Board votes on more fee hikes

The mid-July decision may raise fees up to 30 percent, reduce more than 1,000 personnel

By Micah Paulson
SUMMER MUSTANG STAFF WRITER

Cal Poly students will experience the affects of California’s financial condition if the California State University Board of Trustees decides on a fee increase of up to 30 percent, and personnel reductions that could number more than 1,000.

The proposed increase would mean an additional $157 per quarter for undergraduate students and will be decided by the board July 15 and 16, said Larry Kelley, Cal Poly’s vice president of administration and finance.

The 15-member board — consisting of Gov. Gray Davis, the speaker of the state legislature and community leaders — will decide whether to eliminate up to 486 faculty and 583 more than 1,000 personnel reductions that could number more than 1,000.

The fees are being raised to pay back money California borrowed to take care of the financial crises. The loans will be paid off over the next five years, making it a quick recovery improbable, Kelley said.

Cal Poly will try to provide enough classes to meet student needs and direct budget reductions to other areas, Kelley said.

Leigh Love, agriculture business senior, was a part of Associated Students Inc. last year and said an additional fee increase was implemented and said the problem is not just the ability to service a large number of classes.

“How students are to adjust to higher fees is the central issue,” Love said. “It is unclear just what money is being used to help the students find the money they need.”

The governor’s budget originally called for a 25 percent fee increase for undergraduate students and a 20 percent increase for graduate students, Charles R. Reed, CSU chancellor, has recommended it be raised to 30 percent for both groups after learning from the legislature that the budget would not be sufficient, Potes-Fellow said.

If the extra fees are adopted it will add an extra $69.5 million to the see BUDGET, page 2

Architecture prof receives Rome Prize

By Genevieve Fusell
SUMMER MUSTANG STAFF WRITER

The ancient streets and meandering green hills of Rome will provide a unique working environment for Joseph Ragdale, a member of Cal Poly’s landscape architecture faculty and winner of the distinguished Rome Prize.

The award is given by the American Academy in Rome and signifies achievement in the arts and humanities. Ragdale is one of 11 winners of the 107th annual Rome Prize Competition. He will reside and work in the capital for an 11-month fellowship, which begins this fall.

His proposal, entitled “Source and Surface,” caught the attention of the academy. “I was blown away,” Ragdale said. “It’s amazing to me to think being there and having this incredible opportunity. It’s so humbling.”

After submitting his proposal last fall, Ragdale flew to New York for a follow up interview, an invitation that truly “flabbergasted” him. The subsequent announcement of the winner with another shocked Ragdale, who is only now realizing the magnitude of his achievement.

The American Academy was established in 1894 to provide an opportunity for American scholars and artists to pursue independent study in a field of their choice. Previous winners have run the gamut from architects and writers to composers and preservationists.

Ragdale, who has never been to Rome, will live in the city with fellow awarders at the American Academy’s 11-acre complex on Rome’s highest hill. He is looking forward to “soaking it in the surface materials that make up the city and the sources of these materials, including surrounding rock quarries. He anticipates studying how depleted landscapes can be regenerated by analyzing Rome and its surrounding landscape, which is the city and the sources of these areas,” he said.

By Cathy Ayers
SUMMER MUSTANG STAFF WRITER

Cal Poly’s College of Agriculture is joining with Mission Produce to offer students another opportunity to learn by doing.

A new avocado orchard on campus will allow students to learn about avocado operation and marketing on a commercial level.

The 50-acre orchard, which will consist of 6,800 avocado trees, is located on both sides of Stemmer Creek, above the campus vineyard.

Workers began planting last week, said Mark Shelton, associate dean for the College of Agriculture.

“It is a great opportunity for our students to learn about the avocado industry and is a benefit to both sides,” he said.

Cal Poly will grow the land and water for the orchard, while Mission Produce is providing orchard management and harvesting crews, as well as irrigation and orchard-care systems.

Chris Roads, a Cal Poly alumnus, see ORCHARD, page 7

possible cuts could kill Poly’s AmeriCorps

By Susan Malanche
MUSTANG STAFF WRITER

Cal Poly’s chapter of AmeriCorps, a national community service organization, may come to a halt next year after it takes a cut in funding and member enrollment.

