Saturday, December 1, 2000

CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN LUIS OBISPO

Library extends Reserve Room hours for trial period

By Kara Knutson
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

In the past, there hasn’t been a quiet place to do homework on campus that was open after midnight for students who stayed up late studying. Not was there a place to study on campus that opened early during the weekend. Kennedy Library closed at midnight during the week and opened at 11 a.m. on Saturday and noon on Sunday. That changed on Nov. 27. The Reserve Room at the PolyConnect Lab will now stay open until 2 a.m. Monday through Thursday and will open at 10 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. This change is part of a trial period that will run through spring quarter 2001.

The Reserve Room will continue to be open 24 hours Monday through Thursday and close at 5 p.m. on Saturday and midnight on Sunday. It will also remain open during the same hours on Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dean of Library Services Hiram Vianey said the largest need that has come to his attention is making the library available for students before noon on Sunday.

“Students need an environment conducive to studying,” he said. “That’s why the library here is here and we need to be responsive to it.”

Earlier this year, Associated Students Inc. President Sara Abome proposed the idea to university officials including Robert Detweiler, interim vice president for Student Affairs, and Frank Mumford, Foundation director of Administration and Planning. Abome had conducted a survey in Dec. 1999 while he was on the board of directors for the College of Engineering. He asked students what three things they would change at Cal Poly. Most students said they wanted a place that was open 24 hours so they could study late at night.

After talking to Detweiler and Mumford, Abome learned that Davis and the library staff were also discussing the need to increase hours based on student feedback they received in a 1998 survey.

A small task force was assembled with representatives from ASI, Academic Affairs, Foundation, Information Technology Services (ITS), the library, Student Affairs, Administration and Finance, and University Police. Members of the task force included Director of ITS Jerry Hardy, ASI Director of Business Services Bill Ashby and Davis.

Davis said the team talked about how much it would cost to extend the library’s hours. The team also discussed increasing staffing, security and equipment needs.

Then they conducted a survey mid-fall quarter in which students were asked how often they used the Reserve Room and if they would use it to study late at night. Students were also asked about their use of PolyConnect Lab and if they would extend the Reserve Room and PolyConnect Lab hours.

Abome said this is the first step in looking at whether Cal Poly can support a 24-hour study facility in the future.

Over 20 years, we’re looking at adding 3,000 students beyond the current capacity.

Linda Dalton
vice provost for Institutional Planning

In 1990, Cal Poly had its highest enrollment ever with 17,758 students. Even then, the university was over 100 students below its full capacity of 17,902 students. The capacity represents the total number of students that the campus facilities can hold. Because of budget constraints, Cal Poly still operates under its full capacity.

“We already have more students apply than we can accept,” Dalton said.

While the increase in enrollment won’t affect current students, future applicants may be impacted.

“It shouldn’t get any easier to get in,” Dalton said.

The CSU system is close to reaching its highest enrollment ever. The 8,533 new students this fall brings the CSUs to a total enrollment of 268,252, just under the highest total ever of 269,253, also in 1995.

“The CSU is the largest four-year institution in the nation,” said Ken Swisher, chancellor of the media relations manager.

Of the CSUs, San Diego State and Long Beach State have the largest enrollments with 31,609 and 32,920 students. The increase in student enrollment at the CSUs is being called “Tidal Wave II” because the children of the baby-boom generation are beginning to enter college.

“This is something we were expecting,” Swisher said.

To deal with the increasing student enrollment, CSU campuses are beginning year-round school and scheduling more class open­­ings, as well as implementing more off-campus centers and distance learning.

Cal Poly is reconstructing its Master Plan, the university’s enrollment and physical space goals, to be able to accommodate more students in the future.

“Over 20 years, we’re looking at adding 3,000 students beyond the current capacity,” Dalton said.

Cal Poly also plans to add new student housing to accommodate the additional students.

“We’re trying to help out with the housing pinch,” Dalton said.

It is predicted that by 2010, the CSUs will expand to 479,000 students, almost 111,000 more students than now.

“Erik Plato said extending hours opens more doors for students,” Swisher said.

“They’re really helpful because, for group meeting times, it’s easier for us to meet in the Reserve Room,” he said.

Construction management senior Voney Contreras doesn’t like to study at home. She said other universities have study facilities that are open 24 hours, and Cal Poly should, too.

“It will make me come here more because it’s open longer,” she said. “I used to go to Dunn’s late at night, but I would rather come here.”

Business senior Jennifer Park uses the Reserve Room to check out materials for her classes. She said the added

see LIBRARY, page 2

Marrow on the way

Shiwan Tribbett, left, a business administration junior, registers as a bone marrow donor; Carmen Rodriguez takes the blood sample. This was part of the bone marrow drive in the University Union Thursday.

