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Not so SLO

during around San Luis Obispo this weekend, you may come across a few license plate frames boasting, “I love the SLO life!” It’s a catchy double entendre suggesting life in San Luis Obispo is easy, kick-back and worry-free.

Mustang Daily’s Open House edition looks at a few heavy topics on campus and what has gone wrong along the way to completion. There’s also a bit of irony in the small-town pride. While most want to keep San Luis Obispo under control, the town finds itself with a huge corporate structure called Cal Poly Foundation and a state-of-the-art sports facility called the Sports Complex.

Finally, in honor of the last official “Open House,” we flip through the memory book of Poly Royal and the tradition that next year’s name change carries. Welcome to the not-so-SLO life.

Sincerely,
Andy Costagunda
Editor-in-Chief

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Friday, April 14, 2000
Volume LXIV, No. 112
© 2000 Mustang Daily

Graphic Arts Building, Suite 226
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

mustangdaily.calpoly.edu editor@mustangdaily.calpoly.edu

Printed by University Graphic Systems

“Let’s do it before they change to 18 pages.”

Open House

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counting down to the big weekend

by robin nichols

this weekend, a full year of open house preparation comes to a head with three full days of activities.

every year, open house coordinators begin planning on the wednesday following open house weekend. the chair is selected right after the event, and the committee directors are chosen by the end of spring quarter. after the summer break, those selected come back to school ready to work.

committee members are chosen in the fall, filling out applications and going through interviews. this year there are 20 members. club relations committee member and english freshman jennett rocha remembers her rigorous application process. "it takes a lot of time, and they want to make sure you're dedicated," she said. "you have to deal with a lot of people in the city, and you need good public speaking skills."

during fall, open house committee meetings met to set deadlines for themselves. winter was when the real work began. deadlines are set for club officers, who are sometimes difficult to pull together.

"clubs are all on different schedules, and they change officers at different times," said open house chairwoman and mechanical engineering senior barbi borgonovi. "a lot of times what happens is the old officers start the process of open house but never emphasized the importance of the meetings (to the new officers)."

coordinating more than 200 clubs is a time-consuming process. there are six toms for every club, and each needs to be looked over carefully to ensure no one prevents the event from taking place. each club proposes what it wants to do, and the open house committee chooses to approve or deny it. clubs are allowed to sell food from off campus during this weekend only, a compromise of campus dining and open house.

"the main rule is no outside business employees or logos," borgonovi said.

the clubs are subject to many other restrictions concerning their booths. the open house web site lists the regulations, from electricity to fire safety to hours of operation.

revenue for open house is generated mainly by outside sponsors. some money is made from the pancake breakfast and other activities, but the committee doesn't usually

see planning, page 14

schedule of events

friday, april 14

7:30 a.m. - noon: check-in for admitted students (cal poly theatre lawn).
7:30 - 10 a.m.: pancake breakfast (sponsored by student affairs).
8 a.m.: design village opens (poly canyon).
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.: resource breakfast (university union plaza).
9:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.: university welcome #1 in recreation center (colleges of agriculture, engineering, and science and math).
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.: college and departmental activities (various locations).
10:30 - 11 a.m.: university welcome #2 in rec center (colleges of architecture, business and liberal arts).
6:30 p.m.: cal poly rodeo (cal poly rodeo arena).
8 - 11 p.m.: casino night in the rec center's main gym. sponsored by asi events (for the admitted students and their families).

saturday, april 15

8 a.m.: design village opens (poly canyon).
9 a.m.: open house reception - by invitation only (dexter lawn).
10 a.m.: opening ceremonies (dexter lawn).
10:30 a.m. (tentative): opening ceremonies end; club booths open.
10:30 a.m. (approx.) - 4 p.m.: club booths are open for business.
noon: cal poly rodeo (cal poly rodeo arena).
noon - 4 p.m.: math contest sponsored by the math department.
1 p.m.: tractor pull (field east of the crops unit).
1 p.m.: roborodentia (building 20b).
5 p.m.: cal poly rodeo (cal poly rodeo arena).

sunday, april 16

8 a.m. - noon: design village (poly canyon).
7:30 a.m.: golf tournament check-in begins.
8 a.m.: golf tournament tee-off. golf tournament luncheon. various alumni events will take place throughout the day (coordinated with alumni relations).
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Poly wages battle against underage drinking

By Adam Jarman

A recent survey suggests Cal Poly students in general are drinking more alcohol than before, despite university efforts to curb underage drinking.

Recently, a case against Cal Poly's chapter of Sigma Chi fraternity has brought attention to underage drinking. The district attorney's office is investigating allegations that the fraternity knowingly served alcohol to a minor. "Our usage has increased significantly," said Rojean York-Pominuez, director of health education.

She said Cal Poly students participate in a survey every three years that asks university students about alcohol use. "We are close to average with other California campuses," York-Pominuez said.

The study shows that Cal Poly students are not drinking more often but are drinking more when they do.

What is alarming is that students are drinking free drinks or more, more than two times a week," she said.

