Professor succumbs to cancer

Simon was an English professor who will be remembered for his sharp wit, humorous nature and unique teaching methods.

Kristen Oato, SLO Tribune

One of Cal Poly's distinguished professors, Richard Simon, died of cancer Monday. He was 60 years old. Simon was the chair of the humanities department, as well as an English professor.

Simon was a native of Philadelphia, Pa. and attended the University of Michigan. There, he obtained bachelor's and master's degrees in English. In 1977, Simon pursued a doctorate in modern thought and literature at Stanford University.

Panels say nuclear plants vulnerable to terrorists

Experts are calling for a plant-by-plant inspection of how spent fuel is being stored.

Josef Hebert, Associated Press

WASHINGTON -- A panel of nuclear experts gathered by the National Academy of Sciences called Wednesday for a plant-by-plant examination of the fuel storage pools at nuclear power reactors, declaring the material may be vulnerable to a potential terrorist attack and deadly release of radiation.

The panel in a largely classified 350-page report concluded that if terrorists succeeded in partially draining water from a reactor spent-fuel pool an intense fire likely would release large amounts of radiation into the environment.

The panel said that neither federal regulators nor the industry have fully seen Nuclear, page 2

DENIM!

The fashion trend of the past, present and future

Get to know Ben Bruce, a star of the Mustang track and field team

Environment horticulture senior Kevin Sullivan stands in a sea of green at the Cal Poly Plant Shop.

Environmental horticulture senior Kevin Sullivan stands in a sea of green at the Cal Poly Plant Shop.

MATT WRIGHT / MUSTANG DAILY

Tomato Mania hits Cal Poly

Megan Alpers, SLO Tribune

Tomato Mania has hit the Cal Poly Plant Shop.

On Friday and Saturday, 3,909 plants representing dozens of varieties from Yellow Jelly Bean to Caspian Pink will be available for sale.

The event, run by three horticulture enterprise students, draws tomato lovers from all over the San Luis Obispo area.

"We get people that are really into it," said David Hammers, the enterprise's adviser. Hammers compared tomato fans to wine connoisseurs.

"Some people are just really into it," he said. "They have certain varieties they just have to have, and others, they just want to try out. Others want the biggest tomato in see Tomato, page 2

MATT WRIGHT / MUSTANG DAILY

Expert discusses future of alternative fuels

With oil prices at an all-time high and an increase in carbon dioxide emissions, the search for alternative fuels is on the rise.

Emily Rancer, SLO Tribune

Hydrogen cars could dominate the highways in just 50 years with the right technology, according to Maxine Savitz, an expert who spoke at an overfl RMUPlE BY THE NUMBERS

50
Hydrogen cars could dominate the highways within 50 years.

25 percent
The United States consumes about 25 percent of the world's energy resources.

$55
A barrel of oil currently costs about $55.

$105
Within 50 years, the price of a barrel of oil could reach $105.

BY THE NUMBERS

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Environm...
Tomato

continued from page 1

the neighborhood." One popular tomato has a special connection to Cal. Howard Brown, former environmental horticulturist professor and dean of the College of Agriculture, created a new variety and named it after his friend, speech communication professor Murray Smith. Appropriately, the Murray Smith tomato thrives in climates similar to San Luis Obispo's and has one of the top sellers at Tomato Mania. It has been selected for over 30 years to do well in this area," Hannings said. "It's a very nice tomato. In taste, it has beaten other varieties that have been working for months," Moreno said. "We mix our own soil," Moreno said. "It's a completely organic soil. We don't use any synthetic fertilizers or pesticides. But in order to be called organic, you have to grow for three years, so we can't use the word organically. We call our tomatoes 'naturally grown.'"

In addition to plants in gallon buckets, Tomato Mania will offer cherry tomatoes in hanging baskets. "When they bloom there will be hundreds of tomatoes," Moreno said. "It will be so beautiful in peoples' backyards because it will be a ball of tomatoes. It looks so much like something new. It's really exciting.

Every plant is $5, and rare varieties sell for $10.

