Capps celebrates with Cal Poly

Sara Wright
WEDNESDAY NEWS

Under the hot November sun in the University Union Plaza, Rep. Lois Capps stood alongside Cal Poly President Warren Baker on Thursday to celebrate the enactment of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, the largest investment in college financial aid since the 1944 GI Bill.

"Go Mustangs!" Capps exclaimed vivaciously to the students of what she called a "very prestigious university."

"I want to talk to you about something that is very dear to your hearts," she said, explaining the significant legislation she has sponsored since she was sworn in as a member of the 105th Congress in 1998.

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 was signed by President Bush in September to make college more affordable for low-income students by providing $11.4 billion more in the form of Federal Pell Grants over the next five years. Under the act, the maximum Pell award will increase from the current $4,310 to $5,400 in 2012.

During the 2005-06 school year, 3,137 Cal Poly students received Pell Grants. Overall, the bill cuts interest rates in half (up to $15,000) and guarantees that low-income students will never pay more than 15 percent of their income.

Also, after 10 years of public service, such as teaching in inner cities or serving in the government sector, loans will be forgiven.

"I've had three kids go through school and I've always been around young people," Capps said. "So I know their potential and I've seen how enormously hard it is to get through school, especially being saddled with debt.

Introducing Capps and Baker was Erica Jaroff, president of the Cal Poly Democrats, who was contacted by Capps' office to arrange the visit to campus.

"Many students see congresspeople as being not untouchable but unapproachable," Jaroff said. "Her being here, willing to listen and speak with students is really awesome."

President Baker spoke briefly before introducing Capps, addressing her work in Congress and describing her as a "valuable supporter of students, faculty and staff," and "an effective leader on a range of issues."

The Democratic representative has served the 23rd district of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties since 2003.

She has visited both Cal Poly and UC Santa Barbara, the two largest campuses in the district, to mark the passing of the act.

The Cal Poly Retired Faculty and Staff Club also invited Capps to visit at their luncheon later that day to update residents as to what's going on in Congress, vice president Harry Sharp said.

"We wanted to hear about the issues they're focusing on and headway they're making on problems affecting Cal Poly and this part of the state as well as national issues such as the war," Sharp said.

Capps joined Congress after her husband, Congressman Walter Capps, passed away. From 1998 to 2002, she was the Representative of California's 22nd District.

She was the director of Santa Barbara County's teen pregnancy and parenting center and taught nursing in Portland, as well as early childhood education part-time for 10 years in Santa Barbara. She founded the House Nursing Caucus and is currently the Democratic Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues and serves on numerous other health caucuses.

Specifically, Capps has passed legislation addressing issues like the

Another SLO bank robbed

Police are searching for a man who allegedly robbed the First Bank of San Luis Obispo and walked out the front door on Higuera Street Thursday afternoon.

Police officers arrived on the scene after receiving a call at 2:40 p.m. from a bank employee who reported that the bank had been robbed. Officers said they were unable to find the suspect after searching the area, and no one was injured during the robbery.

"The suspect, who police described as being either a Caucasian or Hispanic male in his 30s or 40s, reportedly entered the bank and gave the teller a note demanding money. The teller gave him the money and he then left the bank and headed southbound on Osos Street, police said.

He was not reported to have been carrying any weapon.

The suspect is described as wearing a white or light-colored baseball hat, a khaki shirt and a white jacket, police said. He is reportedly 5-foot-8 to 5-foot-10 and about 170 pounds, was also wearing a fake goatee, sideburns, white gloves, sunglasses, see Robbery, page 2

Poly prepares Rose Float

Megan Priley
WEDNESDAY NEWS

Since 1949, students from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly Pomona have come together to produce a floral float for the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena.

In a yearlong process, each campus devotes itself to constructing one half of the float. Joint decisions are made on how the float is designed, built, animated and decorated.

"Our organization encourages anyone to come and see where they'd like to fit in to the development and design of the float," said Rose Float program leader Chystal Tipping.

Cal Poly students have been building Rose Float for more than 50 years and have won more than 40 awards, including princess trophies for best display of animation, founder's trophies for most outstanding self-decorated float, humor trophies and theme prizes.

Once all the parts are fitted and the final assembly is finished, the float will be one of the few in the parade that was not built by a professional float builder and the only one built by students.
Sun Luis Obispo doesn’t shut down over the break just because Cal Poly students leave. In fact, there are a wide variety of events going on through-out the area during December and January.