Face to face with Judicial Affairs

"I try to be proactive," said Ardith Tregenza, coordinator of Campus Student Relations and Judicial Affairs. Although she interacts with students mainly after a violation has occurred, she said she likes to involve her department in programs that educate the campus about underage drinking.

"I think I have a responsibility to educate students," Tregenza said. Judicial Affairs has been involved in the Violence Intervention Program, which focuses on sexual assault. Tregenza said that alcohol plays a large role in violent crimes.

Judicial Affairs has also made presentations during Week of Welcome in order to introduce incoming students to the pressures they will be facing. York-Pominuez said her department works with \"CATCH\" to present each incoming student with information about alcohol and its varied effects.

When a student is called to a hearing by Judicial Affairs, Tregenza said she focuses on the student's decisions. "It is important to talk with students about their choices and how they reflect on them personally and academically," she said.

In 1999, Judicial Affairs dealt with 36 underage-drinking incidents. According to department records, the majority of these cases involved students in the residence halls. Others involved drunken driving.

For 1999, the case load was slightly higher with 45. Tregenza said she ultimately wants to help students improve their personal responsibility. Judicial Affairs hearings can result in a variety of actions, she said. One piece of the outcome may be for students to use \"Alcohol 101,\" an interactive CD-ROM program offered through Peer Health and Education. This activity places students in scenarios that depict real-life situations, such as alcohol poisoning, peer pressure, sex and alcohol or binge drinking, she said.

"We can select specific programs with Alcohol 101 to best meet the student's immediate needs," York-Pominuez said.

Other Judicial Affairs outcomes may include attending the Health Living Choices course taught on campus or Alcoholics Anonymous meetings for a given length of time. "I want students to ask themselves if they are being mindful with their choices," Tregenza said.

Police as educators and enforcers

University Police Chief Tony Aeilts said he uses his department's role as both an educator and an enforcer. University Police has an officer assigned specifically to the residence halls. \"This provides us ongoing access with students,\" Aeilts said. \"This is important because most of the residence hall students are minors.\"

The residence hall officer provides educational programs concerning alcohol for residents. Aeilts said the information presented involves all alcohol-related situations. \"It ranges from drunken driving to the chances of sexual assault when alcohol is involved,\" he said.

The police department offers a variety of informational brochures that detail the effects of alcohol, and a listing of resources is available through Judicial Affairs.

In addition, University Police is consistently investigating students who use false IDs to purchase alcohol.

Last quarter, University Police made a bust of over 200 fake IDs at a local liquor store. The majority of these, according to Aeilts, were used by minors to purchase alcohol. \"A major factor in underage drinking is fake IDs,\" Aeilts said. \"As students are identified, we notify the DMV and request a suspension of their driver's license.\"

The DMV also works with law enforcement agencies to enforce new legislation concerning underage drunken driving.

According to the DMV, anyone under 21 who is caught driving with an alcohol blood level of more than 0.02 percent will automatically have his/her driver's license suspended for one year.

This is intended to be a stronger deterrent to drunk driving, according to the DMV. University Police does not directly work with students after they have been involved in underage drinking cases, but refers them to Judicial Affairs or Housing and Residential Life.

Learning from peers

Peer Health coordinates several measures to increase awareness of the effects of alcohol. It has informational booths at all major events on campus, said York-Pominuez, who advises and trains about 50 Peer Health educators. These students are divided into small groups, each with a different focus area.

Alcohol awareness is part of the Thoughtful Lifestyle Choices (TLC) group. \"Peers would rather talk to someone their age that they can relate to,\" York-Pominuez said.

Peer educators work with students as groups and individually to advise in issues close to students. \"We also do presentations in the residence halls and to fraternities, sororities and clubs,\" she said.

These programs range from \"Party Smart,\" which focuses on how to drink responsibly, to \"Alcohol and the Law,\" which deals specifically with alcohol consumption laws and effects.

Peer Health will be starting another program soon in the residence halls, called \"Coffee Talks.\" The program is an informal setting where students can get answers to their questions about what alcohol can do, York-Pominuez said. \"We are hoping the small group will make people feel more comfortable,\" she said.

Another program in the residence halls is \"Aprilfest.\" Justin Price, coordinator of student development for Fremont Hall and Aprilfest coordinator, said, \"April has been set aside by Housing and Residential Life as an intense alcohol awareness month.\"

Price said students in the residence halls are given a lot of information regarding alcohol at the beginning of the year but this information often is ignored because students have not yet had much experience with alcohol.

\"We feel that by the time April rolls around, most students have experienced alcohol or the secondhand effects of alcohol, and this is a perfect opportunity to reeducate the residents,\" he said.

Aprilfest activities include events such as \"mocktail\" parties and \"100-proof truth.\" Mocktail parties feature non-alcoholic drinks and an opportunity for students to ask questions about the effects of alcohol.