"More than half of the ones we sell would not be able to get anywhere else within 100 miles as plants," Hannings said. The sale on Friday is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information about Tomato Mania, visit the poly Plant Show's Web site at www.polyplants.com or call the shop at 756-1106.

Simon

continued from page 1

Savitz said that within 50 years, the price of one barrel of oil could reach $400. Prices are currently at their highest at about $85 per barrel. "Of all you can do is participate in changing your buying habits," Savitz said. "It's also your future work force that's going to help these technologies occur.

While the United States accounts for 5 percent of the world's population, it consumes about 25 percent of the world's energy resources, Savitz said.

She said that because China's industrious sector is booming so rapidly, it will likewise increase its dependency on fuel. This in turn will cause a faster depletion of global fuel sources as well as a sharp rise in price.

Hydrogen

continued from page 1

future fuel of passenger vehicles may be hydrogen, among others.

"It is definitely an option and it should be an option," Savitz said. "But it should be not the only option.

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Calendar

continued from page 1

romantic comedy was written, pro­duced, directed and created by a team of Cal Poly students. Tickets are $20. The film explores love and life among today's Asian Americans. Set in a small California town, the film addresses the phenomenon of the "race memoir" - texts that consider less vulnerable to a terrorist attack. It also said it considers reactor spent fuel pools "well protected by physical barriers, armed guards, intrusion detection systems, area surveil­lance systems" and limits on access by workers at power plants.

After the classified document was provided to members of Congress last month, NRSC Chairman Niki Diou said in a letter that released some of the panel's assessments "unreasonable" and said that some of its conclusions "lack a solid scientific basis.

Today spent fuel is better protected than ever," Diou wrote. The "SAS panel" in its report said that spent-fuel pools, 100,000 gallons of circulating water designed to store used fuel while it is removed from the reactor, remain tempting potential targets of terrorists.

Protecting them is "a critical national security issue," said Bruce Alberstein, president of the National Academy of Sciences.

The panel of scientists found that an attack using an aircraft or high explosive could under some conditions lead to a draining of the spent-fuel pool, unleashing a high-temperature fire and release of large amounts of radiation.

It urged the NRC to require industry to take short-term measures that it said would mitigate some of the danger, including reconfiguring the position of fuel assemblies to more evenly distribute decay-heat loads and installing a water spray system to cool the fuel should the facility be damaged in an attack.

"Such measures should be imple­mented by industry," the report said.

The report said that the NRC should consider getting industry to move more of its spent fuel to dry pool storage to dry casks that are considered less vulnerable to a terrorist attack. It but stopped short of recommending such action.

Nuclear

continued from page 1

determined the vulnerabilities and consequences of such an attack and that specific role "can only be under­stood by examining ... spent fuel stor­age at each plant.

The report, a declassified version of which was released Wednesday, has been the subject of intense internal debate between panel members and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission which had opposed it in release and has called some of its recommendations unnecessary.

The agency said in a statement that it found the report "important and is giving its recommendations "serious consideration."

It also said it considers reactor spent fuel pools "well protected by physical barriers, armed guards, intrusion detection systems, area surveil­lance systems" and limits on access by workers at power plants.

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STATE NEWS

SANTA CRUZ — More than 200 anti-war protesters unhappy over military recruiters on campus disrupted a job fair at the University of California Santa Cruz. They stormed UCSC’s Stevenson Event Center Tuesday, shouting and banging on windows and demanding that military recruiters leave. The noisy bout of sit-in ended when military representatives left. The protesters were then allowed to hand out information on alternatives to military careers and agreed to a meeting with administrators to discuss future job fairs.

Campus Career Center director Barbara Feddick said the university complies with a 1995 federal law that denies federal funding to universities that bar military recruiters from campus.

Protestors said UCSC administration should follow the lead of Harvard Law School, which banned military recruiters after a federal appeals court in Philadelphia invalidated the law. The U.S. Justice Department said it will appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

LOS ANGELES — Mourners including O.J. Simpson and Michael Jackson gathered Wednesday for the funeral for famed lawyer Johnnie Cochran Jr.

The service at West Angeles Cathedral was to include remarks from the Rev. Jesse Jackson and the Rev. Al Sharpton. Jackson, whose molestation trial was in recess, walked slowly into the church with his entourage and attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. Cochran had worked with Jackson when he set a lawsuit in the 1990s.