One of the highlights of downtown San Luis Obispo will be the holiday parade at 7 p.m. Dec. 7. The parade has about 95 entries and there are floats as well as other groups participating. The parade’s focus will be on the floats, which are decorated along the same year’s theme of “Holly Jolly Holiday.” “There will be contests for the floats, such as best in theme, most entertaining and most creative,” said Katie Hollingsworth, promotions coordinator for the Downtown Association.

This will be the parade’s 32nd year and it being co-sponsored by the Downtown Association and Court Street (the shopping complex that features Pottery Barn and Banana Republic).

In addition to watching the parade, Hollingsworth said students can volunteer to help run it. There are positions available for setting up and acting as “walkers,” people who patrol the parade route to ensure the safety of its participants and audience.

Students can also volunteer to be elves at Santa’s House in Mission Plaza, which is open until Dec. 25. Even those who aren’t interested in volunteering at Santa’s House can get pictures taken with the jolly old man himself.

Starting Dec. 3, Mission Plaza will also feature a carousel as an old fashioned way to enjoy a little holiday spirit — at least until the end of the year. Finding a unique gift is also a possibility when Christmas in the Plaza comes to Mission Plaza on Saturday and Sunday.

This event is an annual holiday craft fair featuring local artists who sell their hand-crafted items. There will be more than 30 vendors at the event. Food and entertainment will be served from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the free event.

“We try to make the downtown core have something for everyone over the holiday,” Hollingsworth said. A 35-foot tall Christmas tree in Mission Plaza would be a fun thing to see list of floats living in a big city where a tree is put up every year.

Although Mission Plaza is at the center of most of this year’s holiday events, other parts of downtown are getting involved as well. On Dec. 14, there will be a special event on Garden Street, where the whole block will be conﬁned off and there will be special at each store. “The event is meant to encourage late-night holiday shopping and should be fun,” Hollingsworth said, adding that in addition to the sales, stores will have treats and hot cider for shoppers to enjoy.

The Downtown Association and the San Luis Obispo Parks and Recreation department have arranged for snow to be brought in for visitors’ enjoyment during the Jan. 11 Farmer’s Market.

The snow is free to play in and open to both adults and children. Hollingsworth said it is a way to enjoy the parts of winter that the area does not usually see.

There are also some great events going on outside San Luis Obispo over the holidays. On Saturday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Morro Bay will be celebrating its annual Lighted Boat Parade. Local boat owners will carry the harbor with boats decked out in holiday lights, which should be a fun and alternative to a street parade.

The feeling of watching our finished float drive around the corner ... makes it worth all the hard work.

—Kate Smith
Rose Float decorations chair

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Capps continued from page 1

national nursing shortage, underage drinking, providing CPR, instruction to schools, improving mental health services, preventing domestic violence against women, offering emergency deiligations to hospitals and providing Medicare coverage.

way,” and he just wouldn’t answer me.

Ginger Cochran, 22, was also at the scene and also said she had dif-ficulty finding out what was happen-ing.

“Police weren’t talking to pedes-trians so we didn’t know what was going on,” she said.

Officials said they have no rea-son to believe the robbery is re-lated to the bank robbery that took place at Downey Savings. The San Luis Obispo Police Department and the FBI are still investigating the case.

Kristen Can contributed to this report.

Robbery
continued from page 1

Ed Hardy

The Cal Poly Rose Parade float used to be a club within the school’s campus until it became so popular that it is now currently an ASI program allowing students to design, build and decorate a float. “Rose Float offers students the chance to express their creative talents while representing Cal Poly in a long-standing university tradition,” Tipping said. “Students decide on an original float creation and manage the entire proj-ect. From design and mechanics to construction and decoration, Rose Float is a hands-on experience for student volunteers.”

It is easy to become a part of the Rose Float because there are all sorts of jobs to be done, Smith noted. “All skills and majors are wel-come. We have a big meeting every quarter and since the program is year-round there are always openings.”

The Cal Poly team is currently accepting reservations for the up-coming week of decoration from groups of ten or more volunteers. “It is a once-in-a-lifetime ex-perience,” Smith said. “The feel-ing of watching our finished float drive around the corner makes it worth all the hard work.”
For many college students, a year abroad is an experience of a lifetime — an opportunity to learn a new language and live in a new culture. But it's often just as much about partying and drinking at college bars.

