not be used for something else, but we haven't done that," Adly said. "When the club disbanded, we did a study to see how much it would cost to move it to a location on campus."

"So, we found that it would cost more to close it down and have it moved than to demolish it — if we'd use it there or probably just walk away from it, but we haven't gone into negotiations."

Many people associated director of Rec sports club programs, said the demise of the club, and has taken steps to avoid similar situations with other clubs.

"I saw the downfall," she said. "I understood that they were quite a success and planned a lot of events, but they had some turnover and the leadership just wasn't there."

"But the most important concern is that this never happens again," she said. "Since this has happened all the committee members have come under direct supervision."

Despite the high costs involved, a new group of Cal Poly students are attempting to rebuild interest and restart the club.

Darlene Kinney, an architectural engineering sophomore, is trying to rally support for a new team. "There definitely is an interest in rowing on this campus," she said. "But so far, nothing is organized."

"The equipment is all pretty expensive — between 13 and 20 thousand dollars for a boat, the car alone is about a thousand and you'd need a motor boat to follow. Fifty grand might be a decent estimate for starting a team," Kelly-Sneed said.

"But I've heard Cal Poly athletics fund a woman's rowing team," he said. "Perhaps an agreement could be worked out to share the equipment."

Maloney said Rec Sports would be supportive of a new rowing club as long as they could keep their costs under control.

"Nothing is ever out of the question," she said. "The bigger question is always the money."

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**YESTERDAY'S ANSWER**

The Quebec Nordiques selected Patrick Roy in the NHL draft's first selection.

**Congrats James Guvier!**

**TODAY'S QUESTION**

Who won golf's only recognized Grand Slam?

Please submit answer to MustangDaily@calpoly.edu

Please include your name.

The first correct answer received via e-mail will be printed in the next issue of the paper.

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**SCORES**

**BASEBALL**

Cal Poly 7
Pepperdine 13

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**BRIEFS**

**Boxing**

**LOS ANGELES (AP) —** She has yet to throw a professional punch. She doesn’t have a promoter. She has no proven skill.

And yet, she is drawing attention in the fledgling world of women’s boxing because of her last name: Ali.

Laila Ali, the second-youngest of Muhammad Ali’s nine children and his youngest daughter, is working out daily and might be ready for her first pro fight this summer.

The 21-year-old approached her father late last month to inform him she planned to follow in his footsteps.

“Will, Daddy,” she said, according to The New York Times, “I want to tell you I’m going into professional boxing, and I love you, and I want your support, and I want to tell you that even if I don’t have your support, I’m going to do it anyway.”

That’s probably something Ali might have said before he began his brilliant career as Cassius Clay in the late 1950s.

The 37-year-old world heavyweight champion who is weakened by Parkinson’s Syndrome, at least part because of boxing, told his daughter he didn’t want her to get hurt.

“Daddy, I’m not going to get hurt,” she replied. “I’m going to be fighting without men. And I have your genetics.”

So far, the 4-foot-10, 160-pounder has only sparred with her trainer, Kevin Morgan.

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**McGwire homers in TV debut**

**JUPITER, Fla. (AP) —** The reviews are in: Mark McGwire can act, too.

“He might be the next John Wayne,” St. Louis Cardinals general manager Walt Jocketty said Tuesday, a day after the 32-year-old man made his debut on the sitcom “Mad About You.” “I think he wanted to, he’d be pretty good at it.”

Manager Tony La Russa said McGwire’s greatest appearance was almost as good as one of his home runs.

“Whoever coached him for that appearance, we ought to hire,” La Russa said. “He was outstanding — surprisingly. I was really impressed. I didn’t expect him to be anywhere near that good.”

Lauding in bed on screen with Helen Hunt, it was one of the highlights of McGwire’s hectic offseason.

He didn’t appear until late in the half-hour show and didn’t have a lot of lines, but pulled off his role without a hitch in one of those mistakes-disguised-as-straight推動 routines.