The United States Congress made an allocation to the National Corporation of Service that runs a number of programs. Their internal budget limits AmeriCorps money due to over-enrollment, said Stephan Lamb, co-director of Cal Poly’s AmeriCorps program.

Congress had dedicated enough money for 50,000 member positions but the over enrollment of 52,000 last year caused a deficit in the organization’s budget. Lamb said. The organization’s proposed solution is to cut volunteers for next year until they can stabilize.

“If these cuts go through there will be no AmeriCorps in the county,” Lamb said.

The established programs that are helping so many agencies will be wiped out.”
Summer Mustang

News

BUDGET
continued from page 1
$20.7 million reduction in the gov­
ernor’s budget.
Reed also asked the CSU campus
presidents to implement a contin­
uency plan to close the remaining
financial gap by lowering enrollment
growth by two percent. Since Cal
Poly has already enrolled students for
the fall the reductions would most
likely take place in winter or spring of
2004.

AMERICORPS
continued from page 1
ships with these agencies. Internships,
student assistants and Student
Community Services volunteers are
some ways to continue helping the
agencies, Lamb said.
“AMERICORPS has been able to help
a number of non-profits grow and sustain
their programs and now that help is
gone,” Lamb said. “Non-profits are
struggling to figure out how to compen­
sate for the resources we’ve been able to
give them in the past.”
AMERICORPS continues to
remain hopeful with the common goal
of providing service to the agencies in
the county. If these cuts go through
there is one positive thing that won’t
change, AMERICORPS co-director Fred
Radovich said.
“Students will continue to come into
our office looking for volunteer oppor­
tunities,” he said.
Cal Poly’s AMERICORPS directors are
currently setting up meetings with local
agencies to work around the organiz­
ations’ financial deficit.
“We’re going to keep our fingers
crossed,” Lamb said. “If we can’t bring
the program back this year, we will in
the future.”

CAMPUS PROJECTS
QUARTERLY UPDATE SUMMER 2003

Cerro Vista
Construction on Cerro Vista, the new
student housing complex is moving ahead as
scheduled. The complex, located on the hill above
the existing residence halls will house 800
students in 200 4-bedroom, apartment style
suites. The new units have sweeping views of
campus and Bishop’s Peak. Occupancy is
expected in September, 2003. For more housing
information, visit the Housing website: http://
www.housing.calpoly.edu/ for details about the
project.

Student Housing North
Student Housing North, the 2700 bed complex planned for the site
across Poly Canyon Road from Cerro Vista student housing, is scheduled
to begin construction during fall quarter, 2003. The University is seeking
Board of Trustee approval to form an educational partnership with
Capstone West, who will develop, finance, and construct the housing at
their risk. Upon successful completion of the project and acceptance by
the University, Cal Poly will acquire the housing by issuing bonds through
the CSU Systemwide Revenue Bond program. This new approach is
designed to move faster and at lower overall costs while
providing the quality that is controlled by the specifications developed
by Cal Poly. The project also benefits from the experience
Capstone brings related to the development of student housing.
Check the Student Housing North website for information about
the project: http://www.facilities.calpoly.edu/Facilities_Planning/
then click on the Student Housing North icon at the bottom of the page.

Engineering III
Phase I of the 41,000 square foot building at the North West corner
of the campus is complete. Phase II is expected to begin construction
during fall quarter, 2003. Phase II will finish the interior work, exterior
awnings, screens and landscaping and will add a new jet propulsion building.
The facilities will house Aeronautical Engineering, Civil and Environmental
Engineering, Material Engineering and Industrial and Manufacturing
Engineering. The buildings, which stand next to the new Advanced
Technology Lab, are expected to be fully complete and occupied for fall

