Open House to draw 40,000

Christina Joslin
MUSTANG DAILY

On any average weekend, Cal Poly and San Luis Obispo seem to have a normal, college community atmosphere. But this weekend, the city and campus will cater to the needs of an extra 40,000 people.

Friday through Sunday, the university will play host to the annual Open House and Poly Royal Production "Spotlight Cal Poly."

Open House is a weekend event that gives admitted and enrolled students, parents, alumni and the San Luis Obispo community a chance to visit the campus and get to know Cal Poly students and faculty, as well as learn about events and clubs on campus.

"In addition to the weekend events, there will also be a Thursday night Farmers' Market Preview put on by the committee members of Open House," Open House committee chair Rob Stornetta said. "This preview gives the students who get to SLO early the occasion to look at 40 different clubs that Cal Poly offers.

The Admitted Students' Preview Day on Friday gives students a university welcome by Cal Poly President Warren Baker and other speakers, a chance to visit college deans and faculty or take a tour of the campus and attend Casino Night. The coordinators for this event anticipate 10,000 students and parents will attend.

The Cal Poly Showcase on Saturday, which is open to the public, begins with the Poly Royal Parade running through campus along Perimeter Road. The parade ends at the Kennedy Library, where demonstrations and concession booths from more than 200 clubs will be stationed by 10:30 a.m. Such clubs include Poly Escapes, the Associated Students Inc. Craft Center, the Cal Poly Dance Team, the Rose Float Club, the Inter-fraternity Council and many more.

"This year, the parade will be bigger than in the past, and we've added more booths for students to have the opportunity to check out additional clubs," Stornetta said. "It's the Saturday events that bring most of the visitors into San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly. We expect to have about 40,000 students, parents, alumni and residents from the entire county attending."

Saturday will also feature the West Coast Tractor Pull: The event, established in 1971, runs from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Big A. There are 100 competitors in 3 different classes, including producers and farmers. The winners are determined through a point system and a cash prize.

Inside

Liberal Arts week brings 17 departments together

Anastasia Kilham
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly's College of Liberal Arts encompasses a broad spectrum of departments. Decisions made regarding the college must accommodate students studying graphic design to those studying music.

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Flip-flop, flip-flop, flip-flop

Sandals cross over from beach wear to everyday kicks

An age-old staple in life

The benefits of pornography

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REPORT

Tides

High: 4.7 at 7:35 a.m.
Low: 0.4 at 2:33 p.m.

SUNRISE: 6:30 a.m.
SUNSET: 7:56 p.m.
Idaho computer science student goes on trial, charged with using Web sites to promote terror

Sami Omar Al-Hussayen is accused of supporting the militant Palestinian organization Hamas

Bob Fleck

BOISE, Idaho — A University of Idaho graduate student went on trial Tuesday on charges he supported terrorists by running Web sites that recruited military and non-military money for groups promoting violence and terrorism.

Sami Omar Al-Hussayen, a Salo, national working on his computer science doctoral degree, is charged with three counts of aiding terrorism and one count of making false statements.

U.S. District Judge Edward Lodge began questioning potential jurors Tuesday, and expected to have a panel seated by the end of the day.

Al-Hussayen is accused of helping to run Web sites that supported the militant Palestinian organization Hamas and other groups allegedly promoting terrorism.

Federal prosecutors say he provided "material support" to terrorists, a crime that was expanded under the Patriot Act — the federal terrorism law passed after Sept. 11, 2001 — to include "expert advice and assistance.

Al-Hussayen, 34, was arrested at his home on Feb. 26, 2003, and has gotten strong support from students and faculty on the Moscow campus, where he had a reputation as a positive leader of the small Islamic community.

After the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, he marched in a peace rally, donated blood and worked to educate local residents about Islam.

Al-Hussayen's lawyer has said that while his client set up the Web sites, any statements made on those sites supporting terrorism were not his, and he has been unfairly blamed for the words of others.

But federal prosecutors say he added in addition to running Web sites and e-mail groups for would-be terrorists, Al-Hussayen maintained bank accounts to funnel cash to another group that federal agents claim has terrorist links.

Al-Hussayen has been charged with 11 counts of visa fraud and four counts of making false statements to cover up his alleged links to terrorism.

Al-Hussayen has been jailed since his arrest but has continued to work toward his doctorate from his cell. His wife and three children returned to Saudi Arabia in January rather than fight deportation.

The terrorism counts are punishable by up to 15 years each, the visa fraud charges by up to 25 years each and the false-statements counts by five years each.

Al-Hussayen has been declared subject to deportation by immigration officials.

Sgt. John Blidhoe. "We are also trafficking heavily at night in case of any potential problems or big par­ tens that need to be broken up."

Although most places in San Luis Obispo will be filled with addition­ al people from out of town, Best Buy sales manager Jonathan Church said.

Cal Poly's Open House will also feature the 64th annual Poly Royal Rodeo. This event has grown to be the largest college rodeo in the United States. College-age cowboys and cowgirls from across the West will be competing in events such as bull-riding, saddle-bronc riding, bareback riding, steer wrestling, barrel racing, team roping, break­ away roping and calf roping.

They compete for silver buckles and all-around saddles.

Performances will be open to all audiences at 4:30 p.m. Friday, 5 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are $5 for students, senior citizens and children ages 5 and under. Additional tickets may be purchased at the gate of the Cal Poly Rodeo Arena or the athletic ticket office by the day of the event.

Open House is run and organized by a committee of student volunteers under the coordination of the Student Life and Leadership Orientation Program.
thought you could belt it?  

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Rising prices for gasoline, air travel and clothing propelled consumer costs 0.5 percent higher in March, raising the possibility that the Federal Reserve may raise interest rates this summer.

Wednesday's reading on the Consumer Price Index, the government's most closely watched inflation measure, revived concerns about the prospects of an inflation flare-up now that the economy is rebounding, economists said.

