A roadblock in the master plan

New route creating two-way access on California Blvd. may put 100-year-old Founder's Tree at stake

Devin Kingston
MUSTANG DAILY

Relief for campus traffic problems may come fall quarter. The construction of a new thoroughfare extending California Boulevard to Highland Drive will create two-way access to the west side of campus. The cost: $900,000 and possibly one historic tree.

The construction of 350 new feet of roadway is expected to get underway this month. The road will allow for a direct traffic route from California and Foothill boulevards to the north end of campus near the railroad bridge and the new engineering building.

An unexpected speed bump in the plan, however, is the historic Founder's Tree, which was planted by Cal Poly's first graduating class in 1906. The tree came with the idea that each subsequent graduating class would plant a tree.

The notion that the tree could be cut down has angered some alumni and San Luis Obispo residents.

"I'm outraged that they would even consider cutting the Founder's Tree down," said Cal Poly graduate and San Luis Obispo resident Bob Goldman. "The tree is not even in the way of the road. If the tree is cut down I think it will speak volumes about how the administration feels about campus traditions and the pioneers who founded this university almost 100 years ago. This is not just any tree and it has immense significance and to chain saw it down is insensitive."

Cal Poly Public Affairs Director Linda Kolt said the administration is being done to preserve the tree.

"We are currently working to preserve the Founder's Tree and are hopeful that it will not have to be cut down," Kolt said.

Kolt, who claimed she was partially misquoted in a Tribune article regarding the construction on Monday, clarified that officials were actually worried about damaging the tree.

"The tree is very old," Kolt said. "We were afraid that the paver of the new road would damage the roots of the tree and possibly kill it."

The project is part of the Cal Poly Master Plan to improve campus circulation and is being funded by Proposition 47, the Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2002. Campus officials said detours and delays should be expected in the affected area.

"Any type of project that helps alleviate the large traffic problem on campus I support, but I'd like to see the Founder's Tree preserved," said political science junior Matt Kramer. "I hope that the construction won't cause too much added congestion to the area this quarter."

California Boulevard will be closed to through traffic at Campus Way but parking behind Mustang Stadium and the Oceola College will be open.

The Founder's Tree, planted by the first graduating class, may be removed in the road construction.

FDA approves first in new class of antibiotics to fight pneumonia

Lauran Neergaard
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Doctors are about to get the first in a new class of antibiotics to treat patients with a type of drug-resistant pneumonia, as well as those with sinusitis and bronchitis.

The Food and Drug Administration approved Ketek Thursday.

It's the first ketolide, a new family of antibiotics structurally similar to drugs like the old standby erythromycin — but different enough to offer an alternative that could prove important for certain patients, said FDA anti-infective chief Dr. James Soreth.

Doctors are "eager to have another option," she said.

Dr. Paul Iannini, a Yale University professor of medicine who helped research the drug, predicted it will quickly become a first-line choice.

A type of strep bacteria that causes community-acquired pneumonia is increasingly able to overpower one or more antibiotics. About 20 percent of Streptococcus pneumoniae now is multi-drug-resistant, Iannini said. Newer antibiotics called fluoroquinolones have been used to treat drug-resistant strep pneumonia, but a few strains resistant to those drugs are starting to form.

Ketek not only would offer an important option for patients running out of other options, but it may prove less likely to spur germs to resist antibiotics, Iannini said.

First, it more specifically targets bacteria in the respiratory tract than germs throughout the body; many other antibiotics are more broad-ranging.

Second, it has chemical properties that seem less likely than certain other drugs, such as erythromycin, to push a vulnerable germ into true resistance, Iannini said.

Drug-resistant pneumonia aside, Ketek is approved to treat acute bacterial sinusitis and acute flares of chronic bronchitis, conditions that affect thousands of Americans. Patients would use the drug for five to 10 days, depending on the condition.

In studies that compared Ketek with certain other antibiotics, the drug proved equally effective and had similar side effects, Iannini said.

While Ketek has been sold in other countries since 2001, its U.S. approval was hard-won. The FDA first raised questions about possible liver and heart side effects that same as Ketek, page 2

So, um ... got plans tonight?

Top 5 ways to ask someone on a date IN ON THE ROCKS, page 6

Track team off and running

Cal Poly hosts annual Cal-Nevada track meet IN SPORTS, page 12

WEATHER REPORT

Tides

 Today

 High 5.6 at 7:21 a.m.
 Low -0.3 at 2:37 p.m.

