Lawmakers say they want changes at CSU

Michelle Locke
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERKELEY, Calif. — Lawmakers are putting pressure on the California State University system with bills seeking more scrutiny of financial decisions.

The CSU, the nation's largest four-year public university system with more than 400,000 students, has faced criticism in recent months for the way it rewards top executives.

Among other things, the San Francisco Chronicle reported that CSU had quietly paid as much as $4 million over 10 years to departing executives, a period in which student fees increased significantly.

CSU officials said most of the executives who were given what is known as “transition pay” were working on special projects, but two were paid after taking jobs out of state.

A bill introduced by Assembly members Anthony Portantino, D-La Canada Flintridge, and Julia Brownley, D-Woodland Hills, would require that CSU's governing Board of Trustees approve all executive contracts in public session, detailing all benefits.

The bill, AB1413, also seeks to add two new positions to the board, which now includes 16 members appointed by the governor as well as five ex-officio members and alumni, faculty and student representatives. The additional members would be legislative appointments, one from the Senate and the other from the Assembly.

The bill would require that executives who are paid for professorships must, in fact, teach and can't earn more than a full-time professor would for similar work.

In a news conference in Sacramento on Wednesday, Portantino said it’s important to restore public trust in how taxpayer dollars are being spent at CSU.

CSU spokeswoman Clara Potes-Fellow said system officials won't have a position on the bill until they study it further. She noted that changes already been made at the system, including a vote by trustees last November to limit the transition pay program and announce such arrangements in public session.

Transplant doctor scrutinized in preparation of organ donor

Police and state medical authorities were investigating whether a transplant doctor tried to expedite the death of a patient who was removed from life support to harvest his organs.

Police were looking into “possible irregularities” into how a 25-year-old man, who was born with a rare metabolic disorder, was prepared for organ donation last year, according to a statement by the San Luis Obispo Police Department.

The police did not identify suspects in the probe. But the Medical Board of California confirmed Wednesday that it was probing Dr. Hootan Roozrokh, who was a surgeon at Kaiser Permanente's now-closed kidney transplant program in San Francisco.

Board spokeswoman Candis Cohen said state officials were also investigating a second doctor, whom she declined to identify.

Ruben Navarro died in February 2006 at Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center, about 150 miles northwest of Los Angeles. The day before, his family had given approval for a surgical team to retrieve his organs, though the procedure never occurred.

Navarro was born with adrenoleukodystrophy, a neurological disorder, according to his mother. He lived in a home for mentally and physically challenged adults in the year prior to his death.

After he died, detectives interviewed Navarro's mother, Rosa, at her home in Oxnard.

"They told me they were doing an investigation because they found out there was something that wasn't properly done," Rosa Navarro told The Associated Press, adding that the police did not provide further details.

The Los Angeles Times, citing unnamed sources, reported Wednesday that authorities were looking into whether Roozrokh directed nurses to administer excessive pain medications to hasten Ruben Navarro's death.

State law prohibits transplant surgeons to be involved in the treatment of potential organ donors before they are declared dead.

"They said they were doing it to benefit the students of the College of Architecture and Environmental Design."

Patrice Engle, Cal Poly psychology and child development professor, was one of the lead researchers in a child development study that was published in one of the oldest and most respected peer-reviewed medical journals, The Lancet.

The publication was a three-part series that assessed strategies to prevent the loss of children’s potential in developing countries.

The series was launched in London Jan. 25 and Bangladesh this week to bring attention to the new research.

"It was a great achievement in particular because The Lancet is a medical journal, and people who are involved in medical and health sometimes don't think about the development of the child as part of their role. The fact that we got put into a medical journal is really important because it probably has the biggest circulation internationally of any journal," Engle said.

The series was broken down into three parts. The first study included a series of estimates of children who don't reach their full potential in both social and emotional development.

The second documents reasons for the lack of development, such as poverty or poor health. The third, Engle's paper, recognizes strategies to alleviate the loss of their potential.