The 100-proof truth events, Price said, are stories written by Cal Poly students about their personal experiences with alcohol. \"Our hope is not to teach or preach abstinence but to give students true and factual information about the dangers of alcohol use,\" Price said. \"We don't say, \"Don't drink.\" We say, \"If you choose to drink, here are some things to make sure you do it responsibly.\" York-Pominuez said.

Crying FERPA

By Adam Jarman

Federal regulations are designed to protect students' right to privacy, but also allow campus officials to circumvent that right when necessary.

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) reads that students have the right to privacy concerning their personal records. They may review and appeal any information in their records they believe to be untrue.

Ardith Tregenza, coordinator of Campus Student Relations and Judicial Affairs, said that the original 1974 federal legislation was amended in 1990 to allow campus officials to contact parents or guardians when they deem fit. This may be in cases of underage drinking, she said.

\"There are cases when the student could be best served with parental intervention,\" University Police Chief Tony Aeilts said. Each case is looked at individually, said Tregenza, who coordinates hearings for students who violate campus policies. \"It doesn't mean that we automatically call the parents,\" she said.

FERPA allows directory-type information such as names, majors and class standing to be released at the discretion of officials. Students have the right to restrict such information if they do not wish for it to be released. The Office of Academic Records handles such requests.
Cal Poly Recognizes the Alumni Association Board of 2000

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The project's progress

April 1999

By Kirsten Orsini-Meinhard
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

As spring quarter slowly rolls toward summer, the Cal Poly community is holding its collective breath in anticipation for the grand openings of the parking structure and the Sports Complex — two new campus structures scheduled to be completed within the next six months.

January 2000

The parking savior

After nearly two years of construction, the parking structure has faced two major delays and, recently, a lawsuit. Construction on the parking structure began in December 1998 with an expected completion date of January 2000. When finished, the four-story structure will provide Cal Poly students and faculty with an additional 936 spaces of much-needed parking.

Project manager Katherine Dunklau said funding for the $20.8 million parking structure is generated from a combination of different sources. Primarily, money for the structure comes from parking revenue from Parking and Commuter Services.

Funding also comes from the state, which had set aside money to pay for parking structures on state university campuses, Dunklau said.

After a year of construction, the parking structure faced its first delay in December 1999, when a routine inspection revealed lack of reinforcements in two levels of the structure, Dunklau said. The problem was due mainly to the lack of cross ties in the columns of the second and third levels. Cross ties strengthen the columns and are essential to the completion of the structure. The lack of reinforcements meant the structure was not up to building code, Dunklau said.

"This was all a seismic issue," she said. "There wasn't any danger of just standing there and falling through."

Facilities Planning estimated that fixing the problem would move the completion date back to April 2000.

February 1999

THE

Students who left for winter break expecting a completed parking structure upon their return were greeted instead with impacted parking.

And then the rain came. Associate Vice President for Administration Vicki Stever said the large amount of rainfall in San Luis Obispo during January and February inhibited construction workers from working on the parking structure.

The initial plans for the structure left room for rain delays, assuming that San Luis Obispo would receive the usual four inches of rain a month, Stever said. This winter, San Luis Obispo received close to 11 inches of rain each month.

The amount of rainfall pushed back the completion date of the parking structure to June, nearly six months after its original finishing date.

Two weeks ago, Vista Steel, the company hired to complete the reinforcements on the parking structure, filed a breach-of-contract lawsuit against the California State University system and the project's general contractor, H.A. Ekelin.

Vista Steel signed a $1.5 million contract with H.A. Ekelin in return for supplying labor and materials for the structure's steel reinforcements. The lawsuit claims Vista Steel has not received $474,000 of payment for their seismic reinforcement work or for their initial work on the structure.

Project in order to save money.

Funding for the Sports Complex arrived in three ways. Each quarter, students pay a $7 fee that goes directly to complex construction. Johnson said the student fee generates $4.9 million of the project's funding.

"It's an extension of the University Union fee dedicated toward paying the debt to the building of the facility," Johnson said. "The rationale behind this is that students, as users, will pay user fees."

Private fund raising by the athletic department created $4.1 million of the Sports Complex funding. The two funding sources make up the original $9 million Sports Complex budget.

However, construction costs exceeded the expected budget. In early February, President Warren Baker moved approximately $919,000 from University Union reserves, comprised of student fee money, to use for the Sports Complex. While ASI manages UU reserves, Baker has ultimate authority over the money.

The university also paid an extra $1.1 million taken from savings that were created by value engineering and self-managing. Johnson said. The Sports Complex has now exceeded its projected budget by approximately $2 million.

April 2000

Road to the complex

At the other end of campus, near the horticulture department, construction of the Sports Complex is well under way and should reach completion by the end of August.

Rick Johnson, associate ASI executive director, said the complex is 60 percent finished. Unlike the parking structure, the facility has suffered no major delays and should be open for use at the start of fall quarter, Johnson said.

The Sports Complex will hold six multipurpose fields, including three softball fields. In addition, Vista will provide two stadiums — one for women's softball and one for men's baseball. The entire Sports Complex will be well lit, Johnson said.

