**Students rally for diversity**

To display the lack of diversity at Cal Poly, the Progressive Student Alliance had three speakers talk at Dexter Lawn on Thursday.

Tonya Strickland

Matt Sutter pointed to the people on Dexter Lawn Thursday morning.

Their activities were normal in the test reading books, talking to friends and napping in the sun. And for Cal Poly, something else was normal, almost everyone on Dexter was white.

Sutter, co-director of the Progressive Student Alliance and history junior, commented how everyone looked the same, then gave a microphone to three speakers.

In an attempt to vinicate a long-term dialogue about the lack of diversity on campus, he invited the speakers to the lounging students.

Patrick Germany, 45 of San Diego, was the third annual “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” event will be Saturday. The SARP center supplies women’s shoes for men that want to participate.

**Walk a mile to support rape prevention**

The third annual “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” is asking for donations because of recent funding cuts.

Amanda Stratton

Rape prevention will take on a new face this weekend as men walk to protest violence against women.

The Sexual Assault Recovery and Prevention Center of San Luis Obispo county will host in third annual “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes. Men’s March to Stop Rape” on Saturday.

The event asks men to literally walk in women’s shoes. Although wearing women’s shoes is not required to participate, the SARP center will provide shoes in all sizes for anyone who is willing.

“The goal is to bring the community together in a humorous way and use that to get people talking about this issue,” said Natasha Tosa, SARP center volunteer and journalism senior. The event focuses on men but women and children are also welcome to participate in the fundraiser.

“All over the nation, rape crisis centers are coming together to try to increase the involvement of men,” Tosa said. “We need both genders working together.”

The event focuses on men, not as perpetrators but as third-party vic­tims to violent crimes against women.

“We are talking to the many men who are good guys, who believe that women have a right to feel safe, and don’t like that the women in their lives can’t trust them because of things that happened in the past,” executive director of the SARP center Jenny Adams said.

The walk has taken place over the past two years to raise awareness about the issue, but this year there will be a $20 fee to participate. The fee will provide lunch along with five raffle tickets good for a number of prizes.

Registration will begin at 10:30 a.m. See Walks, page 2

**Remember week begins today**

In honor of sexual assault survivors, the Cal Poly Women’s Center will host a series of events and speakers this week.

Caitlin Donnell

One in four women and one in six men will experience sexual assault and, in many cases in four years will be the survivor of a sexual assault during their academic career, according to national statistics provided by the Cal Poly Women’s Center.

In honor of survivors of sexual assault, the Cal Poly Women’s Center is holding its seventh annual Remember Week today through April 29.

Remember Week started in 1994 to create awareness and remember the lives of survivors of sexual assault and violence, especially dedicated to five women: Kristen Smart, Rachel Newhouse, Amanda Crawford, Kristen Hogin and Eric Pueschel.

“Remember Week started to remember those girls and all other survivors and victims of sexual assault and violence,” said Beth Swanson, psychology junior and Women’s Center Remember Week coordinator. “It has grown into a week that raises awareness and promotes education about these issues and crimes of sexual assault and to get the point out that San Luis Obispo is a nice, safe town but you still have to think about these issues and be smart and aware.”

There will be a memorial in the downtown mission plaza to kick off the week’s many events, including “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes,” an evening of prayer in Mitchell Park, an event to remember 1, an event to promote awareness, and don’t like that the women in their lives can’t trust them because of things that happened in the past,” executive director of the SARP center Jenny Adams said.

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**Cal Poly to celebrate Earth Day**

The agriculture, engineering, business and architecture departments will host Earth Day demonstrations today.

Thao Tran

Edible plates, solar powered cars, organic vegetables and many other alternative technologies and products will be the focus of sustainability and conservation week, from today to April 30.

“The purpose of Earth Day at Cal Poly is to move forward in the long term agenda for making Cal Poly a leader in education for sustainability,” coordinator and English professor Steven Marx said.

The Earth Day events will lack off with demonstrations from the depart­ments of agriculture, business, engineering and architecture. The displays include information booths on solar houses, bio-diesel fuel and land management projects.

