Student sues Cal Poly for horse riding accident

University is named in $20 million lawsuit; accounts of incident differ

By Andrea Svoboda

Cal Poly is facing civil action after three professors failed to render assistance when a student fell from a horse and into a 12-inch coma, according to a $20 million lawsuit filed two weeks ago.

Animal science senior Siobhan McDowell claims she was required to train a dangerous horse, and ride the animal at dusk with poor visibility that walked into a wire fence Nov. 30, 2001, according to court documents. This caused the horse to take off, throwing her to the ground and then rolling over her. The lawsuit names animal science professor Roger Harre, Gene Armstrong and Mike Lund for ignoring McDowell's concerns for her own safety.

According to the suit, the instructors failed to render medical aid to the unconscious McDowell and left the scene before medical personal arrived. After the fall, McDowell was comatose for 10 days after being checked into Sierra Vista Hospital as "Jane Doe." McDowell's wife is also named in the suit.

According to the suit filed by Sacramonti, Calif., attorney Matthew Evans, who claims that two to three weeks prior to the incident she was backed off a horse and sent to the hospital when she tried to tell her teachers about her fears of riding and training the horse, they ignored her concerns for her safety and forced her to ride the allegedly unsafe horse.

Cal Poly Director of Communications and Public Affairs Dyllone L. Slack said that no person from Cal Poly can comment on the case until the school has received it. "(Cal Poly) hasn't been served with the lawsuit yet," Slack said Tuesday.

According to the Cal Poly course catalog, the classes -- advanced equine modifications -- involve riding young horses. Before they get on the horses, Cal Poly required that the students sign releases stating the potential risks associated with horses. In bold type at the top of the document, the release states that serious injury may result from the activity and the instruction does not guarantee student safety.

McDowell signed the forms, but in the lawsuit she claims that the training level of the horses did not comply with the Riding Instruction Agreement.

Although he could not comment on the case, animal science head Andy Thulin said anyone dealing with livestock assumes a certain amount of risk. "As long as people, in general, are riding, there is going to be the occasional accident," Thulin said. "The horse is an unpredictable animal."

see SUIT, page 2

Turkey fears Iraq invasion

Inhabitants to join U.S. attack

By Louis Meixler

HAKKARI, Turkey (AP) - To understand why Turkey is hesitant to back a U.S. attack against Iraq, just look at Hakkarı, a mountain town near the Iraqi border where poverty and unemployment fuel anger at the govern­ment and support for Kurdish nationalism.

Turkey's backing is crucial to any U.S. attack on Iraq, but the overwhelming Muslim nation fears that Saddam Hussein's removal could lead to the split-up of Iraq, with Kurds in the north declaring a separate state and providing an example for Turkey's Kurds.

In Hakkarı, poverty forces men to line up in the freezing cold to get free government food to heat their homes and many people get their food from state kitchens. Almost half of the town's population of 60,000 are villagers who fled the countryside, either threatened by guerrillas of the Kurdistan Workers Party, PKK, or more often, by Turkish soldiers.

Human rights groups say Turkey burned thousands of villages as a part of a strategy to clear the countryside and denzy the guerrillas local support. "If the Iraqis have democracy, we can start polling to them and saying, 'One brother has democracy, why not us?,'" said a Kurdish activist in a furniture shop in Hakkarı. He agreed to speak on condition that he was only identified as "Ali.

"The Turkish government says there are no Kurdish people. If there is a Kurdish government in Iraq, this idea will fall apart," he added.

Kurdish guerrillas battled Turkey for 15 years, leaving 37,000 dead. U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz visited Ankara on Tuesday to press for Turkey's support for an Iraq operation. Turkey, a NATO member, borders Iraq and hosted more than 100 U.S. warplanes during the 1991 Gulf War. U.S. troops would need...

see TURKEY, page 2

White House gets down

About 20 students from ARCH 351 presented designs of their creations of the White House in the CARED Gallery Tuesday. Architecture senior Anthony Bong's design of an underground building showed a contrast of the usual concept of the White House being excess and power. He said he wanted it to show humility.

see PAGE 2
Animal science junior Michael Kovach was a student in McDowell's equine behavior modification class and was there the day of the accident, but recalls the class procedures leading up to and including Nov. 30 differently than McDowell.

Kovach said the instructors did assign the horses, but it was done through students' request. In fact, in the beginning of the quarter, McDowell was assigned to a roan-colored horse, which was her horse of choice, Kovach said, but McDowell did not feel comfortable with this horse and traded horses with another student. The mustang she received in the trade was the horse she was riding the day of the accident.