Originally, $9 million was budgeted for the project. When bids for contractors were opened in spring 1998, the lowest bid was for $2 million over the projected budget, Johnson said. The university decided to internally manage the Sports Complex project in order to save money.

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Building Cal Poly’s new Master Plan will fall on the shoulders of a future generation of Foundation directors.

Three top officials will leave their positions in the next few years. Their retirements come on the heels of a record-setting year for Foundation, which earned a total income of $60.3 million last fiscal year.

Executive Director Al Amaral expects to leave his post by October. Don Shemenko left his position as director of administration and planning in February, and Associate Director Robert Griffith said he plans to retire within the next few years.

“I knew that (Al) was scheduled to retire. He had talked about it a number of years ago at board retreats,” Griffith said. “Then stopped talking about it until recently, when he announced (his retirement). There was a block of time where we didn’t talk about it that much.”

Cal Poly President Warren Baker said, “I knew that (Amaral) was scheduled to retire, and that it would be somewhere between now and three years from now. But I was a little surprised that he decided to leave now.”

Amaral and his wife, Rose, said they felt now was the best time to allow new leadership to take over.

“The university is working on a new Master Plan for the next 10 or 20 years. That allows somebody to come in and get in right at the ground floor and help the university achieve that Master Plan objectives,” Amaral said.

The university has enlisted a professional search firm to find a qualified replacement.

“We are looking for someone who really understands what the university community is like and the culture of the university,” Baker said. “But also someone who is entrepreneurial and has good business sense, because that’s important for the university.”

Amaral became the executive director July 1, 1971, and has since provided overall management of all Foundation operations. Prior to joining Foundation, Amaral had been a member of the agricultural business department faculty since 1967.

Foundation began in the early 1920s to manage funds for campus dorms and food services, student projects and a faculty-operated student store. The various functions became incorporated in 1940. It is chartered under state laws as a public benefit, auxiliary organization, but is not a private foundation under IRS code. In other words, Foundation is a separate organization designed to raise funds and provide services for Cal Poly.

“It’s a nonprofit. It is separate from the university, but there is, obviously, a very close integration between the two entities,” Amaral said. “I have reporting responsibilities both to the Foundation Board of Directors and to the university president.”

Foundation has grown substantially under Amaral. Much of the growth may be attributed to the university president.

By Sarah Goodyear

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Friday, April 14, 2000 13

Three top directors from Cal Poly Foundation have retired or plan to call it quits soon. In their wake, they leave a multimillion-dollar operation.

AL AMARAL: Foundation Executive Director

Foundation during the fiscal year ending June 1999. Foundation controls Campus Dining, campus printing, agricultural enterprise projects, research contracts, El Corral Bookstore and an endowment program.

More than $53 million of the endowment fund is invested in government and corporate bonds, corporate stocks, real estate, mutual funds and cash equivalents pending long-term reinvestment. Investments are made by Foundation itself and with the aid of outside financial advisors and investing services.

Returns from the year’s investments largely contributed to a 28 percent increase in net earnings despite a 2 percent loss in income from auxiliary operations. These include Campus Dining, El Corral, University Graphics Systems and the agricultural units.

“We’ve got one overall goal, and that’s to support the university’s educational mission. We do that by performing all these various functions,” Amaral said. “In other words, we see FOUNDATION, page 14

‘Open House presents Poly Royal’ has big shoes to fill

By Robin Nichols

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Chaos, destruction and Cal Poly. Although these things might seem separate in any students’ minds today, the 1990 Poly Royal riots brought them all together in a night of madness that gained national attention. Cal Poly President Warren Baker’s recent decision to rename Open House to “Open House: Presents Poly Royal” in 2001 brings back memories of the event 10 years ago.

In April 1990, the 58-year-old Poly Royal festival changed forever. Alcohol mixed with thousands of students created an incident that is still talked about today.

The violence that began late Friday and continued to Saturday night was sparked by unknown causes. Rioters threw beer bottles, overturned cars, destroyed private property and assaulted police officers.

There were 127 arrests, 100 people injured and 15 police officers hurt over the course of the weekend, according to the Tribune. An estimated 100,000 people visited San Luis Obispo during the two days, leaving an overwhelmed police department.

University Police Investigator Mike Kennedy said, “I was there for both nights’ riots. It was pretty much chaos. There were a lot of rocks thrown at officers. One man was hit by a flying champagne bottle and rendered unconscious. The crowd was so unruly they couldn’t get an ambulance to him. I got hit in my hand with a full beer can. All of this occurred off campus, from Tab and California to Foothall and down Foothill to Chorro. It’s something I’ll never forget.”

Before the rioting, Poly Royal had been a proud tradition at Cal Poly since its inception in 1933. According to the Cal Poly Web site, the 1941 freshman rulebook mandated: “Each spring the school is groomed for the annual Poly Royal, in which every student participates.”

The festival was a source of excitement for students. Former Cal Poly student Karen Kadlec said, “They tried to do things like they did many years ago. The thing that most comes to mind was the tractor pull. Poly Royal had a different flavor (than it does now). I think you almost couldn’t duplicate it.”