"We looked at all the different strategies that might make a difference in children's development, and we came up with four main interventions," Engle said. "The first one is making sure the child is well-nourished and not stunted. The second is making sure the child has enough iron. The third is iodine deficiency, and the fourth is the kind of environment in which the child is raised."
find a single solution that can tackle these problems. “Sometimes we may need a child care center and other times we may need to teach an older sibling how to be more responsive to the child. We have a variety of interventions, and because the right intervention depends on the context, we can’t say ‘this is what you should always do,’” Engle said.

Engle said another problem is that, while our government recognizes the importance of a child’s early years of development, children receive care but don’t receive the kind of learning encouragement that is so important for children’s survival, but we thought, ‘it’s not enough to make children survive, they also have to develop,’” Engle said.

Engle, who began teaching at Cal Poly in 1980, was the chief of development and nutrition at UNICEF from 1999-2006 and also worked with world organizations such as the World Bank and the World Health Organization. She took a seven-year leave during her work with UNICEF, and just returned to her favorite salon products.

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Mural
continued from page 1

“Redoing the mural is a way for us to commemorate him and renew his mark on the wood,” said Vi Tran, architecture junior and chair of Alpha Rho Chi.

Swanson’s impact through his donations to the college were so extensive that each year Alpha Rho Chi elects a Vern Chair. The Vern Chair is responsible for taking care of the art collection and the Vern fund, a collection of money specifically for educational events for the college.

In the past, the fraternity has used the fund to finance lectures and the Fifth Year Chumash Show, a showcase for five-year architecture students to show their work.

The idea for the mural renovation is in the works for about two years, but the fraternity could not begin until it was certain there would be no construction in the UU, as construction would have destroyed the mural area.

Now with the support of Associated Students Inc., Alpha Rho Chi is contacting active members and alumni to join forces and work on the mural during weekends in spring quarter.

Once the project officially commences, it is expected to take two to three months to complete.

The students decided to take on this project because the 25-year-old mural was showing significant signs of weathering and aging. They plan on keeping the same design Swanson originally created but updating it by sealing the wood, repainting with exterior paint and then sealing the top.

“This mural is important. People walk by it every day,” said Naomi Srto, an architecture junior and president of Alpha Rho Chi. “You may not know who the artist was, but people would notice if it was gone.”

The 18 to 20 active members of the fraternity hope that updating the mural will give more exposure to the life and work of Swanson to students outside of the architecture department.

The fund also allowed the fraternity to host a showing of Swanson’s artwork at Big Sky Café for the community last year.

Swanson’s collection of artwork is currently stored at a faculty house and is being catalogued by the fraternity. They are in the process of organizing the works digitally so it will be easier to view and find all of them.

Tran and Srto are currently finishing the rest of the paperwork necessary to begin the project this quarter and getting all the supplies and support ready to start up right away in the spring.

“Vern is such a big focus of our fraternity and mural is a symbol of Cal Poly, it would be a shame to see it not maintained,” Tran said.

See page 4 for today’s Sudoku
Indian-American students find home in flashy, film-inspired moves

Julianna Barbassa
ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAKLAND, Calif. — An Indian boy with a suitcase and an “I love NY” T-shirt gambles sunlight, gazing at the New York skyline and the chic Indian-American girls strolling by.

But these American-raised girls want nothing to do with an immigrant from the subcontinent. What’s a boy to do?

Dance, of course.

Bollywood dance competitions involve teams of Indian-American students from elite U.S. universities who bring the music and dance traditions of their forebears into a uniquely American world of intercollegiate sport, where high-energy huddles, cheerleading and freedom, and a little flower.”

That dances the acts out the challenges of living between cultures — familiar territory for any second- and third-generation immigrant — through the sugary boy-meets-girl plots and high-energy choreography of the movies they grew up watching.

“It’s like a bridge between Hindi and American culture,” said Kashi Birla, 22, a fourth-year design and year management science major. “There’s nothing like this in India.”

The UCLA team was one of 10 that faced off recently in a competition held by Indus, the Indian student group at UC Berkeley.

