Local group strives to revive native plants

By Stephen Curran
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

For San Luis Obispo resident Laurel Johnston, a Saturday morning does not mean what it does to others. It does not mean sleeping, yard work or shopping. Instead, this retired ironworker and volunteer with Eco80 uses his Saturday mornings to help clean up the environment.

Along with help from Cal Poly students, sororities and Boy Scout troops, Johnston used Saturday morning to replant a hillyside by the Whale Reservoir near Cayucos, which, according to Johnston, is slowly eroding into the water supply.

To help combat this, Johnston and his team of volunteers spent the morning planting native species along the hillyside, which has seen the ravages of weather.

"The only thing that can stop erosion is the native plants," Johnston said.

Currently, the Whale Reservoir is owned by the Whale Rock Authority, a joint power authority that provides water to Cal Poly, the California Men's Colony and portions of the city of San Luis Obispo. The effects of the run-off are highly preventable, said Neil Hartke, natural resources manager for the city of San Luis Obispo. "It's kind of like a disease that's preventable," he said. "It might not be life-threatening, but it's an unhealthy situation."

The problem, Johnston said, dates back to California's original European settlers, who planted species native to northern Europe, causing a dramatic change to the California landscape.

"California doesn't look like California, it looks like northern Europe," he said. "It's a dysfunctional environment, even though it looks OK."

Soil scientist and volunteer Peter Fisher was also on hand, and said that a more long-term approach is needed to keep further erosion from occurring. As mud and silt continue to wash into the reservoir, it can have a damaging effect on native animals, smothering many native fish, including the now-decimated Steelhead Salmon.

The answer, Johnston said, lies not in concrete barriers and elaborate irrigation systems, but in preventative placement of native plants.

"My question is thus: if Cal Poly owns part, they should be rescoping it," Johnston said. "It's not rocket science."

see RESERVOIR, page 5

Unocal donates pier to Cal Poly

By Lacie Grimshaw
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Some students may soon be able to look out of their classroom windows and see a new sight — the ocean.

With the recent donation of the Unocal Pier to Cal Poly, after learning about marine life in a class, students may be able to step outside of their classrooms into the "lab" — the ocean and study that same marine life firsthand.

Unocal donated the historic Unocal Pier in Avila Beach and an endowment to Cal Poly on Thursday. The pier and endowment will help establish a marine science and environmental research center for students and the San Luis Obispo community.

For over two years, Unocal and Cal Poly have been in discussions over the donation of the Unocal Corporation's historic pier at Avila Beach and endowment to Cal Poly. Together, the donation from Unocal totals $21.5 million. All donations will go toward the development of the Cal Poly Marine Science Foundation and Research Center.

"I couldn't think of a better group to lease to," said John Koepf, from the Port San Luis Harbor District. "It's a very optimistic situation." Mark Smith, Unocal vice president for real estate, remediation services and mining, presented the pier to Cal Poly.

see PIER, page 5

Graduating with a double major definitely sets a student apart, Ruiz said. He already has a job lined up at River Ranch Fresh Food in Salinas, Calif., which is anxiously awaiting his graduation. Ruiz said his soon-to-be employer told him that it was not his grades or the two majors, that really makes him appealing. It's the effort and dedication that it takes to graduate with two degrees.

Ruiz said he knew from the beginning that he would graduate with two degrees, but many double majors usually come about because of a change later on in their major.

"There has been a lot of times I have had to 20 to 25 units and I could have easily dropped one or two classes, but I didn't," he said.

Along with this heavy school load, last year Ruiz was president of his fraternity and vice president of the agribusiness club on campus. He said the last few years have been stressful, but that there is no better feeling than what he will have accomplished.

Graduating with a double major will mean a better job upon graduation, Ruiz said. He said he received job offers from both his majors, which he was not looking into at first.

"It makes it easier for me to manage my time," Ruiz said. "I'm not stressed out for time management." It makes it easier for me to manage my time.

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California doesn't look like

see DOUBLE, page 5

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California doesn't look like
Jesse Ventura could be down for the count, according to Minnesota poll

By Charles Babington

High: 65°/Low: 41°

Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura, the pro wrestler-turned-politician, has often intrigued and amused state residents during his three years in office. Lately, however, voters seem increasingly weary of his bombast, press-baiting and secretiveness.

Ventura, the Reform Party upstart who bested Republican and Democratic nominees in 1998, hasn’t said whether he will seek a second term next year. If he does, a recent poll suggests he may face problems.