Organic farm products and fair trade chocolates will also be available for sampling.

Together, students, faculty and community members plan to promote green awareness and environmental sustainability to students and the community.

“Our planet’s survival, our children’s survival and our own depends on developing technologies that address this,” Marx said.

Earth Day at Cal Poly originated from the Tallahassee Declaration, which commits Cal Poly to pursuing environmental sustainability.

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Diversity
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ogy," Sutter said. "There’s something about this area that presents a barrier toward diversity and we are here to start discussing why that is.

Although the diversity event was promoted with on-campus posters, most of its audience, roughly forty people, continued to read or talk during the speeches so some might say the event was unexpected. One student said she just sat on the lawn to study and suddenly someone started talking on a microphone.

"It was an effective approach to have speakers in this area because you reach students who aren’t spending UU Hour in the University Union," modern languages and literature sophomore Lindsey Goldberg said.

Germany spoke because a black he said is currently experiencing discrimination throughout San Luis Obispo.

"There’s a lot of prejudice when it comes to solving the needs of the people in this county," he said.

Germany also said he was assaulted while riding his bike in Arroyo Grande six years ago when he moved into the area.

"I got mashed on for the color of my skin," he said. "That was my first impression of this area and I knew from then on I’d be experiencing problems here.

Germany is currently involved in the Sharing the Dream organization to promote civil rights within the community.

Courtney Dahl, co-director of PSA and social science senior said starting dialogues is an essential part of the educational process.

"Hearing different perspectives gives us a more accurate makeup of our country," she said. "If you don’t have diverse people to talk to about cultural backgrounds and heritage then misconceptions begin to form and we don’t have chance to open our minds and break down stereotypes.

Dahl said she grew up in a rural and racially homogenous town and was excited to break free from that environment and attend Cal Poly.

"When I got here I was really disappointed because there were hardly any minorities and now I feel there is this gap in my education," she said.

In Sims’ speech he said that diversity was not just an issue about people and their ethnicity but also about religion, sexuality and economical status.

"Caring about people unlike you is a big step toward learning to live together in peace," he said.

Cal Poly currently has 166 black students enrolled according to the 2004 Cal Poly fact book. Sims said he finds this figure shocking.

"With 17,000 students here, that number is really crazy," he said. "I think people should be really shocked by that number but in reality, I don’t think they actually are.

In addition to the black representation at Cal Poly, 11.3 percent of the student body is Asian, 6.7 percent is of Mexican descent, 0.8 percent is Native American, and 62.7 percent is white.

Bosilla said these numbers don’t represent the population and that the university needs to push for better outreach programs for unrepresented students.

Walk
continued from page 1

a.m. and the walk will begin at noon at Mitchell Park on the corner of Pismo and Oceano streets.

Students and community members can also help by providing donations to the center. The center is expecting a large cut in its budget this year.

"Two of our main sources of grants have been cut," Adams said. "The violence against women act is up for reauthorization this year and we are not sure what will happen with that. Then the grant from the Victims of Crime Act is changing the way funds are distributed.

Remember
continued from page 1

Palo, psychology senior, women’s studies minor and Women’s Center Remember Week coordinator. "We are trying to raise awareness and education and to get voices out there.

This is an issue that needs attention."Last year, more than 300 runners turned out for the Run 2 Remember, in which runners are welcome to join together to run a 5k fun run that gives women a chance to run safely at night. The concluding event for the week will be the international event Take Back the Night, a night of entertainment, education, awareness and empowerment. This event, it will be held in the downtown Mission Plaza and will include an all women alternative band, Mad Bath, a drum circle, poets, food and art activities.

"I hope that through these events, we will remind students that this crime affects them and everyone around them and that we will always remember these girls and every other survivor," Bowman said. "I also hope that people take the self-defense class and come to events like Take Back the Night to feel empowered and to see other women celebrating themselves and sharing their stories together." The Women’s Center created a program called SAFER (Sexual Assault Free Environment Region) that mainly speaks to the residential halls as well as SAFE organizations. It was created this year to get clubs, fraternities, sororities and other organizations on campus to become involved in attending events during Remember Week and to bring awareness and education to those about sexual assault and violence.

