Commission orders railroad closure

By Jennifer Thomson
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The state Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has ordered the pedestrian and automobile railroad crossing near the Ortega Business Building to be closed by Oct. 1.

The crossing is a popular shortcut between campus and student housing complexes such as Mustang Village and Stenner Glen. It is located north of Football Boulevard and has been the site of three deaths involving people and trains since 1975. Most recently, Erik Jason Sy, an aerospace engineering freshman, died four months ago at the crossing after an oncoming train struck him as he crossed the tracks on his bike. The previous two deaths involved people in automobiles.

The PUC, which regulates the transportation of railroad facilities in California, has ordered that the Union Pacific Railroad close the crossing in order to do that, the railroad must have the compliance of all neighbors involved. Those neighbors — Mustang Village, Stenner Glen, The Lotte Day Saints Church, Cal Poly and several private residence owners — must agree that the path be closed and must also decide who will see CLOSURE, page 2

‘Vagina Monologues’ receives local support

By Cynthia Neff
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

“The Vagina Monologues,” a somewhat controversial play being showcased at the Cal Poly Theater this week, has piqued student interest. The large amount of ticket sales — 3,600 as of date — reflects how well the show has been received by both students and the community. “The Vagina Monologues” will run Tuesday through Sunday.

Ron Patrick, ticket office supervisor at the Performing Arts Center, said that every show has almost sold out and that latecomers have been taking any seats they can get. Although tickets for the show went on sale the Tuesday after Labor Day weekend, ticket sales didn’t begin to pick up until just after spring break. “As soon as advertising started for ("The Vagina Monologues");’ the third show in March, we knew that it would be sold out by this week,” he said.

Despite the controversy surrounding the show, negative reactions toward Cal Poly Arts have been slim. Cal Poly Arts Director Ralph Hoskins said he has been 90 percent behind the performance from the see MONOLOGUES, page 6

Community marches for homelessness

By Sara Howell
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Renowned performer and playwright Jude Narita performed her one-woman play, “Stories Wanting to be Told,” Thursday night to kick off Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Narita is best known for her award-winning, self-written, performed and produced play, “Coming Into Passion/Songs for a Samsara.” In 1996 she was named one of the “50 Asian-Americans Who Will Be Making a Difference” by Asian Week.

“I fell in love with acting, but there were limited ideas for Asian women,” Narita said. “I just started to write things that spoke to people.”

Her performance included several scenes, each one about a separate character who revealed a different aspect of human nature.

“It’s about showing how our basic humanity is housed in different skins,” Narita said. “It shows our differences and how our differences don’t necessarily separate us.”

The play focuses on feelings and emotions felt universally by people. Narita said that although Asian-American issues are confronted by the different characters, the underlying feelings are the same.

“When we laugh, we are connected. When we cry, we learn. That is what this play is about,” she said.

In the arts, traditional roles for Asian women are often simple and see CULTURE, page 2

Poly campus celebrates Asian heritage month

Honorary month aimed at highlighting campus’ diversity

By Sara Howell
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Kinesiology senior Christine Gritzke will attend a week-long seminar on national security issues with Bush Administration officials, and possibly President Bush himself. The seminar is part of the George C. Marshall ROTC Award Seminar. Gritzke has been an ROTC cadet for three years.

Gritzke and other selected Army ROTC cadets from 275 universities across the nation will meet at the Virginia Military Institute today through Friday to discuss a variety of national security issues with President George W. Bush’s senior administration officials.

“One of the main purposes (of the seminar) is to get together young leaders who are going to be officers, who are going to deal with the situations that are going on in the world, and get more of a background of how the military is involved,” said Gritzke, a kinesiology major.

Gritzke said that cadets will have the opportunity to interact with such senior military and government officials.

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no cars or pedestrians would be allowed to cross the tracks. The second is an on-grade pedestrian walkway over the track where warning signs and railroad crossing arms would be installed. The third possible project is a wooden underpass tunnel, which would eliminate any possibility of people coming in contact with the train. The final proposal is to keep the crossing as it is now.

These options range in price from $50,000 to $1.5 million and do not include the price of fencing it or other needed items along the tracks.

"It gets (more) expensive the more you are looking at," said Matt Bell, an architecture manager for San Luis Obispo.

