Poly campus unharmed in earthquake

The 6.5-magnitude San Simeon quake struck while students were on break. Only minor damages were reported.

By Emily Wong
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Three days before Christmas, when the San Simeon earthquake shook the Central Coast, the majority of Cal Poly's 18,300 students were out of town. At 11:15 a.m., the 6.5-magnitude quake was reportedly felt as far south as Los Angeles but did little damage to the Poly campus, which remained open.

"The seismic inspection found very little damage," the Cal Poly Public Affairs office wrote in a release. "Some campus buildings received superficial cracking of finishes, a window was broken at the Kennedy Library and items were shifted from shelves across campus." The Facilities Work Center is collecting reports of damage to classrooms, offices and dorm rooms. Facilities Services refused to comment.

Cal Poly students were on academic holiday from Dec. 14 to Jan. 4. All residence halls were vacated and few employees were on campus the day of the quake.

Buses accommodate Poly schedule

By Kendra Hodges
BYLINE: Daily Cal State Writer

Big wheels will keep turning for San Luis Obispo Transit, as it answers to the call of campus students. Bus arrival and departure times will now coincide with Cal Poly's class schedule.

Monday marked the first day of the revamped schedule, which is designed for the buses to arrive on campus just before the hour and depart minutes after the hour.

"The previous schedule was not conducive to students, which resulted in low ridership," said Kim Blakeman, general manager of First Transit. "Cal Poly funds the transit system for students, so we wanted to be more accommodating to the students and staff." The new schedule also includes an added evening service, which depart from campus 10 minutes after the hour until 9 p.m.

"The evening routes may be eliminated if we have few riders," Blakeman said. "But we hope the peak is just so great that the buses go on even further into the evening." Students seem to like the added evening routes.

"I have to switch buses at the right side to get home, but it is better than nothing," said Cuesta freshman Alyn Euritt, who was taking the bus home after visiting friends in the residence halls.

All bus routes are now designed to loop around each stop on the hour and half hour, making it easier for passengers to memorize the stop times, Blakeman said.

The change was brought about by a study done last year to find out what improvements Cal Poly students wanted in the bus system. The results showed that students did not like having to wait long periods of time for the bus.

"The schedule is a lot easier and more direct, which is more convenient for us students," English junior Megan St. Ovi said.

Music junior Catherine Daly was surprised that the small-town quake made national news. "I thought it was so interesting that when I turned on CNN there it was," Daly said. "No one ever hears about San Luis Obispo."
**Architecture department sponsors design conference**

By Spencer Marley

**MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT**

The Cal Poly Architecture Department will hold its biannual Design Communication Conference in the Business Building Rotunda (Bldg. 3, Room 219) Jan. 8 to 10. The conference agenda features prominent architects and designers from across the Western United States and is free to the public.

"The speakers will share their experiences and perspectives concerning creating and using design communications," said William Benedict, architecture department associate director and conference chair. "It is a forum for those involved in drawing and the creation of design communications to meet and share ideas that will impact the education of future professionals."

The conference will facilitate the communication of design from architects to the builders. This is a skill that architecture professor Howard Weisenthal said is extremely crucial to society.

"This conference is going to help us decide which methods are best to communicate our designs to other professionals," Weisenthal said. "It is the step in the middle between the conception and an actual building." Architecture students also agree that the ability to relate to builders is important and is stressed throughout their curriculum. Emily O'Brien, an architecture senior, said that the communication process is of utmost importance.

"If you can't properly relay an idea, it's never even going to be built," O'Brien said.

The conference will begin at 6 p.m. Jan. 8 with a presentation from Cal Poly alumna C. Thomas Gilman. Gilman graduated with an architecture degree in 1972 and then became president of DES Architects and Engineers in Redwood City, Calif. In 2000, his firm received the Best Office Interior Award from Buildings Magazine for their work on the Sony Computer Entertainment America building in Foster City, Calif. Gilman will speak about improving communication between the concept and development of design.

On Jan. 9, Lawrence Rocha and Robert Schaeffer from a Honolulu design firm Wimberly Allison Tong & Goo will speak about the creation of recreation and hospitality-based designs at 5 p.m.

The conference will end Jan. 10 at 5 p.m. with a presentation by San Luis Obispo architect George E Garcia of Garcia Architecture and Design. His firm has produced a variety of projects, including the Avila Village Inn and the interior of the San Luis Trust Bank.