The report by the Labor Department "confirms my worst fear: Inflation is rising," said Stephen Cecchetti, economics professor at Brandeis University. "Details confirm that the inflation increase isn't in some isolated place, or the consequence of some special factor."

HOUSTON — Prosecutors have asked a judge to explain why he refused to go along with a plea bargain that would have meant no more than five months in prison for the wife of former Enron finance chief Andrew Fastow.

Lea Fastow, 42, withdrew her guilty plea to a tax crime last week and is set to go on trial June 2 on conspiracy and tax charges. The charges carry up to 37 years in prison, but she would probably get far less if convicted.

Fastow backed out of the deal after U.S. District Judge David Hittner refused to be bound by a sentence of five months in prison and five months' home confinement. Hittner said he wanted to consider the 10 to 16 months called for by federal sentencing guidelines.

BOSTON — A worrisome national surge in multiple births linked to technology is easing, largely because doctors are implanting fewer embryos during each attempt to make a woman pregnant, a study suggests.

Doctors routinely place several embryos in the womb at once to improve the odds of producing a baby. Technical advances and the advent of professional guidelines appear to have led to more sparing use of embryos, the study's researchers reported in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

The findings are likely to stoke the debate over whether the government should put a cap on the number of embryos that can be used for each attempt.

— Associated Press

State Briefs

PALM SPRINGS — The San Andreas Fault may be on the cusp of producing larger and more frequent earthquakes in a flurry of seismic activity that could rattle Southern California with a strong tremor every few decades or less, a geologist said Wednesday.

A detailed analysis of two periods of past quake activity on a section of California's most notorious fault suggests a drawn-out period of little seismic activity may be coming to an end, said Ray Weidman, a University of Oregon geologist.

MORENO VALLEY — A 6-year-old girl hailed as a miracle child after she survived 10 days in a crashed car, nourished only by dry noodles and Gatorade, was recovering from dehydration Wednesday as her family marveled at her good fortune after she survived 10 days in a crashed car, nourished only by dry noodles and Gatorade. The hospital didn't indicate when she might be released.

SAN DIEGO — The manufacturer of San Diego County's electronic voting equipment blamed a faulty power switch for problems that delayed the opening of 40 percent of polling stations, according to a report released by Diebold Election Systems Inc.

Switches on computer encoders malfunctioned, the company said Tuesday.

During the March 2 primary, poll workers were not able to activate electronic devices that encode the magnetic-stripe cards used to activate touch-screen voting machines because the computer displayed the wrong screen.

The problem occurred because the faulty switches did not shut off the units, and the battery power drained. When poll workers then turned on the machines, a Windows operating system screen appeared, causing confusion for workers trained to see another screen. Voters were delayed, or forced to leave without casting ballots, while poll workers awaited instructions on how to find the proper screen.

— Associated Press

National Briefs

FALLUJAH, Iraq — U.S. warplanes strafed gunmen in Fallujah on Wednesday, and more than 100 guerrillas, with rocket-propelled grenades pounded a lone Marine armored vehicle in the street — a sign of heavy battles to come if Marines resume a full assault on this besieged city.

With a truce crumbling and President Bush calling for a key U.N. role to keep the country's political transition moving amid the violence, a top U.N. envoy proposed an Iraqi caretaker government in a formula that abandons a U.S.-favored plan.

Meanwhile, Iraqi militants executed one of four Italian hostages, the Italian government confirmed. Earlier Wednesday, Al-Jazeera reported it had video of the killing but did not broadcast it because it is too graphic; the network did show footage of the four hostages sitting on the ground, holding up their passports and surrounded by armed men.

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — An elderly woman wrapped in the colors of the governing African National Congress spoke for millions who lined up Wednesday to vote in South Africa's third all-race national election.

"The ANC, held our hand and brought us through hell," said Noniluthando Nokwanda, a 66-year-old woman from the squidal Cape Town township of Khayelitsha. "We can give them a chance — and our respect — for another five years."

Despite lingering poverty, high unemployment and an AIDS crisis, a debt of gratitude to the party that toppled apartheid a decade ago still holds sway in South Africa. The ANC has improved living conditions and the economy, but above all, it has preserved over a peaceful transition to majority rule that many once thought impossible.

— Associated Press

World Briefs

BEIJING — Vice President Dick Cheney sought Wednesday to prod China to apply more pressure on North Korea to abandon its nuclear program, citing new evidence that it has atomic weapons.

He also told China he understands their opposition to U.S. arms sales to Taiwan, but that they are directly related to China's own buildup, said a senior administration official who briefed reporters on Cheney's talks.

Cheney also expressed U.S. concern about China's recent steps to restrict self-government in Hong Kong, suggesting it might also have a bearing on the Taiwan issue, the official said.

— Associated Press

World Briefs

BOSTON — A worrisome national surge in multiple births linked to technology is easing, largely because doctors are implanting fewer embryos during each attempt to make a woman pregnant, a study suggests.

Doctors routinely place several embryos in the womb at once to improve the odds of producing a baby. Technical advances and the advent of professional guidelines appear to have led to more sparing use of embryos, the study's researchers reported in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

The findings are likely to stoke the debate over whether the government should put a cap on the number of embryos that can be used for each attempt.

— Associated Press
Transgender teen ‘executed’ by men

Michelle Locke
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hayward, Calif. — The killing of a transgender teen was cold-blooded murder carried out by three men furious they had been deceived by a beautiful girl who turned out to be biologically male, a prosecutor said as he began presenting his case Wednesday.

"Make no mistake about it, Eddie's death was an execution," said Chris Lamiero, making his opening statement in the case of Eddie "Gwen" Araujo, whose slaying has drawn national attention to violence against people who believe their identity is at odds with their biology.

Araujo, 17, was beaten and strangled to death after the people she thought were her friends discovered she was biologically male at a social gathering in October 2002.

Angry shouts of "Are you a woman or a man?" escalated to murder when the group of insecure male egos and "tough guy" personalities, the prosecutor said.

