Lack of housing drives Poly professors away

By April Pack
SUMMER MUSTANG STAFF WRITER

The shortage and high cost of housing has caused problems for Cal Poly in terms of teacher recruitment. "There are many teachers who will not come to Cal Poly because the housing market is higher than their salaries," said Becky Holt, administrative assistant in the accounting department.

Holt said that in the 16 years she has worked here, at least every year she interviews someone that makes their decision based on housing, and they withdraw from the open position.

"Usually the ones that choose not to come are the more desirable candidates too because they can be choosier about where they are going some where other places have a house can be bought for $100,000, which makes them a more attractive option," Holt said.

Ken Scott, chair for agriculture department, said that they also run into problems with recruitment due to housing.

"There have been four tenure track faculty that decline this position because of the high cost of living and only two of those positions have been filled," Scott said.

He explained that major problems that have been cited are the cost of living and low beginning salaries that Cal Poly offers. Another problem Scott mentioned was that the beginning salary is pretty much the same at other universities, but at those other places, a house can be bought for $100,000, which makes them a more attractive option.

Scott said most that recruit most are looking for two or three bedroom homes, which are too expensive in San Luis Obispo.

"For faculty to be able to afford to buy a house, they have to be in gross tax," Tietje said.

He explained that the only way he was able to afford his was by borrowing money from his family, and he is also teaching this summer for extra money.

Tietje said the majority of the faculty that come to San Luis Obispo are looking to buy because most are here to stay. He said if people are going to live here longer than five years, they don't want to rent.

"Most of us have our Ph.D.s, so we have lived in apartments longer than the average person, and renting is the last thing that we want to do," Tietje said.

The Foundation is one entity on campus that is working to solve this problem. Foundation is currently in the process of formulating an Idea for the construction of faculty housing near campus.

After Cal Poly and the chancellor's office conducted a few surveys that confirmed housing is indeed a barrier for many of the university's current and prospective employees, it was realized that this was a problem that needed a solution.

When the campus approved the Master Plan earlier this year, faculty housing was one of the projects under this plan. Currently the college has the approval to go through what they are doing now—which is research. The concept is to develop the process of seeing if it is feasible. Once this is established and the development process is at its peak, the college will have to take a look at what it is going to cost so far and with the housing money to complete the project.

Lack of housing drives Poly professors away

By Carolyn Ficara
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Chancellor Charles Reed and the California Faculty Association are on opposite paths in the crucial issue of merit pay for teachers. But that is not the only issue they face in the ongoing negotiations over what the university system itself is as it is called "industry style structure" and a place for research, rather than academic institution.

Among the problems facing the negotiators is that fewer than 35 percent of faculty are full members of CFA, according to some estimate, and while some non-members may be aware of CFA many are not.

The bargaining table between CFA and CSU is loaded with issues: tenure-track hiring, lecturer's status in the system, pay for teaching load and Reed's goal of moving the state universities toward emphasis on research and an industry-style structure in which work is evaluated on a product basis. CFA maintains that education is not a commodity in which production can be measured.

But one of the most controversial topics is a new merit system that determines how much a professor is paid based on performance.

"The merit pay system is a critical issue to many faculty members," said Tim O'Keefe, Cal Poly professor of natural resource management, who points to a survey of the CSU faculty which revealed that close to 80 percent of the college professors make 30 percent less than the faculty on the neighboring campuses.

"There are many teachers who will not come to Cal Poly because the housing market is higher than their salaries," said Becky Holt, administrative assistant in the accounting department.

Holt said that in the 16 years she has worked here, at least every year she interviews someone that makes their decision based on housing, and they withdraw from the open position.

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Faculty face childcare shortage

By Kat DeBakker
SUMMER MUSTANG STAFF WRITER

A nationally accredited children's center is available on campus for Cal Poly faculty, staff and students' children to go to during the day — that is, if they are willing to wait two and a half years on the waiting list.

