San Luis Obispo's spring break escapes

By Lauren Nowenstein
Mustang Daily

Spring break is coming and camping is an alternative for those who want to get away from San Luis Obispo but do not want to spend a lot of money. Darren Connor, the coordinator for the Craft Center and Poly Escapes, said it is possible to go camping for three days and spend only $50 to $100.

"It can be as expensive as you make it, or it can be very inexpensive," Connor said. Costs depend on the location and on materials needed for the trip.

see CAMPING, page 3
Hikers get adventure fix from Poly Escapes

Outdoor planners offer trips out of the Central Coast

By F. Xavier Lanier

Mustang Daily

Cal Poly students don't have to go far to find a good place to hike during spring break. Poly Escapes can help plan a variety of hiking trips.

"We have a bunch of trip leaders who know all the trails around here," said Mike Tran, a Poly Escapes volunteer and marine biology senior. "If we don't know a certain trail, we have cabiners full of hiking guides."

For a day trip, Tran recommends Montaña de Oro, off Los Osos Valley Road in Los Osos.

"Trails at Montaña de Oro are real scenic and by the beach," Tran said. Another popular destination is Los Padres National Forest, which surrounds San Luis Obispo. There are Los Padres destinations to the east, north and south of San Luis Obispo.

"It includes Big Sur with redwoods, the Machesena are with arid landscapes, and 9,000-foot peaks with snow," said Mike De Arton, a Mountain Air Sports employee and philosophy senior.

Even if you don't have experience, the Los Padres area is a good place to start.

"Three- or four-mile hikes are good for just starting," De Arton said. "If you've been doing it for a while, hikes go upwards of 25 or 30 miles per day. The average person hikes a mile about every 20 minutes."

De Arton suggests spring break trekkers bring proper equipment.

"Don't wear open-toed shoes. Make sure they're comfortable," De Arton said. "It's rough terrain, wear boots with a stiff sole."

It costs about the same price to rent a kayak from Poly Escapes for the weekend as it would to rent one in Morro Bay for a few hours.

Since Poly Escapes is closed during finals week, students must rent equipment before 4:00 p.m. on Friday of the last week of classes. However, students get to keep all the equipment for finals week for free.

"Our prices are as low as you'll find around here," Connor said.

Students can also rent equipment from local stores. Connor said students looking to rent backcountry stuff should visit Mountain Air Sports and snowboard seekers should go to Granite Stormway Mountainouting.

"The people at both those shops are really nice and easy to work with," Connor said.

Before planning a camping trip, students need to consider what types of food, shelter and clothing are appropriate for the area.

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WATCHEY YOUR STEP: Hiking can be a fun, inexpensive activity to do on your spring break no matter where you go.
Slide away spring break on the slopes

By Rachel Robertshaw
Mustang Daily

For many Cal Poly students, spring break means another opportunity to hit the slopes.

With finals done and a week off school, there are plenty of options for what to do over Spring Break. Some Cal Poly students take advantage of the time to spend it skiing or snowboarding.

When it comes to deciding where to go, students have many preferences. In California, many head to Tahoe or Mammoth, while others choose to stay closer to home and go to Sierra Summit, north of Fresno.

Cal Poly kinesiology sophomore Misha Tharp said she is only planning a one-day trip over the break. 

“We’re going to Sierra Summit because it’s closest,” she said. “It’s not my favorite place to go snowboarding, but it’s close enough for a one-day trip. It’s all a matter of funding.”

Sierra Summit is about four hours away from Cal Poly, located north of Fresno off Highway 168. The small resort has five chair lifts. Summit now offers season passes that are good for the remainder of this season and all of next season for $199.

Members of the Cal Poly ski team will be spending the last weekend at Mammoth Mountain competing in their last race of the season. The team currently ranked second in the Southern California Ski Conference, according to former president of the ski team Chris Wegrzyn.

“Since it’s the last race of the season, it’s kind of late for anyone to join,” he said. “But we always welcome our team members to bring a friend along.”