By Mike Gilmore
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

California State University students may be feeling a bit cramped this quarter. For the sixth consecutive year, full enrollment numbers went up at the CSUs. Cal Poly’s enrollment increased from 16,410 students in fall 1999 to 16,877 this fall.

“Our enrollment has been going up and down over the past few years,” said Linda Dalton, vice provost for Institutional Planning.

“This fall it’s still below what it was in the fall of 1990.”

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“We already have more students apply than we can accept,” Dalton said.

While the increase in enrollment won’t affect current students,
Clarification: Flu shots are now available at the Health Center, as stated in Tuesday’s Mustang Daily. However, only students with chronic respiratory diseases, metabolic diseases, immune suppression, pregnancy in 2nd or 3rd trimester or over 65 years of age are eligible.

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Student-run farm project shows organic initiative

By Megan Shearn

Terry Hooker looked busy with his plants. His hands dug deep in the soil and the sun slowly crept down his back as it started to set. A chilly wind came up over the hillside tugging at the large straw hat on his head.

This scene is an everyday occurrence at the Student Experimental Farm, an all-organic farm behind Cal Poly's rodeo unit.

It's easy to see why farming is the oldest profession and why so many choose to do it: there's a peacefulness connected with getting back to your roots and working outside.

The farm began in 1989 by a group that returned from the Peace Corps. The people wanted to experiment with small-scale farming techniques, said Hunter Francis, a crop science graduate student and program coordinator for the Sustainable Agriculture Resource Center.

Since then the farm has been certified by California Certified Organic Farmers and sells to numerous local businesses such as New Frontiers, Voni's, Cuesta Co-op and Big Sky Cafe.

The farm grows different types of produce depending on the season. There is a wide variety of produce currently being grown on the farm. Francis listed lettuce, red and dinosaur kale, basil, echinacea, chard, eggplant, rye, oats and strawberries for next season.

"We grow more than 100 different varieties of vegetables, herbs, flowers and fruits," said Hooker, agriculture education junior and farm manager.

Hooker said the rumor that organic vegetables are smaller and less tasty than their pesticide-laden counterparts isn't true.

"Organic farming is finding its own place now," Hooker said. "Nowadays there are huge organic farms."

Francis said the goal of organic farming is to "try and coordinate human interaction to create a system that will be healthy and sustainable long term."

The farm already has fans of its produce. A group called Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) purchases boxes of produce from the farm. The CSA is a co-op of community members that allows people to buy the farm products in bulk and save money.

"We had 26 members last year and this year we're looking to have 40," Francis said.

Through the program, people are committed to buying a box of something from the farm every week.

"The members thought the taste of the produce has been outstanding," Francis said. "We grow more than 100 different varieties of vegetables, herbs, flowers and fruits," said Hooker, agriculture education junior and farm manager. Hooker said the rumor that organic vegetables are smaller and less tasty than their pesticide-laden counterparts isn't true.

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Today's issue: Teaching kids about Kris Kringle
Believe in 'Santa ideal'/Santa is just a gimmick

One of my favorite Christmas memories is my first visit to meet Santa Claus. I was eight years old when my mom took my little sister and me to meet him at the mall by our house. We were surrounded by little green Christmas trees on the wall, and my cabbage-patch doll that I brought with me wore a matching dress. I was so nervous, but so excited at the same time. My stomach felt like it was noinj; to explode because the butterflies in it were spinning out of control.

Meeting Santa gave me a whole new perspective on what the holiday season is about. It wasn't because he brought me presents or told me stories, but he knew just what I wanted. Meeting Santa taught me about believing in the magic of the holidays. As I sat there on his lap and whispered in his ear about the Barbie doll and the bike (without training wheels) I wanted, I started to see things that twirled more than any pair of eyes I've seen since. The way he listened to me was as if he was actually listening to me heart.

Even though I was only eight and probably couldn't fully comprehend the seriousness of what I believe in now, I somehow knew that Santa wasn't just a regular person.

Believing in Santa Claus at this age doesn't go over well with my friends. What I have to explain to myself is that I'm actually having a hard time explaining why I believe in such a mythical character. Santa Claus makes people happy. He brings joy and love to someone who chooses to believe in his spirit. Sure, probably by the age of 11, it's outdated to still believe in the jolly red-suited man. So, at the age of 12, it sounds even sillier. I admit, however, that I choose to believe in the pure idea of Santa Claus. What's wrong with believing in someone who only wants to bring happiness to others? There are very few real people that do that, so if I have to believe a fictional person can do that, then I will.

