Choral program adds ‘Spring Cabaret’

Stephanie Ikell
MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal Poly choral program recently added another concert Saturday in the Alex and Faye San Diego Blocks Broadcast of beheading video on campus TV

UC San Diego blocks broadcast of beheading video on campus TV

SAN DIEGO — Administrators at the University of California, San Diego blocked a student from broadcast the Iraq beheading of American civilian Nicholas Berg on closed-circuit campus television.

Daniel Watts, a junior and host of a political talk show, had planned to air the graphic footage Thursday on Warren College TV, which is available to all six residential colleges, a hospital and a grade school on campus.

Watts said he hopes to get the video aired on another campus channel and gain recognition on campus since they were not able to have a concert this quarter. Also, it is a fund-raiser to raise money for the music department. A lot money was spent on tours this year, director of choral activities Davies said.

“I am really proud of the kids this year. We have represented Cal Poly across the country,” Davies said.

The Choral Program went to Las Vegas to perform for the American Choral Directors of the Western Division Convention in February. The Vocal Jazz group also traveled to Carnegie Hall in New York in April for a jazz festival. Both tours were sponsored by the music department. The fund-raiser will give the department some of the money spent on those tours, Davies said.

The groups have been working on this specific concert since April. The smaller choral groups perform once a quarter and are often hired to sing at various campus events such as singing the “Star-Spangled Banner” at sporting events.

A silent auction will take place during intermission and at the end of the concert. Items in the auction will be gifts from local restaurants and businesses from San Luis Obispo and the Pismo Beach area, Reed said.

Tickets for the concert are $10 each and can be bought at the Cal Poly Performing Arts Ticket Office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

“It is like a showcase. We have been practicing virtually all year because we’ve been building up our repertoire.”

— JESSICA REED music sophomore

We know what’s best for you

Daily staff picks best of SLO for students

IN THE ROCKS, page 6

Another milestone for athletes

Night of the Mustang sums up year

IN SPORTS, page 12
Jacqueline Law, “This is the center. Alpha Zeta, Latinos in Agriculture Student Council. Agriculture Natural Resources Related Science and the College of Agriculture Student Council.”

“I was very inspired by other students because they were from different circles and colleges that I never really exposed myself to,” Krait said. “Everyone seemed to do so much, and it was incredible to hear everyone speak about how passionate they were with their different causes.”

According to a press release, alumni Jeff and Carla Lund established the Alpha Zeta, Latinos in Agriculture Student Council.

Architecture

Architects have described the building as a masterpiece of modern design. The building is praised for its innovative use of materials and its integration with the surrounding environment.

“The building is a testament to the vision of the architecture students who designed it,” said student architect John Doe. “We wanted to create a space that was both functional and beautiful.”

The building features a unique combination of materials, including recycled glass and bamboo. The design incorporates sustainable practices, reducing the building’s carbon footprint.

The architecture students have been commended for their dedication to their work and their contributions to the local community. The building has become a symbol of the university’s commitment to sustainability and innovation.
SACRAMENTO — Google's new e-mail service that promised to tailor ads to e-mail content would be limited, under a bill approved by the state Senate Thursday.

The bill is a reaction to Internet search engine Google Inc.'s plan to start a free e-mail service, "Gmail," that gives users a gigabyte of storage but attaches ads for products related to what's being discussed in the e-mail.

Technology that allows e-mail content to be scanned could allow companies to "use our e-mails to create profiles on us, based on our most personal and intimate thoughts," said the bill's author, Sen. Liz Figueroa, D-Sunol.

LONG BEACH — It was the headquarters of the Navy's first Pacific Fleet and served a key role in World War II. But seven years ago, the giant base and shipyard in Long Beach fell victim to military cutbacks. Now, local preservationists, veterans and others are about to unveil a memorial that details its distinguished history.

The Navy Memorial consists of an anchor, 50-foot mast and sculpture of an ancient navigational instrument known as an armillary sphere. It has taken five years to plan and build the memorial, which will be dedicated July 10.

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World Briefs

NAJAF, Iraq — The U.S.-led coalition agreed Thursday to suspend offensive operations in Najaf after Iraqi leaders struck a deal with radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr to end a bloody standoff threatening some of Iraq's holiest Shiite shrines.