As the dancing began, UCLA’s lead performer spun around, revealing that his “I love NY” T-shirt said “I love India more” on the back.

“Let me show you how things are done in India!” he said.

A scene later — wearing flashy new costumes glittering with sequins — the young immigrant meets the Americanized Indian girl at a club.

“With all immigrants, there’s an intellectual stuff in the world, but it’s fun, it’s entertaining.”

For Indian-American students with my culture, myself!”

Appropriating, Indian-born parents filled the seats closest to the stage at the Scottish Rite Center.

“‘He’s picking up Indian culture, which he was never into before,’” said Bindu Amin of her son Karun, part of the UCSD team. “He was never interested in anything Indian. He’d come home and ask for pizza. All of a sudden, he was part of the team. It was just something he could associate with.”

Her attention turns back to the stage, where an Indian-American girl had to choose between two suitors. She rejected the Westernized fraternity president and the newcomer fresh from the Indian state of Maharashtra, before settling on the academically accomplished Regent’s Scholar.

The end, of course, was a happy one.

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Indian-American students find home in flashy, film-inspired moves

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Outdoor sports dominate SLO Film Festival

Hayley Brattle

The 13th Annual San Luis Obispo International Film Festival is underway and will continue into next week until March 11. The festival will feature a variety of screenings — from film classics to world premieres.

"We are sort of trying to find an identity for the film festival," said Wendy Eidson, this year's festival director, adding that they wanted to do something that sets the San Luis Obispo festival apart from all the others. "We're thinking we really want to concentrate a little more on sports."

Films on rock climbing, skiing and snowboarding and several surf movies are all in store for this year's patrons. "We're sort of testing the waters."

The "Endless Summer" family of surfers Bruce Brown, and Wes Brown will be at the Fremont Theatre Thursday, March 8, for Surf Night for screenings of "Step into Liquid" and "Chasing Dora."

"Chasing Dora" includes the well-known Robert "Wingnut" Weaver and Mickey Muñoz, as well as Bruce and Wes Brown. The film was directed by former San Luis Obispo resident, Mire Andrei, board shaper and former San Luis Obispo resident.

This year's festival will also welcome Oscar nominee James Cromwell, who played the lovable farmer in "Babe," to receive the King Vidor Award. Last year's recipient was Oscar winner Morgan Freeman. The award recognizes a career of achievement in film acting.

Cromwell has most recently played agent James Comey in the TV series "24" and Prince Phillip in this year's Oscar nominated film "The Queen," for which his co-star Helen Mirren won best actress.

As for getting in contact with Cromwell, Eidson said, "He had worked with one of our board members on 'The Sum of All Fears,' and they had stayed friends."

Classic screenings this year include "It Came From Outer Space," a 1953 science fiction flick about aliens who take on human form, and "Suckerfish," a documentary of life on the streets of San Luis Obispo and several other cities. Local architect Jose Lemus will be available after his 20-minute film for a Q&A.

"Something that we've never done before is encourage students to screen their films," Eidson said. "We are sort of trying to find an identity for the film festival."

Tickets to the film festival are available online and at the festival's office, located at 861 Palm St. Passes as well as "a-la-carte" tickets are available. Advance tickets to screenings are available. Glasses provided for all audience members.

For more information about the film festival, visit www.sloff.org.

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Music department to honor ‘Our World’s Music’ with choir concert

Jackie Pugh

“Our World’s Music” is coming to the Christopher Cohan Center at 8 p.m. Saturday as part of the Cal Poly Choirs’ annual Winter Concert. The performance will include Cal Poly’s University Singers, PolyPhoenix, barbershop groups O Snap and Wired-4-Sound, and the a capella group Take It SLO.

While the night will showcase music from around the world, the highlighted second half is an Eastern Arabic Classic suite of songs dedicated to Cal Poly’s new ethnomusicology professor, Kenneth S. Habib.

