Republican and Democratic clubs on campus attempt to spread party doctrine
Emily Logan MUSTANG DAILY
As the November election approaches, students and members of the community are making it their job to register voters and encourage people to form opinions about the candidates and issues facing America.
As of Sept. 23, San Luis Obispo County had 153,784 registered voters, reported by the California Elections office in San Luis Obispo. Of those, approximately 42 percent are registered Republican, 36 percent are registered Democrat and 16 percent declined to state. Leaving 6 percent registered to other parties.
On campus, the Cal Poly College Republicans, currently 150 strong, with another 150 on the roster from the previous two years, are pushing for more student voters.
“Our City Council will only listen to students if they vote,” Mike Morton, president of Cal Poly College Republicans said. “Locally it is important to promote candidates that are student-friendly, while at the same time are able to work with the current system to achieve success.”
Cal Poly’s Young Democrats, which according to Vice President Steven Schlotterbeck will soon be changing its name to the Cal Poly Democratic Club, is also encouraging voting with registration booths in the University Union.
“I think it’s very important that know where each candidate stands on certain topics,” said.
On the Central Coast, Republicans are hoping to elect Abel Maldonado for District 13 state senator, Sam Blakeslee for District 33 state assembly and Patricia Andreen for District 3 county board of supervisors.
“We would just like to see Republicans across the board,” said Josh Arbenz, director of campaign operations for the San Luis Obispo Republican Office.
Democrats are pushing for Peg Pinard for District 13 state senator, Stew Jenkins for District 33 state assembly and Patrice Lenthall for District 3 county board of supervisors.
Arbenz said that the voters he has encountered have different focuses for this election.
“Different folks have different issues that they are really firm on,” Arbenz said. “Some people are really conservative when it comes to the economy and not so much on social issues.”
On campus, there are also a variety of opinions, Schlotterbeck said.
“Every member is allowed to think what they want — you don’t have to sign any loyalty oath,” he said.
Students interested in the election and encourage them to see Election, page 2.
In San Luis Obispo County 42 percent of registered voters are Republicans and 36 percent are Democrats, 16 percent declined to state.
Election
continued from page 2
vote, both clubs will hold events on
campus in upcoming weeks. The
College Republicans will have a
barbecue on Oct. 28 in the UU plaza.
The YOung Democrats will man a
registration booth on Oct. 29 in the UU.
"Many local Republican candi­
dates will be at our meeting to dis­

"Our goal prior to the
election is to register as many voters
as possible and to promote conserv­
ative candidates."

The Young Democrats will man a
table in the UU several times a
week to register voters, especially as
the registration deadline approach­
s. Schlotterbeck said. They will
also be showing political documen­
taries in the UU in the com­ing weeks.

"We're hop­ing that we get a good
number of people, regardless of their
political stance, to come and watch
them with us," Schlotterbeck said.
For more information about the
Young Democrats, visit www.young­
dems.calpoly.edu. For the College
Republicans, visit www.calpolyrcp.org.

Debate
continued from page 2
dents will be able to see the two most
popular candidates in a 90-minute
verbal debate. Following the telecast,
Comstock will mediate a town-hall
style meeting where audience mem­
can directly ask questions to rep­
resentatives on stage.

"I really want students to bring
tough questions if they have them," he
though he's concerned that hard-lin­
ers with strong opinions will change
the tone of the debate's discussion.

"I don't want it to turn into an
argument," Comstock said. "I want
them to vote."

The viewing of the debate and its
discussion is not expected to last past
9 p.m. and Comstock hopes that stu­
dents will attend despite it being held
on a Friday. Advertisements will run
in The Tribune to attract citizens, but
Comstock would rather fill the 180
seats in the hall with students willing
to gain more knowledge about the
candidates and the political system.

The undecided will be reassured
that Comstock's own political views
will not come into play. Despite having a reputation for
being a conservative, Comstock said
he is only there to take questin­
ges with information on how
recources may be u.sed without
deploying or permanently damag­
ing them and by introducing stu­
dents to the issues surrounding sus­
tainability.

"A lot of change in curriculum
must come from students. We don't
want sustainability to be addressed
by just one or two faculties. We
believe that a lot of people across
the board should be interested."

