Traces of lead found in campus preschool

Children continue to play at Cal Poly's Child Development Preschool Laboratory after lead was found earlier in the month on an outdoor playmat.

Jennifer Ingan  
SEPTEM BER DAILY

Cal Poly environmental health and safety staff discovered the presence of lead in an outdoor play area used by children enrolled at Cal Poly's Child Development Preschool Laboratory — a unit of the College of Liberal Arts Psychology and Child Development Department — earlier this month, according to reports.

Officials said that the risk of exposure to the lead from the play area is considered relatively low, in part because children attend the preschool three days a week for 2 1/2 hours a day. Parents of the children enrolled at the preschool were notified, and no cases of elevated blood lead content have been reported so far, said Dave Ragsdale, Environmental Health and Safety Manager at Cal Poly.

San Luis Obispo County Public Health Agency's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention specialists were contacted immediately and are working with Cal Poly to address the issue and provide parents with assistance.

Ragsdale said the university's environmental health and safety staff are working with environmental consultant Millennium Consulting Associates to identify and address any materials that contain or may contain lead to ensure safety. They are thoroughly testing items such as toys, furniture and eating utensils for the presence of lead at the Child Development Preschool and the ASI Children's Center on Campus Way, which is a full-time day-care center.

"This is a most unfortunate event, and we are truly sorry for any stress and concerns that parents of our preschoolers may have," said Larry Kelley, vice president for administration and finance. "The health and safety of children enrolled in any Cal Poly program is one of the utmost importance to us. We are taking every precaution to ensure that parents are informed and have the resources they need to see Lead, page 2

Continuing Education

Grant will help educate adults over 55

Megan Priley  
SEPTEM BER DAILY

Cal Poly Continuing Education and University Outreach has been one of the 12 national sites selected from 200 applicant organizations in nine states to receive a $40 thousand "Models of Significant Service" grant by RespectAbility, a program of the National Council on Aging.

The main idea behind the two-year demonstration is to acquire different organizations and to allow them to set up model centers and specify strategies that will improve the life of participating adults over the age of 55. "Our center is established for non-profit organizational advancement, training and educational opportunities for adults who want to use their talents to raise funds for different organizations and to allow them to set up model centers and specify strategies that will improve the life of participating adults over the age of 55," said Josh Ruiz, assistant dean of Continuing Education and University Outreach.

This grant is the first ever designed to assist organizations in attracting and supporting adults over 55 years old. Ruiz explains it will help them fill important leadership roles and develop approaches for coordinating and managing these roles.

"The center is established for non-profit organizational advancement, training and educational opportunities for adults who want to use their talents to raise funds for different organizations," said Josh Ruiz, assistant dean of Continuing Education and University Outreach.

According to Dennis "Skip" Parks, dean of Continuing Education and University Outreach, this grant see Grant, page 2
Organic

continued from page 1

right and two items per week.

Most of the vegetables and fruits included in the boxes come from the Cal Poly Organic Farm, but occasionally it will be purchased from another grower.

"We do buy from other local organic farms for variety," said Genenc.

This quarter the produce offered includes carrots, beets, broccoli, onions, cauliflower, lettuce, leeks, arugula, kale, arthichokes, asparagus and strawberries, although what's included in the boxes changes weekly.

"The biggest thing people need to get used to (with locally grown organic food) is that we is what we is what's in season," said Genenc. "You can walk into a grocery store and buy anything because it's grown and strawberries, although what's in season, and consumers don't usually know exactly where it came from.

The organic farm is run by a management team and Cal Poly students who work for a variety of reasons.

The Organic Farm Enterprise project is offered as a course (CGRCE 290-412) each quarter where students receive units to work on the farm. It is taught by Dr. John Phillips, and is open to all students.

Some students work on the farm in exchange for produce in a work trade program. They receive a box in exchange for four hours of work.

Most of the students involved work about 20 hours a week for pay.

"I wanted to get some practical experience in farming and the organic farm provides that," said and soil sciences senior David Guerra. "It ties what I'm learning in school to a practical application.

Crop science graduate student Brad Booher has similar reasons for working at the organic farm.