“Johnnie fought for his clients,” Simpson told reporters outside the cathedral. The former football great was defended by Cochran in his 1994-95 murder trial.

— Associated Press

NATIONAL NEWS

CHICAGO — Awarded white supremacist Matthew Hale was sentenced to 40 years in prison Wednesday for trying to have a federal judge killed — the same judge whose husband and mother were murdered five weeks ago by a deranged man who had no connection to Hale. Hale, the 33-year-old leader of a group that praches racial holy war, was sentenced after a rambling, two-hour speech in which he claimed he was the victim and even recited part of the Star Spangled Banner. He denied no crimes and situting in the sentence was handed down.

SALT LAKE CITY — The Energy Department on Wednesday proposed to move a heap of radioactive waste away from the banks of the Colorado River.

The pile covers 130 acres near the town of Moab and consists of about 12 million tons of dirt and other waste from decades of uranium ore processing. It contains toxic chemicals and traces of uranium and other radioactive substances.

The Energy Department said it will recommend in an environmental impact statement that the waste be moved to a closed storage facility about 30 miles to the north. The department said it plans no final decision until it reviews all public comment.

TOPEKA, Kan. — Kansas

IN OTHER NEWS

MILWAUKEE — A new Ms. Wheelchair Wisconsin has been crowned after pageant leaders stripped the original winner of the title when she appeared in a newspaper photograph standing up. The announcement of the new winner Tuesday came amid a storm of protest over pageant officials’ decision last week to take the crown away from Janel Lee, a high school teacher and muscular dystrophy sufferer who uses a scooter as her main way to get around but says she can walk up to 50 feet on a good day and stand while teaching.

During the storm, the runner-up refused to accept the crown out of protest. Lee's sister, who also has muscular dystrophy and was named Ms. Wheelchair Minnesota, dropped out of the competition in that state. And the coordinator for the organization’s Minnesota program stepped down from her job to “stand up for Janel Lee.”

“I no longer feel comfortable supporting an organization that instead of working toward creating a positive change, chooses to perpetuate stereotypes and request its participants to hide their abilities while in public,” said the sister, 26-year-old Sharon Thomas Backer, Muskegon, Mich.

Ms. Wheelchair Wisconsin officials stripped Lee of the crown in a 1995-96 murder trial.

— Associated Press

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

MONACO — Prince Rainier III, who rescued Monaco and worked to overcome its reputation as “a sunnier place for shady people,” died Wednesday; leaving the throne to his son Albert II, his only son with actress Grace Kelly.

In power for 56 of his 81 years, Rainier was Europe's longest-reigning monarch and the only ruler many of Monaco’s 32,000 residents had ever known.

A venerable father-figure, he dragged Monaco into the modern age while preserving much of the Mediterranean charm and royal trappings of his tiny principality.

VATICAN CITY — Overwhelmed Italian officials said they will cut off the line of pilgrims hoping to see Pope John Paul II's body at St. Peter's Basilica on Wednesday evening as a massive line snaked down a wide boule-

card, through ancient alleyways and onto a bridge. People face a 24-hour wait as things stand, said Lucia Spoleini, a spokesman for the Civil Defense department. Officials blocked off the line starting at around 10 p.m. Wednesday, he said.

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The Iraqi parliament picked Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani, who has spent a lifetime resisting Arab domination, as the country’s new interim president Wednesday, reaching out to the country’s new interim presi-

dent Wednesday, reaching out to the nation’s long-repressed Kurdish minority and bringing the country closer to its first democrati-
cally elected government in 50 years.

Ousted members of the coun-
try's former regime — including toppled leader Saddam Hussein — watched the event on television in their prison cells, Human Rights Watch, the Unrest in Iraq was defended by Cochran in his 1994-95 murder trial.

— Associated Press
For many students, college life begins in high school

Students are progressing along the academic track faster these days, racking up more and more college units in high school.

Seniors may have already spent up to 40 percent of their high school years taking college courses, pushing their early start times to a record high.

