New abroad opportunity sends agriculture students to Finland

Brigette Barbosa AUGUST 2006

Cal Poly's College of Agriculture and Finnish Polytechnic University officials finalized an agreement to set up an exchange program between the colleges.

College of Agriculture Dean David Wehner and officials from Seinajoki Polytechnic finished signing a Memorandum of Understanding last week that will send Cal Poly faculty and students to Finland for research and development projects as well as internships focused on agriculture.

Natural resources management department head and professor Doug Piirto said he will be lecturing forestry classes, helping with the development of new forestry graduate programs and working on new research projects regarding biofuels during his stay.

"Biofuels focus fits into my forestry background. It's about extending the use of our forest products as well as internships focused on agriculture," Wehner said. He will be lecturing forestry classes, helping with the development of new forestry graduate programs and working on new research projects regarding biofuels during his stay.

"The excitement on a child's face when they finally receive their first bike doesn't seem to fade for some people. Bicycles of every shape, size and color can be seen peddling through the streets of downtown by bicycle enthusiasts of all ages. Some become very involved in the festive spirit. The first Thursday night of every month is known as the Thursday Night Bike Happening. The ride, which is not sanctioned or promoted by anyone, is a word-of-mouth event and an opportunity for members of the surrounding communities to come together and enjoy a few laps of fun, this month with an '80s theme," said Scott Okerfie, 49, of Los Osos. "I'm into electrical vehicles so that's why I'm here. It's fun, it's great." 

Cyclists get festive downtown

Katharine Tiffin AUGUST 2006

"The excitement on a child's face when they finally receive their first bike doesn't seem to fade for some people. Bicycles of every shape, size and color can be seen peddling through the streets of downtown by bicycle enthusiasts of all ages. Some become very involved in the festive spirit. The first Thursday night of every month is known as the Thursday Night Bike Happening. The ride, which is not sanctioned or promoted by anyone, is a word-of-mouth event and an opportunity for members of the surrounding communities to come together and enjoy a few laps of fun, this month with an '80s theme," said Scott Okerfie, 49, of Los Osos. "I'm into electrical vehicles so that's why I'm here. It's fun, it's great." 

Cal Poly student Jensen Hovsepian,a senior in civil engineering, said he learned about the event through a friend a few years ago and now tries to attend on a regular basis.

"From what I understand, the event began almost six years ago when a few men got together and went for a ride around town," Altman said. Usually anywhere from 200 to 300 people come out every month to enjoy the ride, but "this month we've had 300 because schools in and it's bike month and the weather's good." 

Many people, mostly high-schoolers and older gather at Mission Plaza to enjoy two laps of nothing but "carefree community fun." After the laps, some of the riders gather in a separate location for other events including bike sums.

During bike sums the riders make a small arena-like area with their bikes. Two riders do almost anything possible to eliminate the other rider by making them touch their feet on the ground.

"I've never competed in it (bike sums) because if you ever saw it, it's terrifying. These guys do wheelies into each other. They go crazy and kick each other. It's quite dangerous. If you're a first timer they'll go a little easier on you, but they get quite aggressive," said Cal Poly alumna, Mike VanMiddle, 22, from San Luis Obispo.

Since December 2005, the group that calls itself Bikes, page 2

Activism brings immigration debate

Mario Bureclaga and Katie Phour (not in photo)

While people across the nation took to the streets in protest Monday for the "day with out an immigrant" movement, students and faculty throughout Cal State Long Beach supported the movement.

Written messages were spread across campus on buildings and on the ground. Some professors cancelled classes, students walked out of class and the Campus Progressives, Chicano and Latino Studies Student Association, Feminist Organization ReClaiming Consciousness and Equality, La Raza Student Association and Muslim Student Association led an inter-student rally showing support for the movement.

A number of messages were written in chalk all over campus, notifying students of the events that would take place during the day. There were messages such as "No human is illegal," "History is now. Do the right thing," "Would you deport your mother" and "El mundo sin fronteras (The World Without Borders)."

At noon, a crowd of roughly 50 students gathered in front of the University Bookstore to rally and look at kayaking. Take a closer look at kayaking on the Central Coast.
Under Four...or on AP?

THE AVERAGE CAL POLY STUDENT DRINKS UNDER FOUR DRINKS IN ONE SITTING

58.9% of Cal Poly students have not performed poorly on a test or assignment due to drinking.
WHO SAID THAT?

