Alum designs private spacecraft

By Luke Darling

Two Cal Poly graduates have developed a privately funded launch system and, if test flights prove successful, the spacecraft called SpaceShipOne will be part of the first privately manned space program.

The program is the brainchild of Scaled designer Burt Rutan. A lead designer, Rutan graduated from Cal Poly in 1965. Peter Siebold, a systems engineer and pilot for the Scaled program, graduated in 2001.

The private space program is a huge leap forward in the aerospace industry for two main reasons. First, the program was developed outside of the government spectrum, so all costs had to be privately funded by an anonymous donor. Second, SpaceShipOne is launched into the upper atmosphere by a jet, not rocket propulsion.

The futuristic jet — known as White Knight — soars to 50,000 feet and then deploys SpaceShipOne, which takes off on a steep climb to the upper and outer atmosphere. Total costs for the project are expected to reach $20-30 million.

SpaceShipOne is to be part of the first privately funded launch system and, if test flights prove successful, the spacecraft called White Knight will be part of the first privately manned space program.

Peter Siebold, who graduated from Cal Poly in 2001, is a Scaled pilot and systems engineer. Rutan recruited Siebold on a field trip he took as a teacher's aide with a group of aeronautical engineering students to the Scaled program.

Within the next few days, Siebold accepted a full-time position and after five years with Scaled and Rutan, Siebold returned to Cal Poly to finish his academic career.

Rutan said, "Our idea is to create entrepreneurs in the industry and Burt Rutan along with the help of Peter Siebold are the epitome of that goal.

One of the innovative qualities of SpaceShipOne is that the stability of the craft is built into the design, Biezad said.

"It depends on creativity and vision to see the right problem at the right time, and that is what Rutan has done," Biezad said. "Our idea is to create entrepreneurs in the industry and Burt Rutan along with the help of Peter Siebold are the epitome of that goal.

"One of the innovative qualities of SpaceShipOne is that the stability of the craft is built into the design, Biezad said. This means that upon re-entry into the atmosphere, if a pilot makes a mistake the craft can adjust itself to the right flight path or angle.

"It can ascend through the atmosphere and actually floats down upon re-entry, because the craft is naturally stable at subsonic and supersonic speeds," Biezad said.

Poly summer school funds to be cut

By Devin Kingdon

One in four. That's the ratio by which classes will be cut for the upcoming summer school session due to the current statewide budget crisis.

"The budget crisis in California has caused us to have to make unfortunate cuts," said Paul Zingg, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. "There will be about a 25 percent cut across the board to programs that traditionally offer summer courses; we will not be singling out any one major.

Summer, 401 classes will be offered, compared to 532 last summer.

Cal Poly plans on cutting around $4.5 million out of its $195.8 million general fund budget.

"Nobody is happy with the situation," Zingg said. "But I think people understand why it has to be done.

But some are not pleased with the situation and how it is being handled, including California Faculty Association representative president and history professor Dr. Mazar Foroohar.

"It (deprives) get reports from different administrators, but we are not really in the loop," Foroohar said. "We have not been part of the budget process, despite being in a good position to help mediate money allocations at the university. We understand we are living with a budget crisis, but the faculty should be allowed more involvement. It is not a positive situation at the university."

Some students are also concerned about the summer class reductions.

"I think I can speak for the entire student body when I say this sucks," statistics junior Beau Corkins said. "I was planning on taking a specific upper-division English class but it's no longer being offered this summer. Now I will have to find something else.

Over the past few years, Zingg said the university has been building summer attendance in hopes of graduate students' future.

"It's ironic," said College of Liberal Arts Dean Harry Hellenbrand. "The summer session has been growing consistently since the 1998-99 year.

see SUMMER, page 7

Brushing shoulders with the community

By Caitlin O'Farrell

Love thy neighbor.

The age-old adage may help students and community members relate with the continuing rise of the student population encroaching on the San Luis Obispo community.

City residents want Cal Poly students to take consideration of the community and be good neighbors and they will receive the same treatment in return, instead of a visit from the San Luis Obispo Police Department.

Some students make great neighbors while others aren't so good, said Lola Washburn, who lives on Slack Street, a predominantly student-dominated neighborhood. She has lived adjacent to Cal Poly's campus for almost 50 years.