Engineering professor Donna
Richards, Horticulture and crop sci­
ence professor John Phillips and
city and regional planning professor
Paul Wack will serve as panelists.

Following the presentation the
floor will be open for questions.

Environment
continued from page 2
plans on environmental responsi­
ability. We are educating California's
future leaders, and we have a
responsibility to make sure they
graduate with a high level of envi­
nmental literacy," Barker said.
This year's lectures will follow up
on Cal Poly's commitment to the
declaration by providing atten­
dees with information on how
recources may be used without
deploying or permanently damag­
ing them and by introducing stu­
dents to the issues surrounding sus­
tainability.

"A lot of change in curriculum
must come from students. We don't
want sustainability to be addressed
by just one or two faculties. We

Nader on New Mexico ballot
Barry Massey
ASSOCIATED PRESS
SANTA FE — The New Mexico
Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered Ralph Nader's name to be placed on
New Mexico's Nov. 2 ballot as an
independent presidential candi­
date. Nader filed nominating petitions Sept. 7 with signatures of about 31,200 voters to
secure a spot on the ballot.

The court overturned a decision
last week by state District Judge
Theresa Baca, who said that Nader
didn't qualify as an independent
candidate in New Mexico because
he's running in other states as the
nominee for minor parties, includ­
ing the Reform Party in Florida and
Colorado.

Nader is on the ballot in more
than 30 states, but faces court
challenges in some of those and is
suing for ballot access in several
others.

Democrats worry that Nader will
take some support from John Kerry,
potentially giving President Bush
an edge in New Mexico, which is
among the swing states considered
critical by both parties in this year's
election.

Bush lost the state in 2000 by
366 votes. Nader ran as the Green
Party nominee four years ago and
received about 4 percent of the vote
in New Mexico.

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?
can you say it in 250 words or less?
Send your letters to the editor to opinions@mustangdaily.net’
Global economy to post strongest growth in years

Jeannine Aversa
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The world economy this year should post its best growth in three decades even though oil prices are up sharply and economic activity in the United States probably will be slower than previously thought.

Those were some of the assessments in the International Monetary Fund’s latest World Economic Outlook, released Wednesday.

After expanding by 3.9 percent in 2003, the global economy is now projected by the IMF to grow by 5 percent in 2004. That is a better forecast for this year than the 4.6 percent increase estimated in April. Should the new projection prove accurate, it would mark the strongest growth since 1997, an IMF spokesman said.

Global growth has been helped by factors that include rising corporate profitability, improved stock markets, strong housing markets and gains in employment, the agency said.

The revised projection for 2004 is encouraging for an economy that was on the verge of recession, terrorist attacks and war. But rising oil prices are still a concern, the agency said.

The IMF predicted the U.S. economy will grow by 4.3 percent this year, compared with an earlier estimate of 4.6 percent. Even so, the revision would represent the best showing since 1999 and an improvement over the 3 percent gain in 2003.

The health of the U.S. economy is a prominent issue in the presidential campaign.

President Bush credits his tax cuts for helping the economy rebound from the 2001 recession.

Democrat John Kerry contends those cuts mainly have helped the wealthy, squeezed the middle class and put the government deeper into debt.

The U.S. economy grew briskly in the first quarter of this year before slowing over the next three months, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan has blamed that largely on high oil prices and said the economy has since gained some traction.

“This is a soft patch, not a sink hole,” the IMF’s chief economist, Raghuram Rajan, said of the slowdown.

For 2005, the global economy is expected to slow further, expanding by 4.3 percent, compared with the 4.4 percent estimate from the IMF in April.

“Looking forward, the global expansion — while still solid — will therefore likely be somewhat weaker than earlier expected,” the IMF said. “The balance of risks has shifted to the downside with further oil price volatility a particular concern.”

Crude oil prices on Wednesday dipped to $49.20 a barrel in midday trading. On Tuesday, oil prices surpassed $50 a barrel for the first time before ending the day at $49.96. The IMF’s forecasts are based on an assumption that oil prices would remain around $37-35 a barrel this year and next.

The new footage, first broadcast on the Arab news network Al-Jazeera and then posted on the Internet, showed Kenneth Bigley begging British Prime Minister Tony Blair to meet his captors’ demands.