Mammoth Mountain is southeast of Yosemite, in the Sierra Nevadas.

Many students are attracted to Tahoe because its many resorts are not far from the casinos. Other students plan longer ski trips that involve a plane ride, a hotel reservation and a lot more cash. Popular destinations include Aspen, Colorado, and Whistler, Canada.

Poly Escapes, located in the University Union, has a ski trip planned over the break, to Salt Lake City, Utah.

Police call assault a hate crime

By Andrea Parker
Mustang Daily

Cal Poly police are investigating a campus assault they believe is a hate crime.

According to investigator Ray Bennett, an African-American woman was confronted by a man about 11:05 a.m. Feb. 26 between the Lighthouse and the Sandwich Plant. The suspect reportedly walked up to her and said a derogatory statement about her ethnic background. He then spit in her face and walked away, apparently accompanied by a few other men.

The suspect is described as a 5-foot-10-inch white male in his twenties, with a medium build and short, dirty blond hair. He was wearing a black T-shirt with long sleeves and dark blue jeans.

The victim, whose name is not being released, is planning to file charges with the district attorney if a suspect is arrested. Bennett said the assault could be prosecuted for possible civil rights violations.

“We’re in the process of viewing video coverages provided by El Campanil security in the area,” Bennett said. “Anyone with information is asked to call Bennett at 756-6660.

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Take time to relax and find yourself

A s students at a college, we are more aware of violence than most people. Our lives are structured around the activities that come and go in the quarter system. It is now time for a break. I would like to recommend a moment of contemplation regarding some approaches for getting the most out of this brief relaxation.

I view spring break as an opportunity to repair, to heal, to reassess, to plan, to regulate, to experiment ... it reminds me of another code of conduct through dreaming. We work hard each day and yet physically, mentally and emotionally exhausted. Our brain then sets out all the crap we learn and then puts it back in our vast subconscious memory. It runs little scenarios, in the form of dreams, that we have the ability to interpret. It is a kind of catharsis that allows us to approach the next day without emotional fatigue, without mental overload, without physical decay.

So when you start your break, use it as an opportunity to heal, to center yourself, to ground your being, to allow yourself an upper hand for approaching the next quarter. If you do this, I believe the college experience can get better and better instead of forcing you to want it to be as over as soon as possible.

How a lot of people will immediately escape into oblivion as soon as this quarter is over. The escape can take the form of a restful vacation, visiting family, doing a lot of things (I personally know a few people intent on recreating "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas") or doing something else that might fill you up emotionally. That is not a bad thing. It is necessary to clear your mind of all the unnecessary information that's built up over the last few months. But you also have to take into consideration what you have learned and what information you should keep. You shouldn't reward your brain for getting you through finals week by defeating it. If you simply forget everything, then you will make the same mistakes that make the college experience more stressful than it needs to be.

What is more important than information regulation is focusing on who you are. It's great hanging out with friends and celebrating your accomplishments. You should also hang out with yourself, though, and spend some quiet time thinking about what you want and where you're going. Use this brief opportunity to center yourself and ground yourself. If you have a firm foundation of who you are and what your philosophies on life are, then it is far less likely you will be hurt or stressed out by unexpected experiences. Play your life like a jazz musician. You must learn about yourself as much as possible (as a musician would become proficient with a sun or a period) and then you will be able to instantly improvise (act) according to the music (experience) that comes about. We all living in a fast moving role. You can spend your life struggling against the current or you can relax and let the energy of life and humanity carry you where you were meant to be. Use the energy around you for your health. If you are quiet, and if you listen to your surroundings, then you will hear what is best for you. See you next quarter!

Jon Wilson is a philosophy senior.