"We have guidelines as to which authors qualify. But, in certain cases, we can be flexible," Stover said. "The Cal Poly Authors Celebration will highlight university authors who have commercially published books in 2021, but there is one exception. Robert Edwin Kennedy's memoirs, "Learn by Doing," of a member of a University President," published by the noncommercial company El Corral Publications, will also be recognized, despite the organization's criteria as to which works can be honored.

"We have gathered in, as a way to make a final decision on Cal Poly's," said Vicki to it by the Union Pacific Railroad, Stover said. "We are gathering in information and (we) know that the PUC addressed the closure and assessed the final decision."

"The closure is a way to recognize another aspect of a faculty member's contributions," said Sallie Harlan chair of the organizing committee.

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Political science professor requires community service

The students worked two-hour shifts at four San Luis Obispo sites. Dressed in work clothes, boots and gloves, they weeded the Filliponi projects, added rocks to a gully at San Luis Obispo's Pico Canyon, cared for plants at the City Sewer Plant and controlled excess try on Baywood Road.

"The project was to enhance the existing habitats and recreate a natural environment in these disturbed ecosystems," said Neil Havlik, a natural resources manager for San Luis Obispo, said he appreciated the students' help. Many of the projects are ongoing and volunteers are always in demand.

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Congressman's conviction upsets constituents

By Megan Garvey

(WIRE) YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio — It's Friday morning, the day after their congressman became a convicted felon, and a steady stream of furious callers are venting to local radio legend Dan Ryan.

The callers are not directed at Rep. Jim Traficant, who voters here elected nine times to represent this working-class region in Congress. The people of the Mahoning Valley are mad at the jurors — 10 women and two men from the Cleveland area 70 miles to the north — who found Traficant guilty on 10 counts of a federal indictment that included charges of bribery, racketeering and taking kickbacks.

Ryan, who called Traficant's Thursday night trial "the biggest case that Cleveland has had," was not surprised by the verdict, he is not directed at Rep. Jim Traficant, who voters here elected nine times to represent this working-class region in Congress. The people of the Mahoning Valley are mad at the jurors — 10 women and two men from the Cleveland area 70 miles to the north — who found Traficant guilty on 10 counts of a federal indictment that included charges of bribery, racketeering and taking kickbacks.

The calls to Ryan that the government shouldn't have been wasting their time on "peanuts" when "thousands" have been stolen from the defense budget.

Another man says even if Traficant took bribes, which he didn't necessarily believe, it wasn't anything lots of other politicians weren't doing themselves. Traficant, he says, had a reason for the Mahoning Valley wardrobes, loud mouth and self-styled "junkyard dog" persona, just made an easy target.

They like him. They'd vote for him again, even if he has to run from a prison cell.

"This is utterly insane that people think this," Ryan, exasperated, said on air.

Welcome to the Mahoning Valley, a place known for organized crime, strong-armed labor tactics and an intense belief that Washington stood up by the nation's least populous manufacturer.

The result has been something known as the "Youngstown Way" a culture permeated by ticket-fixing back-scratching and crooked politicians that local reformers have been trying to change for years.

Most people here, even the ones who believe Traficant couldn't be guiltier, never expected him to go down on all 10 counts. And no one here, most emphatically Traficant himself, believes that he would have been found guilty on any charge had Mahoning Valley residents been on the jury.

Traficant, who represented himself despite lacking a law degree, complained about the jurors just minutes after the verdict. "Very few people on this jury really knew Jim Traficant or had an understanding of Jim Traficant," he said. "I think that would have made a big difference."

After all, when he represented himself in 1983 at the same Cleveland courthouse, a jury that included six people from the Mahoning Valley acquitted him on federal charges of taking $163,000 from the mob.

Traficant, then the elected sheriff, convinced jurors that the money, which he was caught on tape comically putting in a plastic bag, was just part of his own undercover sting.

He tried unsuccessfully to have his latest trial reassigned to another federal courthouse in Youngstown, since valley residents are no longer part of the jury pool in Cleveland.

At the Classic Caf in Washingtonville, near the farm where Traficant made congressional history and showed names for the first time, Tari Altenburg said Saturday that those who live elsewhere may not have been in judgment.

