Better than the average fair

Mid-State Fair offers various musical talents

By Bonnie Guevara
SUMMER MUSTANG STAFF WRITER

It’s not very often that Tim McGraw, Alan Jackson, Alice Keys, Incubus, Sheryl Crow and Train share a stage ... unless it’s the California Mid-State Fair.

Giddy-up San Luis Obispo, the fair has arrived, and these musicians are just some of the performers appearing at this year’s “Biggest Little Fair Anywhere” in Paso Robles.

With an almost sold-out show, country singer and heartthrob McGraw will make his third fair appearance tonight at 8 p.m. on the grandstand stage. Jackson, returning for his fifth appearance, performs on Saturday at 8 p.m.

”Jackson has sold more ticketsthis year than any other year,” entertainment director R.J. Jaramillo said.

For these two country music icons, the Mid-State Fair is their only summer fair appearance. However, the fair’s spectacular musical venue is not limited to just cowboy hats, wranglers and country music. Also appearing are R & B singer-songwriter Keys, 1970s and 1980s favorites Heart and Styx, Southern rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd and blues rock singer-songwriter B.B. King.

“The entertainment is the most diverse we’ve ever offered,” said John Allan, CEO of the Mid-State Fair.

Keys, a five-time Grammy award winner, will be making her first fair appearance this summer at the fair on Aug. 1. Her single, “Fallon,” received the Grammy awards for Best Female R&B Vocal Performance, Song of the Year and Best R & B Song.

Other Grammy award-winning

Professor produces power with poo

By Heather Zwdak
SUMMER MUSTANG STAFF WRITER

Deep in the heart of the Cal Poly campus there is a tarp-covered lagoon that is punctuated by a stench and a sound that can only mean one thing: cattle are close.

No, the San Luis Obispo housing crunch has not imposed itself on the animals. It is actually one of the agricultural engineering department’s most notable projects.

The lagoon is the pet project of Douglas Williams, professor in the bio-resource and agricultural engineering department. The lagoon generates electricity by using manure from Cal Poly’s dairy farm.

This alternative source of power will not only save the university money on energy bills, but it also reduces pollution.

Williams said that the generator creates power through a succession of stages. First, the manure from the 300 cows housed in Cal Poly’s dairy farm is transported into the lagoon. The manure, through anaerobic digestion, is then transformed into methane gas that is captured by a large flexible tarp that covers the lagoon. The gas is then piped into a 30-kilowatt micro turbine, which

see AGENCY, page 2

Traveltime leaves Union

By Caroline Lindahl
SUMMER MUSTANG STAFF WRITER

The UU lost a local business and gained a lot of empty space last month when Traveltime closed their office adjacent to Julian’s and SES-LOC Federal Credit Union.

Traveltime currently maintains an office downtown, but the business could not afford to lease the space on campus anymore.

“It wasn’t economically feasible,” Traveltime manager Barbara Breska said. “Students are still coming to (the Market Street location), but it may not be as convenient for them.”

Cal Poly has yet to make a decision concerning the available space.

“It seems like it’s limited and valuable we want to make sure it will be utilized and meet the students’ needs,” said Michelle Broom, public relations assistant. “We want to gauge from students and student leaders what they want, so we’re being very careful.”

Traveltime will be sorely missed, as it offered hotel and rail passes for adventurous students and teachers at a discounted rate.

“I never used (Traveltime), but it was always nice knowing it was there if I ever needed cheap tickets,” business junior Joanna Ritchie said.
to create their own professor rating engines. The second factor involves the controversy over ownership of Polyratings. Reed said that in order to prevent Cal Poly from staking claim to Polyratings, which was originally created in the Cal Poly dorms by Forrest Lanning and Doug Dahms, he decided to make it open to everyone.

The final factor is that Reed is hoping that by releasing the source for Polyratings, he will receive input on the site and help in solving problems that he doesn’t have time to fix.