Coalition forces will pull out most of Najaf once Iraqi security forces recapture the city and assume control of strategic buildings from al-Sadr's militia, coalition spokesman Dan Senor told reporters in Baghdad.

JERUSALEM — Struggling to avoid a second defeat for his Gaza withdrawal plan, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon proposed Thursday that the Cabinet vote only on a very small portion of it — the evacuation of three small settlements — and that a repeat vote be held several months from now.

Three undecided ministers indicated they would now vote yes, giving Sharon a majority. But in a further setback for the Israeli leader, a pro-setter party in his coalition government pressed for even more concessions.

FOND VERRETTEES, Haiti — U.S. and Canadian troops on Thursday rushed to a town left completely submerged by flooding, and health officials feared 1,000 people could be dead in that town alone, a figure that would nearly double the toll from storms that hit Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

About 300 bodies have been counted so far in the isolated border town of Mapou, said Dr. Yvon Lavissiere, the health director for the northern region.

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — A hostage-taker put down his knife and freed a woman Thursday after Puerto Rico's governor entered the building and agreed to listen to his demands, ending a nearly three-hour standoff.

The man had been holding the captive, a receptionist, in a mail room outside the governor's mansion and was demanding to talk with Gov. Sila Calderon. The ordeal ended at the door to the room, where police were negotiating with the assailant by speaking loudly through the closed door.
Bush should pay for illegal ads

Commentary

After passage of the Medicare bill, the Bush administration produced and aired what looked like news reports, replete with actors posing as journalists. These fake reporters read a script, created by the Bush administration, which promoted the Bush bill and put a positive spin on what it will do. They never even identified that the source of the advertisement was our tax dollars, fooling the average viewer into believing it was an objective news story by a news organization. Even some news organizations reportedly mimicked it as a news story on its own.

A ruling from the General Accounting Office, a congressional body which investigated the ads, declared that the videos were, in fact, illegal and in violation of federal law. Not only did they rule the videos were "covert propaganda" since the source was not identified and misleading, they also ruled the administration violated the "Anti-Deficiency Act" after spending more money on the ads than was allo­cated by Congress. Even though this administration has been violating federal laws, it is very unlikely those in charge of the videos will face any penalties. Administration officials have already come out and stated they would not take any action as a result of the ruling. The head of the General Accounting Office, David Walker, said, "We do want a reason to believe that this violation was not knowing or willful, and we are not in the enforcement business." These laws are so weak that it would be hard to believe these officials were not aware of their existence. Besides, when violating the law, the administration is only acting as boss.

First, the media must do a better job of letting this public know about this. With the Bush administration in viola­tion of at least two federal laws, one would think the story would be wide­ly reported, but this has not been the case. Newspapers have hidden the story nowhere within the paper and cable news had to put in some even worse job covering this story, if at all. But more importantly, now the question becomes how to maintain accountability and hold this adminis­tration responsible for its illegal actions.


Letters to the Editor

Neilson's letter questions many points

Tim Neilson's letter ("Ways to destroy a moral nation" May 26) copied and cited verbatim from Paul Winters' piece at www.newswith­views.com titled "The Cause of America's Demise" is completely off the mark. The chief argument is in the implied assumptions rather than in the propositions. The article suggests these three actions that would destroy a moral nation. These actions are stated to "encourage homosexuals ... secular humanists is founded on religious, sexual or racial affiliations" and we are not in the game.

All that needs to be said about the first point is that it is wrong. Like any other religion. They believe absolutely that the absolute will of God is indeter­minable by humanists, and that humans can and should make a best approxi­mation to determine right from wrong.

Secondly, Neilson said because this "choice" of lifestyle is offensive to some (e.g. conservative Christians and homophobes), it shouldn't be shown in public. If Brown is right in saying this, then he has to stop most of what goes on at this college. The Greek sys­tem should no longer be allowed to put in "covert propaganda" since the source is not known, but this has not been the case. Newspapers have hidden the story nowhere within the paper and cable news had to put in some even worse job covering this story, if at all.

LGBT has an equal right to paint the 'P'

I am writing in response to a letter from a Will Brown ("Keep homophobia out of public view" May 26). Brown insisted that homosexuality be kept out of the view of the public because it isn't "polite" to express oneself. I am appalled by the igno­rance exhibited in this letter.

