**Wine, viticulture major offered**

By Emily Wong

When E&J Gallo Winery entered a partnership with Cal Poly in 1999, it planted the seeds for a future of viticulture on campus.

In 2000, Gallo planted 50 acres of grapes on the university’s Chorro Creek Ranch. Another 50 acres of wine grapes were planted on the vineyard in 2002. The company also set up an official six-month internship program for Cal Poly students.

These contributions helped lead the College of Agriculture to offer a bachelor’s degree in wine and viticulture, effective spring quarter.

A wine and viticulture minor was incorporated into the COAG in 1999. Since its inception, 127 students have completed the program.

Industry partners have helped support the growth of the program and California State University Chancellor Charles Reed granted approval for the major in a letter to Cal Poly President Warren Boker, see MAJOR, page 2

**College bound: Poly best Western school**

By Nicole Angeloni

Cal Poly has been named the best regional university in the West in a recent survey that examined college-bound students’ opinions on universities.

Carnege Communications surveyed 4,000 college-bound high school students on public and private colleges across the nation as part of their “Project Connect 2003.” The survey was designed to assess if rankings such as U.S. News & World Report were influential in helping prospective students decide on a university.

“My own personal belief is that rankings are great when your school is named,” said James Maraviglia, Cal Poly’s assistant vice president of admissions, recruitment and finance. “This survey is unique in the fact that it actually gets at what students are thinking, not what other rankings say.”

U.S. News & World Report places the greatest weight upon peer assessment of academic excellence — opinions of college presidents, deans and provosts about colleges other than their own. But the recent survey found that prospective college students don’t necessarily rank quality the same way. Out of the 18 characteristics used by U.S. News & World Report, students rank student-to-faculty ratio as the best indicator of quality, with peer assessment ranked second. Only 1 percent of the U.S. News & World Report rankings were determined by student-to-faculty ratio.

U.S. News & World Report currently ranks Cal Poly as the No. 3 university among public and private schools in the West, a spot the university has held since 1999.

“I was pleased to see that California State universities were highlighted over some of the more typically prominent universities in the West,” Maraviglia said. “It shows that students aren’t always on track with what other rankings show.”

In the survey’s list of top public and private universities in the West, Cal Poly was followed by Gonzaga College, see RANKING, page 2

**Auction**

**Goofy goes for Goodwill**

By Hillary Schuler-Jones

Goofy, whaddaya know: Disney’s Goofy is hitting an auction block near you.

A collection of more than 100 pieces of Goofy memorabilia will go to the highest bidder in a silent auction held by the San Luis Obispo County branch of Goodwill Industries this month.

An anonymous donor contributed the eclectic assortment of hats, buttons, boxes, socks, trinkets, glassware, shirts, mugs and other souvenirs, all embalmed with images of the famous Disney dog.

The items will be auctioned in a single block, with the winner taking the entire lot as well as a piece of cartoon history.

Goofy’s first appearance with the Pisyney cast was realized in the 1932 cartoon “Mickey’s Revue.” His character has since appeared in 48 Goofy cartoons, most of which featured the bumbling human/dog turning ordinary situations into chaos.

Along the way, catch phrases such as “A-hyuck!” and “Gawrsh!” made him a popular figure.

Peter Danum, Goodwill’s San Luis Obispo County branch director, was unsure about the exact value of the merchandise but expected to generate a few thousand dollars.

“We’re guessing that somebody, a collector who knows the real value, is going to get wind of this and follow it,” he said.

A search of Goofy collectibles on Internet auction site eBay.com revealed 3,782 items, with several sculptures and figurines selling for thousands of dollars.

A collection of more than 100 pieces of Goofy memorabilia is on display in the San Luis Obispo Goodwill store at 15 Higuera St. The collection will be sold in a silent auction.

**Events Calendar**

List of upcoming activities on campus

What: ‘Good, the Bad and Medialand!’ A free public forum with a panel of experts discussing today’s media.

When: Today, 7 p.m.

Where: Performing Arts Center, Philips Hall

More info: Call the Office of Liberal Arts college relations office, 756-1216

What: Orfalea College of Business press conference on the university’s impact on the local economy.

When: Friday, 11 a.m.

Where: OCBR Financial Analysis Resource Center, room 302

More info: Call the OCBR, 756-2704

What: Slide presentation by Jock McDonald, an internationally acclaimed photographer.

When: Friday, 7 p.m.

Where: Performing Arts Center, Philips Hall

More info: Call Susan Duffy, 756-2935

What: Pops Concert, featuring the university’s wind orchestra and wind ensemble.