"Child care is a huge issue for staff," said Tonya Iversen, director of the Orchidea Family and Associated Students, Inc. Children's Center. "There is a long waiting list, especially for children under 3 years old." Iversen said the waiting list is approximately one and a half years long. However, Market Querles, an academic advisor for Student Academic Services, recalled having to wait even longer to enroll her daughter in the program and that was back in 1996, when she was a student. Querles now has a 3-year-old son enrolled in the center.

The application process is not that simple, however. A list of policies, giving student parents priority, make it even harder for faculty and staff to enroll their children in the program.

HOUSING

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they have hired developers, the proje
ct will be taken to the chancellor and the board of trustees for approval.

The plan includes building 65 to 70 apartments and 140 to 172 for-sa"l"e homes. Robert Ambach, associate executive director of the Foundation, said that construction of the apartments is expected to begin in the summer of 2002 and the homes in the spring of 2003. Those will be located on two plots of land on the side of Highway 1 near Highland Street.

"We are trying to build these so that teachers will have affordable places to live when they first get here, and it will be an easier transition," Ambach said. The average price of the homes will be $190,000, and the apartments will be at market rent prices.

The Foundation is still working on developing standards and policies concerning the eligibility for the housing. For instance, if a person retires or resigns, they may be forced to sell their home.

Even with all of the problems surrounding housing in San Luis Obispo and the detriment this has put on the Cal Poly teacher recruitment, Tietje said, "Our first mission is to serve the students," she said. According to the waiting list policy, the Center is required to have a minimum of 51 percent student parents enrolled. Once enrolled, children are re-registered on a yearly basis.

Correction

In the June 21 issue of the Summer Mustang, an article in the Arts section incorrectly read that the ECOUSponsored wine and author festival at Linneaux honored the 30th anniversary of the Central Coast Book and Author Festival. The dinner was organized to celebrate the 30th birthday celebration of the Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo. Additionally, volunteers from San Luis Obispo County served the food.

In addition to the regular Saturday breakfast, Julian's is remodeling and has asbestos warnings. A Julian's employee who wished to remain anonymous said the UW was built with asbestos in the walls, and since the wallpaper is being torn down, the asbestos fibers are being released into the air. Information on the renovation plans was not available at press time, but the employee said that two walls would be removed. An employee said that at the present time, no precautions had to be taken last year when they renovated the restrooms in the restaurant.

Julian's is open weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is closed on weekends.

Court refuses to hear affirmative action case

The Supreme Court refused Monday to hear two white students from the University of Texas who challenged a ruling that the school's affirmative action program for law school discriminates against whites, reported an Associated Press article. The article stated that the high court hasn't addressed the issue since 1978, when it was decided that universities may take race into account during admissions. After the University of Texas' policy was rejected, Texas devised a new policy that guarantees students, who graduate in the top 10 percent of their high school class, admission to any public university in the state.

"Today's order resolved nothing," University of Texas law professor Douglas Laycock said in the article. "We are disappointed, but sooner or later the court will decide this issue. In the meantime, we will explore our remaining legal options, and we will work aggressively to recruit those minority students that the court will let us admit."

According to the article, six states have agreements to desegregate their schools: Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Maryland, Florida and Texas. Several states such as Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Tennessee are currently operating under court agreements to end discrimination and are struggling with ways to keep minority enrollment up.

Poly Briefs

Poly professors awarded for excellence

Three professors have been selected as Cal Poly's Distinguished Teacher of the Year, according to a press release Monday.

Sky Bergman, William Martinez Jr. and Phillip Doubl were recognized at the Spring Commencement ceremonies on June 16.

Bergman has been a professor in the Art and Design department since 1995. One student said in the press release that Bergman is "very concerned for her students' welfare and does whatever she can — going beyond the normal call of duty. She pushes students to reach their potential." Bergman is currently on a year-long sabbatical traveling around the world.

Martinez is the chair of the Modern Languages and Literatures Department and has been teaching in the department since 1994. In the press release, a student said that Martinez "challenges us to think for ourselves, to express ourselves and to apply what we find to our lives. He has a contagious passion for teaching and learning." Martinez received the College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Service Award in 1998.