Kovach said that this incident wasn't McDowell's first fall. If someone had problems in class and felt uncomfortable riding, he added, they could easily stop coming.

The accident occurred when the class went on a group trail ride on campus grounds. "It was a Friday afternoon, we were talking and having a good time on the last day of school," Kovach said. "We were up by the sheep pasture when (her horse) spooked.

Since the riders were enjoying the ride, no one saw what spooked her horse. Kovach said. After the horse became frightened, it took off and ran toward a wire fence. The fence was made of six wire strands and temporary...
Bush administration maps strategy for researching global warming

WASHINGTON – Bush administration officials mapped out a strategy Tuesday for researching climate change and its causes over the next five years — studies that critics say are just a means to delay the toughest decisions on global warming until after President Bush leaves office.

The administration strategy calls for more accurate projections of the potential economic impacts of climate policy changes and gives the White House more control over the research efforts of more than a dozen federal agencies.

John H. Marburger III, the president’s science and technology advisor, said at the start of a three-day meeting of climate change experts that the White House hopes to refocus the 13-agencies.

Policy changes and gives the White House more control over the research efforts of more than a dozen federal agencies.

For many climate experts, the administration’s latest strategy reopens questions that most scientists consider already fairly settled. It also 

readies already fairly settled policies to federal assessment of the public education system, including: sweatshirts, tees, glassware, license plate frames, jackets, polos and more!

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By Andrea Svoboda

You were having a weak moment. You weren't thinking clearly. You thought he was the other Bob. Basically, you set yourself up for the date from hell.

So before you try to make up some excuse, why not try a new approach? Let's say you chose gravestone tracing, which can be found on page one of the guide. mean, what better way can you spend time with a person that you hardly know than in a graveyard?!! This setting gives you the perfect opportunity to fake some weird witch or unholy obsession.

Unfortunately the normal, exciting dates were outweighed by the 'who in their right mind would do that' dates.

The dating book suggests bringing binoculars and a field guide. Why not take it one step further by putting shoe polish on the eyepieces of your binoculars and a field guide. Why not try putting shoe polish on the eyepieces of your binoculars and a field guide.

Another interesting suggestion is studying the eating habits of the Bush Tit? Ask them to find and collect the bird's stool samples.

For added frustration, why not mix in a jigsaw puzzle? To the end of the night, you will feel like a failure andbeg to go home. Why not jigsaw puzzles? To the end of the night, you will feel like a failure and beg to go home.

The dating book suggests bringing binoculars and a field guide. Why not take it one step further by putting shoe polish on the eyepieces of your binoculars and a field guide? Then, ask him to find and collect the bird's stool samples that you will later examine in the lab. Use your imagination and he will be flying the coop in no time.

Another interesting suggestion is making an impression of your date's head, face, foot or any other body part and then fill it with plaster, chocolate or jell-O. Just imagine your date's jell-O mold face on a platter; it can't think of anything more disturbing. This date basically speaks for itself and will scare away even the most persistent suitor.

Maybe you don't want to scare your date, so how about boring him or her to death? Why not jigsaw puzzles? To ensure your own enjoyment, I suggest making a game of the event. Try tempting your date with dinner if you two finish the puzzle before a set time. Then, when your date visits the bathroom or gets a drink of water, secretly disassemble the pieces.

Among the suggestions for 'great dates': Making tie-dye and attending a planetarium or renaissance fair. Ooh please, can we?

Remember: The recommendations from "Great Dates" are for worst-case situations only. Overuse of these ideas might get you the reputation of being a sociopath. With that reputation, you never know whom you might attract.
Breaking up may not be so hard to do

C arpetbagger, that's all there is to it. The "get away from me" breakup: Several techniques can be evoked to portray the message that despite the fact you saw something in that person worthy of devoting your time to, you are just plain annoyed, or worse, repulsed, by that person. The creative. Use phrases like "afraid of commitment," "don't do well with intensity," and even "I just don't have time right now." Using the "closure" and "You ruined my life." The key to maintaining a friendship is complete honesty. Tell the truth; that's all there is to it.

Troubleshooter

The "Friendship" breakup: A sure-shot way to make post-breakup friendship impossible is to bust out the line "Can we be just friends?" Seriously, that phrase is so overused and cutesy with the connotation "I don't really like you anymore, but I don't want you to break out and make a scene." The key to maintaining a friendship is complete honesty. Tell the truth; that's all there is to it.