When: Saturday, 8 p.m.

Where: Performing Arts Center, Harman Hall

More info: Call the music department, 756-2607

What: Winter Concert, presented by the Cal Poly Symphony, featuring masterpieces by German composers.

see EVENTS, page 2
News

GOOFY continued from page 1
more than $300. Other smaller objects such as pins, stuffed animals and T-shirts were up for a few dollars apiece.

Danaun estimated that two old-fashioned novelty telephones were probably the most expensive items in the Central Coast collection; he had seen similar models sell for up to $100 in stores.

Other unique pieces include a Goofy wristwatch and a Per diem in its original packaging.

Danaun knows the donor personally and said that many of the items were given to him by friends and family members over the last 20 years.

His children even referred to him as "our Goofy dad," growing up, Danaun said.

BLEEX continued from page 1
marching.

"The design of this exoskeleton really benefits from human intellect and the strength of the machine," says Homayoon Kaz, a professor of Robotics and Human Engineering Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley.

The exoskeleton consists of a pair of mechanical leg braces that include a power unit and a backpack-like frame. The braces are attached to a modified pair of Armary boots and are also connected, although loosely, to the user's legs.

More than 40 sensors and hydraulic mechanisms function like a human nervous system, constantly calculating how to distribute the weight being borne and create a minimal load for the wearer.

"There is no joystick, no keyboard, no push button to drive the device," said Kaz, a professor of mechanical engineering. "The pilot becomes an integral part of the exoskeleton.

In lab experiments, said Kaz, the restiners have walked around in the 100-pound exoskeleton plus a 25-pound backpack and felt as if they were carrying just five pounds.

Eventually, the device could help rescuers haul heavy equipment up high-rise buildings or turn tired troops into striking super soldiers.

What it won't do is turn you into a Borg, the gadget-happy gladiators of the "Star Trek" fame.

"The exoskeleton is not going to magically transform people into walking machines," said Kaz, known to his students as Professor "Kace." "They're really good, it turns out, at enabling firefighters, soldiers, post-disaster rescue crews to carry heavy loads over great distances for hours.

So, no cyber cops. But at least you get Terminator legs.

RANKING continued from page 1

University in Wash.; Cal Poly, Pomona, Loyola Marymount University, and Trinity University in Texas.

Among the top schools in Carnegie's National list, students ranked Yale University first, followed by Harvard, Stanford, Princeton and Duke.

Thirty years ago when I was looking at colleges, I don't think I looked at one ranking," Marvagis said. "Now there are so many different resources available to students that are looking for them.

Carnegie Communications, a private media company based out of Boston, publishes more than 30 annual manuscripts, books and other publications aimed at college-bound high school students. The most popular of these publications is Private Colleges & Universities. For more information on "Project Connect 2003," Carnegie Communications and other college rankings, go to www.carnegiecom.com.

MAJOR continued from page 1

"With the addition of the wine and viticulture major, Cal Poly's College of Agriculture is now poised to offer students a unique and powerful hands-on education in all aspects of the wine industry," COAG Dean David Welther said in press release.

Hands-on resources such as the Cal Poly/Gallo Vineyard and a wine analysis laboratory certified by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms will be instrumental in the new bachelor's degree program.

The campus location, in the heart of the Central Coast wine country, will also serve as an advantage for students seeking internships and jobs.

"Our curriculum requires a mandatory industry internship. That's one thing that really sets our program apart," viticulture professor Keith Patterson said in a press release. "Not all of our students will work through summer and spend one quarter working through the crash and harvest to gain actual experience.

University of California, Davis and California State University, Fresno are other universities that offer viticulture and enology programs in California. Cal Poly has an existing partnership in graduate agricultural education programs with UC Davis.

"By the time they graduate from Cal Poly, students interested in going into enology will also know how to market and sell wine, and students interested in the business side of the industry need to be aware of "the quirk and wine marketing will know how to grow grapes and make wine," Patterson said.

California is the fourth largest grape producer in the world, after France, Italy and Spain. Ninety percent of America's grape production takes place in central California. The Paso Robles, Edna Valley, Arroyo Grande Valley, Santa Maria and Santa Ynez Valley wineeries have been gaining popularity since the 1990s. In January 2003, Forbes magazine named Paso Robles "The Next Napa."

