LEED design topic for forum

By Kendra Hodges

An open forum for students, staff and faculty on green building, sustainability practices and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certified projects will take place at 6 p.m. today in building 5, room 105.

If you go ... What: Open forum on green building, sustainability practices and LEED projects. When: Today. Where: 6 p.m. What Building: 5, Room 105.

The Hemp Shak, located at 844 Monterey St., sells various products made from hemp.

COURT LIFTS BAN ON HEMP FOOD

By Brian Koser

Wood Harrison advocates it. Many historians have argued that George Washington grew it. Now a decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in San Francisco gives it the green light. In a 2 1/2-year-old lawsuit representing more than 200 companies in North America, the Drug Enforcement Agency was told that it is illegal to ban hemp, a product the DEA argues is closely associated with marijuana. "(The DEA) cannot regulate naturally occurring THC not contained within or derived from marijuana." 12,000 years for fiber (textiles and paper) and food. It has been effectively prohibited in the United States since the 1950s. The Web site also explains that hemp and marijuana both come from the same plant, Cannabis sativa -- a species with multiple documented varieties. Los Angeles does not have a hemp law. The week's events allow a safe chance for survivors to share their personal stories and remember those who have been affected by sexual assault and violence. The event will raise money for Take Back the Night and April's Run to Remember, a 5K night-time buddy run that starts at 7 p.m. on the Health Center lawn.

Running for your life has taken on a new meaning with Wednesday's Run to ReMembber, a 5k night-time buddy run that starts at 7 p.m. on the Health Center lawn. The event will raise money for Take Back the Night and April's ReMembber Week, which are designed to raise awareness for sur­vivors of sexual assault and violence. The week's events allow a safe place for survivors to share their personal stories and remember those who have been affected by sexual assault. Events during the week include self-defense classes, dating abuse awareness week, and art displays. The special week put on every year by the Women's Center is usually funded, but this year due to budget cuts, an event was needed to raise the money.

"This is the first time we are doing such a run," said psychology junior and lead organizer Becky Swanson. "Each year we are allotted a certain amount of money for ReMembber Week, but last year we cleared the whole bud­get." Swanson said she anticipates up to 220 participants in the 3.1-mile run, and it is open to males and females returning to college.

The run extends throughout campus and is an initiative designed to encourage night-time runners, especially women, to run with a buddy for safety reasons. Participants in this run, however, are free to run or walk without a buddy.

Swanson said she encourages everyone to participate in order to show support for female survivors of sexual assault and violence.

The event has been promoted throughout campus and San Luis Obispo.

"There has been a big push on campus," Swanson said. "We also distributed information throughout the community -- in bike stores, high school cross-country run, see RUN, page 2.

Students manage, invest university money

By Meghan Reerslev

Check into the play money; 20 companies, such as Etna Insurance, Johnson & Johnson and Microsoft. The Foundation portfolio is currently worth $467,000, and the College of Business portfolio is worth $19,000. Each portfolio contains a diverse range of stocks, with companies such as Etna Insurance, Johnson & Johnson and Microsoft.

Students participating in SMPT enroll in the class for two consecutive terms. Gorman said roughly 20 students apply per term but only 10 are accepted. The majority of the students are in their second year, but finance majors are usually the ones who are interested. The success of the class was used in 2001 when the

Primary voting today

By Spencer Marley

Students voted today in a special election. The Foundation supplied $200,000 for students to invest. The Orfalea College of Business later kicked in a lesser amount of money. Gorman said the seed money is
PORTFOLIO continued from page 1
placed second in a national portfolio competition sponsored by the Redefining Student Investment Strategy Symposium. The competition allowed students to showcase their portfolios, and was judged on growth, value, and styles of management. Gorman said a MBA team from Purdue University edged out Cal Poly’s undergraduate students for first place.

The value of the undergraduate portfolio experience is sensed when students interview for jobs and start a career.

“The when I was interviewing after college, (SMPT) was an easy point of conversation,” Ryan Breitl, 25, Cal Poly graduate and current vice president of a Beverly Hills Bank of America, said. “Everyone was interested in the project and would ask me about it.”

Breitl said the class prepared him for his career more than any of the other business classes he enrolled in during college.