As to whether the name should change itself from Poly Royal, Baker decided in 1994 to bring back the same concept but call it Open Royal.

“I think enough time has gone by that the name reflects tradition,” John Pryor Cal Poly alumnus

House. This was meant to bring an academic focus to the festival, and the event successfully distinguished itself from Poly Royal. Reactions have been mostly positive to the reinvention of the name.

San Luis Obispo Mayor Allen Selett said, “I am not apprehensive. I think President Baker is wisely trying to have a balance between the name Poly Royal and the name Open House. He is well aware of the connotations of Poly Royal, but we have had a series of very successful Open Houses. The key is that classes are being offered on campus, and the structure is very different than Poly Royal of the ‘80s.”

In previous years, most classes were cancelled on the Friday preceding Poly Royal.

Local architect and Cal Poly graduate John Pryor remembers Poly Royal from the 1970s as very different than 1990. “When I went to school, students knocked our projects for a week, putting in 40 hours. Students spruced up the campus and did construction projects. Maybe school spirit changed (in 1990). I think you almost couldn’t duplicate that.”

As to whether the name change will affect Open House, Pryor said, “I think enough time has gone by that the name reflects tradition. It would have to build up years to be that big again.”

By Sarah Goodyear

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER
Students hawk wares to refill empty wallets

By Jennifer Beard

Although the end of the spring semester is near, students find that lost summer employment might be slipping away from them due to the economy and another job.

The first step for some 3,600 hearing students in Career Services, who are not offered jobs, is to find another job.

"The month of May is the beginning of some summer quarter and the employer does not offer a position at the end of this period. That's when we reserve 3,600 students who are really filling the lack of that buck that they need some money," said Robin Conners, Career Services, Cal Poly.

For employers call the Career Services, make sure their job is posted in school schedules.

"Most students are really different between a little extra cash," said Architecture senior Trudie Winters, who turned to Mary Kay Cosmetics to help bring in additional income this year.

"I wanted to make a little money while I'm in school, but I also like it because I can work when I want to and I don't have to be at work at a certain time. I can work in my own hours, and I can take off work if I want to," Winters said.

Winters has been selling Mary Kay for the last eight months. She said that besides ensuring flexible hours with the job, she has the opportunity to work with many different women in the San Luis Obispo area who have encouraged her to keep with it.

"We don't have to sell in the stores, everyone's busy and I don't have to talk to people, but I do have to sell my products. I have a good start this quarter," Winters said.

Labor Day and summer vacations have allowed Thompson to earn some extra money.

"I'm not sure how much I'm going to make and I got a nice discount it helps out," Thompson said.

"This is Thompson's second year working at the foundation. She said that the transition to the new store wasn't that bad. Thompson went to school full-time at Cal Poly and worked 40 hours a week. Another profitable field was an extra job.

"Another profitable field for students to consider is selling Cal Poly landscaping senior Monique Matta has been representing Cutco Cutlery for the last four years and is finding the higher level of success locally. Mata said that she is a good idea, and standardization of being able to do more than you do is my average order size but important," Matta said.

"Though some of her prospective signs, students, she has worked hard to get off campus and do new promotions.

"The flexibility is the first part because I can work when I want, however, I do have to work and the others. They plan my work schedule around my school schedule, and I'm allowed to do my homework there. I bring my laptop and forget my notes," Conners said.

"She said she has a long shift but only works two days a week and enjoys the low-stress atmosphere.

"I would rather not work at all, but being that I do have to work, this is a relatively decent job," Conners said.

"I think the majority of students are looking for part-time positions and some students are just looking for weekend jobs to make a little money. Yard work is a popular one-time job," Patton said.

"I don't have the same attitude as the folks who are selling Mary Kay. If they want to do that, they can do it. But the students who are selling Mary Kay, they are just trying to make money and they want to do it. They don't have a lot of people, but I don't want to hurt them because there's always new jobs on the market," Patton said.

"Students who qualify for work study can also find out about available positions on- and off-campus.

"All students are eligible and must register with the center in order to use their services.

Industrial engineering senior Monique Matta, above, has been representing Cutco Cutlery for the last four years. She said the local market has been helpful to sales.

Architecture senior Trudie Winters turned to Mary Kay Cosmetics to help her earn some extra spending cash.

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**FOUNDAITION**

continued from page 13

Think that a student's total experience is important to their educational achievement. Amador will likely stay on staff for the first part of the new director term in order to smooth the transition.

"I would like to emphasize what the Foundation has been able to achieve," Amador said. "They have been able to do it as a result of an awful lot of good people that have done it. In no way did I do it by myself. Our staff is extremely competent and highly committed to Cal Poly and I don't see that changing one iota."
Women find their place at top of Polys athletics

By Katherine Hays  
Mustang Daily Staff Writer

In the 1999-2000 season, Cal Poly women's sports put the Mustangs on the athletic map. With unprecedented DI Division I success, the women's soccer, basketball and volleyball teams all went to the postseason.

