Cal Grant starts campaign

By Amanda Hippe

WASHINGrON D.C. — A group of young physicians sued a national medical program and 29 medical schools and teaching hospitals, including Georgetown University Hospital, claiming the program engages in anticompetitive practices that create conditions where residents receive insufficient pay for the long hours they work.

While the suit would affect all 126 medical schools and teaching hospitals if the plaintiffs win, only 23 private schools and related medical entities were named. The plaintiffs are seeking monetary compensation for damages caused by the program.

The National Resident Matching Program, referred to as the Match, places recent medical school graduates at their top hospital choices to learn more about their profession. The hospitals must also agree to accept the students.

The commission is worried that budget cuts might leave students with the impression that these funds won't be available. In turn, they are spreading the word about the remaining funds with television and radio ads hiping “free money.”

For 2007-08, $152,852,000 was allotted for students. This was 207 percent of the $73.1 billion in total financial aid.

What may be hurting the situation are the cuts of almost $11 million from the commission’s total budget of $720 million. Some students at Cal Poly may have already felt the crunch.

“My fiancé receives financial aid from the state, and I know his money just got cut in half,” social science senior Kristina Downer said. “This definitely means he will have to work more to make ends meet for us.”

Cal Poly Financial Aid senior associate director Mary Spady and Cal Grant program manager Dave Olsen were both unavailable for comment.

State Sen. Deborah Ortiz, D-

see GRANT, page 2

Young physicians sue program

By Cherise M. Williams

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Research includes students

By Micah Paulson

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see GRANT, page 2

Poly student dies in car accident

By Emily Wong

A Cal Poly student died in a car accident Friday afternoon on Highway 101.

Architecture junior Emily Nicole Alstot was pronounced dead at the scene, near Gaviota. She was on her way home, braving the blizzard of her one-year- old nephew.

“The car accident was not anyone’s fault,” said Katie Walsh, Alstot’s roommate and fellow architecture junior. “Her car hydroplaned, and she just couldn’t control it.”

Friends and family members said they believe Alstot began to brake while approaching a turn in the road when she slid across the freeway, crossing the center divide. A car traveling northbound on Highway 101 allegedly struck Alstot’s vehicle.

The 63-year-old male driver said is was in fair condition. Alstot was trav­eling alone. She is survived by her parents, Creighton and Kathy Alstot; older sister, Ericia; and many extended relatives.

Orjai is approximately 145 miles from San Luis Obispo, a two and a half hour drive. Emily Alstot left San Luis Obispo around 1:30 p.m., and when she didn’t arrive by 3:30 p.m., her mother, Kathy Alstot, called Walsh to inquire about her daughter’s whereabouts. Soon thereafter, Kathy heard from the California Highway Patrol that Emily’s car had been involved in an accident, but they could not con­firm that Emily had been killed until she was properly identified at 6:30 p.m.

“She figured it was a mistake, and it was someone else that died,” Walsh said. “I wanted to go down and look for her, as silly as that sounds.”

Walsh began distributing fliers to students on campus Monday, relaying the news. The architecture depart­ment, in which Emily was heavily involved, was hit hard. Some profes­sors even cancelled classes.

see ALSTOT, page 2
LAWSUIT
continued from page 1

"such factors as program prestige, medical specialty, geographic location, resident merit and year of employment." First filed in May 2002, the suit could go on for years, but the Match will still be in place during that time. "As it is a pending lawsuit, there is no immediate impact on our community," said Lindsey Spindle, director of media relations for the Georgetown University Medical Center. "GU Medical Center stands wholeheartedly behind the match program."

Marianne Welter, director of media relations for Georgetown University Hospital, said, "Georgetown University Hospital is a named defendant in the Jung vs. AAMC suit. Since resident physicians are enrolled as post-graduate trainees of the hospital, and not of Georgetown University, this matter does not affect the university. This suit is in active litigation, and we are therefore unable to comment on any details."

