Summer schedule

A course booklet will not be printed due to the minimal amount of classes being offered during the quarter.

Christina Joslin

Due to the minimal amount of classes being offered this summer, the 2004 class schedule will not be printed but can be found online.

Cal Poly and all other California State University campuses have suffered an enrollment reduction of 5 percent for the 2004-05 school year, because of a decision made by the CSU Chancellor's Office to decrease this year's funding.

Cal Poly has chosen to limit summer courses to a bare minimum, in order to maintain the highest enrollment for the academic school year. This decision allows the college departments to offer the most effective schedules during fall, winter and spring quarters.

"I think Cal Poly made the right choice," said Dean of the College of Liberal Arts Harry Hellensbrand about reducing summer school. "It's important that we offer as many classes as possible while the bulk of the students are here."

Summer school, which starts on June 21, will feature only a few college courses, which are available to any major. These departments include economics, business, agribusiness, nutrition, psychology and agricultural College-based fees are funding these classes.

"The College of Agriculture is offering as many as possible courses during this year's summer school," said Dean of the COMG David Wehner. "Students on the fee committee voted to keep these courses available."

The College of Agriculture is offering as many as possible courses during this year's summer school. Students on the fee committee voted to keep these courses available. Most of the colleges will only be offering courses such as senior project, internships, thesis and individual research. These classes are for students who may need only one more unit or have to finish their senior project before graduating," said university scheduling manager Debra Arsenau.

In most cases, students will not be able to take the courses they wanted. These students might consider the options offered by Cuesta College and Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria. These community colleges will be increasing the amount of courses available.

Rachel Musquiz

In accordance with Cal Poly's learn by doing motto, the university will host a discussion between several speakers about how to position future educational goals. Speakers will present during a special Earth Day "Education for Sustainability: Engaging the Polytechnic University" convocation Friday. The event will be from 4 to 6 p.m. in Chumash Auditorium in the University Union.

Sustainability aims to find answers to the technical question of how to construct environment-friendly buildings, the demographic question of where the wisest places of growth are and the personal question of who can benefit.

"It’s all about the future," English professor Stephen Marx said. "We are making environmental and economic considerations to work together rather than conflict."

One of the most anticipated guest speakers is David Orr. He has lectured and written several books on the topic of education for sustainability and has headed up the efforts to design and build the Environmental Studies Center at UC Santa Cruz.

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Admissions  
continued from page 1

John Moores, has accused flagship Berkeley of turning away students. U.C.'s two-year-old system of "comprehensive review" admissions, which uses objective economic factors such as academics into account.

Last year, Moores wrote a report based on 3,000 data in which he criti­

cized Berkeley for turning away thousands of students with high SAT scores while accepting several hundred students with low scores. Many of the lower-scoring seniors were black or Hispanic, underrep­

resented minorities at UC, causing Moores and others to question whether UC was skirting a state ban on affirmative action in college admissions.

On Tuesday, Chancellor Robert Berdahl issued a statement calling the 2004 admissions figures for his campus "flat-out unacceptable." Berdahl, who is retiring at the end of the school year, said he will spend the rest of his term trying to find ways to increase the number of underrepresented students who apply.

All major ethnic groups saw declines in admissions and under­
representation at overall totals, blacks, Hispanics and American Indians increased very slightly as a proportion of overall admissions, from 19.8 percent last year to 20 percent.

However, the actual number of underrepresented minorities admit­
ted was down, particularly for black students. Wilbur said applications from black students were down, a trend reflected nationally. She said

expansions are still being sought for the downtown depending on the success of the free bikes and hikes in recruitment pro­grams. Wilbur said there was no way to keep students coming to Cal Poly, because the Moore's report discouraged some minorities from applying.

At Berkeley, 211 black students were admitted for fall, down about 29 percent from last year's 298. For Hispanics, the decline was about 7 percent, from 1,030 last year to 953.

I am profoundly saddened and disappointed that so many of these students, especially African American students, will not receive the exceptional education and expe­

rience that this public institution has to offer," Berdahl said.

"We have to think about new strategies," he said. "We understand the will of California voters, that admissions should not include racial preferences, but I cannot believe the will of the voters should be so dem­

ed in the right to provide targeted pro­

gram to prepare more underrepre­

sented students for admission to UC."

For all right undergraduate UC campuses, the figures released Tuesday, which are admissions offers, reflect only about 36 percent of the 6,000­

guaranteed transfer offers. Overall, just less than 47,000 state residents were offered freshman admission to UC this fall compared to more than 50,000 last year.

An additional 2,661 students were offered delayed admission for the winter or spring terms and 1,120 students who didn't get into the engineering programs they applied to were offered the chance to study engineering at UC Riverside.

Summer  
continued from page 1

course offerings for this summer, main­
ly lower division general edu­
cation courses. Cal Poly is joining forces with them in an attempt to

minimize duplication of certain courses.

Representatives from Cuesta will be available at Cal Poly on April 29 and May 20 during 9 a.m.-noon in the UW Plaza. Find direct links to Cuesta and Atascadero System on the Academic programs page.

Find the summer schedule at www.es.ucd.edu/records/summer_schedule/index.htm.

Siobhan McDonough  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - Newspapers face a wider array of competition with the digital revolution taking hold, according to a study released Wednesday by the Readerhip Institute at Northwestern University. 

Representatives from newspapers can't rely on the conventional wisdom that young adults will read more as they age, so it's important to deliver content that appeals to them.

The study, sponsored by the Newspaper Association of America, the American Society of Newspaper Editors and the McCormick Tribune Foundation, found that readers and older look for hard news, editorials, lifestyle stories, "my community" features and service articles.

People 18 to 24 are attracted to lifestyle stories and features on such subjects as home, health, food, fashion, recreation and science. They're also interested in advertisements.

"They tend to be selective in what they read, looking at less than half of the Sunday paper and less than one­

doen of the weekly paper," the insti­
tute said.

John Lawine, director of the Readerhip Institute, described the research to a joint session of the annual conventions of the ASNE and NAA.

The study explored ways new­

spapers can improve readership among 18- to 24-year-olds and among minority groups, where readership is declining slightly.

Only one-third of young readers are heavy newspaper users, according to the study. They spend an average of 21 minutes each weekday reading the newspaper, compared to an average of 51 minutes on Sundays.

Readers 25 and older average 36 minutes each weekday and 58 minutes on Sunday, the study said.

Reserves  
continued from page 1

book. Once they find out it is on elec­
tronic reserve, they don't come back and just end it online," Later said.

Architectural engineering senior Robert McChesney said he prefers get­
ing course material online because he can get it from home. If it is a big file though, he prefers to come to the library, he said.

"I don't want to print out a whole bunch of stuff," he said.

Some faculty have decided to use their own Web sites or Blackboard to post such materials. Architectural engineering professor Pamalee Brady used to walk homework solutions down to the library and have them scanned. Now she uses Blackboard to keep everything in the same place.