Students currently working on the project echo Breitl’s opinion of the priceless experience. Finance senior Jon Eustis said the class gives him a real world perspective that because undergraduates do not have the real-life practice.

“Dr. Gorman and this class have opened my eyes to the world of finance,” Eustis said. “It’s fun to have actual money to invest whereas marijuana is grown for THC content. Other than fiber, hemp seeds and oils are also in products such as veggie burgers and snack bars. Hempseed oil is used in products such as vegetable-based animals. Other than fiber, hemp seeds and oils are also in products such as veggie burgers and snack bars. Hempseed oil is used in products such as vegetable-based animals.

ELECTIONS continued from page 1
majority. Fetter spoke about the implications of Proposition 55 if passed.

“California is in an odd position,” Fetter said. “Right now the partisan system allows one party to block all measures if they have at least a third of the seats.”

He went on to explain that California is one of three states in the nation to still follow a supermajority requirement of two-thirds, which he says is antithetical to the idea of an ideal government.

Propositions 57 and 58 are viewed as major steps in the right direction, but there is still room for improvement.

Propositions 57 would allow a bond of up to $15 billion to pay off the deficit accrued in the state’s General Fund. According to the League of Women Voters of California, the proposition will cost the average family more than $2,200. Proposition 58 was intended to ensure that the fund’s expenditures will not surpass the revenues.

“California is one of three states in the nation to still follow a supermajority requirement of two-thirds, which he says is antithetical to the idea of an ideal government.

Both Brown and Shrubb said that the people are not aware of the benefits of growing hemp.

“Banning hemp doesn’t make any sense at all because there are too many benefits,” Brown said. “There are many problems... there are literally thousands of applications for hemp and we’re just trying to show people the correct information,” he said. Student Life and Leadership, puts on monthly events and focuses on sustainability, an environment of greening personal and professional growth and educational success. Those of the events are to define sexual assault, provide a supportive environment for assault survivors and aid in community education concerning preventative measures for the Cal Poly community.

Those who wish to participate in the rally can sign up by filling out and returning registration forms obtained in the Women’s Center and available in the University Union room 217.

The cost is $15 and includes a Rally Rock, a glow stick and a flashlight. Sign-ups continue through Wednesday.
**National Roundup**

SAN FRANCISCO — A Catholic charitable organization must include birth control coverage in its health care plan for workers even though the nonprofit is morally opposed to contraception, the California Supreme Court ruled Monday.

The 6-1 ruling could reach far beyond the 183 full-time charity employees and affect thousands of workers at Catholic hospitals and other church-backed institutions throughout the state.

**REDWOOD CITY — Just days before jury selection is set to begin, attorneys in Scott Peterson's double-murder trial continue to haggle over what evidence jurors will be allowed to hear.**

Judge Alfred A. Cannavino has already made several key rulings in the case, excluding a decision to allow prosecution to use evidence police gathered with electronic devices and in truck Petueson's car after his arrest.

The admissibility of Peterson's phone conversations that police intercepted is still up issue. That trial was set to start next week, but has been postponed Monday, though court began with the judge asking another two defense witnesses behind closed doors.

Peterson is charged in the deaths of his pregnant wife, Laci, and their unborn son.

EAGLE, Colo. — Kobe Bryant's defense team leveled another blast at the woman accusing him of raping Monday, saying for the first time she had sex with someone else for more than 15 hours after her alleged assault.

The accusation was made in a court filing that says the 9-year-old victim's sexual history must be admitted as evidence to preserve Bryant's right to a fair trial.

The same arguments were expected to be made behind closed doors during a two-day hearing that began Monday.

**LOS ANGELES — A commuter train struck a car on the railroad tracks Monday, killing a 40-year-old woman and injuring 14 others, authorities said.**

The accident occurred at about 8 a.m. when a Metro Blue Line train hit a vehicle on the tracks in Watts, said fire department spokesman Jim Wells. The car was dragged dozens of feet, trapping three people in the well, Wells said. Rescue crews cut the top off the car to get them out.

A 40-year-old woman who was a passenger in the car was killed. The 45-year-old man driving the car was critically injured and a 9-year-old boy riding in the car had minor injuries.