"I'm doing a thesis in crop science and I wanted to keep learning about it," he said. "It combines learning and working."

"Students who work on the farm do a variety of jobs ranging from construction and tractor work to feeding goats and chickens to planting and tending to the crops. The majority of the work is preparing produce for the CSA boxes.

"Mondays and Thursdays are harvest days," Guerra said. "We start at 7 a.m. and harvest the produce, then take it to the washing station and pack the boxes from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m."

Booher enjoys working on the farm because he gets to see the end results of his work.

"It's satisfying to see customers actually picking up the crops," he said.

The organic farm is made up of three separate fields. The first is the student experimental farm off Mount Bishop Road and across from the compost unit.

Field 25 is a smaller one-acre field located along U.S. Highway 1 and field 34, the largest one, is across the street from the dairy unit.

While all three of the fields use the same organic methods, only the student experimental farm and field 25 are certified organic by California Certified Organic Farmers. Field 34 is in the process of certification.

"It's a pretty strict process," said Guerra. "You have to apply for the certification and then prove for three years that everything is done right. There's an inspection every year after that.

In order to be qualified for certification, the Cal Poly Organic Farm uses no pesticides and only natural fertilizers. Everything used on the farm must be approved, down to what material the netting over plants is made of.

More information about the organic farm and the CSA program is available on their Web site, calpolygarden.com.

Grant

continued from page 1

will help Cal Poly expand lifelong learning opportunities for the segment of the population while also helping local nonprofit organizations.

"Cal Poly benefits from the program," said Ruiz. "It will help Cal Poly get in better touch and build on partnerships."
Britons begin recovery from worst floods in 60 years

D'Arcy Doran

BUCSCOT, England (AP) — Gasoline-powered pumps roared into action as stunned Britons tried to dry out their houses after the worst flooding in more than half a century.

Downtown from the worst-hit areas, residents nervously watched river levels, fearing the runoff from the floods could inundate new areas of England.

"Every time you see the rain come, you think 'Oh, God,'" said Valerie Long, who tore out drenched carpet from her home near the swollen River Thames just outside of London.

One man drowned Tuesday after jumping into a rain-swollen river. And a woman trapped in her home near the swollen River Thames in Buiston, about 70 miles west of London.

"We lost everything," said Long, who was one of a dozen residents to be evacuated from flooded homes.

Many were shocked at the realization that this is the worst flooding in more than half a century.

Although sunshine helped shrink water levels Tuesday, more rain was expected in the next few days. Forecasters, however, said additional flooding wasn't expected.

"Rainfall-wise, the worst is over, certainly for the working week," said John Hammond of Met Office, the national weather service.

Queen Elizabeth II sent a message of support to flooded areas, saying she was "shocked and deeply concerned" by the damage. She thanked the emergency services, military and volunteers and expressed sympathy "to all the many people whose homes have been damaged, livelihoods threatened, or who have been affected by the water and power shortages."

In Bedford, north of London, a man died after jumping into the River Great Ouse. Witnesses saw him swim to the middle of the river, before going under. He was pulled from the water by rescuers but pronounced dead at a hospital.

Some 350,000 people in the Gloucestershire region, the most severely affected, remained without drinking water Tuesday, relying on hundreds of thousands of gallons brought in by emergency workers in bottles or in tanks. Many may have to wait a week or more for the floodwaters to recede enough to allow pumping stations to operate.

Environment Secretary Hilary Benn told legislators some 780,000 gallons of bottled water were being distributed daily, along with the water being provided by tankers.

He said the government would commit $18 billion in shareholder wealth.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Razor and box cutter blades were planted in the sandbags of a barrier near Los Angeles International Airport in an apparent attempt to hurt children, sheriff's investigators said.

"We don't want to use for propaganda purposes," Clinton said. Her campaign quickly posted video of her answer online, trying to show she has a different understanding of foreign policy than her chief rival.

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A grand jury refused to indict a doctor accused of murdering four seriously ill hospital patients with drug injections during the desperate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, closing the book on the only mercy-killing case to emerge from the storm. Dr. Anna Pou acknowledged administering medication to the patients but insisted she did so only to relieve pain.

