Cal Poly Housing Corporations builds housing to attract new faculty

Kristen Marshall

It's been a long road for the Cal Poly Housing Corporation (CPHC) to make the Bella Montana homes come to life. The homes, intended for faculty and staff, are finally being applied for and are receiving a strong reaction — both positive and negative.

Though they are currently being built, Bella Montana will be complete with 69 condominiums, consisting of triples or fourples, by October 2007. The construction will be done in three phases and seven buildings comprising 21 homes should be available for occupancy in December, followed by five more buildings of 18 homes in June 2007 and nine buildings of 30 homes will be ready for October 2007.

"We're doing well on timing," said Jim Reinhart, the CPHC managing director. "The project is generally on schedule, although the rain in March delayed the pouring of the foundations for Phase III."

The corporation was formed in 2001 not only to assume responsibility for developing and operating university housing for students, but also to implement housing for faculty and staff. Because the pay grade is consistent throughout the entire California State University system for faculty, Reinhart said it is difficult for the university to draw potential faculty members when high availability is more of a challenge.

"Faculty at Fresno State may have similar incomes as Cal Poly faculty, however, housing is more expensive here," he said. "For faculty in the early phase of their careers, home affordability is more of a challenge."

Bella Montana, located on the corner of Highland Drive and Santa Rosa Street, sits on a piece of property known as "H-8." Reinhart said it is a terrific location for faculty and staff to walk or bike to the university.

"The community will include three streets, four trash enclosures, a mailbox center, a landscaped area and a bus stop. All units include garages and 70 additional parking spaces will be available. The first 39 Phase I and II homes range from $323,000 to $396,000.

Five of the Bella Montana buildings that will serve as faculty housing will be similar to this rendering of the flat triples. The other two plans are a downhill triplex and an uphill fourplex.

Kristen Marshall

Cal Poly engineers cross borders to bring clean water to Thailand

Amy Ansan

Rather than skiing at Lake Tahoe or shopping at the local malls, eight members of the Cal Poly Engineers Without Borders (EWB) club spent much of the holiday season constructing and testing a water filtration system for the hill tribe village of Mae Nam Khun in Thailand.

The project recently gave a presentation at the local malls, eight members of the Cal Poly Engineers Without Borders (EWB) club spent much of the holiday season constructing and testing a water filtration system for the hill tribe village of Mae Nam Khun in Thailand.

The group recently gave a presentation about their trip and the water filtration project to the rest of the Cal Poly Engineers Without Borders chapter.

The project began earlier in 2005 when students were asked to assess the village's drinking water system. The students discovered that many children were getting sick because of unsanitary living conditions, and decided to construct and install a slow sand filtration system to improve the village's water quality.

"It's amazing to participate in a project like this from beginning to end," said Eileen Mick, the project manager and a Cal Poly engineering graduate. "We do stuff like this in our classes, but it's never something...that we actually get to see through all the way — especially something that will impact people's lives the way this did."

The slow sand filter, while it may seem rudimentary to engineering students, is actually a large tank filled with different sizes of gravel that helps clean the water through the process of biodegradation. Putting the water through the filter slowly, Mick said, encourages the natural growth of bacteria, which can take up all the "bad stuff" in the water and provides a microbial treatment.

"It's sort of like a giant Brita filter — but instead of what Brita puts in its filters, it's filled with a bunch of different-sized gravel," Mick said.

She added that the Cal Poly club became involved in the project after Dan Garbely, a Cal Poly engineer who worked in the water filtration business, took the students on a tour of a large water treatment plant.

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Housing (continued from page 1) and prices for the 30 Phase III homes will be released in 2007.

Though the homes are open to applicants including current faculty, staff, coaches and management, Reinhart said the top priority is new faculty. "The university is hiring approximately 50 new faculty members for the next academic year, and we have allocated 21 homes for them," he said, "and we have approximately 160 people on an interest list for the homes.

The CPHC created a chart ranking the priority of the applicants into categories, and while new faculty recruits rank No. 1, "primary retention" faculty rank No. 2, followed by administration, faculty, and prospective and current Cal Poly students.

Reinhart said the top priority is new faculty and constructed an elementary school on the project site with the same water distribution and filtration systems, so we had to learn a whole water distribution and filtration system, we had to narrow down the project and we decided just to focus on building the town one filter," Mick said.

The students were responsible for choosing and transporting the materials needed for developing and assembling the filter as well as personal transportation and funding. Most of the money, Mick said, was collected from sponsors and the rest was raised through yard sales in addition to a benefit event at Baja Fresh in downtown San Luis Obispo.

Near the end of the project, village locals invited the students and other campus members to a cultural celebration filled with dancing, singing, joke-telling and lots of laughter, co-project manager and fellow Cal Poly graduate student Mike Borger said.

Borger described one instance where he and his fellow team workers were asked to share a cultural song with the villagers. At a loss for what to do, the students decided to sing something everyone would know: the Hokey Pokey. "It was a riot," he said. "Right after we were done they yelled, 'Do another one!'

Borger also said that he and his fellow club members will remember the people of Mae Nam Khun for their upbeat attitude and eagerness to lend a helping hand. "Everyone in the village" will just go out of their way to help, they were all looking for every little opportunity to help," he said. "And it is part of their culture to laugh no matter what.