Meredithe Kercher was sexually assaulted and stabbed to death Nov. 1 in a place where alcohol and drugs are readily available. The murder has gripped Italy, and even the Vatican has weighed in on it, calling the "dangers" of students living far from home.

Knox, 20, and her one-time boyfriend and Italian co-defendant, 23-year-old Raffaele Sollecito, are due in court later this month for a hearing on whether they should remain in jail while the probe continues.

A third suspect, Rudy Hermann Guade, a native of Ivory Coast, is in detention in Germany awaiting extradition to Italy. Another man, Diya Pascual, an Argentine whose bar "La Tata dell'Oro" is a top destination for foreign students in Perugia.

"Perugia is more of a break to them than a commitment," he said.

For them, it is a new world. They are really integrated," he said. "they are used to the night clubs that attract many U.S. college programs.

But alcohol and drugs are certainly available, said Esten Garca Pascual, an Argentine whose bar "La Tata dell'Oro" is a top destination for foreign students in Perugia.

"Perugia is more of a break to them than a commitment," he said. "For them, it is a new world. They have fun, have fun and get trapped in the evening."

Nou all students come to Perugia — or go on study abroad programs — just to have fun with other Americans, said Zachary Nowak, a 30-year-old New Yorker who fell in love with Perugia during a study abroad program and never left.

"They are really integrated," he said of the foreign students. "There's no Campo dei Fiori here, they have to make an effort if they want to order a margarita in English in a bar, they'd go to Rome or Florence."
Graveyard shift soon to be listed as a ‘probable’ cause of cancer

Like UV rays and diesel exhaust fumes, working the graveyard shift will soon be listed as a “probable” cause of cancer.

“Sleep deprivation may be an other factor in cancer risk. People who work at night are not usually able to completely reverse their day and night cycles,” Stevens said. “The balance between light and dark is very important for your body.”

Anyone whose light and dark schedule is often disrupted — including frequent long-haul travelers or insomnia — could theoretically face the increased cancer risk, Stevens said.

Melatonin can be taken as a supplement, but experts don’t recommend it long-term since that could ruin the body’s ability to produce it naturally.

New York, who is not connected with the IARC analysis.

“Sleep deprivation may be another factor in cancer risk. People who work at night are not usually able to completely reverse their day and night cycles.”

Nov. 13, 7:50 AM — Officer assisted San Luis Obispo Police Department with several physical disturbances at The Graduate.

Nov. 20, 23:05 — Officer was flagged down by a subject at an off-campus location. The subject stated he was suicidal and wanted to be taken to the county mental health unit. The officer stood by with the subject until the responsible agency arrived to assess the subject’s condition.

Nov. 15, 16:51 — Officers were contacted concerning a possible incident of theft at the Mission Avocado grove.

Nov. 26, 10:25 — An officer spoke with an individual who believes to be a potential victim of identity theft over the internet.

Nov. 26, 20:20 — Officer responded to a call regarding offensive graffiti on the brick wall near Shasta Hall.

Nov. 27, 19:35 — An officer responded to a call of vandalism at Yosemite Hall. A window in the residence hall appeared to have been punched in.

Maria Cheng
ASSOCIATED PRESS

“I like to knit because it’s soothing and you don’t have to think hard.”
— Sarah Shrackeford, manufacturing engineering junior

“I play guitar because it makes me calm.”
— Sean Martin, forestry freshman

“I go surfing so I can relax out on the waves, check out the scenery and get some exercise.”
— Brad Barrows, software engineering sophomore

“I make sure to take a lot of breaks from studying by listening to music and sleeping.”
— Sepidah Taghdiri, environmental engineering freshman

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Hitting the high note for the holidays

Cristina Albers

To spread the holiday cheer, Cal Poly choir's much-anticipated annual Christmas celebration will be on campus at 8 p.m. Dec. 1 in Harmon Hall of the Christopher Cohan Center.

"A Christmas Celebration" is sold out each year and is popular around San Luis Obispo County. Thomas Davies, a music professor and conductor of the event, said the event has existed longer than his 24 years at Cal Poly.

The event will encompass several sections of Cal Poly's choirs, including PolyPhonics with about 44 singers, University Singers with about 80, Early Music Ensemble with about 14, the a cappella group Take It SLO and the women's barbershop quartet Oh Snap.

The University Singers will open with "Kyrie" and "Gloria" from Ariel Ramirez's "Misa Criolla." These pieces are based on South American folk music, particularly the rhythms and melodies of Argentina.