"It was this cast of characters that would snuff out his life, stick him in a hole in the forest and then head off to McDonald's for breakfast," said Lamiero, who is using female pronouns to refer to Araujo as "Gwen" or "Lida," the names she went by, but male pronouns when talking about Araujo as a murder victim.

On trial are Michael Madigson, 23, Jose Merel and Jason Cazares, both 24. A fourth man, 20-year-old Jaron Nabors, initially was charged with murder but pleaded guilty to manslaughter and has been promised an 11-year prison sentence in exchange for testifying against the other three. It was Nabors who in mid-October led police to Araujo's body, buried in a shallow grave in a remote area near Lake Tahoe.

At a preliminary hearing last year, Nabors gave a starkly detailed picture of Araujo's final hours, describing how the teen was choked, hit with a skillet, knelt in the face, tied up and strangled.

Nabors and the three men on trial had met Araujo as "Lida" in the summer of 2002 and had become friends with her, often hanging out at Merel's house in Newark, a San Francisco suburb.

But suspicions about her gender arose and Merel and Madigson, who had both had sex with Araujo, began to compare notes about their encounters, setting the stage for the showdown at Merel's house on Oct. 3.

Attorneys for Madigson and Merel have suggested their clients may have acted in the heat of passion, which would support a manslaughter charge instead of murder. Cazares' attorney has said he may have helped bury the body, but he was not part of the killing.

On Wednesday, Lamiero showed jurors a picture of Araujo, long blonde hair flowing, to show that "Eddie made a very beautiful woman."

Of the three defendants, looking at Araujo as a murder victim, "They decided ... that the wages of Eddie Araujo's sin of deception were death," Lamiero said.

Correction

Inadvertently, the Mustang Daily incorrectly reported that the ASI Athletics Scholarship fee would increase $5 per quarter and that the combined fee increases would total $120 for next year. The ASI Athletic Scholarship fee is being proposed to increase $20 per quarter next year and $5 more in each of the next two years. The quarterly increase if both the ASI Athletic Scholarship fee and Health Services fee referenda pass and is approved by the President would be $35 per quarter next year. Below is a summary of key facts. More detailed facts can be found at http://studentaffairs.calpoly.edu/fees/index.html.

Advisory Student Fee

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Health Services Fee

- Initially established through student fee referendum in 1993 at $28 per quarter
- Beginning Fall Quarter 2003, inflation adjustments added to fee annually based on HEPI
- Current Health Services fee is $31.23 per quarter
- Proposing to increase fee by $15 per quarter beginning Fall Quarter 2004
- Fee increase is being proposed in order to maintain the current level of services being provided

ASI Athletic Scholarship Fee

- Initially established through student fee referendum in 1986 at $4 per quarter
- Beginning Fall Quarter 2003, inflation adjustments added to fee annually based on HEPI
- Current ASI Athletic Scholarship fee is $4.15 per quarter
- Proposing to increase fee by $20 per quarter beginning Fall Quarter 2004
- 2004: an additional $5 per quarter beginning Fall Quarter 2005; and an additional $5 per quarter beginning Fall Quarter 2006
- Fee increase is being proposed in order to maintain a broad based Athletic program

The Student Health Advisory Council urges you to

**VOTE YES**

on the Health Fee Referendum

- Without the Health Services Fee increase, there will be fewer services and longer waits.
- The Health Services Fee provides students access to basic medical services without additional cost.
- Over 11,000 students use the Health Center annually.
- Cal Poly's Health Services Fee is the 7th lowest of the 23 CSU campuses. The $15 increase would bring the Health Services Fee up to the average for CSU campuses.

Vote YES on April 14th and 15th

For details on what the budget cuts mean for the Health Center, go to:

http://studentaffairs.calpoly.edu/fees/index.html

Your college Your paper
Thursday, April 15, 2004

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Mustang Daily

Weeklies are for Vussies
Student charged for fake abduction

Woman charged with two misdemeanor counts of obstructing officers, faced with $20,000 fines, jail time

Jenny Price  ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADISON, Wis. — A college student accused of faking her own kidnapping last month was charged Wednesday with lying to police in what they suggested was a desperate attempt to get her boyfriend’s attention.

Audrey Seiler, a 20-year-old sophomore at the University of Wisconsin, was charged with two misdemeanor counts of obstructing officers. Each charge carries up to nine months in jail and a $10,000 fine.

Seiler disappeared from her off-campus apartment March 27 without her coat or purse. She was discovered curled in a fetal position in a marsh four days later, and told police that a man had abducted her at knifepoint. Seiler’s mother told police her daughter had not been herself lately and was “extremely needy” of Fisher.

But police concluded Seiler made up the story after obtaining a store videotape that showed her buying the knife, duct tape, rope and cold medicine she claimed her abductor used to restrain her. Seiler confessed after she was confronted with the tape, according to authorities.

“Set up everything. I’m just so messed up. I’m sorry,” she quoted her as saying. But she later recanted the statement, insisting she had been abducted.

Hundreds of people from Madison and Seiler’s hometown searched for her after she disappeared, and her claim about an armed man touched off a major manhunt that authorities said cost the police about $96,000.

Seiler’s first court appearance was scheduled for Thursday, but her attorney was expected to appear in her place.

A lawyer Randy Hopper would not say Wednesday whether she would contest the charges. He called Seiler a “model student, a model citizen.”

The criminal complaint depicts Seiler as a young woman upset by a fading relationship with her boyfriend, Ryan Fisher. Friends said the two had been fighting, and Seiler’s roommate, Heather Thue, told officers that Fisher did not pay as much attention to Seiler as she wanted.

Police believe Seiler’s mother told police her daughter had not been herself lately and was “extremely needy” of Fisher.

Three days before she disappeared, her laptop was used to log onto Fisher’s e-mail account and read exchanges “with romantic overtones” between him and another woman, according to the complaint.

A message left at Seiler’s home in Rockford, Minn., was not immediately returned. There was no answer at the campus telephone number for Fisher, Seiler’s boyfriend.