Aaron Grant, a first-year medical student at Georgetown, said he is not too familiar with the program but knows that it is academically rigorous to get into. "It is competitive if you want one of the more selective specialties," Grant said. "And to get those specialties you need to score well on the boards and be pretty highly ranked in your class." In addition to naming specific schools, the suit also names five medical organizations, including the Association of American Medical Colleges, of which all 126 medical schools and teaching hospitals are members.

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GRANT
continued from page 1

Sacramento, told the Associated Press that this is a wonderful program. "Whatever challenges face California, we have to fund this program, and we don't want to leave money on the table," she said. Ortiz, the governor's executive secretary, said he sent to the Emily N. Alstot Memorial Fund, through Sandy Edar on campus. "She was just the most incredibly generous and loving person," Walsh said. "I couldn't have had a better roommate or better friend."

A few days before the accident, Emily Alstot carved pumpkins. "The memorial service will be held Saturday at 2 p.m. in Ojai. Clausen Funeral Home is located at 316 East Matilija. Students will have an opportunity to speak at the service, following a eulogy given by her sister. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be sent to the Emily N. Alstot Memorial Fund, through Sandy Edar on campus."
AGHDAD, Iraq — Insurgents struck Tuesday at the center of the U.S.-led occupation, firing mortars andersons at the heavily guarded district that includes major American bases. Three people were wounded, the Pentagon said.

Huge explosions thundered throughout central Baghdad about 7:47 a.m. as the insurgents targeted the 2-square-mile “Green Zone,” which includes coalition headquarters, the military press center and other key facilities.

Not all insurgents fired at the zone, but U.S. officials said the headquarters itself, located in one of Saddam Hussein’s former palaces, was not damaged.

BUKIT LAWANG, Indonesia — A devastating flood in Indonesia that left more than 200 people dead or missing has driven home a stark warning: Ranting backing in Sumatra’s forests is harming not only endangered animals, but humans too.

Felled trees may have blocked a waterway high in the mountains, causing a huge flash flood when they collapsed Sunday night, a government spokesman said.

The wall of logs, boulders and mud crashed through the village of Bukit Lawang, leveling scores of cheap rivet and restaurants that served tourists to a nearby resort for endangered orangutans. The billlides that collapsed may have been weakened by the lack of trees, environmentalists said.

* * *

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Sri Lanka’s president stunned this island nation Tuesday when she suspended Parliament, sacked three Cabinet ministers and deployed troops around the capital — moves that expedite the peace process with Tamil Tiger rebels.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga — who is commander of the armed forces and has considerable executive authority under the constitution — made the surprise power grab against her political rival. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, who has been weakened by the lack of trees, environmentalists said.

* * *

WASHINGTON — The World Bank agreed Tuesday to provide $250 million in financing for a $3.6 billion pipeline that would bring oil from the Caspian Sea region through Turkey to Western markets.

While the loan is only a small fraction of the cost of the planned Baku-Ceyhan pipeline, the financing has been viewed as crucial for the project to attract private financial support.

The executive board of the International Finance Corp., the World Bank’s private investment arm, approved the financing despite requests by some environmentalists and human rights groups that a decision be examined.

* * *

WASHINGTON — Undiscovered foods, useful chemicals and drugs, and potential sources of energy may lie in wait in the last explored portion of Earth — the oceans.

A new eflort to Ieek out those resources was recommended Tuesday in a report by the National Research Council, an arm of the National Academy of Sciences.

“A new program of ocean exploration is necessary ... improved knowledge of our oceans represents more than an academic interest,” said John Orcutt, deputy director of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego.

— Associated Press

Los Angeles Times

National/International News

Wednesday, November 5, 2003

CASA GRANDE, Ariz. — Four people were found shot to death along a highway Tuesday and four others were wounded in a dispute that apparently involved immigrant smugglers, officials said. Four suspects were later arrested in the desert.

Highway patrol officers first got calls about an accident along Interstate 10 outside Casa Grande, about 30 miles south of Phoenix, and later received calls about a shooting. When officers arrived, they found four people shot to death.

People in a van opened fire on a pickup and SUV believed to be traveling northbound on I-10.

The motive was unclear, but authorities suspect migrant smugglers, also known as "coyotes," were responsible for the shootings.