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He said the government would commit $18 billion in shareholder wealth.
Greg Barkley, Daniel Hoxemeier, Joel Calvin and Tim Kennedy nonchalantly crammed into a black circular booth behind Velvet Jones, the Santa Barbara bar and nightclub where the four would perform a few hours later.

The four friends in their early 20s make up Oh No! Oh My!, the folksy indie-pop band that just completed their tenth show. Their song, “Wilk in the Park,” was performed at the 2007 Lollapalooza music festival, which was only the band’s second tour. The sound is distinctly Oh No! Oh My!, although the band uses these same elements to create its own, different from other artists, but that also differ from each other. No two songs sound the same, providing listeners with an unpredictability that matches the playful, surrealistic imagery of their lyrics.

“Songwriting” kind of starts out with completely fictional things,” Barkley described. “I kind of apply it to stuff that happens to me and I make it ... I don’t know. I just make it, cool,” he said. “My life’s pretty boring.”

Each song tells a story, although its meaning is cleverly hidden with dreamlike imagery and subtle humor. This humor is especially evident in the album’s first track, “Oh Be One.” Barkley croons, “Oh be one, you’re only my hope,” relying on an exchange between Star Wars characters Obi-Wan Kenobi and Princess Leia Organa.

Each band member plays at least three instruments, ranging from guitar, bass and drums to less conventional, avant-garde, acoustic, tambourines, bells, shakers and percussion. “You like how she could be cooler if I knew how to play this? And then you just do it,” Regan explained. “We’re all just prodigies, really, that have gotten older,” he joked.

The group’s influences include Radiohead, Morrissey, The Smiths, Belle and Sebastian, The Magnetic Fields, Morningwood, Echo and the Bunnymen, Miles Davis, Talking Heads, Neil Young, Stevens, and of course, The Mills Brothers. Regan explained, “If you want to solve a bet or a girl, whatever you’re into, you can just put on The Mills Brothers light a candle and look at my fish tank; and at all other,” he described. “Seriously, that’s not.”

Calvin supposedly has the best fish tank in Austin, strategically located above a record player full of Mills Brothers melodies.

Over the next month and a half, Oh No! Oh My! will travel across the United States, making a brief stop in Austin before continuing on to promote “Between the Devil and the Sea.”

But don’t expect Oh No! Oh My! to crash and burn, even if Regan has too much fun, becomes deathly ill and gambles away all of band mates’ Vegas winnings. It happened before.

An even newer EP is in the works, although Calvin joked it won’t be out for about five years. But with a steadily growing, equally demanding fan base, and a few already finished songs, Calvin’s prediction seems a little off. Oh No! Oh My! are on the rise, and there’s no stopping them.

Jennifer Ingar
MANAGING EDITOR

“Megastan, one of the Buddha’s ten foremost disciples, performed the suprematist feat of being able to supersede power beyond this earthy existence. With the desire to see how his devoted mother was doing, he looked and found her in the realm of hungry demons and suffering the fate of not being able to eat anything, because the fire and wound in the abdomen wherever she breathed it to her mouth.

Thus, in order to be able to see her and attend to her, he sought the Buddha’s advice and was told to offer food to the monks after they had finished their daily aumonette at the 15th day of the seventh month as an act of ‘Dana,’ selfless giving.

In this manner, not only will his mother be saved, but seven generations of parents will also be saved. Megastan carried out this task with extreme devotion and his mother was able to rise from the realm of hungry demons. Everybody who sees this becomes joyful and glad that they began to do.”

This story forms the origin of the Оn Оn Festival. It is from selection of “The Buddha Holidays” by Reverend George E. Algharta, which was published by the Buddhist Churches of America.

Assuming the Japanese Buddha, Ohn has become a fixed way of life and is one of the most colorful events observed during the year. Sponsored by the San Luis Obispo Buddhist Church, the Ohn Festival will be held Saturday, August 5 from 11 to 2 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Hall on Grand Avenue in San Luis Obispo.