Twelve people on the train suffered minor injuries, Wells said.

— Associated Press

**World Roundup**

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq leaders must still decide on the form of a new government to take power June 30 despite approval of an interim constitution before dawn Monday — two days after the deadline. It establishes a bill of rights and cements compromises on the structure of a future presidency and the role of Islam.

The document calls for elections by Jan. 31, 2005, to create a legislature, with a goal of having women in at least a quarter of the seats. It does not say what kind of government will run the country from June 30, when the U.S.-led coalition hands over power, until Jan. 31.

**TOKYO — Thousands marked the 50th anniversary Monday of a U.S. nuclear test in the Pacific that exposed Japanese fishermen to radiation, laying flowers at the grave of one of the victims and staging a protest against atomic weapons.**

About 2,100 marchers carrying photographs of Akio Kibiwaya, who died six months after the March 1, 1954, bombing, walked outside through his mother in Tokyo to a ceremony at his grave, police said.

Many of the marchers, including Japanese anti-nuclear activists and representatives from the United States and the Marshall Islands, had red roses. Kibiwaya's favorite flower, and officials at the temple where his tomb is located.

PORT-AL-PRUNCE, Haiti — Rebels rolled into the capital Monday and were met by hundreds of residents dancing in the streets and cheering the ouster of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. U.S. Marines and French troops secured key sites.

People clapped and waved as they yelled "Good job!" and the name of Che Guevara, a key rebel leader. The convoy four soldiers rode Petionville, a wealthy suburb, before moving into the heart of Port-AL-PRUNCE.

**BRUSSELS, Belgium — The European Union on Monday started imposing millions of dollars in sanctions on American goods but said it would stop the measure immediately if the U.S. Congress repeals its export tax break legislation.**

The U.S. legislation was ruled illegal by the World Trade Organization two years ago and it authorized the EU to impose sanctions last year.

"The U.S. has not brought its legislation in line with WTO rules. We are therefore left with no choice but to impose countermeasures," EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said in a statement.

— Associated Press

**College Roundup**

RENO, Nev. — A federal court ruling in Virginia that allows colleges to deny admission to illegal immigrants overcame a two-year-long public debate over the issue in Nevada, a university official said.

Nevada Chancellor Jane Nichols said last week's ruling by U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III in Alexandria, much like my legal bearing on policies in the state, unless it results in the Supreme Court.

Still, Nichols said it a problem all state-wide campuses.

"That is certainly an issue in Nevada, where we have many children who were brought in this country before present laws. As they were minor and for which this is the only country they have ever known," Nichols told the Reno Gazette-Journal.

"We have students and students' families from out high schools who have legal challenges. We are therefore hard to provide access to college for those young students."

Nevada higher education institu­tions require proof of legal residence status or proof of citizenship from out-of-state students, but not from students who are recent Nevada high school graduates, Nichols said.

"So it's a wide-open door that anyone can walk through, we just honor our Nevada high school graduates," she said.

Nichols could not estimate how many of those graduates have been illegal immigrants.

— Wire Services

**Students Win with Campus Express Club**

By Tonya Strickland

CAMPUS DINING STAFF WRITER

When Nathaniel Jakus, Cindy Chih and Austin Lumbard decided to add value to their Campus Express Club memberships this quarter, they became quite thankful. The decision not only gave them discounts, but deals and flexibility when spending on campus, but it also automatically entered them in a contest where they won scholarships ranging from tuition to text book credit.

"I am grateful for how this helps me in my life," said Jakus, first place winner. He received a $582 reimbursement check for Winter Quarter's instant tuition. Jakus said he made a personal agreement with himself to use his winnings wisely.

The winners did nothing out of the ordinary to win the contest, all they did was open or add value to their Campus Express Club during January. Campus Express Club is the campus value program, accessed through the PolyCard (campus ID) and is open to all Cal Poly students, faculty and staff.

Join, add value or check your balance at www.cpfoundation.org/express.

After adding value to their Campus Express Club membership, they used their PolyCard to purchase food and school supplies at restaurants on campus, the Campus Market, El Corral Bookstore, most vending machines, the Health Center, for printing at Open Access labs or copies at Pony Prints in the library.