Traficant, who once regularly held "campaign parties" where he got 60 or more votes for him again, has been condemned for the region. His support has ebbed, but even after he was warned in 2000 that he would be indicted, Traficant was reelected with about 49 percent of the vote, more than the total of his nearest opponent.

Though his district has been reconfigured, Traficant and his supporters have lost more than twice the total of his nearest opponent.

"We know him, everyone here liked him," Altenburg said of the congressman. "If he had run again, he would win again if he had been indicted. Now, his Democratic Party leaders are calling for his resignation, and he faces expulsion from the House if he does not.

They should not have sat in judgment, they remain in a technical state of war.

The war between the two nations began in 1990, when Eritrea invaded territory that Ethiopia considered to be within its borders. Ethiopia later regained control of the territory from Eritrea.

According to the agreement, the 15-mile buffer zone in the disputed areas is scheduled to be demilitarized by May 2003.

The protestor, who was arrested by police outside the Eritrean embassy in London, was not immediately available for comment.

The protesters, who had been at the embassy for two days, are believed to have been on their way to the United Nations headquarters in New York to deliver a petition calling for a peace agreement.

The Eritrean government has been accused of human rights abuses and of being responsible for the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians.
Once again a student dies. Stories come, stories go, rumors spread that he might have mixed drugs and alcohol. The police will take weeks to release the toxicology report, if ever. His family grieves his death along with his close friends. In the meantime, something peculiar happens: Those who previously avoided reporters, to not talk to them.

Smart move, I say. Let's ignore that someone died. Let's worry about our own butts; after all, we are still alive. Is that the mentality? Is that what they are thinking? I don't know. I'm not there. I'm not there. Whether or not the rumors that Gillis took two or three different drugs are right, which there is no way of knowing for certain right now, who quiet down.

Just thinking of what might have happened and what might have led him to his death, brings back the recurring image of college fraternity peer-preserving prospective members into drinking high quantities of alcohol, sniffing some cocaine, and who knows what else. Some people have argued with me that if anyone chooses to go along with brings and wants to join such a fraternity, it is his own choice and responsibility. They've got a point. But when a group chooses to hide the truth of what can happen when the fun goes a little too far, then the fun has transformed into the entire family of the student, a target.

Unintentional drug overdoses happen because of ignorance - keep in mind that I'm speaking in general terms as happens in Gillis's case. I cannot imagine anyone overlooking if they are aware of what mixing certain drugs can do. Hiding the truth only gives way for someone else to repeat the same mistake. Overlooking is an accident. Failing to learn from the past, failing to educate others - those are conscious decisions. That requires being irresponsible, selfish and inhumane.

I will say once again that I do not know what happened. I've only heard rumors. But if any of them turn out to be true, I will be grateful that I wasn't there, that I don't have to carry the burden of realizing that had I known better, a human being might still be alive today. I don't mean to point fingers or to give the impression of knowing the truth. I am no one to point, nor do I know anything beyond that which is my own personal knowledge.

There is just one thought that keeps lingering in my mind. If there is nothing to hide, then why avoid talking about it? Why ask those who knew Gillis to turn down interviews?

I extend my condolences to Gillis's family and friends, and I truly hope that these events have served a few lessons to others, the consequences of drug abuse. I do not disagree with the use of certain drugs. I simply disagree with uneducated decisions and with drugs being used with no concern for someone's popularity or acceptance in a group.

The Buzz represents the thoughts of the Buzz and the Buzz alone. Questions and comments can be directed to thebuzz@calpoly.com.

Commentary ignored Arab atrocities

Editor, In the "Point/Counterpoint" portion of the opinion section for April 11, I was drawn to the article titled "Israel must end occupation." The article began, "Before one analyzes the current violence in the Middle East, it helps to be informed." However, after reading the piece it was clear to me that the author was not very well informed at all. The author omitted key facts about certain events, did not take the time to mention Arab atrocities over the years, and overall did very little to truly "inform" people about the situation in the Middle East.

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Furthermore, these same Arab nations violated the 1948 cease-fire agreement when they attacked Israeli again in 1956. In 1967, Israel launched a pre-emptive strike to prevent yet another invasion and in the process gained considerable land, some of which it still holds for defensive purposes. This turned about to be a blessing for the Jewish State as it was again invaded in 1973 and owes much of its survival and victory in that war to its gains in 1967, as they were dug in on superiorly defendable ground. Despite being outnumbered and out-run in each war by Soviet armed nations, the Israelis prevailed and after 1973 finally won decisively enough that no Arab nation has invaded since then.