Doubl is the chair of the Food Science and Nutrition Department and has been teaching in the Agribusiness Department since 1985. A student in the press release was quoted as saying that Doubl "provides strategies to solve problems and sets goals. He has a tireless worth ethic ... and that is what motivates everyone to strive so hard in their work." Doubl is creator and coordinator of Cal Poly's wine and viticulture minor and has been appointed to the National Watermelon Promotion Board for 2001-2004, pending U.S. Department of Agriculture approval, according to the press release.

Students and alumni nominated the teachers. The distinguished teacher program has been in effect since 1984.

Julian's coffee shop faces remodeling

What used to be a popular coffee shop on campus is now nothing but a giant white tent adorned with asbestos warnings. Julian's is remodeling and has since relocated to the Sandwich Factory, which is non-operational during the summer. Julian's will return to the University Union by fall quarter, according to the Foundation Web site.

A Julian's employee who wished to remain anonymous said that the UW was built with asbestos in the walls, and since the wallpaper is being torn down, the asbestos fibers are being released into the air. Information on the renovation plans was not available at press time, but the employee said that two walls would be removed. An employee said that at the present time, no precautions had to be taken last year when they renovated the restrooms in the restaurant.

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Come visit the Campus Market--a little store that has just about everything you'll need to beat the summer heat!!

Cold Beverages  Fresh Deli Sandwiches  Cool, Crisp Salads  Tasty Snacks  Ice Cream  Cal Poly Produce  Icy Java Blast  Popsicles

Located near the library behind Ag Science

Summer Quarter Hours:

Monday-Friday: 7:00 am-5:00 pm Saturday: 10:00 am-5:00 pm

Summer Mustang  June 28-July 5, 2001
Artistic duo puts important social, political issues on table with “Brushes and Torches”

By Erica Tower

SUMMER MUSTANG STAFF WRITER

Discarded objects are cut, torched and strategically bound together to reflect a bold political stance. Oil and acrylic paintings uncover raw, emotional depths of nature, to which humankind is inherently connected. In a two-story building just outside downtown San Luis Obispo, an electric and colorful mix of drawing and sculpture reveal a modern form of social consciousness.

Featuring the artwork of local artists Stephen Plowman and Carol Paulsen, this eye-catching exhibit, entitled “Brushes and Torches,” can currently be seen at the TD Parker Salon and Gallery. Though the couple began their adventure as artistic duo only five years ago, Plowman crafting the sculptures and Paulsen creating the paintings, their artistic roots reach much further.

“Although my mother was never professional, she was somewhat of an artist when I was a kid, and that’s how I got my initial interest,” Plowman said. “Since then, I have gone back and forth between trying to be an artist for a living and doing it on the side. Only recently did I decide to give my all to art, but it’s been an amazing payoff.”

Paulsen recalled that her childhood experiences shaped and molded her into the artist that she is today.

“My family all worked with their hands,” she said. “My dad did a lot of stone-laying work, and my mother and sisters were always sewing or embroidering something. Being an artist came quite naturally.”

Today the couple’s passion for artistic expression extends far beyond childhood curiosity. With an assertive creative style that twists and condenses large-scale social and political realities into 4-foot artistic replicas, they certainly have a message for their audience.

Plowman said that many of his pieces are based on a form of political vent, especially after having traveled to remote international lands such as Tibet, where many people are suffering.

“When I do my art I am always drawing on my experiences from these amazing places,” he said. “Being (in Tibet) had such a huge impact on my life and made me realize how lucky I am to live in this little bubble of San Luis Obispo.”

Plowman also recognizes that not everyone in this community fits into the idyllic suburban “bubble” — an issue that became the inspiration for “Missile Defense Posture,” his sculpture aims to criticize President Bush’s missile defense plan.

With a yellow elephant carved from an old, metal road sign strategically placed atop another spiraling object artistically crafted to resemble a missile, it is obvious that the artists intend to show his discontent for both President Bush and the Republican party.

“It’s a little shrine for the Republican elite,” Plowman said. “We live in a country that’s supposed to be for peace, and right now we are experiencing our lowest level of tension with other countries from a nuclear standpoint. Bush is only jumping ahead to create a new nuclear arms race with his missile defense plan.”