Admission to the festival is free, and in Prelude to the celebration, the San Luis Obispo Buddhist Church is offering free Japanese folk dance classes at the church every Thursday from July 12 to August 2 from 7 to 9 p.m. Participants will have the opportunity to perform at the festival as well.

“We want to create a public awareness of Japanese culture in this community,” Sandie Hirase said. “We want people to have fun and have a taste of Japanese culture.”

Hirse, 54, of Nipomo has been an active member of the San Luis Obispo Buddhist Church for 20 years. She said the festival has been happening annually in San Luis Obispo for at least 30 years. The true significance of the Ohn Festival to Buddhist lies in the religious and cultural traditions of the Buddha way of life by reflecting upon the love, affection, compassion and virtues that their parents and those who have passed on have given them while they were still alive.

The celebration will feature an array of traditional and non-traditional Japanese food, such as Udon (a type of Japanese noodle), skewered beef, tempura (deep fried battered-dipped seafood and vegetables), gyoza (Japanese-style potstickers), Japanese shortcake and snow cones. There will also be beer and sake for sale, Hirase said.

A collection of Vendors will offer hand-made jewelry, hand painted silk, 3-D crafts, women’s and children’s clothing embroidered with Japanese fabrics and designs, ornaments, Swarowski iron-cast crystal designs, and Japanese tops and T-shirts for men, women and children, and much more, Hirase said.

Entertainment will include martial arts performances by 5 Cities Judo, Daio Ryo Aki Jujutsu, taiko drumming, Japanese folk songs, Obon Odori folk dancing, the art of bonsai cutting and oriental brush painting.

Festival participants are welcome to join the dancing at anytime, Hirase said.
Laura Kasavan

J.K. Rowling does something refreshingly unexpected in the much anticipated seventh and final book of the Harry Potter series: She offers closure.

Ten years after book one was released, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" is as riveting as "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" was. To successfully build and hold anticipation in her readers for Harry's fate over a decade is a gift that requires skill and craftsmanship rarely seen in other authors.

Rowling develops multi-faceted characters that mature along with their experiences. Rather than explicitly revealing major themes, she weaves them into the plot for readers to discover on their own.

Although other themes may be arguable, death is an obvious overarching component to the series, and it returns again in the appropriately titled "Deathly Hallows."

Through a painstakingly detailed 759 pages, Rowling reveals that the greatest flaw both wizards and muggles ... can possess is a fear of death and an obsession to overcome it.

The greatest flaw both wizards and muggles ... can possess is a fear of death and an obsession to overcome it.

All lead up to the highly anticipated final battle between Harry and Voldemort.

Harry's major task in "Deathly Hallows" is to destroy the Horcruxes holding pieces of Voldemort's soul and make him mortal once again. Dumbledore, headmaster of Hogwarts, gave Harry this task in book six. Initially, Harry assumes that he is to complete this task alone.

However, he soon discovers that his friends and allies are willing to put themselves in danger for him at every point and that he can continue to resist their efforts or choose to accept the help they freely offer.

Harry wisely releases his stubborn attitude and finds a long sought after family in his friends, Ron and Hermione. The trio search for the Horcruxes together in places like Hogwarts and the Ministry of Magic, which are both controlled by Voldemort by the middle of the book.

Along the way, the characters make mistakes, experience injury and some even die. In short, they are surprisingly human. However, none are abandoned, and Rowling finishes her series with as much strength as she started, if not with an additional degree of sophistication.

"Deathly Hallows" is enchanting, and Rowling could not have closed the Harry Potter chapter any other way.
iPhone: To buy or not to buy?

Eline Dillingham

It does 100 times more than any other phone.

Apple's iPhone.

Andrew Austin

TUCSON, Ariz. — I'll be the first to admit I'm a fan of Apple products. I have an old iPod that I use to take notes, and I listen to music on my new iPod nano. I'm using this article on an Apple desktop. If anyone fits the mold for Apple's target customers, it's me.

So why am I not going to the first line to throw down a cash for it before they're released this Friday?

Exclusivity. And I'm not talking the quasi-civil exclusivity of people toting around the latest gadget. I'm talking about the iPhone being exclusively available on AT&T Wireless. Although that seems great for the fans of Apple with AT&T, for the rest of us, it doesn't make much sense.