A study released Wednesday by the National Center for Education Statistics, a federal agency, found that roughly 413,000 high school students took college courses in 2002-03 — or one in every 20 high school students.

The percentage would be even higher if the numbers were narrowed to the students in grades 11 and 12 who typically take the college courses, said Susan Scalfani, the assistant secretary for vocational and adult education at the Education Department.

These college courses — offered in high schools, on college campuses and other locations — are separate from popular Advanced Placement courses. More than 1.1 million students took AP exams in 2004, which can lead to college credit depending on how well a student performs.

The two studies reflect the first federal estimates of dual enrollment, which allows students in high schools to take courses for which they earn both college and high school credit. It is not unusual for students to have enough credits for an associate's degree by the time they end 12th grade, said Everett Robinson, the college's marketing and public relations director.

Across the country, college life isn't just for college students anymore, according to two studies released Wednesday by the National Center for Education Statistics, a federal agency.

As Robinson put it: "If the student is self-motivated and can complete the work, they're in the work force sooner and raising their families sooner, and just getting on with life."

In total, 57 percent of colleges and universities had high school students enrolled in college courses in the 2002-03 school year. Most of those students were in dual enrollment, an arrangement in which colleges and high schools agree on how and where courses are offered. Other students enroll directly with colleges if their high school has no such system in place.

In total, 57 percent of colleges and universities had high school students enrolled in college courses in the 2002-03 school year.

The studies:
- 89 percent of colleges said the curricula of the courses taken by high school students were the same as they were for regular college students; 3 percent said the courses were special­ly designed for the high school students; and 8 percent said the curricu­lum varied.
- 77 percent of high school students took college courses offered by public two-year colleges, while the rest took the classes through public or private four-year schools.
- 26 percent of college programs on high school campuses were taught by college instructors; 32 percent were taught by high school instruc­tors and 42 percent used both.
- 41 percent of colleges said high school students and parents paid part or all of the tuition for the college classes, and 19 percent said there was no charge for stu­dents and parents. The rest of the colleges reported varying amounts of payment by students and par­ents.

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UC leaders say higher education problems could damage state

State authority claims UC system isn’t producing quality math and science teachers to work in public schools

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — If economic and social challenges are allowed to degrade the quality of California’s public colleges and universities, the state is likely to lose its reputation for scientific and creative innovation, University of California President Robert Dynes said.

In a speech at San Francisco’s Commonwealth Club, Dynes said California depends on a strong university system to continue its leadership in business and technological fields. In particular, Dynes said the 19-campus University of California needs continued state support to produce the scientific and medical discoveries that have distinguished it in the past.

"I really do believe we either rise or fall together," Dynes, a former UC San Diego chancellor who took office in 2003 and in the Wednesday speech. "If the University of California becomes just another university, California becomes just another state.

Dynes said the UC system has seen a 15 percent budget cut over the past four years, while enrollment has risen 19 percent.

An agreement with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger last year guaranteed the UC and the 23-campus California State University a funding increase beginning next year, but the Legislature will have to accept the compact.

The state’s nonpartisan Legislative Analyst’s Office recommended that lawmakers ignore the agreement in the coming budget year.

Dynes said a dearth of math and science teachers in California public schools can be solved only if the UC system produces more graduates who are qualified to teach those subjects. He would like to see 1,000 graduates per year becoming science and math teachers, quadruple the 250 or so per year doing so now.

The UC system also needs to strengthen its graduate programs, which have declined in national rankings in recent years, Dynes said.

Meanwhile, a new study shows that faculty at California’s public universities are paid substantially less than faculty at comparable institutions around the country, making it increasingly difficult to find and retain faculty.

The report by the California Postsecondary Education Commission said that UC faculty salaries are paid an average of 9 percent less than at comparable universities, while faculty in the California State University system are paid an average of 13 percent less. Those disparities are projected to increase in the next several years.

The report said the average UC salaries are $76,424, compared with $80,432 this year, compared with $74,429 at 20 comparable institutions.

CSU spokeswoman Carla Peterson-Fellow said the projected gap is exaggerated, since it presumes raises at peer institutions but none in CSU. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has promised a 3 percent funding boost for raises, merit increases, health benefits and other costs at CSU and UC next year.