Events

continued from page 1

When: Sunday, 3 p.m.
Where: Cal Poly Theatre
More info: Call the music department, 756-2406


When: Monday, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Cal Poly Theatre
More info: Call the College of Science and Mathematics, 756-2226


When: Friday, March 19, 8 p.m.
Where: Cal Poly Theatre
More info: For tickets, call 756-2787

What: Preoccupation Station. Pancake breakfast, professional massages, arts and crafts, cookie decorating.

When: Wednesday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Where: UIU Plaza
More info: Call ASI Events, 756-2112

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Cal Poly is borrowing $15,000,000 to implement another part of the Student Administration module of its new computer system, supplied by PeopleSoft. The annual loan payment (more than $2.3 million) is enough to pay for:

- 46 Full-time Lecturers, or
- 500 Classes, or
- 20,000 places in classes

Does this make sense to you? If not, let your dean know you would rather have more classes:

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News

Thursday, March 11, 2004

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Thursday, March 11, 2004

Dying to work

Mexican worker deaths rise sharply even as overall U.S. job safety improves

By Justin Pritchard

Associated Press

The jobs that lure Mexican workers to the United States are killing them in a worsening epidemic that is now claiming a victim a day, an Associated Press investigation has found.

Though Mexicans often take the most hazardous tasks, they are more likely than others to be killed even when doing seemingly simple work.

The death rates are greatest in Washington and Colorado, as well as Southern states where a Mexican worker is four times more likely to die than the average U.S.-born worker.

These accidental deaths get little attention, but are almost always preventable and often gruesome. Workers are impaled, shredded in machines, buried alive. Some are as young as 15.

For the first study of its kind of Mexican worker deaths in the United States, the AP talked with scores of workers, employers, advocates and government officials and analyzed years of federal safety and population statistics.

Among the findings:

• Mexican death rates are rising even as the U.S. workplace grows safer overall. In the mid-1990s, Mexicans were about 30 percent more likely to die than native-born workers; now they are about 80 percent more likely.

• Deaths among Mexicans increased faster than their population in the United States. Between 1996 and 2002, the number of Mexican workers grew by about half, from 4 million to 6 million, the number of deaths rose by about twice, from 241 to 387. Deaths peaked at 420 in 2001.

• Though their odds of dying in parts of the West and the Southeast are far greater than the U.S. average, fatalities occur everywhere: Mexicans died falling trees in Colorado, wading in thick mud in Florida, running through hot asphalt in Arizona.

• Even compared to other immigrant groups — those who historically work America’s hardest jobs — what’s happening to Mexicans is exceptional in scope and scale. Mexicans are nearly twice as likely as the rest of the immigrant population to die at work.

Why is all this happening?

Public safety officials and workers themselves say the answer comes down to this: Mexicans are hired to work cheap, the fewer questions the better.

They may be thrown into jobs without training or safety equipment. Their objections may be silent if they speak no English. Those here illegally, fearful of attracting attention, can be reluctant to complain. And their work culture and Third World safety expectations don’t discourage extra risk-taking.

Simple precautions would save many lives, government records show. "Was not using any type of fall protection," concludes a government report on one worker who fell 150 feet. Says another: "It turned worker ... operated the equipment."

Another: "Procedure was patently unsafe."

Federal and state safety agencies have started to recognize the problem. But they have limited resources — only a few Spanish-speaking safety inspectors work in regions with hundreds of thousands of recent arrivals — and often can’t reach the most vulnerable Mexican workers.

President Bush’s recent proposal to grant illegal immigrants temporary protections as guest workers energized the national immigration debate. Yet in these discussions, job safety has been an afterthought. Meanwhile, Mexicans continue to die on the job.

Eighteen-year-old Carlos Huerta was helping build federal low-income housing in North Carolina — but because his bosses ignored basic work safety rules, according to state safety inspectors, he fell to his death.

Huerta was told to stand in a trash container, which a forklift raised 10 feet so he could wash a brick wall. But the improvised platform wasn’t secured to the forklift’s prongs, and it soon toppled.

In 2002, the year Huerta was killed and the last year of complete federal statistics, more Mexicans died in construction than any other industry — and more died from fatal falls than any other accident.

In January 2000, 16-year-old Antonio Garcia Reyes was framing the roof of a new college dormitory in Alabama when he plunged three stories. He had no harness or other protection against a fall, accident investigators found.

A year ago in South Carolina, brothers Rigo and Moses Xaca Sandoval died building a substation high school that, at 15 and 16, they might have attended. They were buried in a trench when the walls of sands soil collapsed.

The United States offered Rigo and Moses wages 10 times higher than in Mexico. The boys offered their employers cheap, pliant labor.