WASHINGTON — The government is conducting a broad sweep of the mutual fund industry and more charges are likely in the growing scandal in the $7 trillion business, a top enforcement official said Tuesday.

Stephen Cutler, head of the Securities and Exchange Commission’s enforcement division, told Congress that the SEC plans to take "aggressive" actions to come to terms with the investigation into the mutual fund industry and more charges are likely in the growing scandal in the $7 trillion business.

The regulators alleged that the brokers used "systematic, deceptive and illegal means, including fraud, to disguise rapid and our trading of mutual funds to enrich themselves and the brokers' firms whose money they were investing.

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— Associated Press

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Web sites help in U.N. relations

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Most of the world’s nations have Web sites, but only 20 percent of people with Internet access use them, according to a U.N. report released Tuesday.

A total of 171 of the United Nation’s 191 member had Web sites in 2003, according to the U.N. World Report on the Public Sector, entitled “E-Government at the Crossroads.” Two years ago, 143 nations had Web sites.

Only 18 countries, many in Africa, remain completely offline.

While Web-based access can link citizens to everything from schools to hospitals and libraries, only a few government sites encourage users to help make policy, the report said.

Only a very few governments have opted to make e-government applications for transactional services or networking, and even fewer use it to support genuine participation of citizens in policy,” it said.

The United States led the rankings of e-government “readiness,” or the amount of information, services and products offered over the Internet combined with the infrastructure needed to access them.

The Mother Hips

The Mother Hips

Tim Bluhm
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Speaker: Shahzad Khan
IN REVIEW

Campfire Girls create nostalgic warmth

By John Seaborn Gray

WASHINGTON -- "Now they don't write the songs like the way that they used to," proclaims the Campfire Girls' lead singer Christian Stone during "Make It," the third track on the band's new album "Tell Them Hi.

"It's hardly empty criticism: Campfire Girls seem determined to show us why we loved the songs of 10 years ago.

Stone, who also plays guitar, and his bandmates dish out some thickly distorted music which, at its heart, is good old-fashioned 1990s-style grunge. Drawing from influences as diverse as Dinosaur Jr., Slabsho and Alice in Chains, with the tinier hint of Weezer, Campfire Girls put a modern sheen on the familiar grunge formula and come up with something new yet oddly familiar -- even comfortable.

From its first beat, the album is strong. "Junkman" pulls you in with its low, growling melody and keeps you riveted with the crashing chorus.

The next track, "Someday," is only slightly above average until you get to the bridge, which ties everything together nicely. "Make It" smokes along at a rapid pace, tuneful and aggressive.

The high point of the record, "Pedestal," is easily the catchiest song on the album and will have listeners singing along before it's finished playing.

The album drags toward the middle. "Post-Coital," "Day Before" and "Incomplete" blend together, but the.btnow lyrics and razor-sharp hook of "Fancy Shirt" will snap you back in.

The track-along beat of "Homework" brings a sense of upbeat tension to the mix.

"Broken Tooth" is rather negligible; the toned-down, tambourine-punctuated "Tragic End" is anything but, providing a nice break from the smoldering electric guitars and proving the band has real heart behind all the noise. And if you weren't convinced Campfire Girls were trying to take you back to 1995, there's even a hidden track.

Briefing with the kinetic energy of modern emo, yet carrying the form and fuzz-soaked chords of pure grunge, Campfire Girls just plain rock.

Someone does write the songs the way they used to, and if you've been looking for a bit of mid-1990s nostalgia, look no further.
'Rubber' meets Cal Poly with up-and-coming bands

By Thomas Atkins

The "Rubber Meets the Road Tour" will stop at Cal Poly this Thursday as part of its two-month journey across the United States.

"I like to broaden my horizons in the music industry, and I usually don't have the opportunity to see bands play for free," Ally Whiting, nutrition junior.

The show will close with the funky, jazzy classic rock sounds of Pseudopod. Because some of the bands are a long way from home, not many Cal Poly students have heard of them or have had the opportunity to experience their music.

However, many students seemed interested in checking out the event. "I am interested in going because I enjoy music, and every time I have the opportunity to see new bands I try to take advantage of it," nutrition junior Ally Whiting said. "I like to broaden my horizons in the music industry, and I usually don't have the opportunity to see bands play for free."