"It's so much easier to just scan it myself," Brady said. "It's a lot less of all my solutions there. They get their assignments there."

Paper reserves will not disappear, despite the emphasis on electronic forms. Not all course material can be put online. Books for the most part are still put away in the shelves of the reserve room at the library.

library's policy is to put no more than 10 percent of a book on the web to respect copyright laws. However, homework, solutions and supplemental readings can eas­

ily be scanned and put on the library's Web site.

From the library's homepage, stu­

dents can click on the "yellow splash" or on the dropdown menu for students. They search by course number or the last name of the pro­

fessor. To access the material, stu­

dents must enter their last name and the bar code number under the Poly Card.

Professor George Lewis, chair for the Academic Senate, will address faculty responsibility and opportunity in teaching, research, and governance.

Dean of the College of Engineering Peter Lee will announce the university plans for a new University Center for Sustainable Engineering. The uni­

versity also has plans to host an inter­

national conference on campus and integration of sustainability issues in the engineering curriculum.

Associated Students Inc. presi­

dent Alison Anderson and vice president Olga Bendas, will discuss new student organizations at the state, CSU and local levels can represent education toward sustain­
ability.

Jones will relate the need for sus­

tainability on campus to other environmental issues in California. In his presentation, he will also explain the leadership role that Cal Poly has the opportunities to play.

Sustainability  
continued from page 3

Oberlin College in Ohio. He also leads the efforts to raise $10 million toward the $15 million goal needed to make it happen. The New York Times has called this green build­

ing "the most remarkable" of a new generation of environmentally responsible college buildings, according to a press release. It was also selected as one of the 30 "mile­

generation of environmentally responsible college buildings, their own Web sites or Blackboard to present their programs.

They can impmve axidership among adults as they age. so the senior audience is growing, according to the report.

"It's so much easier to just scan it myself," Brady said. "It's a lot less of all my solutions there. They get their assignments there."

"Education for Sustainability" is a free event for the university com­

munity and the general public. Several other speakers will present different issues regarding sustainability.

Cal Poly President Warren Baker will welcome the audience by announcing that the university has become a signatory to the Talloires Declaration. Already more than 300 universities have signed the Hoo­

point pledge to practice, improve and teach methods of sustainable resource use and environmental protection.

...
BASSA, Iraq — Suicide attackers unleashed car bombings against police buildings in Iraq's biggest Shiite city Wednesday morning, striking rush-hour crowds and killing at least 66 people, including 16 children, incinerated in their school bases.

Meanwhile, in Fallujah, the bloodiest battlefield in April, an agreement aimed at bringing peace to the city ran into trouble Wednesday. Insurgents attacked Marines, prompting fighting that killed 20 guerrillas.

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — A suicide attacker bombarded a security police building in the Saudi capital Wednesday, killing at least four people and wounding 148. The attack had the hallmark of an al Qaeda operation, officials said.

The explosion, heard three miles away, shattered the glass facades of nearby buildings and ignited several fires. Smoke billowed from the seven-story General Security building, where workers issue driver licenses and do other administrative tasks.

KOROLYOV, Russia — A Russian spacecraft brought a fresh crew to the international space station without a hitch Wednesday, but things weren't so smooth on the ground, where a top space official lashed out at NASA over the length of future missions.

The Soyuz TMA-4 docked with the ISS on autopilot at 1:01 a.m. EDT, several minutes ahead of schedule and two days after it blasted off from Russia's Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. It was the third time a Soyuz has filled in for U.S. space shuttle flights, suspended since the Columbia disaster in February 2003.

UNITED NATIONS — With the full weight of the Security Council behind him, former Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker opened an independent investigation Wednesday into allegations of corruption and kickbacks stemming from the U.N.'s humanitarian program in Iraq.

His three-member panel will hire and oversee a team of investigators, accountants and legal advisers expected to pore through hundreds of pages of U.N. contracts awarded over the years to international companies that did business with Saddam Hussein's regime.}

The Environment needs your help!

In 2001, the EPA reported that 3.5 Million pounds of chemical waste was generated by tobacco manufacturing.

1 in 8 trees worldwide are cut down and used for tobacco growing or curing.

A total of 300 cigarettes are produced from one tree.

16 applications of pesticides are recommended in the three months before the tobacco seed is planted.

500,000 acres of forest are lost to tobacco farming each year.

20 Million people could be fed worldwide if the land used to grow tobacco grew food instead.

23.6% of California's 18-24 year olds smoke.

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Carrie Johnson
Campus Advocacy & Mentorship Program (CAMP) Coordinator
American Lung Association of the Central Coast
cired7@hotmail.com
(805)459-0189

This material is made possible with funds received from the Tobacco Use Health Protection Act of 1988. Prop. 95. Through the California Department of Health Services, under Grant No. 00-00399, as coordinated by PHS/State Solutions.
SAN FRANCISCO — A judge on Wednesday ordered the federal government to keep away from a California medical marijuana group that grows and distributes cannabis for its sick members.

The order by U.S. District Judge Jeremy Fogel in San Jose was the first interpretation of a federal appeals court decision last year that ordered the federal government not to prosecute a sick Oakland woman who smoked marijuana with a doctor’s recommendation under a 1996 California medical marijuana law.

Fogel ruled that the Justice Department cannot raid or prosecute the 250 members of the Men’s Alliance for Medical Marijuana, which sued the government after the Drug Enforcement Administration in 2002 raided its Santa Cruz County growing operation and seized 167 marijuana plants.

The group’s director, Valerie Corral, said the group had been receiving and growing marijuana in secret since the raid out of fear of being prosecuted. But with Fogel’s decision, the group intends on immediately planting hundreds of plants at Corral’s one-acre property in the Santa Cruz hills.

“You better believe it we’re gonna plant,” Corral, who uses marijuana to alleviate epileptic seizures, said in a telephone interview. “I’m leaving now. It’s amazing.”

The Justice Department, which urged Fogel not to issue an injunction barring new raids or prosecutions, declined comment. Spokesman Charles Miller said the government was reviewing the decision.

The marijuana group asked Fogel to issue the injunction after the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in December that a congressional act outlawing marijuana may not apply to sick people with a doctor’s recommendation in states that have approved medical marijuana laws.

The San Francisco-based appellate court, ruling 2-1, wrote that prosecuting these medical marijuana users under a 1970 federal law is unconstitutional if the marijuana isn’t sold, transported across state lines or used for nonmedical purposes.

“The intrastate, noncommercial cultivation, possession and use of marijuana for personal medical purposes on the advice of a physician is, in fact, different in kind from drug trafficking,” Judge Harry Pregerson wrote for the 9th Circuit in December.

The court added that “this limited use is clearly distinct from the broad illicit drug market, as well as any broader commercial market for medical marijuana, insofar as the medical marijuana at issue in this case is not intended for, nor does it enter, the stream of commerce.”

