Foothill construction: A necessary burden

Erica Drummond

As students returned to Cal Poly this week they may have noticed a few things missing: old friends have graduated, some favorite restaurants have closed, and one of the most heavily trafficked commuting roads has been shut down.

The Stenner Creek Bridge on Foothill Boulevard went under construction last summer, unknown to the thousands of students who left San Luis Obispo for the summer. When they returned, instead of finding the familiar rocky bridge and fast speed bumps, they faced barricades and fluorescent detour signs.

"It's a huge hassle," Sarah Gustafson, a speech communications junior said. "I know it needs to be done, but it just wouldn't be nice if it had been done sooner or faster."

The road will be ready for motorists by March, 2005. Pedestrians and bicyclists are still able to cross by the construction detour.

"If you're going to take Foothill, take an aspirin and a magazine, because you'll be waiting forever," Holly Nelson, a music junior said. "It's so iritating because the detours cause such heavy traffic."

Despite the complaints, organizers members have had to repeatedly alter the project say it is something that must be done.

"The hardest part about this is knowing that we're relocating so many people's daily routine," Larry Tolon of the San Luis Obispo public works department said. "It's just a necessary evil, the longer we put it off, the worse it becomes."

In March of 2000, the San Luis Obispo City Council addressed the issue of the bridge. The bridge was rotting and could have collapsed, killing or injuring motorists. After heavy rainfall the following year, the bridge was beyond repair and Cal Trans announced that it was the most deficient in the state.

Since then, a temporary two-way bridge has been allowing people to cross Stenner Creek.

The City hired Whitaker Contractor, Inc. of Santa Margarita to design its admission standards, which many people say is something that must be done.
to take on the project. People working on the project have tried to ease local complaints by explaining the situation.

"Everyone just needs to be patient," Tony Guerra, an operator at Whitaker said. "It's easy to complain, but it'd be a whole lot worse if we let the bridge collapse and the road wasn't there at all."

"It's really a Catch-22 situation," Guerra said. "You suffer in the short term but in the long term this will all be a huge benefit."

While the construction on Foothill may seem new to many, the Steener Creek Bridge has proven to be a puzzling problem for decades.

Cal Poly alum Karen Groppi, now an engineering professor at Cabrillo College in Aptos, California, attended Cal Poly and created a design for the bridge for a senior project.

"Construction projects can be a real pain when they're going on," Groppi said. "Especially when you design a bridge, you have to look at it statistically."

"Hypothetically, there's a flood every 100 years," she explained. "The construction organizers need to figure out how high the water level would be in such a storm and then build accordingly."

If students are planning on traveling by the construction site any time soon, Tolson of the public works department has some tips.

"We really encourage bicycle riding and walking," he said. "If you're driving to school, use California Boulevard or Highland Drive. Plan ahead and give yourself some extra time."

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Hybrid vehicles get privilege in carpool lane

Drivers of hybrid vehicles are now permitted to drive solo in carpool lanes, thanks to a bill signed by Schwarzenegger.

Steve Lawrence
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO — Rebuffing lobbying by the chairman of the Ford Motor Co., Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a bill Thursday that will let thousands of single-occupant hybrid vehicles use carpool lanes, which supporters hope will prompt more consumers to buy the fuel-efficient, low-emission cars.

"This bill is great for California," said the measure's author, Assembleywoman Fran Pavley, D-Agoura Hills. "It eases our commutes. It saves us money at the pump, reduces our dependency on foreign oil and cleans our air at the same time."

The bill allows up to 75,000 hybrids to obtain decals from the state to use carpool lanes without having to have the minimum number of two or three occupants. Certain other advanced-technology vehicles could also qualify for the program.

To obtain the decals, the vehicles would have to get at least 45 miles per gallon and meet tough emission standards.

The new law is scheduled to take effect Jan. 1 of next year to approve the new law, which requires the state to eventually double the number of carpool lanes to about 2,224 miles of carpool lanes in California that become overcrowded at the same time."

Gov. Schwarzenegger signed into law a bill allowing people to purchase hypodermic needles.

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Performing a ceremony at the state Capitol, Schwarzenegger signed AB 2781, which would have lifted the requirement. The new law, which requires the state to eventually double the number of carpool lanes to about 2,224 miles of carpool lanes in California that become overcrowded at the same time."