**Family searches for missing man**

The family of an 82-year-old man who disappeared Dec. 28 is offering a $5,000 reward for information leading to his whereabouts. Vern Erno, who suffers from Alzheimer's Disease, was last seen by his son Dec. 28 at the Laguna Village Shopping Center.

Tom Erno said his father became upset while the two were getting coffee. "He got out of the car and took off," Erno said. "I tried to get him to stay, but he was being real physical. I didn't really want to have a physical confrontation with my 82-year-old dad." Tom called the police right after his father left at about 2 p.m.

Within half an hour police were searching for Vern. Tom Erno said.

The next day, Search and Rescue closed off Laguna Lake Park, using helicopters, horses and dogs to find Vern. Police also put out a national alert, Erno said. Two people reported seeing Vern once on Los Osos Valley Road Dec. 28 and again at Laguna Lake Park on the afternoon of Dec. 29. There have been no confirmed sightings since then.

Tom Erno said people should look in their yards and other places where Vern was visiting for the holidays from Washington state, where he lives with his daughter. He resided in the San Luis Obispo area for many years, but has little short-term memory and is not always able to carry on coherent conversations.

"At times he is more lucid than others," Erno said.

If anyone has information regarding the whereabouts of Vern Erno, call 751-2168.
WASHINGTON — Leading technology companies urged Congress and the Bush administration Wednesday not to impose new trade restrictions aimed at keeping U.S. jobs from moving overseas, where labor costs are lower.

The companies said such policies would do little to resolve longstanding problems more broadly, affecting Americanighth atal market, as long-term schools and inadequate research spending. Exacting barriers, they said, "could lead to retaliation from our trading partners and even an all-out trade war."

WASHINGTON — President Bush called Wednesday for a major overhaul of America's immigration system to grant legal status to millions of undocumented workers in the United States, saying the current programs are not working.

"Out of common sense and fairness, our laws should allow willing workers to enter our country and fill jobs that Americans are not filling," the president said in an East Room speech to members of Congress, his Cabinet and immigrant advocacy groups.

Bush's election-year proposal is designed to win support among Hispanic voters while helping meet the needs of American employers. His plan would create a temporary worker program for undocumented workers now in the United States and those in other countries who have been offered employment here.

HOUSTON — Former Enron Corp. finance chief Andrew Fastow is negotiating a plea bargain that might get past airport security, according to a source close to the case.

Fastow, 52, is facing a criminal investigation of Enron. NASA officials previously said the exploration could help that race to 2030 and address the near-term, mid-term and long-term challenges to the human exploration of space.

GAINESVILLE — Members of a University of Florida-led astronomy team aren't record-breakers. They're record-finders who researched what might be the brightest star ever observed — a luminous, blue variable 5 million to 10 million times as bright as the sun.

Astronomy professor Steve Eikenberry and graduate student Jason Watkins recently announced a finding on Tuesday at the 203rd meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Atlanta.

Eikenberry said the star is expected to be about 1 million times brighter than the sun. It was discovered in an optical survey of the sky looking for stars that shine much brighter than usual.

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Gay marriage doesn’t violate liberty

Editor,

For a senior who dotes so much on logic and rhetoric in his letter “People can choose homosexuals,” (Dec. 4) Andrew Miller makes a ridiculous leap between gay marriage and NAMBLA. It’s tucked away right at the end there — which makes me wonder if he hoped nobody would see it because it’s completely indefensible.

On one hand, you have a syntactic relationship between two adults agreeing to marry. On the other hand, you have a sadistic relationship between a minor and an adult.

Andrew’s goofy rhetoric links together two items that obviously do not connect. The key word in the entire issue is “consent.” Until there is a consensus on the term “gay marriage” genes makes for interesting discussion but is irrelevant to the issue. The idea of civil liberties and rights goes back to commentators like Robespierre, Madison, Jefferson and so on — all those guys you remember from high school American history classes. One’s liberty should be allowed to extend so far as to keep from interfering with another’s. This is one of the many ideas that our Bill of Rights was founded on. The possibility of a gay union does not stop a straight union from happening — in fact, it doesn’t stop a straight anything from happening. Gay in that state will soon have the liberty to consent to a marriage. Marriage or union of whatever you want to call it is a purely personal choice. One adult does not have the right to force a relationship on a person who does not, or cannot consent.