“Tony Blair, I am begging you for my life. Have some compassion. Only you can help me now.”

He accused Blair of lying about efforts to secure his release, saying no negotiations were taking place.

“My life is cheap. He doesn’t care about me. I am just one person,” the captive said. “I want to go home. Please, Mr. Blair, don’t leave me here.”

It was the second tape in a week to surface showing Bigley appealing for help. Iraq’s most feared terror group, Tawhid and Jihad, beheaded two American hostages seized with Bigley and warned they will be the next to die unless Iraqi women prisoners are freed.

Gruelle videotapes of the killings were posted on the Internet, and the men’s decapitated bodies were found in Baghdad — not far from the upscale neighborhood where they were seized from their house Sept. 16.

In the latest tape, Bigley sat hunched on the floor of a cage, his hands and legs in chains. He was dressed in an orange jumpsuit, similar to those worn by Americans Eugene Armstrong and Jack Henley when they were slain.

The leader of Tawhid and Jihad, Jordanian terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, personally beheaded Armstrong.

Asked to respond to Bigley’s plea, Blair said Wednesday evening: “I feel absolutely sick about what has happened and I feel desperately sorry not just for Ken Bigley, obviously, but for the whole of his family.”

He said the government was doing everything it could to help Bigley and would respond if his captors initiated contact, but had no way to reach them. Bigley’s brother, Paul, told the British Broadcasting Corp. that the images of his brother chained and caged were “absolutely appalling, there’s no other word for it, heart wrenching.”

But he said he was pleased to see his brother alive.

“That’s the good news I see through the smoke,” he said. “This is a lot ditch attempt, something has to be done and something has to be done very quickly.”

More than 140 foreigners have been kidnapped in Iraq and at least 26 have been killed. Some, like Bigley, were beheaded or insurgent revenge in their campaign against the United States and its allies.

But others were taken by criminals seeking ransom.

“Such a thing creates a broader contagion for people suffering for other reasons under the occupation,” said Jonathan Stevenson, senior fellow for counterterrorism with the International Institute for Strategic Studies in Washington.

“They get the idea that they can earn some extra cash by kidnapping people,” he said.

Stevenson said al-Zarqawi and his followers probably realize they can’t drive the United States and Britain out of Iraq. But militants hope that by taking hostages, they can force the release of a few Iraqi prisoners or the pullout of some troops — the Philippines withdrew its 31 soldiers to free a captive — allowing them to declare victory.

The back-to-back releases this week of the two Italian aid workers and four Egyptian communications engineers raised questions about whether ransoms were paid to win their freedom. Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi brushed off the questions, telling La Stampa newspaper: “About this business, we won’t say anything.”
Domestic diva will serve five months in a West Virginia prison that housed jazz singer Billie Holiday

Erin McClam

NEW YORK — Martha Stewart will do her time farther from home than she had hoped, at a remote West Virginia prison where inmates sleep in bunk beds and rise at 6 a.m. to do manual labor for pennies an hour.

The millionaire celebrity homemaker said Wednesday that she has been assigned to the minimum-security women’s prison at Alderson. Stewart, convicted in March of lying about a stock sale, had asked to serve her five-month prison term in Westport, Conn., close to her 90-year-old mother and her home in nearby Westport.

But a source familiar with the government’s decision, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press that Alderson was selected because it was more remote and less accessible to the media than Danbury, or Stewart’s second choice in Coleman, Fla.

Those prisons are also more overcrowded, the source said. The Coleman prison, for example, is crowded with inmates moved from other Florida prisons because of the recent hurricanes.

Stewart, 63, must report to Alderson by Oct. 8. She was allowed to remain free while she appealed her conviction, but decided earlier this month to serve her time right away, without waiting for her appeal to run its course, in order to put the “nightmare” behind her.

In a statement, Stewart said that she had hoped to be imprisoned closer to her family but was pleased that the government had assigned her “as quickly” to the first federal prison camp for women in the United States.

“I look forward to getting this behind me and to vigorously pursuing my appeal,” she said.

After her expected release in early March, she must serve five months under house arrest. Stewart’s new prison home is tucked into a town of about 1,000 residents that relies on inmates to clean up the river banks, mow grass and pick up trash. The inmate-staffed fire department assists the town’s volunteer department when needed.

