Students supply hope on wheels

The Cal Poly chapter of the Wheelchair Foundation raised $18,000 to supply Guatemalan children with wheelchairs.

Thao X. Tran

Delivering hope, mobility and freedom, the Cal Poly student Wheelchair Foundation will host its annual fundraising event, “The Gift of Mobility,” this time the team will dedicate the funds to orphans in Guatemala.

Two hundred and eighty orphans in Guatemala suffer in the presence of wheelchairs but cannot afford them. With help from the community, the Cal Poly student chapter of the Wheelchair Foundation seeks to provide the orphans with wheelchairs.

“It feels good to know that we are helping those less fortunate in other countries,” event manager Natalie Watson said.

The Cal Poly Wheelchair chapter raised $18,000 for the benefit through donations and fundraising efforts thus far.

“ ‘We hope to raise more money and exceed our goal of $20,000’,” Watson said.

The Cal Poly team has nine members working on the effort as their senior project.

“We started planning during the summer and through the beginning of the school year,” marketing communications director Christine Michalski said. "It's a yearlong project.”

“The Gift of Mobility” fundraising event will include a live auction, wine tasting, live music and a sit-down dinner catered by Poppoe Restaurant.

Several businesses in San Luis Obispo donated auction items including art, jewelry, clothing, Hearst Castle tours, hotel stays, sporting goods and other services to the event.

“We are expecting about 150 guests to be at the event,” Michalski said.

At a cost of $75 per wheelchair, the money raised will allow the foundation to purchase and ship the wheelchairs to Guatemala.

“It’s hard work, but to raise a large amount of money and give mobility to a person is amazing,” team member Maureen Lamb said.

The event will take place on Saturday, at 5:30 p.m., at Tolosa Winery, at 4910 Edna Road in San Luis Obispo.

Several San Luis Obispo businesses donated auction items to help raise $18,000 to buy and ship wheelchairs to Guatemala.

New study: Liberal professors advance faster than conservatives

Victoria Rossi

AUSTIN, Texas — Conservative professors may have a harder time advancing in academia, according to a report released this week by The Forum, a political research journal.

Based on a 1999 survey of 1,643 faculty members from 183 four-year colleges and universities, the report found that liberal-minded faculty members are more likely to have jobs at high-status schools and outnumber conservative professors in higher education by large numbers.

Ideology ranks second after academic achievement in determining advancement, according to the report. Women and practicing Christians were also named among groups discriminated against.

Susan Marshall, a University of Texas sociology professor who teaches on social methodology, said there were some basic flaws in the study’s methodology which would influence the report’s conclusions.

“Nowhere on a typical academic resume is there information about one’s politics or faith, where one’s gender is always obvious,” she said. “No how are institutions supposed to discriminate? Where do they get this information?”

As a government professor who started teaching at Smith College in 1956, Stanley Rothman, professor emeritus at Smith and co-author of the report, said it wasn’t hard to learn other professors’ ideologies.

These questions are often part of a job interview, he said, and after see Study, page 2

CSUs reach out to boost black student enrollment

The CSU system has been distributing ‘How to Get to College’ posters to parents and teachers at middle schools and high schools throughout the state.

California State University representatives heard feedback from 100 black community leaders regarding their desire to improve the low enrollment rate of black students on CSU campuses.

The CSU identifies itself as the most diverse higher education system in the country, with more than 53 percent students of color. However, the 22,300 black student currently enrolled in the CSU system make up 86 percent of the student body.

In addition, nearly 4,000 undergraduate and graduate students were granted to black last year.

“These numbers are not high enough,” CSU Chancellor Charles Reed said at a summit hosted by the National Governors’ Association in late March.

Reed said the black community presented information at the summit that gave new light to the problem, which may help to aid in future efforts to boost enrollment.

The CSU has been delivering hundreds of “How to Get to College” posters to parents and teachers of middle and high school students throughout California for the past four years.

CSU Trustee Herbert Carter said the content of the posters includes information on classes, financial aid, grades, tests and deadlines.