Having established strong foundations, the teams are looking for continued strong play in the upcoming season.

The women's soccer team has excelled for the past three years, and this season looks no different for them. The big win was when it won the Big West Conference. Then the team added a first round NCAA victory, and went on to the second round of the NCAA DI Tournament. It was the first time in the women's soccer team's history that a Cal Poly women's team won a Division I postseason game.

While the end result was sweet, it was a difficult road. The Mustangs had a tough start to their season, losing four of their first five games. These losses, however, gave the Mustangs experience against top-caliber teams, which would later help them go on to win their conference.

"Winning (in) the playoffs last year was wonderful," head coach Alex Croter said. "There's no reason we shouldn't be a perennial playoff team." The legacy that has been built in the last four seasons by the Mustangs will continue to provide momentum to come.

"I think we will always have a strong soccer tradition," Croter said.

"Women's volleyball also had a strong season, finishing 22-8 overall. The team went on to the Big West Championship for the first time in a decade. The Mustangs competed in postseason play for the first time in consecutive years during the 1998-1999 season. Croter said, "The team is more experienced now."

"Now when I walk into the gym and see the stands packed with fans, it reminds me of that time," Croter said. "I think what we're seeing here is the rebirth of Cal Poly as a volleyball powerhouse.

The women's basketball team has shown marked improvement since the arrival of head coach Faith Minnich in 1997. The Mustangs went 9-18 this season, the most wins they've had since moving to Division I in 1994. Much of the program's success can be credited to Minnich, who was named Coach of the Year for the Big West Conference.

The most exciting feat Minnich and her players accomplished was having been getting to the Big West Conference Tournament in Reno, Nev. The Mustangs played the entire year without standard scholars freshmen Caroline Rowles and Stephanie Baker. Those losses left them without much height, but they managed to get on a roll at the end of the year and make the postseason.

With Rowles and Baker returning, and four freshmen recruits taller than 6'6, the Mustangs should become one of the biggest forces in the Big West next year.

The success of women's athletics at Cal Poly and the men's-much can be traced to the hiring created by Title IX. This law requires that funding must be distributed equally between men's and women's sports.

Although the law passed in the early 1970s, there has been controversy and debate about the exact meaning of the law. Only recently has Title IX become an important factor for women's athletics nationwide.

"Cal Poly has a lot of good student-athletes," Croter said. "We're able to provide them with scholarships thanks to Title IX."

Cal Poly Senior Associate Athletic Director Alton Gcrete credited much of this to Athletic Director John McCarthy.

"When John came to Cal Poly in 1992, he found the program in the doldrums," Gcrete said. "He worked to create a good atmosphere for the women's program."

Grete said that while funding is important, another necessary factor is student participation.

"It's really exciting to see women's sports drawing such large crowds of both students and the general public," Grete said. "Attendance at home games helps to keep athlete stipends high. Our students have been very good about supporting successful teams.

"The completion of the Sports Complex and tennis courts, along with the renovation of Mustang Court, will help further fuel women's athletics," Grete said. School officials are currently in discussion about renovating the track in early in this summer.

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Women find their place at top of Polys athletics

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Fields of dreams

A week in the life of the complex

**Weekend mornings**
- 1 p.m.: Weekend mornings
- 8 a.m.: Informal recreation/club sports

**Weekend afternoons, nights**
- 1 p.m.: Soccer, baseball
- 6 p.m.: Informal recreation
- 7 a.m.: Rugby-informal recreation
- 11:30 p.m.: Men’s soccer

**Weekday mornings**
- 1 p.m.: Baseball

**Weekday afternoons**
- 1 p.m.: Informal recreation
- 6 p.m.: Baseball
- 11:30 p.m.: Men's soccer

**Weekday nights**
- 6 p.m.: Informal recreation
- 6 p.m.: IM soccer

*Schedules for fall quarter Source: Athletic Department Graphic by Andy Castagnola*

By Matt Sterling
**MUSTANG DAILY ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR**

The much-anticipated Cal Poly Sports Complex is set to open in October. Six multipurpose fields, three softball fields and two baseball stadiums will allow Cal Poly to hold athletic competitions as well as provide students with a place for casual recreation.

Since the conception of the parking structure began last spring, field space on campus has run at a premium.

"I think as any student knows, just even trying to get a place to throw the frisbee around or play a game of catch when you have a half an hour is impossible these days," Athletic Director John McCutcheon said.

The Sports Complex eventually will allow the campus to have adequate outdoor sports facilities. However, it has been a long process toward its completion.

**Fund raising the complex**

Members of the local community who financially supported the project have seen the lack of adequate sports facilities in San Luis Obispo. They see the complex as a solution to those problems. When the facility was in its planning stages, residents saw successful sports complexes in other cities. They were excited for the possibilities that the new facility could bring, said Robin Baggett, co-chair of the capital campaign steering committee, which raised funds for the complex.

"Everyone recognized the need for facilities," Baggett said.