Hate crimes of any form will not be tolerated at Cal Poly

Editor:

Two weeks ago, on February 26, an unknown male suspect accosted a Cal Poly female student as she was walking outside the Sandwich Plaza near the Library. During the incident, which took place at approximately 11:05 a.m., the suspect allegedly used a racial epithet and spit on the student. While the reported action constitutes a case of simple assault, University Police are meeting the occurrence as a "hate crime." The incident is currently under investigation by University Police and Student Affairs and anyone in the area at the time of the assault is requested to call either department with any information that might assist the investigation.

This unfortunate incident prompts me to remind the campus community that intolerance and violence have no place at Cal Poly, and the University rejects all forms of bigotry and abuse — physical or otherwise. The alleged incident was not only an unlawful act, but it also was a violation of the University's own codes of conduct. Discriminatory hate speech and violence undermine and stand in stark contrast to the fundamental values held by this institution. At the very essence of our identity as a learning community, Cal Poly is obligated to be one of civility, respect and trust. Cal Poly continues making every effort possible to provide a campus envi­ronment free from bigotry and violent/abusive behavior. It is vital, though, that every member of the community plays a role in this effort by tak­ing every step possible to repudiate the type of action this incident represents. We encourage you to join us as we strive to create an environment that guaran­tees not just the personal safety of each member of the community, but also one that fosters tolerance and respect among all of us.

Paul Zingg is the Provost of Cal Poly.

Reeds's remarks clarified by on-line transcripts of talk

Editor:

You may be aware that CSU Chancellor Charles Reed spoke to Cal Poly's President's Cabinet on Sunday, March 7, and that during the question-and-answer portion of his presentation the chancellor made comments regarding the CSU faculty that have been viewed as negative. In the days since the Cabinet meeting, we have been in com­munication with the Chancellor to seek clarification of his comments. To help the campus community better understand the full context of his remarks, Cal Poly has placed a transcript of Chancellor Reed's speech on the University's web site, at http://www.calpoly.edu/~communic/co mmunic/comm.htm. In addition to the transcript, the chancellor has shared a response to concerns that have been raised surounding his speech, which is on the same web site.

In our many opportunities to talk with the Chancellor since his arrival, he has frequently stated his great respect for the faculty's hard work, extraordinary accom­plishments and devotion to the CSU and its students. We would also like to reaffirm that our own sincere respect and appreciation for the work and commitment of the fac­ulty at Cal Poly go beyond statements to this effect. For whatever we say is rooted in a fundamental understanding of the nature of a university, namely, a commu­nity of people and ideas. And the high reputation which Cal Poly particularly enjoys flows from the people who deliver our academic programs - the faculty - and the form and focus of our curricula - the ideas of "learn by doing" and placing students first. We are connected in a cult­ure of the highest quality and committed to work with all members of our uni­versity to build upon what we have already achieved together.

We hope you will take the opportunity to read the full transcript of Chancellor Reed's remarks in the context of the President's Cabinet program.

Warren J. Baker, Cal Poly President and Paul Zingg, Provost.
Merit pay is the core issue of contract disputes

Editor:

While the chancellor may take issue with the position of the faculty, relative to merit pay, there is no reason for him to trivialize either their contributions or their efforts.

The core issue is the merit pay plan, versions of which are currently in place for both faculty and staff. This is a complex and difficult issue that is not addressed with great care and with due respect to those who may present opposing points of view.

Compensation is one of the more difficult problems for our society and economic systems. I will not pretend to have the answers, but the problems are obvious. Athletes and corporate executives make huge amounts of money, while teachers and others who provide essential services make far less.

Extreme examples include agricul­tural workers and those who care for the elderly. These people do jobs that are arguably among the most difficult for wages that in many cases are at the subsistence level, if that.

Merit pay systems are not new. Some have been very successful. Others have been grossly unfair.

New ones spring up from time to time in this country and around the world. The variations in these schemes are endless. A major factor is the perception of an individual's pay that derives from commissions, bonuses, percentage of an individual's pay that is fixed for work that in many cases are difficult for ways that in many cases are difficult for our sixty and future of our sixty and future of our sixty need to be addressed now. We can continue to place a Band-aid on a moral wound and expect to progress as a people and a nation.