That would be a violation of one’s liberty. Along these lines, one person does not have the right to stop two adults from forming a relationship that they each consent to. That would be a violation of their rights. To use marriage as a civilizational sex act and you cannot regulate love. You do not have the right.

That’s the beauty of liberty, Andrew. I shouldn’t have to explain it to you. Your personal issues with gay rights are irrelevant. Grow up.

Matt Sutter is a history sophomore.

Food Bank Coalition has no political ties

Editor,

A letter in The Tribune, “Food bank’s political leaning,” (Dec. 15) contained a factual error used as the writer’s reason for stopping his food donations. He wrote, “I no longer give to the food bank because of their political ties.” A recent food drive was for Food, not Bombs. The affair was an anti-Bush rally...

That motto was used at the Nov. 16 peace rally last year to outrage folks to bring food items for the poor in our country. The Food Bank Coalition did not use that motto but did gratefully accept the food donated. The Food Bank Coalition has committed to supporting the rights and dignity of all people.

Those who disagree with opponents of the invasion of Iraq should direct their actions at anti-war folks. The Food Bank Coalition should not be the scapegoat of their views. Empathy is what you need to take from this perspective.

David Broadwater is a San Luis Obispo community member.

Hunters respect nature and resources

Editor,

I have been reading numerous alarming letters in the Mustang Daily. Many people at Cal Poly have a distorted view as to what hunting truly is. As a former resident of Wyoming, I know more than most that we do need to take responsibility for wildlife.

Hunting is not senseless killing, that is comparable to killing track “running in circles.” An actual deer hunt can last for days and is an unparalleled experience. Trudging through the snow tracking an animal lets you become one with nature and appreciate how one can go to the supermarket and just buy steak for the family. Hunters don’t kill for hide or for cornage, they kill for the food and the experience. In fact, wasting meat is a crime. In order to appreciate wildlife in its natural setting, hunting is as good as it gets.

In Wyoming in 2000, there were 345,000 mule deer. More than 43,000 were killed during hunting season. Imagine if these deer were left alive every single year. Deer populations are already exploding, and overpopulation leads to pesti­ lence and property damage.

In regards to sensitive species and the endangered species list, poaching is illegal. The Fish and Game Department runs the Best Program in which hunters who wholly support this endeavor, turn in those violating laws. Poaching runs a legitimate reputation and should not be treated as recreational hunting. The animals legal to hunt are in no danger of becoming extinct. It is actually quite the opposite.

Please, research topics such as these before making a judgment. Do not ruin a pastime for legitimate hunters. Hunters respect the land infinitely more than most think.

Daniel Bonny is an aerospace engineering freshman.

Letter policy

Letters become the property of the Mustang Daily. Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, punctuation and length. Letters, commentaries and cartoons do not represent the views of the Mustang Daily. Please limit length to 250 words. Letters should include the writer’s full name, phone number, major and class standing.

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

Opinion

Mustang Daily

It leaves fingerprint on national security

In a press briefing on Monday, U.S. Department of State spokesman Richard Boucher, while refusing to state it out­ right, suggested Brazil’s new program targets Americans specifically.

“Brazil’s program is not being applied to all people the way it is being applied to others,” Boucher said.

It’s not some­ thin g carefully prepared over the course of a year (like US­ VISIT). Boucher also said policies requiring fingerprints per U.S. citizen have resulted in delays as long as nine months.

Every country has the right to dictate to its visitors what requirements they must meet to travel within its borders and, eventually, every country probably will. However, such an obvious act of malevolence trivializes efforts to ensure American safety.

Jake Ashley is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.
Opinion

4 Croc hunter baby blues

Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, welcome to Burton and Baily gone horribly wrong.

You thought Siegfried and Roy were crazy, but this is just the beginning.

When I saw father-of-the-year Steve Irwin cradling his baby son, Robert Irwin, last Friday while feeding a dead crocodile to a chicken, I felt a bit of irrational sympathy for the words I wanted to yell at the Australian showboat whose crazy animal antics enameled the public.

Irwin explained, "I've been a crocodile enthusiast since I was 7. We're going to make him a crocodile expert."

Maybe I'm way off base, but if you're an Enkido you don't hurl your newborns into the icy snow and tell him to get used to it. If you're a lumberjack, do you lie your baby down on a treetop as you rip through an oak? Is it right to dress the youngster in scuba gear and cage him so he becomes attached to sharks like his marine biologist daddy?