Inmates at Alderson typically rise about 6 a.m. and work most of the day, making 12 to 40 cents an hour at jobs such as grounds maintenance, sanitation and food service, said Dan Danne, a federal prisons spokesman.

They sleep on bunk beds in nine large rooms that house between 26 and 90 inmates each. There are no individual cells. Lights out is around 8:45 p.m. on weekdays, later on weekends, Danne said.

When she reports to prison, she will be allowed to bring a few personal items, such as a single pair of earrings worth less than $100, a Social Security card, a limited amount of cash and a religious item approved by the warden.

Alderson, a 95-acre installation opened in 1927, houses about 1,000 inmates. Its past inhabitants include two women who tried to kill President Ford — Charles Manson disciple Lynette “Squeaky” Fromme and Sara Jane Moore — and jazz singer Billie Holiday, sentenced on a drug charge.

“I look forward to getting this behind me and to vigorously pursuing my appeal.”

— MARTHA STEWART

domestic mogul

Peter Bacanovic was convicted of lying to federal investigators about why Stewart sold 3.258 shares of ImClone Systems Inc. stock in December 2001.

They received the same sentence — five months in prison, plus five months of house arrest.

Bacanovic was also allowed to remain free while he appeals. He has announced no plans to enter prison.
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'Saved by the Bell' creator shares TV wisdom at NYU

Caroline Sellek
WASHINGTON SQUARE NEWS

NEW YORK — Peter Engel, creator and executive producer of the popular '90s sitcom “Saved by the Bell,” served roughly 300 New York University students a simple recipe for creating a hit show Monday night in the Kimmel Center’s Eisner & Lubin Auditorium.

Engel, a NYU alumnus who began his career as a page for “The Tonight Show,” championed an eye for the business end of entertainment, saying that defining a show’s audience is the key to success. His formula: three parts marketing, two parts casting and one part fun.

“The important stuff is knowing who your audience is, where they are and how to get them to come and see you,” he said, after revealing that NBC demographic researchers originally predicted that “Saved by the Bell” would bomb.

Astute casting, Engel said, is also a vital element of producing a market-leading show. Although he pride himself on being organized and formulaic, he admitted that effective casting requires an intuitive gut.

After all, the A.C. Slater character on “Saved by the Bell” was written as “an Anglo,” a sort of “Boomer-like character,” and Lisa Turtle as a “Jewish-American Princess.”

Dustin Diamond, three years younger than the rest of the cast, would not even have been cast as Screech, the resident nerd buffoon, had Engel not misread the birthdate on Diamond’s resume, he said.

By “casting color-blind” for his shows, Engel is allowed the flexibility to find a cast that meshes, which he said is essential for weekly television programming, especially shows set for syndication.

“In a movie, you only have to see that person once,” Engel said. “But with television, you invite them into your home thousands of times.” Engel recalled having a daily decree for his casting director: Find the perfect Zack Morris.

“If we don’t get Zack we have no show,” he would say.

Although Engel has served as an executive producer on 16 television series, including both seasons of NBC’s reality series “Last Comic Standing,” the focus of the event was certainly “Saved by the Bell,” which Engel deemed the first true teenage television program.

Engel spoke for an hour before fielding questions from audience members and the event organizers.

Stern & Tisch Entertainment Business Association, which provided French fries and ketchup for the audience in an attempt to evoke the mood of Mack’s, the “Saved by the Bell” gang’s hangout.
You got like three feet of air t
It's pretty much my favorite animal. It's like
a lion and a tiger mixed... bred for
skills in magic.

Stay home and eat all
the freakin' chips, Kip
Napoleon, don't be jealous that I've been chatting
online with babes all day. Besides, we both know that
I'm training to be a cage fighter.

I see you're drinking 1% milk. Is that
because you think you're fat?
Because you're not. You could proba-
bly be drinking whole milk.

You guys are retarded!
She's uh... she's got sandy blonde hair. She's uh...
pretty good looking face, but I'm just getting really...
just kinda T0'd because... I mean she hasn't even sent
me a full body shot yet.

Now, just imagine you
weightless, in the mid-
the ocean, surrounded
little seahorses.
I already made like in
those at scout camp.