The "Booey call" breakup: This is perhaps the most delicate. You feel like the physical relationship is still there, but the emotional part is spent. The key is to promote the message that despite the fact you saw something in that person worthy of devoting your time to, you are just plain annoyed, or worse, repulsed, by that person. The creative. Use phrases like "afraid of commitment," "don't do well with intensity," and even "I just don't have time right now." Using the line that shows that ending the relationship is basically out of your control - but everyone has time to spend on getting some action, right?

The "I'm over it" breakup: After a few weeks or months you realize your significant other isn't the god or goddess that you once imagined and, although there is nothing wrong with him or her, you just don't want to be in the relationship anymore. Do not, repeat, do not use the aforementioned line "Can we just be friends?" Use it and you are dead in the water. Be more creative. Use phrases like "afraid of commitment," "don't do well with intensity" and "it's not you, it's me." By attributing the problem to yourself, you allow the person you break up with to blame you for the problems and give her or him an escape from feeling rejected.

While many more breakup techniques exist, the cardinal rules remain the same: Don't deliver the news by e-mail, voice mail, U.S. mail or any other means. You could always try the line "I think you're really hot, but by distancing yourself from the actual breakup, you may end up with a psychic who doesn't realize that the relationship is over and spews phrases like "closure" and "You ruined my life." Pretty scary thought, isn't it?

Bottom line - breakups are a part of life and they suck. But don't dance around the issue any longer than you have to. Decide what is best for you and do it. That's all there is to it.

Sara Howell is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily columnist.

Editor

Don't feel sorry for Greek community

Editor, The Greeks deserved it.

Justin Fraga is an electrical engineering senior.

Advantaged shouldn't be so quick to judge

Editor, I want to thank Lauren Chase for her article about third-strike crime violations. "All crimes not created equal." Dec. 21. I think that many of us do not appreciate all the advantages that we have had in our own lives. I want to stress that we do not understand why a person, knowing that they had committed two previous violations, would even consider stealing "Snow White" from K-Mart. I cannot understand what he was thinking, or why he was not thinking.

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

Attention: Your letter will not be printed unless you submit it in the correct format.
Africa. I left the table in emotional turmoil, practically incapacitated for the whole day feeling guilty for the benefits of our modern society. My roommate consulted her Animal Science 401, reproductive physiology lecture. It seems she noticed some sneaky little agents called pheromones, compounds released by the body and subconsciously detected by another organism. When detected, they cause behavioral and physiological reactions to occur. For example, a study showed that women wearing old shirts with their subconsciously detectable scent were found more attractive than women wearing clean shirts. I did a little research to see if pheromones had taken over other households.

Industrial technology senior Jonathan Friel lives with two other males and two females. Their house is considerably more hormonally balanced than ours, and they interact as a household only when necessary. They keep their pheromones in check. "I live with roommates that feel things should be done only when absolutely necessary," Friel said. "If there are no dishes to use or the smell from the sink is so horrific, then they load the dishwasher just a moment away from eating.

T he Internet, satellites and cell phones make more information available than any other time in history. As shown in the first paragraph, "Romeo and Juliet" does not convey the same message as "Our Town". A person who has heard the story about the tornado in Tucson and watched the news ticker at the library will be completely unaware of what happened. The question we ask is, why? When did we lose the ability to really understand and appreciate a situation? Are we so busy being hit with constant information that we have lost the ability to comprehend it all? What are the consequences of the constant flow of information?

Like the continuing battle between the East Coast and the West Coast as the best place to live, the answer depends on the individual. For most people, balancing fast food with vegetables and fruits is an easy task. The overweight individual who mistakenly believes fried food on a daily basis is healthy is the exception, not the rule. A small percentage of the population is dedicated to the rapid modern lifestyle, and success will be taken at a drive-thru (actually spelled through, a whole three letters longer in the dictionary).

The novel "The Red Tent," by Anita Diamant, shed further light on the phenomenon-influenced situation of my female house. Apparently, women of biblical times indulged, as we do, in parallel esteem cycles. The women of the novel worked hard through the month, then during the time of their period they would enter the red tent. Men were not allowed in the tent, and the women were brought food and water. This was their vacation together, as they sat and waited for the new moon.

If you do fall into it, maybe you need to reevaluate yourself and ask yourself why these stereotypes exist. There are reasons for stereotypes, but there are reasons nonetheless.

Rachel Brinkhoff is a landscape architecture senior. Offended Greeks should lighten up, recognize jokes.

Letters to the editor

In response to the sheep display and for the angry member of the Delta Chi Fraternity, all I have to say is "get over it." As a Latin female, I deal with stereotypes on a regular basis and you could possibly imagine — and not by choice. You chose to be a member of an organization, knowing full well of the stereotypes out there.