PolyPhonics will perform "A Child Is Born" by Leo Nester and "Ding Dong! Merrily On High," arranged by English composer and conductor David Willcocks. This year's concert features several new and exciting pieces, including the world premiere of "Gloria," written for double choir and organ by Cal Poly composition and music theory professor Meredith Brammeier. This is the fifth consecutive year that Brammeier has composed or arranged a work for "A Christmas Celebration."

A special organ piece will be played by featured performer Paul Woodring. The show will also have a sing-a-long calling for audience participation, so get those vocal cords ready!

To celebrate the season of Hanukkah, the women of PolyPhonics will be featured in Valerie Shields' arrangement of "S'vivon" and the entire ensemble will also perform Ron Jeffers' "Hanukkah Blessings."

Two other talented performers will take the stage, including PolyPhonics' Richard Carrick, Davies' student assistant, and Susan Azaret Davies, a piano player and Thomas Davies' wife. "Everyone now is officially ready for the holidays and this is a good way to start," Davies said.

For such a complex and amazing show, it took the choirs only four weeks to rehearse, but those weeks involved hard work and dedication.

However, just because it's a production sponsored by the music department doesn't mean all the participants are music majors. Choir classes are offered for credit and almost every major is present in the choirs. Davies said that at least 80 percent of the singers are not music majors.

This concert is Davies' favorite of the Cal Poly choir's season. The entire town supports the production and many parents come to see it.

"It's the kind of music that gets everyone into the holiday spirit, and it gets everyone of the students ready for finals," Davies laughed.

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"Tila Tequila can't replace 'Real World'

Stephen Kwok
DAILY TROJAN [L.A.]

MTV has been in trouble for a few years. With its past programming staples — "The Real World," "Road Rules" and "TRL" — either defunct or giving up on the network has been struggling to fit the needs of an ever-changing young demographic.

In efforts to maintain their networks’ position as the envelope-pushing, trendsetting station it was once thought to be, MTV execs have resorted to the tried-and-true celebrity format currently seen on VH1 and has given the green light to its first celebrity dating show, "A Shot At Love With Tila Tequila." After all, if a revamping of "Real World" from the discussion of hot topics proved successful, why not give an Internet celebrity and self-proclaimed "bisexual freak" her own dating show?

Initially, I had no problem with "A Shot at Love." I was tired of guessing how many pounds DJ Damien Fahey had gained since the last episode of "TRL." I was bored with another appearance by an exceedingly contrived and tackily dressed Ashley Tisdale. So "Shot at Love" was a welcome relief — full of cuss-outs, catfights and girls falling off stripper poles. In a word, it was awesome.

But as the show progressed, it became apparent MTV was pushing "A Shot at Love" as more than a trashy, low-brow dating show. It fits the perfect man or woman. In a word, it was awesome.

The network itself is to blame. The issue is MTV's presentation of "A Shot at Love." It’s anything more than a scripted and manipulated portrayal of the depravity of human existence. At least Jerry Springer owns up to it. MTV instead tries to pass the program off as groundbreaking, holding on to a thread of the days when "The Real World" provided actual intellectual discourse and "True Life" educated viewers on everything from being HIV positive to having Tourette's Syndrome.

But nothing is groundbreaking — not even a tiny Vietnamese girl kissing a white butch lesbian on national cable television — when it is overshadowed by manufactured prurience, violence and chocolate bubble baths.

The network either needs to relinquish its programming with its original position of social consciousness or own up to its current level of cheap programming. It's sad enough that there isn't anything of intellectual value, but barring the line between social responsibility and trashy TV isn't just sad — it's dangerous, too.
Video game-based movie lives up to its violent origins

Graig Mantle
MUSTANG DAILY

“Hitman” the movie was just as exciting as the “Hitman” games that led to its creation. Many reviews out there will say otherwise, but I beg to differ. As a fan of the game, I will admit that it is easier to follow the plot knowing certain background details that were left out of the film, including the fact that the main character eventually escaped and took out his creators before getting hired as a hitman. While many video game-to-movie adaptions have been generally unwatchable (“Dooms,” for example), this one sets the bar to new heights for video game movies, even though it wasn’t that high to begin with.

The beginning of the movie rolls out the credits to some classical music and tries to illustrate the origins of the genetically-engineered Agent 47. This probably causes a little confusion among viewers who had never played the game, including the fact that the main agency has set him up to be whacked, leading to a very thrilling swordfight between Agent 47 and three other clones. The picture earns major brownie points for not only staying true to its video game background but also for knowing when to add other elements that could justify this being a lovely movie to bring a date to.