That decision was a blow to the Justice Department, which argued that medical marijuana laws in nine states were trumped by the Controlled Substances Act, which outlawed marijuana, heroin and a host of other drugs nationwide. The Justice Department on Tuesday appealed that 9th Circuit decision to the Supreme Court.

Fogel’s decision, meanwhile, furthers the conflict between federal law and California’s 1996 medical marijuana law, which allows people to grow, smoke or obtain marijuana for medical needs with a doctor’s recommendation.

Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Nevada, Oregon and Washington state have laws similar to California’s, which has been the focus of federal drug interdiction efforts. Agents have raided and shut down several medical marijuana growing clubs.

The 9th Circuit court, the nation’s largest, does not have jurisdiction over Colorado and Maine.
Anti-immigration forces defeated in Sierra Club election

Terence Chea  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO - Sierra Club leaders beat back efforts by anti-immigration advocates trying to gain control of the nation's largest environmental group, persuading members to defeat the challengers by a landslide in balloted board elections.

Candidates picked by the club's nominating committee won all five open seats on the 15-member board in the bitterly contested election, which was conducted by mail and online since March 1. The results were announced Wednesday, several hours after voting closed.

"It's a stunning rejection of the anti-immigration forces who tried to take over the Sierra Club," said Adam Werbach, the club's president from 1996 to 1998. "I think people realized that there's no role for racism or anti-immigrant feelings in the environmental movement."

The five board members elected from a pool of 17 candidates were Nick Aumen, Dave Karpf, Jan O'Connell, Sanjay Ranchod and Lisa Reno. They succeeded five of eight exemptions opposed to defeat the challengers by a landslide in the club's 112-year-old history. Less than 10 percent took part in recent elections, which allowed board members to be elected with relatively few votes.

"We are thrilled at the turnout," said Carl Pope, the Sierra Club's executive director. "Our members have shown how much they care about this organization in the way they've turned out to vote."

The election was widely seen as a referendum on the San Francisco-based club's policy on immigration. In recent years, a growing faction has urged a tougher stance on immigration, calling the growing U.S. population and its consumption of natural resources the greatest threat to the environment.

Before the election, Sierra Club leaders warned that anti-immigration forces were trying to take over the organization and its $100 million annual budget. With the board's consent, the club sent out a ballot notice warning members that non-environmental groups were trying to influence the vote.

"There was dirty politics of the worst order," Watson said. "It was completely unfair."

Watson said the Sierra Club cannot afford to ignore the population issue.

"It's the most pressing environmental issue of the 21st century," Watson said. "I find it cowardly for any environmental organization to avoid talking about the issue of human overpopulation."

Club leaders said that despite Wednesday's victory, the immigration issue wasn't going away. Board members have agreed to ask voters in next year's election whether the club should take a position on the politically charged issue.

"I think the club leaders said they were happy to put the contentious election behind them."

Military environmental exemptions opposed

John Heilprin  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - The Bush administration hasn't demonstrated the need to further ease environmental laws in the name of military readiness, five Western attorneys general told Congress Wednesday.

Attorneys general of California, Colorado, Idaho, Utah and Washington state submitted a statement to two House subcommittees opposing any further relaxation of environmental standards for the military.

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Military environmental exemptions opposed
Gov's plan to retrofit Hummer pushed ‘down on priority list’

Michael R. Blood
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Labeled an environmentalist-come-lately as a candidate, Arnold Schwarzenegger answered his critics by announcing he planned to retrofit one of his gas-guzzling Hummers to run on eco-friendly hydrogen power.

“I think that's where the future of fuel will be going,” he said at the time.

But seven months later, the high-tech Hummer has yet to hit the road. For the moment, the project has produced more talk than torque.

Seven companies submitted bids to do the work — ranging in cost from $40,000 to $150,000 — but no contract has been signed, said Rick Margolin, assistant director of Energy Independence Now, a Santa Monica group that evaluated the proposals on behalf of the governor.

“Why does hare people working on it,” Margolin said.

Schwarzenegger raised his proposal for a clean-fuel vehicle with officials in the Hummer division of General Motors Corp., but for now the company is not engineering a hydrogen-powered Hummer for him or anyone else.

“It’s out there as an idea,” said David Caldwell, a spokesman for Hummer. “It’s not something that exists currently. It’s not something you would expect to see in the near future.”

He added, “We would never do a Hummer on any energy source that would not perform like a Hummer is supposed to perform.”

Schwarzenegger took delivery of the first Hummer made available to the public more than a decade ago, a civilian version of a military vehicle that caught the public's attention during the first Gulf war.

His popularity in Hollywood helped transform the brand into a favorite status vehicle. He was that company, if any, was working on it, what funding may be involved or if any contracts had been signed for research or shop work on the Hummer.

“We are trying to figure out your best way this can be done,” she said.

Retrofitting a Hummer with clean fuel would be a challenge because of its size and the cost, but several companies expressed an interest in working on his idea. And Schwarzenegger's interest in a hydrogen-powered vehicle is far from Buck Rogers' science.

Two years ago, the federal government announced it was forming a partnership with U.S. automakers aimed at creating a network of hydrogen filling stations to help accelerate production of fuel-cell cars and trucks.

There was no mention of his Hummer on Tuesday, when Schwarzenegger directed state agencies to work with private companies and research groups to develop a statewide network of stations offering hydrogen fuel within six years. "Your government will lead by example," he said in announcing the initiative.

With the governor working on the statewide alternative-fueling plan, the retrofitted Hummer was "pushed down on the priority list," Margolin said.

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SACRAMENTO — Embattled electronic voting machine maker Diebold Election Systems weathered new accusations Wednesday of computer glitches, last-minute software flaws and careless job performances that, in the words of the California secretary of state's office, "jeopardized the outcome of the March election."

A state voting systems panel is considering disciplinary action against the Texas-based firm, which could braze its standing nationally as states gear up to spend billions of dollars for new touch-screen voting equipment.

Diebold President Robert J. Unroevech apologized Wednesday to Secretary of State Kevin Shelley, the eight-member voter systems panel that oversees California voting machinery and to 17 counties that use its varying electronic voting systems.

"We're not idiots, though we may act from time to time as not the smartest," Unroevech told the panel investigating its job performance in California.

A report released Wednesday by the Shelley's office reported that Diebold sold new electronic voting equipment to Solano, San Benito, San Joaquin and Kern counties before it was state- or federally approved, didn't test it until shortly before the March 2 election, installed unconfirmed software in its equipment in 17 counties and still lacks federal approval for its newest voting machines for the November election.

The Diebold investigation is part of a two-day hearing into touch-screen voting in California, where fears of another disputed presidential election have activists pressing for a ban on electronic voting this November.