In fact, with that victory, in the years that followed Egypt and Jordan each finally recognized Israel as a sovereign state, although most other Middle Eastern countries still have not. My point in all this is that generations of Israelis have grown up with the constant threat of extinction of the Jewish State by its Arab neighbors. Furthermore, Israelis have learned through their wars with Egypt that if they fight hard enough and beat back their enemies long enough, eventually they will see for peace: the only thing Israelis have ever wanted. All one must do is look to what happened after Egypt signed a treaty with Israel and recognized it as a nation: Israel gave back the Sinai, which it had taken from Egypt in...
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Be Safe - Bike Smart!

This ad campaign is a partnership of the Student Affairs Division, the University Police Department, and the Cal Poly Bicycle Task Force.
News

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and other elected officials most in this small city's fading downtown. Domenic Padone Jr. said the verdant made him "sick to his stomach."

"They made him out like he's shackling people down and that's not it at all," said Padone, who testified for Traficant at the trial. "He does things for people that are essential and then they want to throw him a little something. People here would've understood that.

Nabed Kandah, who runs the restaurant, also still believes in Traficant.

"I think, if the whole town is consensus then that's what you've got to work with," Kandah said.
Will Griffey work out for the Reds?
By Ross Newman
LAS VEGAS —

"Who knows?" replied Lou Piniella, knowing there is no red
tape. Griffey is so unhappy at home, friends have been trying to influence a trade that would return him to the Mariners. But it's the lawyer and his team.

"We have three plans for Junior," Cincinnati general manager Jim Bowden said. "One is to finish his career with the Reds, two is to surpass Henry Aaron — and three is to get to the World Series ring.

"All of that hinges on the Reds' ability to negotiate into the long-term contract and keep him there for the final six years of his contract."

"It's not a negotiable, perhaps, but Bowden conceded that Griffey undoubtedly came to the Reds on a weakened foundation, his knees and hamstrings affected by all those years on the artificial turf." "It's a comment because I wasn't there to observe what he did or didn't do from a conditioning standpoint," Bowden said. "I can tell you that I've never been a fan of Griffey. I'm glad we're on our way to doing things better."
Men's lacrosse dominates at home

Cal Poly men's lacrosse freshman attacker Tim Casey dives in an attempt to score during Saturday's home game against Santa Clara. The Mustangs pummeled the Broncos, 15-5, as Casey had two goals and two assists, while senior Jim Fipp and sophomore Peter Reed each had four goals and one assist. On Sunday, Cal Poly beat Claremont, 13-6, as sophomore Zach Dostart had three goals and two assists.

Time to give team 'Kingly' welcome

By Sarah Stephan

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Tennis falls in tough home match

By Sarah Stephan

The final score may have shown a blowout, but Saturday's men's tennis match was a lot closer than 6-1. In a match that saw the Mustangs lose the first home game of the season to UC Santa Barbara, both players and coaches came away with a positive attitude that reflected Cal Poly's gritty performance.

"The other coach (UC Santa Barbara head coach Marty Davis) called it the closest 6-1 match he had ever seen," said Trevor Krommenn, Cal Poly's head coach. The Mustangs were defeated 6-1 in the doubles matches, allowing the Gauchos to earn the doubles point. In earning the doubles, UC Santa Barbara only had to win three singles matches to win overall, said sophomore Stacy Mermoff, who played No. 2 singles and No. 3 doubles. Mermoff and freshman Dan Jones won their doubles match 9-7.

In singles play, sophomore Nick Tracy played well and won his No. 5 match in straight sets, 6-3, 6-2. The No. 1 singles match was tough competition for sophomore Mike Marquez, who lost 6-3, 6-2. Despite the losing score, Marquez said that he felt really good about the match.

"My opponent hit most of his shots in this match," Marquez said. He returns to the court Sunday, April 15, when the Mustangs face UC Santa Barbara at 2 p.m. at the Mustang Tennis Courts.

Sophomore Mike Marquez returns a shot during his match on Saturday at the Cal Poly tennis courts.