Thailand (continued from page 1)

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Thailand (continued from page 1)

Poly alumni and current president of the Western chapter of Engineers Without Borders, suggested that the club "tailor a project similar to the projects proposed by the University of California Santa Barbara and University of Seattle chapters.

The two other colleges designed and constructed an elementary school dormitory and a septic system for sponsorship, and constructed an elementary school on the project site with the same water distribution and filtration systems, so we had to learn a whole water distribution and filtration system, we had to narrow down the project and we decided just to focus on building the town one filter," Mick said.

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Thailand (continued from page 1)

Student and industry members, as well as the general public, use a kit to design their packaging around the egg. The egg is then dropped from 30 to 50 feet in the air in hopes that it will not break. For an egg, that's really impressive," Schueneman said. "We're expecting a couple hundred people." The winner will receive a $300 prize.

The event concludes Friday with a "best ball" golf tournament at 7:30 a.m. at the Black Lake Golf Course in Avila Beach. For more information contact Schueneman at muenzaa@gmail.com.
WHO SAID THAT?

Mistakes are a part of being human. Appreciate your mistakes for what they are: precious life lessons that can only be learned the hard way. Unless it's a fatal mistake, which, at least, others can learn from.
— Al Franken

Don't worry about people stealing an idea. If it's original, you will have to ram it down their throats.
— Howard Aiken (1900 - 1973)

Wordly Wise

Otiose: Ineffective; also, being at leisure; also, of no use.

Names: Julia Rossi • Year: senior
Hometown: Santa Cruz • Major: liberal studies

Favorites

Stuffed animal: Mokey, my teddy bear.
Bathroom necessity: Dove bar soap.
Cocktail: Jack and coke.

If You Could ...
— have anyone play you in a movie who would it be and why?
Rachel McAdams because she has an inner dork like me.

Either/Or
— Hot dogs or corn dogs?
Hot dogs for sure.
— Boxers or briefs?
Briefs baby.
— Money or love?
Love!

Other
— Now's your chance to ask someone out, are you going to take it?
Cantaloupe guy at Vons, you're my type of fruit.

Shoutout?
My wife, Floo, Champ Gimoni, Dennis and all the lovely In Deirs.

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Microsoft announces 'Live Anywhere' online gaming service

Matt Slagle

LOS ANGELES — Microsoft Corp., co-founder Bill Gates on Tuesday announced a cross-platform gaming service that integrates games played on cell phones, Xbox 360 consoles and the upcoming Windows Vista operating system.

"The vision here is each platform plays its own role. We really think we're in a unique position," Gates said Tuesday. "Microsoft is probably the only company that can pull this off."

In a demonstration, an Xbox 360 gamer using Live Anywhere was able to send an invitation to a friend on a PC. After the PC user agreed, the two were connected for a cross-platform online gam battle.

In another example, a race car's stats were displayed on a cellular phone, its appearance was edited in a paint program on the PC and then it was raced on a track on the Xbox 360.

Microsoft had said it sold about 3.2 million Xbox 360s so far, about half of them are used online. By the time rivals Nintendo Co. and Sony Corp. release their systems by the end of the year, Gates said Microsoft should have a 10 million unit head start and a selection of 160 Xbox 360 games.

Microsoft Vice President Peter Moore said the early launch of Xbox 360 gives the company a huge advantage going forward, saying the company was already on the "second generation of the next platform."

"Live Anywhere" highlighted a slew of announcements from the Redmond, Wash.-based company.

The company also said it would sell an HD-DVD player for high-definition movie titles in time for the holidays, but it did not release a price.

Also announced was an Xbox Live Vision video camera, a wireless head set and a wireless racing wheel available this fall.

Finally, Microsoft appeared at an axion party game show over glitzy graphics and said the video game industry must find a new way to broaden its appeal if the industry wants to keep growing.

Steve Lawrence

Sacramento -- Acusing the insurance industry of "serious breach of the law," state Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi asked federal and state officials Thursday to investigate his claim that a group of insurers tried to black mail him.

Garamendi charged Monday that an insurance industry representative contacted him through an intermediary and offered to drop a pending $2 million ad campaign that attacks proposed auto insurance regulations drafted by Garamendi's office if he would abandon the regulations.

"I firmly believe that this amounts to a serious attempt to blackmail me in my role as California's elected insurance commissioner," Garamendi said in a letter to the FBI, the U.S. attorney in Sacramento and the state attorney general.

"Clearly, I was offered a significant advantage. If I abandoned my responsibilities and delayed implementing the will of the voters, I would not be hit by a $2 million negative advertising campaign," Garamendi said in the final weeks leading up to the June election.

Garamendi is running in the primary for the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor against state Sens. Lige Ferguson, D-San Diego, and Jackie Speier, D-Hillsborough.

The proposed regulations would limit auto insurers' ability to use ZIP codes to base their rates on where customers live. Garamendi said the new rules would implement the intent of voters when they approved Proposition 103 in 1988 and base rates primarily on a motorist's driving record.

Critics contend the regulations would unfairly boost rates for drivers in suburban and rural areas with relatively few accidents and auto thefts and cut them for motorists in urban areas.

A group called Californians to Stop Unfair Rate Increases announced Monday that five insurance companies -- Farmers, 21st Century, State Farm, Safeco and Allstate -- were putting up funding for the ad campaign. It's scheduled to begin next week in 17 mostly rural counties.

The campaign includes mailers that mention Garamendi's name several times and a television commercial that urges viewers to "tell Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi to drop this unfair plan now."