Never continue in a job you don't enjoy. If you're happy in what you're doing, you'll like yourself, you'll have inner peace. And if you have that, along with physical health, you will have had more success than you could possibly have imagined.
— Johnny Carson (1925 - 2005)

The true secret of giving advice is, after you have honestly given it, to be perfectly indifferent whether it is taken or not, and never persist in trying to set people right.
— Hannah Whitall Smith, 1902

The government consists of a gang of men exactly like you and me. They have, taking one with another, no special talent for the business of government; they have only a talent for getting and holding office.
— H. L. Mencken (1880 - 1956)

Wordly Wise

Temperity: unreasonable or foolhardy contempt of danger.

BREAKING NEWS

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Hometown: San Jose • Major: business administration

Favorites
Cereal: Frosted Loops
Sport: Volleyball
Movie: "Anchorman"

If You Could ...
— be anyone for a day who would you be and why?
Hugh Hefner because ... well, we all know why.

Either/Or
— Coke or Pepsi?
Pepsi
— Righty or lefty?
Righty
— Sleep or awake?
Definitely asleep.
— Day or night?
Night

Other
Shoutout: Huge shoutout to the Phillips House Crew. It's going to be one crazy year guys.
Cal Poly motorcycle club holds largest event of year, cruises through the county

Jandy Jones  
MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal Poly motorcycle club, known as the Penguins, held its largest event of the year over the weekend when about 400 people rode on a 130-mile course across North San Luis Obispo County. Jason Diestel, an agribusiness junior, and Pat Bert, an agricultural systems management senior, coordinated the event that involved both pavement and dirt road riding. The combination of dirt and road riding, known as dual sport, uses street legal motorcycles with off-road capabilities, Diestel said.

The event was previously an endurance race but is now done in a more relaxed environment, he said, adding that some riders race amongst themselves but most just enjoy the ride.

"It creates a really neat riding experience for the riders," Diestel said.

Although the club has the Cal Poly name, it does not receive financial support from Associated Students, Inc., he said. The club had a motorcycle storage facility on campus but was recently told to relocate because a new building will be constructed in its place.

The club also helps fight the stigma that motorcyclists are troublemakers, he said, and it is the club's goal to help rid the community of that belief.

"We might get a bad name from what you see on television," he said, attributing that to organizations like Metal Mulisha and other trick riders who create a false mark for clubs or organizations that are rude.

Former county supervisor Mike Ryan allows the group to ride across his ranch and has been working with the group for several years. Ryan owns one of five private ranches the group is allowed to ride on. This year he hosted a barbeque lunch during the race.

Sunday's race kicked off at 9 a.m. and riders were able to depart from anywhere on campus between 8 to 10 a.m.

The riders' route started at Cal Poly and headed up to coast to the North County, where they travelled through several towns and highways. Ranches, such as Ryan’s, were available for the riders to stop at and refuel before heading back to Cal Poly.

Though the riders’ ages vary, most are over 40 years old, Diestel said, and it is great experience to be able to throw on a backpack and ride on property most people don't even get to see.

"It is just a relaxing day out in the country," Ryan said.

For more information on the Penguins check out their Web site at www.penguinsmc.org or attend one of the meetings held in Science North, Room 201 at 8 p.m. on May 1, 15, 29 or June 5. Participation in the group’s events are open to anyone interested in riding. Pre-registration is available through the club but on-site registration is held the day of the event. Proceeds are used to support the club, other motorcycle organizations and as funding to maintain riding trails on the Central Coast.

"We are totally self-sufficient," Diestel said.
Moussaoui sentenced to life in prison, taunts: "America, you lost"

Michael J. Sniffen
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Al-Qaida conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui escaped the death penalty Wednesday as a jury decided he deserved life in prison, where he will spend the rest of his natural life, for his role in the bloodiest terrorist attack in U.S. history: "America, you lost," Moussaoui taunted.

After seven days of deliberation, the nine men and three women rebuffed the government's appeal for death for the only person charged in this country in the four suicide jetliner hijackings that killed nearly 3,000 people on Sept. 11, 2001.

Three jurors said Moussaoui had only limited knowledge of the Sept. 11 plot, and three described his role in the attacks as minor, if he had any role at all.

Moussaoui, as he was led from the courtroom after the 15-minute hearing, said: "America, you lost... I won." He clapped his hands as he was escorted away.

Some victims' families said he got off easy.