Many of the aspects that make the games so fun are also present in the movie. The main goal of the game is to get through a level as stealthily as possible while avoiding attention and mincing civilian casualties, this is true in the movie as well when Agent 47 uses disguises to get through hairy situations while Interpol agents are still scouring the landscape for a pale, bald guy with a noticeable barcode tattooed on his head wearing an expensive suit and red tie. His use of silent killing methods is also present with fiber wire, knives, syringe injections, Silverballers and also a series of “accidents.” In previous games, Agent 47’s homicides have also included meat hooks, poison doughnuts, exploding barbecues and falling chandeliers. Another highlight of the “Hitman” series is the open design of the missions that promote thought and encourage completing a level as quietly as possible while getting creative with your methods of assassination. The movie does not require your brain to be in the “on” position, however.

Though not a popular choice to play the role of Agent 47, Timothy Olyphant did a superb job. Much like Daniel Craig in “Casino Royale,” Olyphant delivers the character in a way that convinces you he is Agent 47 while also adding some other traits that augment the assassin, most notably his inability to charm a woman (something I can’t really relate to). The mandatory love story is a little hard to believe, especially when the hooker (Olga Kurylenko) he protects falls in love with him seemingly overnight, despite spending a considerable amount of time in the trunk of a car.

Overall, don’t believe the negative reviews. “Hitman” is a fun movie with lots of action and one-liners. The quick pace won’t leave you yearning for the film to end either. The game is set in a dark and violent tone, which carries over well into the film, but is also not graphic enough to distract from the action.

Lerche goes overboard on ‘Real Life’ soundtrack

Hilary Stohl-kramer
MUSTANG DAILY

This isn’t a bad album, it’s a bit of a change for Lerche, as most of the songs are instrumental, but the basic core is still Soundcore, which is precisely why “Dan in Real Life” director Peter Hedges recruited the Norwegian alt-pop singer-songwriter in the first place.

The single, if you will, are pleasant, particularly “To Be Surprised” and “Airport Taxi Reception,” which features Lerche’s backing band The Faces Down. The last track, which features vocalist Lillian Sandiford, recalls sunny 70s pop with a slight 90s indie-rock influence. A duet with Regina Spektor, however, falls flat that the champagne sounds too breathy, as if Neith Jones, and not Sharp, la, well, Regina Spektor. I saw Lerche perform a couple of weeks ago in Omaha before listening to the album, and I was disappointed with the recorded versions of my favorite songs. “My Hands Are Shaking” is still an excellent track, but the studio version lacks the passion of the live performance. To a certain extent, that’s inevitable, but even so, it’s sublimed to the point of being boring. However, the acoustic guitar is crisp and cleanly punctuated.

Similarly, “Human Hands” was much better live. An Elton John cover, the style of the song fits perfectly with Lerche’s musical capabilities, but the production is lacking. Lerche’s voice has a tendency to sound weak when he sings softly, and much of the singing on the album feels as though he’s purposely trying to fade into the background. Again, for a soundtrack, that makes sense, but I think Lerche goes a little overboard. Especially after the bittersweet charm of last year’s “Phantom Punch,” the “Dan in Real Life Original Soundtrack” sounds muted.

And it’s short. There’s only 16 tracks, and the majority of songs are fewer than three minutes long. It’s a pleasant listen, and several of the songs have potential, but at the end, I found myself thinking, “Really? That’s it?”
Today's college students have an opportunity to shift the course of human history. As environmental challenges become increasingly urgent, young professionals will have the opportunity to redefine the nation's interaction with the environment. Our future careers will play an important role in addressing global climate change.

Devising solutions to the issues associated with global warming will be a monumental endeavor for society. Eco-savvy young professionals will be called upon to meet these challenges head-on by incorporating global warming solutions into their work. Cal Poly has a unique position to encourage the type of multidisciplinary effort in which the next generation will engage.

As a polytechnic university, Cal Poly has an academically diverse student body. Students from each of our colleges and departments bring a unique perspective to the table. By working together with students from other programs, they are able to prepare for the rapidly changing professional world. Students everywhere are finding that college is the perfect time to prepare for their challenges they will face in the working world. Nowhere is this more true than at Cal Poly.