Telecomm
Project Telecom is well underway; the pilot phase is complete and Phase A
is close to completion. Helix Electric is the General Contractor and has begun to
upgrade telecommunications (voice, data and video) systems in all State owned
buildings on campus. Phase A, beginning with the Alan A. Erhart Agriculture (#10)
and Agricultural Engineering (#8 and 8A) buildings, began in April and is nearly
complete. The pilot phase, which included Facilities and the new Crops Science
building, was completed successfully and on schedule. The entire project is expected
to be completed in less than two years. Bright orange and purple signs are being placed at
building entries two to three weeks before the project is scheduled to arrive. The
signs will alert users that Telecomm will soon be there. For further information,
latest building schedules, photos and other information, contact the Telecom
website at http://telecomm.calpoly.edu-

Summer Projects
During summer quarter, annual projects are scheduled to repair and maintain campus streets, parking lots
and sidewalks. Facilities takes advantage of reduced pedestrian and vehicle traffic to perform these projects during
the summer quarter.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CAMPUS
PROJECTS GO TO THE FACILITIES WEBSITE AT:
www.facilities.calpoly.edu
National Briefs

Otis Elevator converts hundreds of dangerous elevator doors

PORTLAND, Maine — Otis Elevator Co. has converted hundreds of old-style elevator doors whose design has been linked to several child deaths and injuries.

The company launched a national campaign to retrofit the doors as part of a settlement reached in January with the family of an 8-year-old boy killed in 2001.

Otis Elevator officials said Wednesday the company has installed "space guards" on 300 elevator doors and received orders for about 900 more.

Man found guilty of killing priest, parishioner during Mass

MINEOLA, N.Y. — A man with a history of mental illness was convicted Wednesday of opening fire with a rifle during morning Mass, killing a priest on the altar and an elderly woman praying nearby.

Prosecutors said Peter Troy, 36, of Lynbrook, pulled a rifle from under his keys and wallet, purchased a rifle and trench coat, and committed the killings.

He was found guilty of attempted murder in the blinking and first-degree murder in the shootings that killed the Rev. Lawrence Perets, 50, and Edleen Totten, 73.

More than 8 million could lose overtime pay, says study by labor group

WASHINGTON — More than 8 million professional workers could lose their overtime pay under a Bush administration proposal to change the rules governing who qualifies.

The analysis being released Thursday by the Economic Policy Institute is among the first to assess how many workers might be affected by the Labor Department's revisions to the overtime rules.

Businesses and labor unions agree that the current Fair Labor Standards Act regulations are confusing and antiquated. And they disagree about how to update them.

The Labor Department estimated that under its proposal, at least $44,000 well-paid, white-collar workers would lose overtime pay for working more than 40 hours a week, while 1.3 million lower-wage workers now exempt from overtime would become eligible, or must receive a raise.

Overall, nearly 22 million workers could be affected, though specific jobs and their status could not be determined, officials said.

But EPA says the Labor Department "woefully underestimated" the changes that would occur if the proposal is implemented.

International Briefs

Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Fatah agree to three-month cease-fire, officials say

JERUSALEM — Islamic militants agreed to halt attacks on Israelis for three months. But the tense deal was immediately undercut by an Israeli airstrike and Hamas threats of revenge.

The emerging deal was shrouded in anticlimax. But the tenuous deal "will certainly be welcomed," said Eggert Muss, executive director of a Norwegian church-based peace group.

About 170 men have been arrested "for willfully tampering with their military uniform." An Israeli news report said 15 of them were released.

"Things are definitely going to improve," said Eggert Mass, executive assistant manager of the SwissPeace Beirut. He said after weeks of disruption to business travel, the WHO announcement was "just what the clients wanted to hear."

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, however, still has a travel advisory in effect for both Israel and Lebanon that recommends all but essential travel be postponed.

Briefs compiled from The Associated Press wire service by Summer Mustang staff writer Jessica Hoffman.

National/International News

EL CORRAL BOOKSTORE

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Just say "MEET ME AT CISCO'S"
New art hits the streets of San Luis Obispo

By Whitney Kellogg

A wave of deep purples and greens sweeps past the University Union every hour. It is a work of art, a landscape of peaked mountains, azure skies and floating hot air balloons that stay still for only minutes.

Then the vibrant mix of colors and forms has moved on to its next destination. This is one of the newest additions to San Luis Obispo's fine arts collection, but don't expect to find it in a museum soon. Instead, look on the side of city buses.