Carie Lemack, whose mother, Judy Luceepe, died on hijacked American Airlines Flight 11, which crashed into the World Trade Center, said her mom didn't believe in the death penalty and would have been glad Moussaoui was sentenced to life. "This man was an Al-Qaida wannabe who could never put together the 9/11 attacks," Lemack said. "He's a wannabe who deserves to rot in jail."

Rosemary Dillard, whose husband, John Dillard, worked at the Pentagon, said Moussaoui "was a bad man, but we have a fair society." She said of terrorists: "We will treat them with respect no matter what they do to us."

From the White House, President Bush said the verdict "represents the end of this case but not an end to the fight against terror."

The verdict came after four years of trial that put jurors on an emotional roller coaster and gave the 37-year-old Frenchman of Moroccan descent the chance to taunt them, to mock the pain of the victims' families. Judge Leonie Brinkema was to decide whether the defendant's role in the Sept. 11 attacks was only minor — three said his role "if any" was minor — and whether the Moroccan was mentally ill or that he contended he was an al-Qaida outcast intended to be a "wannabe" who could never put the World Trade Center, United Airlines Flight 11, and United Airlines Flight 175 together as the 9/11 attacks.

"America, you lost," Moussaoui taunted in his victory statement even as he was escorted from the room. "We will treat them with respect no matter what they do to us."

Moussaoui, his lawyers revealed new evidence that Moussaoui "knowingly created a grave risk of death" for more than the intended victims of Sept. 11 and committed his acts with "substantial planning" — accepting two of the aggravating factors necessary for a death sentence.

But they did not give sufficient weight to those findings to reach a death sentence, balancing them against mitigating factors offered by the defense. No jurors, however, accepted defense arguments that Moussaoui was mentally ill or that he wished to be executed to achieve the radical Islamic vision of martyrdom.

When the verdict was announced, Moussaoui showed no visible reaction and sat slouched in his chair, refusing to stand with his defense team. He had declined to cooperate with his court-appointed lawyers throughout the trial.

When the jurors came into the room, a couple of them looked directly at Moussaoui but most did not looking at the judge instead. They all wore sober expressions. One dark-skinned young man shook his head no before the verdict was read.

When the judge asked the jurors if their verdict was the same on all three questions, the forewoman, a high school math teacher, was joined by several other jurors in answering: "Yes."

The verdict was received with silence in the packed courtroom, where one row was lined with victims' families.

The jurors were divided on the 23 mitigating factors in the case, from whether the defendant's role in the Sept. 11 attacks was only minor — three said his role "if any" was minor — and whether the Moroccan was subject to racism as a child — three said he was.

The closer the jurors came to unanimity in finding mitigating factors was on two questions. Nine found that Moussaoui's father had a violent temper and physically and emotionally abused his family. Nine also found that his unstable early childhood and dysfunctional family resulted in his leaving home.

In their successful defense of Moussaoui, his lawyers revealed new levels of pre-attack bungling of intelligence by the FBI and other government agencies. By the trial's end, the defense team was portraying their uncooperative client as a delusional schizophrenic.

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This program may contain explicit material

Check out the Mustang Daily online at www.mustangdaily.net

Ooooh so spicy!
Don't judge me because I’m brown

Cinco de Mayo. For some, a day of celebration, unity and appreciation for an entire culture. For others, it’s just another reason to have a party and drink margaritas until the smell of tequila is enough to induce vomit. But at the age of 8, I moved from a city just east of Los Angeles to farm country USA: Bakersfield. I went from being part of the majority to an instant minority. I don’t believe it was until then that I began to realize that I was different from other people. I’m not trying to play the race card and I don’t believe in affirmative action in today’s society; I’m just telling it from my specific situation.

So you can understand that years later when my friend’s mother asked me a seemingly innocent question, I almost lost it. And the best part is I’m only half Mexican. My mother is Italian and my father is Mexican. I’m tan, sorry. I have always believed that my race was my skin’s brown right? At that point I could have told her I was planning on making quesadillas in my backyard, but I sat there in silence while my mortified friend apologized for her mother the rest of the ride home.

My reaction, though to some may seem unwarranted, was the result of growing up in two different societies. At the age of 8, I moved from a city just east of Los Angeles to farm country USA: Bakersfield. I went from being part of the majority to an instant minority. I don’t believe it was until then that I began to realize that I was different from other people. I’m not trying to play the race card and I don’t believe in affirmative action in today’s society; I’m just telling it from my specific situation.