Though nearly half the state's voters vote in counties with touch-screen machines, many rallied Wednesday against casting votes without a verifiable paper trail. But advocates for the blind, disabled and those who speak languages other than English defended electronic systems as the only way for them to vote privately, while county voting officials also vigorously protested a possible ban as an invitation to chaos and $30 million in extra costs.

The committee conducting the hearing is to make recommenda-
tions Thursday to Shelley regarding a statewide ban on electronic vot-
ing, but also on Diebold's fate, which could include fines or ban-
ing its equipment entirely in California. Shelley must decide by April 30 whether to ban Diebold's machines in California, and possibly those of all other manufacturers, as well, to give elections departments six months to make other plans for the Nov. 2 vote.

If Shelley declines, state lawmak-
ers have also introduced bills to ban electronic voting in the November election.

Reports presented to the voting systems panel showed 573 of San Diego County's 1,038 polling places failed to open on time March 2 because of Diebold computer malfunctions, while many machines also failed during the day in Alameda County, requiring voters to vote paper ballots.

"We were caught. We apologized for that," said Unroevech. "We're sorry for that. We're sorry for the inconvenience it caused."

A former Diebold computer technician, James Dunn, also told the panel he and a fellow employee weren't surprised to hear of problems in both counties after seeing machines shipped with low batteries and different kinds of software from a West Sacramento warehouse.

"I heard about it on the radio," Dunn said. "We both looked at each other and laughed and said, 'Well, that was predictable.'"

Diebold consultant Marvin Singleton disputed Dunn's assertions, saying, "It's our belief he's either confused or misguided on a number of points."

Several county officials that use Diebold machines and those made by other manufacturers defended them as glitch-free, more reliable than paper ballots and popular with voters.

"You improve the software, fix the glitch and go on," said Kern County Registrar of Voters Ann Barnett, who uses Diebold machines. "To decertify our touch screens would be a disservice to the voters of our county and the state."

Unroevech, too, defended the perform-
ance of his company's machines used in California, Georgia and Maryland, contending that none has encountered security breaches or misreported vote counts.

Diebold Election Systems, based in McKinney, Texas, is a subsidiary of Ohio-based Diebold Inc., which reported more than $2 billion in sales last year, largely from ATM machines used in banks. Voting machines represent about 5 percent of its business, but could grow as states recove$3.9 billion in federal funds to update their voting systems.

Jim Wasserman

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NEWS
8 Thursday, April 22, 2004

YUCCA MOUNTAIN

Congress calls for more time on rail plan

Nevada congress delegates request more discussion for nuclear waste shipment

Erica Werner
ASSOCIATE PRESS

WASHINGTON — Nevada's congressional delegation asked Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham on Wednesday for twice as much time to comment on a plan to ship the nation's nuclear waste to the state by train.

The lawmakers also asked Abraham for more public meetings on the rail proposal, even as the Energy Department said it was adding two more meetings, in Las Vegas and Reno, also in early May, though no dates have been set.

Davis contended there is sufficient time to comment on the rail proposal, noting that the initial public comment or "scoping" period is in advance of publication of an environmental study. Once that study is completed there will be another public comment period.

"There will be plenty of time for, and plenty of opportunity for, the public to comment on the rail line project," Davis said.

The Energy Department hopes to open the Yucca Mountain dump six years from now 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

The dump, which Nevada is fighting in court, would hold 77,000 tons of highly radioactive waste.

To bring waste to the dump, the department plans 3,000 to 3,300 railroad shipments over 24 years from 39 states. Before going to the dump, the shipments would end up at a rail head near Caliente, 150 miles northeast of Las Vegas near the Utah line. Exact rail line routes to Caliente have not been specified.

The lawmakers also told Abraham in a letter to extend it to May 3 in Amargosa Valley, May 4 in Goldfield and May 5 in Caliente — were insufficient.

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CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP) — Nevada state health officials have added a state advisory to federal efforts to get current and former Yucca Mountain workers screened for lung diseases.

The state health division issued the advisory this week, suggesting those who worked in or near a test tunnel from 1992 through 2003 should be checked for inhalation of finely ground particles of fibrous minerals.

Yucca Mountain and Energy Department spokesman Alan Benson said Wednesday he was glad the state was supporting the screening program the Energy Department announced in January.

About 2,400 letters have been sent to current and former Yucca Mountain employees, and about 300 have signed up for site-specific screening interviews coordinated by University of Cincinnati researchers, Benson said.

Bob Louis, director of Nevada's Office of Nuclear Projects, said the state health office was concerned that some former Yucca workers still haven't been screened. He said frequent visitors during tunneling should also be checked, along with some family members exposed to dust brought home by tunnel workers.

The health division said inhaling small amounts of silica and other finely ground minerals can result in potentially life-threatening lung disorders.

In September, a former Yucca Mountain project employee alleged that Yucca Mountain project officials knew excessive amounts of silica and carcinogenic substances were kicked up during drilling, but that workers were not provided proper protective gear.

The Energy Department official heading the screening program acknowledged in March that workers drilling the first five-mile tunnel were exposed to dangerous levels of silica and other dangerous dusts.

A former tunnel worker now being treated for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease said workers also faced a threat from exposure to airborne erionite and montomorillonite, two carcinogenic minerals.

Tunneling began in 1992 at the Yucca Mountain site, 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

In 2002, the Bush administration and Congress picked Yucca Mountain as the nation's nuclear waste dump.

The Energy Department plans to drill a grid of 150 miles of tunnels and entomb 77,000 tons of the nation's most radioactive waste 1,000 feet underground beginning in 2010.

Nevada advises Yucca Mountain workers to get lung screenings

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A NEW PLACE TO DWELL

ARTS & Culture

Peanut butter and live music make The Dwelling a new spot for local entertainment.
Local artists find new haven in a place that used to peddle pot pies

The Dwelling is a new addition to the downtown entertainment scene.

"I love playing at The Dwelling," said Codie's Zac Horn, whose fellow band members hinted that money and free beer were also great perks.

Though The Dwelling serves a variety of beer, shows are typically 18 and over.

"San Luis Obispo seems to be a great town for music. But I want them to know I'm trying to make money for them," Padillo said. "Some people walk by and leave because they don't want to pay $5, but then go downtown to pay $7.50 for a shot of tequila. They could be missing the next Pearl Jam or Nirvana."

"Steve people leave because they don't want to pay $5 ... They could be missing the next Pearl Jam or Nirvana," said George Padillo, the Dwelling owner.

Though still a work in progress, The Dwelling has three pool tables, air hockey, darts and video games. Possibly most important, however, it features live local, and not-so-local, bands.

"My intent is to make The Dwelling a haven for musicians," Padillo said. "This is a rich town for music, but nobody is here to promote it. There are so many bands that I'm hooked through life."

Padillo anticipates attracting new bands of all varieties of music from beyond the San Luis Obispo area.