Each of these four teens had just been hired by a subcontractor, the kind of outfit bigger firms sometimes employ to keep costs down. For safety violations that led to these four deaths, the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration has fined employers a total of $63,725.

Accidents like these suggest that employers tell Mexicans to do the most grueling perilous tasks, said Susan Feldmann, who fields calls from Spanish-speaking workers for an institute within the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“They’re considered disposable,” she said.

However, employers are not always at fault, safety officials said.

Though he was trained and wear-
The greatest frustration is that so many deaths are avoidable. "Ninety-five to 99 percent of the time, there's going to be noncompliance with a standard that could have prevented the fatalities," said Joe Reina, the No. 2 OSHA official for Texas and four neighboring states and a leader of the Hispanic Taskforce.

Reina tells workers: "They just don't know that they have rights and responsibilities." He says, among them, "the right to be notified of risks in the workplace, the right to be protected from clearly hazardous equipment, the right not to work in areas that are not ventilated properly."

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The annual death rate for Mexican workers is about 2.3 per 100,000, compared to 0.4 per 100,000 for U.S. workers of any race. Though the death rate for Mexican workers is less than in Western and Southwestern states where they have arrived in large numbers—most recently, it is still greater than the average for U.S.-born workers, the AP found.

Federal and state safety officials are starting to grapple with the surge in Mexican worker deaths.

News

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1105 Santa Rosa Street (next to Baja Fresh)
Spring break. A time when the worries of school are replaced with worries of boredom. Some students choose to temporarily relocate to sunny south-of-the-border locations while others opt for road trips or camping. And then there are those rebels who choose to beat the heat and act out their ski-bum or snow-bunny fantasies.

Whichever spring-break plan students dream up to suit them, there are thousands of resources available that can help plan, book and organize that vacation. So students, get on the Internet or hit up a travel agency and find a spring-break vacation to make you forget about those frigid winter days and gear up for the sun-drenched days of summer.
Big Sur, California

For some, sleeping on the hard ground, swatting at bugs and eating food out of an ice chest may not be the ingredients of a successful vacation. For those who do not base the reward of a spring break on the lavishness of a hotel room, Big Sur offers a vacation choice that is about three hours north of San Luis Obispo.

Rosarito Beach, Mexico

After visiting Rosarito Beach, aerospace engineering junior James Cahall knew he wanted to go back. Spring Break 2004 is his chance, and this time he’s bringing his girlfriend.

“I wanted to do something different (for spring break),” Cahall said. “All of my friends are going on a (Summer Action Tour) trip.” Cahall began searching the Web site for a good deal on a nice hotel in Rosarito Beach and came across the Web site www.rentamerica.com. The Web site offers a variety of package deals ranging in price from $180 to $350. Cahall’s package cost $250 per person and includes five days and four nights at a beachfront hotel, a bus to Rosarito Beach from San Diego, breakfast and dinner for each day and exclusive discount coupons at a number of clubs in Rosarito.

“I think the coupons are for things like no cover charges to clubs, VIP passes into special areas in the clubs and drink specials,” Cahall said. As for Cahall’s plans once in Mexico, he wants to check out the local hot spots like Papa & Beer, Rock & Roll Taco and Señor Frog.

“The night atmosphere in Mexico is nice,” Cahall said. “It’s not as commercialized as a lot of places here. There are liquor stores where the beer is cheap and there are food stands on the streets where you can get good cheap food.”

Along with about 20 members from his fraternity, Delta Chi, Pozzan is looking forward to the trip. “I went on a S.W.A.T. trip in high school and it was really cool,” Pozzan said. For the $380 Pozzan will pay, he gets a bus ride to San Felipe, a stay in a beach-front hotel, two meals per day and a wristband that will get him special deals on drinks and food.

“Mexico is a lot different than the States,” Pozzan said. “It always has really nice weather and it’s just a cool place to be.”

Heavenly, Lake Tahoe

In contrast to most people who can’t get to a beach fast enough for spring break, agribusiness junior Kristin Wurster is heading for the mountains — Heavenly Ski Resort in Lake Tahoe to be exact.

“It’s going to be sunny all summer,” Wurster said."

"Long trips are all about good music, good car snacks and the random funny things that happen when a bunch of friends are locked in a car for a long time.”

Kristin Wurster

agribusiness junior

Each spring break the organization, S.W.A.T., chartered thousands of college students as they travel to sunny destinations to live it up for a few precious days where school is replaced with sun, surf and strawberry daiquiris.

This spring break one S.W.A.T. destination is San Felipe, Mexico, where agribusiness freshman Danny Pozzan is going.