Hopper said Seiler was home with her parents and receiving “medical care and the care and support that she needs from her family.”

Seiler had also reported an unexplained attack in February, saying she was struck from behind and left unconscious. But the complaint does not say whether police believe that attack was also fabricated.

According to police, one woman spotted Seiler on a bike path near the marsh on March 29, 30 and 31. On March 31, the woman said, she saw Seiler lying in the fetal position. When she asked how Seiler was, Seiler sat up and said she was OK and liked to come to the marsh after class to relax.

Investigation of juvenile liquor deaths closes

POLSON, Mont. (AP) — The investigation into the liquor deaths of two Roman children has closed after failing to produce enough evidence to charge anyone, the Lake County Sheriff’s Department said Wednesday.

The department investigated suspicious that an adult gave Justin Benoist and Frankie Nicolai III, both 11 years old, the vodka they guzzled. But almost from the time their intoxicated bodies were found in a Roman field March 1, there were claims the boys may have stolen the liquor from area homes.

“We cannot disprove that at this point,” said Jay Doyle, a detective in the sheriff’s department. Doyle said the investigation will reopen if new information warrants.

Alcohol poisoning killed Frankie, whose blood-alcohol level was 0.50 percent, more than six times the drunken-driving threshold, in Montana. Justin, whose blood alcohol was 0.28 percent, died from a combination of alcohol poisoning and hypothermia.

The deaths of the sixth-graders stunned people in Lake County and beyond, raising questions not only about the extent of underage drinking, but on the extent of society’s responsibility for their deaths. The boys went missing after they skipped afternoon classes at Roman Middle School on Feb. 27, a Friday. Another boy found their bodies the following Monday.

Doyle said last month that disgust over the tragedies led a number of people to call authorities about possible sources of the alcohol.

Justin and Frankie were members of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, which issued a statement the day of the boys’ funeral, promising a “thorough internal review of all aspects of this tragic loss.”

A tribal employee said Wednesday that only Salish-Kootenai Chairman D. Fred Matt could comment on the status of that review, and he was out of his office for the day.
Tax returns longer, more complicated

WASHINGTON (AP) — Taxpayers working feverishly to meet the April 15 filing deadline can take some comfort knowing they are not alone when it comes to crunching their heads over this year's forms. Tax returns are getting more complicated.

The government estimates that the average taxpayer filing a typical tax return with itemized deductions and income from interest, capital gains and dividends, has to spend 42 minutes more than last year's return takes three hours and 43 minutes to complete.

Some of this year's paperwork burden stems from changes in the tax payers' favor, such as new laws that reduced the rates on capital gains and dividends and increased the child tax credit. The Internal Revenue Service reported Wednesday that the average tax return takes three hours and 43 minutes to complete.

The panel released statements harshly criticizing the CIA for failing to fully appreciate the threat posed by al Qaeda before Sept. 11 and questioning the progress of what commissioners say are the FBI's badly needed reorganization efforts.

Trent, appearing before the commission for the second time in three weeks, said that in the 1990s the CIA lost 25 percent of its personnel, was not hiring new analysts and faced disarray in its training of clandestine officers who work overseas to penetrate terror cells and recruit secret informants.

Although strides have been made since the attacks, Trent said it would take five more years to "have the kind of clandestine service our country needs."

The National Security Agency, which handles electronic surveillance, and U.S. mapping and analytic intelligence agencies also need time and sustained funding to improve, he said.

"You can't build this community in fits and starts," Trent said. "It won't happen and the country will suffer."

The commission's chairman, former New Jersey Gov. Thomas Kean, said he was "frustrated" by Trent's projection, given the terror threats confronting the United States.

"I wonder whether we have five years," he said.

The commission has been gathering information for more than a year and will release a final report in July. Among the issues it will consider is whether fundamental changes in U.S. intelligence gathering is needed.

FBI Director Robert Mueller recounted a range of steps the FBI has taken since the Sept. 11 attacks to improve its intelligence capabilities, sharpen its focus on terrorism and replace outdated technology.

He urged the panel to let those improvements continue and not to risk derailing them by recommending creation of a new domestic intelligence agency outside the FBI.

"We don't want to have historians look back and say, 'OK, you won the war on terrorism but you lost your civil liberties,"' Mueller said. "We have become, since Sept. 11, a member of the intelligence community in ways we weren't in the past."

The panel's vice chairman, former Democratic Rep. Lee Hamilton of Indiana, said most commissioners members support some sort of intelligence overhaul, "but we have come to no judgment about the nature of reform that we will recommend."

After the hearing, Kean, a Republican, told reporters the commission had requested declassification of a December 1998 presidential daily briefing — an intelligence memo summarizing world events prepared for President Clinton. They want to compare it with the Aug. 6, 2001, memo given to President Bush that described Osama bin Laden's determination to strike the United States.

Future Grads, Your Fellow Alums Urge You To VOTE YES on the Athletic Scholarship Fee Referendum

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VOTE YES on April 14th & 15th

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C O V E R N M E N T

Fire plan: choice is between environment and development

Don Thompson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO — California must choose between protecting the environment or protecting life and property as homes spring up in what once were wildland areas in the nation's most populous state, a governor's review panel concluded Wednesday in the aftermath of last fall's devastating wildfires.

The failure of state and federal lawmakers and administrations to make those tough decisions stalled prevention efforts that were and remain the primary hope of stopping wind-driven fires such as swept Southern California in October, panel members said.

Once ignited, weather conditions determine the outcome far more than anything firefighters can do, the panel said, though it outlined 48 changes that could be made to better prevent and respond to wildfires.

Those include better cooperation and communication between fire agencies; more training and improved equipment; quicker use of military aircraft; and reconsideration of the sunset deadline for launching firefighting aircraft.

All those responded directly to complaints about how local, state and federal agencies handled the firestorms that killed 24 people in the fires and 16 more in resulting mudslides, destroyed more than 3,600 homes and burned nearly 740,000 acres.