The survey by St. Cloud State University found that 56 percent of adults in Minnesota say they would not vote to re-elect Ventura, compared with 36 percent a year ago. Those rating his job performance as poor went from 5 percent last year to 21 percent.

The Politics in Minnesota newsletter recently predicted he won’t serve a second term because “times are getting worse fast.” Ventura always has dealt testily with critics, especially journalists, whom he often calls “jackasses.” But his actions grew more controversial recently, with privately paid trips to New York and California, plus a series of tempestuous radio appearances.

In early October, ABC News paid for Ventura’s visit to the World Trade Center terrorist attack site. While the network filmed and interviewed the governor, Minnesota journalists were kept away, triggering their complaints.

In a subsequent radio appearance, Ventura denounced local reporters and news organizations.

Ventura later suggested that he, the Mall of America and the Metrodome might be top targets in Minnesota for terrorists. He lamented that he didn’t have more armed bodyguards. He stopped publicizing his daily schedule, sometimes leaving close aides unsure of his whereabouts.

“TODAY’S MOON

3 Locations

Drive Through Location on Campus
Mon. - Fri., 9:00am - 5:00pm

FRONT OF EL CORRAL
Mon. - Fri., 7:30am - 6:00pm

Saturday, 8:00am - 4:00pm

Dexter Lawn
Mon. - Fri., 8:30am - 4:30pm

We Pay MORE!
**National Briefs**

**New anthrax developments**

WASHINGTON — Thefungus
drug used to treat anthrax was found in Connecticut.

**U.S. weighs terrorism extradition**

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is considering making concessions on the death penalty to gain custody of suspected al-Qaida terrorists released some time on Sunday, on the recommendation of Pakistani authorities.

**NY blaze injures 42 people**

NEW YORK — A fire in the basement of a commercial building near a school in New York City injured 42 people. The fire, which started in a parking complex and killed 12 people, was caused by Russian Kirder guards and was contained.

**South Asia**

JAMMU, India — Suspected Muslim militants murdered seven people belonging to a wedding party on Sunday. No militant group has claimed responsibility for the killings. Earlier on Sunday, unidentified militants shot and killed two women. The militants have not made a public statement since the beginning of the U.S. military attacks on the Taliban, Oct. 7, eight journalists have been killed.

**Middle East**

CHAMAN, Pakistan — A Taliban official said that he had been kidnapped.

**THINK YOU CAN DRINK**

You might not think you could get caught in public, but you should be aware of the risks. The U.S. Postal Service was accused on Friday by the New York Area Postal Union of not doing a good enough job clearing and testing its facilities. A protest by the union, which represents more than 10,000 postal workers, has been set for Friday outside the main New York post office.

**DRUNK MAN WALKING**

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once we removed ourselves from this existence, what would happen to the pier Smith said. "We were really worried about what would happen to the pier."

Part of the problem, Johnston said, is a reliance on engineering solutions, liking many of the concrete barriers designed to hold the hillside in place to sand castles, and said that they are ultimately useless as the soil around them begins to erode. It is this reliance that is keeping students from double major, she would encourage it, but there are some departments on campus that really look down on it, she said. Andrew Asplund, a statistics and math senior, had this very experience with the engineering department.

"Is it all overload?"

Asplund is another student who decided the country is spending too much at Cal Poly. He came to the university for computer science and, shortly after, knew that he wanted to major in math as well. He said he found out that the computer science department does not encourage students to double major, so he left. Asplund said the impression he got from the department was that they want students out as quickly as possible because the major is so impacted. He said that receiving a degree in computer science already takes long enough that it is a big deal for someone to stay an extra year.

Statistics was Asplund's next choice, and he added math as a major soon after. He said he even considered philosophy for a third major, but realized it would be impossible to graduate in four years like he planned. He settled for a minor to go along with the two other minors he already has in physics and psychology. Asplund said he has completed over 250 units thus far at Cal Poly and has taken up to 27 units in one quarter. He will graduate this June with a total of two majors and three minors in a period of four years.

"I'm the academic type," he said. One of the reasons Asplund chose to do this is because he said he likes to be good at a lot of different things. It gives him a wide range of knowledge. "I've made the most out of my time here," he said. "I've taken a lot of classes and I have a lot of options for when I want to go to graduate school."

Very few students choose to double major, counselor Moore said. They are already here for five-plus years for just one degree. "The advice that is most often given is to get a major," she said. "But if people do it, it certainly doesn't hurt." A double major doesn't necessarily make you more qualified, she said, but it is very impressive. If a student wants to put in the extra time and effort, Moore said she is 100 percent for it.