"The problem is that it's a trip to jail if you've caught with a needle," said John LaPointe, an organizer at Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution, a free program in Berkeley. "People have no incentive if disposal is a liability to their freedom."

Schwarzenegger signed a bill allowing over-the-counter sales of hypodermic needles without a prescription.

"There's no supervision in this law. There's no way to monitor how many needles are on the street," said Mike Kennedy, California Narcotic Officers Association. "There's no way to prevent the spread of infectious diseases such as AIDS and hepatitis C, which are often transmitted through contaminated hypodermic needles."

Each year, needle sharing infects approximately 1,000 Californians with HIV, according to the foundation's Web site.

Local governments have until Jan. 1 of next year to approve the sales in pharmacies.

"Council members will know each other down to approve this law," said Berkeley City Councilmember Betty Olds. However, some experts said the new law will help, not hinder, the spread of these diseases. "There's no supervision in this law," said Mike Kennedy, president of the California Narcotic Officers Association. "There's no way to monitor how many needles are on the street."
Oprah makes over freshman student at North Carolina university

Carolyn Harbaugh & Whitney Tritt OLD GOLD NEW GRAY

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — There’s no doubt that the first few weeks of freshman year can be traumatic. Busy shopping, moving in, buying books, scheduling classes, meeting new people, showering in flip flops and forgetting the names of your college acquaintances, there’s a lot to do, a lot to see — in short, a lot to handle.

Can you imagine leaving all this behind to fly to Los Angeles, shop with a celebrity and make an appearance on national television? It sounds like a dream, but for fresh­man Allie Walker it became a reality.

On Sept. 9 Allie received a call informing her that her twin sister, Elli, had been chosen to go on a makeover on the Oprah Winfrey Show. The producers asked her if she would be interested in the surprise.

When Allie agreed, they then ordered her to shop and drive to the airport. Later that night, where Elli is a freshman at Washington and Lee University.

Upon her arrival, a series of camera's followed Allie into the din­ing hall where her sister was eating.

“I was there when she got off the phone with Oprah’s producer for the first time. She was literally jumping up and down, ” freshman Cassie Durand said.

Allie and Elli were both swept off their feet at the exclusive Le Meridien hotel in Beverly Hills.

The two knew they were in for a makeover, but they had little idea of what would help with their clothes selection, hair, and makeup.

As they were sitting down to a leisurely breakfast at a sidewalk cafe, both Allie and Elli screamed to be taken shock when a limo pulled up. Then, out of the dark black stretch emerged their stylist for the day, actress Mischa Barton from the television series The OC.

They then went out for the day with their new friend Mischa, who showed them her favorite shopping digs. Some of the stores they visit­ed included Veronica M., Decades, Wanel and Miss Shop.

“Mischa is very poised, and the way she carries herself is so much older than a normal 18-year-old. My sister and I were jumping up and down screaming, and she was so put together,” Allie said. “It was amazing to see how different we were, even though we are the same age. She just seemed so much more grown up”.

They were then taken to a salon, where they were completely trans­formed by Mischa’s team of skilled professionals. After an exciting few days, the girls returned to ordinary college life, but not for long.

The next week, the two were flown to Chicago to tape the actual Oprah show, where they were wined and dined like celebrities once again and their hair, makeup and clothing were finalized. Their parents even flew in to join the audience.

“I cried when I met Oprah. She said, ‘Don’t cry baby, it’s going to be OK. It’s just me, Oprah.’”

— ALLIE WALKER

Wake Forest University freshman

immediately following the unveiling of Oprah’s master plan, Allie and Elli were both swept off to L.A., where they were given full celebrity treatment. They spent one night at the exclusive Le Meridien hotel in Beverly Hills.

Of the nation’s most popular daytime television series. However, that was just Oprah had in store for the Walker twins.

Although Allie and Elli both wrote letters to Oprah, the one who was the first to receive the makeover. Despite the fact that Allie was happy for her sister deep down inside, she said that she couldn’t help but envy the royal treatment her sis­ter was about to enjoy.

Fairy godmother Oprah just could not leave Allie behind as part of her secret “Making Dreams Come True,” so she was included in the makeover madness as well. If Ella’s initial reaction wasn’t enough, Allie and Elli’s excitement combined made for a classic television moment. Walker was filled with surprised and pride by the transformation.

The sisters were in for the experience of a lifetime.