Like her partner, Paulsen’s paintings also show a preoccupation with the foibles of life during the 21st century. In a painting titled “Neanderthal Women,” Plausen intends to show his discontent for females as they would appear thrust into remote international lands such as Tibet, where many people are suffering.

“The there is a whole subculture of people in this area who see a different side of life than most Central Coast residents,” Paulsen said. “They are forced to breathe pesticides everyday and are paid meager wages, while we drink our wine and drive our fancy cars.”

Similarly, the sculpture entitled “Missile Defense Posture” also presents a substantial political message against President Bush’s plan.

One of four paintings from the humorous work entitled “Neanderthal Women.” “artist Carol Paulsen shows a Neanderthal woman thrust into the 21st century and forced to conform to modern-day life. Her artwork will be on display at the TD Parker Salon and Gallery on Parker street through July 31.

“Missile Defense Posture” captures the United States into a nuclear arms race. With a yello elephant carved from an old, metal road sign strategically placed atop another spiraling object artistically crafted to resemble a missile, it is obvious that the artists intend to show his discontent for both President Bush and the Republican party.

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Eat, drink and be merry with a ‘twist’ of Shakespeare

By April Pack
SUMMER MUSTANG STAFF WRITER

It’s Shakespeare ... but with a twist. Each night the actors step on stage, they have no idea what is going to happen. The play is improvisational and depends on audience participation, and this can get pretty interesting in a theater that has an open bar and allows drinking in the audience.

The comedic, “The Compleat Wks of Wllm Shkspr (abridged),” is being shown at the Centerpoint Theatre. The script was written by Adam Long, Jess Brusigsen and Daniel Singer, and the play is directed by Jovin McHargi.

With only three actors, the production covers all 37 of Shakespeare’s classic plays in 100 minutes. Well, at least that’s the average time. Since the show is heavily based on audience participation, it can run anywhere from 95 minutes to two hours.

The three actors, Chris McNeil, published playwright from San Francisco, Kevin Harris, who is in charge of Centerpoint Theater, and Jack Grigoli, an actor from Long Beach, use their real names in the play. The plotline circles around three guys trying to get through Shakespeare’s canon in a short amount of time, and they fail at it miserable, as many things get in the way, including their lack of acting skills. McNeil said the play is not really about Shakespeare, but rather these three guys satirizing classical plays.

The show is extremely volatile and every right about 50 percent of the play changes. Some of the weak things that can be seen are paradoxes of "The Matrix," "Blow Witch Project" and "X-Files." "Eat, Drink and Be Merry," is humorously portrayed as "Beowuce." And in the short amount of time the play is performed, the actors still complete many costume changes, which include the use of 60 different wigs. One wig in particular resembles Marge Simpson’s hair and is used for Hamlet’s mother. "The show is an absolute circus because anything goes," McNeil said.

In one scene, the actors choose someone from the audience to come up and play the role of Ophelia in “Hamlet,” and the actors often have side conversations with audience members. McNeil explained that the show was especially crazy in 1998 because the audience was allowed to bring food. They were also instructed to throw the food at the actors if their performance was less than spectacular.

"People are usually cheating within 10 minutes of the show because it is really formulated to get people excited," Harris said.

He explained that the show is about absolute freedom, and if any one of the actors bitches their lines, they can call each other on it in front of the audience. McNeil and Harris began doing the show in 1994 after their high school drama teacher told them about the play. They decided that performing was better than getting a summer job. Grigoli then joined the cast in 1997, playing all of the women’s roles. The three actors met during high school in Arroyo Grande.

Sadly, the actors said that this might be the last year the play is performed. The show will run this year until Sept. 8 on Thursdays at 8:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. The cost is $5 for students, $12 for regular admission. Centerpoint Theater is located at 150 South St. For more information call 545-8392 or visit www.centerpoints- lo.com.

A caution to drivers: steer clear of ‘Fast and Furious’

By Anne Guilford
SUMMER MUSTANG STAFF WRITER

"The Fast and the Furious" is a guy flick in every sense. The movie is stuffed with flashy cars, guns and scantily clad girls. But there is one thing that still grab the attention of girls in the audience: Paul Walker ("Varsity Blues," "The Skulls").