All events, except for the self-defense class that is offered only to women, are open to the community and students. For more information about the events during Remember Week visit the Women’s Center in the Student Life and Leadership offices in the Cal Poly University Union.

Earth
continued from page 1

pledge signed by President Baker. The declaration commits to practicing, improving and teaching methods of sustainable resource use and environmental protection.

More than 300 university chancellor, deans and presidents signed the declaration to support environmentally safe technologies and buildings.

Chair of the Sustainability Committee Hamas Greenwald said the committee maintains awareness and activism on campus but working with students and faculty that share environmentalism as a common interest.

"I think it’s important for other people to know who is involved, and who will make us more productive and effective in expanding the knowledge," Greenwald said.

Students are already planning for next year’s events and displays.

"This is a process that lasts five years and is gaining momentum every year," Marx said.

The SARP center provides a number of services including a 24-hour rape crisis line, counseling, accommodation services and self-defense classes.

For more information contact the SARP center at (805) 545-8888 or visit www.sarpcol.org.

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For Passover, one man offers ‘kosher gospel,’ Jewish diversity

Five non-Jewish young men from Sudan, orphaned when their parents were killed in that African nation’s civil war, performed the music of their “exodus” for an audience celebrating the flight of the Jews that is at the heart of Passover.

Then Nelson took a turn, singing “Mi Chamocha”—meaning in Hebrew, “Who is like you, God?” He inspired people to clap and dance to his a cappella mix of spiritual tunes, Motown and Jewish hymns, his rich voice equally at ease in a cantorial style and in hard-driving gospel. “I let people know it’s all right to enjoy, to put their whole bodies into it,” he said.

Winfrey’s mother met Nelson four years ago, through a mutual friend, and was so dazzled by his high-octane delivery that she introduced him to her daughter — after serving him the Southern collard green recipe Nelson is making for Passover (with red hot pepper, minus the ham hocks).

Last fall, Nelson appeared on “Oprah,” with the show’s host joking that he doesn’t sing “Oh Happy Day,” but “Oy Happy Day.” He’s been on programs with Wynton Marsalis, Aretha Franklin and the late jazz great Cab Calloway and Dizzy Gillespie.

He’s sung at the Globe Arena in Stockholm for a crowd of 30,000. New York’s Lincoln Center Jazz Festival and in Senegal, Africa, for President Clinton, Corena King and an audience of 10,000 marking the Votors Rights Act of 1965.

It was the sound of Jackson’s recorded voice that first seduced Nelson when he was 8. Living in Brooklyn with his five siblings, their father worked as a truck driver, and their mother was a nurse.

While attending Hebrew University in Jerusalem, he started blending Hebrew texts with gospel melodies — or arranging Jewish hymns in gospel style, resulting in solo CDs like “Hebrew Soul.”

“Being Jewish is not a race — it’s a culture and a religion,” says Nelson, who believes the earliest Jews were “dark-skinned Semites, speaking a language indigenous to Africa.”

Nelson says he resonates with the suggestion that “we need to come back to our faith,” as one black minister put it.

“I told him, ‘It’s weird the way black Christians look at us as a sort of straggler. We’re off the beat, you didn’t come off the boat Christians. Your faith was given to you by a slavemaster.’"
Elizabeth Engelmann

Foreign films have a way of scar­
ing people into not watching them. Maybe it's the subtitles (reading during a movie) or that the actors are unfamiliar.

These minor details need to be overlooked because foreign films can give amazing insight into diff­
erent cultures, and in the past decade some of the best movies in the world have not come from Hollywood but from Germany, Mexico and the list goes on. So for those will­ing to read along with a movie for a few hours, here are the top four foreign films to watch.

... The German film is Lola. Remember, it came out in 1998 and is one of the most powerful, influential and mov­
ies to date.

If you want to ease yourself into reading subtitles, this is the movie to watch. There is little dialogue and most of it can be figured out by just watching all the action on screen.