 Saturday

 SUNRISE 5:47 A.M.
 SUNSET 6:05 P.M.

 Sunday

 Sunny 80°
Transportation plan to help alleviate six SoCal counties

SAN BERNARDINO — A regional agency on Thursday approved a $215 billion transportation plan designed to curb gridlock on freeways and improve airports and train stations that serve more than 17 million people in six counties.

The Southern California Association of Governments approved the plan called “Destination 2030,” which is designed to help the region accommodate rapid growth while trying to make the most of limited funding.

“If we don’t start making serious investments in our infrastructure now, the Southern California we love to see our children will suffer,” said Temecula Councilman and SCAG First Vice President Ron Roberts.

The report will be forwarded to several federal agencies, including the Federal Transit Administration and the Federal Highway Administration, for approval. It would then be certified and reviewed by SCAG every three years, said the board’s Executive Director Mark Pizano.

The plan provides a blueprint for the region’s transportation needs for the next 25 years. Projects in Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties must be included in the report to be eligible for state and federal funding.

Some of the investments and recommendations listed in the report are:

• Connecting car pool lanes to fill gaps in its network.
• Improving regional airports.
• Increasing the capacity of MetroLink, a regional rail system.
• Investing in a $29 billion high-speed rail system that uses magnetic levitation technology and would connect Southern California’s largest cities.

Planning officials admit that improving transportation while California is mired in a fiscal deficit and extending some county sales taxes isn’t so great,” she said.

She said she wants to frame the millionth letter and hopes to present it to President Bush.

On Wednesday, three Marines who served in Iraq attended a school rally and gave their heartfelt thanks to students who are participating in the campaign.

“The just the fact that people take their time to send you a letter means a lot,” said Cpl. Frank Guerra, who returned from Iraq in July and is stationed at Camp Pendleton. “I’m just blown away that they are doing this. I’ll give my support in any way I can.”

DEAR TROOPS

Student organizes letter-writing campaign

ORANGE (AP) — Between studying for geometry and playing softball, high school student Shauna Fleming has somehow found time to organize a campaign to collect 1 million letters of appreciation for military troops at home and abroad.

With the help of her classmates at Orange Lutheran High School, Fleming began her push Wednesday to gather the letters from around the nation by the end of May — which is National Military Appreciation Month.

The campaign is called “A Million Thanks.”

“I believe we need to support our troops 100 percent, even if we don’t agree having them over there,” she said. “We need to show them that we care for them and will support them no matter what.”

Pretty impressive for a 15-year-old freshman, even more amazing is that she helped in a similar venture before.

Her father, Michael, started his own mission three years ago, sending Valentines to enlisted men and women across the world. Since that time, he has distributed more than 1.5 million valentines to U.S. troops — a goal that wasn’t lost on his daughter.

“It was really rewarding for me to brighten someone’s life and show them we care about them,” she said. “So when I asked my dad what could I do, he thought this might be a good idea.”

Over the next two months, letters are expected to pour in from all over the nation to the private Christian school. The mail will get sorted by students, who will receive credit toward the school’s mandatory service requirement, and then get shipped to various military bases. Soldiers will then transport the letters to various points.

“For a 15-year-old to do this is just wonderful,” said Alice Wax, founder of the National Military Appreciation Month. “It’s resonating across the nation, and she has already gathered so much support.”

So far, about 200 letters have been received in the past several days, and a junior high school in New York and an elementary school in Colorado have signed on to participate. From there, Fleming believes the effort will snowball.

“A million sounds like a lot, but once you see them piling up, the number isn’t so great,” she said.

She said she wants to frame the millionth letter and hopes to present it to President Bush.

Bombs continued from page 1

Helder, a former art student at the University of Wisconsin-Stout in Menomonie, Wis., has pleaded guilty to using a pipe bomb in a crime of violence and destroying property and mailboxes. The charges carry a life sentence.

In the months after Fielder’s arrest, his attorney, Jane Kelly, filed a motion to use an insanity defense. Fielder would not disclose a price.

Very rarely, Ketek users experience Usual side effects were similar to those of Lipitor. Users seemed to happen more often to women under 40, and does seem to be eligible, by prescription, in late July; it would’ t disclose a price.

Zocor, Mevacor and Lipitor. Users warned; said maker Aventis side effect should avoid driving or other hazardous activities.

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Ketek continued from page 1.