Certainly Irwin was feeding a baby while a crocodile isn't a good idea in any lifestyle.

I've always respected Irwin for his passion, and at times, I've been captivated in my own danger - even if it is overdone.

If Irwin was in a play, he would overact. If he walked down the red carpet, he'd do something clownish to grab the right to take a life is barbaric. It is illegal or never enforced in any country in the international community. Saddam certainly deserves retribution is the least presidential action in Saddam's case.

Nevertheless, when Irwin decides to challenge the wild作出 serum, having his own life in danger, that's his prerogative. However, little Bob didn't give the thumbs up to let Irwin pull this stunt.

The popular question is, was the Blockhead move by Irwin comparable to Michael Jackson's public debacle with his baby dangling over a balcony?

The answer is that Irwin's stunt is infinitely worse. Forget all the other weird things that have made Jackson simply 'Jacko' and focus on the event that occurred on the balcony in Queensland.

Irwin admitted after the mistake that he got a little excited, a "little caught up in the moment" with all the fans cheering for him.

What Jackson did was wrong. What Irwin did was disgusting.

Irwin, unlike Jackson, clearly premeditated his mistake. Jackson's come on a whim.

The most chilling thing could go wrong, as has happened numerous times when Irwin has been bit or swiped or attacked, should have kept him from even beginning to think of exposing his son to the crocodiles.

Irwin defended himself by telling Australia's Sunday Telegraph, "I would never, ever put him in any danger, not for a million years."

First, Irwin's idea of danger can't be paper-cut sensitive. Secondly, the event had to be dangerous or it wouldn't have meant that much to Irwin, and that's why he did it.

He's cheated death time and again to the point where he's become immune to danger. It's obvious his antics weren't enough, it was time to get just a little more extreme.

But this time, Irwin took it too far.

Giving the impression your child could be hurt is not good entertainment. Should Irwin lose his baby? No. Does he need to admit his fault to show he has enough sense to securely raise a child? Absolutely.

Sure, the baby was probably safe. If there's anyone you want with a baby when a crocodile's around, it's Irwin. But that's not the point.

Dan Watson is a journalism sophomore and Mustang Daily staff writer.

2004: the sexual forecast

HAPPY New Year Cal Poly!

Reflecting on the previous year, I must say that 2003 was a notably better year filled with scandal, sex and intrigue. Cal Poly witnessed to some of the craziest sex stories since Bill and Monica's sexual affair.

Last year was full of the flogging Catholic priest, groping his way through Sunday school. We had legislatures and courts take up the prosecution of marriage and sodomy. The hottest TV show was Sex and the City. Jessica Simpson finally gave it up to Nick Lachey after 5 years of blue balls. Playboy became a member of AARP and turned into a news magazine. Ken Campbell's news anchor gig has gone smoothly, he's making it up to Vanessa with a diamond disguised as a golf ball. Just last month, Michael Jackson finally got caught for hooking up with 12-year-old boys, ending countless naked pillow fights at Neverland Ranch. Jacko should have gotten some tips from the Catholic priest who picked up Sanchez for party like porn stars for a week with people from Ohio and Florida who think all Californians surf. We will be rewarded with gals and gobs of sex, however. So the shame will be short lived.

The single women will buy all the Bons-Bons on the Central Coast and sit at home posting with each other. Some women will have a "girls night out" and be bitchy to men all night.

Mardi Gras: San Luis Obispo will have the most Mardi Gras this side of Bourbon Street, regardless of what the city tries to do about it. The downtown parade will turn into a veritable "booze fest" as young women and men alike are overcome by the spirit of Mardi Gras.

Afterward, there will be a shortage of red cups and beer kegs for a week as the entire town celebrates with hundreds of house parties throughout the city. We will all wake up with kisses marks all over our bodies and 10 pounds of beer (and beer) around our necks. We will be sad that it's over.

Spring Break: This year, each of us will fork over 800 for a trip to Cancun. We will be pressured into those trips by our so-called "friends," who earn free trips by selling them to suckers for tourist companies as so-called "tips." We will be tempted by tales of loose women, free booze and Mexican hookers. When we arrive, we will party like porn stars for a week with people from Ohio and Florida who think all Californians surf. We will be rewarded with gals and gobs of sex, however. So the shame will be short lived.