"In Mexico I want to go to the beach, relax after finals, go to a sunset, eat, party and look for girls,” Pozzan said.

San Felipe, Mexico

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San Felipe, Mexico

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"In Mexico I want to go to the beach, relax after finals, go to a sunset, eat, party and look for girls,” Pozzan said.
Some people would argue that it is better to go to a new place rather than re-visit one, but Mistele disagrees.

"I want to go back," Mistele said. "The water is nice to swim in, the weather is nice to lay out in and the beaches are nice for surfing, if that's your thing."

While Tamarindo is a fairly small coastal town on the Pacific coast of Costa Rica, there are still plenty of things to do. Though Mistele's stay in Tamarindo will not be as long as her first—she will be there for five days and four nights—she is sure she will find enough to keep her busy.

"My friends and I would swim in the pool all day or go shopping in the little locally-owned shops and at night when it cooled off we'd go to dinner, go to open-mic nights and dance on bars," Mistele remembered. "My favorite thing to do was go to this really nice pool that had a rope swing into it."

Despite the pricey plane ticket (Mistele paid about $800) once in Tamarindo, she said things are fairly cheap.

"Because of its size it's not too touristy yet," said Mistele. "We could try something new and different this time around: Last time was pretty close to perfect." Mistele said. "I hope it's the same."

Tamarindo, Costa Rica

Having been to Tamarindo once before for her high school graduation trip, it was the destination of choice for spring break for biology junior Kayla Mistele.

While it may cost a lot to get there, picturesque Tamarindo, Costa Rica offers great deals once you touch down.

While students prepare for spring break, biology junior Brian Amador said.

"No one here really knows the history of St. Patrick's Day, so they just use it as an excuse to drink," speech communication senior Melissa De Santis said.

"I'm going to McCarthy's at 6 a.m. for green beer because I heard they won't even think of getting out of bed for class before 10!"

The easiest answer available is that "people do it," simple as that.

"The easiest answer available is that 'people do it,'" agricultural education senior JoLynn Miller said.

As for what she would like to do different this time around: "Last time was pretty close to perfect," Mistele said. "I hope it's the same."

Spit tobacco is addictive, deadly and disgusting. The spit tobacco industry uses rodeos to promote their product that kills when used as directed. To market their product to young adults, they sponsor the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA), doling out money to college rodeo competitors, including the Cal Poly Rodeo.

We think that's a bunch of 'spit!'

Please email your opposition to spit tobacco sponsorship of our Cal Poly Rodeo to bucktobaccoop@hotmail.com. Tell the rodeo organizers to say "NO" to tobacco money. We'll forward your emails to the rodeo organizers to ensure that your voice is heard loud and clear. With your help, we can Buck Tobacco Sponsorship.

Let your voice be heard!

LEAGUE AGAINST SPIT SPONSORSHIP AT OUR RODEOS (LASSO) For more information, call (805)781-5564 or visit www.bucktobacco.org Paid for with funds from the Public Health Institute/Tobacco Free Events Projects.

Let's Buck Tobacco!

BUCK TOBACCO SPONSORSHIP

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

As brewers prepare to ship barrels of green beer across the country to pubs and bars, people get ready to line up, as early as 6 a.m., for a sip of the strange brew and a chance to show off what little bit of the Irish they have in them next week on St. Patrick's day.

But what makes the holiday such an event? Why will college students line up for beer at 6 a.m. when they don't have the problem of getting out of bed for class before 10? The easiest answer available is that "people do it," simple as that.

"I'm going to McCarthy's at 6 a.m. for green beer because I heard they won't even think of getting out of bed for class before 10!"

One person had a different perspective on why people use alcohol to make them more proficient in the use of blarney.

"I can't pass up on green beer."

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Drive Through Location on Campus
(Mt. Bishop Rd, off of Highland)

March 15-19
9:00am - 5:00pm

Dexter Lawn

March 15-19
8:30am - 4:30pm

Front of El Corral

March 11-12  March 15-19
9:00am - 3:00pm  7:30am - 6:00pm

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Opinion
Say buenos dias to spring break in Mexico

Throughout the history of mankind, humans have always had a fixation with the legend of a utopian ideal. We envision utopian societies where everything is safe for all at our fingertips. From the lost city of Atlantis and the Asian paradise of Shangri-La, all the way to the futuristic utopia of Pleasant Island, where little boys and girls play, the smoke stops and poverty forever vanishes, humans have a history of creating a fantasy of what we will see in reality. But Disney movies excluded, reality always finds a way to leave us without illusion, disease and itching for more.