Way and South Perimeter Roads. Highland Drive will remain open during the entire construction phase but will also be subject to delays and lane closures.

Traffic heading up California Boulevard toward Campus Market, the Kennedy Library, agriculture buildings and University Police will use Campus Way.

Rod continued from page 1.

Business will remain open. However, a portion of the Poly Grove Stuff lot (C-4) will be closed. A second phase of the project will redesign the lot to add at least 50 new staff parking spaces, according to a press release.

Traffic heading up California Boulevard toward Campus Market, the Kennedy Library, agriculture buildings and University Police will use Campus Way and South Perimeter Roads. Highland Drive will remain open during the entire construction phase but will also be subject to delays and lane closures. Pedestrian and bicycle traffic may also be affected by closures and detours.

Updates on the project are available online at the Cal Poly facilities Web site at www.calpoly.edu/cpmap/advories.html. Traffic and detour information can be found on the University Police Web site at www.atl.calpoly.edu/police.
State Briefs

PASADENA — NASA's Spirit rover uncovered more evidence of past water activity on Mars, although not in the large amounts its twin rover Opportunity has found halfway around the planet, mission scientists said Thursday.

Spirit found limited amounts of water altered a volcanic rock nicknamed Mazatzal, crossing through tiny features that crisscross the boulder and cementing together the multiple layers that mask its surface.

The findings were made during a weeklong analysis of the rock in the Gusev Crater region where Spirit landed Jan. 3.

Since then, Spirit has been overshadowed by Opportunity, as it found signs that extensive water, possibly a salty sea, once flowed on Mars in a series of chain-reaction pileups.

About two dozen people were injured. About 66 cars were involved in at least four accidents along a two-mile stretch of the freeway, the main highway between Los Angeles and Las Vegas, fire spokeswoman Tracey Martinez said.

Five vehicles were engulfed in flames and several big-rig trucks jackknifed during Thursday's chain-reaction accidents that started around 6:40 a.m.

About 24 people suffered minor to moderate injuries, but none appeared life-threatening. Seven victims were taken to area hospitals, while the rest were treated at the scene, Martinez said.

RICHMOND — The city council violated the state's Brown Act by taking action in private on issues not allowed by the open meetings law, the city's largest union is alleging.

In addition, critics say the council has been secretive about its closed-session meeting agenda, and has not posted required notices of the sessions. As a result, executive sessions March 23 and Tuesday, slated as meetings with legal counsel for labor negotiations, in which the council first directed staff to cut 287 jobs by June 2005 and then approved laying off up to 38 percent of the city work force.

National Briefs

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal appeals court is standing by its October ruling that Internet providers should be allowed to sell their service over the cable television system.

The Federal Communications Commission asked the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to review the decision, but in a brief Tuesday, the court declined to do so late Wednesday. The commission is mulling an appeal to the Supreme Court.

If upheld, the circuit's decision would likely subject cable operators to the same rules that the phone companies must adhere to — such as allowing access to competitive Internet providers.

MIAMI — Three Miami police officers were convicted Thursday for their part in a scheme in which guns were planted near the bodies of two fleeing robbers shot to death by police.

Sgt. Jose Quintero faces up to five years for conspiracy for planting one of the guns. Lt. Israel Gonzalez and Officer Jorge Garcia were convicted of covering up the scheme and face up to 10 years in prison for conspiracy, perjury and obstructing justice.

The case was the latest trial to come out of Miami's biggest police scandal in a generation. Eleven officers in all were tried in the scandal; two others struck plea bargains. The scandal also ushered in a new police chief and resulted in new shooting policies and a civilian review board.

WASHINGTON — Republicans conceded Thursday they would not resolve their dispute over how to avert future tax cuts until after Congress' spring recess, abandoning hopes of finishing a $2.4 trillion budget this week.

"We're on ice," said House Budget Committee Chairman Jim Nussle, R-Iowa. Lawmakers return to work in late April.

A leading potential compromise would restrict tax cuts to those who earn more than $20,000, permitting state lawmakers to exempt some expected to be enacted this year, said several participants speaking on condition of anonymity. It also seemed likely that constraints would last for less than the five years the Senate has approved. Details of both issues remained unresolved.

Should a bargain along those lines be struck, it would mark a retreat by the White House and by GOP leaders who ran the House and Senate. They have insisted against cautioning tax reductions, which are the leading element of President Bush's strategy for strengthening the economy.

