Two Poly students dig into Avila Beach oil spill

Diane Farnsworth
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Cal Poly seniors Ryan Tappero and Ryon Tognazzini are looking for answers to the mystery of the oil found on Avila Beach.

In an effort to help with the restoration of Avila Beach, Tappero, majoring in soil science and chemistry, and Tognazzini, majoring in biochemistry and microbiology, are proposing a research project that will identify the source of oil under the ocean.

Unocal has taken responsibility for the oil contamination along Front Street in Avila Beach and is in the process of removing the contaminated soil from under the town and along the beach. But the oil bed from the pier to the San Luis River outlet is an area of controversy. Tognazzini said. The oil found in the ocean bed and the oil found under Front Street may come from different sources than the oil under Front Street.

"We're concerned about what is out in the ocean," Tognazzini said. "There's a huge mixture of oil products under there."

The Senior Research Team, composed of the two students and several professors, will investigate one theory that some of the oil may have come from the 1926 oil fire at Unocal's San Luis Obispo facility north of Tank Farm Road. Three hundred and fifty million gallons of oil caught fire and burned for two weeks. Some of the burning oil flowed down the San Luis River and into the ocean. Tognazzini said, "What we're thinking is that the lighter molecules burned, the heavier stuff hit the resistance of the pier and may have gone into the ground at that point," Tognazzini explained. "That's just one of our hypotheses. It's absolutely possible that it's from a natural oil seep also."

Tappero said that is why the team plans to collect samples from several places. The team will get oil samples from tank farms in both San Luis Obispo and in Avila and from natural oil seeps near Avila Beach.

"We're going to compare all the samples to the samples we will have collected, and we will have a hypothesis or we won't," Tognazzini said. "We'll have a hypothesis as to where the oil comes from."

Cal Poly seniors Ryan Tappero and Ryon Tognazzini are proposing a research project that will identify the source of oil under Avila Beach.

African summit debates political, social unrest

By Carolyn Ficara
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

With the new millennium approaching, Africa is focusing on rebuilding its social and political systems to empower and improve the lives of its citizens.

The National Summit on Africa met this Saturday at Cal Poly. Summit participants strive to define policies that will aid Africa in its quest for stability and strength. The Black Faculty and Staff Association and numerous departments of the College of Liberal Arts sponsored the Central Coast California Summit. "We are here on the Central Coast because many people in this area make important contributions to the policies we are debating," Summit chair Romona Toscope said.

History professor John Ojii agreed, "The summit at Cal Poly is a very big deal for the college. We are often isolated from national debates, so this is a wonderful opportunity. These are very important issues."

According to political science professor Vincent Brown, "They're not new ones; they're old ones based on the new policy in effect."

By Nanette Pietroforte
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Students concerned with the newly repainted red handprints have flooded various departments on campus with phone calls.

The handprints, which represent sexual assaults that occur on campus, were removed earlier this year while a new criteria were created for handprint placement. Facility Services started repainting the new handprints two weeks ago. The handprints will be updated annually and will remain for a 10-year period.

Vicki Stover, associate vice-president of administration, said the new handprints represent previous incidents that meet the new criteria.

"They're not new ones," Stover said. "They're old ones based on the new policy in effect."

Susanne Kelley, adviser of Women's Programs, said students do not need to worry about the new handprints.

"There has been a lot of confusion because the new handprints are placed in different areas," Kelley said. She said the old handprints at Trinity Hall used to be directly in front of the entrance, but because of new criteria, the new handprints are on the side of the building.

The new criteria includes moving handprints representing assaults that took place inside a building to the outside.
AFRICA
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Randal Cruikshanks  
political science professor

"There is a legacy of globalism, ancient traditions and experiences of colonialism that have formed a vacuum in Africa..."

Cruikshanks said some of the political barriers to human rights, such as the Berlin Wall, are coming down, but new walls of chaos and unsure things are going up. Children must be taught democratic values if they are to be stable, fair governments. Mechanical engineering professor Sam Agbo said, "In Nigeria in the 60s, going to a university was to win the golden fleece. It isn't that way today. Making money and becoming affluent is more important," he said.

According to the summit, the 1960s was the "era of educational revolution." Adult literacy nearly doubled during this time; however, today 80 million children do not attend school.

"There are moral issues about education in Africa. It is very expensive to go to school. More boys go because it is the man who must succeed on his own," Agbo said. These gender issues are moral issues and should be dealt by families, not by governments, Agbo said.

"Education should reflect ethnic differences. We need to throw out the melting pot model," Tascoe said.

Onji said the United States needs to establish partnerships with African people and institutions, reject the adhyalanthropy approach and form new policies of mutual interest, said Onji in his critique on education. A dialogue is necessary if cultural and educational needs are to be met.

"Though more education is needed, there are many people with an education in Africa who are unemployed," Agbo said. "There is too weak of an industrial base for many to use their expertise. But it is important to remember when technology is applied, the solution will be better if designed for particular situations and needs."

"Sustainable development and economic growth are very important to Africa's environment," according to Agbo.