A campaign adviser for Californians to Stop Unfair Rate Increases, Rick Claussen, suggested that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger should investigate the campaign through former political consultant Darryl Sragow as a "courageous" move to prevent the governor from being blackmailed.

"We're very comfortable where we are," he said. "We've taken it on a very legitimate issue that we have every right to be talking about," he said. "If this whole thing has been taken out of context, I'm sorry about that. (But) what we're doing with this campaign is certainly aboveboard and not unprecedented. We're very comfortable where we are."

At Gov. Gray Davis's request, a Democrat, and Silicon Valley millionaire Steve Poizner, a Republican, are the leading candidates for insurance commissioner and are likely to face each other in the November general election.

Poizner could not be immediately reached for comment on whether he would attempt to overturn the proposed regulations if elected. Bustamante called the insurance companies' tactics "outrageous" and said he supported the general thrust of the regulations, although he didn't see them.

"Proposition 103 was real clear," he said. "The voters were real clear," he said. "The individual driving record is the basis on which I become insurance commissioner -- if voters give me that opportunity." He added that he would become insurance commissioner -- if voters give me that opportunity.

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WASHINGTON — Republicans in Congress reached agreement Tuesday on a five-year, $70 billion measure to extend tax breaks for investors and prevent further middle-income families from being hit by a tax aimed at the wealthy. The bill would hand President Bush one of his top tax priorities, a two-year extension of the reduced 15 percent tax rate for capital gains and dividends, currently set to expire at the end of 2008. Republicans credit the tax cuts, enacted in 2001, with boosting economic growth and creating many jobs. — The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Steve Vaught didn't count each mile he walked or weigh himself every day along the way. And as he completed the final leg of his year-long trek across America, he said making it to New York City from Morehead, Ky., was only part of his story. “I'm glad that I'm here, but for me it's never been about the destination,” he said as he crossed the George Washington Bridge from New Jersey to Manhattan more than a year after he began the trip to lose weight and find happiness. “It's been about the journey.” — The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Health officials from California to New York were taking steps Tuesday night to allay any fears that might arise from a TV movie that portrays a fierce bird flu outbreak. “We're trying to take advantage of a teachable moment,” Leah Devlin, North Carolina's health director, said of the ABC movie “Fat Chance: Bird Flu in America.” The H5N1 strain of bird flu hasn't been detected in the United States but it has appeared from Asia to Africa and Europe and has killed or led to the slaughter of more than 200 mil- lion animals. At least 113 people who lived close to birds have died, and health officials fear the virus could evolve and be passed between humans, sparking a global pandemic. — The Associated Press

FLINT, Mich. — A 27-year-old man was mistakenly released from prison pleaded guilty Tuesday to murder and other charges in a February crime spree that left three people dead, including a pregnant woman.

Under state law, Patrick Selepak must be sent to prison for life without the possibility of parole for shooting and strangling 53-year-old Winfield Jennings Jr. in a parking lot of Sully District police station in Chantilly when he opened the Monday on an officer who had just parked his car. The officer was hit five times, but was able to call for help on his radio. At least four officers returned fire, but before the shooting stopped a detective was dead and a third officer was wounded. Kennedy lay dead on the pavement, dressed in camouflage fatigues. Maj. Bob Callahan said the teen fired at least 70 rounds from a modified AK-47-style assault weapon and a long-barreled, high powered rifle. Five handguns found on Kennedy's body had not been fired.

Kennedy's classmates recalled that he would sometimes talk about attacking police, but no one ever reported the statements to school officials or authorities. "He started making those jokes about shooting up a police station about a year ago, but we never took him seriously," said Yannne Davie, 18, who graduated with Kennedy last year from Westfield High School. A few months ago, close friends began noticing a change in Kennedy. His style of dress changed, and he started hoarding weapons and ammunition, and talking increasingly of fighting zombies and aliens. “He thought he was Jesus," said Brenden Baker, 18, who had known Kennedy since sixth grade. Kennedy's parents admitted him last month to a psychiatric center in Greenville, S.C., but within hours, he broke a window and escaped. Claming he had a gun, Kennedy allegedly carjacked a sport utility vehicle and drove back to Virginia, where he surrendered to Fairfax County police. He was returned to Maryland and charged with carjacking and theft. His family posted a $30,000 bond, and he was expected to stand trial May 25. Kennedy never returned to the treatment center, but friends said he had been calmer in recent weeks. “He told me he'd been on med­ication for a while,” Baker said. Authorities were trying to deter­mine what fueled Kennedy's con­ tempt for police. When they learn more, they will weigh whether to change security measures at police stations, spokeswoman Mary Ann Jennings said.

Nevada casinos win $1.06 billion in March

Brenden Riley (ASSOCIATED PRESS)

CARSON CITY, Nev. — Nevada casinos had to deal with bad weather and didn't hold onto as much money from gamblers as expected, but still managed to win $1.06 billion in March — the second-highest monthly win ever.

A state Gaming Control Board report released Tuesday showed the win was up 3 percent compared with the same month a year earlier, and was second only to the record win of $1.14 billion reported in January by the records. The state collected a record $29.8 million in percentage fees based off the March win. That's up 4.7 per­cent compared with the fees col­lected for the same month in 2005. Collections for the fiscal year to date total $665.9 million, up $43.3 million from previous projections by the state Economic Forum.