Brown's whole argument is found­ed on a misconception. He believes that sexuality is a choice. I will ask you, readers, why do you choose to fall in love with the gen­der(s) that you do? As a matter of fact, what made you heterosexual, homo­sexual or bisexual? Obviously, no one can really say that they chose their sexuality. The very nature of love defies choice or reason.

Secondly, Brown said because this "choice" offends some (e.g. conservative Christians and homophobes), it shouldn't be shown in public. If Brown is right in saying this, then he has to stop most of what goes on at this college. The Greek sys­tem should no longer be allowed to put in "covert propaganda" since the source is not known, but this has not been the case. Newspapers have hidden the story nowhere within the paper and cable news had to put in some even worse job covering this story, if at all.

Justin Babti is a psychology sophomore.
The benefits of learning another language

**Commentary**

"Hark tizak, hark tizak!" I quickly recognize the Arabic command to move your bum and squeeze into the corner as another waiter rushes past carrying a tray full of food. I've only been working in this diner for a month, but I've already gotten used to being surrounded by voices shouting languages I can barely understand. In the very middle of the American Midwest, I grew up, I was rarely exposed to other cultures, much less their languages. While the pace of the work has all but blinded me to many different cultures, I still seldom heard or spoke a foreign language, except in French classes. At a conference in Montreal this winter, my faint interest in French was for the most part met with knowing smiles and responses in English. This, as much as I was immersed in other languages, is a regression of civil rights, a threat to cloud the issue. Let us be clear about this: painting the "P" rainbow is not a demonstration of hate is ridiculous. You may become the victim of your own creation. Our "P" is going back to white, but that's OK. Speech is free, secular and immoral. (Nelson's founded on it — which it wasn't destroyed when we "encourage homosexuality out of public view" May 26). Unless, of course, you painted it, you know, unless you painted it. Statements like these show ignorance and endorsement of a government policy that consistently lies to the people, seriously define morality for everyone to understand. Nelson thinks you're immoral of all customers. My shift has been for almost an hour and when I finally hand my manager the time card he searches around the counter and asks me if I have a pen. I shake my head "no" and he turns and yells in Arabic toward the kitchen. Immediately another waiter, an American student, walks out and hands him her pen without hesitation. One of the Plymouth cooks, noting at the counter pokes his head and asks in English, "She don't speak English?" "Of course she can speak English. She's been working here for a long time." Here in America, we exist in a sort of geographic and linguistic isolation. To live in our country one is expected to and must speak English. Of course, there are areas of the country where it is useful to know Spanish but not necessarily English rules alone as our official language. And when we leave our country, we often find ourselves in places where English is just another entry in a long list of national languages. American businessmen attend conferences, make deals and write contracts in English. As a result of our experiences at home and abroad we are able to easily food ourselves into thinking that English is the only language really worth knowing. But when you learn a language, you inevitably become more aware, if not more accepting, of the cultures that use it. And when you are an American are able to converse with someone in his language. To which language shrewd and "Of course she can speak English. She's been working here for a long time."

More Letters to the Editor

Nelson's morality from the Dark Ages

Let this be a warning to all: Tim Nelson thinks you're immoral "Walking to a moral death" which I grew up, I was rarely exposed to other cultures, much less their languages. While the pace of the work has all but blinded me to many different cultures, I still seldom heard or spoke a foreign language, except in French classes. At a conference in Montreal this winter, my faint interest in French was for the most part met with knowing smiles and responses in English. This, as much as I was immersed in other languages, is a regression of civil rights, a threat to cloud the issue. Let us be clear about this: painting the "P" rainbow is not a demonstration of hate is ridiculous. You may become the victim of your own creation. Our "P" is going back to white, but that's OK. Speech is free, secular and immoral. (Nelson's founded on it — which it wasn't destroyed when we "encourage homosexuality out of public view" May 26). Unless, of course, you painted it, you know, unless you painted it. Statements like these show ignorance and endorsement of a government policy that consistently lies to the people, seriously define morality for everyone to understand. Nelson thinks you're immoral of all customers. My shift has been for almost an hour and when I finally hand my manager the time card he searches around the counter and asks me if I have a pen. I shake my head "no" and he turns and yells in Arabic toward the kitchen. Immediately another waiter, an American student, walks out and hands him her pen without hesitation. One of the Plymouth cooks, noting at the counter pokes his head and asks in English, "She don't speak English?" "Of course she can speak English. She's been working here for a long time." Here in America, we exist in a sort of geographic and linguistic isolation. To live in our country one is expected to and must speak English. Of course, there are areas of the country where it is useful to know Spanish but not necessarily English rules alone as our official language. And when we leave our country, we often find ourselves in places where English is just another entry in a long list of national languages. American businessmen attend conferences, make deals and write contracts in English. As a result of our experiences at home and abroad we are able to easily food ourselves into thinking that English is the only language really worth knowing. But when you learn a language, you inevitably become more aware, if not more accepting, of the cultures that use it. And when you are an American are able to converse with someone in his language. To which language shrewd and "Of course she can speak English. She's been working here for a long time."
Best late night snack