CHICAGO — It's just a little bit of wording on a condom packet — so small that justin Kleinman hadn't even noticed it until he squinted to read it recently.

"This is completely pointless," the 24-year-old Chicagoan said of the warning telling him that, while condoms can prevent the spread of some sexually transmitted diseases, there are no guarantees.

Even the tiniest bit of print is at the center of a raging debate now that President Bush has asked the Food and Drug Administration to modify the current warning to include information about human papillomavirus, commonly called HPV or genital warts.

On one side are scientists who believe that condoms should be promoted as a crucial line of defense against several STDs and cervical cancer. On the other are groups that advocate waiting for sex until marriage, and who see the dangers of HPV as an argument for their cause.

"The lack of information getting to the American public regarding this disease is beyond comprehen­sion," said Linda Klepacki, manager of the abstinence policy department of the abstinence policy department of the abstinence movement, "I want to be polite. But it appalls me when I see scientific and medical studies being manipulated for a different agenda," said Tom Broker. He's a professor of biochemistry and molecular genetics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and president of the International Papillomavirus Society, a coalition of experts who study HPV.

The focus, Broker said, should be on the fact that condoms have been shown to reduce the risk of cervical cancer, which is caused by HPV and which is the deadliest cancer if women get regular PAP smears.

The federal Centers for Disease Control issued a recent report to Congress that included the same conclusion.

But scientists who study HPV worry that abstinence groups are dismissing important information to promote the alternative.

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Pledge to keep church and state separate

Commentary

About 60 million school-age children recite the Pledge of Allegiance every day. This is an alarming fact. It can be inferred that many of these elementary and middle school children have little or no concept of the meaning in the oath they are taking day after day, year after year. Pledging allegiance to anything should not be taken lightly.

Beyond the simple irony that children are encouraged to pledge their allegiance to the flag of the "land of the free," there is another major problem with the pledge: the words "under God." The original Pledge of Allegiance, written by social-ist Frances Bellamy in 1892, included no references to God or religion.

The Knights of Columbus, a Catholic organization, spearheaded a campaign in the early 1950s to add the words "under God." It is a form of silencing. "If you don't like what's going on, instead of raising your voice to point out any injustices, just shut up, so that the rest of us don't have to hear about it!"

Our soldiers are out there fighting because our government put them there. Why did the media divide our country into two distinct separate groups at the time we went to war with Iraq? A person was either "with us" or "against us." Essentially, if you were in the "with us" category, you were pro-soldier and anti-Saddam. And so if you were against that category that meant you were anti-soldier and pro-Saddam. This couldn't have been any further from the truth. First of all, to suggest that the majority of Americans fell into these two distinctive categories is unrealistic.

There is no doubt that the God being referred to in the Pledge is indeed the traditional Judeo-Christian God. There is no question that the God being referred to in the pledge is indeed the traditional Judeo-Christian God. The problem is that it is not clear who this God is. It is not clear to whom this God refers. It is not clear who was insinuating that this God was a "one nation under God?"

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We are highly diverse. Second, most of the people I know who are atheist or agnostic are neither anti-soldier nor pro-Saddam. We are very much a group of people who care about our soldiers. We want them to come back home. They are risking their lives.

However, most often this phrase is followed by the word "for our safety," as to imply that if these men and women weren't out there fighting, our freedoms wouldn't be in "imminent danger." The term "safety" would get us there.

Especially, if you were in the "with us" category, you were pro-soldier and anti-Saddam. So if you were against that category that meant you were anti-soldier and pro-Saddam. This couldn't have been any further from the truth. First of all, to suggest that the majority of Americans fell into these two distinctive categories is unrealistic.

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PRICES!

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Ah, spring is in the air and along with it comes a feeling of twiripo­
tion. Young college students begin noticing the object of their affection through eyes glazed with spring fever. This fever, a common affliction among college students, often induces an embarrassing reaction in which the afflicted asks their one true love out on a date and gets rejected horribly. So what's a young lover to do?

There are many ways to ask someone on a date and many ways a person would like to be asked. Not all are the same. Have an understanding of the person you like, know if they're into jokes or creative dates. Then, work any one of the following ways to ask someone out around your personality.

1. Be yourself.

Being yourself seems to be an important requirement, and that's a good thing.

"He doesn't need to dress up or anything," said agricultural science senior Vikki Fotthoff, "because then you're pretending you're someone else.''

After all, who wants a date with a false personality?