Frank Streshley, analyst for the control board, said harsh March weather hurt northern Nevada casio­nos, especially clubs at Lake Tahoe and in Reno. Slotline casinos on Tahoe's south shore were down 40.2 percent, with the clubs taking in $210.5 million. Clubs on the south shore of the lake were down 10.1 percent, $2.8 million.

Reno casinos were down 3.5 per­cent, $60.3 million, while clubs in neighboring Sparks were up 2.3 percent, with a win of $14.4 million. Reno's percentage drop was the main reason for a 3.2 percent decline in Washoe County — the first after nine straight positive months.

Las Vegas Strip resorts accounted for more than half the total $1.06 billion win, with $546.1 million, for a 6.2 percent increase over the same month a year ago. Streshley said the clubs were helped by a Rolling Stones concert, a NASCAR race and promotions that brought tourists in to watch televised NCAA playoff games.

Downtown Las Vegas clubs were down 5.8 percent, winning $59.5 million. The decrease was due mainly to the closure of the Lady Luck casino a month earlier.

Win is a gross figure, with no operating costs or other expense deducted. It represents casino revenue only — not hotel, restaurant or bar revenues. The win was the money left over after gamblers bet $14.6 billion.

While the weather, especially in Las Vegas, had been calmer in recent weeks, other security measures are being planned because the March win was down 4.8 percent, winning $67.9 million. The decrease was due mainly to the closure of the Lady Luck, a casino a month earlier.

Selepak said the casinos had lower-than-expected "hold" percentages for some of their games. The clubs' March win of $138.5 million, on table games was 12.9 percent of the $2.5 billion wagered on the games, while the $730.4 million slot win was a 6.1 percent "hold" of the $12.1 billion pumped into slots.

Compared with the same month a year earlier, the table game win was up 5.8 percent. A breakdown shows $120.9 million came from live table, 9 percent while baccarat tables around the state won $36.4 million for a 9.1 percent gain.

Craps took in $43.7 million, down 4.8 percent, and roulette generated $27.4 million for the clubs, up 0.9 percent.

The statewide slot win of $703.4 million was up 1.5 percent over the same month in 2005. The biggest producers were multi-determina­tion slots, which accounted for $94.6 million of the total, up 30.4 percent.

Quarter slots were down 21.1 percent with a win total of $117.4 million; dollar slots were down 17.4 percent with a win of $93 million; and penny slots were up 44.7 percent with a win of $106.5 million.

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Gunnman kills officer, wounds 2 others outside police station

Derrill Holly (ASSOCIATED PRESS)

CHANTILLY, Va. — A troubled teenager who died in a shootout with officers in suburban Washington said repeatedly more than a year ago that he planned to attack a police sta­tion, friends of the gunman said Tuesday.

Michael W. Kennedy, 18, was shot and killed there early Monday in the parking lot of the Sully District police station in Chantilly when he opened fire on an officer on a whom he had just parked his car. The officer was hit five times, but was able to call for help on his radio. At least four officers returned fire, but before the shooting stopped a detective was dead and a third officer was wounded. Kennedy lay dead on the pavement, dressed in camouflage fatigues.

Maj. Bob Callahan said the teen fired at least 70 rounds from a modified AK-47-style assault weapon and a long-barreled, high powered rifle. Five handguns found on Kennedy's body had not been fired.

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B loc Party doesn’t need no education, yet the thoroughly schooled Essex rockers are still changing the face of modern art-rock. "Silent Alarm," their 2005 debut, was voted by NME as the album of the year and broke through stateside as a cult favorite on underground radio. (And their remix album didn’t fare too badly either.) With an album of new material on the horizon, watch for the next wave of their British invasion soon.

The Art Beat met up with the band at Coachella, just before their blistering Outdoor Stage set. Though members, Gordon Moakes (bass) and Matt Tong (drums) were nothing in the California heat, they warned to a discussion on zombies, naughty words and the death of God. Bookworms never sounded so good.

Art Beat: How often do you guys tour?
Matt Tong: We spent about three months in the states last year and it went great. It got better and better, actually. It was hard work though, and a bit of a culture shock. Actually, it was pretty hot, you know.

AB: Have you ever seen "28 Days Later" that horror movie?
GM: Yeah, yeah. I thought he was thought he was pretty hot, you know.

MT: We’ll do songs like if you play them backwords, there’s answers to complex mathematical equations. And history essays, for some of those students.
AB: I love that!
GM: No man, you can’t play CDs backwards. You can wind it, but that’s never been an easy thing to do. It was easier in the old days.

AB: What are some other upcoming plans for you guys?
GM: I think we’re really about recording, ready for the next two months of us being creative in studio time. That’s going to occupy the near future.

MT: And we’re doing a little bit of touring this year, as prep work for the record. We’re coming over in August to the states again, for a couple of weeks this time.

AB: So what’s the creative dynamic like in Bloc Party? How do you write your songs?
GM: Normally we start with the bass and the drums. That’s why the singer isn’t doing any interviews, because he doesn’t really work. (GM snorts)

MT: Normally we start with the bass and the drums. That’s why the singer isn’t doing any interviews, because he doesn’t really work. (GM snorts)

AB: What are your degrees in?
GM: Mine was in art, which was kind of easy.
MT: Mine were sociology and philosophy, also kind of easy. (laughs)

GM: Philosophy sounds quite tricky. What grades did you get?
MT: And we’re doing a little bit of a culture shock. Actually, it was pretty hot, you know.