Maps are my absolute favorite thing on the iPhone. It's the same map that is used on Google Maps. You can put the address of your phone contacts in the iPhone and they will plot the address on the map. You can get directions from place to place or look up a number and iPhone will call it for you. It's probably one of the top 10 most amazing inventions in history.

Surfing the Web via iPhone: iPhone is one of the best things about the iPhone. Videos download fast, even on the Edge Network, but not all YouTube videos are available on the iPhone, which is a little disappointing. 

Some people are complaining that the iPhone doesn't download YouTube videos. No matter how many more times you add +1 to your phone number. It's almost impossible to possible to text while you're driving, but that's probably a good thing. I do like the fact that I can't text and drive. It's a little more than two years ago that I had to wait for the release of the iPhone. I love the idea of being able to text while you're driving. It's a lot faster.

It's a lot faster, according to a class-action lawsuit brought against the company. iPhone isn't so revolutionary after all. The name "iPhone" was trademarked by Ericsson in 1993, years before Apple's iPod/XL-life craze debuted. The two companies are currently fighting over settlement terms.

The phone is suddenly resembling the LG Prada, of which designs were released a year before the iPhone lawsuit pending.

Even the name "iPhone" was trademarked by Ericsson in 1993, years before Apple's iPod/XL-life craze debuted. The two companies are currently fighting over settlement terms.

When it comes down to it, consumers should just stay away from the iPhone. It's dangerously poised to be one of the worst gadget flops of all time. Or is it?
Blues
continued from page 8
where kids still walk a ball. Each player has a theme song played over loudspeakers before a game. It's a veritable basketball fantasy for players like Hatkin who have "had a bat and ball in my hand as long as I can remember." Fans are a huge part of the Blues' season. They cover the spectrum in age, with kids and adults alike cheering on the Blues. "Believe the Blue Ball" comes in to the stands, as the Blues' head coach. The Napa native said he has the most exciting season ever. He said, "It's all a little raucous. We play hard, play fast and play one game at a time."

"We are always tweaking our systems. Some of it is based on who we are playing and new we are seeing from opponents," said Elderson. "Some is driven by our personal talent and our individual strengths."

Opening day will be a vigorous one for the team considering they have had previous success at home. The team will be looking forward to playing against whoever steps into the plate for an at-bat. Ortez said he is looking forward to playing with the plate for an at-bat. Elderson said he is looking forward to attending Cal Poly and in "most excited about working with Coach Lee and getting to know the guys."

Both Hatkin, Ortez live in a new home on Elle Street with other Blues family. Some teammate families will host free meals when in turn are awarded free season tickets.

Amour State pitcher Jon Burton, 21, is lighting up a teammate in a host program. "The parents are amazing people," Brader said.

Hosting is encouraged because it promotes community support. Head Coach Clafin would like to see more college students participate in the host program next season, possibly with some sacrifice like free barbecue or monetary stipends.

Reading, a Cal Poly alumnus believes that the Blues provide a good veneer for players to get better. "My ultimate goal (in baseball) is just to keep playing as long as it's fun," DeVincenzi said.

Football
continued from page 8
Saatit, the Mustang defensive line coordinator, "Our expectations are to play hard, play fast and play one play at a time."

New potential talent will be the theme for the Mustang this year. Four of the nine seniors to be a part of the starting rotation graduated last year giving newcoaches a chance to prove themselves. "I don't expect a newcomer to come in and play right away," Elderson said, "I expect a lot of our young talent to shine, especially in the backfield."

New candidates Jonathan Daly and Ryan Mole will get their chance to show their skills. Playing at quarterback, Daly is a transfer from Allan Hancock College, and running back Mole transferred in from Sacramento State.

Saatit said defense will continue strong with a core of returning backs: Mark Reinstein in the linebacker position, Ryan Shurtwell, Jason Rehy, Scott Lawyer and Adam Tonorsai playing on the defensive line.

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The San Luis Obipos Blues football collegiate players from around the nation.