"Africa is faced with the most difficult problem of providing for the current population without undermining future generations," Agbo said.

The new century is filled with promises of technology and growth, but the kind of growth endorsed by western cultures may be very harmful to countries in Africa.

"Perpetual growth doesn't necessarily lead to good; it may lead to death," said political science professor Richard Kraemer.

The National Summit on Africa brought together people from all over the country. Each region in the United States will develop a plan of action, and then they will bring that plan to Washington D.C. to draft and vote on it.

The plan will be presented to the White House, Congress and social and religious leaders throughout the country.

The newly repainted handprints, which represent campus crimes, sexual assaults, are not new. Some were moved to different locations based on a new policy.

PROPOSAL
continued from page 1

"We want to leave this project to Cal Poly. We want Cal Poly to get more involved in forensic-geological chemistry because of its location and because of its ability as a technical school."

Ryan Tappero  
social science and chemistry senior

If you are a dental student enrolled at an accredited dental school, the Army Health Professions Scholarship Program (HSP or AEGD) offers you a unique opportunity for financial support. The Army will pay 100% of your tuition, required books, rental of nonexpendable equipment, most academic fees and will give you a monthly stipend of over $900.

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Tappero said knowing these authorities in their fields. You also work with a diverse patient population and perform a variety of dental procedures.

CRIMES
continued from page 1

the side of the building's entrance. Assaults that took place outside a building, the handprint will be placed at the closest sidewalk. Multiple attacks at the same location will be represented by only one handprint.

Kelley added that the Women's Center and Public Safety have both received calls about the new handprints.

"They (students) need to be reassured that these aren't new incidents," Kelley said.

"We're all trying to work together to make Cal Poly a comfortable place."

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Buchanan is right to leave Republicans

Chris Campbell

WASHINGTON, D.C. - No, as you probably know, Pat Buchanan left the Republican Party last week to make a run for the Reform Party's presidential nomination. Why is this so momentous? I see this as a signal of the demise of the Republican Party. First off, the party is so clueless, it allows its leading candidate, George W. Bush, to publicly challenge the Congress that it controls. Secondly, it has ignored the appeals by the "conservative right" who worry the Party platform is too liberal. Finally, it has taken away the right of the people to choose a party nominee for president by crowning its "golden boy," before he had even made his first speech.

Here's where Buchanan is correct in running from a somewhat confused party. Back in 1994, when the Republican Party gained control, there was so much optimism for success, yet the power produced very little. Besides sweeping welfare reform, what can be said for a Congress that had so much potential? The party should have rallied the voters around its congressional in 1998, yet instead rode the wave of discontent for Clinton's morals. The leadership had forgotten that the political system would not reward a party with lit­ tle grasp on the issues and lacking platform that addresses them. This reality, though, does not mean that the leading candidate for president can openly challenge the only power that his party possesses. This is merely another sign of disorganization within a troubled party. The party has also become less inclusive than it was during the Reagan years. You have the party moving toward the center on issues like abortion and tobacco, while conservatives, who founded the organization's principles, are left wondering where it has gone. The sentiment among today's leadership is that the conserva­tive right should either go along, or risk losing a voice. This is why the leadership has openly called candidates like Pat Buchanan "radical." Disappearing from the political climate are the people who oppose NAFTA, illegal immigration and promoting prayer in schools. They have been replaced with people that care about the "golden boy," and not_effects on the electorate.

Finally, the 'party of Lincoln' has taken away the people's right to choose. Through the millions of dollars that George W. Bush has raised and the open support he has received from the party's leadership, it has placed a glass ceiling on the other candidates in the race and thus decided the nomination before the primaries have even begun. I'm tried of party leaders and the press deciding whom the best candidate is before it goes to the voters. Didn't the Republicans learn their lesson from 1996 when Bob Dole was dribbled by a powerful Democratic opponent? This is why I hope that Buchanan's departure serves as a wake-up call to those that support George W. Bush, because not only will Buchanan provide conservatives with a voice, but he will also restore the people's faith in the Democratic system. As for the Republican Party, maybe it needs to sit this election out until it can get its political party that is lost in a thick forest of potential, with no flashlight to guide them.

Chris Campbell is a business administration junior.

Embrace growing CA diversity

"As one of the leading states in a country historically known as "the melting pot," where cultures blend together to form a unique and diverse society, Californians should embrace our cornucopia of ethnicity," for the immigration study said the findings "that immigrants are increasingly likely to be poor and are accounting for a growing share of our total population, should be disturbing to anyone concerned about the plight of America's poor and the future of our republic." These studies together, if only taken at face value, encourage the pointing of fingers at ethnic groups as a scapegoat for our economical problems. What we need to remember is our country has always been made of immigrants. Our country's founders emigrated from Europe to the United States to escape a harsh and unfair society. We'll be hypocrites not to allow others the same opportunity for a better life.