"A lot of bands drive between L.A. and San Francisco," he said. "I'd be crazy not to tap into that."

The Dwelling promotes all types of music, from Spanish DJs to punk rock, indie-rock or just plain rock.

"I'm not going after one group of people where music is concerned," Padillo said. "I want to draw in everybody."

Wednesday night, for example, The Dwelling showcased the sometimes melodic rock band Coda, along with Body Massage, a two-man band that morphs popular songs into something they call their own.

Wednesday's lineup also featured the Sonic Youths-and Mogwais-inspired group Johnny Depp, who, despite two broken guitar strings, managed to inspire an interesting group of quirky dancers.

"I'm glad there's a place for us to play around here," said Johnny Depp guitarist Jeff Kreige.

Other band members echoed this sentiment.

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The Dwelling is located on Osos Street in San Luis Obispo, where Z-Pie used to be. Shows are typically, but not always, Thursday and Friday nights. Fliers of up-coming performances are usually posted near the counter or inside the bathroom doors.
Hollywood stars lend talents to benefit theatre department

Carrie McGoarty

An award-winning group of Hollywood entertainers will perform a staged-reading of John Pielmeier's "Agnes of God," a mystery that addresses the notion of religious fanaticism in today's society.

Mel Damski, an Emmy- and Oscar-nominated television director, is directing the play. He cast Kathy Baker, Susan Sullivan and Katherine Cunningham-Eves, a group of professionally talented and successful group of actresses, to perform in the show.

"The subject matter of the play is very compelling and the quality of the actresses is phenomenal," Damski said.

Damski and the three actresses are donating their time and talent to raise money for the theater alumni association, The Friends and Network of Alumni Supporters for Cal Poly's Theater Arts Program (FANS), said Pamela Malkin, a professor in the theatre and dance department.

"The theater department was so important and nurturing to me when I was going to school that this gives me great pleasure to work on a show that will help other students," Sullivan said. "I teach at Cal Poly, and I have always made the program the best it can be."

"The world is having trouble with religion these days," said Baker, who plays the psychiatrist. "In anyone's journey of faith, there are always questions ... and this play brings up a lot of questions."

The characters of the psychiatrist and the Mother Superior can be perceived as simple representations of science and faith. The author's instructions to the director are to stage the play simply, leaving the implications of the dialogue open to the imagination of the audience, Damski said.

"There's a philosophical spiritual line that runs through it that's really fascinating," Sullivan said.

The three-woman cast garners a wide range of recognized theatrical talent.

Baker played a starring role in the film "Gold Mountain" and has an extensive background in film and stage theater. She received a Best Actress Emmy Award for the long-running television series "Picket Fences." In addition, she has appeared in predominant roles in the films "The Cider House Rules," "Edward Scissorhands," "Inventing the Abbotts" and "The Right Stuff."

Baker performed on stage long before her television appearances and appeared in Sam Shepard's first Broadway play, "Proof for Love," for which she won a 1983 Best Actress Obie.

Sullivan is a two-time Emmy and Golden Globe nominee and is well known to television audiences for her role as Kitty Montgomery in the sitcom "Dharma and Greg." Katherine Cunningham-Eves, who plays Agnes, is a "talented up-and-coming actress," Damski said. Her most recent credits include guest starring roles on "Law and Order," "Criminal Intent," "Judging Amy," "Charmed," "One Life to Live," "The Guiding Light" and "The Education of Max Bickford."

Damski is a seasoned television director and documentary in the entertainment industry, as well as a filmmaking lecturer at Cal Poly. He directed 27 movies and garnered an academy-award nomination for the documentary "Still Kicking: The Fabulous Palm Springs Follies."

Before pursuing film, he was a reporter for "Newsday."

Damski said he holds education in the highest regard and hopes that by bringing the benefit performance to Cal Poly he will help increase the limited resources made available to students.

"I feel very passionate about teaching," Damski said. "I teach at Cal Poly, and my immediate concern is to help make the program the best it can be."

Damski also involved Jessica Reed, a Cal Poly music student, in a musical component to the show. She will sing offstage for one of the actresses.

Tickets for the Cal Poly performance are $10 for students, $20 for non-students and can be purchased at the PAC box office or over the phone on their line at 796-2787.
The pleasures of the pill

Health Center is gratified by 'yes' vote

The staff of Health and Counseling Services and the Student Health Advisory Council would like to thank the students for their support of the Health Center fee referendum last week. The overwhelmingly positive vote was very gratifying to us. We are able to continue to provide health services while we continue to look for new ways to make health services and information more accessible to everyone.

Martin Drugs is the director of Health and Counseling Services.

Experimentation is part of college life

Recently, agricultural student Baley Thomas wrote a letter to the editor about his concerns that the image of the school was not being properly promoted by performers during UU Hour near the time of our Open House ("UU" performers were inappropriate" April 19). His concern was that the message delivered by the performer was not one of a healthy, college experience that I, on the other hand, would like to commend this performer for showing a side of the college experience that is usually not addressed in campus tours — experimentation.

Drugs, sex and rock & roll are a large part of my college experience and evidently part of other people's too. It's also important to know, to my knowledge, is rife with drug use (to the point of a family last year), not to mention the subject of sexuality that holidays such as Mardi Gras produce each year. It is naive to look the other way on such matters; college is, for many, the first time to try new things, to learn and watch and grow. Since college students make up a large percentage of this town, "what we are about" becomes these experiences, and college is the center of change and challenges. This school has excellent college and the students of these colleges do participate in illicit activities such as (God forbid) smoking marijuana.

I challenge this campus to show visibility of what we really are. Our campus does have excellent campus religious organizations, extremely intelligent students, and even full academic programs. But we also have a student body of alcoholics and binge drinkers (according to the ever present "medicated" woman, there ain't no goin' back. You simply can't slide backward down the ladder of sexual progress. This holds true for women as well. My friend Tamara explains it best, "I pop Ortho like candy. I'm like a Boy Scout, always reads". Wise words from a wise woman.

I will be the first to admit that many men, including me, are unswayed, the birth control pill is a whole foreign object. It might as well be a Mars rock. I wouldn't be able to pick one out of a drug line-up that included horse tranquilizers, crack rocks and cyanide. All I see is that little plastic case in my girlfriend's purse when I'm digging for quarters to feed the horses. It's good to know that every time some public body says, "we need more money," you'll be there with Daddy's money it over-funded programs I S  really .ippropriate during a year of budget crunches.

It's good to know that every time some public body says, "we need more money," you'd be there with Daddy's money, but my study student loans and a nearly maxed-out credit card to get me by each quarter. Maybe next quarter, when I am paying for Tiffin's third trip to the Health Center for syphilis and Mongo's free ride through kinise-grams I S  really .ippropriate during a year of budget crunches. I can drop one of my architecture classes (it's not like it's that important anyway) and work a few extra hours. Or maybe I can just put these new financial burdens on my Mastercard and pay interest on someone else's scholarship. I would like to send an even bigger thanks to those who couldn't bother to vote "no" on these ridiculous referenda.