"The smile is the most important thing," bio­
chemistry sophomore Jeff Koeckse said. "If a girl comes up with a huge smile, she's in for sure.''

2. Be funny.

"All he's got to do is say 'Breakfast tomorrow? Should I nudge you or call you?'" said English senior Amber De Gela.

Although it's a cheesy pick-up line, it's all in the delivery.

"He can't be too serious about it," De Gela said. "He's got to be kind of goofy and funny about it.''

3. Smile like it's going out of style.

If you want to win over some people, the smile is the way to go. Smiles make people look better because they appear to be enjoying life. No one wants to go on a date with someone who looks unhappy.

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chemistry sophomore Jeff Koeckse said. "If a girl comes up with a huge smile, she's in for sure.''

4. Creativity is key.

Everyone who's ever considered asking someone out has probably thought about the "dinner date" or the "movie date." What that might tell a person you're asking out is you're both unspeakably boring and unoriginal, or you don't care enough about them to think of something original.

"I'd rather have someone ask me to go snipe hunting or play on the swings at the beach rather than some traditional date," said political science junior Angie Eckhardt.

"Creativity shows personality and that's what matters. Well, unless he knows the Macarena, that's totally hot.''

5. Speak confidently.

Despite what people might think, staring at the ground and talking in a shaky voice won't earn pity points. Confidence, however, goes a long way toward impressing the person you're trying to ask out.

"If he has the balls to just come out and ask me, I'll say yes," said social science junior Krissy Meckel-Parker. "Don't beat around the bush, just cut to the chase.''

Mechanical engineering sopho­
more Mike Pando agrees.

"As long as they ask me with confidence, it doesn't matter what they say,' he said.

So remember young Mustangs in love, the Top 5 ways to ask someone out are also the best medicine for your dating failures. Be confident in who you are, take a light-hearted approach using the humor that works for you. If you're not sure about your ability to speak confidently, remember the main things you want to say and practice them in a mirror until you can say them with ease.

And be creative. Come up with something that really shows off your personality. Good luck you crazy dating go-getter.
Therapist offers insight on getting in touch

You can learn how to touch more than your lover's heart. Cal Poly students can now take advantage of a new opportunity to enhance their sexual self-esteem. Arroyo Grande resident Stephanie Wadell is extending her expertise in the field to include younger generations.

Her sessions focus on teaching people how to touch their significant others in various pleasing ways. These include presence, attention, comfort, friendship and fun, among others. Also, she teaches people social and romance skills, as well as instruction on how to get out of a relationship rut.

"I want to get into positive functioning of communication like touch, different kinds of touch, and for people to say what it is they like and to make agreements up front," Wadell said. "Instead of people coming together and hoping it all works out, saying a few scripts and then having it all fall apart. People usually feel very burned by that and they have a big hole in their heart."

While these sessions focus on what could be perceived as sexual topics, they do not focus on intercourse at all. Everything she discusses deals only with improving communication skills in a romantic sense. She said she thinks this fits into the conservative nature of San Luis Obispo because mastering these techniques would delay a couple's rush toward having intercourse.

Wadell has been working in the field since 1987, after receiving her master's degree in counseling psychology from the University of San Francisco. Along with the sessions she is offering Cal Poly students, she also teaches sexual disciplines that she learned from her Cherokee lineage. These include Tantras, Tao and Chuluaqui-quodoushka which all integrate the body, mind and feelings to increase spiritual awareness.

Wadell thinks the integration of hands-on sexual education is very important to impress upon people at a young age. "This is the one thing that humans do that they have to learn without watching someone do it," she said. "Everything you learn from dressing yourself to walking to driving a car, you learned because someone showed you. Within the bedroom and within touch, no one shows you."

Another reason she wants to impart this education on Cal Poly students is the negative views she believes many people have about sex. It is what she refers to as the "grab and grope" for men and "pretend and surrender" for women.

"The way that men are raised is that they usually have to figure out the right move to make at the right time in order to get the woman from the couch to the bedroom," Wadell said. "And for women it usually involves if he said 'I love you,' and then (they) can pretend (they're) in love and she will surrender that part of herself."

Wadell hopes to increase people's abilities to communicate what they want so they can avoid situations like these, as well as giving people more options so they don't have to depend on intercourse as the only option.