“We will be singing a couple different pieces from all over the world, in different languages,” said Lana Smith, psychology senior and member of the University Singers. “We’ll be singing one song in Swahili from Africa, a Hebrew song, and a song that has no words that sounds like rain.

“But the biggest performance and the main part of the concert is an Arabic piece,” Smith said. “It’s a huge piece where there’s going to be dancers and it’s to showcase a new professor (Habib), so we’ll be singing that piece and welcoming him.”

The Cal Poly Choirs, which include around 130 singers, 12 student instrumentalists and seven guest musicians, will be performing songs from countries like Africa, Japan, Argentina, Ecuador and Israel.

The Arab Music Ensemble, which has 15 members, will perform as special guests. The group was recently created by Habib, who will direct the group after the intermission with songs from world-renowned singer Fairouz.

Habib compiled the entire second half of the performance from an album by Fairouz, who he believes to be the most famous singer of the Arab world.

“There’s a history of continuously performed classical music that goes back to southern Spain, which is well-known for its intellectual and artistic production since the Middle Ages,” Habib said. Thus, the second half is a compilation of this popular form of Eastern Mediterranean music and is titled “Pieces of Andalusia: A Suite of Eastern Arab Art Music.”

The show will conclude with a traditional folk dance, a Dabka, which has 12 dancers. This ties in with the genre of Mashshah, another form unbroken art music from the Middle Ages.

“Our World’s Music” will be conducted by music professor Thomas Davis and Habib, and assisted by staff accompanist Paul Woolding.

Tickets cost $8 to $15 and are available at the Performing Arts Ticket Office 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call SLO-ARTS (756-2787).

A 10 percent discount is given to patrons who buy season tickets to four music department events through the Performing Arts Ticket office, and a 15 percent discount is given on tickets to four or more events.

The concert is sponsored by the Cal Poly Music Department, the College of Liberal Arts and the Instructionally Related Activities program. For more information, contact the music department at 756-2406.

Railroad

continued from page 4

UC Santa Barbara. One of her instructors knew the composer personally and invited her to sing the ballad at his house in Palm Springs.

“It was wonderful,” Arthur said. “It was like meeting Mustapha. It was unbelievable.”

Arthur remains close with Krenek’s widow. In 1999, she recorded an album of Krenek’s work.

“It happens with very few composers, but Krenek is one that every time I hear his music, it’s better,” she said. “I see more and hear more and love it more. He’s one of the greatest composers in my opinion.”

In 1938, Krenek was forced to flee Nazi Germany after Adolf Hitler labeled him a degenerate artist for having a black musician in one of his jazz operas. He immigrated to the United States, traveling the country as a visiting music professor before settling at Hamline University in Minnesota. He moved to Hollywood in 1950. Krenek died in Palm Springs in 1991.

“The Ballad of the Railroads” is a collection of 10 of Krenek’s poems that are set to music and played without breaks. The piece employs the 12-tone technique, a nontraditional style of music Krenek helped pioneer designed to keep the listener off balance. In addition, the piece is incidental meaning more emphasis is placed on the words rather than the music of the piece.

Music professor Alyson McLamore will give a pre-concert lecture about these techniques. She will also provide the audience with historical and cultural context about Krenek and his work.

McLamore, a program annotator for several organizations, said Krenek doesn’t get the credit he deserves for his work.

“Krenek was a pioneer, but we’ve paid more attention to some other pioneers,” she said. “He merits more attention than what he’s gotten in the past.”

Music instructor Susan Azaret Davies will play piano for the piece. She has performed with the New York Philharmonic and has played at Carnegie Hall.

Tickets for the lecture-recital are $3 for students and $5 for adults and may be purchased at the door.

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Metro stop adventures

When I first arrived in Madrid, I was overwhelmed by the size of the city. There were people everywhere at all hours of the day, hundreds of cars that did not stop for anyone and more escalators in one metro stop than all of San Luis Obispo. Everything was new and I thought it would be impossible to find a task familiar with myself to navigate this whole city in only five months. The first day, my roommate and I sat down and devised a plan to conquer the city of Madrid. We entitled our mission “The Metro Stop Adventures.”