Lanning, who graduated from Cal Poly in 2001, is pleased with Reed’s decision. “I think open-sourcing Polyratings is great,” Lanning said. “When my roommate and I first started Polyratings, a number of people representing other universities wanted to have a system of their own. I believe this is a power tool, all students should have. After all, we are paying to go to college, so we might as well get what we want out of it.”

Reed said that the next improvement he would like to make to Polyratings is the addition of an optional student login system. If this system was implemented, input that is submitted by users who have logged in would be weighed more heavily than those that are contributing anonymously.

The source code for Polyratings is available at www.openratings.com, free of charge to both students and schools who are interested in starting a site like Polyratings.

**HOW TO BE A BETTER NEIGHBOR—STEP #20:**

**Remember: you’re responsible.**
Bush Gives Formal Approval to Yucca Mountain Project

L.A. POST - President Bush quickly signed a bill Tuesday in Washington formally adopting Yucca Mountain as the United States' repository for used nuclear reactor fuel.

The Department of Energy is preparing its technical application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for approval to construct the $58 billion project, which it has yet to finish designing. The state's science advisers will use the NRC's hearings to argue that the project is technically flawed and unsafe.

Attorneys for Nevada, meanwhile, will argue later this year in federal court that the project is illegal, with hopes of killing it even before the NRC gets the Yucca Mountain application.

Governor scientists have concluded that Yucca Mountain, comprised of hardened volcanic ash, is not sufficiently solid to contain radiation.

- Los Angeles Times

Police: Records Place Avila Near Scene Where Body Is Technically Flawed and Unsafe.

SANTA ANA, Calif. - Alejandro Avila's cell phone and credit card records indicate he was near the scene in the hours after her kidnapping, a law enforcement source said Tuesday.

Police believe Samantha Russell's abduction was a struggle to escape.

The records appear to contradict Avila's assertion that he was at the Ontarion Mills mall in Riverside County at the time Russell was abducted just after 6 p.m. on July 15, the police source said.

Avila, who is charged with kidnapping, sexually assaulting and murdering the girl, maintains he had nothing to do with Samantha's abduction.

Avila will enter a plea in Orange County Superior Court next month.

Special circumstances filed along with the murder charges will allow the district attorney's office to seek the death penalty.

During the questioning, officers also took a sample of Avila's blood and photographed a scratch on his leg, he said. Police believe Samantha scratched her abductor in a struggle escape.

- Los Angeles Times

International Briefs

Philippine Rebel Leaders Indicted in U.S.

WASHINGTON - Five leaders of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group were indicted in Washington Tuesday in connection with the killing of three hostages in the Philippines, including the death missionary last month in Kansas City.

The federal grand jury indictment charges five rebels with hostage-taking and conspiracy.

None of the defendants is in U.S. custody.

- The Washington Post

Halt Spread of Democracy

UNITED NATIONS - The spread of democracy around the world could be jeopardized if free elections in poor countries are not followed by economic growth, a U.N. agency warned Wednesday in a new study of political progress in developing nations.

The number of countries that have at least some trappings of electoral democracy has more than doubled since 1985 to 140, the U.N. Development Program said in an annual report. Yet only 82 of them could be considered genuinely democratic, the report said.

In a study of the quality of national governance, the United States scored sixth, after Norway, Switzerland, Canada, Belgium, and Australia. At the bottom of the 173 countries surveyed were Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Sierra Leone and Nicaragua - all of them in sub-Saharan Africa.

Brown noted that many new democracies have lower per capita earnings than they did two decades ago.

- Los Angeles Times

Briefs are compiled from Washington Post and Los Angeles Times wire services by Summer Mustang writer Andrew Parker.
Bikini bar seeks shift from women on stage to women as customers

By Paige Havercroft
Summer Mustang Staff Writer

When women go downtown, usually they are looking for any place they can get good drinks and hear good music. When men go downtown, usually they are looking for good drinks and good looking ladies. There’s a place in San Luis Obispo where both might meet, except the women there are on stage.

“It’s not just a gentlemen’s club it’s a party,” said Relm manager and partial owner Tommy Thompson. Recently, the Relm restaurant, bar and night club has been making an effort to attract a female audience.