While Washburn said she doesn't mind the sometimes loud and raucous parties her neighbor throws, her housemate, Stephen Yerger, is bothered by them.

"I work until 2 a.m. and that is when they come home from the bar and get wild," Yerger said. "They sometimes keep me up well past four.

The biggest complaint Washburn and Yerger had was the trash and debri left from parties or just from a typical night of drunken debauchery on Slack Street.

"If the students could just pick up their beer cans, cups and cigarettes, then the neighborhood would be a much more pleasant place," Yerger said.

Overall, Yerger and Washburn said they are willing to put up with a
Got Punk?

Veteran punk band plays UU Hour

By Allison Terry

Asian and Pacific Islander clubs on campus will shed light on diversity issues at Cal Poly by sharing their culture with the university.

To kick off Asian Awareness Month, the ninth-annual Lantern Festival will be held on Saturday in the University Union Plaza from 5 to 9 p.m.

"The Lantern Festival is traditionally celebrated in the Chinese and Vietnamese cultures to honor the beauty of the moon," said Tiffany Mino, festival co-chair and graphic communications sophomore.

"We want people to learn who we are and how we present our cultures," said Jill Hopkins, who joined her family and friends on the Lawn to set up a booth for the festival.

"It's a good opportunity to learn about other cultures and experience things that you wouldn't normally see," said Hopkins.

Sponsored by Chi Delta Theta sorority, Associated Students Inc. and the Multicultural Center, the festival is oriented to spread awareness about the heritage and diversity of Asian cultures.

"There's a big diversity issue on this campus," said Holly Phan, festival co-chair and business junior. "This is an opportunity for students to learn about Asian culture and take them into the university perspective.

Red and yellow lanterns, lights and balloons will illustrate this year's theme, "Illuminations." Red is a lucky color in the Chinese culture.

"We want people to learn who we are and how we present our cultures," said Jill Hopkins, who joined her family and friends on the Lawn to set up a booth for the festival.

Jill Hopkins and her family have lived on McCollum Street, a few blocks from campus, for nine years. She has seen her share of good and bad neighbors over the years.

"All in all, they are dependable and work hard," Yerger said. "It is too bad we can't have more neighbors like that."

Besides, she said being around the silly senior fraternity that got pretty out of hand makes her laugh.

"We've developed a sense of community. That is what I like about Cal Poly," Hopkins said.

The neighborhood goes in cycles. "The area has become quieter since the city passed a parking permit ordinance because it keeps people from parking overnight or leaving their cars and walking to school. The university has also helped the community by clamping down on some of the social aspects of Cal Poly, including fraternities, sorority and sports team parties," Hopkins said.

One night I heard one of the boys in the other unit yelling to a young lady how much he loved her and I thought, 'Ahhhh to be young again,'" Washburn said.

Phan said. More than 15 different Asian clubs and organizations will sell cultural food and drinks.

"The food is quality home cooking, including egg rolls, sushi and all sorts of other cultural dishes," Phan said.

The festival will also showcase live performances by Common Theory and Makanakes. Other performances include a traditional Chinese lion dance, Polynesian dancing, martial arts demonstrations, Filipino and Indian cultural dances, modern hip-hop dance routines and a karaoke contest.

"The festival will entertain people with traditional as well as modern performances, displaying our informative Asian mini-museum, moldling traditional outfits and selling authentic dishes," Mino said.

Last year, the festival drew a crowd of approximately 300 students and community members. This year the festival falls on the same weekend as the Wildflower triathlon, but Phan said she still hopes for a large crowd.

Admission is free and open to all students, faculty, and community members.

For a full event schedule and details about each event, go to the Multicultural Center.

Cal Poly's Lantern Festival lights up campus

By Allison Terry

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President on board aircraft carrier says "difficult work" remains in Iraq

ABOARD THE USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN — President George W. Bush said an aircraft carrier steaming home from war, said Thursday night "the United States and our allies have prevailed" against Saddam Hussein and will confront any nation tied to terrorists.

"Major combat operations in Iraq have ended," Bush said from the deck of the USS Abraham Lincoln, which launched thousands of missiles on Iraq.