The basic plot revolves around a new cop, Brian O’Conner (Walker), who is given an undercover assignment to crack a theft ring and gets emotionally and romantically involved with the people he is supposed to investigate. He then must choose between his new friends and his career.

This is definitely not a movie that requires mental exertion, but the non-stop suspense may keep many from noticing its flaws, including a motorcyclist who is able to accurately maneuver while completely running around so he can shoot at the cars chasing him.

The script could have been written by a seventh grader — the junior high hanger among characters reach an almost pedestrian level, but the characters somehow redeem themselves through their strong loyalty and camaraderie.

"The Fast and the Furious" is built around the street racing sub-culture set in Los Angeles. Some romantic scenes are snuck in, probably to appease the females and give the directors a vehicle in which to drive some homophone-rising sequences.

The director of the film, Rob Cohen, made a lame attempt at mimicking the 1955 movie "Rebel Without a Cause." The similarities go beyond the street racing caused casualties and omnipresence of cops. "Rebel Without a Cause" is a story about a new kid in Los Angeles who is challenged by the established local gang. The new kid carries himself in a more dignified manner than the local boys and wins the heart of the gang’s favorite girl. "The Fast and the Furious" is built around this same structure, but director Nicholas Ray of "Rebel Without a Cause" was aware that a quality movie needs an intelligent script and creative cinematography, not just pretty people and pyrotechnics. Although Walker is cute, he is no James Dean.

Wait until this movie comes out on video. Or to hear the high-powered engines and revving engines in surround sound, catch a mariner — it’s cheaper.
Teachers in need of some serious financial security

Teachers are responsible for society's most important function: educating the young. Mentors, tutors, instructors, educators, teachers and professors must all provide a lasting education to the next generation of citizens. Unfortunately, for the noble individuals who take on this task, American policymakers do not believe that such an enormous responsibility is worthy of adequate compensation. Instead of sufficiently rewarding teachers, it seems the United States is content with letting them slip into financial insecurity.

According to an international study released last year, American teachers earn up to $42 less per teaching hour than some foreign teachers despite the fact that they put in almost a third more hours. A teacher in the United States with 15 years of experience earns an average annual salary of $36,219; no wonder there is a national teacher shortage. Unfortunately, policymakers do not believe that such an enormous responsibility is worthy of adequate compensation. Instead of sufficiently rewarding teachers, it seems that really isn't interested in, or even aware of, the existence of ethnic diversity on the Central Coast.

A table appears in the story "Media reports misrepresent diversity reality." Where's the diversity in the Cal Poly student population? Between fall 1990 and fall 2000: (1) the African-American population declined almost to vanishing points — from 1.9% to 1.0%, (2) the Mexican-American percentage remained unchanged at 10.6%, (3) Ethnic origin not specified rose sharply — from 3.7% to 13.0% (Cal Poly's major growth area). I would not be surprised if most of the "not specified" students are actually Caucasian. A member of Cal Poly's administration is quoted as saying "since the WASP report came out it has received a lot of attention and renewed commitment to deal with diversi..." Really? When I was a boy, my father told me always to pay attention to what adults do, not what they say.

Unfortunately, on the topic of diversity, what is said and what is done is often two different things. Public relations about diversity? Yes. We're good at that. A genuine commitment to diversity? I don't think so! Not yet. That reality in San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly in June 2001. One may still hope that substantive actions today will produce a new and more beautiful reality tomorrow.

Several years ago, a colleague who taught at Cal Poly and for many years, David Sanchez, sang a Mexican ballad, "De Colores," that celebrated the good fortune that awaits us all through the diversity of nature. Let's bring that mentality to Cal Poly. It's long overdue.

Phil Fetzer is a professor in the political science department.

Letters to the editor

Thank you for the diversity coverage Editor,

I want to commend you for articles on diversity at Cal Poly and in San Luis Obispo. The practical difficulties (for example, going to a store to buy a product that presumes the customer is "white") faced by those who are not Caucasian exemplifies life in a community that really isn't interested in, or even aware of, the existence of ethnic diversity on the Central Coast.