While the club has been known to attract men of all ages, Thompson is trying to broaden its appeal, dedicating Wednesday nights to the ladies of San Luis Obispo by offering free admission and drink specials.

But is the Relm a place where ladies can get comfortable?

By Katie Hatfield

Arts Summer Mustang

**Around Town**

**Bikini bar seeks shift from women on stage to women as customers**

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But is the Relm a place where ladies can get comfortable?

By Katie Hatfield
Thrift stores offer random things and rare glimpses into peoples lives, oh and bargains too

By Sierra Z. Fish
Summer Mustang Staff Writer

"There is a bin with some trophies in it. I pull out one to see that it is a softball trophy for the Eagles, dated 1978. I think that must have been a great moment."

"It doesn't thrive on competition, or the need to bring in a lot of revenue to maintain the status quo."

Robin Stems reads from her new book "Backless," a collection of short stories that take the reader from Utah to St. Croix, with writer spent wondering why a person would buy someone else's old softball trophies.

"Cowgirl Style," takes off by entertaining herself while doing some kind of weird costume thing that's dim corral, doing some kind of butt dance with the cute bartender. Many of her characters are dark-haired, cowgirl hat, with broken frames line the back wall, scrunched together, and dresses are hung in an array of colors. She thought to myself that one person is thinking about Kindness. I try a few on, glancing at my reflection in a somewhat dusty mirror. Eclectic cds fill a wooden shelf - some Burl Ives Christmas songs and Michael Jackson and Meatloaf. I see shelves with worn shoes, each surprisingly with its companion by its side. I pick up a pair of high heels and wonder who owned these and where they have been. Perhaps they went to a prom, or maybe even danced at a wedding.

Monday night. Her animated storytelling captivated the core audience of 35.

Robin Stems book, "Backless," is a collection of short stories that take the reader from Utah to St. Croix, with vivid detail and colorful characters that can make you laugh or make you cry.

Sally, the main character, is as complicated as your mother or mine. She has lost all her friends and her job. She is trying to turn her life around...and she's good at it. She has a knack for making people feel important and loved.

"I've lived all over the place so there is one thing that is common in these stories," Stems said. "That all the characters are at a crossroads, that they need to be outside. I've been the outsider and that makes me a better observer because things don't seem normal or average. The details stick."
Opinion

Terrorism should inspire action, not fear

Stay alert to the terrorists among us. So much for subtlety.

Attorney General John Ashcroft recently said Americans are not yet alert to the "defensive military" threat. We do not cower to outside threats; they are foreign to our soil. After Pearl Harbor, political leaders said an attack on American soil couldn't happen again - until the morning of September 11.

"Paranoia only stagnates people; retaliation is what inspires. And retaliation does not have to imply violence. It can be heightening security measures at the airport, or improving immigration standards with better visa regulations. This is a gray area, obviously, but when you look at the way we're discussing this... terrorism must inspire action, not fear." — Steve Capcom, Mustang Daily

Letter to the editor

Homosexuality shouldn't be hated by Christians

In response to the article about the Pride in the Plaza event, and more specifically, the actions of George Trevelyan, I have a few things I'd like to say.

First of all, let me draw the line in the sand by announcing up front that I am a Christian.

Wait a minute, for those of you who were ready to stop reading, I have a question for you. What words came into your mind when you saw the word "Christian"? Hate, judgment, discrimination? How about unconditional love and forgiveness? I didn't think so.

The problem with Christianity is that it is comprised of Christians (yes, that includes myself). We speak out against sin and yet we are the worst sinners of all: Hypocrites. Let's get something straight.

The physical act of homosexuality does not meet the Biblical requirement of sin. But does lying, cheating, covering another's GPA, and many other things. What am I getting at? We ALL SIN.

Recently, I have been pretty turned off by Christians and I wasn't sure why. That is until someone clarified a basic truth that I think we are all covering up with numerous rules, regulations, and standards about Christianity.

The only requirement for being a Christian is accepting Jesus. In order to accept Jesus one must acknowledge His existence, acknowledge His own sinfulness, and ask Jesus to be a part of their life. That's it. You don't have to wear certain clothes, engage in certain lifestyles, or go to certain churches.