This month, city officials held a dedication ceremony for the second of two buses wrapped in artwork by local artist Liz Maruska. She first proposed the Art on Bus Demonstration Program over three years ago. The first bus was dedicated November 2002 and the second started carrying passengers this month.

To create the 40-foot traveling murals, Maruska painted scenes of the green peaks surrounding San Luis Obispo in bright, iridescent colors. The second bus is a rendition of the view of the city from Ferrini Open Space at Bishop Peak.

"It was the artist's idea to put the art on the bus," Austin O'Dell, city transit manager, said. "She's familiar with the open spaces in the area that some people don't know a lot about. It was a good opportunity to bring the open space to them."

The Art on Bus Program was part of Maruska's vision to make her art visible and innovative. "I've always wanted to have people standing in line for my art now they will at the bus stop," she wrote on her Web site. "I always like to do something new whether it is a different place to use my art or a way to have it out where everyone is living, playing and working."

O'Dell said this specific type of artwork, a paint mural applied directly to the bus, is the first of its kind in the world. However, other cities in California and other states, like Arizona, have also created artistic transit systems. Tempe, Ariz., has several bus shelters that are works of art. Murals and sculptures on bus shelters are common in San Diego and Mountain View, Calif.

The art-covered buses in San Luis Obispo were provided by the city, but the artist took responsibility for finding local businesses sponsors to cover artwork costs. Advertising placed on the artwork also offset the cost of the program.

At first, some officials wondered if placing advertising rather than art on the buses would be a better financial decision, O'Dell said. Once the project was underway, though, the city official and community response was, for the most part, positive.

"I noticed the buses right away," said recent microbiology graduate Yadi Sandoval. "I like painting and colors and the artwork makes the buses look nicer, more noticeable. Plus, it advertises whatever whoever did it."

"It's a good idea, a beautifying aspect to public transit, but the bus schedule is what matters to me," she said.

Currently, there are no plans for additional buses featuring Maruska's artwork. The buses will remain as canvases on the roads of San Luis Obispo for the next two years.

Opps! Cover artists do it again and again

By Caroline Lindahl

Someone once said imitation is the highest form of flattery. But it imitates a unique creation or simply a remake of an original?

Cover songs or simply, a remake of an original song can be seen at both new and stimulating musical pieces or old and unimaginative recyclables.

Nate Cramton, mechanical engineering senior by day, KCPR DJ by night, appreciates the creativity in a remake song.

"It pays homage to the original artist," he said.

Yet, the music industry has faced numerous lawsuits for copyright infringement and sampling from original artists. Rap in particular is a genre susceptible to criticism about "borrowing" from old songs. "You shall not steal" was the decree issued by Judge Kevin Thomas Duffy in November 1991 against recording artist Be Markie. This decision came in response to a request by Raymond "Gilbert" O'Sullivan to have production of Markie's "I Need A Hancut" halted and to have all copies on the market pulled from the shelves. The Judge granted the request until it is determined whether or not the digital sampling of O'Sullivan's 1972 hit "Alone Again, Naturally" in Markie's song "Alone Again" is a copyright infringement.

However, as of 1992, no laws define what exactly constitutes infringement, leaving artists from the Dixie Chicks to Marilyn Manson free to reinvent songs.

Some samples argue that sampling another artist's song helps to integrate new forms of music and technology, while others claim that the sampled song conjures up the original work and increases the original author's notoriety and record sales. SLY 96.1 FM DJ Tanya Loescher, an Arroyo Grande resident, said the artwork has not remained as canvases on the roads of San Luis Obispo for the next two years.
Arts and Entertainment

Honing the art of bargain shopping

By Susan Malanche
SUMMER MUSTANG STAFF WRITER

Local garage sales and second-hand stores have proven to have something for everyone from waffle warmers to 50-cent romance novels. The time has come for students to re-establish residency in a house, apartment or dorm room. A little extra searching can help students save their cash and find everything they need to live comfortably in their new place.