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Another excuse to drink it up

E! Cinco de Mayo. Or the fifth of May for all of you who opted to take French or German in high school instead of Spanish.

It is a day worthy of celebration and a true holiday for those who consider themselves Americans. Celebrating Cinco de Mayo embodies American ideals and should be, at the very least, a tradition in California, if not across the whole country of San Luis Obispo. Cinco de Mayo is NOT Mexican Independence Day, however. Mexico was liberated on Sept. 16 back in 1810, in case you want to place Maximilian of Austria as king (thank you socialstudiesforkids.com). It is important to note that the Mexicans owed the French a lot of money from this little thing called the Mexican-American war.

So, what is wrong with celebrating the underdog? Well, critics would argue that Cinco de Mayo is a Mexican — not an “everybody” — holiday, and leave it at that. But isn’t mixing of cultures and traditions another great point of American heritage?

Cultural and immigration issues are huge right now. But that should not stop people from celebrating this holiday. I know my relatives did not come to the United States legally, but when they were given the opportunity, they became citizens who held legal jobs, paid taxes and received education for themselves in this country of opportunity.

see Brown, page 7
Diversions editor: Maricar Mendez
mustangdailyeditor@gmail.com

Thursday, May 4, 2006
www.mustangdaily.net

SLO Guide to Margaritaville

Brittany Pelosoquin

Denny Daily

Cinco de Mayo is coming up and it's time to go out and consume massive amounts of margaritas to celebrate what we gringos think is Mexican Independence Day (by the way, it's not).

I'm not much of a drinker, especially beer, but I was willing to sample the "tradition." In the name of research, I got out downtown with a few "companions" to take stock of the selection.

Vallarta's, 1761 Monterey St. is by far the best value for margaritas in San Luis Obispo. Their 60-ounce margarita cost only $12.97; not too bad, considering it was too much lime flavor. The price isn't bad either, at about $7. Or, grab a couple steins and split the 60 ounces for less than $20.

Pepe Delgado's, 1601 Monterey St. in San Luis Obispo, also serves up an acceptable margarita. It was a little on the strong side, so don't forget to eat fast. Their strawberry margarita was $4.50, and the ambiance feels more conducive to a party vibe, whereas the other places are more like family restaurants.

I know there are other places that serve up the fancier margaritas, like Tortilla Flats, 1051 Nepomo St., which I have yet to try. But to the select few, it is just another day to meet with friends.

If you find yourself in the mood for the nationwide chain-restaurant type of margarita, check out Applebees' located at 305 Madonna Rd. They serve what they call the "Perfect Margarita," in a shaker, so you can see it frozen into the martini glass, and it costs $7.95. It may seem a little far, but that makes the drink or two while sipping some tropical fish works here, it makes for a fun atmosphere for customers," said Katie Howard, a Vallarta's server.

Jenisa Wilson

Mustang Daily

For those in search of the perfect Cinco de Mayo celebration, worry no more: Several faithful bars and restaurants in San Luis Obispo have yet to let us down for another year of cheap booze and good food.

To some, May 5 is just another Friday. "To others, it represents the day that Mexico overthrew the French forces in the Battle of Puebla in 1862. But to the select few, it is just another excuse to get your drinking shoes on."

Let's start the morning off right. Vallarta's, 1761 Monterey St. in San Luis Obispo, is opening at 6 a.m. for the festivities complete with breakfast burritos, bikini-clad waitresses, and of course, their infamous 60-ounce margarita. "We're known for our 60 ounces and since it's a breezy bunch thatHzoM specialist include $1 draft beers, $1 off shots and drinks, $125 to $150 for free domestic beers or $15 for imported beers and discounts on their 60-ounce margaritas. Now it's time for lunch. Head on over to Cabo San Luis located at 981 Foothill Blvd., and open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., for specials like $5 Coronas, an unbeatable price. Sip back on a cool one while dining on their pathos or inside watching their end of the trip. The drink, Cinco de Mayo is also the grand re-opening for Casa del Cabo.

Grill in Los Osos at 1056 Los Osos Valley Rd. There will be beer and wine happy hour from 5 to 7 p.m. plus drink and dinner specials all evening. It may seem a little far, but that makes it all the more fun when your back-hopping.