For one, apply the landscape architecture class for having the guts to make a statement and evoke jokes. If you do not fall into the stereotype, and if you do not fall into it then do not be offended; it was not aimed at you.

Sandy Munio is a journalism senior.

Democrats don't stand a chance

Editor, Considering I disagree with John Holn's political views in general, I am surprised that I agree with his column ("Why the Democrats will fail in 2004," Dec. 3). The 2004 presidential campaign will be filled with Democratic candidates that I have heard of only recently (John Kerry) or do not want to see running again (Al Gore). The likes of Gray Davis have tarnished the image of the Democratic party, and Tom Daschle and other Democratic leaders have been too soft on issues central to the Democratic platform.

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SUITE 2
continued from page 2
posts, Kovach said. Not seeing the fence, the horse ran directly into it, flipping over on top of McDowell.

"After the horse got up, he just stood there next to her," Kovach said. Gene Armstrong handled the situation really well and the group stayed with McDowell the entire time, Kovach said. The students helped McDowell's horse while they waited for help to arrive, he said. "Gene always yelled at me about having my phone on me during class," Kovach said. "But it was my phone that called 911."

Since the class was away from the main road, Armstrong's wife went to a more visible area to meet the paramedics, Kovach said.

Cal Poly police were the first to arrive at the scene, Kovach said. He said they all waited until after the paramedics left. Everyone was extremely conscientious; they even took care of McDowell's dog that was in the back of her truck, he said.

"The horse unit took her dog, put it in a stall and made sure it was safe and fed," Kovach said.

After the accident, Kovach said another student worked with McDowell's horse and that it gave her no problems.

According to the lawsuit, McDowell's full resided in a serious subdural hematoma, a collection of blood in the space between the outer layer and middle layers of the covering of the brain, and had to have emergency surgery performed to relieve pressure on her brain. She suffered from a bruised heart, and on March 5, 2002 she had a second surgery to have a protective plate installed in her skull.

The case is scheduled to go to court in April 2003.

CSU campuses near maximum enrollment

By Melissa Berlant
The Daily Aztec (San Diego State University)

(U-WIRE) SAN DIEGO - To control enrollment at campuses across the state, the California State University system created ceilings in 1972 to limit the number of full-time equivalent students. However, the ceilings are close to overflowing.

Current enrollment at each CSU campus is limited to 25,000 full-time equivalent students. FTES on campuses relate to the number of students whose credits make up 15 units. One student taking 15 units is an FTE or two students whose combined units equal 15 is an FTE.

The CSU Board of Trustees discussed the possibility of lifting the enrollment ceilings at its meeting in mid-November so that CSU schools can continue to grow. No decision was reached, and the trustees will take the issue up again in January.

Because of the current limits, campuses with enrollment approaching the ceiling have established programs such as campus impaction to make admissions more difficult.

While the total FTES enrolled at San Diego State rests at about 27,000, some of those students are at off-campus sites or programs. According to Ethan Singer, associate vice president for academic affairs, SDSU is just below the enrollment ceiling once the FTEs who are not on campus are subtracted.

The university does not expect to surpass the limit until 2004 or 2005. If SDSU is not allowed to enroll more than 25,000 FTES, and applications continue to increase, the percentage of new applicants admitted would have to decrease, Singer said.

He said the enrollment ceiling was an arbitrary number that the board of trustees picked at the time. The trustees are reviewing the limit now to see if it makes sense to keep the current maximum with the enrollment pressure that the CSU system is under.

"We think it's our responsibility to continue to grow beyond the 25,000," Singer said. "But how we do that, we haven't really come to grips with."

The university is aggressively trying to move some enrollment into the state-supported summer session and has plans to add more off-campus sites, Singer said. The university also would have to consider how much it could increase enrollment on the main campus.

"Obtaining more funding to allow campuses to grow is one of the most serious challenges of the CSU," the system's spokesperson, Clara Potes-Fellow, said. "One of the most important priorities for the CSU is providing access to students. That is a difficult challenge at a time when we experience budget cuts combined with increasing numbers of students who want to obtain higher education at the CSU."

While the state budget funded a system-wide increase of 15,000 students this year, 18,291 new students actually enrolled. Expanding campus size and programs also requires money.

"The CSU has to absorb the cost of the education of the students not funded," Potes-Fellow said. "That means smaller budgets for all departments and smaller compensation increases for faculty and staff."

Janet Tse, an undeclared sophomore, said she worries that increasing the amount of students enrolled may not swell funding from the state will damage the school.