Bush flew to the carrier on a Navy jet and made a sweeping stop in his plane was snagged by a cable because that regime is no more."

Bush said that "none of the students admitted any wrongdoing under the settlement dis-

It's difficult work," President Bush said in a statement released Thursday. "But we'll have to wait until he gets out of jail — where he's awaiting trial on misdemeanor loitering charges — before he can spend it.

McSherry remained in jail Thursday in lieu of $250,000 bail. He faces a May 5 trial on five counts of misdemeanor loitering at elementary schools. McSherry has pleaded innocent. If convicted, he faces two years in jail.

McSherry, 53, has filed a federal lawsuit against the state of California after DNA exonerated him and he was released from prison in 2001 in the 1989 rape of a 6-year-old girl.

McSherry spoke for less than two hours — brief for the 76-year-old president. He said U.S. officials "provoked and encouraged" attacks like the recent hijackings of Cuban planes and boats.

There was no immediate response from the U.S. State Department. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said recently that there are no plans for military action against Cuba.

Rescuers dig to free dozens of children trapped in collapsed dormitory after earthquake

CELTIKCI YUZ, Turkey —

Listening for small voices, rescuers early Friday searched for dozens of children buried in the rubble of their dormitory after an earthquake struck southeastern Turkey. At least 100 people were killed and 1,000 injured.

Search teams working all day Thursday and into the early hours Friday were in contact with four of the children, state-owned TRT television reported from the scene. But there was little sign of 80 other children trapped in the collapsed four-story building.

The 198 students in the dorm, ages 7 to 16, were asleep when the earthquake occurred after a night of heavy rain.

Steel bunk beds and steel closets helped hold up some of the walls of the school, saving many lives, rescuers said.

The quake was centered just outside Bingol, a city of 250,000 in a largely rural area mostly inhabited by Kurds. The school was intended for the children of poor farmers from villages that have no schools.

Blair cancels Northern Ireland elections, awaits clear-cut IRA peace commitments

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Friday canceled Northern Ireland's elec-

Tuesday, saying deepening division among Catholics and Protestant voters threatened to bring "complete and total chaos."

Blair said he planned to move the May 29 election for Northern Ireland's dissolved legislature to the autumn. But he warned the vote could be delayed longer if the outlawed Irish Republican Army doesn't explicitly renounce violence, cease all hostile activities and disarm.

"Gaining such an IRA commitment "goes to the very soul of the Good Friday agreement," he said, referring to the 1998 pact that pro-

Northern Ireland legislators in 1999 overcame deep Protestant divisions to form a four-party admin-

The County of Santa Barbara is an Equal Opportunity employer.
How to deal with a ‘teethy’ situation

Dear Miss Mind Over Manners,

I am graduating in June and so are many of my friends at other universities. I was invited to a number of ceremonies but I can not attend. What is the appropriate response? Should I send a card, a present, what?

Sincerely,
Lost in Space

Dear Lost in Space,

The first thing you need to do is to let your friend know you won’t be attending. Chances are, a formal invitation was sent to your house. A formal regret letter could be sent, but you might prefer to have a conversation to be more personal. Just don’t do the, “Hey dude, I can’t make it to your party” in the halls on campus. He or she might interpret that as you not caring.

If you happen to be the one with the problem, don’t pick your teeth at the dinner table. According to "Emily Post’s Etiquette For Pregnancy," Post, you should excuse yourself and go to the restroom. Once there, you can locate and remove the accouterments.

Sincerely,
Uncouth in the Tooth

Dear Uncouth in the Tooth,

What if you like food in your teeth? You know, to save it for later? Just kidding. I agree, commons, clinking of fingering food are no laughing matter, especially when they cause you to become the joke. So when you spot a tagalong, simply tell the person. By not mentioning it, you deal with the problem in a passive way and the person might not even notice it. Going home after a long day and seeing that part of lunch is still with him or her would be far more embarrassing than being told to fix the situation.

But was he doing anything wrong? After all, marriage is simply a legal contract, but not everyone can get the title.