That first meeting with Santa Claus gave me something to hold onto during my later years. When school and the daily hustle and bustle consumes my life, I don't have a lot of time to reflect on life instances that helped shape who I am. But every year, during the holidays, I sometimes begin thinking about that day in the mall with Santa. He wasn't the real Santa, he didn't remember my name or even say something that I remembered later. Yet, the thing I hold into is that Santa represents Christmas and the holiday season for me. It's the idea that people are friendly, more caring and loving with each other that makes me want to believe in Santa. My Santa Claus made me love the holidays, he made me smile at people and truly care about others. Sure, I was only eight, but that incident helps me act like that even now.

Instead of the actual Santa Claus isn't possible because at our age we know the truth. There is no Santa, no Rudolph, no elves. But at our age, it's nice to believe in the goodness of others and the possibility of who Santa stands for. If we need a fictional character to bring out the best in others, then let's all believe.

Victoria Walsh is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Mike Fathom is a political science junior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Call me a Grinch. Call me a Scrooge. Call me any number of dirty names, but I still have to say no, Victoria, there isn't a Santa Claus.

For years, I have failed to see the appeal of passing off this rather silly Christmas myth as reality. Sure, everybody loves to see the jolly guy in the red suit, but we all know he's really just a guy in a costume. Nobody over the age of seven truly believes in Santa. He's nothing more than a part of a nice story, one that needn't be perpetuated any longer. Tell me who believes in Santa who believes in Santa will find out that he or she has a very thin line to walk. Why force a child to go through the unnecessary pain of having an idyllic dream?

Now, I'm not advocating stopping all sugarplums from dancing in children's heads, but I think we, as responsible adults, should at least choreograph a new routine for those talented lips. There are better ways to instill ideas of giving and hope and love in our children than building them into a fantastic character. We have no good cause to perpetuate these attributes, when we can be living them out instead. Why attribute admirable qualities to a fake tale? I would much rather be a champion for peace on earth and goodwill toward men myself.

Creating a Santa Claus myth is something like passing the buck on responsibility. And what's up with all this business about him seeing you when you're sleeping and knowing when you're awake? We shouldn't be using scare tactics to encourage good behavior in our children. We should be encouraging our children to internalize their morals in order to help them develop their own conscience and their own system of values.

The whole ever-present "Santa's watching" story hurts children by demonstrating that good behavior is only valuable because bad behavior brings about negative consequences (i.e. no presents, coal in the stocking, etc.). And let's not forget the sheer preposterousness of the Santa story. I certainly have no idea how I would explain to a four-year-old how Santa can appear on multiple street corners at one time, each incarnation ringing one of those inferior bells. After Thanksgiving, most actually every mall has at least two Santas on the sidewalk, one on a throne inside and one in a parade leading shoppers to fabulous sales. Any and every sales complex erects a makeshift gingerbread village complete with a train, candy cane fence, party-time elves and staffed reindeer.

Santa is a crutch for lazy parents, a cheap gimmick to boost revenue for companies and a tool to create false "warm fuzzy" feelings. Let's do our next generation a favor and phase out Santa Claus as a cultural icon. I'm not suggesting an abolition of the celebration of Christmas, or even eliminating the character himself. I'm merely suggesting that we champion for peace on earth and take our attention away from making our children's imaginations become consumed with corny stories about him. We should be encouraging our children to develop their own system of values.

Other holidays don't have big xmas mousics (Easter excepted). Why does Christmas need one?
Letters to the editor

Many factors cause homelessness

For every bluntly insensitive opinion, there is a more logical response. Here is mine to Bradley Roberts’ (“Homeless are just lazy,” Nov. 20) as he views the landed gentry with lowly origins, not able to make a living, and so are therefore to blame for their own condition. The simple fact is that all able-bodied people at a young age, not just the homeless, are capable of self-sufficiency and support themselves. It is a sad fact that 30 percent of female-headed households are poor where no husband is present. Among African-Americans and Hispanics, the figure is 15 percent higher. Unfortunately, without skills, good employment or support, minority women will stay poor.

María Chávez, a single mother of four, explained why minority women have a hard time getting out of poverty. “There are language barriers, lack of transportation, no other support, and when mothers have no education they will be placed in low-paying jobs,” she said. “That is what makes poor women stay.”

Chávez received welfare while going back to school and now works for the county.

Single mothers on welfare tend to work fewer weeks per year and fewer hours per week than the average worker because they have children to care for. Single mothers on welfare tend to have limited education and work experience and tend to earn low wages. All three components of annual earnings are lower than average.