Lola (Francia Petrone) must find a way to get her boyfriend, Mannu (Maurizio Bifilro) a large amount of money in 29 minutes or he would be killed. The film shows how one small decision can change the lives of so many people.

Throughout the film Lola literally runs into different peo­
ples and their lives are displayed on screen. This movie keeps jaws ilropping and eyes alert at every turn Lola takes on her journey.

... Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon

This movie came to the United States from China in 2000 and blew all competition out of the water. This movie could be called a martial arts mas­

terpiece but it's almost too cutting short. The story revolves around a warrior who decides to turn in a knife he knows must be found. He is joined in his quest by his unrequited love.

As different storylines run together the amazing battles on rooftops, in trees and while floating over lakes make this movie breathtaking.

... Run Lola Run

The original title of this German film is Lola. Remember, it was mobbed by fans.

... You mamma tambien

What would it be like to watch a road trip for two male high school graduates who just graduated high school without alcohol, sex and in an older woman? This Mexican film is one of the best coming-­

of-age films in quite some time. Tenoch (Diego Luna of Dirty Dancing Havana Nights fame) and his best friend Julio ( Gael Garcia Bernal) decide to go on a trip after their girlfriend leaves them for the summer.

They meet much older Luisa (Maribel Verdú) at a wedding and tell a story of a secret beach, Bosa del Cielo, to where they are planning a trip to. It ends up being a trip on which everything goes wrong.

The char­
acters have a m a r i n g depth and with every mile they drive, their friendship slowly starts to unravel. For more information on foreign films go to www.smh.com.

**Kings of Leon raising hell on U2 tour**

Greg Riding

**WEST HOLLYWOOD** — Without a call to our own, the Followill brothers spent months of their childhood on the road traveling with their father, a Pentecostal minis­
ter, and their mother, a church pianist with their father, a Pentecostal minis­
ter. As different storylines run through the film Lola, everything goes wrong.

After their parents divorced and grew facial hair to cover their fetch­


cid, it was then that the brothers were in their late teens that the Velvet Underground, the Pixies and others helped change their outlook on music.

While most kids would reject their parents for their strict discipline, the Followills believe it enriched their lives.

"It almost makes me glad that we grew up the way we did, sheltered from all of pop culture," lead singer Caleb Followill said. "I think the fact that we didn't get to experience those things until later in life made them more precious."

After their parents divorced and their father left the ministry in 1997, the band of siblings went down the wicked path. They were soon

exposed to the trappings of being young, good-looking and talented.

The music industry took notice of their talent and RCA signed the band in 2002. Kings of Leon cut their first­

song EP and released in its first album aptly named "Youth and Young Hoodoo" in 2003.

Often called the "Los Angeles Kings of garage rock with Southern influ­
ces, the band is hard to affix a label on.

"We don't know what we are yet," Caleb Followill said. "We know what

the third album is probably going to sound like ... but that doesn't mean it necessarily relates to anything we've done before."

Most fans and critics agree that Kings of Leon is best served live. Forget about singing along, Caleb Followill's vocals are incomprehensible.

The band's strength lies in its seamless flow, a looping bassline, the rhythmic drumming of drums and the screamed harmonies.

But to get to the next level, the band knows it needs the exposure. While they have been hesitant to embrace the mainstream (they once grew facial hair to cover their fetching images and they claim to have passed on the first iPod commercial), Volkswagen recently began airing

a commercial with their song "Molly's Chambers" blaring in the back.

"We have a garage full of tours now," Nathan Followill lamented.

"Honestly, I think when we're 30 or 40, we'll look back at some of the stuff we turned down and we'll kick ourselves in the butt." After they wrap up the first leg of U2's tour in late May, Kings of Leon will take to the clubs for a couple of summer festivals and then will return stateside to tour college cam­

pus and activist shows.

And they're glad they are taking the world together as a family.