Riddering
continued from page 8
"Kiddering is one of the top two in the world in her weight class," Hackett said. "She has speed, long reach, dynamic punches and kicks and some fancy footwork. I can't think of any weaknesses."

Riddering must also train her diet. "We must bond our team by taking in what we're doing," Noble said. "It's not just training, it's the same with nutrition. We have to look forward to playing the next play, whether that is in practice or during a game. We will worry about each team as they come."

Training wasn't an option for her. If she missed training then she got kicked off "The Fight Team." Her studies did suffer a little while attending Cal Poly, but she did manage to graduate. "Attending school and competing is not easy," Noble said. "But we try to do both." Noble said her training that is focused towards improving her overall game.

Riddering co-own a gym called "The Pit," in Ascansden. When she's not training or competing, she's training others, managing and coordinating events at her gym.

Christina married Luke last June after meeting four years ago at church. Luke is a fellow fighter and trims with her at S.O. Kickboxing. "She sparred all the time," Christina said. He added, "He says he'll go easy on the 'girls' because for kickboxing in case she doesn't make it competition fighting. She also served as a practical knowledge source for the team."

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Living the fight lifestyle

Jennifer Ingar

It's October 2005 in Las Vegas and two female "mixed martial arts" fighters are getting ready to dance. In one corner, standing at 5 feet 9 inches and weighing about 140 pounds, Christina Riddinger, 23, nervously bounces side-to-side to warm up. In the opposite corner, her opponent, 23-year-old Gina Carano, closely watches Riddinger's physique. They catch a glimpse of Kiddering's forehead. Kiddering is asking her team what round it is. Riddinger is still standing, but she's dazed. After one jab so early to get in the ring and fight someone, "The Pit" in black with a red logo of a buff menacing skeleton. Her black, sturdy pants hug her long, athletic legs. Her lean muscles are symmetrically chiseled like a Michelangelo statue.

On the phone she sounds like a prefab businesswoman. Many people tell her she's too pretty to fight, and even her sister told her she shouldn't fight. To Riddinger, that motivates and discourages her at the same time.

In our society, many people stereotypically female fighters as being homosexual, Riddinger said. And in the past, women in Thailand weren't allowed to touch the fighting ring. Although more women are starting to compete, there aren't enough "good competitors," Riddinger said. "Determination and conditioning is the key to make it in this business."

Riddinger trains four days a week for one hour at SLO Kickboxing in San Luis Obispo to keep her skills honed. When most are taking a lunch break, Riddinger begins her intense training. John Hacklaman, Riddinger's former trainer, trained Riddinger for about two and a half years. See Riddinger, page 7

Do you have the Blues?

Mollie Helmuth

Ever heard of the San Luis Obispo Blues? If you have, you've probably seen the colorful game-time billboard on Broad and Laurel streets, or heard the announcer's narrative echoing from SLO Stadium at Sunnys师范 Park or even sat through nine innings with a tri-tip sandwich.

The Blues are a California Colleage League team. College and incoming college players are recruited from around the nation to spend a summer in San Luis Obispo playing baseball.

"Our coach from Portland told me I was playing here," said Kyle Haskin, a 19-year-old infielder from the University of Portland. "I was excited to come play in California with good weather and girls."

Summer games attract good crowds to SLO Stadium, especially on weekends. The stadium is unusually set up. Chairs form a close crescent with the field preceded by a sloped lawn

Blues, page 7

Poly looking ahead to season

Megan Pelle

A lavish new stadium, an eminent fashion designer, and a bachelor's degree in kinesiology. She who graduated in June 2006 with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology. She has been training in martial arts since she was 9 years old, and is currently a fighter for "The Pit Fight Team," lead by John Hacklaman. Female mixed martial arts (MMA) competitions started in the 1970s, and have been slowing evolving. But today, more women are putting on the gloves and competing around the world. MMA competitions are based around the concept of pitting different martial arts and fighting styles against each other, showing no mercy. It requires training in striking, wrestling and submission fighting.

Round one: Taming the Shrew

Riddinger grew up in the small central coast city of Lompoc, Calif., with a population of about 40,000 people.