“This way, they are better prepared to enter and graduate from college,” Carter said.

see Enrollment, page 2
Enrollment

Even though black enrollment rates are decreasing within the CSU system, the pattern is not a problem unique to CSU campuses alone, said Chancellor Robert J. Birgeneau of UC Berkeley. In a recent Los Angeles Times article, Birgeneau said that the number of black students being enrolled in the CSU 2004 freshman class is an appalling. "An extreme example of this is that there is not a single African American in applied science and engineering in this year's freshman class," he said. "Not a single member of the African American community in California is able to profit from being taught by the world's best faculty in engineering. They deserve it and it's not happening." Cal Poly is also experiencing low numbers in black enrollment.

Study

Study continued from page 1

a few years working in an academic department, most people know how others in their department lean. The report also cited a shift in professors' political leanings by comparing a 1984 survey by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching to the 1999 North American Academics Study Survey. In 1984, 39 percent of professors identified themselves as liberal, while 54 percent said they were conservative. In 1999 these numbers changed to 72 percent liberal and 15 percent conservative. But Marshall said these numbers didn't indicate a dramatic shift as it would first appear. "The authors do not consider the ideological change during the period in the Republican Party," she said. "It may not be that conservatives have been chased out of academia, but that as the Republican Party moved sharply to the right, faculty moved away from the party identification." Marshall said having a liberal attitude about different perspectives was part of the job.

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LOS ANGELES — Three California newspapers won Pulitzer Prizes on Monday, including a public service medal and an international reporting prize for the Los Angeles Times.

The Sacramento Bee won for editorial writing and the San Francisco Chronicle won for feature photography.

In awarding the public service citation, the Pulitzer judges praised the Times for "its courageous, exhaustive research" for a five-part series exposing deadly medical problems at Los Angeles County's Martin Luther King Jr./Drew Medical Center.

LOS ANGELES — A Palestinian prisoner on Monday pleaded guilty to more than two dozen counts of illegal dumping around the United States and was ordered to pay $2.5 million in one of the largest fines ever imposed on a company that deliberately polluted the ocean. Evergreen International, one of the world's largest shipping lines, conceded the discharge of waste oil, obstructed Coast Guard inspections and altered records over a three-year period ending in 2004, federal officials said. The company entered its plea in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles to 24 felony counts and one misdemeanor.

SAN RAMON — Revolution forced out Ukraine's pro-Russian government last year. "It's not a given. In other words, there are things that the Ukrainian government must do," Bush said. NATO membership is by invitation of the member states, and requires guarantees of political, military and economic openness. For Ukraine, joining NATO would mean taking more decisive steps away from Russian influence and cleaning up systemic corruption.

WASHINGTON — Most Americans — Catholics and non-Catholics alike — want the next pope to allow priests to marry and women to join the priesthood, a major break from church rules and the judgment of Pope John Paul II, according to an Associated Press poll. The charismatic pontiff was held in high regard by a majority of Americans and most Catholics, with many suggesting that John Paul will be remembered as one of the greatest popes.

WASHINGTON — The United States supports expanding NATO to include Ukraine, a former Soviet republic now trying to loosen historic ties to Russia, but membership in the Western alliance is not guaranteed, President Bush said Monday. "There is a way forward in order to become a partner of the United States and other nations in NATO," Bush said during a joint press conference with Viktor Yushchenko, the populist politician whose Orange Revolution forced out Ukraine's pro-Russian government last year.

It's not a given. In other words, there are things that the Ukrainian government must do," Bush said. NATO membership is by invitation of the member states, and requires guarantees of political, military and economic openness. For Ukraine, joining NATO would mean taking more decisive steps away from Russian influence and cleaning up systemic corruption.

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Prisoners at Iraq's largest detention facility protested the transfer of several detainees deemed "suspicious" by authorities, throwing rocks and setting tents on fire in a disturbance that injured four guards and 12 detainees, the military said Monday. Friday's protest was the second in as many days after he fled ahead of protestors storming his offices.

Kyrgyzstan, which has Russian and U.S. bases, is the third former Soviet republic to be upended by popular protests. Uprisings in Ukraine last year and Georgia in 2003 forced out entrenched leaders and brought reformers to power. The United States is Kyrgyzstan's biggest donor, with assistance of nearly $800 million since the 1991 Soviet collapse.