Diegos Zavala is a mechanical engi­neering senior.

We are all different people

Editor:

There has been a lot of talk lately about the issue of diversity. While I think that a white person can learn something from a Hispanic person, I don't think I could learn from someone who grew up in an inner city, or someone who grew up on a farm, no matter what race they were.

I could probably learn something from someone from southern California, even if he or she was white. Seeing race as the only thing that defines diversity is a very narrow point of view. The students who are accepted to Cal Poly will inevitably be different. We can all learn from each other no matter what race we are.

Joe Demers is an architectural engi­neering freshman.

Letter policy

Columns, cartoons and let­ters reflect the views of their authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Mustang Daily. Letters should be typewritten, double­spaced and signed and include a phone number. They can be mailed, faxed, delivered or e­mailed to opinion@mustangdaily. poly.edu.

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SPORTS

Owners on the verge of awarding the next football franchise

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Within the next few days, 31 football team owners meeting in Arizona are scheduled to vote to put a new NFL franchise team in either Los Angeles or Houston.

There have been reports that the decision has already been reached to award the league's 32nd team to Los Angeles, reports denied by all sides.

There are strong signs that L.A. will get the nod, but a decision won't be final until the league's sometimes unpredictable group of owners approve it.

The expansion committee is set to meet Sunday in Phoenix, with its recommendation to be presented to all the owners early next week.

NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue said recently that he expects the league to name a city, but not an ownership group, during the meetings.

Houston, which has just one ownership group bidding, may thus be out of the running. Another indication is that Rob McNair, who heads the effort to bring a team back to Houston, is shopping around for an existing franchise.

Although he said he hasn't given up on the possibility of finding the expansion team, McNair has sent letters of inquiry to teams in nine other cities.

There are two groups in Los Angeles competing for a team: one headed by Hollywood producer Michael Ovitz that wants to build a new stadium in suburban Carson, the other led by real estate developer Ed Roski and billionaire Eli Broad, seeking to return a team to a remodeled L.A. Coliseum.

If the NFL does the expected and picks Los Angeles, the league will be able to have those two groups — and any others that might want to get into the game — bidding against each other for the franchise.

As a measure of the price tag, Cleveland paid $530 million for an expansion team, and the current bid for the Washington Redskins is $800 million.

Carolina Panthers owner Jerry Richardson, a member of the expansion committee, said he would be surprised if other groups interested in owning a team didn't surface, regardless of which city was picked.

There has even been speculation that the two present L.A. groups might join their efforts, although there would be obstacles to such a merger.

Several factors would seem to make Los Angeles a shoo-in. The area is the nation's second largest TV market (compared to Houston at No. 11), is highly visible as America's "entertainment capital," and, with nearly 17 million potential customers for jerseys and other team paraphernalia, is an area the NFL may need more than it needs an NFL team.

Richardson said during a visit last week to Carson that he didn't expect the league would expand beyond 32 teams "in my lifetime, and I'm 62." He added, "L.A. is the place that would leave the NFL without a home team in the No. 2 TV market for the foreseeable future, costing the league megabucks in TV contracts and merchandising.

Tagliabue, who flew over the proposed Carson site in a helicopter with Richardson last week, called Ovitz a visionary and mentioned that the NFL needs to think "entertainment." At the same time, he ticked off concerns about the proposed remodeling of the Coliseum, including parking space and the financial package.

Richardson noted that the Coliseum area has been without a team since 1995, when the Rams left Anaheim for St. Louis and the Raiders returned to Oakland.

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**SPORTS**

**CAL POLY SPORTS STATISTICS**

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**LACROSSE**

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something—we've always been strong on and we didn't know how to react to it.

The Mustangs have two tough games coming up that could determine if they go to the Final Four. They play UC Santa Barbara and Westminster, two opponents that have proven challenging to the Mustangs in the past.