Do the chickens
INSIDE
Check out even more
Napoleon Dynamite...
Page 7

Reason number 23: "Your wildest dreams will
come true." Whatever your reason, there are
very few reasons not to love Napoleon Dynamite.
The movie attracted an unexpected following
across the nation since its debut in June. The
popularity at the Palm Theater is no exception.
"Even if (Napoleon Dynamite) doesn't sell out,
it's crowded—it doesn't matter what time or day
it's playing," said Catherine McDonald, a
projectionist for the Palm Theater.

The offbeat comedy was a hit at the
Sundance Film Festival and earned Best Feature Film at the U.S.
Comedy Arts Festival according to Fox Twentieth Century's press release.
"(Napoleon Dynamite) is unpre-
ducing independent films
the pursuit of their dreams.
According to McDonald, a lot of
younger audience members will say
it's their third or fourth time seeing
the movie.
"There's a lot of groups of kids that
have seen it and are bringing their
friends," she said.

So what makes this movie so lov-
able?
Roger Rich, who has seen the movie
twice already and was in line for his

You're the only guy at school who has a mustac
Girls only want boyfriends who have

Great skills. You know, like nunchuc
bowhunting skills...
Napoleon Dynamite claims another moviegoer's V-Card

Daniel Ely
MUSIANC DAIIV

Anyone who hasn't lived in a cardboard box for the last six months has not heard about Napoleon Dynamite. The movie surpasses phenomenon status in many ways. Fan clubs for the film were filling up even before the movie opened, "Vote for Pedro" t-shirts are now flying off shelves, and people are constantly quoting the movie.

I, however, hadn't seen it. In order to understand better the wave of enthusiasm gripping the nation over the film, I decided the time had come to see the film, but also to see what type of people were there. Would they be like me, people who simply hadn't made it to a theater, even after their friends raved on and on about it? Or would they be die-hard fans, going to see their favorite film for the sixth or seventh time, like it was the new Rocky Horror Picture Show?

I was about to find out.

I was primarily surprised to see most people were there on dates, not in the big groups of friends that I had expected. I wouldn't have thought that Napoleon's squinting, bespectacled face would be such a draw for young love. I was also surprised to find that of all of the people I talked to, none of them had seen it before.

The oceans of patrons returning to the theater I had expected to run into were just not there. The crowd in the theater laughed and sighed along with the painfully awkward characters and even I found commonalities with the supremely mediocre Napoleon, from uncontrollable school dances and student government campaigns, to the development of ninja-fighting skills. Like Napoleon, one of the "unpopular" kids. However, after a choreographed disco dance set to the beats of "Shake Your Boobs," I was catapulted into cult status, like a teenage Ed Wood movie. If I had the aid of the band Janitorial, as Napoleon did, I might have left my drab student life for good to pursue a career in disco engineering.

Because of my own connections to Napoleon, I could see why the fan base for the film developed so quickly, but I could also understand why these people hadn't seen it. Such a widespread success can be daunting, and it's hard to go see a film after it has been built up so much. Still, I didn't find myself disappointed.

People filtered out of the theater after lingering to watch extra footage after the credits. Walking away from the theater, I could hear them all quoting the movie to each other. To a filmmaker, this must be a true testament of their abilities... to hear a theater full of people all saying "Augh... IDIOT!!"
Collegen student tries to return uneaten food for partial refund

By POLLY BROWN

Checking his dignity at the cash register, college student Andy Perushton recently presented a local diner cashier with a plate of picked-over food, demanding money for the vittles he didn’t ingest. The cashier—who works to remain anonymous—was flabbergasted by the whole incident. “It was both sick and sad at the same time,” she said. Perushton had a different take: “I didn’t eat the bone, so why should I pay for it?” Pete Woychick—a childhood friend of Perushton’s—said it was monthly fees tacked on to his friend’s checking account that drove him to the shameless act. “Andy has been pounded for months by fees on his checking account. He’s pathetic. I never really liked him when we were kids either.” Woychick— who says he personally was financially saved by Washington Mutual’s Free Checking Debate—thought his childhood friend needed to get his act together and visit a Washington Mutual Financial Center or go to wamu.com. Then he, too, could sign up for Free Checking—an account with optional Deluxe services like free online bill pay. “Until Andy decides to get Free Checking,” said Woychick, “I’m never eating out with him again. I’m pretty sure I won’t return his phone calls either. I might even change my name.”