In order to raise funds for the complex, a partnership was formed between three groups: Cal Poly, Associated Students Inc. and the community. Baggett wanted to duplicate the successful partnership formed between the city and campus when building the Performing Arts Center.

"We have a partnership with three parties," he said. "Cal Poly, the students, the ASI and the community all contributed a fair share toward the project."

The committee recognized that three groups needed the complex. They were intercollegiate athletes, students and youth in the community. Baggett, a Cal Poly alumna, remembers when the baseball team played on campus, and he looks forward to having baseball brought back.

"With the baseball team playing at San Luis Obispo Stadium, the community really backed the team," he said. "Now that there will be a stadium on campus, there should be more student support."

**Impact on club sports**

Home matches for Cal Poly’s field hockey, men’s and women’s soccer, men’s and women’s tennis, rugby and ultimate frisbee have been a reality. When the complex is finished, the teams will have an up-to-date facility to hold home games.

"Our teams have been practicing on any fields that they can find," said Alison Bush, ASI collegiate team sport coordinator.

For some teams, that means practicing in the dark, as the rugby team has found it had to practice far from campus and on non-regulation fields. The team had to play in Arroyo Grande and lost regulation and non-regulation games for not using a regulation field.

Bush has called local high schools to try to field places for the teams to practice and play games.

"It’s been really hard for the teams," she said. "However, I feel (the complex) is going to satisfy the needs for the teams."

Those needs include giving teams an opportunity to practice when they want on fields that are more convenient to the campus, and to have space for maintenance. These 10 to 12 groups, as well as all the intramural programs, should be able to determine a balance between the two programs.

**Who gets to use the fields?**

New fields mean higher demand, and higher demand means a scheduling challenge. The task falls into ASI Rec Sports Director Marcy Maloney’s lap.

Maloney wants to make sure the fields are available for four purposes: informal recreation use, intramural sports, club sports and Formal 81 events held by clubs, fraternities or organizations.

"Our goal is, at any given time, to have a field open for informal recreation use," she said.

Through feedback from club sport athletes and students, it was determined that the highest demand for fields is between 2 and 11 p.m. on weekdays, and all day on weekends. With that information, Maloney was able to determine a scheduling matrix that accommodates all four groups.

"We’re trying to have a creative mix of things at any given time," she said. "Our goal is to create balance between the groups."

"We want to take advantage of the use of the fields until she notes use patterns for a year."

Then, the first year will be used as a benchmark year in order to gauge a complete picture of field usage.

In order for the fields to handle high use, there will be scheduled field sports (field hockey, men’s and women’s soccer, rugby and ultimate frisbee) have been a reality. When the complex is finished, the teams will have an up-to-date facility to hold home games.

For informal recreation use, intramural sports, club sports and Formal 81 events, the fields will be open to all four groups.

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Marcy Maloney
ASI Rec Sports director

**The numbers**

- 6 multipurpose fields with lights
- 3 softball fields with lights
- 1 NCAA-regulation, 300-seat softball stadium
- 1 NCAA-regulation, 600-seat baseball stadium
- 160 spaces in the parking lot

**The quotes**

"You can’t even try to get a place to throw the frisbee around or play a game of catch when you have a half an hour is impossible these days," Athletic Director John McCutcheon said.

"We think it’s going to be huge," said Doug Morales, a junior outfielder. "The grass has a chance to develop its root system.

"We’re looking at some time, probably October, before we start any activity on the fields themselves, and I would imagine that will be the next step," McCutcheon said. "The one thing we want to make sure of is to let the grass establish itself."

The complex will have something for everyone on campus to use, whether a club sport athlete or someone playing a game of catch. McCutcheon said the complex will benefit the general student population even more than the varsity athletes.

"I think the Sports Complex will have as much or more impact on the general student than it will have on the varsity athletes," he said. "The multiple uses are going to give us a resource on campus we just haven’t had."

Marcy Maloney
ASI Rec Sports director
Don't let small-town atmosphere fool you

While waiting in line at El Corral Bookstore last week, I overheard a conversation between two students. They were talking about why they came to Cal Poly.

"The area was a big motivation," said one student. "San Luis Obispo is such a cute town; it's nothing like San Jose."

The other girl replied with, "Yeah, I love living in a small town.

It's a lot safer, too." They both stood in front of an entire rack of "Remember" shirts.

Frankly, I have to wonder when Cal Poly students will stop referring to San Luis Obispo as a safe town. Obviously, the murders of Rachel Newhouse and Aundria Crawford last year have not hindered these students' opinions that San Luis Obispo radiates protection and goodness. They are not the only ones affected by San Luis Obispo's small-town image. Despite the horror Cal Poly students had to face last year with the deaths of two of their own, I still see students walking the streets alone at night.

San Luis Obispo seems to paint the perfect picture of tranquility. Murders and rapists just don't fit in among the stunning foothills and the strikingly green landscapes that surround Cal Poly. In San Luis Obispo, big businesses are shunned and people smile at you in the street. The town is the polar opposite of the crime-ridden, mug-filled streets of big cities like Los Angeles. So why carry mace in your purse or refrain from riding your bike at night when your neighbor is most likely to be Mother Teresa?