Chris Weber is an architecture junior.

Athletic candy parity was unnecessary

So, let me get this straight. The athletics department is poor and goes to the students for more money. Students decide, out of some misplaced sense of fairness, to give the athletes more money. The supposedly cash-strapped athletic department then proceeds to throw itself a party with "stadium music and food," and a person who is seeing is helping to pay for these essential athletic expenditures. Even taking into account the party! I guess that'll teach me.

Russell Lewis is a computer science instructor.

Referendum voters were harassed

Although I agree sports are important, I believe education and availability of courses/centers and teachers are far more important. Instead of saving our teachers' jobs and possibly graduating on time, students now have to pay extra for scholarships and tuition for athletics. This is unfair and not right. I have heard a lot of complaints about this particular fee being passed. I know I am not the only one who stood in line waiting to vote, while an athlete harassed me and everyone in line for "vote yes for the athletics fee," or "You're going to vote yes, right?" This person was right up in my face when I didn't respond to her question. I was told by a Tiffin's employee to decide on our own. Isn't it illegal to stand less than 10 feet away from a person's face? I don't know. I was not aware of it. Most likely, many people voted "yes" to the athletics fee because of harassment and constant taunting.

I voted by building 10 where there was a lot of commotion. I only because a person who could stand privately enclosed to vote. Some people would get tired of waiting (amazing). I was standing in line waiting to vote, while an athlete harassed me and everyone in line for "vote yes for the athletics fee," or "You're going to vote yes, right?" This person was right up in my face when I didn't respond to her question. I was told by a Tiffin's employee to decide on our own. Isn't it illegal to stand less than 10 feet away from a person's face? I don't know. I was not aware of it. Most likely, many people voted "yes" to the athletics fee because of harassment and constant taunting.

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Protecting America means protecting the environment

**Commentary**

Will President George W. Bush do everything in his power to defend his country, or will he protect the United States from all harm? Will the Pentagon do all that it can to protect the nation from terrorism? If the Bush administration continues putting pressure on Congress to ease military environmental standards, then the answer is clearly no.

The Pentagon, which the National Resource Defense Council reports has been trying to lessen the military's environmental regulations for decades, is now choking itself under the guise of Sept. 11 and the war in Iraq in an attempt to do just that.

Bush's environmental record is anemic. Under his administration, Padre Island, home to 11 endangered species, became the first national park to be drilled. Funding for endangered species recovery projects has been slashed by nearly $10 million and the U.S. Navy planned to start a huge dredging project in Key West Harbor, which is a known habitat for endangered species.

Additionally, the northern slope of the Alaskan Wilderness was recently opened for drilling. Bush opposed a provision of the Senate energy bill that would require power companies to produce just 10 percent of energy from renewable sources by 2020. He has sought exemptions for the agriculture industry from restrictions on the ozone-depleting pesticide methyl bromide.

These actions represent only a fraction of the many ways the current administration has undermined U.S. environmental regulations both now, with the support of Bush, the Defense and the industry, and in the future, to ease environmental regulations for the military.

The many changes the Bush administration is beginning to make include: amendments to the Clean Air Act so that additional air pollution from military training wouldn't be counted for three years, fewer requirements for impeding on protected habitats and change in toxic waste laws so the military can avoid cleaning land of munitions using training exercises.

Also included in the proposals is a lower threshold for what is considered "harmful" of a marine animal, such as the use of a low-frequency active sonar system that can literally turn whales to deafness.

President Bush and the Pentagon argue that these restrictions interfere with military training and should, for the sake of national defense, be eased. Rather than seeking more nature-friendly alternatives, however, they hope to create blanket military exemptions from such regulations.

The amendments to the Clean Air Act, for example, would exempt even non-military procedural activities, such as vehicular standards while a car or truck is driven on a military base.

Protection Agency were founded to regulate environmental standards, complicated, and consumers won't use it. It's not enough to reverse the current food guide pyramid to promote healthier diets and reduce obesity. Americans need help weeding out bad dietary advice and incorporating new food guide recommendations.

Other changes include: expressing complicated nutrition advice in simpler terms, and breaking down consumption recommendations into three levels based on a person's physical activity (sedentary, low-active and active).

That's quite a bit of information the USDA is trying to incorporate into one, simple visual. At this point there are 12 diet recommendations and some that are difficult to translate into real-world usage, whether by carpooling, reducing the load we're carrying or turning off the ATM.

We seldom stop to think about ways we can reduce our gas consumption. As of Wednesday, a gallon of unleaded gasoline averages $1.81, higher than even the oil embargo prices of the 1970s. The Energy Information Administration has projected gas prices to reach $2 nationally over the summer, also an all-time high. Because no organization has imposed an embargo and America benefited very little from the limited oil Iraq was producing before the war, we ask Why are prices so high?

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, producer of 40 percent of the world's crude oil production, voted last month to cut output by 4 percent, or 1 million barrels a day. This move hits the United States particularly hard, as America consumed almost 8.8 million barrels a day during the first three months of the year, a large percentage of which came from the 11 OPEC countries.

A variety of domestic reasons impact the higher cost at the gas pump as well. It makes sense for us to look at these reasons for the spike in gas prices since we can control some of these factors.

In America, we have an independent spirit and one of the ways this manifests itself in our daily lives is in our automobiles, large and small. We have a compulsory need to drive everywhere, whether it is because we are undermining the health and safety of non-just ordinary American citizens, but also saving healthy and military train in these areas. The air they breathe will be unhealthy and they will be forced to deal with the repercussions of toxic waste.

If Bush and Congress care about the environment and their constituencies, they will not permit such dangerous legislation.

Aimee Anderson is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

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U.S. must modify oil consumption to lower prices

**Commentary**

As we approach the end of the spring quarter and enter into the summer travel season, when temperatures and UV indices climb, so will gas prices. Rising gas prices are by no means uncommon, but this year we are paying more than in years past. As it stands now, we are all going to pay much more to drive to work, summer school or vacation.

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Food pyramid won't solve obesity

**Commentary**

With Americans more fat, inactive and overfed than ever, the federal government has been under pressure to modify the U.S. Department of Agriculture thinks it's time to revamp their food guide pyramid, which many nutrition and health illiterate than ever, the guide will be too overwhelming and complicated, and consumers won't use it. It's not enough to reverse the current food guide pyramid to promote healthier diets and reduce obesity. Americans need help weeding out bad dietary advice and incorporating new food guide recommendations.

Other changes include: expressing complicated nutrition advice in simpler terms, and breaking down consumption recommendations into three levels based on a person's physical activity (sedentary, low-active and active).

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Commentary

By Aimee Anderson

While more than 64 percent of Americans considered overweight, the federal government needs to stop wast ing time and money tampering with a pyramid no one pays attention to.