Changes could cost billions of dollars, panel members said as they presented their final report, but they said most would be nearly useless unless policy makers set a priority of protecting life and property over trees, wildlife habitat and other environmental concerns.

"It is essential to understand that unless and until public policy makers at all levels of government muster the political will to put the protection of life and property ahead of competing political agendas, these tragedies are sure to continue," said the panel's chairman, retired state Sen. William Campbell. Without that priority, he said, "anything that we do moneyside is not going to be that important."

His comments were echoed by other panel members and in the report itself, though Andrea Tuttle, director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention, and Dallas Jones, director of the Office of Emergency Services, said there can be common ground between environmentalists and developers.

Environmentalists, too, recognize that there are benefits to thinning forests to prevent high intensity fires, said Tuttle.

"Stopping growth in those areas is not really an option. But doing smart growth in those areas is. It's really up to us," said Jones.
Foot fetish

Whether they're cheap or designer, trendy or trash, sandals are everywhere.

Story by Tamar Graves
Photos by Heath Webster
Finding the ideal flip-flop depends on the wearer's preference

Recently popularized by California surfers and beach bums, flip-flops have come a long way since the days when only Asia's elite wore them. Now it is impossible to cruise through a coastal community without spotting at least one flip-flop (a.k.a. sandal, thong, go-ahead, slipper) sighting. In the last few years, flip-flops have broken the beach barrier and are now making appearances worldwide.

One of the great things about flip-flops is that, regardless of fashion knowledge, virtually everyone can work them into their everyday outfits. Flip-flops come in thousands of colors, heights, styles and prices. Shannon Leo, 24, said she wears one of her five pairs of flip-flops "pretty much every day."

However, there are a few things a notice flip-flop connoisseur should keep in mind:

While anyone can swing into the local dollar store and grab a pair of those day-glow orange flip-flops, it is not recommended. Manufacturers of these models use rigid plastic to make the straps, which go between the toes and over either side of the foot. This is not good — especially to the rookie flip-flopper whose tender feet haven't yet been exposed to the elements of nature. Consequently, the plastic has been known to cause extreme toe and foot chafing, making it hard to get out of the store, let alone make it to the beach.

Another hazard is the possibility of the strap coming undone from the base, causing the wearer to remain barefoot until back-up footwear arrives.

Splashing on a semi-substantial pair of flip-flops will save your feet from much anguish, pain and suffering.

"I have had tons of the cheap pairs, but they only last a little while," said flip-flop addict Elaine Ball. "Now I get the ones that are a bit more expensive because they last forever."

Rainbow brand sandals are a popular alternative to the cent bargain, carrying more foot-friendly and durable materials.

Native to Southern California, Rainbows were first worn by the beach-goers of Newport, Huntington, Venice and Manhattan beaches, now gaining in popularity throughout the rest of the country.

The leather of the toe piece and straps is soft upon purchase and only relaxes more as the flip-flop gets worn in.

The sole of the Rainbow comes in various thicknesses and the leather is available in an array colors. Several local surf stores carry Rainbows, including Moondoggies Beach Club, Central Coast Surfboards and Surf Sisters.

With the warranty that comes with each pair of Rainbows, which covers unusual wear and tear, the glue used on the sole wearing out and any broken straps, what could be more perfect?

Unfortunately, even the blissful world of Rainbow sandal sometimes has problems.

Ball, who works at Moondoggies, is a flip-flop advocate. However, sometimes even she gets discouraged by her kicks because, "when my Rainbows get wet they get kind of slippery," she said. "I think that could be dangerous."

Another popular brand of flip-flops is Chaco, a flip-flop advocate. However, sometimes even she gets discouraged by her kicks because, "when my Rainbows get wet they get kind of slippery," she said. "I think that could be dangerous."

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April showers may bring May flowers, but sandals are worn year-round by some...
Flip-flops continued from page 10

flip-flops is used to the black ring it leaves on your foot," Len said. "But nobody really sees it, and if they do, just tell them you came from the beach." Though many Southern California natives are loyal to the Rainbow name, Jerrel Wallace, a Cienega College sophomore and native of Orange County, prefers Reefs. "Reefs are more chill and comfy," Wallace said. "They are quality shoes of the Reef enthusiasts are still prone to the occasional slippery sole of the flip-flop, but the incidences are less frequent. And too chaffing is a thing of the past. The soft cloth of the Reef straps provide a comfortably snug fit while still allowing the toes to breathe. This prevents the common phenomenon of toe calluses.

"My Reefs are my favorite pair of flip-flops," Len said. "Even when they're brand new they feel broken in." The main drawback of the classic flip-flop, but the incidences are less frequent.

"Queer Eye For the Straight Guy:" The group has an upcoming record called "Hustle Time" featuring Living Legends and E-40, which is due out in September. UnderRated came together in 1996 when UnderRated and I Ton, along with two other artists involved with Lost Koast Productions — Jeffrey Simmons Jr. (aka Aaron Ayeyra), Beefy, and James Boy — a.k.a. James Caldwell (a solo artist featured on many Pollock tracks) — met during a nightclub DJ tryout. Since UnderRated is Jewish, 1 Ton is black, Simmons is Mexican and James Boy is Puerto Rican, and they all partake in recreational marijuana smoking, they decided to call themselves Potluck.

"UnderRated is Jewish, 1 Ton is black, Simmons is Mexican and James Boy is Puerto Rican, and they all partake in recreational marijuana smoking, they decided to call themselves Potluck." Potluck's debut CD "Humboldt County High" has been their most successful release, selling 10,000 copies.