She prefers to see couples so she can work with them on improving intimacy, but welcomes singles to come as well. Her student rate is $75 an hour, and she says she usually works with people for about six sessions. She can be reached at 473-2545 to answer questions or to make appointments.
Establishing roots in SLO

Rachel Musquiz

There is something about San Luis Obispo that makes people want to stay. The character and individuality of this town is like a magnet. It's nice enough to keep both San Luis Obispo High School and Cal Poly alumni in the area even after graduation.

"It's big but not too big. It's small but not too small," said agriculture junior Kristin Wurster, who graduated from San Luis Obispo High School in 2001. In Fall 2003, about 20 percent of the student body were residents from the Central Coast (San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Monterey counties) according to the Cal Poly Web site. Each year, about 30 graduates from SLOHS attended Cal Poly and about 85 to 100 attended Cuesta College, said SLOHS counselor Greg Bettencourt.

One reason people chose to stay is the atmosphere and location. The town is located near the mountains and the ocean with stereotypical California weather. All year it never gets too hot or too cold. "It's in the midst of everything. It's a nice place to live," biology junior and SLOHS graduate Rick Griswold said. "You don't have to worry about the problems of big cities." San Luis Obispo changes after making the transition from high school to college.

"The way it was in high school, it was boring," Griswold said. "It became fun to live in this town once I went to Poly." Griswold did not plan on going to Cal Poly until the golf team offered him a scholarship. "I definitely didn't want to go to Poly when I was in high school," he said.

It is also common for Cal Poly alumni to live in the area after earning a degree. Both Wurster's parents went to Poly and encouraged her to attend.

"I'm glad I stayed, I appreciate (San Luis Obispo) more," she said. Significant others report being away from friends and family and money turn SLOHS graduates into Cal Poly students. Yet, some students later regret not taking the chance to attend a school farther away.

"I don't think I got the same amount of growth in my college experience. I always had the security blanket of friends and family," business junior Lacey Harris said. "I love the town, but I regret staying. I feel like everyone already knew me."

While it may seem like Cal Poly students have taken over San Luis Obispo, local residents do not have much interaction with the college students. "I thought of Cal Poly as another town almost. I didn't think of it as part of San Luis Obispo," horticulture junior Clare Hill said. "I never even came to this area." Cal Poly is in a world of its own, separated from the majority of the community with the exception of sparsely placed residents.

One challenge with so many SLOHS students is to create a college atmosphere while living just miles away from high school friends. The dorm experience offers a chance for locals to branch out and meet students at Poly.

"It wasn't hard to meet new people but I didn't want to since I still had all my friends from high school," Hill said. The reason behind the choice to attend Cal Poly after graduating from SLOHS varies from student to student.

"Some students want to get away and see another part of the world," Bettencourt said. "Some students stay here because they realize what a nice place it is, and lots of students come back after leaving." After students get a taste of life in San Luis Obispo, many of them can not imagine it any other way.

"It's been a positive experience staying here, but you can benefit from going away, trying something new and remaining back," Hill said. "Poly would have been better if I wasn't from around here."

Another local agreed with Hill's opinion.

"It's a good place to raise a family," Griswold said. "As nice as it is though, I want to venture out."
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**Bush signs bill:**

*It is a crime to harm a fetus*

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush invoked the case of pregnant murder victim Laci Peterson on Thursday as he signed legislation expanding legal rights of the unborn.

"The suffering of two victims can never equal only one offense," Bush said.

Bush was joined on an East Room stage by Peterson's mother, Sharon Rocha, and her stepfather, Ron Granski. Peterson was eight months pregnant when she disappeared in December 2002 in the highly publicized case. Supporters of the bill have cited her and the son who was to be born, "the president said. "All who knew Laci Peterson have mourned one to many in his conservative presidency, he reinstated the "Mexico City policy" that bans U.S. money from international groups that support abortion, even with their own money, through direct services, counseling or lobbying activities.

**Ban on certain abortion would have broader effect**

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — The doctor who got the U.S. Supreme Court to strike down Nebraska's ban on a controversial abortion procedure testified Thursday that a similar federal law is so vague it would outlaw nearly all abortions after the first trimester.

"There are at least 21 different procedures that it covers," Dr. LeRoy Carhart said during a challenge of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, signed last year by President Bush. "There are terms in this act that I do not understand ... and that have many definitions." The new law has not been enforced because judges in Lincoln, New York and San Francisco agreed to hold three non-jury trials on whether the ban violates the Constitution.

The ban would be the first substantial limitation on abortion since the Supreme Court legalized it 31 years ago in the landmark case Roe v. Wade.