"I think most people know (the food pyramid) and recognize it," Swadener said. "But do people follow it? No.

Simply revising dietary guidelines and the food pyramid is not going to promote our healthier lifestyle and reduce obesity completely.

With more than 64 percent of Americans considered overweight, the federal government needs to stop wasting time and money tampering with a pyramid no one pays attention to, and start investing in ways to communicate and encourage people to follow a healthy diet. The current food guide pyramid can do just that,

in fiber and nutrients, versus a thing like white bread.

Another problem Swadener mentions is that food pyramid doesn't guide food choices based on calories or energy.

"You can't pick fried zucchini instead of regular zucchini and you're following the food pyramid," said Swadener.

The proposed new food guide, due out in early 2001, will address issues by providing more detailed advice, but will keep the basic concept the USDA has been following for years activity (sedentary, low-active and active).

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By Aimee Anderson

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"I think most people know (the food pyramid) and recognize it," Swadener said. "But do people follow it? No.

Simply revising dietary guidelines and the food pyramid is not going to promote our healthier lifestyle and reduce obesity completely.

With more than 64 percent of Americans considered overweight, the federal government needs to stop wasting time and money tampering with a pyramid no one pays attention to, and start investing in ways to communicate and encourage people to follow a healthy diet. The current food guide pyramid can do just that,
Marriage debate simmers in Ohio

Candidates need to "read lightly" on gay-marriage issue

David Crary correspondent

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, Ohio — Mayor of one of Ohio's most liberal cities, Edward Kelley works closely with gay-rights activists. Looking ahead to Election Day in this crucial swing state, he has blunt advice for them on the topic of gay marriage: Read lightly.

"If I were in the gay and lesbian community and wanted John Kerry elected, I wouldn't be pushing this issue," said Kelley, a self-described "conservative Democrat." "All you're going to do is help (President) Bush get re-elected."

Kelley may prove right; statewide polls show Ohio voters opposing gay marriage by a 3-1 ratio. Gay and lesbian leaders in the Cleveland area are reluctant to back off on an issue that has galvanized their traditionally cautious ranks as never before.

"It's daunting — but what better thing to be working on?" said Mary Zaller, director of the Lesbian Gay Community Center of Greater Cleveland. "Largely because of this marriage stuff, our community is growing up, coming out of its adolescence and saying, 'We're here'... We can't be seen as backing down."

The most eye-catching developments on the gay marriage front have unfolded in relatively liberal states along the East and West coasts. Debate also has flared in the heartland, providing a dramatic election-year barometer of the political clout of gay-rights advocates and those who oppose them.

"This will be the issue of the election — categorically the issue that will decide Ohio," said David Zanotti, who heads a conservative public-policy group called the Ohio Roundtable.

"It's not the issue the paid political consultants will tell their candidates to focus on. They're too far removed from the grass roots that they just don't get it."

Until this year, Ohio had been one of 13 states without a recent law explicitly banning same-sex unions. In February, Republican Gov. Bob Taft signed one of the toughest bans yet, containing an extra provision barring state employees from obtaining benefits for their unmarried partners.

Ohio gay rights groups lack the political muscle to advance state legislation. A few years ago, they even failed to persuade officials in Lakewood, a Cleveland suburb with a large gay population, to offer domestic-partner benefits to city employees.

"The gay community here is incredibly closeted, very conservative," said Jack Hart, an activist who worked in Boston, New York and Washington before moving to Cleveland. "Sometimes I feel I've stepped back into the 50's."

Hart said attitudes are changing because of the nationwide campaign to broaden rights for same-sex couples.

In January, Cleveland Heights implemented a domestic-partner registry. The measure won 55 percent support in last November's election thanks in part to door-to-door canvassing by gay activists and their straight supporters.

Among the canvassers was Katy Alex, 24, a graduate student in neuroscience at Cleveland's Case Western Reserve University who knows no other gays or lesbians while growing up in uptown New York and had never engaged in politics.

"I was always the girl who didn't know who the vice president was," she said. "Now I feel I've stumbled on a whole new side of myself."

Engaging voters in conversations about gay relationships was the key to winning support, Alex said. "People were willing to listen; even people who were against us were respectful."

Among those promptly registering as partners were mortgage lender Thom Rankin and his partner of 17 years, Ray Zander, a home decorator and costume designer.

Rankin, president of the Cleveland lesbian-gay center's board of directors, said he and Zander have spent several thousand dollars in legal and administrative fees to replicate, as best they can, the protections afforded automatically by marriage. They were among more than 50 couples who went to a Cleveland courthouse last month and requested marriage licenses that they knew would be refused.

"We're becoming more aggressive than in the past," Rankin said of the local gay community. "After the Massachusetts court ruling and the backlash, that's when we said, 'We've talked the talk, now we have to walk the walk.'"

Although the Cleveland Heights registry carries virtually no legal weight, the Rev. Connie Hicks has filed suit trying to quash it.

"It's another level of protection for homosexual relations," he said. "Once you have that, then you have civil unions, but none of that will be enough. The ultimate goal is marriage."

Hicks, an insurance salesman and youth pastor, said he has quit the Democratic Party because of support by Kerry and other party leaders for civil unions.

"It's a defining issue for me," Hicks said. "We have to look at our beliefs." Blacks comprise roughly half of Cleveland Heights' 50,000 residents, and were less supportive of the registry than voters as a whole.

John Everett, director of an organization of gay blacks in greater Cleveland, said he encountered little hostility during his door-to-door campaigning for the registry in Cleveland Heights' black neighborhoods.
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

1. Marking on an apple (core)
2. Head of a cartoonist
3. Paintbrush (for painting)
4. Digital data
5. Opposite of familiar
6. Unfamiliar
7. 1970's - 80's
8. Showy bloom
9. Blues
10. 1984 Peace Nobel
11. So Valley (location)
12. Gifts' gains
13. Prance
14. Pregame ritual
15. Conflict
16. Produce
17. 43 Round part
18. Pregame ritual
19. 32 "The Egg___"
20. Oppose of odd
21. Conflict
22. 10 8 yr. old, goes by Pepper
23. Once-popular street lines
24. Marina sight
25. Once-popular street lines
26. Architecture critic, Hunt and others
27. I.C.U. test
28. Head of Hollywood
29. 2970's-80's singer Vernaei
30. Group known for pranks, in short
31. Steer
32. Digital data
33. Carry on (plight)
34. Cyclist
35. 36 Yank, e.g.
36. Floral envelope
37. 35 Give a waiver
38. 34 Glassy
39. Bowl features, for short
40. Many of mark
41. "The Scarlet Letter" woman
42. Digital data
43. Host
44. 42 Digital data
45. 41 "And God Created Woman" star, 1958
46. Unfamiliar
47. Digital data
48. 40 Floral envelope
49. Flat tire
50. City of Morro Bay
51. Infinity
52. Still holder
53. Miss. neighbor
54. Write Murdoch

HELP WANTED

The City of Morro Bay, 22-218 Fremont Theater, 810 L N Victoria, is looking for Bartender Trainees Needed.