For college students, sometimes three meals a day is just not enough — but it seems the later hunger calls, the fewer options you have. We at the Mustang Daily tend to head south of the border for our late-night munchies. Taco Bell made the top of our list... because... well... it's cheap, it's convenient and it's open when we need it most.

Tonica's, Tio Alberto's and Taco Roco were also nominated for this category but failed to live up to the fast-food phenom. Not all our late-night picks are for those with Mexican cravings. Sunshine Doughnuts was voted as the second favorite late-night food spot. Sunshine is open 24 hours and allows us to stuff our face with cheap, fried, sugary pastries. In the words of Homer Simpson, "Mmmmm doughnuts."

Favorite drink special

One of the unwritten policies of the Mustang Daily is that if you work hard, you need to play hard. That's why we love Pint Night. Frog and Peach's Tuesday night special is, simply, super awesome. It's the best bang for your buck, and its laidback atmosphere keeps us coming back every week. One of our voters said, "Pear cider is so good, and who doesn't like crowded hallways and bathroom lines?"

While Pint Night topped our list, second place was just too tough to call. Some other votes went to 80s Night, 80s prices at Mother's Tavern, $1 pitchers at Laguna BBQ/Brew ("Nothing finer than a cheap beer") and $4.99 box wine at Rite Aid.

Best street to live on

Some said Stenner, others said Johnson, but the winner was Hathway. Why? Apparently Campus Bottle is nearby. So much for breaking the alcoholic journalist stereotype. Other nominees: Casa, Mill, High (yes, we are the people you trust to report news everyday), Monterey, Woodbridge and Foothill.

Favorite surfing spot

When we're not putting our noses to the grindstone, we like to put our toes on the nose. Montaña de Oro was chosen as our favorite surf spot because of its consistent swell, rugged feel and variety of wave types. A number of variables, such as wind, tide and swell direction, sometimes make surfing this locale a challenge, but when all the pieces fit in place, Montaña's surf is extra sweet. Watch out for the locals, they can bite. Just show them some respect and stay out of their way — remember you leave in four years, they live here.
best for students
alive on a student budget and maintaining sanity. If their are not in the

Best dinner
This is no contest, it's like asking a football player what their favorite sport is. Of course it's Firestone. Everyone at the Daily is a big a sports fan. Big screen TVs and enough games on ruin your plans for the rest of the day. It's like a time warp, you walk in hungry and walk out later, wondering what day it is. Most people go there a dozen times a quarter and can only say they've had the tri-tip sandwich. It's OK. Branching out is not a good idea in this situation. For the journalist, anywhere we don't have to cook is usually preferable. Honorees: Mondeo Pronto and Big Sky.

Place to get a haircut
Pounding away at a computer all day, it is very important for the journalist to have a sleek, sexy haircut he or she can see in the reflection of the computer screen. And that's why the staff goes to Supercuts or Elements. Since all journalists are filthy rich, forget Barber Bobs. We spend our money like it's our birthday and we're in Las Vegas. But seriously, walking out of Supercuts or Elements, you'll most likely have a stupid smile on your face, as a journalist can be!

Favorite place to work out
In an attempt to log our "Mustang Daily physiques," we are happy to support our campus Rec Center as the best place for students to work out.Really, what can you say, it's free, it has variety and it's across the freakin' street. With lots of courts, machines and classes, this place brings in some big crowds, which is one downfall of the facility. Those who aren't Rec Center fans suggested "the couch," "the good ole' road" and Poly Canyon.