"UnderRated said he hopes the group can keep earning a living making music together. "If we can do that, I think we'll be happy, and that's all you can ask for out of life," he said. He also said it would be great if the group can stay independent, but sell their records at mainstream venues. "For being able to say what we want to say is the most important thing to us," UnderRated said. If the group can stay independent, but sell their records at mainstream venues, then oh well."
Road extension raises student safety issues

Commentary
An anonymous e-mail sent to Mustang Daily over the weekend claims an informal study has concluded that the proposed extension of California Boulevard to Highland Drive "could kill students." The sender also said he or she has been passed by other motorists travelling at about 60 mph in the 35-mph zone on California Boulevard on a regular basis. The sender feels the roadwork is somewhat inevitable, and more measures should be taken to slow down drivers.

It is no secret that a myriad of traffic laws are broken every day — changing lanes without a signal, speeding and the infamous "California" (no pun intended) roll-thru. There should obviously be a concern for the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists — unlike cars, they aren't enclosed in reinforced steel and equipped with seat belts and airbags.

A typical statistic found in most elementary criminal justice books say the average motorist violates a traffic rule at least once every two city blocks. Based on that data, the average driver would break about three to four more laws if the extension took place.

More traffic signals, speed bumps and an increased police presence have been suggested and would indeed provide a more secure environment.

With that being said, follows that there is more potential for accidents when roads are built in heavily-traveled areas.

Granted, the extension of California Boulevard to Highland Drive does have this potential, but the thousands of students cross the road to and from school every day.

San Luis Obispo is only going to continue to grow. With expansion comes the need for more routes to travel if we want to avoid the gridlock of other cities that most are happy to escape.

Sooner or later, San Luis Obispo will have traffic issues that dwarf the current problems. The solution should be to address these issues now before they become a greater dilemma. Unfortunately, the California budget is not to be envied. There are enough current expenditures to deal with, let alone having enough funds to plan ahead.

The only choice left is to do what we can now, because kicking ourselves later won't help.

Nobody except lawyers with 1-800 numbers like to see accidents. The potential that disappears with the victims of tragic events is what's heartbreaking. To avoid these horrific occurrences, we should make the attempts to deter reckless motorists and be aware of our surroundings.

More traffic signals, speed bumps and an increased police presence have been suggested and would indeed provide a more secure environment. Despite these measures, no ticket, no light, no toll both would be the absolute minimum.

The responsibility lies with both pedestrian and driver, with bicyclist and motorcyclist. At one time or another, we have all heard the term "look both ways." Just because we are in college does not mean we are too old to ignore that advice.

Brian Koser is a journalism senior and Mustang daily staff writer.

Letters to the Editor

Parking will be limited during Open House

Pam Grigsby, chair of the University Police Department and the Open House Committee, would like to remind all students, faculty and staff that alternative transportation will be the best choice during Open House festivities on Friday.

Nearly 10,000 registered and unregistered students have been invited to attend Open House and participate in organized activities presented by various departments of the university.

Parking will be extremely limited throughout the day and especially during the early-morning hours. UDP will have additional staffing deployed all day in order to help facilitate traffic flow and parking throughout campus. In addition, we will be working with the San Luis Obispo Police Department and the California Highway Patrol in areas around campus to improve traffic flow.

Your patience and understanding is appreciated as we manage this event.

We are asking that all students, faculty and staff use alternative transportation on Friday to help make Open House a great event. This can include carpooling, walking, SCO Transit and biking. If you would like more information regarding alternative transportation choices, please contact Debby Anderson, 756-6889 or email us at service@calpoly.edu.

Sponsored and would indeed provide a more secure environment.

Tony Ault is the university chief of police and Brett Trudson is the open house director. If you need transportation assistance, email: toby65@calpoly.edu

Better athletics would distinguish Cal Poly

Most people who have heard of Cal Poly agree it is a fairly elite athletic school. It's hard to get in, and a degree from Cal Poly is an advantage in professional fields. However, Cal Poly has been left behind very often in the same breath as other elite universities such as Stanford, Duke and Notre Dame. This is by no means a slight against the school, but it is a reality. These three universities have outstanding academic credentials and are universally recognized. A small school like our own country because of their athletic triumphs. Cal Poly should strive to be on that level. Without a strong athletic program, Cal Poly doesn't do much to separate itself from a lot of other strong academic universities.

However, if we can combine top-ranked academics with top-ranked athletics, we have done something that schools can. Ninety dollars a year is about the same as five trips downtown, a meal in a local football game. We are lucky enough to get to see free. We have smart students — we can do a lot of a way to come up with money. Let's separate ourselves from schools that compete for our students. I think it's a concern that in the near future I can fill out my March Madness bracket and pick Cal Poly to beat Stanford in the Sweet 16. Athletics bring pride to everyone at the school, whether or not they compete. Passing the athletics referendum will be a step toward distancing ourselves from the pack.

Andrew McDaniels is a biology senior.

Health Center fees will preserve services

I am writing in regard to the Health Center referendum. As all you know, there have been massive budget cuts, which affect all of us that attend the state universities. The Health Center has to be envied. There are enough current expenditures to deal with, let alone having enough funds to plan ahead. The only choice left is to do what we can now, because kicking ourselves later won't help.

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Liberal radio has potential

**Commentary**

It's about time.

That's the feeling among many liberals as they watch the launch of the Air America Radio network about two weeks ago. The hope is that it will be a new and much-needed voice that has been virtually monopolized by conservatives like Rush Limbaugh.

Air America combines political music and talk on Saturday Night Live alum Al Franken, with other liberal personalities and commentators, such as materialist Laura Flanders.

While this network is a great concept, what's more crucial is whether or not a president, the New York Times op-ed page contained a surprise for many of its readers. Not only may the junior senator from Massachusetts find himself in the Oval Office next January, but he may do so with Clinton as his vice-president.

Stephen Gillers' March 3 op-ed does not suggest that Kerry might tap up the former president as a vice president. But Gillers sees the latter as not a serious possibility, given the constraints on the ticket. Although Gillers correctly notes that constitutional concerns bear no impact on whom an incumbent president might want to run with for vice president, he believes this decision lies with Kerry/Clinton tandem would both please the young ex-president and increase the Democrats' chances of regaining the White House and increase the Democrats' chances of regaining the White House.