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Idaho: Can’t strip for art

Rebecca Boone
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOISE, Idaho — Art Night at Erotic City apparently wasn’t artistic enough.

Police raided the Boise bar Monday night for violating the city’s nudity ordinance, which requires that dancers wear at least pasties and a thong unless they are engaging in a performance with “serious artistic merit.”

The club had tried to beat the ordinance by distributing pencils and sketch pads to patrons during special twice-weekly “art nights,” and had also coordinated the event.

“IT’s actually pretty clear in the city ordinance that there are exemptions for dance and theater and artistic merits, but the law also clearly states that the exemption does not apply to adult businesses,” said police spokeswoman Lynn Hightower. “If it were an art studio and models were actually posing, that would be one thing. But these women weren’t posing. They were dancing.”

Three dancers were given misdemeanor citations Monday but were not arrested.

Erotic City is not the only club to take a creative approach to taking it all off.

“There have been cases where ladies temporarily tattooed the word, ‘vote’ on themselves and that was upheld in court as political speech,” said Angelina Spencer in Naples, Fla., national director of the North Carolina-based Association of Club Executives.

“There have been cases in Atlanta where dancers wore Shakespeare, and that was upheld as art. Any time they can raise their artistic value, I say two thumbs up.”

Erotic City owner Chris Teague has vowed to fight the citations in court. He maintains that not only does the nightclub turn into an art studio on Monday and Tuesday art nights, but that it also is a private club and thus exempt from city rules.

The only thing we’re going to be paying is our attorney,” Teague said. “We’re here to protect our Constitutional right. It’s nothing less than Communism, where are they going to say you can’t get naked in your own home?”

Teague got the idea for art nights from a student at Boise State University, who asked for permission to sketch the models nude because he could not afford the $25 per hour charge for nude models typically used in school art classes.

Indeed, Teague charges significantly less, $15 for all the sketching a patron can handle from 7 p.m. until 2 a.m. Tips for the dancers are optional. And the steady strip-club ambiance, complete with tiger-print carpet, black-curtained private rooms and a brass pole, is free.

Teague’s favorite sketches are tucked on the club’s walls.

“They can draw stick figures or they can draw the most erotic theme that they want to draw. As good or as bad as it can be, it’s still art,” he said.

Still, art night is going on hold until the matter is settled in court, Teague said.

Nationally, the line between high art, low art and nude non-art isn’t so clear, said Michelle Freidreg, executive director of the Free Speech Coalition, the Chashworth, Calif.-based trade association for the adult entertainment industry.

Download of the day

The Jacksons
“Destiny”

Long before he was a disfigured, reality-challenged King of Pop, Michael Jackson was just sweet little Mike. And no other song better captures that insanely-talented, beautiful kid better than “Destiny.” The song challenged King of Pop on trial for child molestation, Michael Jackson was just sweet little Mike. And no other song better captures that insanely-talented, beautiful kid better than “Destiny.”

The Office for Sexual Health and Violence Prevention has printed 5,000 stickers with 3,500 attached to cards that relate the visuals of 5,000 students wearing the sticker.

“We’re encouraging people to wear jeans as a statement,” Mueller said. “I know South Carolina is hot, so people might not be wearing jeans, but we thought we could certainly have the visual of 5,000 students wearing the sticker.”

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Mueller said she decided to include the university’s policy guidelines for consent on sexual sex on the backs of cards so students know what constitutes sexual assault.

Z’anne Covell
THE TIMES-NEWS

In recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the University of North Carolina’s Office for Sexual Health and Violence Prevention has launched the university’s first Denim Day Campaign.

Representatives from the office will hand out stickers with denim-like backgrounds that say, “There is no excuse and never an invitation to rape,” in front of the Russell House from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday. Juliette Mueller, program director for the office, said Denim Day is an international protest in response to the Italian Supreme Court’s overturning of a rape conviction in 1999.

An Italian woman was raped, and when the case went to trial, the jury found her assailant guilty.