"We want to meet every challenge put up to us. We see the downsides and want to magnify them, so the next time you see us we will be even tighter and better," Caleb Followill said. "We're not scared of anything."
Steroids: Not worth the dangerous effects

A baseball season swings around the corner there is much controversy surrounding the use of anabolic steroids by key players (ahem, Bonds). Certain other not-so-key players have recently been nabbed as well. In the wake of last week's banned player McSorely's 10 day suspension for violating the league's drug policy, they have not officially changed him with illegal use of steroids. Still, he finds the need to deny the allegations, stating that he's only used over the counter vitamin and mineral supplements. Perhaps he confuses Barry's magical flaxseed oil considered an illegal drug in the United States.

Sound abuse of anabolic steroids can lead to serious health problems, some irreversible. First of all, anabolic-steroid users are considered a drug that abuses it. The National Institute of Health, 2 percent of the nation's eighth graders and nearly 4 percent of 12th graders have used steroids.

Although these percentages seem modest, the numbers are probably even higher within and at student athletes alone. As appealing as a buff body may sound, abuse of anabolic steroids can actually lead to serious health problems, some irreversible.

The NIH states that anabolic-androgenic steroids are man-made substances related to male sex hormones. The term "anabolic" refers to muscle building and "androgenic" refers to increased masculine characteristics, both common effects when taking these types of steroids.

However, the more serious side effects of abusing anabolic steroids can include liver tumors and cancer, jaundice (yellowish pigmentation of skin), fluid retention, high blood pressure, increases in LDL (bad) cholesterol and decreases in HDL (good) cholesterol. Other side effects include kidney tumors, severe acne and trembling. In the NIH, the list goes down gender-specific side effects of steroid use:

- **Males**: shrinking of the testicles, reduced sperm count, infertility, baldness, increased hair growth and increased risk for prostate cancer.
- **Females**: growth of facial hair, male-pattern baldness, changes or cessation of the menstrual cycle, enlargement of the clitoris and decreased voice.

Androgenic effects can also result from anabolic steroid abuse. According to the NIH, many users report extreme mood swings, including manic-like symptoms leading to violent behavior. Researchers also report that users may suffer from paranoia, jealousy, extreme irritability, delusions and impaired judgment stemming from feelings of invincibility.

Some users turn to other drugs to alleviate some of the negative effects. For example, a 1999 study of 127 non-student users revealed that 75 percent of users for dependence on heroin or other opioids, found that 9.3 percent had abused anabolic steroids to counteract withdrawal effects of an illicit drug. Furthermore, 9.3 percent, 86 percent first used steroids to counteract insomnia and irritability resulting from the anabolic steroid use.

Obviously, the consequences of steroid use are greatly outweigh the minor physical advantages. If your swing really requires you to get ahead, maybe you should find a different sport. For more information on anabolic steroids, check out www.medlineplus.gov or just ask Barry Bonds. Stay well and have Wilson while you're reading.

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Your health surviving the college years**

The rich are doing OK, but the poor are still not. I hope that the bridges Matt Bushman builds over to the Rich have more support than his arguments. In his call to continue to reject the idea of redistribution of wealth, he neglects the fact that "redistribution" only exists on paper. The 1 percent of citizens that pay over 37 percent of taxes also happen to own 38 percent of the wealth in the United States.

Matt should also look into all the studies on distribution of wealth, where he might find that more redistribution is something that happens to children, parents and rich people. I have more faith in Matt's idea. I wonder what the dad in Matt's story would say to his daughter. I wonder if some parent's roommate got a 4.0 despite everything, just because her dad was a college dean. All of a sudden this "competition" thing is not so fair because some people have an inherent advantage.

Competition that Matt lauds so much that could have even less semblance of equal opportunity is present. The non-existing redistribution of wealth might be the answer to the problems of the poor today; but the system as it exists right now produces only for rich to stay rich and poor to stay poor.

Mikol Vorosmos
Editorial and opinion page

Wealthy should support the society that protects them. In response to "No Way! I can't afford that" on Monday, you write about such a complex subject in such simplistic terms. There is much more to the story of wealth than you portray. It was not a matter of hard work to get ahead, then when we sit in college classrooms while some people work all day in the sun and pick crops, crap is shipped to us because we work harder than they do? No. It's because of our parents.