Besides the obvious benefits of professing love to your partner, there are other benefits for a couple. Legally, a married couple is entitled to much more in the eyes of the court. Married couples have separate income tax returns with the IRS. Also, partners can receive health benefits through the other’s work. Not to mention that if one partner is sick or in debt with a major family crisis, the other can ask for paid time off work. At the time of a death, a married couple is deemed entitled to dispose of the body of their partner and to take care of last-minute arrangements.

All these benefits are reserved only for couples that are legally married. This does not really seem fair.

When two people come together in the name of love and want to spend the rest of their lives together, what right does anyone have to tell them that they shouldn’t? Every person should have the right to the same benefits if they are willing to make that same commitment to spend the rest of their lives together.

Every person is supposedly "equal" in the eyes of the court, so it seems unfair that when two people, regardless of sexual orientation, decide to get married, they can’t share the same benefits as those that are legally married.

It doesn’t seem fair.

Sincerely,
Miss Mind Over Manners

Mind Over Manners

Dear Miss Mind Over Manners,

Imagine living with the same person — your partner — for 10 years. It has been three decades of love, support and the best relationship you could ever imagine. Tragically, one day your partner dies in a car accident.

However, when you try to take care of the arrangements afterward or get any benefits, you are denied. Unlike heterosexual couples, gay couples do not receive the same privileges.

The Presbyterian Church allows ministers to bless same-sex couples, but not marry them. However, Rev. Stephen Van Kuiken, pastor of Mount Auburn Presbyterian Church in Cleveland, was refused for performing a same-sex marriage.

But was he doing anything wrong? After all, marriage is simply a legal contract, but not everyone can get the title.

Besides the obvious benefits of professing love to your partner in front of everyone, marriage holds many benefits for a couple. Legally, a married couple is entitled to much more in the eyes of the court. Married couples have separate income tax returns with the IRS. Also, partners can receive health benefits through the other’s work. Not to mention that if one partner is sick or in debt with a major family crisis, the other can ask for paid time off work. At the time of a death, a married couple is deemed entitled to dispose of the body of their partner and to take care of last-minute arrangements.

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EDITORIAL (805) 756-1796
ADVERTISING (805) 756-1143
FAX (805) 756-6784

mustangdaily@calpoly.edu

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Stephen Common, editor in chief
Melissa Spencer managing editor
Andrea Calhoun news editor
Teresa Allen, specialty editor
Dena Horton opinion editor
Steve Hill arts & culture editor
Donna Jackson sports editor
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"From the back it’s a woman’s ballet, but from the front it’s a man’s."
Tonight
Mother's Tavern
4:30 Band • 9:30 p.m. • $5 • 21+
2 Dogs Coffee House
6-9 p.m.
Limnae's Café
Seth Haran • 8:30 p.m.
Z-Club
Music Mix • $1 Bad Light • Pole Dancing • 21+
The Grad
The Big Chill • $4 • 21+
Frog & Peach
DJ Juxtapose • 21+
Gigi's
Live Jazz • 9 p.m.
Mr. Rick's Beach Bar
Friction Addiction (Rock) • 9 p.m. • 21+
SLO Brew
BUMP! (Even Louder!) • 21+

Saturday
Mother's Tavern
Saloon • 9:30 p.m. • $5 • 21+
2 Dogs Coffee House
Shovel (Reggae) • 3:30 p.m. • 21+
Gigi's
Live Jazz • 9 p.m.
Mr. Rick's Beach Bar
Friction Addiction (Rock) • 9 p.m. • 21+
SLO Brew
BUMP! (Even Louder!) • 21+

Sunday
Mother's Tavern
Kazoo • 8 p.m. • 21+
Mr. Rick's Beach Bar
Social (Reggae) • 3:30 p.m. • 21+
SLO Brew
Kris-One • 8 p.m. • Advance Tickets Available • 21+

Monday
Mr. Rick's Beach Bar
Happy Hour 4-7 p.m. • $2 Beer, $3 Well
Mother's Tavern
Kazoo • 8 p.m. • 21+
SLO Brew
Electronics Dance Party • 18+

Tuesdays
Mother's Tavern
80's Night • 9:30 p.m. • 21+
The Grad
Comedy Night • $4, 21+ • $7, 18+
2 Dogs Coffee House
Open Mic Night • 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday
Mother's Tavern
Disco Funk • 9:30 p.m. • 21+
SLO Brew
College Dance Night • 18+
Z-Club
Lil' Kats • $2 Kamikaze
The Grad
College Hump Night • $4, 21+ • $7, 18+
Gigi's
Live Jazz • 9 p.m.
Backstage Pizza
Feet (Contemporary Rock) • 6 p.m.