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Hallmark Online Auctions of NFL Draft Memorabilia

The "Buy It Now" price is $8,000. As of early Monday, there had been a total of 30 bids, the highest bid at $2,128.

The winning bidder gets to choose a new middle name for Roone, a software engineer. Roone also agrees to use his middle name "whenever plausible and not hide it."

"If he wants to walk around with 'Ted' as his middle name, that's his problem," said Roone's wife, Corteen Roone. "If someone changes his name to 'Poophead,' he may decide it's a little more important than he thought."

DESTIN, Fla. — A suspected T-shirt shoplifter who was handcuffed in the back of a deputy's vehicle managed to drive off in the SUN leaden deputies on a high-speed chase, officials said. Scott Graves, 33, of Clanton, Ala., was charged with retail theft and fleeing and eluding in Okaloosa County. He also faces two counts of grand theft, two counts of robbery and one count of attempted carjacking in Walton County.

Graves was held Sunday in Walton County Jail on $20,000 bond.

— Associated Press

IN OTHER NEWS

UWAIT HIGHLANDS, Utah — Matthew Jean Roone doesn't like his middle name and he's letting you pick a new one. The 31-year-old father of two is selling the naming rights on eBay.

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— Associated Press

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'Sin City,' the ambitious new movie by director Robert Rodriguez, is a visually-stunning film set in black and white with brief flashes of color.

Kristen Oato  

The film begins with a woman dressed in red stands alone on a balcony, high above the black and white metropolis. A man steps out of the shadows behind her and says, "She shivered in the wind like the last leaf on a dying tree." They passionately kiss, and then she kills her. 'Sin City' is a groundbreaking and visually-stunning movie. The dark mirrors three Frank Miller graphic novels on the big screen. The movie is filmed in black and white, creating stark images with interspersed splashes of color. The humor "Sin City" is a world where crime, passion and violence are a way of life. The cops are crooked, the hookers carry guns and everyone has a past. Every character is either a victim or a killer, sometimes both. Frank Miller and Robert Rodriguez directed the movie, with Quentin Tarantino as special guest director. Miller and Rodriguez recreated the feel of the comics by shooting each scene against a green screen using state-of-the-art high-definition cameras. This technique captures brilliant and captivating images unlike any other film.

The unconventional filmmaking coupled with intriguing story lines has actors vying for roles. The teaser features Josh Hartnett and Marley Shelton in the opening of the movie, only to reveal a long list of Hollywood heavyweights. The track is taken from the band's 1994 album, "Parklife."
It's your choice, but it's everyone's future

Do you remember the first time you took a tour on the Cal Poly campus? No doubt you started in the University Union, went through UU Plaza and all around campus learning about life at Cal Poly, but not just academics; you also got a glimpse into the Cal Poly community. You learned about the recreation, extracurricular activities, cool facts and, of course, the curricula of your choice.

The UU has become the focal point of the Cal Poly campus, where debates are held, conferences convene and banquets are hosted. The massive concrete structure we know as the University Union came from decisions led entirely by students. Students in the past have committed to the UU; Rec Center, the Children’s Center and the Sports Complex; each quality of life facilities that students enjoy and manage. Now it is up to us to leave a legacy for the next generation of Cal Poly students. It’s your choice, our future.

Later this month, you will need to decide where you stand on these issues. In the meantime the “red shirt’s are coming” to you with educational information about these improvements.

Student leaders will be visiting your clubs and organizations to talk about the referendum, setting up tables around campus and ASI managed-facilities display red window paintings that read “Learn. Live. Life. It’s your choice, our future.”

You may wonder where the slogan came from. It truly is our choice whether we want to create a new student activity center by Campus Market (the proposed new University Union), expand the recreation center and renovate the current UU and UU Plaza. On the other hand, it’s also our future. Cal Poly is academically competitive, but come on, does anyone come to this campus for the recreation facilities other competitive institutions enjoy? A visit to other campus plazas, dining complexes and hangout spaces is amazing. Our plaza has undergone many repairs, and I don’t know about you, but I get the feeling I’m being quarantined when I’m at UU hour. The UU is supposed to be the most welcoming place on campus and it’s just blah.