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Cal Poly Lacrosse

Alumni war

Past and present Mustangs square off at annual three-game event
By William Reitz

A young blonde woman is wearing athletic shorts and a T-shirt running with a stick that has a small basket on the end of it. In the basket is a little yellow ball. There are other similarly clad women chasing her and cheering at her ankles with their own basket-sticks. This thumping looks painful, but does not even faze the woman as she runs.

There is an assortment of hallway and cheering as the woman is knocked off her feet. The ball springs free and is picked up in a stick-basket by another young woman, who then runs the opposite direction and the ankle-wacking continues.

This is how a lacrosse game may appear to somebody who has no familiarity with the sport.

But knowledge of the game was not necessary to enjoy the action when many Cal Poly lacrosse alumni, new and old, came to San Luis Obispo, put on their helmets and took to the field Nov. 23 for the 2002 Alumni Games. "For some of the players, it is their first chance at seeing an actual game," said Jill Marshall, kinesiology senior and current lacrosse player. These "exhibition games" launched the lacrosse teams' seasons while doubling as fund-raisers with the past players donating money to the current teams.

The alumni women played the current Cal Poly team and defending national champs for college club teams Saturday morning, followed by the alumni men that wanted to come and play. "Alumni weekend happens every year," said Brooke Manchester, 1999 Cal Poly graduate. "It is a lot of fun. It is a good practice for the current team and a nice reunion for the alumni." Manchester, who has been coaching lacrosse at Minneopa High School in the Bay Area for two years, said the focus for this year's alumni team was more social than anything.

"We were ahead 6-5 at halftime and then we just lost," said Heidi Salzburg, 1999 Cal Poly graduate and former lacrosse team member. "I don't even know what the final score was.

This was one of those times that winning wasn't everything and having fun, seeing old friends and carrying on tradition was.

"Alumni weekend happens every year," said Brooke Manchester, 1999 Cal Poly graduate. "It is a lot of fun. It is a good practice for the current team and a nice reunion for the alumni." Manchester, who has been coaching lacrosse at Minneopa High School in the Bay Area for two years, said the focus for this year's alumni team was more social than anything.

"While more college players are turning the ball over 25 times. The Mustangs are averaging 24.3 turnovers a game. Sacramento State committed 28 turnovers, made just 31 percent of their floor shots and was outrebounded 49-36 by the Mustangs. In Karl Supernov's eight rebounds for Cal Poly and Journey grabbed seven.

The Mustangs, who led 38-24 at halftime, made 37 percent of their floor shots. Cal Poly remains in Northern California for another non-conference game Wednesday against Portland State.

Cal Poly guard Anetero Uiagalelei chipped in with nine points off the bench in the Mustangs' 60-49 dismantling of Sacramento State.

Mustangs hand Sac State 40th loss in a row

Henke pours in 15 points in 60-49 road win

Henke pours in 15 points in 60-49 road win

Cal Poly alumna Suzanna Loeffler (left), a former two-time All American, heads to the goal during the 2002 Cal Poly Alumni Game.

Cal Poly Women's Basketball

Cal Poly guard Anetero Uiagalelei chipped in with nine points off the bench in the Mustangs' 60-49 dismantling of Sacramento State.

By the numbers

Cal Poly fall sports teams that made it to the NCAA tournament. Both the women's soccer and volleyball teams advanced to 64-team Division I playoffs.

More game that the men's basketball team will be without trans- lation. Shane Schilling and Diaby Kamara.

TRIVIA

Submit answers to: ijeckso@calpoly.edu

By William Reitz

SACRAMENTO — Losses for the Sacramento State women's basketball team are becoming as certain as death and taxes.

Cal Poly was the latest beneficiary of the woeful Hornets, who dropped their 40th consecutive game.

Sophomore guard Michelle Henke scored 15 points to lead Cal Poly to a 60-49 victory over Sacramento State in a non-conference game Monday night in Hornet Gym.

Anetero Uiagalelei came off the bench to add nine points while Heather Jonnies, Heidi Wesstrom and Holly Richards each scored eight points as the Mustangs (2-2) handed the Hornets their 40th consecutive defeat over three seasons. Sarah Craig scored 18 points for Sacramento State (0-3) and Dolores Olivares added 13 points.

Cal Poly won despite turning the ball over 25 times. The Mustangs are averaging 24.3 turnovers a game. Sacramento State committed 28 turnovers, made just 31 percent of their floor shots and was outrebounded 49-36 by the Mustangs. In Karl Supernov's eight rebounds for Cal Poly and Journey grabbed seven.

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