“The Supreme Court overturned the ruling, saying the woman had been wearing jeans at the time, and there was no way a woman wearing jeans could have been raped because they are too difficult to take off so she had to have been willingly involved,” Mueller said.

Rachel Citron, a graduate student and intern in social work, coordinated the event.

“We need to recognize that women are raped when wearing everything from business suits to pajamas,” Citron said. “In recognizing Denim Day, we are able to help students recognize that rape is not about what a woman wears. It is about power and control.”

Mueller agrees.

“I always thought, particularly on a college campus where so many people wear jeans, that Denim Day is an amazing way to talk about this issue and this myth that we have is that it always matters what the woman is wearing,” Mueller said.

Mueller also asks students to wear jeans.

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Tiffany Dias

It is not a question of whether jeans are "in" or "out" when it comes to fashion trends. Jeans are always "in." What does change is which cut, color, and designer the fashion world labels trendy. Today, most people look to celebrities to find out cutting edge. Celebrities have singled out jean designers: Blue Cult, Hudson, James Jeans, Buffalo, Citizens for Humanity and 7 for All Mankind, which may be the hottest brand today. As quickly as trends come and go, "Sevens," have dominated the denim market for the past three years.

Sevens can be identified by their signature pockets: They sit low on the seat and have special gold embroidery. Sales for Seven jeans reached $13 million in 2001, according to 7 For All Mankind's Web site. From the quaint town of San Luis Obispo to downtown New York City, eager consumers fly to the shelves of their local clothing boutiques to find the "ultimate status" jeans.

"It's the pocket!" Megan Range, a journalism senior and Seven jeans fan. "As long as you're wearing your Sevens, you'll look decent. They are the default for every outfit. I could wear a Hanes tee and sneakers and still look great as long as I was wearing Sevens."

Because the pockets on Seven jeans are set lower on the seat to "flatter a woman's curves and hug your hips with the only style of jeans capable of granting your body such a remarkable feeling," according to Kohite, a Web-based store offering high-end denim and clothing sales. Entrepreneurs have used denim for clothing since 1873. It was then that Bavarian immigrant Levi Strauss and Nevada tailor Jacob Davis patented what has come to be the most recognized clothing staple in the world.

Although style and variety change through the years, denim jeans maintain iconic status. Cowboys in the 1930s popularized jeans, Marlon Brando made denim a staple for rebellious teenagers in the 1950s. During the 1980s fashion designers such as Calvin Klein and Armani made jeans couture amidst the bleached, frayed
 Denim

continued from page 9

The popularity of designer jeans has caused the price of denim to rise to an astronomical level. Jeans, on and off the runway, cost anywhere from $80 to hundreds of dollars.

With the growth of "jean" to a popular name, it is certain that its price, estimated retail at $210 to $230, will continue to rise.

San Luis-based Coverings, a clothing boutique, has an exclusive deal with the denim company Rodeo.

Designers are ready and waiting. The latest buzz is a husband and wife design team based in Los Angeles.

Jefry and Kym Lubell have combined rock and hip-hop styles to produce True Religion jeans and have secured a spot on the runway. Jeans, on and off the runway, hundreds of dollars.

"The denim craze is all over the world, and we are willing to pay a lot of money for jeans," said De Las Posas, salesperson for Therapy in downtown San Luis Obispo.

Other boutiques are looking for the "next" "jean". Downtown boutiques, such as several denim designers such as Hudson, Sergio Valente, J and Company and Buffalo.

The durability of the garment is a factor that appeals to designers and buyers alike.

"It's because of the fit. They just make women look good," said Maddex, who has worked at Coverings a female saleswoman.

But each film also received either NC-17 rating or went unrated by the Motion Picture Association of America. The MPAA must be held partially responsible for the continuing propaganda of inequality of the sexes. When a film like "The Dreamers" was released on DVD in the United States, an R-rated version of the film must be made to accommodate video merchants who do not carry NC-17 or unrated films.

"The Dreamers," a film directed by Bernardo Bertolucci ("Last Tango in Paris") is about an American film student (Michael Pitt) who goes to Paris for a film festival. While there, he meets a painter and summer who share a common love for film and a complicated sexual relationship with one another. The American boy finds himself getting tangled up in their sexual web.