The answer is simple: Small towns do not equal safety. Beneath the mom-and-pop stores that line downtown San Luis Obispo hide the staggering crime statistics and newspaper headlines that reveal our angels' town for what it really is. San Luis Obispo has more in common with big cities than meets the eye; it's just a matter of seeing through the small-town facade. According to The Tribune, there have been 10 store robberies on the Central Coast since December. Of those robberies, six took place in San Luis Obispo three bank holdups and three restaurant burglaries. For a town with only 42,000 residents, this is a staggering amount of robberies in a short amount of time.

San Luis Obispo is no foreign site to murders, either. Aside from the deaths of Newhouse and Crawford, two Paso Robles men have received long-term prison sentences for the murder of a San Luis Obispo woman last summer. Her body was found in a Dumpster. Only in big cities, right?

The violence that everyone would like to believe is absent from small-town life is, in fact, right next door.

Even the ma-and-pop stores that are symbols of a close-knit community aren't always as safe as they seem either. This year, the owner of Tony's Barbershop in Templeton was sentenced to six years in prison for molesting two 10-year-old girls.

Like a disease, violence continues to plague San Luis Obispo as it does the rest of the world.

As a matter of fact, the San Luis Obispo Police Department created a "Remember" T-shirt that created a tab for the department's "Remember" T-shirts. They can be mailed, faxed, delivered or e-mailed.

Letter policy

Columns, cartoons and letters reflect the views of their authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Mustang Daily.

Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanities and length. Please limit length to 350 words. Mustang Daily encourages comments on editorial policy and university affairs. Letters should be typewritten and signed with major and class standing. Preference is given to e-mailed letters. They can be mailed, faxed, delivered or e-mailed to opinion@mustangdaily.calpoly.edu

WELCOME BACK ALUMNI!!

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Pick up El Corral Book store discounts, view archival photos, buy Alumni Association gifts, see old and meet new friends, get the best view of the Open House Main Stage, eat free food, take home a lot of information... all the Alumni Association - valid on 4/15/00 only

Opinion
Poly's construction pales in comparison to history's feats

From groundbreaking to moving in, it took about a year to complete construction.

It's not our plagued four-story parking structure. It's not the infamous Sports Complex. It was the Empire State Building, and the year was 1931.

With the nation trying to cope with the Great Depression, 3,500 laborers spent more than 2 million man-hours constructing the Empire State Building. As it rose more than 102 stories, it was the nation's tallest building in the world. The 102-story feat would claim this title until 1954.

Not only was it a marvel of height but a marvel of architecture, engineering and construction management. No other building of its time could claim the innovations employed to build the Empire State Building.

All this occurred while the rest of the nation was stripped with almost 25 percent unemployment and some of the worst economic conditions this country can remember.

Now look around. From the parking structure on one end of campus to the Sports Complex on the other, our Cal Poly campus is a collage of construction nightmares.

It is evident that almost 70 years later, the innovations pioneered by the Empire State Building haven't quite reached our quaint Central Coast, and we aren't even asking for world-class skyscrapers.

Now, it is important to understand that when any kind of public institution is involved, nothing is as simple as it should be. There seemingly are endless hoops through which any project must jump.

These hoops come in the form of countless approval, contract and purchasing processes. Theoretically, the rigor of the process ensures the successful completion of public construction projects. In reality, however, all this creates is a system that could learn a lot from the private industry of days past.

Here on campus, the new parking structure was supposed to be open last January, but it is now almost six months behind schedule. Setbacks on the project were due to both structural errors that caused reinforce-

ments to be added and bad weather. I appreciate that the mistake was corrected before any serious damage was caused, but I am left wondering how a successful jump through the numerous hoops allowed such an error to occur.

As far as the weather is concerned, it is understandable that unforeseen circumstances can delay a project. But, I would venture to say the New York project experienced a warm winter, too.

If the structure opens according to the new schedule in June 2000, it will have taken just short of two years to complete the four-story garage. That is a bit less than impressive.

At the other end of campus is a project of an entirely different proportion. Our new Sports Complex isn't but a month behind schedule; it should be complete in early fall.

The controversy here is the nearly $1 million that was used to fill some gaps in the funding. This money sparked a thunderous roar from students because it was taken from the University Union reserve fund, money held by Associated Students Inc., but under the complete discretion of the president. Students felt proper communication between the president and ASI was in order before such a transfer of funds occurred.

This project isn't damned by the system but by the people who run it.

Naturally, the Empire State Building construction project had its flaws and controversies. None of them, however, sacrificed overall efficiency.

Understandably, there are much stricter building codes and regulations today than in 1931, but I would hope our methods of efficiency would have grown with the same vigor.

We could learn a lot from depression-stricken New York.

Adam Jarman is a journalism sophomore and a Mustang Daily staff writer.
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