Music was always a hobby, Gray said. She never thought, until recently, that she wanted to make it part of her education. She said she was interested in music, but wanted to keep English because it seemed more practical. Gray isn't doing all this in just English because it seemed more practical.

"That's my writing approach to combat the problem," she said. Andrew Asplund, a statistics and math senior, had this very experience with the engineering department.
Shh! You can’t talk to ‘them’

My favorite food is a freshman used to be the Cream of Rice at Lighthouse. I’ll admit that I enjoyed spending an hour at Lighthouse with my friends burning dinner. I do not have to keep my head and never will have a personal vendetta against Campus Dining. The taste and quality of campus food is always debatable, but that’s not where I have a problem. I just think the establishment has a severe prob­lem with paranoia.

What kind of paranoia am I talking about? It’s not the security cans that are supposed someone knocking out some cookies at an apple. It’s not about people criticising the quality of food they serve. What I’m talking about is an unhealthy fear employees have of cameras and people who ask innocent questions.

Last May Mustang Daily did an annual Best of Cal Poly edition. In the category of best Julian’s drink, the winners were mocha java and vanilla latte. As with all the other categories, we asked people who thought these products were the best. I walked into Julian’s, told the friendly employee about the story I was working on, and asked her what it was about those drinks that made them so popular. Just as she started to answer, a supervisor walked in and greeted me, glared at me and demanded, “Who are you? What are you doing?” I explained to her that I merely wanted to know the employee’s personal opinion on what it was about those drinks that appealed to customers so much. No criticism, no in-depth research investi­gation into Julian’s workplace conditions…just a that article that might actually portray the shop in a good light. But no, I apparently wasn’t allowed to ask an employee a simple question. The supervisor looked at the employee and said, “You can’t talk to them without approval,” “Them” being the evil Mustang Daily.

I then asked the supervisor if she, or anyone else, could answer my controversial question. No, not without the Campus Dining director’s permission, so you should probably go now, was all she said.

For some reason campus organizations like Campus Dining and Rec Sports see Mustang Daily as something rising from the pit of hell, closing after them with accusations and trying to chain them in an unflattering light.

I don’t know how many times a photographer has come back from an assignment to shoot inside a dining facility or the gym without any pictures. “What happened?” we would ask.

“Campus Dining hates us,” was all they would reply.

One reason, every business has the right not to allow photography on the premises. However, most places still allow photos unless there’s quite a good reason not to, like when someone’s privacy needs to be protected. The paragraph in the Campus Dining employee handbook on this issue says that media requesting information or taking pictures must first be approved. The reason given for this is to ensure the students’ privacy isn’t invaded. Well, that’s cheap’s way to disguise paranoia of the media. Asking an employee to get approval from Campus Dining (whether or not it’s their personal opinion is irrelevant) and have nothing to do with the pri­vacy of students who happen to be dining there at the time. As for the invasion of cameras, photographers always talk to the subjects of their photos anyway, so invasion of their privacy isn’t really an issue.

I’m not criticizing their right to regulate photography, but I’m questioning their paranoia of any kind of publicity and the vague­ness of this “policy.” What is there to hide? I probably wouldn’t be so bitter if someone had calmly explained the policy to me as I stood in front of the counter. Campus Dining would benefit, too. Instead of creating a scene by glaring and yelling at me, they could politely explain what steps I take to correctly do about what I’m doing. But that doesn’t change the fact that the policy is lame.

The BuzzFeed represents the thoughts of the BuzzFeed and the BuzzFeed alone. It does not represent the views of the Mustang Daily staff. All questions or complaints should be directed to the BuzzFeed.

Opinion

Cloning ethics outweighs advancements

Scientists at the Roslin Institute in Scotland created controversy in 1997 when they revealed that they had cloned a sheep named Dolly. Following the announcement, apprehension boiled over the day when humans would seek to clone human beings.

That day has finally arrived. On Nov. 25, a Massachusetts company announced that it had successfully cloned human embryos, bringing the world to the crossroads of scientific research and ethi­cal concerns.

Commentary: The company

Advanced Cell Technology (ACT), grew embryos but quite developing them once they reached six cells. If the experiments are continued, scientists may be able to grow cells large enough to create special stem cells. These cells then may have the ability to grow into various types of human tissues.