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A glimpse into the light: There are textbook options

Sanir Patel
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — I made a mistake. A slave to impulse, I finally realized the time was right for me to buy my textbooks.

Like every other average Joe, I walked into the university bookstore this past week looking for five textbooks for my English class. After finding them, I rushed home, that burning question still lingering on my mind and decided to do some investigative research.

For years, I've heard the adage: buying books on the Internet can really save you money. However, every time I heard this, I felt it was just another useless piece of information.

But this time was different. I already fed the fiscal restraint this University puts upon me; I needed to know the truth.

I jumped on the information superhighway and decided to do some price-shopping. What I found amazed me. Those people were right.

My first stop took me to the bookstore's paradise known as Amazon.com. Luckily, my thoughtful professor had listed the ISBN numbers of each textbook on the syllabus, so finding the right copy of each book was a snap.

Finally, when I proceeded to checkout, my eyes widened as I saw the total for the five textbooks (with shipping) came to $76.76. It was a savings of almost $20.

Twenty dollars!

Now, to the average working man, $20 may be a mere pittance. But to a starving collegian, it's a damn fortune.

It's enough to buy a tank of gas, beer for a week, or most importantly, Ramen Noodles for an entire year! Why have I been so blind to the wisdom of others?

My shopping excursion didn't stop there, and I scoured the Internet looking for more. I knew better prices possibly lay out there, and after hours of searching, I found my travels took me to Textbooks.com. There my journey ended. After finding the textbooks, my checkout total came to a delicious $71.01. I was yet again slapped in the face, as my savings amounted to $63.65.

Tears sprouted in my eyes and I thought back to how many hundreds of dollars I could have saved just by going this route.

But no, my impatience had bested me and for that, I must suffer. I see the light now, and I'm not the only one that feels this regretful.

My only hope now is that the students reading this learn from my belittling experience and take notice of the other options out there.

Don't be a slave to the bookstore!
Bay area hotel workers strike

Lisa Leff
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — Cooks, housekeepers, bellhops and other workers at four San Francisco hotels began a noisy two-week strike Wednesday, an action that could spook other venues and discourage visitors just when the city's tourism industry has started to rebound.

Leaders of the labor union that represents about 8,000 workers at 60 San Francisco hotels and motels called the targeted strike to protest stalled negotiations with management of 14 large hotels in the city.

The four hotels subject to the strike — the Argent Hotel, Hilton San Francisco, Grace Plaza Union Square and Mark Hopkins Inter-Continental — employ about 1,400 union members. Another 2,000 workers at the remaining 30 hotels are likely to be locked out from their jobs starting Friday, said union President Mike Casey.

"People go out on strike out of respect. They have been abused, they have been mistreated and they have been taken for granted. They want respect," Casey said at a news conference where eight members of the city's Board of Supervisors said they supported the strike.

Talks between Local 2 and the contracts have authorized their unions to call strikes, but so far San Francisco is the only city where the ongoing labor disputes have reached that step.

Local 2 maintains it needs to bargains together with other unions in 2006 to be able to stand up to the corporations that increasingly are taking ownership of hotels.

But the employers group wants a five-year contract instead of a short-term agreement that might end up getting tied to the labor and economic conditions elsewhere.

"Nobody wants to turn around in 18 months and renegotiate," said Cornwell Fowler, a SFMEC spokesman. "This is about stability, for the hotels and the workers," he said.

Other sticking points include proposed increases in the amount workers pay for health insurance and what the unions describe as the unfairly heavy workloads hotel support staffs have shouldered since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks led to a downturn in travel and industry layoffs.

The strike comes at a time when the Visitors Bureau reports that travelers seem to be coming back to the city after the double hit local tourism from the collapse of the dot-com industry and Sept. 11.

Between the first of the year and the end of July, the average hotel occupancy rate in San Francisco was 72.1 percent, compared to 65 percent a year earlier and 83.8 percent during the same period in 2000.

Tourism is such a vital part of the local economy that San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom met with union and hotel representatives last week to encourage them to go back to the negotiating table before the strike authorized by the union's membership on Sept. 14 became effective.