GM: I would like to contradict that entirely and say that education is overrated.
MT: We’ve got two and a half degrees.
GM: Matt’s super—
MT: Are what your degrees in?
GM: Mine was in art, which was kind of easy.
MT: Mine were sociology and philosophy, also kind of easy. (laughs)

GM: Philosophy sounds quite tricky. What grades did you get?
MT: And we’re doing a little bit of a culture shock. Actually, it was pretty hot, you know.

MT: Nothing I studied sat too well with me, so I don’t know.

GM: I finished my degree, as did Matt.
MT: I’ve got a degree.
GM: Yeah, I’ve got a degree. (laughs)

MT: I just took philosophy of religion. It was awesome.
GM: Yeah? Exactly, like that kind of stuff?
MT: So what do you believe in philosophically?
GM: Where did you fall?
MT: I don’t know. It’s more...

GM: Sounds nihilistic to me.
GM: Yeah, I thought he was all about tri-umph of the will.

GM: I don’t like that movie. Though it was overrated.
MT: Your work in it was pretty good, though.
GM: The paycheck was fine.
AB: So who are you here to see?
GM: I’m here to see that Bloc Party, I guess.
AB: I hear they’re OK. Do you guys have any new material coming out?
MT: We’re going to start working on the new record when we get back from this show. We fly back after here and go on tour in England for a month, and then we’re gonna record it and see what happens. It’ll probably be out next year.
AB: Any idea on how it will be different from the old album?
GM: It will probably be retaining the college-friendly elements, so let them know. And adding some extra spice.

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of touring this year, as prep work for the record. We’re coming over in August to the states again, for a couple of weeks this time.

AB: So what’s the creative dynamic like in Bloc Party? How do you write your songs?
MT: Normally we start with the bass and the drums. That’s why the singer isn’t doing any interviews, because he doesn’t really work. (GM snorts)

GM: What’s your favorite British swear word?
AB: Swear word, really?
GM: Yeah, I enjoy them.
GM: OK ... um, "tits." I like that.
AB: That’s a swear word over there?
GM: It’s an epithet.
MT: I came up with a retro one the other day, and really liked it. What was it? "Wank." That’s good.

GM: "bollocks." "Wanker" is a good one. What do you think of "bottoms"?
AB: That’s dirty.
MT: Yes, it’s very, low-down, will to power.
MT: Well yeah, but you can’t do things which you weren’t meant to do, if there is no God.
GM: Killing God, then, that’s the thing, right? That’s quite a touchy subject, I imagine, over here in the (United) States.
AB: Nah, not at all.
MT: Killing God? Maybe I should call you a wank.
GM: But Nietzsche got rid of God, so that was his coming-out.
MT: I think we should bring God back, at a more appropriate temporal time.
AB: Maybe Bloc Party is God. GM: Maybe.
MT: Oh, I don’t know. Let’s not go there.

Stacey Andersim is a journalism and music senior and KCPR DJ. She asks all you students to pick up a KCPR (K) Garden Party music fest May 20. For details, go to Bico Bico Record, visit us@xdmusic.com or e-mail her at staceys@calpoly.edu.
New epic film delivers its ‘Promise’

Brian White

CHICAGO — I’m just going to start out by saying this: The beginning of “The Promise” is painful to watch. “The Promise” is a gorgeous movie, with some of the most impressive visuals I have seen since “Hern.” Young Qingcheng’s (Cecilia Cheung) meeting with the goddess Manshen (Hong Chiu) at the very beginning of the movie flows beautifully. The scene sets a tone of fluid grace mixed with exciting promises of future adventure.

Or so I had hoped.

Instead, the audience is treated to a battle scene rife with misplaced, sub-par CGI effects, intermingled with warriors wielding comically oversized weapons that are clearly made of either plastic or Styrofoam. It’s accompanied by a ridiculous, if amusing,core song and a ballad attached by a piece of twine.

... while the first few scenes of the movie are ridiculous, silly and sloppy. “The Promise” more than makes up for this with the rest of the film.

What follows is the embarrassing battle sequence is, surprisingly, a powerfully epic tale. It tells the story of a deadly and tragic circle of love, honor and revenge that ensures a ferocious general, a heartless duke, a fast-footed slave, a deadly assassin and a beautiful princess cursed to lose every man she would ever love. The movie’s scope gradually narrows from the wide battlefield to more enclosed and intimate confines. Its true visual splendor emerges in shots that focus more on the characters’ individual emotions, framed by beautiful and majestic surroundings.

Although none of the individual performances are especially outstanding, each actor provides a solid contribution to the movie.

Sanada is particularly interesting in his portrayal of the arrogant and lovable General Gannian. What’s impressive about the characters in this movie is their individuality. Each was intentionally designed to be a stereotypical Chinese martial-artist, but each character possesses his own complexity and emotional resonance.

... and backstory border on absurd and unbelievable. gull. But with the exception of the Duke (Hiroyuki Sanada) fights off the great bulk of the enemy army with what looks like two beach balls attached by a piece of twine.

As if this weren’t enough, writer and director Chen Kaige then treats the audience to a hilarious cartoonish sequence in which a slave carries his master through the enemy ranks (more reminiscent of the Road Runner than ancient China). It’s a bad sign when the audience is trying to hold back giggles in the first five minutes of your movie — which is supposed to be a drama, but appears almost criminally comedic.