This process of creating cells, called therapeutic cloning, could lead the way for treatments for strokes, diabetes, Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases, MS and cancer. But isn’t it clear that scientists would be growing human embryos for the sole purpose of destroying them?

It is this idea that raises a highly justi­fied controversy ethics across the globe. President Bush opposed the practice of cloning embryos in a Nov. 27 article in

The New York Times. “We should not, as a society, grow life to destroy it.” The same article expressed views from other coun­tries as well as the opposition. In Germany, the president of the Association of German Doctors called ACT’s work “unethical.” The European Commission noted that it would not fund projects sim­ilar to that of human embryo cloning.

In July, the House of Representatives passed a bill that would make reproductive cloning and cloning to create tissue for disease treatment illegal. The bill is still awaiting a decision from the Senate, which said more time was needed to weigh the possibility of new treatments against ethical concerns.

If the Senate passes the bill, human cloning could become banned throughout the United States. It is already banned in some states.

Experiments with human embryos could give rise to many great strides in the medical arena, which is good. But it won’t stop there. There is an old saying “Give a man an inch and he wants a foot; give him a foot, and he wants a pair of shoes.” With each little bit of leniency hampering is given, there comes a greater degree of expectation, a desire to go beyond what was previously thought possible.

So what happens when therapeutic cloning isn’t enough? Is the world pre­pared to witness the arrival of the first cloned human baby?

Clonaid is another company that said it had successfully cloned human embryos. This company, however, wants to take things much farther than ACT; its goal is to give patients the possibility of new treatments across the globe.

“With each little bit of leniency hampering is given, there comes a greater degree of expectation, a desire to go beyond what was previously thought possible.”

The means of experimenting with human embryos does not justify the con­sequences that could result. Experimentation is a drawn-out process. How long would it take to get it right? How many deformed babies would it take to justify the cause? Cloning is risky busi­ness; it shouldn’t be the next feat in a worldwide competition.

Stephanie Perry is a journalist senior and a Mustang Daily staff writer.

Work at Abercrombie lacks individualism

I’ve never worked at a place where you couldn’t tell the difference between the customers or the employers.

The hottest of the hot go and buy clothes that are too small for them. Today, there, clothes must be bought-to-fit or we can show off the fat­ter styles, strut our stuff, flip back our tale, proud wicked, sexy smiles to everyone we look at, especially when we’re bending over to pick something up on the floor.

The problem with being new at a store like this is, well, when the employees are dressed in the tightest possible clothes, it’s hard to keep track of who’s working and who’s shopping.

We don’t get those cool shirts like Old Navy that say “staff.” While folding shirts, one of my co­workers asked if he could help me find anything. “Uh,” I said. I wasn’t sure what to tell him, because apparently he had the same problem I did. “No, I’m doing alright.” I lied. Then we folded a pile of shirts and continued to fold at another table.

I finally realized who worked at the store that Friday when the same people were in the store for me with five hours. Then after I got bored folding sham­bling piles of shirts, I decided to work the changing room and stand and herd pre­teen girls in and out of the dressing room with hosiery clothes.

Before I worked, I had to read the employee handbook. It said that Abercrombie liked to see individuality in their employees when they were coming, as long as it stayed steadfast to the look of Abercrombie.

Individuality? I’ve never worked at a store where you couldn’t tell the difference between the customers or the employers.

Standing my ground by the dressing rooms during the Friday after Thanksgiving shopping apocalypse, the district manager apparently came into the store for a little chat-chat about numbers and saw my non-traditional hair.

So much for individuality; I had to wear a hat over my dyed red hair.

But at least the techno music thump­ing in the background, foreground, inner ear and inside my chest has a good effect on me. I’m now과학. 102,000 decibels.

Evian Williams, Daily News (Ball State U.)

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mustangdaily@hotmail.com

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"Aaron Brooks is my fantasy quarterback."
Sports

Marcillac, Wheelmen place nationally

By Katherine Gernhardt

MUSTANG DAILY CONTRIBUTOR

Marcillac finished third in the short track, sixth out of 50 riders in the women's cross-country race, ninth out of 32 riders in the women's downhill, and was Cal Poly's top finisher in the women's dual slalom race, finishing 13th. Cal Poly rider John Benson said that the "short track" is an abbreviated cross-country course of less than one mile, and riders do several laps.

"We're really proud of her," said teammate Frank Thaxter. "She really helped us get that fourth-place finish.

Marcillac also noted that the weather and specific courses brought about changes in her racing techniques.