So now it's dinner time or perhaps you're just thirsty for another round of margaritas. Back at Vallarta's, the Coronas Tequila Girls will be making an appearance from 8 to 10 p.m. where they will be handing out tequila shots and merchandise. Howard said that customers should expect to hear a whale being blown while tequila is being poured down someone's throat — yes, just like in Mexico. "All people come here for the alcohol," Vallarta's server Amy Blank said. "We've got the strongest margarita in town.

So now it's 10 p.m. and you may find yourself quite tipsy. Where to go next you ponder? Downtown, of course! Hangover, Bastille Day, Canas Day and Kwantuna.

Still hungry?

Drink

continued from page 6

The problem with America today is not our celebration of holidays but our avoidance of them. The point of holidays is to commemorate the important times in our lives. Anyone who says that they have never had a reason to celebrate when they have once been an underdog is lying to you.

Brown

continued from page 6

Yet, here was a woman (of Caucasian background) reminding me that the way I look is the first thing that gets noticed. What kind of a message is that?

I don't make it a point to fly the Mexican flag or even have a margarita during Cinco de Mayo because I would rather not participate in a holiday that most people, of all races, use as an excuse to get drunk. I can do that any night of the year now that I'm 21. If you plan to go out and have a drink or two while sampling some Mexican cuisine go right ahead.

I, on the other hand, will be at home calling my grandparents. From both Hispanic and Caucasian traditions I know that I love them, and thank them for the struggles with race issues they put up for generations before it was my turn. Because if the only race issue I have to deal with is being asked if I'm having a fiesta, then I have something to truly celebrate.

Take the opportunity to kick back, ditch class, skip work or flake out on whatever would prohibit you from having a good time, and grab a margarita — or two! It is time to put all differences aside and celebrate the good times in life.

And while you're at it, be sure to clear your calendar for Chinese New Year, Hanukkah, Bastille Day, Canada Day and Kwantuna.

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continued from page 6

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Take the opportunity to...
A condom buyer exposed

By Daniel Gingras

It's hard to look the cashier straight in the face and say, "Do I make this out to Abertsons?" when you’re filling out an $8.11 check for sunglasses, rubbers and a jar of pickles.

JPEG EXPLAINS it all

To discover Albertsons has encased the condoms in some kind of invisible ethical forcefield, I take off my sunglasses and realize that it’s actually a locking glass case designed to discourage theft. Now I’m extremely frustrated and just want to get laid, so I stamp furiously to one of the wall phones and access the F.A. which crackles back to life. “Attention Albertsons employees! Will somebody come let me out of the condoms out of their case?”

A checker girl who looks old enough to be breaking several federal child labor laws is the one to whom they have given the condom key. She walks over, though she looks like she would have been more comfortable riding a tricycle. She suppresses a smile the whole time. “Yes, I will take the pink magnums, please. The rubber. Ribbed. For me, not for her. I DON’T CARE WHAT IT SAYS ON THE PACKAGE. I get to the check-out and set my items on the conveyor belt. The cashier picks up the pickles, then the sunglasses. When he lifts the pickles, the condoms aren't heavy enough to suppress the sensor and they dance on the end of the conveyor. I stare at them and sigh. I sign my check and scribble "protection" in the comment section.

The next time I need to envelope my member in latex, I may find it easier to hop on a jet to Thailand and chop down a rubber tree myself.

For questions, comments or a do-it-yourself home ecstasy kit, write to dgingras@calpoly.edu.
Giapapas for president

I have had the pleasure of living behind a house full of free-guns for the last year. For the most part, it has been a great experience and the understanding of the great experience has been attributed to one person in particular, that person is Anne Giapapas. She is precisely the type of person who could tackle the job of ASI president with the calm demeanor appropriate for the most prestigious of all positions of public service within the university. With close living quarters came insight into the true character of Giapapas. Not only has Giapapas tackled school work with a voracious tenacity fitting that of a tennant's devil but has also juggled her scholastic work flawlessly with extracurricular lab at one of the most popular restaurants in town as well as taking care of two young children for one of Cal Poly's own employees. The simple fact that she has the ability to maintain a social life among her many activities commands respect but what has gathered the most respect from me has been her way with the young children she looks after. I can only hope that people are able to meet this young woman and realize that any doubt towards her experience should easily be extinguished due to the simple fact that her character is one that can handle any situation. When it is time to go to the polls, realize one thing and one thing only that each one of you are voting for the person and the character buried within that person and not just experience as they wish, even if they advocate for this state for another two years. Israel has lived with terrorists, under threat of assassination, assassinations, suicide bombings and economic boycotts all her life, with no such state of emergency for any of her citizens.