While the return of Clinton to the White House certainly seems like a debacle, there is much to argue that his return to the White House may be a boon than the only way to account for the reason of the attraction is through the Web site, www.cararamaradio.com, or through the Air America Radio website, a steady running dose due to high traffic, which presumably shows there is a demand for this kind of format.

I managed to listen to some of the repertoire of broadcasts over spring break while I was back in Los Angeles on KBLA AM. Being liberal, I tended to agree with many of the points that were raised during his show, "The O'Franken Factor," an obvious satire of Bill O'Reilly's show, "The O'Reilly Factor," on Fox News. O'Reilly has become Franken's number-one target after Dubya of course during his show. His anger toward O'Reilly recently escalated after the now infamous "Book TV" incident in which O'Reilly repeatedly screamed "Shut up" at Franken during a televised conference. Thanks to "The Daily Show," the incident is often magnified. "The O'Franken Factor," like "The Daily Show," frequently does a good job at exposing some of the factual travesty his show entertaining and also information.

But what is somewhat troubling is how wholly the network is. They seem to have only one goal: selling George W. Bush. November. What's wrong with this is that is not a fair representation of liberals.

Unlike conservatives, there are varying degrees of liberalism which often conflict with one another (this is the reason some Democrats lost the election in 2004; well, and those hanging chads). As Franken says, it's time for folks to get a reality lesson and putting up with central unity as conservatives are. Perhaps Air America is the way to win in November; but even after being on the air for barely more than three weeks, this plan has already gone off track.

"An example, noted in Time Magazine, is when the host of the afternoon show, Andrew Slesinger, took the line, "As soon as the Nader as a call-in guest. After small talk, she repeatedly screamed for him to release the information for pot posses or use John Kerry's chances this year by running again. Yet, she also featured ultra-conservative Phil Gramm because they were buddies because he opposed the war in Iraq. Nader's views on the network are currently failing to any major companies for ads. This is part-conservative counterparts.

It's because they are currently failing to any major companies for ads. This is part-logical with Kerry than with Bush. A Democratic win in 2004 may not serve Clinton's long-term political interests. As the Democratic Party's most recent president, Clinton holds the de facto position of party head, a position that has been slowly gravitated away at by the left-wing movements in support of candidates such as Howard Dean and Kerry. With the embarrassing failure of Walter Clark's campaign for the democratic nod, Clinton's Democratic Leadership Council no longer holds the key, nor did it during its "W's hereby Bandwagon" plan, another four years in Harlem might be the intelligent next step.

The vice-presidency appears to be "the next best thing to being presi- dent," in Clinton's case this seemingly obvious conclusion proves false. Kerry gives no signs of wanting to be upstaged by another candidate for the vice presidency. Likewise, Clinton's own political interests can best be served in the private sector. In a politically impulsive Bill Clinton, another four years in Harlem might be the intelligent next step.

Michael B. Greene is a writer for The Charlotte Observer Press at Dartmouth College.

Defending pornography

**Commentary**

Ladies and gentlemen of Cal Poly, citizens of the world. After much anticipation, the time has come at last to talk about something of profound interest to an older college generation, one that you should have known it was only a matter of time before the truth came out.

Folks, it's time to talk about porn.

Yep, that's right — porn, pornos, pornography, smut, trash, skin flicks, nude, erotic picture, magazine, hardcore, sex, fetish films and erotica. Call it what you will, porn is omnipresent, lurking in the alleysways of our society like a whip-wielding dominatrix, teasing us into the shallows of her saucy voice and intoxicating combination of leather, skin and sweat.

Porn, in its various forms and manifestations, has been around for as long as we can remember. Today it is the staple of many teenagers and young adults. The urge to have sex is nothing new, but the advent of porn has made it easier for many to satisfy their sexual desires. Pornography has become more acceptable in society, and its prevalence is on the rise. However, the question of the impact of pornography on society remains a subject of debate.

In recent years, there has been a growing concern about the effects of pornography on individuals and society. Some argue that pornography is a form of entertainment that is harmless and even beneficial, while others believe that it is a dangerous and harmful influence. This debate is complex, and there are many factors to consider when evaluating the impact of pornography on society.

One of the main arguments against pornography is that it promotes unrealistic and harmful gender stereotypes. Many critics argue that pornography portrays women in a dehumanized and objectified manner, setting unrealistic standards for their appearance and behavior. This can have negative consequences for both men and women, as it can lead to a lack of respect and equality between the sexes.

Another concern is that pornography can contribute to sexual violence and exploitation. The portrayal of sexual violence in pornography can desensitize individuals to the reality of sexual assault and abuse, and this can make it more likely for people to engage in or tolerate such behavior. Additionally, the objectification of women in pornography can lead to a lack of respect for women's autonomy and consent, which can contribute to sexual violence.

On the other hand, there are those who argue that pornography is a form of expression that is protected under the First Amendment. They argue that it should be freely available and that individuals should be free to choose what they want to watch or not. They also argue that pornography can be a source of pleasure and intimacy for consenting adults.

In conclusion, the debate about the effects of pornography on society is ongoing, and it is important to continue to have open and honest discussions about this issue. However, it is clear that pornography has a significant impact on individuals and society, and it is important to consider the potential consequences when making decisions about how to regulate or ban it.

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Michael B. Greene is a writer for The Charlotte Observer Press at Dartmouth College.

James W. Whitaker is a business senior and Mustang Daily columnist. Comments can be e-mailed to jwhitaker@calpoly.edu.
Governors urged to use clean energy

Barry Massey
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Western states should take the lead in renewable energy production to meet growing power demands and help establish a balanced energy policy for the nation, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson said Wednesday.

At the opening of an energy summit organized by the Western Governors' Association, Richardson challenged leaders of western states to support policies and projects that would increase the production of so-called clean power, such as electricity generated by solar, wind and biomass.

Richardson, the chairman of the governors group and a former energy secretary during the Clinton administration, also urged Congress to approve legislation to provide for mandatory reliability standards for the electricity grid.