By turning someone else’s trash into treasure, students are certain to save money at garage sales, Goodwill and other thrift stores. Old Mission Thrift Store on Higuera Street is just one of many economical alternatives to Pier 1 Imports or Bed Bath and Beyond.

Chairs, lamps and dish sets are some of the necessities of basic living available for less than $12. A TV stand in good condition was marked at only $15. Other useful items that can be found are vases, candlestick holders and a clock for all those roommate dinners.

Unlike big retail stores, the chances of finding everything on the shopping list at one location dwindle in the second-hand market. One must be willing to grab what they can find and move on to the next hand-me-down destination like Goodwill.

The Goodwill Store on Higuera Street offers a wide variety of new, used and clearance items. The best finds at this store were a $40 futon and a 99 cent Wham! record album. For people who are trying a new sport and don’t want to spend the money on expensive sporting goods equipment, Goodwill also has a collection of $3 golf clubs and tennis rackets. For anyone with travel plans, $5 luggage sets were also among the great deals at Goodwill.

While looking for great buys at local second-hand stores, it is important to distinguish between all the different types of stores. “Second-hand” and “thrift” are two words that imply low prices. “Antique” and “vintage” also suggest used items but at a higher price. Decades on Higuera Street sells vintage clothing and other collectibles. Dishes, drinking glasses and lamps are items that could be useful to creating your home atmosphere. $10 drinking glass with Daffy Duck on it and a $12 lamp proves that vintage isn’t always a cheap route to take.

Each student’s financial situation varies, so if these prices aren’t low enough, one can try for her luck bargain at weekend garage sales. Buying furniture can be very expensive but looking in the newspaper for moving and garage sales can save money. At one garage sale, I came across a coach, love seat and chair with ottoman for $150. The set was in good condition, but if you aren’t so lucky to find one without beer or food stains, a slipcover will easily fix the problem. This year, prices are cheap and desperate might be surprised to find their next sofa or mattress on the side of the road or in front of someone’s house.

Mattresses, coffee tables and sofas are desirable items that people try to give away but don’t take the time to sell. With graduating seniors leaving town and families updating living room ensembles, one is certain to find great deals around town to complete your home for the next few years.

COVER continued from page 4

Bernal has seen increased air-time devoted to songs such as Allen Ant Farm’s recreation of Michael Jackson’s “Smooth Criminal” and the Dixie Chicks cover of Stevie Nicks’ “Landslide.”

“I honestly have to say that cover songs are a good thing; they are inspirational. They give a younger generation a chance to hear old songs,” said Bernal.

And for a generation who would have a hard time identifying the Fugies’ “Killing Me Softly” as a song their parents listened to by Roberta Flack, introducing pop culture to its founders seems like a good thing.

Many teens discovered Don McLean’s “American Pie” and J. Frank Wilson’s “Last Kiss” when Madonna and Pearl Jam released their own versions of the song respectively.

Although the jury is still out on the legality of re-mastering old music, at least one Supreme Court Justice defended its use: “In truth, literature, in science and in art, there are, and can be, few, if any things, which in an abstract sense are strictly new and original throughout. Every book in literature, science, and art borrows, and must necessarily borrow, and use much which was well known and used before,” said David Souter. Clearly, the line between borrowing and stealing has not been drawn. When Vanilla Ice used the main riff from David Bowie and Queen’s song “Under Pressure” for his 1990 hit “Ice Ice Baby” he neglected to clear the sample or to credit Bowie or Queen on the album’s liner notes. Instead, he listed the song’s authors as himself, Earthquake and Mr. Smooth. The copyright holders of “Under Pressure” subsequently sued him and the case was settled out of court for an undisclosed sum.

Contrary to the courts not determining the authenticity of a recording, then who are we to judge a song? Until a ruling is announced, the Britneys of the music industry can and will sue Justin Jeffer’s “I Love Rock and Roll.” Just look for covers of Britney Spears’ songs in a few years. Oops! They did it again.

Tanya Bernal
SLY 96.1 FM DJ

The time has come for students desperate, might he surprised to find their next sofa or mattress among the great deals at Goodwill. While looking for great buys at local second-hand stores, it is important to distinguish between all the different types of stores.