Wildflower: In May we will have a second spring break at Lake San Antonio. There must be some sort of an inducing force field surrounding the lake because once there, the sky is the limit in terms of sexual opportunity. We will have "teens hook up" with at least two people per day and not remember their master cards ever again. We will be sad that it's over.

Graduation Weekend: If you're like me, this will be your last weekend as an irresponsible student before becoming a semi-productive member of society. For the rest of you, this will be the last time hanging out with dem-mates and house-mates before the long stretch of summer. As such, we will be the envy for the "one who got away."

In Lynn's terms, we will vent out a whole year's worth of sexual tension in one long drunken binge.

So there it is, Cal Poly, the sexual forecast for 2004. Now that you know the hot spots there is no excuse for not finding the sex you're looking for. With such a wide variety of options, there is no reason not to be part of this year's sexual headlines. Have a fun, safe and sex-filled 2004!.

James Whitaker is a business senior and Mustang Daily columnist. He can be e-mailed at jwcox@yahoo.com.

Grant D. Hiatt is a writer for the Crimson White at the University of Alabama.
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Week after week, people flock in droves to partake in television-watching rituals. But is it healthy?

STORY BY
AMY HESSICK

PHOTO BY
MATT WECHTER
Men, women find camaraderie, joy in watching TV with others

By Amy Hessick
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

A group of friends gathers weekly to dish about a single man who is dat­
ing multiple women. The strange thing is, the group has never met the
man; he is just a character on a TV
show, albeit a reality show.

Television viewing is usually an
independent activity, but when
groups of friends all enjoy the same
show, they often make it an event
to watch together.

One such group of students unites
to watch “The Bachelor” and has
been doing so since the show first
aired in March 2002. The group
includes recreation
administration senior Karley
Pope, liberal stud­
ies senior Kelly
Chute, psychology
graduate Summer
Emmons and liberal studies graduate
Annie Chute.

This group has turned watching the show into a weekly event, and
Wednesday has become “Bachelor
Night.” They rotate who hosts the
event each week and usually bring
appetizers and dessert. They even
meet at least half an hour before the
show starts so that they can discuss
last week’s show and predict what will
happen that night.

“I look forward to ‘Bachelor Night’
all week long not only because I
love the show but because I get to see
my friends,” Kelly Chute said.

The group’s dedication to the show
seemed a little strange at first to
Pope. She had never watched the
show until the current season and was
at first doubtful that she could
become as involved in the show as
everyone else.

“I never thought I could get so
interested in a show until I started
coming to ‘Bachelor Night,’” Pope
said. “Now I’m hooked, and I even
call with other girls in my classes
about ‘The Bachelor’ the day after it
airs.”

Although this behavior may seem
odd, it is not unhealthy, psychology
professor Basil Fiorito said.

“It is a social experience, and we
are social animals, so it seems fairly
normal,” Fiorito said.

And this group television viewing
may be what the advertisers and pro­
ducers intended. Advertisers often
refer to watching television as “invit­
ing characters into your home,” and
“The Bachelor” Web site encourages
watching the show with your friends
by offering free invitations to send
out. A link on the page reads “What’s
better than watching ‘The Bachelor’
alone? Watching it with your friends.
Plan your party now with our custom
Evite.”

One of the most enjoyable aspects
of watching the show with friends
is that it allows people to dissect
the action and enjoy it with others
rather than alone.

“I appreciate the moral support,”
Emmons said. “It makes me not feel
as bad about watching a stupid show
if I’m doing it with my friends.”

Preparing to watch television as a
group provides a social setting for
discussion and entertainment.

Apparently, the desire to be in a
social setting while watching televi­
sion is not a purely female reaction:
Kelly Chute’s boyfriend spends his
Wednesday nights with a group of
guys who get together to watch “The
O.C.”

“The main difference is that the
boys watch the show together so that
they can make fun of it, and we watch
it together so that we can analyze
what’s going on,” Kelly Chute said.

Watching television with a group
of friends, then, seems to create a
comfort zone for both men and
women. Generally, men feel more
comfortable watching television
by themselves, whereas women
are more likely to enjoy the
companionship of a friend while
viewing their favorite shows.

Television shows such as “The Bachelor,” “The O.C.” and “Friends” are not only huge hits,
but they also bring people together to breed ritualistic viewing habits. While it may seem strange to
some, one psychology professor said this behavior is normal and can be attributed to the fact that
humans are social creatures.