In order to jumpstart the discussion about climate change, campuses from across the nation will host the largest teach-in in American history. On Jan. 31, 2008, more than 1,000 college campuses will host campus-wide events—called Focus the Nation: Global Warming Solutions for America,—an educational initiative taking place simultaneously across the country. Cal Poly will host its own Focus the Nation event on campus. On Jan. 31, there will be hour-long workshops in Chumash Auditorium during the day, featuring experts on many aspects of global warming solutions. Round-table discussions are planned relating to science, architecture, management, engineering, agriculture, English, health, faith, economics, psychology and public policy. All members of the College community are invited to attend the events and take an active role in the conversations that grow out of them.

Focus the Nation will also include:
- a signing vehicle fair
- a live, interactive Web cast by national leaders in global warming solutions
- a solar-powered musical performance in the University Union
- art installations on Dexter Lawn and in the Epicenter
- an environmental poetry slam
- green job fair and trade show

Last year, Cal Poly became the second university in the country to receive Focus the Nation Endowments from the President's Office, the Academic Senate and Associated Students Inc. Since then, an organizing team of students, faculty, staff and administrators has been working to plan Focus the Nation at Cal Poly. Through the correspondence, conferences and meetings that have taken place with other campuses, Cal Poly leaders have established itself as a national leader in Focus the Nation planning.

To date, more than 150 Cal Poly faculty members have committed to supporting Focus the Nation by focusing their classes on global warming solutions, traveling with their students to the events taking place on campus or teaching in part or in full of the class sections.

Focus the Nation is an incredible opportunity for Cal Poly students to work together in preparing for the challenges that lay ahead. By capitalizing on the academic diversity of our student body and interacting with expert guests and panels on Jan. 31, we can get a head start on developing global warming solutions for America.

Expect to hear much more about Focus the Nation as Jan 31 approaches. As it will be a landmark event in Cal Poly's history. For more information on Focus the Nation, please visit the national Web page at focusthenation.org. If you are interested in participating in the planning effort for Focus the Nation at Cal Poly, getting the word out about the event, or would just like to learn more, please visit focusthenationlo@gmail.com or contact organizers at focusthenationlo@gmail.com.

Matt Hutton is an environmental engineering senior, external vice president of the Empower Poly Coalition and co-director of Focus the Nation.
The New York Times Crossword

Across
1 Windshield wipers
10 "Unbelievable!"
15 Darwin's home
16 Superrealist sculptor Hanson
17 Zip
18 They stand for something: Abbr.
19 Station info, briefly
20 Checks out
21 1984 hit parody of a 1983 hit song
22 Get moving, with "up"
23 Four-time Vardon Trophy winner
25 Area below the hairline
26 Lock changer?
29 Turn out

Down
1 Not as touched
2 Like successful orators
3 James Forrestal was its last cabinet secy.
4 Portions of les années
5 Stat for a reliever
6 Slalom targets
7 Comic Bookster
8 Astronaut Collins and others
9 Toasted triangle hopper
10 One of Jon Arbuckle's pets
11 Changsha is its capital
12 "Hang it!"
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14 Things that may be shot in stages
15 "La Reine Margot" novelist
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Edited by Will Shortz
No. 1019

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE


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Soccer: A young and kicking club

Megan Priley
MUSTANG DAILY

It has only been their first season on campus and already the Men's Soccer Club has students lining up to grab a position, a winning record and the bond that keeps the club strong.

Alex Strehl and Matt Joanou worked on creating the club after it started as a proposal assignment for a technical writing class in spring quarter of last year.

Once the class was over, Joanou and Strehl took the simple idea and turned it into a formation process that later became the Men's Soccer Club.

"Last May, Alex Strehl and I started looking into what it would take to start the club," said Joanou, president of the Soccer Club. "Everyone's always talked about starting it but no one ever had. Eventually we contacted the league with our interest in joining. A lot of work was done last summer trying to get everything figured out."

Joanou credits many people with helping the Cal Poly Men’s Soccer Club get up and running. They were able to find a coach, Johnny Costa, who coaches the local youth soccer team SLO Fire.

"Bill Babka, the owner of Sloco Soccer Store on Monterey St., donated the full uniforms for the season; Paul Holocher, head coach of the men's soccer team at Cal Poly, was also a tremendous help; Everett Brooks, sports club coordinator at Cal Poly, guided us through the process of becoming a legitimate sports club," Joanou said.

The main goal of the club is to give people a chance to experience the in-between of playing for a college team and playing for fun.