Humans are the only creatures on earth who pass on wealth to their children, which is why we are in college and not working in the field. If hard work should be rewarded and not punished, then Republicans should cut taxes to people who are working multiple jobs, instead of Bush's tax cut to the wealthiest 1 percent.

Your comparison of grades to income is equally simplistic. Just because the rich can succeed in school doesn't mean they're getting "2.0's" in real life. Do Republicans actually believe that their success in life is their own doing, and that they owe none of it to the society in which they live? What about the soldiers protecting America? Are Republicans saying that they would not have any wealth if all their property was destroyed in a war?

The rich are protected and supported by their fellow countrymen and that's why they can be more open to redistribution of wealth. No one lives in a bubble. Nick Mandich

**Embryo cannot sustain life, so why should it have rights?**

In a world so focused on whether or not abortion is legal, it is hard to think about anything but embryonic rights. There is an assumption that an embryo has certain rights, but how is this possible? The embryo may be a living creature but it is dependent on the mother for life. Can it have its own rights?

Those who think abortion is wrong believe that the embryo deserves to live, but why? The embryo cannot sustain life on its own, so why does anyone have a say in the matter anyway? The only person who has a say in the matter is the mother. It is the mother who must give the embryo nourishment, and should therefore be the one who controls the embryo. If it is a fact as right because it is inside the mother of the embryo.

Embryonic rights are essentially non-existent. Unless a mother chooses to somehow give her embryo nourishment, the embryo does not have any rights. Embryonic rights have become such an issue, but I have yet to see a clear cut of the rights and an explanation as to why something that cannot sustain life on its own deserves these rights.

Lindsey Karin

Architectural engineering sophomore

**LETTER POLICY**

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From Right Field with Mustang Daily columnist Matt Bushman

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Embryo cannot sustain life, so why should it have rights?

In a world so focused on whether or not abortion is legal, it is hard to think about anything but embryonic rights. There is an assumption that an embryo has certain rights, but how is this possible? The embryo may be a living creature but it is dependent on the mother for life. Can it have its own rights?

Those who think abortion is wrong believe that the embryo deserves to live, but why? The embryo cannot sustain life on its own, so why does anyone have a say in the matter anyway? The only person who has a say in the matter is the mother. It is the mother who must give the embryo nourishment, and should therefore be the one who controls the embryo. If it is a fact as right because it is inside the mother of the embryo.

Embryonic rights are essentially non-existent. Unless a mother chooses to somehow give her embryo nourishment, the embryo does not have any rights. Embryonic rights have become such an issue, but I have yet to see a clear cut of the rights and an explanation as to why something that cannot sustain life on its own deserves these rights.

Lindsey Karin

Architectural engineering sophomore

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From Right Field with Mustang Daily columnist Matt Bushman
Buccola, continued from page 8
letters, I had a team to root for an
athletic director!"

Buccola, a promising achievement,
though is most certainly the Cal Poly
Hall of Fame. He was intimately
involved with forming it and was a
charter member in 1987 when it opened.

"There had been discussion on
campus to honor athletes that were
successful," Buccola said. "The presi-
dent established a committee and I
was chair of that committee. It was
great to be able to formulate an
award to honor athletes that succeeded
and it was really exciting to be involved
in something like that.

"He was also very grateful to have
been inducted into the very Hall of
Fame," Buccola said. "It was a
humble experience and I was proud
to be apart of Cal Poly. I was in some
great company. None of this would
have been possible without other stu-
dent athletes I had competed with in
1953, like Alex Bravo (and) Stan
Sheriff.

"Because of people like that I had
success not only as an athlete but as an
administrator as well."

His attitude of humility is what
helped Buccola become a successful
athlete and an administrator, one that
left his stamp on Cal Poly for years to
come.

\[ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE\]

\[ACROSS\]
1. Rafflesia
2. 32. Take a bow?
3. Nonsensive
4. Rigging supports
5. 41. Hardly

\[DOWN\]
1. They got back on the road in 1958
2. Unevengry
3. 44. Star of something big?
4. 46. One of 300 in the length of Noah's ark
5. 47. Volcanic

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Friday, April 22, 2005

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Beck has a chance to make Mustang history

Erick Smith | MATT WECHTER | BELL PHOTO

The New England Patriots, Green Bay Packers and Oakland Raiders have shown interest in Jordan Beck.