Big West Conference Showdown
Thursday, January 8
Men’s BBall vs. Idaho 7 PM
Saturday, January 10
Men’s BBall vs. Utah State 7 PM

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**Love: Does it really make scents?**

By Micah Paulson

Love and attraction are two of the most complex topics in the domain of human communication. One reporter explores the reality of smell's effect on attracting a suitor.

Pheromones are chemical signals released by animals, mostly by means of sweat or urine, which elicit a behavioral or psychological response from members of their own species. The messages are relaxed through nerve to an area of the brain called the hypothalamus, which is known to alter emotions, hormones and sexual behavior. Many fragrance companies have attempted to capitalize on the possibility of a human pheromone that would attract the opposite sex. Companies use hormones from animals like pigs and deer since a human version has yet to be discovered, said Louis Monti, executive vice president of Pherin Pharmaceuticals.

"As far as sexual motivation goes, the sense of smell is even more important than sight," said Annette Green, chairman of the board at the Sense of Smell Institute. "We smell plays a large role in how we attract a suitor. Odysseus and the Sirens demonstrate people's undying fascination with what causes attraction. The companies that claim they have developed a pheromone-based product that would make humans more attractive are full of baloney," Monti said. "Humans have a well-developed frontal cortex which eliminates the impulsive behavior that is prudent in animals."

Pherin Pharmaceuticals claims it has identified human pheromones that can be altered to alleviate certain psychological problems.

"The medication comes in a spray that is shot up the nose," Monti said. "The medication provides a calming effect that can be used to help with social phobias, such as public speaking or flying on an airplane."

Pherin Pharmaceuticals is in the initial stages of testing a substance that could either heighten or reduce a person's appetite, which will help fight obesity and anorexia, Monti said. Many studies have attempted to prove that the human sense of smell serves a purpose when it comes to finding a partner. Claus Wedekind, a zoologist at Bern University in Switzerland, studied major histocompatibility complex, in the early 1990's, MHC, are genes that exist in every animal that has a backbone. They regulate the immune system to fight against different types of diseases and decipher an individual's body odor. Wedekind's study took 44 men and had them wear the same T-shirt for a 48-hour period, without using any personal hygiene products. He then had 49 women smell the shirts and decide which smell was most appealing.

The results overwhelmingly showed that the women chose men who had a generic make-up opposite of their own. Wedekind concluded that the women instinctively chose men that differed from themselves to reduce the chance of inbreeding, making potential offspring more likely to survive.

For everyday, practical purposes, people use everything from scented lotions to perfumes to mask their natural aroma. "We all start out with our own smell fingerprint," Green said. "Layered on top of that is the types of food we eat, any medications we are taking, how heavy we perspire and any hygiene products we use."

Men like women to have a sweet smell, like flowers, while women are usually identifiable with a musk smell, Green said. "I've even noticed that some guys can pull off the sweaty-man thing, but not every guy."
County hires coastal developer lobbyist

SAN LUIS OBISPO (AP) — Supervisors approved a contract to pay a lobbyist up to $60,000 to represent San Luis Obispo County in an effort to improve strained relations with the California Coastal Commission.

Sacramento lobbyist Susan McCabe, who also represents many coastal developers, will represent the county during commission meetings this year. The Board of Supervisors approved the contract Tuesday. The county paid McCabe $25,000 last year.

Conservationists quickly criticized the deal, saying it is an attempt to allow more development on the coast and avoid updating the county’s coastal program.

“The greatest threat I see to the coast is the five of you,” Pam Heatherington of the Environmental Center told supervisors. Sierra Club representative Tarren Collins said McCabe’s clients represent a “who’s who of coastal developers.”

Supervisors defended the contract as a necessary means of protecting local control of the coast. Supervisors have criticized the commission for overstepping its authority.

Supervisor Mike Ryan said the county might save money by spending less time on appeals and updates.
The Knicks can also cash in on this deal. New York now has their first All-Star point guard since Walt Frazier, which will bring crowds to the stands at Madison Square Garden. Marbury is the big-time player the Knicks need — and can provide an answer for the Eastern Conference’s best point guard, Jason Kidd, for whom Marbury was traded for in 2001. With this deal finalized, newly-appointed Knicks’ general manager Isiah Thomas has turned his team around. The backcourt is downright scary with Marbury teaming up with the smooth-shooting Allan Houston. Marbury is a physical, slashing point guard who will drive into the lane for a quick floater or kick the ball out to wingman Keith Van Horn. He and Marbury are said to have put aside their differences. Van Horn gets my vote for Most Improved Player this year. Some say the Suns got the worst end of the deal, acquiring often-injured Antonio McDyess, Howard Eisley, an aging Charlie Ward, who was promptly cut, and two big foreign men. This is not the case as trades are often done for financial stability. But with Stoudemire and ShaqMartin sticking around, they have built a solid core to which to build. The Suns are already talking about attracting Kobe Bryant to Phoenix this summer.