"I totally thought it was a mistake at first," said Chih, second place winner, "I just happened to use my card a couple of times for printing."

— Staff advertisement

**KEEP SLO GREAT!**

TUESDAY, MARCH 2ND

FOR THESE FINE CANDIDATES

5th District County Supervisor

Mike Ryan

3rd District County Supervisor

Jerry Lenthall

33rd Assembly

Sam Blakeslee

3rd District Republican Central Comm.

Richard Martin

Propositions

NO on Proposition 55
NO on Proposition 56
NO on Proposition 57
NO on Proposition 58

Byline: Richard Martin

Campus Express Club

Everyone is a winner with Campus Express!

Every student who joins the Club during January wins with Campus Express Club.

When Chih said she realized that the balance on her card was higher than normal, she was confused. "I kept asking the clerk to check and recheck it, hoping that it wasn't a mistake," she said, "this is a great contest, especially when it is unexpected!"

— Staff advertisement

http://www.cpfoundation.org/express

Everyone is a winner with the convenience and flexibility of Campus Express Club. For current "Hot Deals" discounts at campus restaurants, check:
No surprise: ‘Lord of the Rings’ sweeps Oscars

• Penn, Theron walk away from annual awards with Best Actor and Actress awards

By David Germain
AP MOVIE VffilTER

LOS ANGELES — They slew beasts, toppled tyrants and destroyed a ring of ultimate evil, becoming lords of the Academy Awards for their troubles.

In an all-around predictable evening at the Oscars, the ragtag heroes of “The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King” hosted the fantasy genre to a new artistic high Sunday, earning a record-tying 11 awards, taking best picture and sweeping each of its categories.

Televising ratings for the show rebounded, up 17 percent from last year in Nielsen Media Research’s overnight measurement of the nation’s 55 largest markets. Last year, when “Chicago” won best picture, viewership was at an all-time low because of the Iraq war.

When final ratings are in, the Oscars should have a viewership of about 42.5 million, estimated Larry Hyams, ABC research chief. That put the show on par with 2002 (41.8 million) and 2001 (42.9 million).

“Anyone who got a 17 percent gain versus a year ago, you have to be pleased,” Hyams said.

Peter Jackson, who shepherded J.R.R. Tolkien’s Middle-earth saga to the screen, won the best director Oscar and shared the adapted-screenplay award with his two co-writers.

“I think it’s fair to say that we had goblins and trolls and wizards and everything else made it hard for people to take it seriously,” Jackson said backstage. “I appreciate that the academy and voters thought we have seen through all that.”

Tolkien’s themes — “Forgiveness, courage, faith, friendship” — are “themes that go straight to the heart,” Jackson said.

All four acting front-runners won, each claiming their first Oscar. Sean Penn took the best-actor prize as a vengeful father in “Mystic River,” and Charlize Theron won for best actress as serial killer Aileen Wuornos in “Monster.”

Supporting-performance Oscars went to Tim Robbins as a man emotionally hamstrung by childhood trauma in “Mystic River” and Renee Zellweger as a hardy Confederate survivor in “Cold Mountain.”

Theron joked that since everyone in New Zealand — where “Lord of the Rings” was shot — had been thanked, she had to thank everyone in her home country, South Africa.

“And my mom,” said Theron, who gained 30 pounds for “Monster” and was unrecognizable behind dark contact lenses and unflattering makeup. “You have sacrificed so much for me to be able to live here and make my dreams come true, and there are no words to describe how much I love you. And I’m not going to cry.”

Penn — who has been diminutive of awards in the past but graciously accepted after skipping the Oscars the three previous times he was nominated — was taken by surprise when the audience gave him a standing ovation.

“I did arguably feel I was there to debunk the notion that it was a popularity contest,” Penn said backstage. “But they took that away from me in the room.”

Sofia Coppola’s Oscar victory for original screenplay for “Lost in Translation” made her family the second clan of three-generation Oscar winners, joining Walter, John and Anjelica Huston. Her father is free-time winner Francis Ford Coppola, who was an executive producer on “Lost in Translation,” and her grand-father, Carmine Coppola, won for musical score on “The Godfather Part II.”