Thursday
The Grad
Country Night • $4, 21+ • $7, 18+
Gigi's
Jazz Night • 9 p.m.
SLO Brew
Hip Hop DJ • $5 • 21+
Mother's Tavern
Hip Hop DJ • 9:30 p.m. • 21+
Z-Club
Music Mix • $5 Dance • 21+
Bon Temps
Live Bands and Crawdads Bait
Limnae's Café
Just Jazz • 9 p.m.
2 Dogs Coffee House
Larry O. Davis (Acoustic) • 8 p.m.
Friday, May 2, 2003

REALITY
continued from page 5

a refreshing vocal work in which Madonna sings the same song at two different octaves simultaneously. The vocals are then overlaid in a simple purer part. The result is Madonna essentially harmonizing with herself. It's another sparkling and quality use of the "Another Day." 

"X-Static Power" stands in contrast to "Mother and Father," an obvious techno-dance song that is tentatively dated as the next single. "Mother and Father" drives into Madonna's childhood, but still cannot muster any real feeling, as the musical beat is tedious.

The final track, "Easy Ride," is among the best on the album, keeping the music relatively simple. An electronic drum beat and some structural effects are incorporated, but Madonna's voice is central to the song, which proves catchy and entrancing.

Overall, the album is inconsistent, but occasionally brilliant. Madonna's new social conscience is admirable and difficult career decision that may eventually prove detrimental.

KRS-ONE
continued from page 4

A self-proclaimed "conscious rapper" has publicly apologized for his lyrical content: "I don't want no lies / I don't watch TV," which promotes hip-hop as a way to establish health, love, awareness and wealth. Madonna's lyrical content, but those in which the music relatively simple. An electronic drum beat and some structural effects are incorporated, but Madonna's voice is central to the song, which proves catchy and entrancing. Overall, the album is inconsistent, but occasionally brilliant. Madonna's new social conscience is admirable and difficult career decision that may eventually prove detrimental.

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**SUMMER**

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and now we’re going to have to start reducing those numbers again.”

The decision of what classes get cut will be left to each individual department, Hellenbrand said, to cut classes that might be redundant. Classes that were paid for by the student-based fees will not be cut, according to Hellenbrand.

CLA will probably have around 35 percent fewer classes, but Hellenbrand said that number could end up smaller.

“We have to play it by ear,” Hellenbrand said. “We scheduled classes almost six weeks ago, way before the budget from the governor came out. We were told to cut at least 7 to 8 percent across the board. It’s hard to anticipate these kinds of things.”

Governor Gray Davis is scheduled to finalize his budget by May 24, after which time it would still need approval from the state legislature.

Students that are dependent on financial aid for college will especially hard due to budget concerns.

The budget crisis will also be affecting student financial aid for the summer quarter.

“We don’t have enough (of the State University Grant) left over,” said financial aid director John Anderson. “In the past, we were able to offer SLG funds during the summer, but because of the 10 percent student fee increase this year and student fees will go up 25 percent next year, we just couldn’t do it.”

Last summer, 1,434 students were on financial aid and received more than $3 million from the SLG. State funds and the Pell Grant. SLG contributed about $12,000 to that total.

The SLG fund, which last year totaled around $166 million, is split between all the California State Universities, depending on how many financially strapped students they have.

“We file a report each year during the fall and spring and with the CSU’s Annual Report,” Anderson of classes that might be redundant.

“We use a formula to divvy up the money, and they have told us that they will be adding more to compensate for future fee increases.”

Cal Poly receives more than $4.4 million from the SLG for the year, while in comparison CSU Northridge receives around $15 million and smaller schools like CSU Stanislaus receive about $3.6 million. “I think it’s ridiculous,” said industrial technology senior Beth Parker. “I can understand raising tuition because I’m a resident but the same, but not this time. They tell me I qualify for financial aid, but because of budget problems I can’t get that money. It isn’t like I’m going on a shopping spree with it; I need it for school.”