Best thing to do sober
College is a time of firsts: first Greek keg party, first Ski Club keg party, first work keg party, etc. Yet after a while most of us grow out of this binge fest lifestyle and opt for more low-key activities — most of us. So when we aren't doing keg stands or body shots, many of us can be found spending the rest of our money shopping. Then there is that other activity of indulgence — sex. Some other honorable mentions include "capture the flag" and "study should do more of that."

Best place to get clothes
No clear winner, but here are some of the best comments:
"PRSSA Clothing Sale"
"It doesn't apply because about three-fourths of my wardrobe is from high school."
"Dumpster behind thrift-shop"
"Goodwill"
"El Corral"

Greatest date activity
Somebody said, "I don't go on dates" another said "Dancing (girls like that, from what I hear), one said, "Feeding ducks" and yet another wrote "dinner ... sushi ... Saki bombs!" (what?) Anyway, the top picks were dinner and a movie. So to the Mustang Daily Staff, Firestone and a romantic walk to Downtown Cinema or the Palm are the perfect date. Others said Farmers' Market, a walk on the pier or yogurt at Bali's.

Study spot
Denny's hits the grand slam with this one. Anyway to get out of the house — away from those weird people you choose to live with — and to a place where the food is abundant and cheap as dirt. Oh yeah, and we can study there too. It's always open. The library reserve room also might see a journalist from time to time. A good place to meet with groups, books on reserve and it's somewhere other than the Daily office. So you people can't bother us there!

Best place to take a nap
There is nothing like a nap in between classes to help you get through the day. We suggest you head to Dexter Lawn, our No. 1 napping location. This grassy pasture is conveniently located and complete with built-in padding and almost constant sunshine. Our second favorite place to catch up on sleep is the Mustang Daily couch. While this is not really open to the public, nor is it comfortable, it is very convenient and helped us to develop the keen ability to sleep under harsh office lighting. Other suggestions were class, University Union and the Library.
Cayucos: quaint town that’s worth the drive

Anastasia Kilham

About 17 miles north of San Luis Obispo, off Highway 1, sits a quintessential beach town. With a population less than 3,000, Cayucos is known for its slow and simple lifestyle.

The locals are proud of their town. Some cringe at the sight of new construction because it means they cannot avoid the outside world.

The downtown area looks like a scene from an old western movie and store attendants seem genuinely happy. Coming from Morro Bay, also known as Morro Grey, the sunshine of Cayucos radiates. This is appealing for those cringing at the sight of new construction. The town, which sits about 15 miles north of Morro Bay, was the site of a small whale which washed ashore in 1852. The whale was brought to the town and eventually became a favored tourist attraction.

The town is quaint and charming, with a small pier, a lighthouse, and a boardwalk that runs along the coast. The town is also home to the Cayucos Chamber of Commerce, which promotes the town as a destination for visitors.

Cayucos is a popular spot for surfing, with the waves constantly rolling in. The beach is also a popular spot for sunbathing and swimming. The town is also home to a number of restaurants and cafes, including the famous Salsa Club. The Salsa Club is a popular spot for dancing and socializing, with live music and salsa classes offered regularly.

The town has a number of attractions, including a small museum and a historic lighthouse. The lighthouse was built in 1852 and is one of the oldest in California. The town also has a number of festivals and events throughout the year, including a music festival and a chili contest.

Cayucos is a charming and quaint town that is well worth a visit. Its small size and unique attractions make it a great place to explore and enjoy.

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Cayucos is an array of accommodations and can satisfy the interests of children, teenagers, adults and retirees alike.
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People downsing too many beers without recycling

Tim Molloy
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Californians have a drinking problem. New research says they're downsing too many beers without recycling the bottles.

Consumers allow more than 1.6 billion bottles a year to go to landfills instead of recycling them, throwing away $70 million in redemption value, according to findings released Thursday by the California Department of Conservation.

The state rate of recycling bottles has fallen to 52 percent — its lowest level in 10 years.

Almost half the bottles are emptied at bars and restaurants, and most contain beer, according to findings released Thursday by the California Department of Conservation.

The state rate of recycling bottles has fallen to 52 percent — its lowest level in 10 years.

With more money at stake, people who are less affluent or schools and scout troops can recycle to raise money, she said.

"I guarantee you if the state of California put a dime deposit on every one of their containers, the rate would go way up," Franklin said.

The research adds to concerns among conservation officials that people are less dedicated to recycling beverage containers in California and nationally.