The measure bars a procedure doctors call "intact dilation and extraction," or D&E. Opponents call it partial-birth abortion. During the procedure, generally performed in the second trimester, a fetus is partially removed from the womb and its skull is punctured. The Bush administration has argued that the procedure is "inhumane and gruesome" and causes the fetus to suffer pain.

The new law prohibits doctors from committing an "overt act" to kill a partially delivered fetus. But Carhart said that could be interpreted as covering more common procedures, including "dilation and evacuation." D&E is the most common method of second-trimester abortion. An estimated 140,000 D&Es take place in the United States annually, compared with an estimated 2,200 to 5,000 D&E procedures.

A total of 1.3 million abortions are performed in the United States each year. Almost 90 percent occur in the first trimester.

"This act covers every D&E that I did," Carhart said. "Everything that I do to cause an abortion is an overt act."

Carhart said at least once a month, an entire fetus is expelled from the mother during a D&E he is performing. "The fetuses are alive at the time of delivery," he said. There is a heartbeat "very frequently." Carhart earlier brought a challenge that eventually led the Supreme Court in 2000 to overturn Nebraska's ban on D&E abortions.

The high court said the Nebraska law and others like it were an "undue burden" on women's rights. U.S. District Judge Richard Kopf, who is presiding over the trial in Lincoln, also presided over Carhart's challenge to the Nebraska ban. Under the federal law, doctors can get up to two years in prison. The issue is expected to reach the U.S. Supreme Court.

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PADRES
continued from page 12
momentum of last year's 85-79 finish will help.
"But as I said to our players in our initial meeting, $1.95 plus our roster will get you a double expres- so at Starbucks. This is a good ball-club, but we've got to stay healthy, No. 1,"
"I do think there is such a thing as momentum," Baird said. "But I also think that can change quickly, too. The stakes are higher with bigger expectations."

Same thing in San Diego, where fans are going to want to see a winner. Towers' goal is to improve by 25 games.
"If you win 89, you've got a chance," he said.

That's quite a jump. But the Padres keep reminding themselves that the last two World Series win- ners came out of the middle of the payroll pack, after qualifying for the postseason as wild-cards.

"Anaheim won two years ago, the Florida Marlins won last year," noted left-hander Sterling Hitchcock, who rejoins the Padres after spending the last two seasons with the Yankees and St. Louis Cardinals.
"The economics of it really don't matter," Hitchcock said.
"What matters is that you have talent in the clubhouse," says the guy who believes in one another, guys that have played together. There's a chemistry there, and I don't see any reason why we can't compete."

Towers began rebuilding in August when he traded for Brian Giles. He added All-Star catcher Ramon Hernandez and reserve outfielder Terrence Long in a trade with Oakland, signed the 40-year-old Wells to lead the rotation and Jay Payton to play the spacious right field at Petco Park. He even added a luxury — Jeff Calhoun as a $6.6 million utility infielder.
"The last five years have been very difficult," Towers said.
"Moving into Petco with additional revenues, we're increased our payroll significantly from last year. This club should be very competitiv- e this year. If this club comes in last place once again, or not in the top three, I would say that we failed."

Slugger Phil Nevin, acquired the spring after the Padres were swept by the Yankees in the 1998 World Series, has no doubt the Padres can contend.
"I think realistically, for the first time, we can leave camp and say that to ourselves and not be kid- ding," he said.

The last five years, Nevin said, have been frustrating. "I don't think you can ever get used to losing."

Since the last out of the '98 Series, the Padres are 92 games under .500 (35-451). They fin- ished last in the NL West three times and in fourth place twice.

But even optimism has its limits.
"Everything will have to go just right, like 1998," Torres said. "We need to keep our core players on the field to do that."

So far, they haven't even been able to do that in spring training.

Nevin strained his left shoulder on March 7 and hopes to be back opening day. Payton strained a hamstring. Relief Rod Beck, who filled in nicely last year while Trevor Hoffman rehabbed double shoulder surgery, left the team due to personal problems and no one knows when he'll be back. Rey Ordonez quit when it appeared he was losing the battle for the start- ing shortstop job to rookie Khalil Greene.

And everyone's wondering how local Wells, surgically repaired back will hold up. But Boomer has lost about 30 pounds since being forced out of Game 5 of the 1998 World Series with back spasms while with the Yankees.