History sophomore Kiara Huntz agreed. "I would like to go because I enjoy listening to small bands trying to make it into the music world," she said.

Others had different reasons for checking out the concert. "I would go to the concert because Ari Hest looks hot," recreation and administration freshman Julie Plum said after looking at a flyer that touted a picture of the singer songwriter Ari Hest.

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Sudden exposure

Ladies, you know the feeling. The bottom of your skin-tight shirt keeps inching stealthily up until — BAM — you look down during your passionate speech on ancient Roman basket-weaving to find it suddenly exposing 10 inches of chub. Or maybe you’ve also been rueful in your quantum mechanics class when you fail to notice your plunging neckline is really earning its name. Whatever the case may be, it’s clear that guys don’t share women’s worries. Aside from the occasional case of pants so big that they’re falling down, most of men’s fashions don’t cause them the threat of sudden exposure at any second. Have you ever seen a guy nervously adjusting his extra-large T-shirt or modestly holding a hand over the muff of his back to avoid showing skin as he leans over? I think not.

Meanwhile, for women, a mere centimeter shift could mean introducing your entire PSY 202 class to your neon pink DVA thong. Do some women enjoy the exhibition? Surely there are those who do, but still, a double standard exists. It’s considered bad form to arrive to class late and have the pleasure of shuffling loudly rolls, it’s considered baggy.

For men, it’s all about big and comfy. For women, on the other hand, the smaller and tighter the article of clothing, the better. Unless the fabric literally plasterers itself to your balls, it’s considered bags.

Most of the clothes women are expected to wear require them to go through the day tugging on the edge of disaster. Let’s do a hypothetical instant replay of your morning PSY 202 lecture. You push “snooze” one too many times, arrive to class late and have the pleasure of shuffling loudly into the back seat without busting a seam and trying to crawl into the back seat without busting a seam. You attempt to avoid eye contact.

“Not by choice,” is my response. Society and human nature have given women this buckles, straps across to bear. But, perhaps, women do have a choice. If ladies all band together, we can all wear those loose jeans and panties we want!

Until we figure out the solution, beware the glare of the DVA thong.

Opinion

Prescription drugs are equally harmful

Prescription drug addiction is seen as a more politically correct way to get high than the alternative. It is only when somebody famous, like Rush Limbaugh, is fingered for over-indulging in prescription drugs that the issue seems to surface.

The problem is not that drug a person uses to relieve whatever physical or psychological problems they have. The real distinction is between responsibility and delinquency.

When an addict allows their craving to spill over into other people’s lives, incurring physical or emotional damage, that person becomes a problem.

Commentary

Some people do not realize how easy it is to obtain prescription drugs and how quickly the number of addicts is growing. A survey released in September found that 6.2 million Americans abused pain killers, sedatives, tranquilizers and stimulants in 2002, making non-medical use of prescription drugs the second most popular illegal drug use after marijuana, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The most commonly prescribed drugs are: epidural, which are generally used to control pain; depressants, which are used to manage anxiety; and stimulants, which give energy and increase awareness.

Both men and women abuse prescription drugs at the same rate. However, women are twice as likely to become addicted as men. Females ages 12 to 17 and 18 to 25 have shown the largest increase in prescription drug abuse in the past two decades, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Prescription drugs can be bought on the street or online. Teens and young adults jumped from 400,000 to more than 2 million from 1995 to 2000, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

The blame is usually placed on doctors who either pass out drugs to patients or instruct them to borrow their medication.

Sudden exposure

The magnitude of the problem is staggering. There are at least 2,000 Web sites now selling prescription drugs. Some are rogue sites that have little or no medical monitoring and sell anything from painkillers to steroids. Prescription drug use is no different than any other substance abuse. There are no differences in terms being brought to fight illegal drugs as were said about alcohol during prohibition.

The US spends millions of dollars trying to stop specific drugs for specific countries from coming into the country. When one street drug pusher gets put in jail, someone else always takes their place. The process will not stop until the demand for illegal drugs is eliminated.