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Student laments over housing search Editor,

The housing crunch in San Luis Obispo is ridiculous. It has gotten so bad that the idea of packing up and moving to a city that can accommodate the demands of a student population is looking ever more desirable.

However, Cal Poly is an awesome university — why give up on it because the city in which we cannot provide affordable, let alone affordable, housing for its student community? At the search continues, summer for a place to call home while getting an education at Cal Poly or Caesira, the competition gets tighter for students who must battle it out against older, professional residents, who are also in search of residence as if it were a home, not just a house. This is an appeal to landlords — give students a chance. We need a place to live, too.

Jennifer Hansen is a journalism senior.

Letter policy

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Do not send letters as an attachment. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.
Profs are three of a kind

By Patty Green
SUMMER MUSTANG STAFF WRITER

In society today, teaching stands as one of the most fulfilling professions yet is also one of the most influential jobs in shaping future generations. Teachers provide the links needed to understand the connections between music and science, understanding and knowledge. And many of them don’t just stop influencing minds when the day is over, they continue working in their communities, becoming an essential part of society.

Three individuals who contribute a great deal to the university in addition to our community are mechanical engineering professor Masoud Mehdizadeh, music professor Paul Rinzler and English professor Patricia Troxel.

Mehdizadeh, a scientist at heart, has been teaching at Cal Poly for the longest. Unlike his father, who was a history professor, he became interested in teaching mechanical engineering at the early age of 16. He said he was an inquisitive child and wanted to find out where gasoline came from, how it got to the pumps, and how it made cars run and decided to learn the things that pacified him when he was young. While getting his Ph.D., an adviser gave him a petroleum engineering class to teach and has been hooked on teaching ever since.

For Mehdizadeh, a good day consists of great lectures with interested students. He admitted that the worst day would be if the students weren’t prepared or if a lecture was forgotten, but he said he has never had this problem yet.

“Students who enrolled in mechanical engineering courses are bright and there is a wonderful pool of students at Cal Poly,” he said. During the summer months, Mehdizadeh participates in recruiting young students who know little or nothing about engineering to come to the Cal Poly through a summer program called Mechanical Engineering and Energy Institute. It is designed to introduce mechanical engineering and energy to those who might other­wise never consider going into those fields.

He said the main driving force to participate in this program is the opportunity he gets to give young people an early start in life that can make a difference.

“If I teach the seed early and they could really be successful,” Mehdizadeh said.

On his days off he likes to spend time with his family, swimming and going to the beach, watching basketball, football, and brunching with visiting friends.

Paul Rinzler, a professor in the music department, brings exciting musical compositions into the community and tantalizes audiences with brilliant performances.

At 18, when a friend mentioned casually that he should do something in music, he made up his mind to embark on his musical journey. This was his first choice for a career and is has been a happy and successful one for 16 years. He graduated from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colo., earning a doctorate degree in arts in 1988. He worked at University of California at Santa Cruz for 12 years before coming to Cal Poly four years ago.

Last quarter the University Jazz Band was preparing for the Reno Jazz Festival, Rinzler said he remembers a moment that reminded him of why he started teaching. The group was working on the tune “Noonie.”

“There is a section, when things build up and the music comes together and explodes into a theme,” he said.

Rinzler said he sat in bliss when they “nailed” that particular section. “I couldn’t ask for anything more,” he said.

One of the best students Rinzler said he remembers having is a piano student who won a Cal Poly Arts Award for his achievement this year. “This is by far the best student I have ever had the pleasure to teach,” he said. “This student really has that total package of musical talent in jazz and will soar high.”

When he is not working, Rinzler enjoys hiking, traveling, and visiting friends.

English Associate Professor Patricia Troxel has been teaching at the Pacific Northwest for 10 years. At first she said she had found an interest in medicine and law. She thought she would go and be a philanthropist. It wasn’t until she was in graduate school that she found out she really loved teaching and music.

She said that what she enjoys the most about her profession is a wonderful discussion with students who are prepared, having a student explain something in a way that wasn’t looked at before, and when students are struggling with a concept and finally the light bulb goes on.