The future is something we all dread talking about, especially me because I’m graduating. But to be honest, this referendum isn’t about you or me, it’s about future Cal Poly students. Simultaneously, most of the students that will enjoy these new facilities will also pay for them. The fees associated with these expansions and renovations are phased in over time according to project completion dates. Think where we would be today if past students hadn’t committed to the quality-of-life facilities you enjoy? Now think of what would happen in 2010, when there are more than 20,000 students enrolled with 2,700 new students living on campus in Student Housing North and new academic buildings are paving their way across campus. The hub would still be the current UU—“up the hill.” Imagine you are a student in 2010 and just got out of class in one of the new engineering buildings where the library parking lot used to be. Before you go to the apartment in Student Housing North, you stop by the newly-constructed UU for a quick workout in the new recreation area, run on the indoor track and grab some Bali’s or another snack in the large retail-shopping-dining outlets.

This is the future and we need to make the choice for the next generation. It’s your choice, but it’s everyone’s future.

Blake Bolton is the ASI President who wishes he was part of the future so he could see these much-needed facilities when they are completed. He welcomes any comments or questions at 756-1291 or ASIPresident@calpoly.edu.

COMING TOMORROW
From Left Field by Mustang Daily columnist Josh Kob

OP/ED
6 Tuesday April 5, 2005

COMMENTARY

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Tennis
continued from page 8

The Mustangs started off strong against the Bobcats by taking the doubles points in exciting fashion by winning two of the three sets. The No. 1 team of Nguyen and Van Linge as well as the No. 3 team of sophomore Matt Baca and freshman Fred Dottin were victorious.

In singles action, the bottom of the lineup prevailed to give the Mustangs the 4-3 victory. Van Linge, Jones and Crawford were all victorious.

The Mustangs continued their winning ways on Sunday as they defeated the Aggies 5-2. Van Linge won both singles and doubles matches making him 4-0 on the weekend. He also extended his singles win streak to seven.
Blumenthal’s torrid pace earns him Big West Player of Week

As of late, Mustang catcher Kyle Blumenthal has found a way to get on base any way he can. Whether by error, hit by pitch, walk or hit, Blumenthal has found a way to reach base safely in 13 straight plate appearances.

For this feat, Blumenthal was named Big West Conference Player of the Week for the second time this season.

The senior standout’s accomplishments have come over Cal Poly’s last four games. His 4-for-6 performance against Cal State Northridge gave the Mustangs a sweep against the Mustangs have won five of their last eight plate appearances. Blumenthal also was named Big West Player of the Week after going 6-for-10 in the Fresno State series March 4-6, reaching base safely in his first eight plate appearances and finishing with a .733 on-base percentage in the series. He is second in the Big West in on-base percentage with a .484 mark.

Cal Poly returns to action Friday with the opener of a three-game Big West series at Pacific.

The Mustangs also received another award. Cal Poly sophomore pitcher Gary Daley Jr. was named Big West Conference baseball Co-pitcher of the Week for his performance March 19 against the University of Washington. Daley pitched a one-hit shutout for a 6-0 victory.

Mustang junior southpaw Garrett Olson was honored by the Big West as Pitcher of the Week after giving up one run and four hits in 8 1/3 innings against San Francisco on Feb. 28.

He struck out eight batters and walked one in his standout performance.

Cal Poly (20-12, 3-0 Big West), which has won 10 of its last 13 games after opening Big West Conference play by sweeping Cal State Northridge, continues conference action this weekend by traveling to Pacific (4-16, 2-1 Big West) for a three-game series at Billy Hebert Field (cap. 3,500).

Cal Poly jumped to a 5-1 start, then lost eight of its next 13 games before sweeping Fresno State on March 4-6 at Pete Beiden Field, beginning the Mustangs’ current run of 10 wins in their last 13 games.

Cal Poly has won five straight, its longest winning streak of the season.