Not anymore. It brings me great pleasure to announce with fanfare, that after years of debating and illustrating anthropological research, I, James W. Whittaker, have discovered Utopia. I like to call this place—Mexico. (More specifically, Mexico during spring break.)

A spring break trip is an iconic event, the pinnacle of collegiate achievement, a measure of the university campus' worth. Each year, hundreds of thousands of students across the country, seem convinced, like pilgrims on an epic journey to the brilliant, to brilliant Buenos Aires, the fabled locales found in this country during a time where hedonism is a value of Descending society, you find us, a low down, little city in Mexico, where what’s going on, is the feeling of a slow decline into the lowest circle of hell, only twice asprawl and three times as sinful.

And who could really blame these scandal-seeking travelers? It’s a well-known fact that of Montezuma set the place up right. It’s the birthplace of the body shot and the father of the triple kiss with tongue. Where else besides Mexico could you find the perfect combination of loneliness, deathly drafts and sexually explorative college students hell bent on a little stranger sex after the dragger of a cold wet winter.

Indeed, going into Mexico is like passing into the nighttime zone, a place where pools have bars, bars are filled with food and Corona are bought by the bottle but where it’s OK for you to order drinks called Chia Chus and Pina Coladas without fear of shame or ridicule... or so I’m told.

If you’re like me, the first step toward planning a successful, sex-titled spring break is to find your palate born down to the fake and fake for a little something I like to call pre-training. This is the minimum socially accepted tan required before any and all regular racing. Even the occasional waterway is perfectly legal and within the bounds of standard relationship precedents. Just don’t be too upset if your significant other gets the same idea and winds up in a sadistic ‘Girls Gone Wild’ or accidentally impregnates a stripper.

A typical day on spring break consists of rotations on two main themes: boozing and looking up. Whether it’s walking through the lobby of the hotel, frickling at the pool bar or getting dirty with a pale at Papa’s and Beer, everyone does on spring break will be focused around one of these primary activities. Anything of lesser importance, such as eating, showering and going to bed will have to wait until after the madness of spring break has passed.

Overall, the main reason spring break is such a gregarious book-up is for the complete lack of personal identity associated with the event. Spring break is the time where 26-year-olds magically turn 22 again, where norm is something like a person’s lost name, unwanted and unnecessary. As a result of the many less serious and rampant, rising hormones weren’t enough, in the end it is the anonymity of a newly-unknown protagonist that makes spring break book-ups fulfill our deepest fantasies and desires.

So Cal Poli, whether your first spring break of your seventh, large and every one of you with the intention to dip into Mexico for a few days of sunny behavior. Before you know it, you’ll be a wildfires and worn 30-year-old, bitter and essential of the wasted opportunities of your youth. Why not throw some scorch into your recollections and some spice into your memory?

Besides, what happens in Mexico, stays in Mexico, so tell the story wrong. Let a fake name just in case.

James Whittaker is business senior and Mustang Daily columnist. He can be e-mailed at jwhit@calpoly.edu.

Letters to the editor
ASI ‘at will’ hiring policy

Editor,

All Associated Students Inc. employees hired after July 1, 1998, are classified as “at will” employees. That means employees are “at will” to terminate employees at any time. It also means ASI is “at will” to terminate employees at any time “with or without cause or prior notice.”

That means an employee could be fired without reason. They don’t need a cause or prior notice. The ASI Personnel Policy Handbook says that the ASI has the authority to do this. Why is this ASI? Who actually makes these decisions? Could the decision possibly be made because of personal reasons?

Since we, as students, finance ASI, do you think this is a fair way to treat our employees?

Mike Ranney is a construction management senior.

ASI Mardi Gras session

Editor,

Students are concerned about Mardi Gras and its future and have a wide variety of opinions regarding the situation. We, as the Associated Students Inc. student government, will be hosting a Student Feedback Session to hear from students regarding Mardi Gras. We are also looking for students to write to the broader subject of the student relationship with Cal Poly and the City of San Luis Obispo. Cal Poly administration and San Luis Obispo city officials have been invited to listen to student concerns and feedback. The goal of this session will be to further the working relationships between Cal Poly, the City of San Luis Obispo and the community. It will be held in the West Wing of Chamberlain (in the University Union) on Saturday from 6 to 8 p.m., and free pizza will be provided.

Alison Anderson and Olga Berdial are ASI president and executive vice president.

SLO is still conservative editor

Editor,

Now that the dust has settled from the Mardi Gras session, it is interesting to note a few anomalies.