Taxpayers are also paying to keep non-violent drug offenders in jail. On average, it costs $30,000 to house a state prison inmate in the United States, according to Drug Policy Alliance, a group that advocates treatment and prevention to fight addiction.

This money could be used on social welfare systems designed to educate and help addicts get rid of their addictions, rather than incarcerating them. The psychological problems they may already have.

Seventeen states have approved drug reform initiatives, mostly to approve marijuana use for medical purposes. Some people do not realize how easy it is to obtain prescription drugs and how quickly the number of addicts is growing.

It is up to the individual to make the right choices, but it is society’s role to punish someone who refuses to make the right choice. Whether the user abuses heroin, alcohol or Demerol, as long as the addict stays out of other people’s affairs, they are not society’s problem.

The distinction between what makes a drug addict dangerous and worthy for society to depend on that person’s crime. The law should not vary the degree of punishment because of the criminal’s drug of choice.

Patrick Hane is a social science senior.

Letters to the editor

Writing CP on your paper can earn you respect!

Editor,

A couple of weeks ago, Mustang Daily printed an article depicting students buying CP (Cal Poly) and CU (Coasta College) off their dollar bills. I thought this was a great idea to at least show the community that students have the most of the buying power, even though we don’t have political power or even respect. I visited UC Santa Cruz a couple of weeks ago and saw a drunken man being escorted by two police officers into a yellow cab, making sure he got home safely. The word “To protect and serve” suddenly appeared in my mind, and I wondered if the San Luis Obispo police would do the same.

Doing something as simple as drawing CP or CC on your dollar might not change laws over night, but it could change an attitude and belief and give some students a little hope that their peers still care about what happens in our community.

Mike Mullen is a business senior.

Political science classes demonstrate bias

Editor,

So why am I paying more than $1,000 a quarter to come to school here? Is it just to earn a little piece of paper known as a diploma, or is it to receive a greater understanding and knowledge of the world around me? Maybe as a disillusioned young freshman I would have thought the latter, but now I’m not so sure. Objectivity seems more like an alien concept for students involved in social sciences. I have had many outstanding professors who pre­

Mike Mullen is a business senior.

Letters to the editor

Michael Paulson is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Don’t make me pay to listen to your rant!

This probably doesn’t happen much in engineering classes, as it might be hard to interject personal opinions when presenting mathemat­

ical formulas, but I have yet to take a political science class that hasn’t been dispensed with extreme political bias.

It’s a common occurrence here. Is it just to earn a little piece of paper known as a diploma, or is it to receive a greater understanding and knowledge of the world around me? Maybe as a disillusioned young freshman I would have thought the latter, but now I’m not so sure. Objectivity seems more like an alien concept for students involved in social sciences. I have had many outstanding professors who pre­

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By mail: Letters to the Editor, Mustang Daily, 726 Building 26, Room 226, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

By fax: (805) 756-6764

By e-mail: mustangdaily@hotmail.com

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ANALYSIS
UC admits minorities at similar rate

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hispanics who are traditionally underrepresented on UC campuses are admitted at rates just slightly higher than similarly scoring blacks, Hispanics and American Indians — the majority groups who are traditionally underrepresented on UC campuses — were admitted to at twice the rate of Asians and whites. UCLA was about one-quarter more likely to admit such students.

The analysis reveals a complex admissions process at the university, which has come under scrutiny in recent weeks after a report showed it admitted 400 students to UC Berkeley last year with scores of 1,000 or below on the SAT.

The national average on the widely used college entrance exam is about 1,200 of a possible 1,600. The average for students admitted in 2002 at UC Berkeley was 1,337.

At UC Berkeley, blacks and Hispanics were admitted at twice the rate of Asians and whites. UCLA was about one-quarter more likely to admit such students.

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Mustang soccer's saving graces

By Kimberly Masculine MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

"The Cal Poly women's soccer team is undefeated and backed by not one but two starting goalies. Junior Liz Hill and senior Greita Shirdon split field time as the team's goalkeepers."