As a child with her father, Riddinger took up Keicho-Do Karate to pass the time. Feelings of insecurity also directed her to learn martial arts because she wanted to know how to defend herself.

In the middle of her teenage years, she started to learn kickboxing. She won her first competition fight at 19 years old, which she said boosted her confidence and made her want to fight more.

"After each fight I learn something different," Riddinger said. "I learn what I'm made of mentally and physically. I learn by mistakes I've made. It's an ultimate test of your skills."

Competitive fighting provides her with a sense of security and confidence. It keeps her physically and mentally active and prepares her to face anything in life, Riddinger said.

Finding her place in the male-dominated sport took years: "In the beginning of my career, I never realized how much discrimination there was in the world of martial arts," Riddinger said. "Some people just don't want to see female fight."

Her rusty-blonde hair was pulled back straight in a bun, revealing her tight, make-up free skin. Little curly hairs sprout along her hairline. Soft, almost transparent freckles sprinkle her nose and upper cheeks. Her eyes are vibrant, matching the color of acid-washed denim.

She could be a model for a top fashion designer. Instead, she wears simple exercise gear and a light-graphic tee that bears "The Pit" in black with a red logo of a buff menacing skeleton. Her black, sturdy pants hug her long, athletic legs. Her lean muscles are symmetrically chiseled like a Michelangelo statue.

On the phone she sounds like a prefab businesswoman. Many people tell her she's too pretty to fight, and even her sister told her she shouldn't fight. To Riddinger, that motivates and discourages her at the same time. But when people see her in the ring, they say, "Man, you really fight like a guy!"

In our society, many people stereotype female fighters as being homosexual, Riddinger said. And in the past, women in Thailand weren't allowed to touch the fighting ring. Although more women are starting to compete, there aren't enough "good competitors," Riddinger said. "Determination and conditioning is the key to make it in this business."

Riddinger trains four days a week for one hour at SLO Kickboxing in San Luis Obispo to keep her skills honed. When most are taking a lunch break, Riddinger begins her intense training. John Hacklaman, Riddinger's former trainer, trained Riddinger for about two and a half years. See Riddinger, page 7

Brennan Angel Mustang Daily

Junior running back James Noble will be a key player in the 2007 season. He had back-to-back seasons with over 1,000 rushing yards.

"Our coach from Portland told me I was playing here," said Kyle Haskin, a 19-year-old infielder from the University of Portland. "I was excited to come play in California with good weather and girls."

Summer games attract good crowds to SLO Stadium, especially on weekends. The stadium is unusually set up. Chairs form a close crescent with the field preceded by a sloped lawn.

See Blues, page 7

Cal Poly football team didn't achieve a Great West Football Conference championship or a second straight NCAA Division I-AA playoff berth. But despite their shortfall last season the Mustangs still chalked up some notable accomplishments. They achieved their fourth winning season in a row, landed a top-twenty finish in the national polls, and defeated rival UC Davis in "The Horsehoe Classic" for the first time since 1996, just to name a few.

"The players train year round in order to stay in the proper conditioning for the upcoming season. Whether the players are at home on their own or in San Luis Obispo as a team, they focus on strength conditioning. "We mainly stay active by performing our plays and staying in shape," running back James Noble said. "Everyone on the team needed to work on something during the off-season to make this team better whether it's improving a skill or simply just getting healthy."

After making his name known by becoming the first Mustang ever to rush over 1,000 yards in back-to-back seasons, gaining 1,099 yards and 16 touchdowns in 2006 after beating the school record with 1,578 yards and 16 touchdowns in 2005. The best part: The guy is only a junior.

According to Ellerson the coaches do their fair share of preparation as well. They are now making arrangements for training camp and game planning for their first few opponents.

"The next game is always the most important one but the opener is especially important," Ellerson said. "This year we open at Texas State. They have a great program and it's a rough place to play to we need to have a successful training camp."

The intensity will rise on August 8 with the start of training camp and the Mustangs keep their confidence high.

"Our players are hungry to prove that we are playoff caliber," said Payton see Football, page 7

S Mustang Daily

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