The initial take might be that the country is becoming more liberal, based on the strong surprise showing of Patricia Anderson in the Third District. Associate Dean Jim Patterson’s win in the Fifth District over incumbent Mike Ryan. However, the third Assembly District Republican primary is a different story. San Blasquez, the odds-on favorite from the beginning, overwhelmingly outpolled his opponents to win the seat with a scant 59 percent of the vote. The other 41 percent was split between two conservative candidates, Matt Kukkonen and Mike Blakeslee. In other words, out of 25 Republicans voted for someone other than Blakeslee, the liberal. This shows there is still a very conservative base in the country, even though on the surface the election results would seem to indicate otherwise.

Leslie Halls is a San Luis Obispo resident.

Respect all lifestyles editor

Homosexual people are human beings, too. My sister is a very respectable lesbian who graduated as a double major in the top of her class with honors. She is one of the most influential people in my life. Her courage has inspired me endlessly, and her endless pursuit of social justice has taught me so much about strength and integrity in a heterogeneous society. I do believe that it is incumbent to overcome something as hard as coming to terms with a sexuality that their society brands an abomination, they can’t truly know the suffering, or it’s like being outsourced by their peers.

To see blatant discrimination against homosexuals attempted to be cemented into constitutional law is a disgrace to everything this country was founded on. The most important freedom in America is the freedom of choice. Once we lose this or limit it, our foundation is crumbled and our integrity is lost. Civil unions versus marriage is not separate, but equal institutions in the South preceding the civil rights movement. It is unconstitutional. You cannot just create a structure that perpetuates the notion that a certain type of American is a second-class citizen, and still claim to love the freedoms exposed by our democracy.

Banning gay marriage is discrimination. It is prejudice. It is ignorance. And it is unconstitutional. There is no non-discrimination condition in prejudice. Please, be respectful to all people, not just those who choose to subscribe to your own worldview, sexuality and lifestyle.

Tyrone Middleton is an architectural engineering student.

Have an opinion about a relevant topic? Want your voice to be heard?

Mustang Daily is looking for guest commentaries from Cal Poly students that are relevant, timely and well researched.

Send commentaries to mustangdaily@hotmail.com. Entries should be between 550 and 650 words.

Guest commentaries are not responses to letters to the editor.

Letters policy

Letters become the property of the Mustang Daily. Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanities and length. Letters, commentaries and cartoons do not represent the views of the Mustang Daily. Please be brief—letters should be no longer than 250 words. Letters should include the writer’s full name, phone number, major and class standing.

By mail: Letters to the Editor, Mustang Daily, 2650 Sycamore Lane, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407.

By fax: (805) 756-6674

By e-mail: mustangdaily@calpoly.edu

Letters must come from a Cal Poly e-mail account. Do not send letters in an attachment. Please submit the text in the body of the e-mail.

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

Letters to the editor

Edgar F. Wilson

The J-Spot

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MUSTANG DAILY 11.003

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GRAPHIC ARTS BUILDING, SUITE 226

CAL POLY, SAN LUIS OBISPO

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93407

mustangdaily@calpoly.edu

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Editor

The Mustang Daily is a student-run publication. Send letters to mustangdaily@hotmail.com. Entries should be between 550 and 650 words. Guest commentaries are not responses to letters to the editor.
Camps & Resorts Job Fair
Thursday, March 11, 2004
10:00 am – 1:00 pm
in Chumash Auditorium

Jobs for
- Summer camp counselors
- Activity leaders (all types of sports, hiking, fishing, nature study, music, drama, arts & crafts, ropes course, computers, fitness, etc.)
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HAPPY HOUR

The New York Times Crossword
Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0129
date to win the tournament, and are downgraded by other teams in some categories.

"They don't think we can rebound or box out," Anderson said. Reserve guard Jessica Eggleston said the perception will change with wins in the tournament.

"I'm pretty sure if we beat Santa Barbara, we'll get some recognition, which I know we can," Eggleston said.

Even if the Mustangs bow out quickly though, the young team is only losing one player. Guard Graham Womack is a journalism major who helped break down the team's categories.

"If we played like this team did a month ago, when he was pulled out of his second game with the Jam, because of a strained calf."

"I'm not sure how good the real Dennis, not the gap Dennis from a month ago." Rodman said he had done his best to lead the Lakers to a championship, but he had more bounce in his step than he did a month ago, when he was pulled out of his second game with the Jam, because of a strained calf.

NBA star Dennis Rodman is back, and with one more chance in the NBA.