Jesus can be more than just a ticket into heaven, if you let Him. He can love you more than any man or woman can. He loves you so much that He died just for you so that you could have a chance to really live. Jesus made you and loves you just as you are.

The fact of the matter is that Christianity is not about Christians; it is about Christ. So to each person who has encountered a George Trevelyan, I apologize. George sees homosexuality as something that is keeping people from the love of Christ and He wants his listeners to be aware of that. George didn't realize that HE might be acting as an obstacle.

To all those Christians who are angered by this letter and are gearing up to write a fiery response coughed full of Bible verses, I ask you only this: When you think of the word "Homosexuality" what words come into your mind: Hate, sin, judgment, or unconditional love and forgiveness?

Danielle Dougan is a psychology senior.

Letter policy

Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanities and length. Please limit length to 250 words. All letters should include the writer's full name, phone number, major and class standing.

By mail: Letters to the Editor, Building 26, Room 226, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

These letters must be hand-delivered to an editor.

By fax: (805) 756-6784

By e-mail: mustangdaily@hotmail.com

Letters must come from a Cal Poly e-mail account. Do not send letters as an attachment. Please put the text in the body of the e-mail.

Attention: Your letter will not be printed unless you submit it in the correct format.

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STD services offered to locals

By Rebecca Howes

Sexually transmitted diseases are not a joking matter to many Cal Poly and San Luis Obispo County young adults. These people, ages 18 to 24, take testing and responsibility seriously when it comes to sexually transmitted diseases.

"There isn't the stigma that there once was regarding STD's," said Dr. David Rabson, of the Cal Poly Health Center. "I think that students are far more responsible for their sexual behavior."

Rabson worked for the San Luis Obispo County Health Department in the 1980's and has seen the change in people's reactions as well as their actions regarding STDs. He said that he believes that education and awareness are responsible for the change in attitudes.

The responsibility of telling a sexual partner that you have an STD can be embarrassing, Rabson said, but it is extremely necessary because many STDs don't have any symptoms.

If students are of the mindset that it could never happen to them, or that they are at a low risk for infection, they should think again. More than 15 million Americans contract STDs every year, according to MTV.com.

Barbara Schwenoha is the supervising public health nurse for the truck and no violation.

COMMUNICATIONS disease control for San Luis Obispo County. She agrees with Rabson, but she also has her own theory as to why STD rates in the county have remained stable or have gone down.

"We have a university of 17,000 students," Schwenoha said. "We have a community college. (You might think) we should have higher rates."

Schwenoha credits a county-funded program that has communicable disease investigators that follow up cases of infection. The investigators talk to the infected person and make sure that their sexual partners know they may have been exposed to an STD, and that they should be tested and treated if necessary.

San Luis Obispo has the resources to aid those who are in need of testing. Students at Cal Poly or Cuesta can go to the health center on campus. Untimed people can go to the Women's Health Center and apply for a program called Planning, Access, Care and Treatment (PACT).

For $35, PACT offers a variety of services. These include birth control, basic health assessments, sterilization, pregnancy testing and counseling, Pap smears, cervical cancer screening and prevention, testing and treatment for STDs.

Paula Brito runs the county Women's Center and said that both men and women are tested at the center.

"We have men who call and ask if they can be treated at the center," Brito said. "The name throws off a lot of people.

If students are putting off being tested because of money, they should not worry. Some STDs, if left untreated, can lead to health problems such as infertility, paralysis, heart disease and, in some cases, even death.

"Even if they don't have the money, we don't turn anyone away," said Colleen Campbell, a family nurse practitioner who runs the STD clinic at the Women's Center. "If someone comes in and believes that they have an STD, we test them regardless of their ability to pay. It is too important not to."

Those who have been infected by a sexual partner are not alone. By age 24, more than one-third of all sexual-active Americans will be infected with bacterial and viral STDs, costing the United States $8.4 billion each year in medical costs.

For more information on STDs and STD treatment, call the San Luis Obispo County Health Department at 781-5300.