Maki — Because it's more than just experience

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Tom Seeger
Agricultural science graduate

Palestine Awareness Week needs to advocate peace

Since the assassination of Anwar Sadat in Egypt in 1981 by the Moslem Brotherhoixl for themselves against their enemies. All speakers are their own people's worst enemy, not Israel. Israel built seven Apartheid Wall. There are no laws against any Arab. Mrs. Yasser Bashir, the head of the Islamic Center. All the leaders have been released from their positions in the United States and are not living in Kabul and San Luis Obispo.

Israel captured the West Bank from Jordan and the Gaza Strip from Egypt in 1967 after years of terrorist attacks, and when Jordan, Syria and Egypt had amassed their armies at her border to annihilate her once and for all, in fact, she returned the Sinai to the Egyptians, which led to the current situation. Israel's leaders have been released from the Gaza Strip as well and are planning on withdrawing from the West Bank too. At that time, a group of philanthropists bought $14 million worth of greenhouses from the Israelis and gave them to the Palestinians to grow vegetables and make money. Three days after the Israelis left, the Palestinians destroyed all the greenhouses. Now they complain against the Israelis for their shambled economy because they have choiced to give up the border to Gaza, although they have been living under a government and against the Israelis because they have choiced to give up the border to Gaza, although they have been living under a government and against the Israelis because they have choiced to give up the border to Gaza, although they have been living under a government and against the Israelis because they have choiced to give up the border to Gaza, although they have been living under a government and against the Israelis because they have choiced to give up the border to Gaza, although they have been living under a government and against the Israelis because they have choiced to give up the border to Gaza, although they have been living under a government and against the Israelis because they have choiced to give up the border to Gaza, although they have been living under a government and against the Israelis because they have choiced to give up the border to Gaza, although they have been living under a government and against the Israelis because they have choiced to give up the border to Gaza, although they have been living under a government and against the Israelis because they have choiced to give up the border to Gaza, although they have been living under a government and against the Israelis because they have choiced to give up the border to Gaza, although they have been living under a government and against the Israelis because they have choiced to give up the border to Gaza, although they have been living under a government and against the Israelis because they have choiced to give up the border to Gaza, although they have been living under a government and against the Israelis because they have choiced to give up the border to Gaza, although they have been living under a government and against the Israelis because they have choiced to give up the border to Gaza, although they have been living under a government and against the Israelis because they have choiced to give up the border to Gaza, although they have been living under a government and against the Israelis because they have choiced to give up the border to Gaza, although they have been living under a government and against the Israelis because they have choiced to give up the border to Gaza, although they have been living under a government and against the Israelis because they have choiced to give up the border to Gaza, although they have been living under a government and against the Israelis because they have choiced to give up the border to Gaza, although they have been living under a government and against the Israelis because they have choiced to give up the border to Gaza, although they have been living under a government and against the Israelis because they have choiced to give up the border to Gaza, although they have been living under a government and against the Israelis because they have choiced to give up the border to Gaza, although they have been living under a government and against the Israelis because they have choiced to gi
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Wildflower continued from page 12

mostly draw huge crowds on Saturday. A triathlon is big as this does not require that you be in top-notch shape or have any restrictions. According to Tri-
California's Web site, "Lynch Road and Lilly San Antonio Drive (in the park) will be closed on Saturday and Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. or until the last bike returns to the transition area ... All participants and spectators should plan on arriving before 7 a.m. (because of long lines at the front gate) and staying at the lake until 4 p.m."

KAYAKING continued from page 12

other places to launch in the area include the boat launch at Embarradero, Coleman Park or the state park marina when it is high tide.

Trips can be a great teambuilding activity for any type of group. Poly Escapes offers guided kayak
ing day trips to local areas, or combine it with other outdoor activities such as climbing on weekend trips.

Katie Evans an environmental engineering major pursuing a true leader with Poly Escapes. She said that trips with poly escapes are great because "it's really a guide and more of a participant, since it is completely student-

"It’s a great way to get away and meet new people," she said. 

Kayak rental shops typically offer tours starting at about $50 per person. The price goes up based on what the tour centers around, as it depends on fishing, fishing or picnicking.