Holly Maddox is a business administration senior.

Get over it, Gore editor,

You recently printed a column (“Demand Gore, invest in stock,” Florida, Nov. 30) by Eddie Drake. I was hoping you could give me back the three minutes of my life I spent reading this column. After rambling for several paragraphs, Drake came to the conclusion that everyone should send a letter to George W. Bush and “demand him to concede the election for the sake of the country,” when, in fact, that is exactly the responsibility Gore should have.

Here are the facts: Gore probably should have conceded the election if not for the butterfly ballot in Palm Beach.

Gore, knowing that he got robbed, and could not be redeemed from the Palm Beach error, is now trying essentially to create votes in Florida. Some will say “Gore just wants to count all the votes.” This is a joke. If Gore really wanted all the votes counted objectively he would ask for a hand recount, within the 72 hour deadline, in every county of Florida. Yet he only asked for a recount in four heavily Democratic counties. Some will say “But he asked Bush to hand recount all counties of Florida.” This is true, but look at the context of his statement. It was made when the Florida Supreme Court was looking at arguments to extend the deadline for hand recounts. Almost no one thought they were going to extend the deadline.

Gore is trying to make the perception that he is genuine in trying to get every Florida vote counted, and he is using his last second desperation plea as the pail of last resort. He is, of course, attempting to charger Bush with the mistake; Gore is willing to fabricate votes that should not be counted. The types of votes he wants counted are not counted anywhere else at any other time. He wants to change the rules of how elections are handled. This is great they clearly need to be changed, but not during the contest.

Gore probably got ripped off but he should be adult enough to know that he cannot get redeemed for his losses now. Give it a shot in 2004. Hey it will even rhyme – Gore in Four!

Martin Floreani is a mechanical engineering junior.

Do you really know homeless people?

Editor,

In response to Bradley Roberts’ letter (“Homeless are just lazy,” Nov. 20), I would like to ask him a few questions.

First, where does he get his information? There is only one shelter in San Luis Obispo County as opposed to the multiple shelters he refers to in his letter. Secondly, has he ever been to a homeless shelter and conversed with the people he calls “lazy”? If he had, I don’t think he could easily slap a stereotype on a whole group of people. He couldn’t have. He should have had enough sense to know that many homeless people do not fit this image. Many have jobs and even college degrees.

Despite this, it is difficult to get housing in this community. Rent is extremely high and college students who can split these high costs are completely gone.

Finally, since when do college students eat meals at the shelter? I suggest Bradley eat his next dinner at the shelter or volunteer with fellow Cal Poly students to meet the people he thinks he knows so much about. I would rather be called “lazy” than ignoramus.

Andrea Di Zinno is a graphic communications junior and co-director of Beyond Shelter, a Student Community Services project.

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MEN'S HOOPS
continued from page 8

with a specialist Thursday to deter-
mine his playing status this weekend.
"If he doesn't come back soon, we
have to prepare for not having him
on the floor." It's been next week
then next week and all of a sudden
it's been five weeks."
Mustang center Chris Bickford,
who was sidelined during the 76-72
loss a year ago, came into Thursday
night's game averaging a team-high
18.5 points per game.
Cal Poly forward Brandon Benson
has upgraded his production to 12.5
points and eight rebounds a game
after missing the entire 1999-2000
season with a knee injury.
Cal Poly hosts the Northern
Arizona Lumberjacks on Saturday
at 7 p.m. in Mott Gym.

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PolyCard Office staff!

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Sports
MUSTANGS
continued from page 8

The game will take place Saturday,
Dec. 2 at 2 p.m. in Mott Gym.

Women's Basketball
games over winter break

MUSTANGS VOLLEYBALL
continued from page 8

setter Carly O'Halloran is confident
that if the Mustangs come into Friday's
game ready to play, it is their game to
lose.
"If we can serve and pass well, we
can beat anybody," she said.
Outside hitter Melanie Hylbout
agrees and thinks Cal Poly's difficult
schedule thus far will help them in the
tournament.
"It's just a matter of playing our
game," she said. "We've had a tough
schedule so no team that we'll face in
the tournament will be any better than
those we've already played."

One of the keys to a Mustang victo-
ry will be limiting the damage done
by Collier, who had four 10-plus kill per-
formances this season.
Schlick said the team's approach to the
game, and to dealing with Collier,
won't be much different than any other
opponent.
"We'll try to serve aggressively and
create problems for them offensively," he said. "This allows our block to be
on specific people and that's when
we tend to score a lot of points."
He is confident that if the Mustangs
stick to their strengths, they should
have success against USF and beyond.
"If we receive serves well and serve
courageously, we have a great chance to win," he said. "That's a very generic
answer, but that is the answer for us this year."