Other local officials lined up behind the hotel workers Wednesday.

San Francisco Multi-Employer Group broke down Sept. 15 over the union's demand for a two-year contract that would cap when hotel workers in other major cities, including New York, Chicago and Boston, are set to renegotiate their labor pacts.

Meanwhile, hotel workers in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., who also have been working without a deal, are set to strike next week.

The strike comes at a time when the San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau reports that travelers seem to be coming back to the city after the devastating double-hit local tourism took after the collapse of the dot-com industry and Sept. 11.

The state also is working with the Marine and Navies to begin sharing use of military aircraft.

CAL POLY ARTS
$5 STUDENT TICKETS

Every season, Cal Poly Arts designs several shows as STUDENT RUSH Events. For these shows, any tickets still available one hour prior to curtain are only $5 at the door with valid Student I.D.

RUSH Events are usually listed up to 72 hours prior to show dates on the Cal Poly Arts web page. www.calpolyarts.org. Click on "What's New" to check which shows are posted with the $5 Rush tickets.

(Sold shows do not have regular student discounts available for advance sale — check website for prices)

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Vibmen's soccer expected to win the Big West, again
Emily Logan
MUSTANG DAILY

The wait for the Great West Conference is almost over. The Mustangs' game marks the first time Cal Poly has played in a conference game since it participated in the American West Conference from 1993 to 1995. The Mustangs' meet South Dakota State in the first conference game for both teams.

"(The players) feel great about being in a conference," associate coach Gene McKerahan said. "It gives you a whole new set of goals.

Although the possibility of automatic Div. I-AA playoff eligibility is ruled out because many of the teams in the conference are still in a transition period to I-AA, the goal for Cal Poly is still to win the conference.

"A conference needs at least six full-fledged I-AA members in order to get the automatic berth," Assistant Sports Information Director Eric Burdick said. "The only thing participating in a conference means for the schools today is a conference championship.

The prospects of forming a conference were discussed in meetings held throughout 2003 and 2004 by athletic directors and presidents. In February 2004, the Great West was officially recognized.

Initially, there were seven school members: including Cal Poly, University of California-Davis, Saint Mary's College, Northern Colorado University, University of Northern Colorado, South Dakota State University and Southern Utah University. Just a week after the formation, Saint Mary's dropped its football program.

However, the remaining teams still provide solid competition for Cal Poly. The Mustangs' meet in this conference is capable of beating everyone else," Mustang co-offensive coordinator Ian Shields said.

Each of the conference teams is scheduled to compete against a minimum of four other charter members during the 2004 season. Cal Poly, UC Davis, North Dakota State and Northern Colorado are scheduled to play all five other charter members.

Training remains the same as it is throughout the season, and coaches are confident that the team is prepared. "If we do the things we're supposed to do, and we play the way we should play, we should be pretty successful," McKerahan said.

Defensive coordinator David Brown stressed the need to prepare for games as they come and not to get too overwhelmed with the concept of the conference as a whole. "We all seriously have a chance to win it all," Brown said. "Like every other team we are just taking it one conference game at a time."

All the teams in the conference are strong, Brown said, so the competition is all around, and not particularly in one or two teams. "Our conference is surprisingly strong from top to bottom," Brown said.

"Most of the conference members have a lot of success last season and are off to good starts this year." Since the conference members are spread over three time zones, the conference is expected to get extensive media coverage, which will help with exposure for recruitment and game attendance.

Tony Moss from The Sports Network ranked Cal Poly No. 36 in the nation and No. 2 in the Great West Conference in pre-season Div. I-AA football polls. Northern Colorado was ranked No. 1 in the Great West Conference, making it one of the teams to mark on the calendar.

With such parity and a packed schedule, Cal Poly will need to keep up its strength and confidence, said Brown. "If we can continue to strive to better each week and stay healthy, I like our chances," he said.

The Mustang defense will play a big role as it has in all three games. Against Montana State, the Mustang defense was the difference making.

Following the South Dakota State game, Cal Poly will play at Southern Utah Oct. 9 and at North Dakota State Oct. 23, with home games against UC Davis Oct. 30 and Northern Colorado Nov. 13.