However, there are some encouraging results within the demographics study. There is evidence suggesting the sons of daughters of first generation Latinos in California are surpassing their immigrant parents educationally. With a better edu­cation, their chances of poverty, as suggested in the immigration study, are sig­nificantly decreased. Cal Poly does not share the same eth­nic percentages as the state, but last year 37 percent of its student body belonged to a minority group. The number is encouraging, considering years ago the number was probably much smaller. As a school, and as a state, we should look at the diversifying of our population as a chance to learn more about other cultures. There are traditions and beliefs within each culture that have the potential to shape our convictions and open our minds.

Nanette Pietroforte is a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily staff writer who checks more than one ethnic box.

Letter policy

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Opinion

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Thank you for your support.
Mentor program helps teens TAPP into resources

Melissa McFarland
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Handling the pressure of parenthood is never easy — but as a teen, the responsibility can be even more daunting.

The Teen Academic Parenting Program (TAPP) Mentor Project can help ease this stress, but the local program is without sufficient volunteers.

TAPP matches up pregnant and parenting teens with volunteer mentors who offer the missing link teens often lack — parenting skills.

No Cal Poly students currently volunteer as mentors, said Jennifer Simon, the program’s coordinator. She hopes this will soon change.

“Seeing students going to college and working hard will help (the teens) realize that they can go further,” Simon said. “We’re trying to get them to finish high school and maybe go to college. If students take (the teens) on campus and show them the child care facilities provided, they’ll see that there are resources to make their dreams happen.”

Simon said the project’s purpose is to help the teens continue their education, establish goals and provide encouragement.

“The mentors give parenting support and help solve problems,” Simon said. “They just need someone who’ll listen and who is consistently there.”

With students’ hectic schedules, finding time for anything extra is often stressful. But making a difference in a teen’s life doesn’t need to be a full-time job, Simon said.

“They just need to be able to give six to eight hours a month for a minimum of six months,” Simon said.

Mentors don’t need any prior experience. A three-part training series — which includes orientation, child abuse education and mentor training — supplies the needed preparation.

“They don’t have to be parents already,” Simon said. “We just need someone willing to help. Many of the teens don’t have the skills to go out and find a pediatrician or get a job. The mentors are there to help with these life skills. But (the mentors) don’t need to always have the answer — they just help the teens find their own answers.”

Mentors also attend quarterly meetings as well as participate in one monthly activity with their teen.

“Sometimes just getting out of the house is great,” Simon said. “If the mentors have a certain hobby they enjoy, they can get the teen involved in it. Whether it’s walking at the beach or doing crafts, it’ll open their doors to new opportunities.”

Simon emphasized the reward aspect for the mentors themselves. “It’s helping people reach out into their community,” Simon said. “Mentors do something not only rewarding for the teen, but also hopefully for that child’s life. And since the teens come to us by referral, they want to be there and are very thankful.”

Many times the mentors serve as the only role model in a teen’s life, Simon said. Still, mentors often provide the exact kind of support the teens lack.

“The mentors have really been able to help,” Simon said. “One got a teen a full-time job and found her a place to live. Others have gotten (teens) registered at Cuesta ... there are all sorts of things they can do. When you help someone make real accomplishments in their life, it’s so rewarding.”

Students interested in becoming a volunteer mentor can contact Simon at 544-4355, ext. 324.

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**Sports**

**NBA tips off tonight**

(AP) — First, the city votes. Then, the team plays.

That's Tuesday's agenda for the defending champion San Antonio Spurs, who open at home against the Philadelphia 76ers in one of 13 games that mark the start of the NBA season.

By the time they tip off, the Spurs may know the fate of a referendum to build a new $175 million arena. The outcome of the vote could determine whether the team remains in San Antonio.

The Spurs enter the season with Tim Duncan and David Robinson in place and Sean Elliott sidelined after a kidney transplant. The Spurs played in some new parts — Terry Porter, Chuck Brown, Sanmuki Walker and Felton Spencer.

San Antonio opens against a 76ers team led by scoring champion Allen Iverson. Philadelphia added Billy Owens and Stanley Roberts during the offseason.

Tuesday's other openers have Atlanta at Washington; Detroit at New Jersey; Portland at Vancouver.

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**A**) Say what? A breakdown of the Orlando Magic.

No, not that one.

Ron Harper joins the Lakers newcomers along with A.C. Green and rehired John Salley. Penny Hardaway is in Phoenix, Nick Anderson in Sacramento and Horace Grant in Seattle in a breakout of the Orlando Magic.

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CHICAGO — Walter Payton, whose aggressive, elusive style made him the NFL's all-time rushing leader and took Chicago to its only Super Bowl victory, died Monday. He was 45.

Payton died at his home in suburban Barrington, Ill. The cause of death was not immediately released.

Payton had suffered from priapism, swelling in the testicles, a rare disease that could only be cured by a transplant. He'd been on a waiting list for a transplant for nine months.

"He's the best football player I've ever seen," said Mike Ditka, who coached Payton for six of his 11 years with the Bears, during the 1985 Super Bowl season.

"There aren't better runners than Walter," Ditka said. "But he's the best football player I've ever seen. To me, there's no question. He's the best running back I've ever seen."