"The goal for us is to play beautiful soccer, field a competitive team and play at a college level without the time commitment involved in playing an NCAA sport," vice president Strehl explained.

The team's popularity has already forced them to turn people away this year during winter and spring season tryouts. Out of the 60 men who showed up to try out, only 24 players — including two goalies — were accepted.

"To grab hold of one of those 24 spots next season, make sure to bring your A-game and determination."

"We are looking for players that take the game seriously while at the same time bring a positive attitude and fun to the team," said team captain and centerback Jean-Carlos Reyes. "We're looking for guys who know how to knock the ball around and get stuck in."

The Men's Soccer Club has a two-month season, which lasts from mid-September to mid-November.

"The rest of the year is one big off-season with one big tournament in March," Joanou explained.

The team holds three two-hour practices a week during the regular season along with a day dedicated to fitness training. During off-season, the team continues to practice twice a week while they play in a local men's league in Paso Robles.

"We continue during off-season to play on a lower level and we look to develop new players and we bring them into the club," Strehl said.

All this hard work paid off during the soccer club's first season.

"We played in the California Collegiate Club Soccer League (CCCL)," Joanou said. "Since it was our first season of play, we had to compete in the lower tier of the league. We competed in the southern section of the lower tier and played teams like UCSD, USC and UCSB. We went 6-1 in the regular season, winning our tier, and went on to play the California Regional Tournament at UC Davis, where we lost in semi-finals to UCLA. Next season we will be promoted to the upper tier of the league."

The team's success, according to Joanou, is credited to many people and factors. Their captain, Reyes, is very solid at centerback and their defense is definitely one of the strong points of their team as well.

"Defense has only given up four goals in seven regular season games," Joanou said. "Ryan Brown is a brilliant striker up top — he scored a lot of the goals for us this season."

Joanou said the team has molded together so well that during the first season they shut out the first two teams they played — and that was after only four practices together as a team.

"It was phenomenal how well we did playing against teams who have played multiple years together," he said. "We just have so much talent on the team, I can't say enough."
Swimming
continued from page 12

"I'm excited because my father is flying out tonight," White said. "I'm really happy that he will be here to see me swim."

As she talked excitedly about the upcoming meet, White said that she is eagerly looking forward to all the different aspects that will be happening.

"It will be good to get out there and swim different events, get new times and race against the other swimmers in the competition," White said.

In relation to Olympic timing qualification, White said she is looking forward to improving her times, and with it her chances of someday going for the gold.

"I definitely think this weekend will put me closer to a qualifying time," White said. "If not an Olympic trial qualifying, I definitely want to get a national cut."

One more athlete currently making a splash on the scene is kinesiology freshman, Gloria Benefield. Her current ranking status includes the title for the 400 individual medley.

Her time rated an impressive 4:30.76. Benefield's standing in the Big West Conference played her money for the 200 backstroke, with an overall time of 2:02.70.

She is also ranked number four for the 200 butterfly, as well as fifth for the 400 individual medley.

Benefield has also recently qualified for the Olympic trials this summer in Indiana.

She said that the experience was humbling as well as overwhelming.

"I'm still in shock from the whole thing," Benefield said. "The competition was so tough but I'm so excited to be racing against the best in the planet country.

"We'll just have to wait and see what happens, I guess."

Wait and see is exactly what will be happening as these talented and driven individuals swim their way to probable victory in this weekend's competition.

Basketball
continued from page 12

first half. It was 43-38 at the buzzer and Harrison, the lord of the game at that point, had 20 points at the half on 7-8 shooting, 6-6 from the line while fres­
man Arcotec Paris Johnson led her squad with 12.

Harrison took a charge to open up the second half on a positive, though prob­
ably painful, note. But the sting obviously didn't last as she continued to drain shot after shot from the floor. But as the say­ing goes, there is no "I" in "team" and Harrison couldn't do it all.

The Arcotes gained their first lead of the second half (50-49) on a Jene Morris three and then Coco Davis locked out with a three off a bank to extend the lead to four and they never looked back.

Senior center Nicole Yarwasky hit a jumper to stop the run only to suffer an­other Arcotec long bomb by Morris on the following possession. The Arcotes were 4-4 from behind the arch at this point in the second half, yet the Mustangs re­
mained in a 2-3 zone, a formation that obviously wasn't doing its job after San Diego State threw a fourth player out on the perimeter.