Whichever quarterback will be throwing the passes, wide receiver Anthony Randolph, pictured, will be a likely target in the offense.

Golden Graham

There are at least two ways to agitate Cal Poly football coach Rich Ellerson. The first is to mistakenly assume Ellerson once coached at Arizona State. Actually, Ellerson was formerly an assistant at butleri ter University of Arizona, Mix up Wildcats and Sun Devils and watch Ellerson's eyes glow and face turn red. It's kind of fun. Just make sure to be at least ten feet away.

That's not enough fun, till Ellerson there's a quarterback controversy at Cal Poly. After all, three games into the season, four Mustangs have thrown at least a pass. There may not wind up being a consistent starting quarterback this season, but a two-man platoon of junior John Mendenhall and sophomore transfer Cordell Webb.

Ellerson could care less. To him there is only a pseudo-controversy that media staff, like me have helped exaggerate. "You guys are missing a great story," he told a roomful of reporters at the weekly press conference Monday. "We have a tremendous offensive guard controversy this year and it's being lost in the media because of the quarterback story."

For sure, a solid offensive line has helped the Mustangs run over opponents and start 3-0 for the second straight year. Last year's average of 163.6 rushing yards for the first three games seemed good enough, but the Mustangs have tacked on a ridiculous 1,000 yards of offensive yardage to their average this year.

And Jesse Bender, Beau Fuentes, Josh Magley and Kep Tusa are battling fiercely for two starting guard spots.

Then there's Cal Poly's vaunted defense—possibly the best in the Great West Conference—that has 10 interceptions, 13 sacks and has scored five of the team's 14 touchdowns. In fact, senior linebacker Jordan Beck is tied for the team lead with two touchdowns scored.

Beck is a special case. He's multi-talented and bringing more and more attention to a program that doesn't get much national press. Already, Beck has 24 tackles, one interception in each game and has returned two picks into the end zone.

His first player profiled in the Mustang media guide and a candidate to win the Buck Buchanan Award given to the best Div. I-AA defensive player this year.

It remains to be seen how Cal Poly will fare in conference play, beginning Saturday against South Dakota State. The Mustangs are definitely talented but some could argue that shuffling quarterbacks could upset offensive rhythm. Still, past teams have thrived with more than one quarterback, including Arizona, which went 12-1 and was ranked fourth with a two-man platoon in 1997.

Quarterback is overrated. To me, positions like linebacker and offensive lineman determine a team's success much more. It's not like a dyslexic four-year-old could handle quarterback duties (although that would be really see Quarterback, page 11)

Women's soccer favored to win the Big West, again
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

Women's soccer returns home to host two Big West schools in Mustang Stadium this weekend. The Mustangs hope to build on last year's Big West title, their fourth in school history. Cal Poly will play UC Irvine on Friday at 7 p.m. and Long Beach State on Sunday at 1 p.m.

Cal Poly is 3-0-1 in its last four Big West openers and is undefeated in its last 13 home matches. Coach Alex Cozier's Mustangs went undefeated in last week's SoccerBuzz Magazine national poll but posted a ranking of 14th in the West Region. The Mustangs' tie with the University of San Diego knocked them down two poll positions from last week (20th to 14th).

Cal Poly opened its season with a 2-2 draw against No. 3 Santa Clara, then defeated UC Davis 3-2 and Western Kentucky 4-2 before falling to Saint Mary's 1-0. The Mustangs then competed in the ECAC Classic in Cape Cod, Mass., defeating Brown 1-0 and battling Maine to a scoreless draw with exposure for recruitment and game attendance.

On Sept. 17 the Mustangs defeated Sacramento State 2-0. UC Irvine owns victories over San Jose State, Buffalo and San Francisco while losing to Duke, Hawaii and San Diego. UC Irvine is coached by Marine Cano (CS Dom. Hills 1991) with a career record of 272-123-36 (20 years). His record at UCI is 104-70-24 (10 years). The Anteaters have seven returning starters, back a year from ago, and look to average their Big West Tournament loss.

Long Beach State has defeated Sacramento State, Drake, Iona, South Dakota State and U.C. Davis while losing to Duke, Hawaii and San Diego.

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Santiago Canyon College—Scoring just two goals in the conference opener, the Mustangs are confident that the team is prepared.

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