Staci King finished eighth after shooting 236 for three rounds.

Carl State Northridge will be Pacific, who are defending champions and are looking for the intense heat of Palm Springs, where the tournament will take place. Bream said the mentally toughest team will win, which will be the team that can say the sharpest and strongest through the tournament.

Golf fifth at Big West

The top finisher was Staci King as she placed eighth with a 236 total following a first-place 70. Teammate Rebecca Norris was two strokes back at 238 for ninth place after shooting a 74.

Other Cal Poly finishers were Gina Dragos, who placed 15th with an 82 and a 240 total, Jessica Hu, who placed 25th with an 81 Tuesday and 80 Wednesday, and Holly Lampert, who placed 30th with an 87 and a 209 total.

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The men's and women's tennis teams spent a lot of time in match play last week, preparing themselves for the Big West Tennis Championships, which will be held April 22-25 at the Indian Wells Tennis Gardens.

The men's team is seeded fourth out of seven teams and will play the University of Idaho in the first round. They finished the season 3-2 in the Big West. UCSB is seeded first in the tournament and will host second-seeded Cal Poly this week.

"We have momentum now after beating UCSB," Kronemann said. "We're looking pretty dangerous." The biggest threat to Cal Poly is Pacific. "They've got the most balanced team throughout," Kronemann said. "But we can't get to them until the final." He describes the Mustangs' season outlook as OK. "Some people have said we've underachieved until this Wednesday (when the Mustangs defeated the Gauchos)," Kronemann said. "We have to play as good a team as these teams that are ranked 30 and below. Now I think the guys are starting to feel that way since we've been a nationally ranked team." The doubles teams have been Cal Poly's greatest strengths. The singles players near the top of the ladder have also been playing well.

"We've had a great team effort and realization that at the beginning of the year, we had a long season," Kronemann said. "It's like a marathon, and hopefully it'll be a sprint to the finish."

To prepare for the tournament, the team played dual matches Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. The best way to get ready for the tournament is "letting the guys go, let them play," Kronemann said. "Nothing's that different than any other day we have."
The women's team is seeded second out of 10 teams and received a first-round bye, along with top-seeded USC. See tennis, page 25

**Tennis poised for postseason**

Leah Mori

MORNING ONLY

A-Rod's slump will not be a long-lasting affair

Jim Utke

AP SPORTS COLUMNIST

CHICAGO (AP) — It was half-price ticket night at the old ballpark. That might be good in an expansion as any why Alex Rodriguez resorted to a cheap hit to start digging out of the most-publicized slump of his career.

In the first inning of what would turn out to be an 11-8 slugfest won by the Yankees, A-Rod faced White Sox starter Mark Buehrle with runners at first and second and nobody out. It was one of those situations that pitchers don't dread.

"You go after him, he's not a guy you can just let him walk," Buehrle said. "I couldn't afford to put A-Rod on a walk, not with Jason Giambi on deck, and so it came down to strength versus strength. About the only thing the Chicago left-hander had in his favor was A-Rod's paltry 2-14 career mark against him; that, and the fact that Mr. $252 Million — the highest-paid player on the most expensive team in baseball — was hitting a back-story.

Those numbers were on Yankees manager Joe Torre's mind at that moment, too. As A-Rod stared in on the catcher for a sign, Torre turned to Willie Randolph, his bench coach and joked, "Should we put the bat out of his hands?"

Before Rodriguez could answer, Buehrle mucked back and fired a fastball. Rodriguez took full advantage of the macho moment and decided to call for the bunt himself.

"Right before I stepped into the batter's box," Rodriguez said afterward, "I just went on instinct." Two hours before Tuesday night's game, he'd sat in the same spot, in front of a video screen heaving the visiting clubhouse, enjoying one of the perks that come with being the star in baseball's brightest galaxy. He looked like a man without a care in the world.

"I never feel like I'm struggling," A-Rod said then. "I really don't." There was one thing that bothered A-Rod, though, always loomed like a cloud.

"It's a funny thing. I had a girl come up to me in New York last week and she said, 'You know you're not as pretty as everyone makes you out to be.'"

But the hitting woes? Those didn't fare A-Rod. "Every day is a new day, every at-bat is a new at-bat and every pitch is a new pitch," he continued. "And I've never felt like 'struggling' or 'slump' is even a word in my vocabulary. It's just the way I've gone about my business. It's nothing. It can't fix or one pitch can't fix it."

He could turn out to be right, of course. A few lockers over, and a few minutes earlier, Giambi told a story with that very ending. Like Rodriguez, he arrived in New York in December 2001, in a blur of hype, pulling an expensive contract behind him like a ball and chain. Giambi got off to a bad start the following April and wasn't going much better by the middle of May, when he sent into the batter's box at Yankee Stadium against Minnesota's Mike Trombley. The bases were full, but it was the 14th inning and his new employers trailed the Twins by three runs.

"The way things were going, I didn't know what to expect," Giambi recalled. "I thought I was starting to play my way out of (the slump), but you don't always know where the bottom is coming up. So naturally, I hit one out — a walk-off grand slam.

"I think I wound up 2-0 for the night, which is something like that," Giambi said, "and I heard about the two outs almost as much as the hit."

A-Rod's saving grace may be that the Yankees haven't been home much so far this season. They began it in Tokyo, then detoured through Tampa Bay before playing a half-dozen games at home. By the time his batting average began to resemble what figure skaters call a "death spiral," the team was already in Boston.

Good thing, too, since Rodriguez never had a chance against the Red Sox, the team that tried to sign him first, and the Yankees dropped three of the four games. If anything resembled a silver lining, it was that A-Rod's struggles took up so much time and space on TV and in the papers that few people noticed how the rest of the lineup was playing.

Captain Derek Jeter began the three-game series at .241, Giambi at .229. Slugger Gary Sheffield, who came over from Atlanta as a relative bargain for three years at $39 million, was at .255.

"Some struggles are meant to be," Sheffield said cryptically, "and some last longer than others."

In A-Rod's case, a few more games will be necessary before the slump is formally declared over. Beside the bat slump against Buehrle, he collected two solid, up-the-middle singles against relievers Jos Adrian and Billy Koch. The 3-for-6 performance, only his second multihit outting in 14 games, hosted his average from .160 to .196.

Rodriguez knows the probing won't end until he climbs another hundred points higher. Until then, cabbies will keep doing out tips, TV analysts will be doing frame-by-frame analysis of his swings and Boss Steinbrenner will keep his phone number on the speed dial.

For all that, he sounded as cool and collected as a guy can be — at least a guy with the entire weight of New York pressing down between his shoulder blades.