L u c k i n g depth, the Padres had no chance last year after losing Hoffman and Nevin during spring training. Nevin returned in July and Hoffman in September, when the Padres were already buried in last place.

Injuries remain the X factor in San Diego.

"Maybe more so with us than any other club," Hoffman said. "Until you prove otherwise, that's what people are going to say."

"The San Diego Padres, for right now, don't have the respect from people that we are going to have to contend with," Hoffman said.
"Until you prove otherwise, that's the way it is."
San Diego: NL West’s shocker?

Bernie Wilson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hey, remember the San Diego Padres? There was a time when they were pretty good, winning two National League West titles in three seasons and even reaching the World Series. They had big-time ballplayers: Tony Gwynn, Bernie Wilson, Ken Caminiti, Greg Vaughn, Steve Finley and Kevin Brown. Then they simply disappeared. Repeatedly invoking the excuse that they were a small-market team, they sent good players packing and hacked millions of dollars from their payroll while waiting through numerous legal delays for their downtown ballpark to be built.

The result was pretty ugly — five straight losing seasons, none as embarrassing as last year, when they were the former record holder. Padres president Peter Seidler brought in several new players, including two-time MVP Ken Caminiti, and the Padres feel they’re ready to re-emerge. They’ve got a new look everywhere, from their roster to their logo to their uniform — and who wouldn’t want to see San Diego native David Wells in the sand-colored road getup?

The Padres are confident they’ll contend in the NL West, where they were the most active team in the offseason. As they worked out in $458 million Petco Park prior to spring training, they mentioned how nice it will be to play in October.

That would be some surprise, wouldn’t it? “I think our division has a lot of balance,” said Kevin Towers, the general manager who made 12 major acquisitions in the offseason. “If there ever was a year to go from last to first, it would be this year. But we have to make major strides.”

The Kansas City Royals, coming off a 21-game turnaround, are in a similar situation in the wide-open American League Central. The Toronto Blue Jays and Baltimore Orioles would like to think they’ve improved, but they share the AL East with baseball’s big spenders, the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox.

Royals general manager Allard Baird brought in several new players, including two-time MVP Juan Gonzalez. He thinks the Padres are a small-ball team, so don’t expect any gaudy efforts, but he’s still confident. “I don’t expect that when I finished the race,” the junior runner said. “After I finished, I stood by myself on the track and looked up and saw my time. I jumped around a little but no one was nearby, so I shared it with God.”

Murphy is an active member of Campus Crusade’s Athletes in Action program. She modestly brushes aside any accolades, crediting her abilities to the attentive media at her door. Her teammates have been showering her in praise. “Oh wow, is that the new Cal Poly record holder Katie Murphy?” exclaimed fellow runner Ryan Hayes between drills, laughing over a fence in mock rapture.

Added teammate Ryan James, “I’m going to bring a pen tomorrow so you can sign the back of my shirt!”

Murphy has a different view on her success. “I just run and I enjoy the event and what it’s brought to me.”

Katie Murphy is a junior runner on the Mustang track team.

Murphy coming off record performance at Stanford

Stacey Anderson
MUSTANG DAILY

Breaking a school record by five seconds is an impressive feat, especially when you were the former record holder.

Katie Murphy did just that last weekend in the steeplechase at the Stanford Invitational. She ran the event in 10 minutes, 43 seconds to finish 11th, which qualified her for the NCAA Championships and shattered five seconds from the previous school record — which she also owned.

“I didn’t expect that when I finished the race,” the junior runner said. “After I finished, I stood by myself on the track and looked up and saw my time. I jumped around a little but no one was nearby, so I shared it with God.”

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Track hosts meet

Nadea Mina
MUSTANG DAILY

This weekend Cal Poly will host the annual Cal-Nevada meet, which features schools from throughout both states.

The meet developed to allow teams from all levels, ranging from the NAIA to NCAA Division I, to participate in a big meet. Eighteen to 20 schools are expected to compete, including Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State Northridge, UCLA, Cal, UC Irvine and San Diego State.

“Since there are so many teams competing, points are going to be dispersed over a wide range,” assistant track coach Pete Corkery said. “Cal Poly should do very well because more of our athletes can compete.”

Big West Conference rival Cal State Northridge will be Cal Poly’s biggest competition on the men’s side, and San Diego State is a strong team on the women’s side.

Friday’s question: Who has the record for most rebounds for a single NCAA tournament? (Saturday, April 3, 2004)