Those who are cheap and desperate might be surprised to find their next sofa or mattress on the side of the road or in front of someone’s house. Mattresses, coffee tables and sofas are desirable items that people try to give away but don’t take the time to sell.

With graduating seniors leaving town and families updating living room ensembles, one is certain to find great deals around town to complete your home for the next few years.

By Susan Malanche
SUMMER MUSTANG STAFF WRITER

Local garage sales and second-hand stores have proven to have something for everyone from waffle warmers to 50-cent romance novels. The time has come for students to re-establish residency in a house, apartment or dorm room. A little extra searching can help students save their cash and find everything they need to live comfortably in their new place.

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If the courts can not determine the authenticity of a recording, then who are we to judge a song? Until a ruling is announced, the Britneys of the music industry can and will sue Justin Jeffer’s “I Love Rock and Roll.” Just look for covers of Britney Spears’ songs in a few years. Oops! They did it again.

Tanya Bernal
SLY 96.1 FM DJ
A discussion of the reason for the war.

The United States consumes 11 million barrels of oil a day. Moreover, upwards of 77 million barrels are consumed around the world daily, mostly in the industrial nations of western Europe and Asia. The United States is responsible for one-fifth of those barrels consumed, while the United States uses only 18% of the world's oil. In comparison, Japan uses 80% of its oil, and Germany uses 70%. In Asia, the major consumers are China and India, where the population is large and the per capita consumption of oil is high.

The war is driven by our addiction to oil. We use oil for transportation, but also for many other purposes, including the production of goods and services. The United States is a major user of oil, consuming 11 million barrels a day, which is about 20% of the world's oil production. The United States is responsible for one-fifth of the world's oil consumption, while the United States uses only 18% of the world's oil. In comparison, Japan uses 80% of its oil, and Germany uses 70%. In Asia, the major consumers are China and India, where the population is large and the per capita consumption of oil is high.

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**Summer Mustang**

### News

**WANT TO BE A RADIO DISC-JOCKEY**

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Mission Produce is a privately owned company, with annual sales of approximately $130 million per year. Cal Poly will receive proceeds from the avocado sales at the end of each season, Shelton said. However, the orchard will not be ready to harvest for at least three years, he said.

Mission Produce has been preparing the land for planting for almost a year, Roads said.

According to the Web site, Cal Poly's agriculture program, the fourth largest in the nation, is an excellent showcase for the avocado orchard. In addition to a large agriculture program, the climate on the central coast is also ideal for an orchard, as avocados thrive between Mexico and the Cuesta grade.

"Since Cal Poly is unable to produce on the same scale as Mission, we could not provide students with this same experience through state funds," Shelton said.

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**RAGSDALE**

continued from page 1

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Ragsdale said he hopes to use the award and his experience in Rome as a "spring board" for further studies. He plans to continue teaching at Cal Poly as a tenure track professor and is intent on integrating his experience into the classroom when he returns.

For Dale Sutliff, the department head of landscape architecture, Ragsdale is an invaluable member of the faculty, whose interests " dovetail" with those of the department, noting Ragsdale's current research focusing on the reconstruction of damaged sites. He anticipates Ragsdale's return to Cal Poly, where he will assume a "lead role" in educating students who represent the future of landscape architecture.

"We hired him almost two years ago because we saw his great capabilities and potential and he's proven the case since he's been here," he said. "He's very astute and malleable in terms of working with the students. He's the kind of guy who steps in and goes to work."

Sutliff views the Rome Prize as the most prestigious award in the arts and humanities. The award for supports both highly accomplished professionals, as well as those "on the upswing" in their respective fields, he said.

"We are not surprised," he noted. Although Ragsdale admits he's "stumbled" into his profession as an undergraduate at University of California at Berkeley, he is obviously passionate about what he does. He earned his master's in landscape architecture from the University of Virginia, where he taught before returning to California and resuming his teaching career at Cal Poly in January 2002. His professional work has included involvement in the site landscape at the Getty Center in Los Angeles and San Francisco's PacBell Park.