Classifieds

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Are you a doctor, nurse, PA, or health professional? Would you like to be a guest speaker for the AIMS pre-med chapter in Cal Poly? Please email: juchan@poly.edu

Exotic Dancer Wanted M/F $100 per hr. tips. No exp. Part-time only C weekend H: 9 to 2 daily 18+ High Song Bar 855-7436 ASK for Doug


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Wildflower weekend at a glance

Kelly Cope

Cal Poly's Triathlon Team will be competing with some of the best triathletes in the world this weekend when Lake San Antonio welcomes the Wildflower Triathlon Friday, May 5 through Sunday, May 7. An immensely popular event among those in its sport, the competition attracts many competitors as well as spectators and volunteers.

Triathlons traditionally involve a swim, bike and run portion. The Wildflower events incorporate all three segments with different lengths in which both individuals and relay teams can participate. The courses available to competition are the Long Course, which includes a 1.2-mile swim, a 56-mile bicycle and a 13.1-mile run; the Olympic Course, with a 1.5-kilometer swim, a 40-kilometer bike course and a 13.1-mile run; and the Mountain Bike Course, which includes a quarter-mile swim, 9.7-mile bike and 2-mile run course for those who wish to ride off-road.

The event also provides an opportunity for college students to compete in their own category in the athletes with their gear."

The Long Course and Cal Poly's Triathlon Team is taking advantage. With 65 members competing, Cal Poly will be well represented. Since winning the club competition in 2003, it has consistently placed in the top three for the last two years.

Two-time racer and three-time volunteer and attendant Brian Kunochi said that "race morning is really neat. Everybody gets up at 6 or 7 a.m. and ... it's just a big stream of athletes with their gear."

He also observed that Saturday is typically the busiest day. "I can't wait to race on Saturday, since it basically means that the park is at full capacity," he said. The Long Course and Mountain Bike Course competitions attract many contestants as well as spectators and volunteers.

Kayaking on the Central Coast

Brittany Peixquinn

Kayaking can be an inexpensive and fun way to explore the Central Coast's miles of pristine coastline.

Kayaking trips can be as casual as spending the day cruising around with friends or as detailed as taking a guided tour with a marine biologist. It can also be an inexpensive activity for people looking to get away for a little while without spending too much money.

On campus, Poly Escapes offers discount rentals of kayaks for students, starting at $10 per day for a single or $15 for a double. They can also be rented for the weekend or an entire week. Local rental shops usually cost a little bit more, but a short instructional session is included.

Morro Bay is a great location for beginners, because the waters are calm, like a lake, compared to being out in the open ocean. It is a migratory spot for hundreds of birds and there are plenty of opportunities for discovering other wildlife such as sea otters.

Dennis Krueger, owner of Kayak Horizons suggests taking a picnic out to the sand dunes that separate the bay from the rest of the ocean. The other side of the dunes is rarely crowded, and crossing on foot takes 5 to 10 minutes at most points of the strand.

"Each trip you take is different," he said. "The otters, sea lions and all the wildlife are used to the activity, so it's easy to get good pictures." He said that some of his patrons have even reported seeing deer out on the dunes.

Krueger's store on Embarcadero backs up to the bay, making it an easy place to launch. He suggests kayaking, page 11

Complimentary

The three gems of the Central Coast

A gust of wind ruffles your hair. To your left, down­town San Luis Obispo sits active and bustling with afternoon traffic. To your right, the calm of the end of Broad Street with open expanses of San Luis Obispo and the South Hills, which sit just above and engulf small rocks, and a small unmarked tributary of rocks sits piled in organized disarray with a cluster of purple and yellow wildflowers at its peak.

This is a much simpler place, away from the stress of Cal Poly and daily rat race of small city life. It is calm, quiet and contemplative. The funny thing is that this place is only a 10-minute walk up the South Hills, which sit just above and engulf small rocks, and a small unmarked tributary of rocks sits piled in organized disarray with a cluster of purple and yellow wildflowers at its peak.

There are few places more beautiful in San Luis Obispo County than these three jewels, and one must admit that they are not only worth your time, but also worth your time, I guarantee it.

Too often in my time here in San Luis, I have heard people openly admit that they haven't taken advantage of the splendor that surrounds us and taken an afternoon to walk up Bishop Peak, let alone any other mountain in San Luis Obispo.

So I implore you, take an afternoon retreat from school, work and life in general and take a walk up one of the three mountains surrounding San Luis Obispo. It will be worth your time, I guarantee it.

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12