Banished fraternity back on Florida college campus

Stephanie Evans

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — With a 14-0 vote, Florida State University’s Interfraternity Council chose to allow the Eta Epsilon chapter of the Sigma Pi fraternity to re-colonize on campus Tuesday night.

Sigma Pi had been kicked off campus this spring, but their petition was rejected. According to Rich Toner, PSI’s IFC president, Sigma Pi had the ability to re-petition as many times as they chose since they had already been a member chapter of FSU’s IFC.

“I think that there’s an enormous difference between the group that has petitioned this fall versus the group that petitioned us back in the spring,” Toner said. “They have shown tremendous improvements and tremendous gains in several different areas. I’m really excited about it, and I look forward to having them back.”

Brian Hoffson, alumni club pres­ident, before the vote and stated his support for the chapter, 25 students per­sonal to voice a closing argument, and after he left the room following the vote, “I don’t see why we shouldn’t let them back on campus,” Turk said.

Toner announced that there were 11 minutes.

Steve Turk of Sigma Phi Epsilon was the only person to offer either a pro or con. He spoke in favor of allowing Sigma Pi to re-colonize.

“Last spring, I was one of the main guys laughing at them and not letting them back on campus,” Turk said. “But speaking with Brian, I don’t think we shouldn’t let them back on campus. All the bad guys that were there have cleared out. They want to make this greek community a better place,” Turk said.

Toner said that Florida State University was in need of more members. “The idea of who would help with their community service project.”

Brian Hoffson was allowed to re-enter to voice a closing argument, and after he left the room again, the vote was conducted.

Before the chapter is re-establish­ed at FSU, there are many things that must be completed. For the national Sigma Pi organization to support the chapter’s re-colonization, the 25 students must be interested in joining the fra­ternity, and they must complete a community service project.

“Before we can get back on we have to complete the ACE project,” said T. L. Clack, senior at Florida State University who petitioned to get Sigma Pi back on campus. “We have to hold ourselves to our word...It’s just good to be back on campus with a quality group of fraternity members.”

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NEWS
4 Friday, September 24, 2004
Oprah's $10,000 love: Art Café's curry sandwich

Melissa Dorcak

The little Art Café on Higuera Street dished up some serious publicity after Oprah Winfrey claimed the Curried Chicken Salad sandwich was one of the best sandwiches she has ever had — and coinciden­
tially, the most expensive. The owner, Margaux Sky, was just about to shut down her eatery in July when her cosmetics company unexpectedly gave her $10,000 to keep the store open.

The Art Café and Bakery opened in late January, and by mid-summer, said Brittnie Bennett, who has been there since day one. Bennett said it was lack of business that almost closed the doors but that Sky couldn't work 12 to 18 hour days anymore. "She just needed to hire help," Bennett said.

Oprah's investment allowed for just that, as is apparent by the "serve­
counter honest worker" sign on the window. The talk-show queen first tried the sandwich because the president of Harpo Productions, Tim Bennett suggested the Art Café bring sandwiches to his employees. Unfortunately its eccentric style has often been downplayed. Bennett is also Sky's brother-in­law.

Brittnie thought the sandwich was worth $10,000, but when you buy every member of your studio audience a car for your season pre­mier, $10,000 might seem some­what reasonable. So is it worth 10 grand? Not by this reporter's stan­dards or budget. But the $9.50 sandwich is worth a try, maybe even two.

The menu features a great selec­tion of both vegetarian and carniv­orous items. But be warned, the sandwiches aren't laid out like the ones you mom put in your lunch­box. For example, the Reuben fea­tures a slice of bread topped with small chunks of corned beef mixed with Swiss cheese, sauerkraut and grilled onions. It would look like an open-face sandwich if it weren't for the slice of bread balanced on top of the juicy goodness.

Lunch items are served with your choice of soup or salad, which is why the prices might seem a lit­tle high for a college student's bud­get. The unique selection of sand­wich breads is a definite plus. Instead of plain old' white bread, try the spicy pepper jack bread with your turkey and Swiss. Since every­body's homemade daily, the cafe does run out of certain items by the end of the day.

The Art Café would suggest g local art hangs on the walls for diners to appreciate.

While the Art Café's curry sandwich might not look like something Oprah would pay $10,000 for but Oprah didn't pay for looks, she paid for taste. Her check saved the restaurant from closure this past summer.