Since riding from one side of the city to the next in the metro could take a person over an hour, about the same amount of time a person could drive from San Luis to Santa Barbara, we decided we would choose a different metro stop each day and get off and explore that area. We figured that if we familiarized ourselves with the small cities, the whole city would eventually link itself together.

Excited to begin, we left our room and tried our best to explain our plan, in Spanish, to our señora. She smiled, gently grabbed our hands and led us out of the building, down the street and to the metro stop by our house. “Adiós!” She gave us a little push, a metro ticket and sent us on our way. We did not know where we were going or what we would see, but she had faith that we would find our way back to her.

The underground world of the metro is completely different than the bustling city streets above. There is a distinct rhythm and feel to this world. It is full of amateur musicians, newsstands, artwork and people pushing their way through crowded tunnels to catch the next train. Over the past two months, I have become accustomed to seeing the same faces in different corners throughout the metro. My favorite is the karaoke woman at Avenida de America who chooses her spot in one color, often a combination of many different shades of red, and sings old song values estimated at 40’s and 50’s. She has a lineup of about three or four songs, and since my adventure I've often heard her carry on, I now unconsciously hum along as I pass by.

The first week my roommate and I got off at the most popular metro stops and saw all the major tourist destinations. We wandered through Plaza Mayor and el Parque Retiro and took advantage of the free entrance to the Prado on Sunday. As we became familiar with these main streets, we started to explore the metro stops that are not mentioned in the guidebooks. We found that these little side streets often had more charm than the major plazas and parks.

After walking in one direction for a while we would stumble across vintage clothing stores or local art exhibitions. When I mentioned my findings to Spaniards who had lived here their whole lives, they showed me where these shops were located. Many had never heard of these destinations. It is exciting for me to be constantly discovering new stores and have something to share with the people I meet here. Although we still have many places to explore, my game of connect the dots is slowly drawing a picture of this amazing city called Madrid.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Death toll in Iraq underestimated

According to the New York Times, the number of civilian deaths in Iraq, but I believe it was severely underestimated. An article in The New York Times quoted a study done by American and Iraqi public health researchers, and the estimate was slightly higher: 213,369 to 703,663. Iraqi civilians died from March 2003 to July 2006. Casualties came from hospitals, Morgues, and governments are alternately described as unrepresentative, and estimates of the same report are difficult and debated. The above, and other estimates, can be found in the above 2006 article, "Iraqi Dead May Total 600,000, Study Says," at nytimes.com.

Tess Berwald
Animal science senior

STAFF COMMENTARY

Give smokers a break

SAN LUIS OBISPO: Smokers: you light a cigarette in a storm, downtown after a movie, outside a bar following a drink or two, on the way to class, do you ever feel people look at you like you’re shooting heroin into your vein? Yes, we do. It is just a fact. Our clothes are bad. We’ve had it drilled into our heads since we were in the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program in elementary school. Nevertheless, for one reason or another, some people still choose to smoke.

In 1990, San Luis Obispo became the first city in the world to ban smoking in all public buildings, including banks and restaurants. But it was not so long ago when a hostess would prompt you with “Would you like some non-smoking?” along with the number of people in your party. Needless to say, while abroad, it was very surprising at first to have a water gey and include an ashtray with the place and setting glasses. I would have to say I agree with the ban. It is bad enough not to have to enjoy a good salad, steak or soda roll without the smell of smoke wafting over their entire entree? But in a town where smoking is the norm, I would venture to say that smokers are looked down upon, even shunned for immoral conduct, if they try to smoke anywhere besides their front porch.

We all have our vices, don’t we?

I was walking on campus a few weeks ago behind a guy who was just minding his own business and smoking. In a group of friends behind him, one loudly laughed, coughed and her friend asked, “Are you OK?” The other one responded, “Well, I would be if I didn’t have smoke in my lungs.”

The guy seemed to brush it off, but it clearly made him feel uncomfortable. He shouldn’t be bounded outside a public in a private space simply because he chose to light up.