Rodman, 42, returned to the Pyramid and grabbed 14 rebounds in 24 minutes, to go along with two points, as the Jam beat the Kansas City Knights 126-123.

"Rodman wants the NBA back."

"He was named the Player of the Year twice.

"When you first come onto the team, it's an accomplishment to simply finish the race," Gugel said. "As you get more involved, it starts to become more about beating your prior time." Cal Poly's triathlon team is ranked No. 1 in California. It took second place in the national competition last year. Since then, the team has remained undefeated, and Gugel said they're even more prepared this year for competition.

"This year that's looking better than ever," Gugel said. "The talent and strength on this team is unbelievable to me."

For each of the events, swimming, cycling and running, there are different student leaders who direct the workouts. Head coach Rick Ellison focuses on technical training, nutrition, mental preparation and using the right equipment.

"I like to minimize my role as much as possible and put the spotlight on the team members and the student leaders," said head coach Rick Ellison, who is also the associate vice president for university advancement at Cal Poly.

This is a great opportunity for them to grow as people, not just as athletes.

The team is geared up for this year's national competition on April 25 in Lake Havasu Arts, but it's also preparing for WindyHawk, in May, and the West Coast Collegiate Series, which is during summer.

Above all, the team emphasizes a healthy lifestyle.

"The great thing about this team is that they're very encouraging," Nussbaum said. "It's definitely not a competition with anyone else on the team, but with oneself. The members focus on getting better for their own benefit, not anyone else's."
Disappointing end to a disappointing season

Varrin Dennis and the Mustangs saw their up-and-down season come to an end Wednesday when they lost to UC Riverside, 72-63.

A season that started with promise ended abruptly Wednesday night with a 72-63 loss to UC Riverside in the opening round of the Big West Tournament. The Mustangs top two scorers — senior center Varrin Dennis and senior forward Shane Schilling — combined for just 27 points.

Dennis, averaging a conference-best 18.4 points per game, was held to 14 points by the Highlanders while Schilling, averaging 16.4 points a contest (third in the conference) contributed just 13 points. The duo connected on just nine of 26 three-point shots.

Cal Poly, which had swept the Highlanders in two regular season contests, finished the year 11-16.

The Mustangs made just 19.7 percent of their field goals, including seven of 47 from three-point range, while UC Riverside connected on 45.8 percent of its field goals attempts, seven of 16 tries.

Cal Poly turned the ball over 13 times in the first half and trailed 32-25 at the break. The Mustangs finished with 19 turnovers, one less than the Highlanders.

Four Mustangs scored in double digits. Guard Eric Jackson, the last of three seniors on the squad, tallied 11 points, while junior forward Nick Teposki added 10 points.

UC Riverside was led by forward Nate Carter with 19 points, while senior forward Breydon Porter added 16 points apiece and Terell Collin contributed 13.

UC Riverside outrebounded Cal Poly 35-34. Dennis grabbed 15 rebounds for Cal Poly.

Cal Poly was called for 23 personal fouls and a pair of technicals. The Highlanders made 21 of 32 free throws, while Cal Poly was just 10 of 14. UC Riverside had just 13 fouls.

Golf is 10th; scholar awards given

The Cal Poly men’s golf team finished 10th at the 2004 Braveheart Classic hosted by UC Riverside on Tuesday.

Saint Mary’s was the winning team with a score of 809 and Boise State’s Graham DeLaet captured individual honors on the 6,990-yard, par-72 PGA of Southern California course.

Cal Poly’s top finisher was Zach King, who overcame Monday’s 78 with a 72 and 74 Tuesday for a 222 total and a tie for eighth place.

Mustang teammate Travis Bertoni was 16th with rounds of 81, 76 and 73 for a 230 total.

Collins, Young to be honored

Jonathan Young and Katie Collins, both of whom played soccer at Cal Poly, are among 20 student-athletes who will be honored at the Big West Conference Scholar-Athlete Breakfast.

The 10 male and 10 female recipients, representing 12 sports, were chosen by their schools for outstanding achievement in athletic competition, academics and community involvement.

Young was a starting defender for the Mustang men’s soccer team for the past three seasons. He represented Cal Poly at the 2003 NCAA Leadership Conference and was president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

Collins is a three-year letterwinner for the reigning Big West Conference champion women’s soccer team. She earned All Big West Honorable mention honors in both 2002 and 2003 while helping the Mustangs to the NCAA Tournament both seasons.

Collins is also a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

Men’s Tennis...

Thursday’s match against Gonzaga because too many Bulldogs are ill (with March Madness?), the head coach said.

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