The same goes for films like "Young Adam," "Y tu Mamá También" and many other NC-17-rated films. The penis needs to be cut get the R-rating.

My question: Why is the penis such a sacred and scary thing in Hollywood? Because sexism is still alive and well in the movies, male actors are held to a higher standard and producers never hesitate to cut to male audiences.

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Seniors: Embrace life's uncertainties

It seems a rite of passage for college seniors to experience the anxiety of uncertainty as we transition into the "real world." And the nervousness of determining one's self-worth coupled by existential meandering seems to make seniors, well, insane.

I was recently humbled by my mental condition at a newspaper business conference in New Orleans last week. As industry professionals lectured about the future of the news business, and boasted the success of their careers, I couldn't help but feel terrified already from a job I never had, and stressed by the freedom of choice and responsibility for the unforeseen consequences of my actions taken as I pursue my career.

And as the masses of humanity poured out onto Bourbon Street to drink and party away the stresses of the "real world," I felt isolated in a hostile and indifferent universe, unable to cope with the idea that I will be leaving my structured life at the university and entering a world of chaos.

Much to my surprise, I am not alone in this state of mind. Many close friends graduating this year have voiced their anxiety and fear about an indeterminate future in an evolving and everchanging world, where certainty seems hard to grasp.

But little do seniors realize that we are simply inheriting a tradition of mental stress induced by shifting into the next stage of life. "Anxiety (during a transition into life) is normal and healthy," said Teresa M. George, psychologist and head of counseling services at Cal Poly.

"Having a 'normal' life isn't real.""Reaching the pinnacle of our college careers and jumping into life's unknown abyss is frightening, and is a coming of age that every generation must face. George said that seniors who are anxious or dreadful about entering the work force usually had the same fears as seniors in high school about entering the university environment.

But while past generations argue that "The Graduate" complex is a normality, the current generation faces many new and consolidated challenges. The structure of American society and business is changing, forcing young people to rely on their independence to succeed rather than follow the blueprints of traditional, societal demands.

The days of marriage right after college are fading, as an increasing amount of people are waiting until they're older and more financially stable to handle long-term relationships. And as the business environment continues to evolve into a global economy, long-term job security for some industries continues to fade as outsourcing becomes a reality.

However, this "lack of structure" might be beneficial to this generation so that they can enable themselves to harness their full potential without being inhibited by any conventional expectations.

My best friend Jessica Horton, a political science senior at UC San Diego, came to this realization while studying abroad in Australia. She said that most Australians are expected to stay in one place while transitioning from education to the work force. This community structure might establish a comfort zone, but the unintended consequences are that these individuals are possibly denying themselves the possibility to develop and embrace their potential.

So as graduating seniors look out into the world and become anxious at the thought of finding meaning in the chaotic abyss, we must embrace our fears and uncertainties and take advantage of freedom. In the words of Frou Frou: "So let go. jump in/Oh well what's waiting for?/It's alright, cause there's Beauty in the Breakdown."

For what more is there to life than to harness one's potential?

Carrie McGourty is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily columnist. E-mail her at cmcgourty@calpoly.edu

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2005 Mustang Daily • Vol. LXVIII, No. 93

April 7, 2005

EDITORIAL

DO BETTER?

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EDITORIAL

DO BETTER?

THINK YOU CAN
Sky-gazers await partial solar eclipse on Friday

Last U.S. solar eclipse for seven years

The partial solar eclipse Friday will be the last one visible from the continental United States until May 20, 2012. Solar eclipses occur when the moon passes between the Earth and sun, casting a shadow over the planet.

It will be a partial eclipse rather than a total one, in which the Earth is cast into darkness, but it will be the last partial solar eclipse visible from the continental United States until May 20, 2012.

Solar eclipses occur when the Earth, sun and moon line up in such a way that the moon casts a shadow over Earth. Friday's eclipse will last from a few minutes to over an hour, depending on one's location.

In much of the continental United States, people will see what looks like the moon taking a bite out of the sun, with the bite bigger in the southern part of South America and extending across the United States until May 20, 2012.