But while the first few scenes of the movie are ridiculous, silly and sloppy, “The Promise” more than makes up for this with the rest of the film.

The need to state firmly that this movie is not “Crouching Tiger” The Promise” was not meant to be “Crouching Tiger.” A more appropriate comparison for “The Promise” is 2002’s “Hern.” Both have powerful and emotional-ly affecting characters, but their focus is not primarily on individual character power. They concentrate on visually stunning images that augment (but do not replace) each character’s situation, and enhance the emotional impact of the movie overall.

“Crouching Tiger”更多的是一个诗，虽然“Hern”和“The Promise”更多是像画。说“Crouching Tiger”缺乏的这种细腻，那就让人失望了。你去看电影的故事本身，甚至在开头十分钟，你都可能没有意识到这是一个完全不同的电影，不是Crouching Tiger " anyway. "The Promise" is a solid movie and well worth the nine bucks I paid to see it, but it is no "Crouching Tiger," and even finishes below the recent "Hern." It’s just too difficult to overcome the movie’s initial silliness, so the latter half, while good, falls unfortunately flat. Especially since “The Promise” is supposed to be the most expensive film in Chinese history, its bland CGI falls inexorably short compared to the visuals and beautiful cinematography on “Hern.” But “The Promise” soars high above last year’s lackluster “House of Flying Daggers,” so for those of you hoping for a return to the Chinese cinematic greatness of “Crouching Tiger,” this is certainly not the end of any revival, and it might actually be the beginning of one.

Many of you might have seen “The Promise” at this year’s Golden Globes, where it was nominated for Best Foreign Language Film. It didn’t win (and it wasn’t even nominated for an Oscar). “The Promise” is not Oscar- or Globe-worthy material, but it certainly is a good time. I would recommend it well above anything else in the theater right now. You could always watch a crazy Scientologist prove once again that the mission is, in fact, not impossible (while Phillip Seymour Hoffman ruins his career), or you could go see “The Promise,” a splendid — if slightly cartoonly — epic. Skip the Scientologist; you’ll have a good time.

“The Promise,” which stars Cecilia Cheung (left) and Jang Dong-Gun (right), was released May 5 and marks the most expensive film in Chinese history at $35 million.
The center is affiliated with the Korean Institute for Ethics at Duke University in Durham, N.C., and provides a forum to identify, affirm, and promote the values of academic integrity among students, faculty, teachers and administrators. The Center for Academic Integrity completed a survey in 2002 that measured academic integrity. The survey polled almost 50,000 undergraduates from more than 60 campuses. The center found the results alarming.

On most campuses, 70 percent of students admitted to cheating. Almost 25 percent of students admitted to serious cheating, and 50 percent admitted to cheating one or more times on written assignments.

Most students think that copying a sentence or two is not a problem, according to the survey. Students admitting to such behavior reached 10 percent in 1999, and 40 percent admitted to the offense in the surveys.

Cheating is not a very serious crime, 77 percent of students said.

The penalty for plagiarism depends on the intent of a student and the nature of the plagiarism, CSUF English Professor Debi Lyn Esquivel said. Some students simply incorrectly cite sources, she said.

About half of all high school students admitted to some level of Internet plagiarism, and 36 percent of undergraduates have admitted to plagiarizing written material.

Esquivel said the one student got the citing rules wrong.

If a paper comes back 80 to 100 percent plagiarized, Esquivel assumes the person intended to cheat. The most plagiarized paper she has gotten from a student was in her English 301 class, she said.

"I ran the paper through Turnitin.com and found out that it had been copied from a Web site that specialized in movie reviews," Esquivel said.

Turnitin.com is a helpful resource, Tucker said.

"It will have your text marked in red, or yellow, and they'll bring up the page it's from," Tucker said.

Turnitin.com has since expanded and offers a range of other programs, including a series of tools to aid teachers in grading and evaluating assignments and to help students review and respond to their classmates' work online.
BEIJING — Chinese and U.S. agents seized more than 300 pounds of cocaine smuggled from Colombia, authorities said Tuesday — a record drug bust for China, said Liu Guangping, spokesman for the Customs General Administration of China.

Bin Laden, the al-Qaida leader, has been a major focus of Chinese attention as the influence of Islamic extremism in the region has increased, with China's border with Afghanistan, Pakistan and Myanmar.

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For many in the former Soviet Union, the sacrifices made by the Red Army in World War II are a source of pride and national identity. The annual Red Square parade celebrates the victory over Nazi Germany, and this year's event was particularly significant as it marked the 70th anniversary of the end of the war.

In his speech, Putin emphasized the importance of remembering the sacrifices made by those who fought in the war, and he called for continued efforts to promote peace and stability in the region.

Putin said, "We must remember the sacrifices made by those who fought in the war, and we must continue to work towards a more peaceful world." He also spoke about the importance of international cooperation in addressing global challenges, such as terrorism and nuclear proliferation.

The parade itself was a spectacle of national pride, with thousands of soldiers and civilians participating, carrying flags and symbols of the Soviet Union and its allies. The parade route took place along Red Square, where the headquarters of the KGB — now the Federal Security Service — is located. Police said upward of 10,000 people participated.

"For me, the war has not finished. I'm still fighting, as long as I have strength I will fight — against the government, who sit in the Kremlin, who live only for themselves and who have created this regime for them and their children's benefit and their personal wealth," said veteran Nila Gulicheva, her jacket decorated with medals and a small portrait of Stalin.