Despite a promising late first half showing and a close finish, the Mustangs, who turned the ball over 23 times and were out rebounded 39-31, 21-12 on off­
fensive boards, executed more like a free­
style break dance than a ballroom perfor­
mance. The Arcotes hands were too quick and they hit big shots in the end.

"Rebounding really hurt us tonight. It's an area we clearly have to improve on," head coach Faith Munnaghad said.

No other Mustangs besides Harrison, whose 34 points established a school re­
cord since it became a Division I pro­
gram, finished in double-digits while four Arcotes made that mark.

"I would have liked to have some more support for (Harrison), because the game was theirs for the taking," Munnaghad said.

Were there more bodies in the stands to perform for, perhaps the outcome would have been different. Although many like to dance like nobody is watch­ing, in basketball, having an audience is keys. After a match against San Diego State on Saturday at 2 p.m., Poly will host Santa Clara University in its last home game of the year on Dec. 12.

Senior point guard Kyla Howell scored nine points in Thursday's game against San Diego State in Mott Gym. Poly lost 70-80 and fell to 3-4.

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Lady Mustangs stumble over the Aztecs

Rachel Gellman
MUSTANG DAILY

Junior forward Megan Harrison's 20-point first half and career-high 34-point game total, on 13-16 shooting was not enough to lead the Mustangs (3-4, 0-0 Big West) over the San Diego State Aztecs (5-1, 0-0 Mountain West Conference) as they fell 70-80 following a less-than-stellar second-half performance.

"I honestly had no idea I had that many points until coaches told us in the locker room," Harrison said of her new record. "I got rhythm and I got good shots.

Harrison said she was frustrated with her shot recently in practice numbers can and will awe an audience.

It was a slow start for both teams — not that anyone was watching. The attendance at women's and men's basketball games in Mott Gym was analogous to the amount of seeds in an apple to that of a pomegranate. As the game began with a slew of sloppy turnovers, missed lay-ups and lazy passes, it seemed the Mustangs were proving their nonexistent fans right.

A women's basketball game, much more so than a men's, is like a dance. Opposed to the sheer athleticism seen in a men's basketball contest, women basketball games can look awkward and jumbled when thrown together, but when preformed correctly, beautifully choreographed numbers can and will awe an audience.

Last night was not one of those nights.

Following an early first half timeout, the Mustangs changed some of their steps. For starters, following their haphazard ball handling and passing early on — they had 11 turnovers in the first half — Poli decided to hold on to the rock for a change. Also, aggressive attacks down the middle, spearheaded by senior guard Sparkle Anderson, sucked the Aztec defense — allowing guards to dish to post players and secure some much-needed buckets.

As their dance steps changed, the Mustangs successfully livened up the crowd. After being down early, suddenly, Cal Poly was up 25-17 with seven minutes in the half. For a moment, they became the stars instead of dancing with them.

And they kept on tapping in the see Basketball, page 11

Volleyball takes on Xavier in first round of NCAA Tournament

MUSTANG DAILY SPORTS REPORT

This is a must-win day for the Cal Poly volleyball team as they go dig or go home in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament today at Ohio University.

The 16th-seeded Mustangs (21-7, 15-1 Big West), who earned their second-consecutive Big West Conference title this year are riding a 12-match winning streak that can come to an end tonight if they fail to topple Xavier (24-10, 11-2 Atlantic-10) — a team they lost to 3-1 at the San Francisco ASICS/Coca-Cola Invitational Sept. 14.

Following the Poly-Xavier match-up, host Ohio (26-5, 15-3 Mid-American) will take on Purdue (18-13, 11-9 Big Ten). The winners of both contests will meet on Saturday evening in hopes of advancing to the Stanford Regional in Palo Alto on Dec. 7 to Dec. 8.

Xavier, the only team in the sub-regional that the Mustangs have faced this year, placed second in the Atlantic-10 West Division this season as it fell 3-0 to 15th-seeded Dayton in the Atlantic-10 tournament championship match. Poli has an all-time record of 1-2 against Purdue and it has never faced Ohio.

Cal Poly ‘has’ never made it past the third round in 13 NCAA Tournament appearances and is 11-13 all-time in the NCAA Tournament.

The Mustangs stompeded into the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 1981 and returned for nine straight showings. For 10 years, Poli saw no tournament action. Then, after the 1999 campaign, the Mustangs entered the big dance in 2000 and 2002. This year marks Poli’s first second-consecutive playoff appearance since the 1981-89 run.

Although the Mustangs will be battling in Ohio, the event can be heard on ESPN 1280 AM.