Winter Quarter
Dec 4 - Dec 20

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Reserve your textbooks for
Winter Quarter
Dec 4 - Dec 20

Wednesday December 6, 2000
Mustangs ready for Bulls

By Jon Hughes
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

After making the NCAA Tournament for the second consecutive year, the Cal Poly men's basketball team is looking to keep the late-season momentum going into the early rounds and beyond. They must first get past a tough University of Southern Florida team that will be more than a speed bump along the way.

The Mustangs will take on the Bulls at 5 p.m. Friday at the University of Southern California's Lyon Recreation Center. The two schools have never played each other.

Both teams are looking forward to a tough, even battle that isn't likely to be dominated by either side.

"We are pretty evenly matched," said UNF head coach Nancy Mueller. "Poly is better by far at blocking and we're better defensively. I don't see one team dominating the other."

Cal Poly head coach Jeff Schneider agreed with his counterpart on the two teams' respective strengths.

"We're a bigger blocking team and they dig more balls," he said. "We have a size advantage, but they are a more aggressive defensive team."

The Bulls ended the regular season with a 28-5 record, good enough for second place in Conference USA. They also swept the league's postseason awards, with Mueller being named Coach of the Year and dominant outside hitter Michelle Collier receiving the Player of the Year award.

"They're a veteran team that
Northern Arizona is key test for Mustangs

By Brian Milne
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The Cal Poly men's basketball team will warm up for finals week with its toughest test of the young hoops season Saturday when the Mustangs host Northern Arizona. The Lumberjacks (13-1) come in with a three-game win streak under its toughest test if the young Mustangs host Northern Arizona.

"They're a veteran team that shoots the ball well and has a lot of poise," said Cal Poly head coach Jeff Schneider. "We will have to play a top-level game to beat them. They have great shooters, and I don't see any weaknesses in their team at all."

The Mustangs went into Thursday's game against Cal State Monterey 6-7 going into with a 1.1 record after an 86-72 road loss to Texas A&M Corpus Christi on Sunday.

Cal Poly shot a spirited 38.6 from the floor (12-29) and went ice-cold at the free-throw line, hitting less than 42 percent (12-29) from the charity stripe. In one stretch, the Mustangs scored just one point over 17 possessions.

"All of us were upset with how we shot the ball down there," Schneider said. "It's amazing we even stayed in the game. You can't go 12 possessions without a basket."

The Mustang backcourt saw a pair of starters foul out in the loss after some careless fouls on both sides of the ball. Point guard Watanabe Favors, starting in place of injured Steve Geary, and freshman Jamal Scott got into early foul trouble and finished with four points apiece.

Scott, who led all scorers with 20 points in the season opener, fouled out in nine minutes of work and could only watch from the bench as Michael Hicks hit up the Mustangs for 40 points.

"Jamail is a key player for us," Schneider said. "Going into the game, the main thing was not to get into foul trouble. We just have to do a better job of adjusting."

Currently, the Mustangs are running with nine players until point guard Geary returns from a back injury.

"We really need Steve back," Schneider said of Geary, who may be ready to return to the lineup. "But the Mustangs should be well prepared for the Lumberjacks by watching their films and learning their offensive sets."

Mustangs drown Otters

Men's basketball tramples
CSU Monterey Bay, 104-50

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

Dominant post play led a Mustang offensive onslaught at Mott Gym Thursday night, as Cal Poly beat Cal State Monterey Bay 104-50.

Guard Jamal Scott scored 21 points and led a balanced scoring attack by Cal Poly, which had six players in double figures.

The Mustangs jumped all over the Otters in the second half, outscoring them 36-21 while shooting a blistering 64 percent from the field. The 2,128 spectators at Mott Gym were brought to their feet by a Scott blocked shot and 3-pointer on the ensuing possession, the first highlight reel-type play of the young season.

Both Scott and point guard Watanabe Favors played a majority of the second half with four fouls, but never picked up the 5th foul that would end their night. It was the second straight game that the Mustangs' backcourt had foul trouble.

At halftime, Cal Poly normally ranked the Mott Gym basketball floor "Fein's Court," in honor of wheelchair-bound Mustang basketball fan Ron Smith. Smith and his family are active supporters of Mustang athletics.

Men's and women's hoops battle common foe

Northern Arizona is key test for Mustangs

By Brian Milne
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The Cal Poly men's basketball team will warm up for finals week with its toughest test of the young hoops season Saturday when the Mustangs host Northern Arizona. The Lumberjacks (13-1) come in with a three-game win streak under...