"For the downhill we had to change tires to compensate for the icy terrain," she said. "Sun and loose objects don't stick to granite slabs, so we had to modify our riding style as well."

Kristi Jerch was close behind Marcillac in the women's cross-country competition, finishing ninth. Harmony Helton finished 26th.

The women's downhill competition had 32 total riders, with two more Cal Poly riders finishing close to one another. Tara O'Connell came in eighth, Marcillac ninth and Helton 26th.

Cal Poly's male riders also fared well. In the men's downhill race, Cal Poly riders took the following places:

COURTESY PHOTO: AMANDA CLAY

COACHES MAT

Nicholas Marcillac hammers it out during the short track race at the Mountain Bike National Championships at Plattekill Mountain Resort in Roxbury, N.Y. Marcillac took second overall in the nation.

Scott Silveira, 21st; John Welson, 22nd; and David Henry, 31st.

The men's cross-country competition drew 91 riders, and Cal Poly finished in 10th place. The men's dual slalom competition had 12 total riders, with two more Cal Poly riders finishing close to one another. Tara O'Connell came in eighth, Marcillac ninth and Helton 26th.

Cal Poly's male riders also fared well. In the men's downhill race, Cal Poly riders took the following places:

3-2 start helps Mustangs gallop back to respectability

Finals are still a week away, but I've already failed. Big time. Allow me to put it in perspective.

Commentary: Spectre.

Try to imagine taking a calculus final with a hangover at 7 a.m. Colossal failure. As a sports prognosticator, I flopped worse than a Toldeo movie.

Last spring, on the heels of Big West Freshman of the Year Scott Schneid and the University of Richmond, I wrote here that the loss of Scott signaled the continuing demise of Cal Poly men's basketball program.

It seemed like a safe prediction at the time. But the Mustangs have just put that finishing touches on a dismal 9-19 season, highlighted by a tumultuous mid-season coaching change.

Unassigned assistant Kevin Brinkley had officially taken over the reins from the enigmatic Jeff Schneider. The nucleus of the team had been shredded, both by the devastating departure of Scott and the graduation of three other starters, including Male Athlete of the Year Chris Bjorklund, the school's all-time leading scorer. I saw no reason to believe this team would rise up from the doldrums of the Big West any time soon.

Oeps.

Picked to finish ninth out of 10 teams in the Big West coaches' preseason poll, all the Mustangs have done is roar three of their first five opponents, and narrowly miss an upset of a team from the esteemed SEC. The thrashings began with a 20-point victory over Saint Mary's in the home opener, then continued with a convincing 29-point blowout win at home over Portland State, a team that defeated Arizona State earlier this year. After a heartbreak­ ing 69-64 loss to Vanderbilt on the road, the Mustangs joined Lipscomb on Saturday with a 24-point rout. Granted, Lipscomb sounds more like a product you'd find on a late-night infomercial than a college basketball team. But they upended the Mustangs last season, and thus the fans win further illustrates Cal Poly's progress.

With their 3-2 start, the Mustangs have shown an uncanny ability to compensate for their lack of experience and marquee players. A balanced scoring attack and solid contributions off the bench have been the key. Six players average seven or more points per game, and newcomers Jared Patterson and James Allen have provided valuable minutes off the bench.

Sophomore Varrice Dennis has picked up where he left off last sea­ son, when he made the Big West's all-freshman team. The 6'9" center has nearly doubled his scoring average up to 15 points per game and has shown a potent stroke from beyond the arc, nailing his first three three-point attempts this season.

After missing all of last season with a back injury, Steve Greer has returned and given the Mustangs the true point guard they sorely lacked last year. Senior Brandon Benzen has been his usual reliable self as the team's second-leading scorer and top rebounder, while David Henry and newcomer Eric Jackson have provided solid outside shooting on the wings.

The real lima test will come Dec. 15 against Oregon State at Mott Gym. The long-awaited preseason matchup pits the Mustangs against Pac-10 competition, and could go a long way in proving that this year's edition bears no resemblance to last season's underachieving bunch.

Two things are certain. First, the Mustangs are playing hard-nosed bas­ ketball again, spreading the ball around unselfishly, and putting an exciting product out on the floor, which they were often unable to do during last year's debacle.

And second, I won't be making any predictions again any time soon.

Jacob Jackson is a journalism sophomore and Mustang Daily staff writer.

TRIVIA

Today's question:

Who is Cal Poly men's basketball's all-time career scoring leader?

Submit answers to: dnews@calpoly.edu

No one had the correct answer!