Head coach Alex Crozier said the decision to have both of his starters was made early in the season because they were playing really well. "They are both very good players and that is why they are both starting," Crozier said. "They push each other."

Shirdon has been the starting goalie for three of the four years she has played for Cal Poly. This will be her last season. "I am really proud of our team," she said. "And I am really sad I am leaving."

For Shirdon, who is playing with a broken back, sharing goalie responsibilities with Hill is the only way she can complete the season. By playing only one game a week, she is able to maintain her health and participate in practices during the week, something she said was unable to do the previous year. Hill played goalie in three games last year. She said she planned on working hard but didn't know what role she would be playing until the first game. "I didn't really know what to think because of Greta's injuries," she said.

Both women bring different strengths to the team. Crozier said Hill is very good technically and Shirdon has a strong presence. "One of the things [Greta] brings is spirit," Hill said. "She is always positive and it doesn't seem like anything can bring her down."

The two women split games so each has time in the goal. For example, during weekend tournaments, one will play the first game and the other will play the second. Crozier said they have each played eight or nine games. Shirdon said she had a little trouble getting used to splitting time until she saw that it actually allowed for both women to support each other.

Shirdon said she thinks splitting the pressure of goalkeeping has also given Hill the chance to get used to the weight that rests on a goalie's shoulders. "I kind of eased me into it," Hill said.

Both Crozier and Hill said the team is lucky to have a choice of two solid keepers. If one of them gets hurt the team knows there is another strong person there to play. The women said they work well together and give one another advice during practices and games. "You can't sit back just because you're undefeated," Hill said. "You need to work on something and get better everyday."

Shirdon said that being undefeated in the Big West Conference feels like the hard work of the team as a whole has paid off. "Greta and I have been getting a lot of credit," Hill said. "And it shouldn't really reside with us. The team collectively has come together and produced some great wins."

Crozier said the pair has contributed much to Cal Poly soccer. "They are both great athletes, great people," Crozier said. "They will leave their legacies with the program."

Ultimate challenge: SLO Core to host tourney

By Josh Petray MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Teams from around the state will join Cal Poly's SLO Core ultimate Frisbee team to compete and demonstrate their Frisbee-hurling abilities. Ultimate Frisbee combines athleticism, intensity and creativity in a fast-paced and exciting game. It is common to see players sacrificing their bodies in an effort to make unbelieveable plays, Crozier added.

"Anyone who comes out to the tournament can expect to see non-stop action, tons of great plays, people laying out (diving) everywhere for the disc and all of the ultimate players," Wexler said.

SLO Core is hosting its first tournament of the year Nov. 8 and 9 at the Lower Sports Complex Field with games from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SLO Core will divide into two teams at the tournament. They will play UCLA, UC Santa Barbara, UC Davis, San Diego State, University of San Diego and Chico State. SLO Core President-co-captain Matt Wexler, an architectural engineering senior was excised to kick off the new year. "We only lost two players from last year so this year's team is going to be really experienced," he said. "A trip to nationals is definitely within our capabilities."

The team has about 30 to 35 members this year, but in the past the count has been as low as 20.

"This year we got a great showing of skill and quantity," Wexler said. "We have finally grown to a size that will require an 'A' and 'B' team which will help us compete at a higher level."

The tournament also will set them against former rival UCSC, referred to as the "Black Tide" because of their black uniforms. It's been four years since SLO Core has taken a game from them.

"Ultimate teams across the U.S. and especially in California depend the "Tide," Wexler said.

The tournament marks the beginning of preseason, Winter Quarter is the heart of the season; it ends during Spring Quarter.

Last year, SLO Core placed third in sectionals and fifth out of 16 teams in regionals.

The addition of rookies and the return of seasoned veterans should improve the team's ability to make regional and national events this year, Wexler said.

Five-year veteran Bernie Knoll is the team's most experienced player and responsible for the most of the disc handling. Jason White is a lightning-fast player with an awesome vertical leap, Wexler said.

Rookie Sean Almog is one of many first-time SLO Core competitors who appreciates the game and the team.

"Everybody is really helpful and gives you tips in a good way," he said. That also means sharing the Frisbee, where you get to be ready to run," he said.