He warned that the nation remained vulnerable to blackouts such as an outage in August 2003 that cascaded from Michigan to New York.

"I am concerned that we're setting ourselves up for more blackouts in the summer, especially with high temperatures, high heat," Richardson said at a news conference.

The energy summit, which runs through Friday, is bringing together governors from Western states, officials from Canada and Mexico, energy industry leaders, environmentalists and scientists.

Richardson wants the gathering to serve as the starting point for the West to assume a larger role in national energy policy.

Energy legislation is stalled in Congress and Richardson expressed doubt that it could be approved this year because of election-year disputes. However, he recommended that Congress move ahead with several critical provisions, such as the grid reliability and extension of a federal renewable energy tax credit, and pass those separate measures.

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Commentary

Don't let anyone tell you golf isn't physical.

"Anyone who disagrees should try it," said golf coach Scott Cartwright.

"Try playing 72 holes and sleeping in a strange bed. We spend more time moving than any other sport. We compete before sleep, then waking up at 5:30 a.m. Monday and golfing 36 holes at 5 a.m. on Sunday, arriving in Laker for life.

Burtontalked about the trials Tuesday, after he had just won his second individual tournament title in a row, pacing the team to an 11th-place finish.

Tournaments aren't exactly guiding grandpa through the crosswalk, primarily on day one, where the team plays 36 holes without a break. The team's schedule over the weekend consisted of the following: leaving at 5 a.m. on Saturday, arriving in Arizona at 1 p.m., teeing up a practice round of 18 holes on the course before sleep, then waking up at 5:30 a.m. Monday and golfing 36 holes without sleep at 6 a.m. Monday night the team had a little time for class studies before waking up early Tuesday to play the final 18 holes.

"There's no rest," Cartwright said. "They play their morning round, I hand them a sack lunch and kick them in the butt.

Near the end, some of the golfers can't help but start counting down the holes like you counting down the minutes in biology class. "If you're not playing very well then you definitely start counting down the holes, anxious to get back to the hotel and relax," Bertoni said.

"It's tough, but this course was fairly flat," Bertoni said of the par-70, 7,133-yard Talking Stick North Course. "I'm used to it. It's tough to get used to when you've never really seen it before. The first couple times it's pretty pleasing."

The Mustang golfers must carry their own bags — stashed with 14 clubs and balls — the entire course, as well as on-course sustenance like energy bars and water, and, in inclement weather, rain suits and see Column, page 15

By Joseph White

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Freddy Adu and his coach jokingly debated the pros and cons of tap music and the Bee Gees during their long walk to RFK Stadium after a particularly grueling practice.

The light moment wasn't what you'd expect from Peter Nowak, no-frills D.C. United coach who insists on bringing Adu along slowly, despite all the hype and sellout crowds for the phenomenon.

"He's my coach, but he's also a great guy who I just like to talk to and have fun with," the 14-year-old forward said. "That just makes me feel very comfortable.

Up close the 39-year-old Polish native is tough but fun, strict but full of personality, a constant stream of energy as he tackles his first coaching job under scrutiny unparalleled for a league soccer team in the United States.

"When it comes down to business — you've got to do whatever he wants you to do," Adu said. "And you're off the field and over and done with, he's a very open guy. You can joke around with him... That's how I am, too.

Nowak has already ripped some of the veterans the wrong way with his set of rules. Wake-up time is 5 a.m. on the road, where the team eats their morning round. They play their morning round, I hand them a sack lunch and kick them in the butt.

"The team got off to a good start winning in positions one and two in the doubles portion of the match. Sophomore Brett Van Linge and freshman John Nguyen battled UCSB players Alex Anselme and Chris Wertz to a 7-8 victory. Van Linge had some solid backhands and serves that, at times, were hard for the Gauchos to return. There were some tense moments during the game, including a double fault by Van see Tennis, page 15

Matt Baca and the Cal Poly tennis team scored an upset over No. 66 UC Santa Barbara

By Joseph White

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Men's tennis ended its six-game losing streak Wednesday as they defeated UC Santa Barbara.

It was a much-needed win and boost in the team's confidence as they look toward the upcoming Big West tournament.

The team's record now stands at 11-11.

"The season just got a whole lot better," head coach Trevor Krone said. "I think we have a solid shot. Today was the jump-start we needed.

The Mustang men's tennis team upset No. 66 UC Santa Barbara Wednesday to end their six-game losing streak.

Whitmore, page 15

BRIAN KENT/PHOTO CO-MAND OF SCOTTI

By Joseph White

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — On the eve of the NBA playoffs, the star-laden Lakers are clearly a team in crisis. Maybe they turned it around and win the championship many predicted when they added Karl Malone and Gary Payton. Or maybe they'll be eliminated in the first round if they don't improve their defense and develop better chemistry.

"This team has always had a lot of drama," coach Phil Jackson said. Indeed.

The latest围绕 around Kobe Bryant, who swears he was doing his best when he took only one shot in the first half Sunday's 102-85 loss at Sacramento in the Lakers' most important game of the season to date. At least one of his teammates wondered if Bryant was playing hard enough.

Two days later, Bryant took 11 shots in the first quarter and 29 overall. Afterward, neither Malone nor Payton wanted to talk about the game.

Jackson defended Bryant's performance against the Kings, but none of his teammates has done so with the media.

There's more.

Bryant has said repeatedly he'll opt out of his contract this summer and become a free agent, although he's also said he plans on being a Lakers for life.

Many close to the team believe otherwise.

Bryant and Payton have publicly stated their dislike for the triangle offense employed by Jackson. Bryant has also said he doesn't care for Jackson as a person, and Payton has complained about playing-time.

Shaquille O'Neal believes the offense should run through him, which often doesn't happen.

Jackson and Malone have talked about retirement following the season.

It's not a pretty picture.

"You don't know what you're going to face with this team," see Lakers, page 15

By Joseph White

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