“I never thought my dad would be watching me get one,” Coppola said. “So it’s just a thrill.”

Oscar voters saved the best for last on “The Lord of the Rings” trilogy, showering the final installment with four prizes after parts I and 2 won only technical or music awards.

“There’s a 7-year-old kid in me that used to make films in my parents’ back garden, and I never dreamt I’d be here,” Peter Jackson, “Lord of the Rings” director, Oscar winner.


“When ‘The Lord of the Rings’,”

“The Father,”

“Into the West,” the wistful tune of farewell from “Return of the King,” won the best-song Oscar. The song was written by Fran Walsh, the film’s co-screenwriter. Shore and Annie Lennox, who sings the tune. Only a handful of fantasy films have won, having won two years ago on “Fellowship of the Ring” and “Two Towers” among them — but none had won until now.

Jackson’s trilogy has proven to be box-office gold, with global ticket sales of $2.8 billion for the three films. “Return of the King” has topped $1 billion alone, the No. 2 box-office draw behind “Titanic” at $1.8 billion.

Jackson labored for seven years to adapt Tolkien’s trilogy — first convincing Hollywood bankers to stake him to the tune of $300 million, then marshaling a cast and crew of 2,000 to shoot the three films and land them in theaters just a year apart.

The result was a 9 1/2-hour saga that seamlessly blended live action and computer animation. Real actors credibly shared the screen with flying hearts, hallucinating trolls and walking, talking trees and shepherds.

“Tolkien is the bravest thing I’ve ever done in my life, but ever since I was a kid, I wanted to be a filmmaker, so whatever better film to work on, than ‘The Lord of the Rings,’ ” said Jackson, whose next project is a “King Kong” remake. “It was a privilege every day. It nearly killed me, but right now it feels absolutely fine.”
Jackson’s Super Bowl peep show

discretion technology’’ that flopped
show on C BS was, at best, an
Nipplegate?
may be living on borrowed time, a
push. And bona fide “live” television
big in the 1990s, are getting a new
happened at halftime.
there’s still no final score for what
history, but a month after Janet
AP TELEVISION WRITER
Mustang Daily