The maximum eclipse visible from the continental United States will be in Miami, where nearly half of the sun's diameter will be covered at 6:20 p.m. EDT.

For a while, the sun will be blocked completely as the eclipse moves across the open Pacific, but it will be visible only to people at sea.

The next total eclipse will be Oct. 3, crossing the Iberian Peninsula to Africa.

Alicia Chang
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Sky-watchers from the South Pacific to South America will witness the first solar eclipse of 2005 Friday when the moon blot out part of the sun.

The partial eclipse will be the last one visible from the continental United States until May 20, 2012. Solar eclipses occur when the moon passes between the Earth and sun, casting a shadow over the planet.
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Hively continued from page 16
With the team winning a lot more this year and putting up a lot more runs, watching from the dugout has been hard for Hively. "It's hard just because I'm used to playing all the time and I'm so sorry that I want to be out there, especially when we're down," Hively said.

Hively added that her team looks great this year and she's more than happy just to be a part of the experience.

As far as the injury goes, Hively says that her shoulder is sore, but she will continue to do rehab and will be ready to go if she needed and healthy.

No one is quite sure how Hively sustained the injury but she said it's from years of wear and tear.

Bruce continued from page 10
Unfortunately, Bruce was not fully healed by the time the Summer Olympic Trials rolled around and she finished last in the steeplechase with a time of 8:57.64, a time that would win most college races. Coming off of an elbow injury and a leg injury, Bruce said she went to Sacramento for the experience but she was disappointed.

"It was disappointing, but I know that I'm better than that, and I'll be back," Bruce said. Bruce plans to try to qualify at the 2008 Olympics trials by continuing to train and work hard.

Keeping the focus
Being a good runner is more than just running well on the track, Bruce said. "I have to make sure that I eat healthy, I have to take care of my body, I have to make sure that I'm always in the best shape."

Bruce has recently started a career program and has aspirations of being a teacher and a coach. "If your going to be a runner, it's important to know about the body."

Bruce says that his major gives him an advantage in his sport because knowledge about how the body helps you perform on the track.

"It's serious about his studies," Crawford said.

Between his studies and his commitment to training, one might wonder what the guy does for fun. Sports, of course, Bruce said he's been playing basketball his whole life and enjoys playing on his sports. An occasional game of poker draws his interest as well.

But for now, Bruce doesn't have time for games. Training is what is important at the moment, as he has already qualified in three events for the NCAA West Regional held in Eugene, Ore. on May 27 and 28. With his team in the heart of their season, his focus is on its upcoming races.
Seemingly, in a training session, Billiam would forgive her coach. Consider returning to the volleyball showcase. In the spring, Billiam's gator. She told me repeatedly she'd take the available scholarship right before her surgery. Billiam had been a star for Cal Poly, but Billiam played some beach volleyball and got a job as a receptionist for a local prison investigator. She told me repeatedly she'd consider returning to the volleyball team if there was a coaching change and she was offered a scholarship. After Schlick resigned in February and Jon Stevenson was hired, I hoped for Billiam. Her return wasn't certain.

Bruce had a tough season last year. For Bruce, breaking a record that is new to Bruce. Bruce shattered the 2004 steeplechase. The steeplechase is 3,000 meters and has hurdles and water. It's considered one of the toughest events in track and field. With his personal best time of 8:33:70, Bruce has put himself amongst the elite in the nation. Since being at Cal Poly and under the training regimens of Conover, Bruce has improved his times in both the 3,000m steeplechase and the 5,000m race drastically. When Bruce won the state junior college steeplechase, he finished with a time of 13:40. That time has improved to 8:33:70. His best time in the 5,000m was a 14:45:15 and now he's down to 13:40.

Bruce has improved his times in the both the 5,000-meter and 3,000-meter steeplechase by leaps and bounds. "The team is feeding off of him and vice versa," Conover said. "The whole distance group is running personal-best times." Crawford says that Bruce is one of the most courageous and dedicated athletes that she has worked with.

Most people run away from the steeplechase, one of the most difficult track and field events, but Billiam has made it his strongest event. Bruce embraced it. "It's a hard event," Bruce said. "But I like that because not many people can run it well."