News

Workers make helping disabled a top priority

By Jennifer Dwyer

The Disability Resource Center employs students in a variety of jobs, ranging from in-class note taking for someone having supervised extended testing times.

Around 10 of the DRC staff members have priority registration status each quarter, said William Bailey, DRC director.

They are student workers and are high in demand throughout the year, said Donna Welterm, support services coordinator for DRC.

"During a very busy quarter, we probably have 10 to 125 note takers, 10 to 15 test proctors, and two clerical, front desk and Welterm said.

However, not all DRC employees have priority registration every quarter. Bailey said that student workers are given to the train drivers and front desk workers.

"It is a really a very small number," he said, "but it is the same system with multiple drivers, it's not an incentive for the train drivers and front desk workers."

The number of vehicles in operation accommodates users with a variety of disabilities and abilities between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Bailey said.

The privilege of priority, does, however, come with a cost.

"It is an advanced opportunity to register for classes," Bailey said.

"But we do expect student workers to work their class schedules around their DRC responsibilities."

Dennis Carlson, a fourth year economics major and a DRC train driver since February, sees the logic behind this view.

"I am one of the newest ones," he said. "I wanted a job on campus and figured this was the best bet."

Carlson said that getting priority registration status did not play a factor in his decision to take the position. However, he said he can see how it benefits both the DRC and the student worker.

"When you have multiple drivers, it's hard to collaborate work schedules with classes," Carlson said. "Priority registration allows us to be flexible."

Initiated by his predecessor, Harriet Clendenon, the privilege of priority registration is also a subject that will always be somewhat controversial, Bailey said.

The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that all "reasonable accommodations" be made for people with disabilities.

Not only does the Mid-State Fair take pride in the great performers they offer, but they also take pride in their affordable concert tickets.

"We want to keep our customers coming back," Aitken said. "(This) means keeping ticket prices affordable for families."

The California Mid-State Fair spent nearly $2 million for the performance venue, but it has gained back in ticket sales alone.

The fair runs from July 24 to Aug. 4. For more information, visit www.midsatefair.com or call the box office at (805) 238-3165.

"Beware of Don'ts"

By Becky Carnes

The Mid-State Fair Publicity Director. "We pride fair, fun, entertainment for ages one to 100," Miller said. "(The) fair can enjoy the incredible music that comes to the fair each year."

This will be Incubus first Mid-State Fair appearance. Incubus has sold more tickets daily then any other performer at the fair.

"We have people flying in from Hawaii to see Incubus," said Miller. "We also have sold ticket to people from New Mexico and Salt Lake City, Utah."

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"We promote family, friends, fun at the Mid-State Fair."

July 18 to July 25, 2002

Workers make helping disabled a top priority

AGENCY continued from page 1

Breska said she hopes students will still come into the downtown store, although it may be out of the way.

"We did have a great location (on campus), but we still have a desk just for students (in our Marsh Street location)," Breska said.

Traveltime has 40 agents in 10 offices on the Central Coast, and was awarded 2002 Travel Agency of the Year by the Oahu Visitors Bureau. Traveltime won the honor for its "expert destination knowledge, unique selling techniques, intuitive marketing strategies and enthusiasm," according to the OVB.

"Ideally the university would like to see the space filled by fall Bresko said.

SUMMER MUSTANG

Crime Round-Up

July 18

One hundred and fifty dollars was taken from a Sierra Madre dorm room. This is a felony burglary and could carry a state prison sentence.

July 20

The SLOPD called UPD after a report that people in the Foothill Albertson's parking lot were caught up with the suspects, finding alcohol in the truck and no violation.

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Courtesy Photo

Both Sheryl Crow and Train will perform at this summer's California Mid-State Fair.
Cuesta baseball coach picked to guide Mustangs

Lee takes over

By Sierra Z. Fish
SUMMER MUSTANGS STAFF WRITER

Peter and confidence is what new head coach Larry Lee exuded while giving a press conference this Monday at Cal Poly.