Parker was hoping to take 16 to 20 units this summer, but was rejected because of office because of the budget crisis.

“I don’t know if I’ll be doing summer school at Cal Poly,” Parker said. “I can’t afford it without aid and to not be on campus is offering one IT class this summer.”

Summer is the last term of the year for the Financial Aid Office and also last on the priority list for funding.

“We have to make sure students attending during the other three quarters get the money they need,” Anderson said. “Usually we have enough money for summer students in the fund, but we don’t this year and we’re going to make sure they have enough for students coming back for the Fall 2003 quarter.”

The Financial Aid Office is unsure of how many students will be applying for financial aid this summer, and the office is therefore hesitant to give out money that they might not have. Numbers for how much money will be given and how many students will receive it won’t be available until at least June, Anderson said.

“A 20% cut to student aid either decide early that they want to take summer school and then drop out or they’ll sign up at the last minute,” Anderson said. “The budget crisis and the cut of classes could result in fewer students this summer.”

Zing was also unsure how the reduction in classes would affect enrollment.

“It’s hard to say,” Zing said. “For example there could be a chance students might be combined into two classes with 30 students, which wouldn’t reduce the number of seats. There might be some decline in enrollment, but courses that were cut might have bad others that were the same. Students are clever enough, if they really need a class they’ll Be able to find it somewhere else, be it another CSU, a community college or online.”

When dealing with the smaller budget, officials are also taking expected fee increases for next fall into consideration.

“More cuts are expected next year,” Hellenbrand said. “If there aren’t any cuts made now, it will only get worse.”

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**PORNS**

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(RUP) add the text the "The University neither approves nor tolerates the personal viewing of sexually explicit or offensive materials by its users of State supplied computing resources."

“If the resolution passes, (students) would not be able to download pornography for their own personal entertainment with state computing equipment,” Vanasupa said. “They are free to pay for their own Internet Service Provider and download whatever they like.”

“I have many students that are using computing resource users will be subject to penalty enforcement by the appropri­ate state agency if caught or reported using their computer to view "sexual­ly explicit or offensive materials.""

“Any activity that is illegal under local laws is punishable by local penalties,” Zing said. “The exact action would depend on the gravity of the offense.”

According to Cal Poly’s current RUP, first offenses and minor infractions are generally resolved informal­ly by the entity responsible for the resources. However, repeat offenses and serious incidents can result in loss of computing privileges, suspension from the university or dismissal.

Vanasupa likened the antipornography policy to Cal Poly’s current dry campus policy.

“Not one stops any of the thousands of people on campus each day to search for pornography,” Vanasupa wrote on her website. “Individuals do not bring it to campus because they are aware of the policy and they police themselves.”

Students have mixed reactions to Vanasupa’s proposed resolution.

“The (resolution) doesn’t seem relevant to me and against our whole country,” general engineering freshman Anita Compton said. “If people want to view pornography they will anyway. We are all adults here.”

History senior Kyle Wagner disagree­ed.

“My opinion is that pornography could offend people walking by, so it isn’t just affecting the viewers,”

Wagner said. “I think (Vanasupa’s) taking the right steps.”

Although many students don’t think potential penalties for violators of this new policy will be severe enough to stop them, they agreed the resolution would send a positive message.

“People usually wouldn’t be ok, because if you are looking at pornog­raphy at work you deserve a little slap on the wrist.”

“I would not do it if I were in the position of professors. The profes­sors that are teaching on campus usually does not disturb to students than the possi­bility of residents viewing pornography in the off-campus hours."

“I don’t think it’s appropriate for professors to view pornography at school.” Wagner said. “They should take that time to practice their lectures.”

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**NEIGHBOR 2**

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During the day.

“As neighbors, students can be good or bad,” Phillips said. “When they are 18 to 19 year olds they don’t know as many people, so the parties stay mellow, but as the years go on and they meet more people the parties tend to get out of control.”

After a while, Phillips stopped asking politely for her neighbors to quiet down and wrap up their par­ties. Instead, she began to get lists of responses from students. Her neigh­bors would get attitudes and in their drinking state would say extremely disrespectful and insulting things.