What’s next, if anything, for TV?
For many viewers, the halftime
show on CBS was, at best, an
instance of colossal carelessness that
reflected years of media malpractice
TV programmers routinely misjudging
and ill serving their audience. Would this flash point (or is it
flash point?) spark the network bosses
to mend their ways, and maybe even earn themselves a bit of audi­
cence goodwill?
They’re certainly getting strong
couragement. Lawmakers are
breathing down the broadcasters’
necks, threatening fines and even
slapping them around during hear­
ings on Capitol Hill. For example, Mel Karmazin, pres­
tident of CBS owner Viacom Inc., got
an earful from Rep. Heather Wilson,
R-N.M., who, her voice shaking,
seethed, “You knew what you were
doing; You knew that shock and
indecency creates a buzz that moves
market share and lines your pockets.”
But David Milch (who in the past
has taken heat for charges of racism
on “NYFD Blue,” the police drama
he created and for many years wrote) dis­
misses any Washington backlash
on “NYPD Blue,” the police drama
a game, a Punch and Judy Show.”
“A politician doesn’t want to
(mess) too much with the media
boss, because his success or failure depends on how the
beast treats him.
“But he also knows that the elec­
torale expects him to occasionally go
up and smack the beast, then beat his
cheer. The beast goes ‘(oooh, ohhh!’
then looks at him and winks.”
Elsewhere in Washington, prospects for meaningful change
seem even more dubious.
Though FCC chairman Michael
Powell has vowed to crack down
on obscenity on the airwaves, such a
mission would seem at cross purposes
with his demonstrated passion: let­
ting media conglomerates grow big­
ger and more powerful.
In this climate of FCC deregula­
tion, “public interest” on the public
airwaves is dismissed as an antique
notion from a bygone day. Meanwhile, media owners richly
profit from the FCC’s
permissiveness.
Indeed, the current
reign of media giants
allows the cross-mer­
or of MTV, which
is owned by Viacom —
but produced by MTV,
also owned by Viacom —
which is
one of just a half-dozen ruling media
conglomerates.
What a great strategy, at least in
theory: The halftime show provides a
huge promotional platform for MTV
on the year’s biggest TV event. As for
any viewers offended by the bump­
ing, grinding and crude grappling —
well, they’ll just have to take it. They
always take it.
“We make our uneasy peace with
the merchandising process,” journal­
ist Bill Moyers said. “But then it
crosses a certain boundary.”
As did Jackson and her bodice-rip­
ping pas de deux with Justin
Timberlake. For once, much of the
watching world cried foul. Which
wasn’t part of Viacom’s grand plan.
On his weekly PBS magazine,
“Now,” and elsewhere, Moyers has
long reported on the fewer, bigger
companies that control most of what
the public sees, hears and reads.
“There is a connection between
concentration of ownership and con­
tent,” said Moyers, adding that,
thanks to the current array of leg­
islators — conservatives and liberals alike —
may never catch on to that
connection.
But will a heightened understand­ing
lead to heightened resolve to
do something about it? Well, that’s
another story.
So while media bigwigs are being
cited like never before as a factor in the
media’s descent into lewdness,
stun trial. How will Comcast, the
nation’s largest cable provider, fare in
its campaign to acquire The Walt
Disney Co., which owns ABC, ESPN,
movie studios, theme parks
and much more? Will the
powers­that­be approve a merger of these
cross­mergers?
The only certainty is that, for
the moment, Washington is sweating the
media and media outlets are acting
cautiously.
Example: The tougher program­
ing standards unveiled last week by
Clear Channel Communications,
with which this radio levianth prob­
ably scored points among lawmakers
as well as the public, especially after
hunting Stern.
On the other hand, just how big a
loss for Clear Channel was expiring
a radio host hired on only six of
its 1,200 stations, as it scrambles to
retain favor from its regulators? A
cost­benefit ratio might well find
Stern to be less valuable as a ratings
target than as a sacrificial lamb.
Hollow gestures and diversionary
tactics — look for these as part of the
game that Milch is talking about. If
history serves, it’s not a game the
public is favored to win.
Bipartisan idiocy in gay marriage debate

Whether or not one agrees with the premise of this article, it is important to acknowledge the perspective of the author. This article provides a different viewpoint on the topic of gay marriage, which can be beneficial in understanding the complexity of the issue. While the author argues against gay marriage, it is crucial to remember that there are many people who feel differently, and it is important to listen to and respect their opinions. The discussion surrounding gay marriage is often heated and polarizing, but it is important to remain open-minded and considerate when engaging in these conversations. Ultimately, the decision on gay marriage should be made by individuals and the legal systems of the countries and states where it is relevant, rather than by politicians or the media. It is essential to approach the issue with a sense of empathy and understanding, and to work towards a society that is inclusive and accepting of all individuals.
Note: The circled letters will show a "change in the weather."
Football team hits field in full gear

season-opener against Humboldt State Lumberjacks is six months away

By Meghan Reeser

"Football season is the last thing on seniors' minds, but the Cal Poly football players are already back on the field. Feb. 15 marked the beginning of Cal Poly football's "spring ball," a series of 15 team practices and the Green and Gold scrimmage game.

Team practices run from 7:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and Saturdays from 8:30 to 10 a.m. until March 10. The Green and Gold scrimmage will take place Saturday at 11 a.m. in Mustang Stadium.

NCAA rules allocate a maximum of 15 spring football practices. Assistant football coach David Brown said after the first formal practices conclude, the athletes will resume conditioning, strength training and practicing their skills with each other without the coaches.

Schools start football spring training at various times but Brown said the Cal Poly football players were already back on the field and conditioning for the winter term practices. This is the second year the football program has started the spring practices during winter term.

"We found it to be great starting earlier last year," Brown said. "If an athlete is injured in winter, they have a longer period to recuperate for the fall season. It also gives an extra start on conditioning."

The team has learned to adapt to this year's wet weather by moving practice into Mott Gym, although some of the practices have been cancelled. Brown said the fields are not safe after a downpour, and the team's safety must be a priority. Brown said spring ball gives the football players a chance to develop football fundamentals and techniques without having to concentrate on upcoming games and competitors.