California's redemption value is 4 cents for bottles that are 20 ounces or less and 8 cents for larger bottles. "I guarantee you if the state of California put a dime deposit on every one of their containers, the rate would go way up," Franklin said.

"If a yuppie pulling down $70,000 or $80,000 a year doesn't care about the environment, someone will care about the dime," she said.

"We can run our furnaces at slightly lower temperatures, which over time saves a lot of energy because we're running 24-7," said Dan Steen, president of Owens-Illinois California Container, which uses recycled glass to make bottles and food containers.

He said the company had to import quality recycled glass from Oregon last year because there wasn't enough in California.

The energy wasted by sending 1.6 billion bottles to landfills would be enough to power 8,500 households annually, according to the conservation department.

In 2002, only 84 of California's 128 certified recycling programs served bars and restaurants. To encourage more participation, state officials are offering to introduce owners to private recycling companies.

In addition, beer companies are providing promotional items related to recycling.

Along with making at least 4 cents on every recycled bottle, business owners would save trash hauling expenses, though they would take on the additional costs of recycling pickup, according to the research.

The estimated net gain for business would be $10 for every 1,000 bottles recycled, the department found.
Smarty
continued from page 12
the first time what they see on
television." But can the momentum extend
beyond the Belmont Stakes?
"It might be too optimistic on our part to think that," Nader
said, adding that having Smarty Jones race as a 4-year-old could
carry the sport through next year. Smarty Jones has generated
interest in racing in the same way as the "Seabiscuit" book and
movie and the failed Triple Crown bids of Funny Cide, and
War Emblem in 2002. Funny Cide won the Derby and Preakness for his owners, a
group of high school buddies from upstate New York.
The gelding drew 103,222 people to the Belmont Stakes on a
cold, rainy day, but he lost his bid to become racing's 12th
Triple Crown winner.
He is still racing but hasn't won much. However, co-owner Jack
Knowlton sees Funny Cide's influence when he talks to people
who have bought racehorses. They saw a little guy can win
and they saw how much fun the partners and I were having," he
said, "That's what it takes. You get people involved in ownership, they'll come to the races and
they'll bring their friends." Racing will gain greater TV
exposure beginning June 12 when the National Thoroughbred Racing Association launches "NTRA Super Saturdays" on
ABC and ESPN.
Five two-hour shows, featuring races from tracks nationwide, will
air once a month from June to October to maintain the sport's
profile between the Belmont Stakes and Breeders' Cup on Oct. 30.
"That's what got baseball and basketball huge," jockey Smith
said, referring to TV coverage. About 17 million people
watched Smarty Jones win the Kentucky Derby. NBC's ratings peaked during a 30-minute win-
dow when the race was run, giving
the network a 27 percent increase from last year.
When Smarty Jones won the
Preakness by a record 1 1 1/2
lengths, the race enjoyed its high-
est rating since 1990 and a 35
percent improvement over last
year.
"The general public is behind him," Hall of Fame trainer D.
Wayne Lukas said, "Everybody loves the story of the little guy rising up. It's good for racing." Smarty Jones has turned his human connections into media magnets. Servis, jockey Stewart
Elliot and elderly owners Pat and
Roy Chapman, who has emphy-
sesma and uses a wheelchair, had
low profiles before Smarty made
it big.
The NYRA is expecting a
record crowd for the Belmont. They're adding bleacher seats at
the top of the stretch, along with
reserved seating on the grand-
stand apron.
"Maybe this is the year. Maybe this is the horse," Lukas said. "It is
going to be a boost when it hap-
sens. People want to be there. They want to be a part of it when something special like this takes place."
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

W e s t R e g io n a l
Track heads to Austin, Tex.

The athlete of the Year, who qualified for Championships on June 9 to 12 in the NCAA Track and Field West regionals. Moorcroft will only compete in the 1500 and Llamosa in the 5000, in which he is ranked 17th in the nation with a low time of 14:03.88.

Matt Johnsrud, Sean Ricketts and Luke Llamas round out the distance runners heading to the West Regional. Johnsrud (3:47.93) and Llamas (8:55.79) will compete in the 4x400 relay team into the West Regional, along with Joe Okator, Joe Pappalardo and Paul Edwards. Together they are ranked 14th in the nation with a time of 40.02. Edwards will also compete in the 200 (21.11). Tracy Session will compete in the 400-meter hurdles (52.69).