Among the teams who have expressed potential interest in the linebacker are: the Kansas City Chiefs, New England Patriots, Green Bay Packers and the Oakland Raiders.

Beck said he would not be selective about which team chose him, although if he had the choice he said he would like to play for the Patriots because of their current success.

Of the Cal Poly players drafted by NFL clubs, the earliest selection has been the fourth round when wide receiver Jimmy Childs was drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals in 1978. Wide receiver Robbie Martin was picked by the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1981.

Buccola celebrates golden Mustang career

Brian J. Lambdin | MATT WECHEr

Vic Buccola has done a lot for Cal Poly athletics, for nearly 50 years as both a player and an administrator.

And through it all, from his playing days as a Mustang, to his tenure as athletic director to his crowning achievement of helping found the Cal Poly Hall of Fame, Buccola has worked not only for himself but for the good of others as well.

It’s funny to think that long ago Buccola was just a football player growing up in Alhambra. He did attempt to go out for high school basketball, too, but had to quit after getting a job at a grocery store.

And so he came to Cal Poly on an athletic scholarship in 1953, only playing football at first. He majored in mechanical engineering, then physical education and eventually graduated in 1956 and received his masters in physical education from Cal Poly in 1957.

But, while he attended Cal Poly, Buccola became a three-sport athlete. He played linebacker and guard on the football team, competed for the track team in the 100-meter, 220-meter, 440-meter and mile relay races and also boxed.

“I decided to go out for track in my third year to get my speed up and in my senior year of football I broke my leg in the third game,” Buccola said. “I took up boxing, which at the time was a club sport, because the coach asked me to go out and it allowed me to continue in athletics, just like the physical education major did.”

Buccola was apart of what arguably can be called the greatest football team ever at Cal Poly. That team went undefeated in 1953 and beat Fresno State 26-6. The Mustangs were also the highest-scoring team in the nation, though they ultimately weren’t invited to a bowl game.

“We had a motto on that team and it was all for one and one for all,” Buccola said.

Buccola also was a student during an important day in Cal Poly history. When female students were finally allowed to attend the school in 1956.

I was fortunate to be here because I met my wife of 47 years,” Buccola said. “There was great anticipation that day, it was different to walk on campus and see the women.”

Upon graduating, Buccola played football with the Saskatchewan Roughriders for one and a half months before getting injured.

He returned to Cal Poly to finish his master’s degree. Thereafter, he moved to Southern California to substitute teach and then took a job in 1965 as an assistant football coach and track coach at his old high school.

But once more, he couldn’t stay away from Cal Poly. He returned in 1962 as the coach for the freshman football and the men’s gymnastics teams. Though he again would leave—this time in 1968 to earn his doctorate degree—he would returned to Cal Poly within five years in a greater role.

The year was 1973, the position of athletic director had opened up, and Buccola wanted to get back into sports. He applied for the job.

“My goal at the time was to be a professional football coach,” Buccola said, “and this job allowed me to get involved in athletics again.”

Athletic director was from 1973 to 1981, while he also taught classes at Cal Poly. During the past five years of his administration, Cal Poly was ranked first or second nationally in the annual study comparing the overall success of Division II men’s athletics programs.

Later, Buccola helped found and was commissioner of the America West Football Conference and before that from 1982-1983 he was the commissioner of the Western Football Conference.

“I was just one of the people involved in forming that conference,” Buccola said. “I helped formulate the bylaws and it was the president along with the presidents of the other universities.”

Buccola said “Both jobs, commissioner and athletic director, had positives.”

“The commissioner job was part-time because we didn’t have enough time involved. As a commissioner I enjoyed the interaction with the 11 schools of the conference. As athletic director, I enjoyed the interaction with coaches and athletics directors.”

See Buccola, page 7