SHORTAGE
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Other community members competing for infants through kindergartens, as well as a 10­ week program for school-age children, also lack childcare while on the waiting list have to search for alternatives.

“We can’t recommend other daycare centers,” Rieszner said. “But we can offer parent information on what to look for in a childcare provider. We help them work with the Childcare Resource Connection.”

The Childcare Resource Connection is a local referral agency run by the Economic Opportunity Commission that lists all licensed childcare providers in the area.

The Center’s May 2001 newsletter addressed the recent gift from the family of Knuts who named the Children’s Center after Orteala, which now bears his name. The newsletter stated that the gift, which will benefit the Center in the long term, has not directly contributed to the Center because it was in the form of securities. When they are sold, the Center will have “the interest on an endowment.”

The Center is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and located in building 133. For more information on the Center or any of its programs, call 756-1267.
The 40-year-old coach is committed to the local team, and with major league experience under his belt, he said he hopes his tendencies rub-off on his players — knowing that he has experienced the same pain and suffering it takes to win games. “I can’t have players that think this is just going to be some summer league, that you come to San Luis to work on your tour,” he said. “I need players who are dedicated to the program. If I thought this was a bogus team with no potential, I wouldn’t be here.”

Candaele said the force driving him back to the Central Coast wasn’t just the talent possessed by the Blues, but his family. He has always considered himself a family man, which was the main factor in his decision to return home. Since signing his first professional contract 18 years ago, the veteran utility player had made his home on the road. He added that he contributes a lot of his family values to his players, who always taught him that family comes first over everything else.

Armed with a strong sense of family and close relationship with his mother, is a great example of what shapes him as a person and has helped garner respect both on and off the field. “Casey is a players’ manager and he respects our players’ abilities and the integrity of the game,” said assistant coach Mike Lara. “He respects the players and demands respect back and we play the game the way it’s supposed to be played. He doesn’t have too many rules except that we bust it between the lines and the players respect that.”

Red-hot SLO Blues rise with the mercury

By Cory Dugan
SUMMER MUSTANG STAFF WRITER

As the weather continues to get hotter this summer, the same holds true for the San Luis Obispo Blues semi-professional baseball team.

The club was hyped under first-year head coach Casey Candaele: “I need players that are ready to win,” Candaele insisted. Winning comes with dedication and hard work, and without a team is nothing, said the former major league.

This past weekend was a perfect opportunity for the community to come out to the ballpark and witness this dedication as the Blues took three of four.

For most of the fans attending SLO Stadium, a certain nostalgic feeling overwhelmed them as they watched former high school or college players living out their glory days, reminiscing of past experiences or eyeing upcoming prospects. Even those who didn’t have that same attachment to the game felt a sense of nostalgia just by entering the stadium. These are fans that come out to see the Blues play just for the love of the game.

“I have been coming to these games for years, and I don’t have a child playing and I haven’t even coached in my life,” said Chuck Darley, a longtime veteran of Blues games and avid baseball fan. “I just love the game and what this team does for our community.”

On Friday, pitcher Ernie Borjas allowed just one run, seven hits and struck out six batters in seven innings of work. He also received plenty of help from his offense, which drove in seven runs and kept the lead out of reach for the Santa Maria Stars. Heavy hitter Dan Winterberg was a great asset to the offense with a home run in the fifth inning. The Blues were in good spirits after the win and were looking forward to this week’s grueling schedule.

“This game is a good stepping stone (for this week’s games), which will be a little more difficult and it helps to get us prepared,” Winterberg said.

The SLO Blues open the NBC at Santa Maria Saturday at noon.

The annual tournament is held in Santa Maria.

On Sunday, the Blues kept up their winning ways with a pair of victories over the Bay Area Rams (2-1, 5-0). The Blues were back in the win column, and the .500 mark, with a 4-2 road win over the Salinas Packers. The Blues will open the National Baseball Congress (NBC) Tournament on Sunday at noon against the Central Coast Waves of Lompoc.

The Santa Maria tourney begins Friday with “Robin Bugert Day,” which will honor the former Cal Poly catcher.