The establishment resembles most of the downtown eateries. It's quaint with a personal touch that only comes from a small, privately owned business. There are two rooms; one is painted pink and the other sea green. The red-checkered tabletops seem to throw the color scheme off balance. Bennett said the Art Café will not only be featured in the November issue of O magazine, but Sky is headed to Oprah's studio on Tuesday to be on the Oprah Winfrey show.

The Roots' latest album too tame

Kenyatta Storin

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — High expectations surround every album release of The Roots, but this time the band has never managed to garner the popularity or attention that main­stream radio will pay. Led by drummer Blackthought and rapper Blackalicious, The Roots is a rare breed in hip-hop because it focuses on live instrumentation, making it per­haps the only true hip-hop band of its kind.

Over time the group has enjoyed occasional radio play for a few of its more contemporary sounds, most notably in 1999 hit "You Got Me" featuring Erykah Badu, but unfor­tunately its eccentric style has often left its music unknown to many hip-hop fans. Despite this, The Roots remain a well-respected band in their music because of its impressive live performances and its constant ambition to push albums in new directions.

The group's latest release, "Phrenology," demonstrated this as it was recorded without a producer and is at times downright weird, making it impractical and intriguing regardless of whether you like it or not. The Roots attempt to push musical boundaries once again in "The Tipping Point." The band's music is a mix of hip-hop and funk, with live instrumentation and some influences of blues, mandolins and violin.

With virtually no guest rappers, The Roots' latest album too tame because the end result is an album that lacks focus and purpose. Although "The Tipping Point" is a fine album, and still much better than the average hip-hop record, it will likely disappoint many fans of The Roots for lacking the creativi­ty of previous efforts. The Roots will surely come up with some fresh ideas for the future, but hopefully it will execute them better, so fans can once again enjoy the imaginative music it is capable of creating.

New Flogging Molly album for fans only

Marty Schroeder

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Flogging Molly's Irish-inflected punk returns on its third album, "Within a Mile of Home." The band formed in 1997 when Dave King met six other people who shared his love for Ireland, punk rock and Guinness. Flogging Molly is a punk band, but they've debuted with "Swagger," taking the punk feel and relating it to the Irish fun and a smattering of political. The band's song also features "Swagger," taking the punk feel and relating it to the Irish fun and a smattering of political.

"Within a Mile of Home" provides some fast, energetic anthems about generations passing on the torch. "Tobacco Island" comments on the events of 1659 when Charles II of England forced many Irish from their homes — reminding us that even though King has come to America, he has not forgotten where he is from. Bassist Nathan Maxwell provides the lyrics and a lead vocal growl to the "Queen Anne's Revenge." The rest of the album follows these with some Irish fun and a smattering of poli­tical commentary thrown in for good measure. If you are unfamiliar with this great and amazingly original band, in debut "Swagger" would be the best place to start but if you are a Flogging Molly fan then pick up this record!
Commentary

Calling informed student voters only

Louis Schuh

OXFORD, Miss. — It's election time again. This is the time of year when everybody urges you to do your civic duty and go out and vote. I'm not going to do that.

If you don't have the desire to vote already, I don't want you going out and diluting my ballot. Lord knows, you'd probably just vote for the tallest guy or the guy with the best hair anyway.

So if you don't want to spend the time or effort casting a ballot, by all means, stay away from the polls.

I only want a certain type of voter at the polls: The informed citizen. The informed citizen evaluates the candidates, educates himself on the issues and casts a ballot based on which candidate best meets his needs and the needs of the country.

Here, then, is my plan for ensuring an informed voting citizenry:

Government classes should teach about issues as well as structure. The education system is the state's attempt at creating an informed citizen. And in the area of politics, no class is potentially more important than the high school government class.

Unfortunately, most of the time in this class is spent drilling the government structure into the students' heads one more time. Ideally, a student would have already learned the basic structures of government in classes from elementary school through junior high.

The high school government class should be spent teaching the students about the issues. These classes should foster debate and encourage evaluation of the reasoning behind the positions of the major parties and their candidates.

Remember, these students are going to be potential voters in the near future. We owe it to our republic to give these students the tools to make informed voting decisions.

The media should spend less time on scandals and more time on issues. Scandals are important in the race, but not nearly as important as character. If character were the most important factor in making a good president, Jimmy Carter would be the greatest president of all time. And history will not be swayed by the cynical calculations of designing men.