His best line came at the end, when he and Hunt were at the breakfast table on the morning after.

Paul Reiser walked in wearing a Cardinals uniform, continuing the role reversal theme:

“You remember, you’re going to throw you junk all year long,” McGwire said. “So just wait for your pitch.”

Then he gave Hunt a quick kiss. Leaning character and returning to McGwire the baseball player, he raised an arm in triumph as if he’d just taken someone deep.

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**Defunct crew team still owes $50,000**

By Steve Noone
Mustang Daily

The empty shell of a boathouse still stands at the Duke Energy plant in Morro Bay.

Built for the now disbanded Cal Poly Crew club in 1992, and funded by a $50,000 loan from Associated Students Inc., the future of the building remains uncertain.

What is certain, however, is when the club broke up in 1996, they defaulted on the loan and left ASI with a debt of almost the full amount and an empty boathouse.

Bill Ashby, director of business services for ASI, said the club overspent, and was forced to liquidate assets due to financial difficulties, which was a major contributing factor to their disbanding.

In 1995-96 it became clear the team was having financial trouble and the annual facility expenses of $6,313 were going to be difficult for the club to meet," he said.

The expenses: $3,300 to Pacific Gas and Electric for use of the land and $3,531 in annual payments on the 15-year ASI loan, were absorbed among the members as club dues.

"It's kind of sad — they were one of the best organized clubs on campus," he said.

Ashby said ASI forgave the debt and took control of the facility in the winter of 1996 after liquidating $22,000 of the clubs remaining assets, which included crew shell, cars, and other equipment.

"The reason ASI forgave the debt was that we figured we could get some second generation use out of the facility," he said. "We did some brain storming and decided to use it an indoor facility for Champlain Challenge during winter of 1997 and 1998.

Dave Karch, mechanical engineering senior and former member of the crew team, feels ASI treated the club unfairly.

"They took our track, which was worth $35,000," he said. "They sold our boats and equipment for way less than they were worth. They basically said, 'Make us an offer.' It's pretty sad — now we have nothing."

"We had built the club up slowly over 11 years and then just to have it gone — it just kills me," he said. "He lost $35,000."

"There was a ton of interest in rowing, a bunch of us were really fighting for the club," Karch said. "But we had a pretty good president — there was some speculation he had embezzled some money, and he had as few a boat when we couldn't afford it."

Karch said the club had between 40 and 50 members when it was disbanded, but adds they were having trouble repaying ASI.

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**Baseball could face an NBA-like disaster**

Money is the root of all evil — especially in sports.

It continues to add to baseball’s division of power, exemplified in the Roger Clemens trade to the Yankees. Why did the Yankees make the trade?

"Simply because they can afford to. Clemens’ hefty salary is a drop in the bucket for the World Series champ."

The division of power through money in major league baseball is a disturbing trend that needs to be remedied.

Nothing exemplifies the division of power and wealth more than the Clemens trade and Kevin Brown’s seven-year, $125-million contract signed two years ago. Clemens’s contract contributed to the NBA’s recent lockout in a major way, and that’s not something I want to see for baseball. Problems like that can translate to an owner lockout, which would easily cause baseball’s resurgence popularity to take a nose dive.

"What the can be done?"

Something needs to be done to stop Rupert Murdoch, owner of the Dodgers and the Fox television network, from throwing huge salaries at high-profile free agents like Kevin Brown.

To put this in perspective, three players last year (Alonzo Bell, Gary Sheffield and Greg Maddux) made more than the Montreal Expos’ entire payroll. This is an extreme case, but a definite problem exists here.

There’s no small-market teams can compete with these odds stacked against them. Fans in the smaller markets are the real losers in this battle over money, as they suffer by seeing their teams losing an uphill battle. If these teams happen to have a great player, it’s simply a matter of time before they get lured away by more money from a larger market.

I am simply not sure a level playing field is possible, because without it, fans will suffer.

Matt Sterling knows a level playing field is about as likely as world peace. He can be reached at msterlin@calpoly.edu.