Another problem people have with smoking is the litter factor, but if smokers had a place to put their cigarettes, I doubt you would see the classic littering on Via Carta Way or out the window on Santa Rosa Street. Smokers would be less likely to dump out their filters with their shoes after their last drag if there was an extra ashtray or two around.

In a college town, there are far more serious health risks involved with drinking. Why do we pass off people’s radical and now drunken behavior as standard while we avoid those who just want to smoke a cigarette? In 2005, 40 percent of traffic deaths in California were alco­hol related, according to Mothers Against Drunk Driving. I’ve never heard of a car accident caused by driving under the influence of nicotine or a kid being rushed to the emergency room after having a handful of cigarettes at a party.

Relax, people, and let them enjoy their nicotine, just like you let them enjoy your morning coffee. Is it really different? No. If it is, I’m sorry. But the secondhand smoke in the open air is not going to kill you. It is not to be confused with anotherevi­sion ad with the old man talking about how he lost his wife to secondhand smoke and the aggressive thruth.com cam­paign. Am I condoning parents smoking in their cars with their kids in the backseat? Negative. Am I asking that waters or smoking bans be forced to walk around secondhand smoke all day? Of course not. None of our secondhand smoke laws have been implemented in this state, and the tobacco industry is com­pletely banned from advertising on TV. And how can the ban on smoke ads be established when alcohol ads are seen in a positive light? Super Bowl bowling Bards, anyone?

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Instead, let’s focus our efforts, be forthright about secondhand smoke all day? Of course not. None of our secondhand smoke laws have been implemented in this state, and the tobacco industry is completely banned from advertising on TV. And how can the ban on smoke ads be established when alcohol ads are seen in a positive light? Super Bowl bowling Bards, anyone?

Instead, let’s focus our efforts, be forthright about secondhand smoke all day? Of course not. None of our secondhand smoke laws have been implemented in this state, and the tobacco industry is completely ban
Mustangs charge past Matadors, 86-70

At left, Cal Poly senior forward Tyler McGinn shoots from the perimeter during the first half of the Mustangs' 86-70 Big West Conference win over visiting Cal State Northridge on Thursday night in Mott Gym.

Below, Cal Poly sophomore point guard Trac Clark looks to pass around Cal State Northridge junior guard Ran Colston (23) in first-half action.

The game was played in front of 2,801 fans, the largest home crowd at Mott Gym this season. McGinn scored 19 points and senior forward Derek Stockslager added 18 for the Mustangs (17-10, 8-5 Big West), who have won six straight, 11 of 13 and set a Division I record for wins in a season.

The Mustangs host Senior Day against Big West foes Pacific in a regular-season finale at 2 p.m. Saturday.

The Cal Poly women's basketball team lost 67-60 at Cal State Northridge on Thursday night to snap an eight-game winning streak and fall to 13-13 overall and 8-5 in Big West play.

Nick Camacho

Poly baseball team opens LMU series at home tonight

Gunning for their fourth straight winning season, the Mustangs will try to improve on their 8-2 home record this weekend.

Tristan Aird

As difficult as the Cal Poly baseball team's schedule has been so far, head coach Larry Lee knows what's coming.

After their three-game series against struggling Loyola Marymount at home this weekend, the Mustangs have looming series at UNLV (8-8), at No. 6 Rice and at home against No. 9 Oregon State.

All the more reason Cal Poly (10-7) hopes to win its fifth straight series against the Lions (4-11-1). The series begins at 6 tonight at Baggett Stadium, continues at 1 p.m. Saturday and concludes at 11 a.m. Sunday.

In all, Cal Poly's schedule is ranked the fifth-toughest in Division I by Boyd's World.com, which uses a simulation of the NCAA's secret Ratings Percentage Index formula to predict what teams will reach the postseason.

"We know that in the near future, we go to Rice, the next weekend is Oregon State," Lee said Monday. "Our conference is loaded this year. Irvine and Riverside have really stepped up their talent. It makes you think in our case, we're going to go with a younger group, mostly freshmen and sophomores, they will figure out the game as the season progresses."