"This is a great day for Cal Poly baseball," athletic director John McCutccheon said. "This is one search we were able to conduct very quickly. We had over 40 applicants for the position. Larry Lee is right now, right here, in our own backyard."

Lee led Cuesta College to the California Community State Final from Cal Poly in four consecutive seasons, holding a 0-1 record in 1999 and a No. 2 seed this past season. Lee leaves Cuesta with a record of 460-241-3 over 20 years. Lee also earned a bachelor's degree in physical education/exercise science from Pepperdine in 1983 and a master's degree from Cal Poly in 1985. In addition, he also earned an advanced physical education credential from Cal Poly in 1988.

Lee's father was a teacher, at Cal Poly for 38 years. He says that while the school has been tremendous. This is a great challenge and will rejuvenate me to compete at the national level.

Lee pointed to last season's schedule as an even greater challenge. "Only 20 of the Mustangs' 56 games will be played at home. "It is going to be a difficult and challenging season," Lee said. "We need to get the players to work hard and be committed to a single goal."

Lee said that he would still like to see the Cuesta program maintain a high level of quality, and that he would use Cuesta as a feeder system for Cal Poly.

"I am very excited," said Coach Lee.

"You go to some of these other events and they have one first place, one second place, one third place. They have only because of the cash prize, but the money is not that much better," Brown said. "Not to knock the other races, it's still brings out the drive in its money, the first place came to run, we always had polite conversation, I respect him as a coach and a gentleman."

"He really has demonstrated that he has the full package," McCutccheon said. "He has out-standing technique when it comes to the game. Our main concern was for the student athletes and to find someone who understands the situation at Cal Poly about the importance of academics. Larry was just the right guy at the right time."

Triathletes see summer action

After dominating San Jose competition, Poly triathletes won't race at SLO Triathlon.

By Adam Lassanske
SUMMER MUSTANGS STAFF WRITER

For many athletes, the summer is a time of rest and relaxation. For triathletes, however, the summer is when the real work begins. Cal Poly triathlon team vice president Dave Brown says the summer is when the triathlon season kicks into gear.

"The sport is kind of unique," Brown said. "Summertime is basically the season. You train in the winter time and springtime to basically get ready for the summer."

The hard work during the off-season has apparently paid off for the Mustang triathletes. The team got a big boost when it won the San Jose Invitational collegiate competition on June 23.

Team Cal Poly outlasted the competition, with both the male and female teams taking second in their divisions and placing third in the overall team standings. Brown says the team would not have been able to be so successful without the individual success of Jill Terwer and Dewey Lucas. Terwer finished strongly in the women's division, while Lucas finished first in the overall men's competition.

Along with first place came an unusual perk for a triathlon team: a cash prize. Because they were the first place team, Brown said that while the event is always a great race, the money makes it a little bit better. "Not to knock the other races," Brown said. "But it's the only race that we (as a college program) win."

Brown says the San Jose Invitational is a welcome event not only because of the cash prize, but also because it's well organized. "You go to some of these other races and sometimes they don't even have Gatorade for you," Brown said. "This place (San Jose) has three different kinds of Gatorade, you feel very taken care of."

On Sunday, San Luis Obispo will have a chance to take care of others from across the country when it hosts the San Luis Obispo Triathlon.

The triathlon starts this Sunday at 7:30 a.m. at the San Luis Obispo Swim Center. The competition will be held at San Luis Obispo High School's baseball facility, and that it needs to break down certain barriers in order to advance the team. He said that he wants to build a program that is capable of playing in the College World Series.

"I think it is great for me to follow in his footsteps," Lee said.

"I hope it makes my father proud to have me follow in his footsteps," Lee said.

Lee said he hoped next season the Mustangs would have a chance to play in the College World Series in Omaha, Neb. He also said that he wants to take Cal Poly to a new level. He said he has high hopes of making the community and the university proud of Cal Poly baseball.

"This is a great opportunity for me to further my career at Cal Poly," Lee said. "I have a strong knowledge of Cal Poly athletics and this is also a great opportunity for me to stay local. The local support has been tremendous. This is a great challenge and will rejuvenate me to compete at the national level."