“Instead of going to them, I started informing the property manage­ment company, who would then inform the police,” Phillips said. “I told them when they get times of up to $600, but it go to a point where they would no longer listen..."
By Graham Woman
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

It was snowing, Garrett Olson had a no-hitter going and he was upset. Still relatively new to starting rotation, the freshman southpaw was having problems with control March 28 against Cal Poly, and wound up with the road series against Southern Utah.

“I just wasn’t hitting my spots,” Olson says. “I didn’t know where the ball was going to go. I had a lot of high pitch counts.”

Olson ultimately walked three people in 7 1/3 scoreless innings, and did not know he had a no-hitter going when he left the game. Still, reliever Tony Saipe came in and finished what Olson had started.

The on-field and Southern Utah’s quiet offense may have had something to do with it, but Cal Poly wound up with its first no-hitter in more than 30 years — and Garrett Olson gets lucky.

“Fortunately for me and Saipe,” Olson said, “it wound up being a pretty good outing.”

He wound up being a pretty good outing. In his first season, Olson is 5-2, with a starting-rotation-best 3.61 ERA in 14 games, including eight starts.

Olson wasn’t immediately enamored though with the South Utah outing. He values control foremost over strikeouts, as he looks up to Major League pitchers like New York Mets Tom Glavine, Atlanta Brave Greg Maddux, Arizona Diamondhack Randy Johnson and Oakland Athletic Barry Zito.

“I basically look at control artists,” he said. “I just love how they don’t rely on speed necessarily to get outs, but mostly on location and starting the plate.”

A 2002 graduate of Buchanan High School, Olson grew up near Fresno. He learned to pitch from former minor leaguer John Salles, who first tutored him when he was 11.

“He taught me control and that hitting your spots was more important than velocity,” Olson says.

Olson joined Cal Poly on scholarship this season, after a vaunted high school career. Nevertheless, he said he didn’t expect to start this week.

He started off in the bullpen, but pitched well in several relief stints, notably against Loyola Marymount Feb. 23, where he picked up his first win.

“arly outings just started getting longer and longer,” Olson said.

Throughout, Olson has dealt with a variety of problems. For one thing, he came in injured from the summer with problems in his forearm flexure, due to under-developed extensors. He has also found it a big challenge adjusting to workouts and lifestyle, in his words, “finding my own routine.”

Additionally, he only had a game-ready curveball and a fastball at the start of the year.

“Coming in, I didn’t have a good grip,” Olson said. “Basically, I didn’t know how to throw a changeup. This whole year, I’ve been trying to get it up to game speed.”

He has worked with assistant coach Jerry Weinstein and pitcher Chris Spencer, among others, to harness the pitch. According to Weinstein, who coaches the pitchers and catchers, Olson still throws his breaking ball too hard in games for it to contrast his other pitches, although he uses the pitch well in practice.

“It’s a more true thing — a control guy — can do it in the bullpen,” Weinstein said.

“When he gets to the point that he can throw his changeup with the same command of his curve and fastball, he’ll be a dominant pitcher. It hasn’t been a perfect season, definitely. Olson has suffered losses in back-to-back weekends against stiffer competition. He took his first loss April 20, giving up three runs in seven innings against No. 9 Long Beach State.

Nevertheless, Olson has an outstanding mental game, said catcher Cory Taillon.

“He keeps the mindset whether he strikes out the side or gives up a three-run bomb,” Taillon says.

For his part, Olson credits Taillon for helping keep him in line.

“If I’m in trouble,” Olson said, “he likes to come out there, tell me to relax and have fun.”

While Olson idolizes control artists like Zito and Glavine, Weinstein sees the potential for him to become more of a power pitcher.

“This kid,” Weinsteim said, “if he keeps growing, he has the chance to be something special.”

Cal Poly’s Garrett Olson

Cal Poly’s Garrett Olson has had a tremendous start to his college career. The six foot, 190-pound Buchanan High School product leads the Mustangs in wins (five) and ERA (3.61). Despite joining the rotation midseason, Olson has become a workhorse and is second on the team in innings pitched (62 1/3). He teamed with reliever Tony Saipe to record Cal Poly’s first no-hitter in over 30 years earlier this season against Southern Utah.

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