The Mustangs are progressing nicely already, having won 10 of their last 12 games since an 0-5 start that included three-season-opening losses at current 21st-ranked San Diego and current 28th-ranked USC.

"Things have really turned around and our young players have learned how to compete at this level and play the game down a little bit," Lee said. "They're broken down a lot of mental barriers as well as physical barriers. We've still got a ways to go. We've still got to get more of the young guys involved in the competition."

Among the young players to have made a significant impact so far are sophomore third baseman Brent Morel (.408 average), freshman catcher Wes Dorrell (291, 12 RBI), sophomore starting right-hander Thomas Eager (3-1, 2.04 ERA) and sophomore left-handed reliever Derrick Sato (1-0, 0.0). But despite the efforts of the underclassmen on the roster, two upperclassmen — junior right fielder Grant Desme and junior right-handed reliever Evan Reed — have emerged as team leaders.

Desme leads Cal Poly in hits (24), runs scored (20), home runs (2), RBI (21), total bases (47), slugging percentage (.770), walks (11) and on-base percentage (.479). He is second on the team in average (.393) and doubles (five) and tied for the team lead in stolen bases (two).

Reed, who has four saves, has yet to allow a run in 11 1/3 innings of work.

"We still need to get a few more players involved," Lee said of the bullpen. "Grant Threophilos threw (Feb. 18) for the first time in a year after two surgeries on his knee. He's got some tenderness on his shoulder so he didn't throw this week. Evan Reed's been lights out. A lot of his saves are one-inning saves. He came into a situation with a runner at first base and nobody out in the eighth (inning) and got six outs for a save in a 3-2 ballgame (last) Saturday, which was good for him to go through. It's just another experience that he needed to go through to gain more confidence.

"Lee said first-year Cal Poly pitching coach Jason Kelly has taught Reed — whom Lee said threw 94 to 95 mph — a slider and reduced his reliance on the curveball.

"(Reed) is much more of a pitcher now than he ever was," Lee said. "Evan's a pitcher that I think, if we had to, we could put him back in a starter role, we see Baseball, page 7

Poly track and field team set to open season at UCLA meet Saturday

The Mustangs are coming off a strong season in which the men finished second and the women fifth in the Big West Conference.

Amanda Retzer

The Cal Poly track and field team will kick off the 2007 season Saturday at the UCLA All-Comers Meet in Drake Stadium.

Thirty-five Mustang athletes will be competing against several other California teams including Long Beach State, Cal State Fullerton and Division II schools Cal State Bakersfield and Cal State Los Angeles.

"It's a chance to see where people are at and it's a 'runt-buster' to get the competitive season rolling," said Cal Poly assistant coach Mark Conover, who specializes in distance running.

The open meet, starting at 9 a.m. Saturday, will give the Mustangs a chance to feel out their spots and get some real, timed runs in against future competitors as well as post-collegiate and redshirt athletes.

"I think that everyone wants to go out there on Saturday and put down some good solid marks," Cal Poly senior high jumper Sharon Day said.

"Maybe we will have a few regional qualifying marks. But I think that this meet is a good tune-up, experience meet for the younger people on our squad." The Mustangs lost a number of outstanding seniors from last year, including Big West Conference Male Athlete of the Year Luke Llamas and Deandre Byrne, holder of the fourth fastest 1,500-meter run time in Cal Poly women's history.

But a number of younger athletes have stepped up to help fill the gaps. "We do have a very strong team, a lot of young talent and some good solid marks," Cal Poly senior high jumper Brent Morel said. "We have a very strong team, a lot of young talent and some good solid marks," Cal Poly senior high jumper Brent Morel said. "We have a very strong team, a lot of young talent and some good solid marks," Cal Poly senior high jumper Brent Morel said. "We have a very strong team, a lot of young talent and some good solid marks," Cal Poly senior high jumper Brent Morel said.