Military cadets march during the annual Red Square parade celebrating the victory over the Nazis, Moscow on Tuesday. President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday presided over the annual Red Square parade celebrating the World War II victory over the Nazis, paying homage to the sacrifices of elderly veterans — but making no mention of the Soviet Union's allies.

Putin called the holiday, Victory Day, "a day of great triumph of our people." He said the war effort represented the people's unity.

"And history before had never seen such unity, such sacred brotherhood, such powerful faith in victory," Putin said.

He called for international solidarity in the face of current threats, saying "peace, freedom and good-neighborships between peoples are the bulwark of a just, democratic world order and global security.

War veterans, their jackets festooned with medals and ribbons for bravery, cheered as rows of soldiers and sailors marched in formation across the plaza. For the first time, all 6,000 officers and service members in the parade sang the national anthem and a military song without the accompaniment of a band, and servicemen with white, blue and red flags poking out of their rifle barrels — symbolizing the Russian tricolor — performed exercises to a newly composed piece for drummers.

For many in the former Soviet Union, the victory over Nazi Germany stands out as the proudest moment in a troubled period. It was achieved at a tremendous cost, with an estimated 27 million dead and much of the western part of the country devastated.

"It was such a great privilege to serve the fatherland," said an 84-year-old veteran in the stands who gave only his first name and patronymic, Mikhail Petrovich. That was true even though his parents, members of the Bolshevik Party under Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin, had been drummed out of the party and killed during the Stalinist repression, he said.

"We were made into zombies by Stalin," the wartime leader, he said. "For me, the war has not finished. I'm still fighting, as long as I have strength I will fight — against the government, who sit in the Kremlin, who live only for themselves and who have created this regime for them and their children's benefit and their personal wealth," said veteran Nila Gulicheva, her jacket decorated with medals and a small portrait of Stalin.

MOSCOW — President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday oversaw the annual Red Square parade celebrating the World War II victory over the Nazis, paying homage to the sacrifices of elderly veterans — but making no mention of the Soviet Union's allies.

Putin's brief speech from a podium in front of Lenin's Mausoleum reflected the current, uneasy period of discord between Russia and its one-time allies in the West, and was particularly striking in contrast with last year's massive Moscow celebration, which included some 40 world leaders.

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**The majority of the world does not support Israel's actions.**

In response to Saleem Azad's article on Palestine, I agree with the main point (now, before I get hounded for this, let me just get it out in the open I am a Jew). Even if this event is just propaganda for the Palestinians (which it didn't seem like to me when I saw it), it doesn't even serve to counter the huge amount of money and effort Israel puts into propaganda here in the U.S.

Do you realize that the U.S. is the only reason that no U.N. resolutions have passed the security council denouncing Israel? Hundreds of resolutions have passed the general assembly by margins like 184-17. Let me ask you, are there really 184 muslim "Jew-hating" countries in the world? This is why Israel puts so much effort into maintaining American support, while the majority of the world (even a majority of the democratic world) does not support most of their actions.

The real problem is the abominable treatment of the Palestinian refugees (and they are refugees) by the state of Israel.

They have no army, they have no land, so the only way they can fight back is by "terror" attacks.

Don't get me wrong, I support the right of the state of Israel to exist as much as anyone (and I'd claorate more on that if I was allowed more room...), but I don't believe that the state of Israel is the only agreed, but were committed to ensuring that Cal Poly will be a leader in producing the young professionals, civic leaders and technological innovations that will be necessary to address the looming energy crises on the horizon.

However, I have never heard Malik speak, I don't understand he is a man of peace and only wants to see an end to the conflict in Palestine. Also, you claim he has been brought here "for propaganda, for inciting hate..." Unfortunately, I think you have conflated Malik's Zionism with anti-Semitism. Just because someone criticizes Israel's policies, does not mean they hate Jews.

I encourage anyone who objects to Malik's views to come to his speech on Thursday, May 11 at 7 p.m. in building 3.

**Palestine Awareness Week will advocate peace**

This week in "Palestine Awareness Week needs to advocate peace," Ben Goodman wrote, "during the Palestine Awareness Week, Amir Abdel Malik Ali... talks about Israel as an apartheid country, calls her a Nazi regime and vocally advocates for one-state solution: Palestine, No Israel."

Ben, please don't put words in our mouth. This is Palestine Awareness Week, and Malik hasn't given his speech yet, so how can you claim to know what he has said? While

The recommendations coming out of the forum were not only for Cal Poly to create models for sustainable solutions to be demonstrated on campus, including renewable energy, sustainable transportation and environmental stewardship of our agricultural lands, but also to challenge our students to solve pressing problems facing industry today, and assist us in the transition to a sustainable non-fossil fuel economy.

In addition, the President's Cabinet has expressed interest in drafting a position paper outlining the parameters of an enlightened energy and resource policy, and defining Cal Poly's role in implementing such an initiative. This is an exciting time for Cal Poly students who want to play a role in protecting the future, through stewardship of our environment and natural resources.

We already have several clubs working on realistic solutions to help provide energy, bio-fuels, solar energy, green building, sustainable agriculture and much more. Like Dr. Goodwin, we too believe we have a serious challenge ahead, but where we differ is that we believe that solutions are within reach and I believe that Cal Poly students, with the support of our faculty and administration, will be largely responsible for implementing immediate solutions, developing future trends and ultimately ensuring that the future is safe and healthy for our children's children, and the seven generations that follow.