As Thomas Jefferson wrote, "If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be."

Only the informed citizen will protect us from the allures of the demagogues, for the ignorant are easily led astray, but the informed citizen will not be swayed by the cynical calculations of designing men.

The political parties, meanwhile, have among the least likely Americans to vote. Exit polls from the 2000 election found that, of 48 million potential voters younger than 30, only about 18 million of them went to the polls. And in this year's Democratic primaries, widespread support on college campuses did not translate into victories for candidates Howard Dean.

Candidates have made some attempts to reach out to college students and other young people. The Bush campaign has a Web log that includes "Barbara and Jenna's Journal," detailing the president's daughter's campus exploits. Democrat John Kerry, who made a campus tour last spring, recently appeared on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" and was to appear Monday on "The Late Show with David Letterman."

The political parties, meanwhile, are using volunteers and paid canvassers to register young voters and get them to the polls. For instance, the College Republican National Committee has 60 field staffers and a multimillion-dollar budget dedicated to turning out young voters for the president in battleground states.

I only want a certain type of voter at the polls. The informed citizen evaluates the candidates, educates himself on the issues and casts a ballot based on which candidate best meets his needs and the needs of the country.
Volleyball looks for turnaround in Big West play

UCSB again picked to finish first in the Big West Conference while Cal Poly is picked to finish eighth

Amanda Strachan

The Cal Poly women’s volleyball team looks to rebound this weekend against two Big West Conference opponents after dropping two straight matches. The team faces Cal State Fullerton today and will then play UC Riverside on Friday.

Cal Poly has already played in first conference game losing to UC Santa Barbara. This week the Mustangs get a taste of more conference opponents.

In a recent coaches poll, UCSB was picked to win its third straight conference title and Cal Poly was voted to finish eighth.

Currently, four teams in the conference remain undefeated. Long Beach State, Cal State Northridge, UC Irvine and UCSB all stand 2-0 in the conference. Long Beach State hasn’t lost a game yet.

Some players returning to face the Mustangs this year are Pacific’s Jennifer Jones who was named 2003 Big West Player of the Year and UCSB’s Olivia Waldowski who was named Big West Freshman of the Year.

“We need to start with some solid plays and win to set a precedent going into the season,” said junior outside hitter Kyla Mulder.

The team return to play after a series of losses in non-conference matches. Out of ten matches the team has only been able to secure two wins. The team is 0-1 in conference and 2-8 overall.

“We have had a solid competitive season so far but it has allowed us to be challenged and to grow,” said coach Steve Schlick.

The Mustangs started their non-conference season with a 3-2 win over Northern Arizona State University.

The Mustangs lost their final two games against Northern Arizona but then quickly bounced back with three wins to take the match.

Cal Poly also defeated Utah Valley State on Sept. 17. The 3-2 win broke a six-match losing streak for the Mustangs.

“We have a lot of time to progress and to get better. We’ve set some high goals this year,” Schlick said.

One of Cal Poly’s early season losses came in its Big West opener against UCSB. Cal Poly needed to take the lead 23-22 over UCSB in the first game but the Gauchos gained seven points in a row to push the match to game point.

UCSB took it from there winning 30-26.

In the second game, the Gauchos gained a 10-9 lead but were again shut down by UCSB. The Gauchos went on to win the match 30-16. UCSB finished the third game with a 30-12 win.

This season the team is primarily underclassmen, something Schlick believes will provide both a strength and a weakness.

Despite the early season losses the team has managed to gain notice. Mulder earned recognition at the Nike-Portland Invitational Sept. 14. With an average of 3.25 kills, 92 digs and 1.17 blocks in the three-match tournament the Mustangs gained a solid win.

Mulder came away with all-game honors.

Freshman Kristin Jackson also earned some impressive recognition in the Big West conference. Jackson averages 3.7 digs per game and leads the conference with 40 digs over the second place player from UC Santa Barbara.

Going into this weekend, Cal Poly faces two teams that have experienced early season losses.

Cal State Fullerton has a 6-3 overall record and a standing of 0-1 in conference.

The Mustangs are in the midst of a two-game losing streak. The Toreros have lost to UCLA, 8-1, and battled Maine to a scoreless tie.

This year’s Mustang team is made up of primarily lowerclassmen. Thus far, the Mustangs have struggled with an overall record of 2-8.