Ragsdale's next year will be quite busy, with his two-year-old daughter accompanying him to Italy this fall.

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continued from page 1

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**College players get Blues over summer**

By Jessica Hoffman

The Blues are back in San Luis Obispo.

No, not the blues featuring lost loves and wailing guitars, but the summer baseball team.

As a member of the California Coastal Collegiate League, the team includes college players from all over the country and some of Cal Poly and Cuesta’s best players. The six-team league also includes the Monterey Wolfpack and Blues’ rivals, the Santa Barbara Foresters.

Tim Golden, owner and general manager of the Blues, said the team gives college players the opportunity to play in a professional setting.

“The guys use the team to get better,” Golden said. “It gives them the opportunity to play and show what they have to offer to college and professional coaches who watch the games.”

Although the league gives collegiate athletes exposure to a professional atmosphere, a line is drawn so nothing can be misconstrued as an incentive or bribe.

“It’s dangerous to use the term ‘semi-professional’ because any abuse such as even us buying them dinner can jeopardize their amateur status with a college team,” Golden said. “We give them hot dogs after the games, but maybe we shouldn’t even be doing that. We just want to take care of our boys.”

While some players see the Blues as one more mile on the road to Major League Baseball, many players use the exposure of the team to be recruited from junior colleges to universities.

First baseman Chris Webber has just finished his second year at Cuesta College and said he hopes to be noticed by a university while playing for the Blues.

“I’m moving onto a state college next year and the Blues are a great stepping stone for me,” he said. “You’re hoping as a junior college player you can get your foot in the door with a program.”

Conover said he hopes his team will bring more Big West titles to Cal Poly.

In 1988, Conover was the U.S. Olympic Trials champion in the marathon, which he said lends him some extra credibility with the runners.

“On the guy’s side, we will continue with the momentum and by winning the conference and being in the top 25 of all NCAA teams.”

Conover said. “I believe we have some potential.”

To do this, the team has recruited Phillip Reed, a top high school runner, and top junior college runner Mario Macias, Conover said.

Moorecroft said it is up to the team to win meets.

“Our team has great guys who are awesome runners,” Moorecroft said. “We have more experience now and we have lots of potential to compete nationally.”

**Poly cross country team gets new head coach**

By Nadea Mina

Cal Poly cross country assistant coach, Mark Conover, received some great news earlier this month when it was announced he will be the new head coach for both the men’s and women’s cross country teams.

Conover, a Cal Poly alumnus, is in his seventh year coaching for Cal Poly. He was on many triathlon teams and also on a team that competed for an Olympic spot.

“I believe this promotion is nice and it validates what I have been doing at Poly for the past seven years,” Conover said.

Former head coach Terry Crawford said Conover’s promotion is a step in the right direction for the team.

“This change is the result of the hard work and impact that Mark has had with the cross country program,” Crawford said in a press release. “It’s great to reward his efforts and know that the teams will continue to compete at a national level.”

Crawford will still remain as the director for track and field, Conover said.

Rachel Lange, kinesiology senior, is a member of the cross country team.

“It think it is a good idea to have Mark as head coach because he has more experience with distance running,” Lange said. “I mean he has tried out to be in the Olympics, he has what it takes.”

Ryan Moorecroft, graphic communication senior, is one of the runners Conover has impacted. He said he respected anyone who devoted their time to cross country like Conover and that a long distance coach is the right one for the job.

“I think (Crawford’s) decision about stepping down was wise,” Moorecroft said. “It gives her less stress and more time to worry about being a sprinting coach and working hard with the track team.”

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“Young people can throw a ball from home plate to second base in 1.9 seconds and hit a .380 this year. That kid throws the crap out of a ball,” Conover said.

Fellow Temecula and teammate, Zach Dancer, is one of the Blues most promising pitchers.

“(Dancer) throws a fastball, curve, slider and a change-up,” Conover said. “He’s a typical Texas tough guy and isn’t afraid of hitting anybody.”

The Blues play at the San Luis Obispo Baseball Stadium in Simi Valley Park off Southwood Drive in San Luis Obispo. For a game schedule, roster and contact information, visit www.bluesbaseball.com.