Tyler Middlestadt is the ASI president and Mustang Daily columnist who committed to following through with the Baker Forum recommendations and ensuring that students play an important role in the looming energy crises. He can be reached at 756-5524, tmiddlestadt@calpoly.edu, AIM: CPM121 President
Club
continued from page 12

ices Tuesday through Friday. Each practice lasts for several hours, said Brian Kelly president and senior in construction management.

The lacrosse season runs from January through May. The team is currently ranked No. 11 in the nation. The team will compete in the Western Collegiate Lacrosse

League Final Four that takes place the last weekend in April. The team's goal is to win the league and on to win a national championship.

Kelly said that the physical game is a combination of speed makes lacrosse a great game to play and watch. Lacrosse has been called "the fastest game on two feet," he said.

The roller hockey club practices three times a week, said Patrick Moyen, president of the club. There are 33 members broken into 11 A-team members and 22 B-team members.

Moyen, a construction management senior, said the A-team is placed 10th in the nation and the two B-team placed first and second in their league.

Some upcoming events for the roller hockey club are games against rival Santa Barbara and a game between the A-team and one of the B-teams.

The sport goes throughout a good portion of the year, starting with tryouts in October all the way to nationals in April.

Cal Poly offers a wide variety of sports clubs and for more information on these clubs or others check out the Web site, www.asi.calpoly.edu/sports-clubs.

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Club sports on tap at Cal Poly

Jandy Jones

From gutter balls to field hockey balls, foils and scrums; poles and steel wrestling; Cal Poly club sports sample some of the most unconventional and misunderstood sports.

There are more than 15 different sports clubs at Cal Poly, ranging from the seldom-heard bowling to the complex and aggressive rugby. Head coach Nick Massman said the rugby club has over 50 players. The club has three divisions or sides that are based on skill level and the amount of experience a player might have, he said.

The members practice on average six days a week and have up to three games in a weekend.

“We practice our rugby skills twice a week,” Massman said. “We work out on fitness training four days a week.”

The club made it to the Elite Eight in the national tournament this year and finished ranked No. 6 in U.S. collegiate club ranks.

The club participates in the Southern California League. The winner of the league gets the title and moves on to play in the Sweet 16, which is similar to basketball, Massman said.

The season starts in October and ends in April. Massman said that last weekend was the end of the season.

There will be a couple of pick-up games throughout the year. He said that a team from Wales will be visiting and will play against the Cal Poly rugby sports club some time in May.

Massman said that with the success of the men’s team, he is trying to get a women’s team started.

The hardest part of rugby isn’t the intense training, but trying to find a place to work out and practice. Massman said it can be quite a battle to try and find a field to practice on or place to condition.

The bowling sports club currently has eight members and practices twice a week at Mustang Lanes or Pismo Bowl. Anadilla is the bowling team captain and a senior in industrial engineering.

The team finished 57th out of 175 teams; the goal was to finish in the top 25 percent of all tournaments, Anadilla said.

“Most bowlers on the team made it a personal goal to average over 200 for the season, Anadilla said. All members were successful this year.”

Bowling can be done as recreation or in competition. Anyone can play the sport but to learn how to master the sport one must practice a great deal and study.

The women’s lacrosse club has over 40 players, 18 play on the Division I team and 28 on the Division II team, Meryl Rodgers said. Rodgers is the president and captain of the team. She is also a senior in business administration.

“The team plays all throughout the school year but officially competes in the winter and spring,” Rodgers said. “The team just won a league championship. It will go on to nationals in May.”

Practicing five days a week for two hours a day will help the team to get to the goal of winning a sixth straight national championship. The men’s lacrosse club currently has 38 members and practices twice a week at Mustang Lanes or Pismo Bowl.

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“Just 10 more minutes,” your friend shouts with encouragement.

But today is anything but a typical day — as you turn right onto Monterey Street, you hear the roar of a car coming from behind. Cars are constantly passing by, but this one seems unnaturally close.

All you hear next is a colossal thud as your body is thrown into the air and then crashes to the cement. You can hear your friends’ voices, but they’re fading ... along with your thoughts and sight. Everything is black.

The next image you have comes a week later, an air tube in your mouth, an IV strapped to your wrist and wires everywhere. You don’t remember what happened or why you’re lying in a hospital bed in pain.

Carol Tschasar-Daniel knows what it’s like to wake up in that hospital bed. A car struck the former Cal Poly volleyball standout but that’s not the tragic story. Tschasar-Daniel remains in the hospital, her three children waiting at home and her husband at her bedside.

Now, as she and her family try to recuperate from this tragedy, Cal Poly has a chance to make a difference by holding an exhibition match between UC Santa Barbara and the Mustangs. Donations will be accepted at the game to benefit Tschasar-Daniel, but that’s not the only reason to attend.

Believe it or not, there once was a time when volleyball was the big ticket in town. Thousands of fans would pack the gym to see one of Cal Poly’s teams in the nation competing in Mott Gym.

The spirit of “The Magnificent Seven,” a nickname given to the 1985 Cal Poly squad by then local sports caster Mitch Mowery, still flows within Mott Gym. That team, which captured the No. 1 national ranking for several weeks and electrified fans with a camaraderie and skill level well beyond most see Frankly, page 11