"We definitely are hoping to go to the Final Four, so we're hoping to get a come-back," Littrell said. "Santa Barbara is going to be a really big test."

"If we win, we're going to the Final Four, and that's everything," Littrell said. "If we don't, we're going to the Final Four." Littrell is confident in the team's ability to finish the season off well.

"It's really hectic because Jen and I do all the stuff that a paid coach would do," she said. "Our coaches just come out to practice. It entails a lot of work and phone calls and paperwork. We have to put in a lot of time to make sure we do all the stuff that a paid coach would do."

"We're all very hard workers, they have to," she said. "They're out there because they want to play. Everyone works very hard, there's good team chemistry. Everyone gets along, there's a lot of positive attitudes, most of the time."

Littrell is confident in the team's abilities to finish the season off well.

"I think we have very strong potential," she said. "We have a lot of natural talent and a love for the game. Everyone comes out there knowing it's a struggle to get there."
The “Sweet Science” has turned very sour recently

There is something rotten in the state of boxing. Once called the “Sweet Science,” our ubiquitous pastime has degenerated into rowdy branches between thugs and theme pubs.

Former Holyfield will rumble with Lennox Lewis Saturday in a match that will unite the world. The champ will risk his title for the first time since Riddick Bowe had the undisputed belt in 1992.

Lewis, holder of the WBC, championship, is the only boxer who can challenge the supremacy of Holyfield, the WBA, champion. Some boxing analysts are calling this match one of the biggest of the decade, and definitely the best since Holyfield defeated Tyson.

Yet the prophecies for the match is misleading. Holyfield vs. Lewis is the most prominent light in recent memory because there aren’t any decent challengers.

The bell will sound for the last of 10 rounds more like a gang of battles from Mother’s Tavern, with stooges like Michael Moorer, Frank Bruno, Bruce Seldon and Oliver McCall. Due to the lack of good fighters, people get excited when peaks like Andrew Golota best up on the local kickboxing instructor.

Thirty years ago, a fight brought out more stars than the sun going down. When Frazier squared off against Ali for the first time, on March 8, 1971, the match had so many celebrities in attendance that Frank Sinatra volunteered to take pictures for Life Magazine. The historic pairing of Frazier, the hard-punching holds from Philadelphia, and Ali, the greater heavyweight in history, enthralled the nation three times. Each fight went down as one of the best in this century, and two legends were born.

The competition was better then, too. George Foreman, Ken Norton, Larry Holmes and Leon Spinks all fought at the same time as Ali and Frazier, and sometimes beat them. It’s a contrast to today, when our champions can barely get past studs like Vacation Bean, which was the case with Holyfield last September.

A long time ago, boxers would accept their victory or loss with dignity. Now, everyone is after the fight, especially at every Tyson match. The majority of boxing is a sport that has died away, leaving washed-up old men to_fail for long-last glory. To explore a Simon and Garfunkel song, “Where have you gone, Joe Louis? A nation turns its lonely eyes to you.” I used the champions have left and gone away.

Chris Arns, who wouldn’t ever repeat this to Holyfield’s face, can be reached at carns@polymail.calpoly.edu

Big West play begins

SAFE: Steve Wood slides into third. The Mustangs are 9-8 in non-conference play after winning six of a ninegame homestand. The Mustangs travel to the University of Pacific today for the first game of Big West play.

Women’s lacrosse looks to make Final Four

By Jen Stevenson

Despite a few setbacks this year, the Cal Poly women’s lacrosse team hopes to be heading to the Final Four at the end of the season.

The Mustangs were in the top division until they suffered a double upset last weekend at University of Arizona and Clemson, dropping them to 6-3. Although team members were pushed by their opponents, they were not overly concerned.

“We were out of syn,” co-captain Kim Littell said. “We weren’t playing as a team.”

Coach Karen Jensen said the couldn’t pinpoint what the team faltered.

“We had to win one game, and I think we just were lacking a little bit of teamwork, which is see LACROSSE, page 7