Lee pointed to last season's schedule as an even greater challenge. "Only 20 of the Mustangs' 56 games will be played at home."

"It is going to be a difficult and challenging season," Lee said. "We need to get the players to work hard and be committed to a single goal."

Lee said that he would still like to see the Cuesta program maintain a high level of quality, and that he would use Cuesta as a feeder system for Cal Poly.

"I am very excited," said Coach Lee.

"You go to some of these other events and they have only because of the cash prize, but the money is not that much better," Brown said. "Not to knock the other races, it is still brings out the drive in its money, the first place came to run, we always had polite conversation, I respect him as a coach and a gentleman."

"He really has demonstrated that he has the full package," McCutccheon said. "He has outstanding technique when it comes to the game. Our main concern was for the student athletes and to find someone who understands the situation at Cal Poly about the importance of academics. Larry was just the right guy at the right time."

Triathlon

After dominating San Jose competition, Poly triathletes won't race at SLO Triathlon.

By Adam Lassanske
SUMMER MUSTANGS STAFF WRITER

For many athletes, the summer is a time of rest and relaxation. For triathletes, however, the summer is when the real work begins. Cal Poly triathlon team vice president Dave Brown says the summer is when the triathlon season kicks into gear.

"The sport is kind of unique," Brown said. "Summertime is basically the season. You train in the winter time and springtime to basically get ready for the summer."

The hard work during the off-season has apparently paid off for the Mustang triathletes. The team got a big boost when it won the San Jose Invitational collegiate competition on June 23.

Team Cal Poly outlasted the competition, with both the male and female teams taking second in their divisions and placing third in the overall team standings. Brown says the team would not have been able to be so successful without the individual success of Jill Terwer and Dewey Lucas. Terwer finished strongly in the women's division, while Lucas finished first in the overall men's competition.

Along with first place came an unusual perk for a triathlon team: a cash prize. Because they were the first place team, Brown said that while the event is always a great race, the money makes it a little bit better. "Not to knock the other races," Brown said. "But it's the only race that we (as a college program) win."

Brown says the San Jose Invitational is a welcome event not only because of the cash prize, but also because it's well organized. "You go to some of these other races and sometimes they don't even have Gatorade for you," Brown said. "This place (San Jose) has three different kinds of Gatorade, you feel very taken care of."

On Sunday, San Luis Obispo will have a chance to take care of others from across the country when it hosts the San Luis Obispo Triathlon.

The triathlon starts this Sunday at 7:30 a.m. at the San Luis Obispo Swim Center. The competition will be held at San Luis Obispo High School's baseball facility, and that it needs to break down certain barriers in order to advance the team. He said that he wants to build a program that is capable of playing in the College World Series.

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On Sunday, San Luis Obispo will have a chance to take care of races from across the country when it hosts the annual San Luis Obispo Triathlon. The race gives participants an excuse to take a summer vacation along the Central California coastline. The San Luis Obispo Triathlon is one of the last remaining triathlons to use a pool for the swim portion. Each participant swims 36 widths, or half a mile.

The bike course is next. Bikers go 15.3 miles, beginning at Sinsheimer Park and proceeding to Orcutt Road for the majority of the course. Participants then do a 5.1-mile run. The run is held on a large loop, starting at Sinsheimer Park and finishing at Sinsheimer Baseball Stadium.

The triathlon is in its 23rd year. Lee said the race has around 300 volunteers and estimates that this year's event will draw over 900 competitors. They range from experienced triathletes to most individuals and some 30 teams, with three competitors per team. Lara oversees registration for the event. She said the diversity of the event is reflected in the ages of the participants. "We will have someone who's only 15 and someone else who's doing the race who's 84 years old," she said.

Ogden said that about 30 percent of the contestants come from out of state. This year's event includes racers from Texas, Connecticut, and Georgia. Ogden said that the race gives participants the opportunity to take a summer vacation along the Central California coastline.

"If you're going to sweat and work in a race during your vacation, what better place to do it than San Luis Obispo?" Lara said.