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Night of the Mustang marks end to another year of athletics

Dan Watson
MUSTANG DAILY

The 22nd Annual Night of the Mustang Banquet and Awards Ceremony honored standout athletes Wednesday night.

Receiving Cal Poly Male Athlete of the Year was football’s David “Doc” Richardson, who was unavailable to attend because he was in Jacksonville Jaguars rookie mini-camp. Coach Rich Ellerson received the honor in his place. Ellerson recalled the time he first sat down with what would become one of his most special players.

“Doc knew I had been at Arizona before and that I had coached a top-10 selection in the draft who played corner back,” Ellerson said.

Knowing that, Richardson said he wanted to follow in his footsteps.

“That’s what I want to do,” he said. “I want to be Chris McAlistor. It was crystal clear what he wanted to accomplish and he invested whatever effort or work needed to attain that goal.”

Receiving Cal Poly Female Athlete of the Year was track and field’s Kaylene Wagner, who took to the stage with a stirring ovation from her teammates.

Wagner credited track and field assistant coach Sheldon Blackbarger and teammate Sharon Day with helping her become the Big West’s premier high jumper.

Always modest, Wagner said, “I was just surprised to be nominated, and then chosen. I was very surprised; there are some great athletes here.”

Track and field head coach Terry Crawford called Wagner an inspiration on the field and also in the classroom, where the boasts a 3.6 grade point average.

“Kaylene is a real inspiration to others on the team,” Crawford said. “She is modest about her success, and tries not to be the person in the limelight. Her goal is always to do better and she has been a role model to others who want to accomplish the same goals.”

Earlier in the evening, each team was honored by KSBY sports anchor Ryan Bennett, who played MC for the occasion.

In fall review, the men’s cross country team finished the season No. 13 in the country, led by Ryan Moorcroft and had Big West Cross Country Athlete of the Year Seat Ricekells.

Women’s soccer also had a record-breaking season, winning the Big West and earning a bid to the NCAA Championships.

Football’s highlight was the win against Division I-A UTEP.

In the winter sports, men’s basketball beat two PAC-10 teams, Cal and USC, on the road, and the

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The people’s horse runs for the Triple Crown at Belmont

Beth Harris
assistant editor

Smarty Jones is the people’s horse. He has an undefeated record, modest pedigree and a trainer, jockey and owners who are regular Joes.

His victories in the Kentucky Derby and Preakness sent the sport’s often anemic TV ratings soaring. His workouts at tiny Philadelphia Park attracted about 5,000 people. And Smarty was the first horse on Sports Illustrated’s cover in 21 years.

The small chestnut colt with the long forelock is giving the sport another high-profile boost a year after Funny Cide and “Seabiscuit” captivated fans.

“It’s a joy for me to see people come out and flock around this horse like they do,” said John Servis, Smarty Jones’ trainer. “It’s great for the whole industry, and I hope it carries on.”

On June 5, horse racing’s next “Smarty Party” may be triple the fun. The colt will try to win the Belmont Stakes and become the first Triple Crown champion since Affirmed in 1978.

“People aren’t coming to see a horse race — they’re coming to see a coronation,” said Bill Nader, senior vice president of the New York Racing Association.

Smarty Jones’ success has non-racing people talking excitedly about a sport that struggles to maintain its fan base beyond the Triple Crown and Breeders’ Cup.

“It’s reaching a lot of people that would have never got involved in the sport. If we could just get a handful that we didn’t have before, it would help,” said Hall of Fame jockey Mike Smith, who rode Lion Heart in losing efforts against Smarty Jones in the Derby and Preakness.

Nobody is counting on Smarty Jones to restore racing to its glory days of the 1930s and ‘40s, when thousands packed the grandstands from New York’s Belmont Park to California’s Santa Anita. Back then, a day at the races was a diversion from life’s hardships.

Nowadays, movies, cable TV, video games and a vastly expanded sports calendar try to lure people already hard-pressed for spare time, leaving fewer opportunities for racing to attract new and younger fans. Gamblers no longer have to bet at the track — they can wager on the Internet or at OTB.

Racing’s best opportunities to make new fans are on big-event days such as the Triple Crown races and the Breeders’ Cup.

“Racing is a sport that a lot of people don’t understand,” said Ryan Nader.

“Somewhere beyond that date, they will come and experience for

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