"We get to dust off our techniques right now," freshman red-short linebacker Kyle Shottwell said. "This is a way to refocus in between football seasons. It really helps to be able to play football in between the seasons and concentrate on fundamentals instead of our opponents."

Team members use spring practices and the scrimmage to highlight their skills and compete for starting positions.

"It's very intense right now," freshman defensive back Chad Simonson said. "A lot of players will be working for their spot and will be going full speed."

Shottwell agreed there is a competitive nature during spring ball, but said the athletes never feel like they can "chop shorts" against teammates and remember they are team members, not opponents.

"Anytime we go out there and compete it's fun," he said. "It's kind of weird to compete against each other at first, but in order to get as good as we strive to be, we have to compete against each other in practice." Simonson said the practices are competitive but are also a bonding period for teammates and unity amongst the team.

Mulder returns to mound in practice

PHOENIX (AP) — Oakland Athletics left-hander Mark Mulder said he will be ready to take his regular turn and not get the pitches he's fine, we'll get him back on the field. It won't matter." Assistant coach Clarence Cockrell added, "He has a great-looking person." Simonson said the practices are competitive but are also a bonding period for teammates and unity amongst the team.

SPRING TRAINING

Guerrero's got bat

By Ken Peters

Tempe, Ariz. — After watching Vladimir Guerrero hit yet another ball into the hedge beyond the fence in left-center field, Anaheim coach Ron Roenicke felt compelled to defend his pitching in the batting practice session.

"Ah, man, it's your first day and I'm trying to make you look good," Roenicke shouted from the mound. Guerrero didn't really need any help.

Showing no sign of the back injury that limited him to 112 games with Montreal last season, Guerrero was swinging the bat smoothly and mostly making solid contact.

"It feels good. I've been working on my back, so everything's OK," the 28-year-old Guerrero said through an interpreter.

Originally scheduled for 30 throws, Mulder went over the limit to test all 10 pitches.

"I didn't want to shortchange them and not get the pitches I needed to get," he said. "It was fine."

Mulder has been exercising with strength and conditioning coach Caroline Cockrell on the side while missing drills.

Macho said he'd like to see Mulder get in the equivalent of seven innings, or 100 pitches, by the time the A's break camp at the end of March.

As reliever Chad Bradford is also struggling with back spasms but is expected to participate in full drills in a day or two.

Right-hander Rich Harden, projected as the fifth starter, is also recovering from a minor injury to his non-throwing shoulder, but is not expected to set him back.

Harden went through a long session Saturday and is expected to pitch again Tuesday, when the A's play an intrasquad game at Papago Park.

"It feels good. I've been working on my back, so everything's OK," the 28-year-old Guerrero said through an interpreter.

Guerrero signed a five-year, $70 million free-agent contract with the Angels in January.

During the drills, manager Mike Scioscia at one point laughed and yelled at Guerrero, joking and telling him that he was supposed to be doing bunting drills.

A career .333 hitter who averaged 37 homers over the past six seasons, Guerrero won't be bunting much.

Hitting coach Mickey Hatcher took an immediate liking to the new right fielder.

"He's always smiling, lights up the room," said Hatcher, himself a cheerful sort. "He's a good, solid person."

"And he's really good," Hatcher added. "He has a great-looking swing, tremendous bat speed, and when he steps into the box, that's when his serious side shows."

Guerrero will hit third in what should be a powerful lineup. Garrett Anderson will bat cleanup.

"I feel I am going to get a lot better protection with Garrett Anderson hitting behind me," Guerrero said. "I haven't really had a better hitter like him batting behind me."

Along with his hitting, Guerrero also was an outstanding defensive player, with one of the best arms in the majors. He considers defense very important.

"You know you can go 0-for-4 and still help the team win," he said.

His new teammates obviously were glad to have Guerrero join them.

"It's great to see a guy of his quality in an Angels uniform," shortstop David Eckstein said.

Phil Liggett, Todd Kalas, Jim Nantz, Bob Costas, and Bruce Beck will handle the play-by-play action for the games. Jessica Mendoza will do the color commentary, and Daron Sutton will handle the analysis.

Sports editor Sean Martin can be reached at 756-1796 or mustang-dailyports@yahoo.com