The bottom line speaks the loudest end — Marbury is a winner. He and the Suns took the World Champion San Antonio Spurs to the brink of elimination last year, which is almost equivalent to winning the Eastern Conference. Charles Barkley once called the Eastern Conference a “juniour varsity league.” Now that the Knicks possess a “varsity” player, they are poised to make a run at the Atlantic Division title.

Kendrick Carson is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

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The somber side of sports

The holidays were not a time of celebration for everyone. Some had to deal with the loss of a loved one.

Men’s basketball head coach Kevin Bradley suffered through the loss of his father, Lenard. He watched Monday’s loss to Long Beach State on television instead of being there.

My close friend’s younger brother died in a car accident just after midnight New Year’s Eve. A college-bound, high school senior in my hometown rolled his car.

It’s important to persevere amidst tragedy. Athletes do this constantly. Greats like Packers quarterback Brett Favre touched the Raiders this season, the day after his father died.

Athletes on campus show this courage constantly.

Football players Raj Thompson and Anthony Randolph each endured the deaths of people close to them during their senior year of high school.

Wide receiver Randolph lost a high school teammate in a drunk driving accident in the middle of his high school career the week before a game, coaches filled the player’s right tackle position immediately, his teammates dedicated the season to their lost comrade and Randolph went on to win the Team MVP award.

Likewise, Thompson had just finished his senior season of high school football when his grandfather passed. The man had been like a father to Thompson. The two shared a passion for the Dallas Cowboys, and Thompson had spoken to him the week before he died to tell him he’d signed with Cal Poly.

Thompson said he was affected during his redshirt season, and even after five years as a Mustang, with his playing career now behind him, his memories haven’t faded.

“Probably every game I think about him,” Thompson said.

Cross-country runner Matt Swaney also lost a grandparent. His 96-year-old grandmother played the organ at church the week before her death. Already back in training at San Luis Obispo and without a phone, Swaney learned about the death through his coach, Mark Conover.

Swaney attended his grandmother’s funeral in Ventura on a Saturday then met the team in Santa Barbara the following Tuesday for a meet.

That day, Swaney didn’t come close to his personal record of 24:51 over the 8K course. He doesn’t think his grandmother’s death contributed to his lackluster performance.

“I dunno…” Swaney said. “Sometimes you like to think things don’t affect you, but maybe they do.”

Some crises have happy endings.

Women’s volleyball star Vanessa Gilliam played for the University of Washington last year and was in the middle of practice one day when her father almost died during neck surgery.

“He went into cardiac arrest, it was pretty scary.” Gilliam said. “I was a wreck.”

Gilliam transferred to Cal Poly to be closer to her family’s Fairfield home.

Her father’s health is still unstable, but she sees him at every home game. She throws him T-shirts sometimes before games and smiles during them.

Senior guard Catrina Taylor will help lead the Mustangs as they face Utah State for the first time in school history. The Aggies are 1-0 in conference play, while Idaho is 0-1.

Marbury heads home

Stephon Marbury, a two-time All-Star and arguably the best point guard New York has ever produced, is returning home to the Big Apple after an eight-year trade that should make him happy.

New York Knicks a playoff-caliber team.

Marbury, a Conway Island native, has been a virtual nomad, playing on four teams in four different states in his budding career.

He is only 26 years old. Why was one of the NBA’s top players traded?

For money.

The Phoenix Suns are now reaping the rewards of a cheap salary cap. Before the trade, the Suns had one of the top six payrolls in the league but were not near that in the standings. By dealing Marbury and a few other stars, the Suns have returned to the hardcourts where he performed at his best. Marbury is a New York native and has a home in the city.

Congratulations to Stephon Marbury playing at Georgia Tech?

How many years did Stephon Marbury play at Georgia Tech?

Send answers to: sportster@calpoly.edu

Welcome Back!

Sports editor Sean Martin can be reached at 756-1786 or mustangdailysports@yahoo.com