Capps celebrates with Cal Poly

Sara Wright

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 Mustang!" Capps exclaimed vibrantly 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, loan 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 unapproachable 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 "valiant 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 how 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.

Another SLC 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 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 Oso 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 last seen possibly wearing a fake goatee, sideburns, white gloves, sunglasses.

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, painted and decorated.

"Our organization encourages anyone to come and see where they'd like to fit in to the design and development 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 one be of the few in the parade that was not built by a professional float builder and the only one built by students.
MUSTANG DAILY

Holiday fun can be found around SLO County

Michelle Norgan

San Luis Obispo didn't shut down over the break just because Cal Poly students leave. In fact, there are a wide variety of events going on throughout 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 with this 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 is 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 patro 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 handcrafted 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 holidays," Hollingsworth said.

A 35-foot tall Christmas tree in Mission Plaza would be a fun thing to see list 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 cordoned off and there will be specials 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, with your 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 9:30 p.m., Morro Bay will be celebrating its annual lighted Boat Parade. Local boaters will cruise the harbor with boats decked out in holiday lights, which should be a free and fun 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

For the environment, Capps has decided to "Passport to the World's Culture," which is announced each year. Once we decide on the new theme, which is announced each week. It's a lot of work.

The Cal Poly team is currently accepting reservations for the up-coming week of decoration from the new concept's design, where the top concept is chosen for submission into the tournament in February, the group makes general changes and decisions about the concept's design.

"During the fall quarter, we move our half of the float down to Pomona where we connected the two pieces together," Smith said. "Each weekend, loyal members get up three or four hours early and drive around the corner ... makes it worth all the hard work."

The teams, together have to

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Friday, November 30, 2007
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 in a place where alcohol and drugs are readily available.

Now, the murder of a 21-year-old in Perugia, Italy, is throwing a light on the dangers of students living abroad.

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

A third suspect, Rudy Hermann Guerle, a native of Ivory Coast, is in detention in Germany awaiting extradition to Italy. Another man, Davide "Dav" Patrick Lumumba, a native of Congo who owned the Perugia bar called the "Dangers" of students living in a place where alcohol and drugs are readily available. ASSOCIATED PRESS

Students who come to Perugia, want a place which is bright and eager student proficient enough in languages to read. Harry Potter in German. She grew up in Seattle, where she attended the University of Washington for a year and a half. Her parents married in 1987, the year she was born, and divorced two years later.

Last spring, she made the grade at the University of Washington, where, according to her profile on the MySpace.com social networking site, she was majoring in German and Italian, and minoring in creative writing.

Before arriving in Italy in September, Knox, who is working as an intern at the Bankest in Berlin, a job she lined up with the help of an uncle, had her first day of work, she described the apartment she rented as being in a good part of town.

Yet, Knox also comes across as irresponsible. She walked off her Bandestag job after just a few days because, she wrote, she had nothing to do.

Her MySpace page, in which she calls herself "Fr0xy Knox," includes images of her drunk and acting silly in a video, and she referred several times to drug use and nights spent working and dancing at Lumumba's bar — providing a different side to what the Italian press calls her "angel face."

She was not life-threatening, police said.

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

Not 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 Peru during a study abroad program and never left. "They are really integrated," he said of the former одеоо оt Фiс, here they have to make an effort if they want to or -der a margarita in English in a bar, they'd go to Rome or Florence."

But alcohol and drugs are certainly available, said Esteban Garcia, an Argentine whose bar "La Tana 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, get drunk and get trashed in the evening."

Not all students come to Perugia — or go on study abroad programs...

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Graveyard shift soon to be listed as a ‘probable’ cause of cancer

Maria Cheng
ASSOCIATED PRESS

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

It is a surprising step validating a concept once considered wacky. And it is based on research that finds higher rates of breast and prostate cancer among graveyard shift workers than among women and men whose workday starts after dark.

Next month, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the cancer arm of the World Health Organization, will add overnight shift work as a probable carcinogen.

The higher cancer rates don’t prove working overnight can cause cancer. There may be other factors common among graveyard shift workers that raise their risk for cancer.

However, scientists suspect that overnight work is dangerous because it disrupts the circadian rhythm, the body’s biological clock. The hormone melatonin, which can suppress tumor development, is normally produced at night.

If the graveyard shift theory eventually proves correct, millions of people worldwide could be affected. Experts estimate that nearly 20 percent of the working population in developed countries works night shifts.

Among the first to spot the night-shift-cancer connection was Richard Stevens, a cancer epidemiologist and professor at the University of Connecticut Health Center. In 1987, Stevens published a paper suggesting a link between light at night and breast cancer.

Back then, he was trying to figure out why breast cancer incidence suddenly shot up starting in the 1930s in industrialized societies, where night-time work was considered a hallmark of progress. Most scientists were bewildered by his proposal.

But in recent years, several studies have found that women working at night over many years were indeed more prone to breast cancer, and that those who have their light-dark schedules switched develop more cancerous tumors.

Some research also suggests that men working at night may have a higher rate of prostate cancer.

Because these studies mostly focused on nurses and airline crews, bigger studies in different populations are needed to confirm or disprove the findings.

There are still plenty of skeptics. And to put the risk to perspective, the “probable carcinogen” tag means that the link between overnight work and cancer is merely plausible.

Among the long list of agents that are listed as “known” carcinogens are alcoholic beverages and birth control pills. Such lists say nothing about exposure amount or length of time or how likely they are to cause cancer.

The American Cancer Society Web site notes that insomnia does not always cause cancer. The cancer society does not make its own assessments of possible cancer-causing agents, but relies on analyses by the IARC and a U.S. agency.

Still, many doubters of the night shift-cancer link may be won over by the American Cancer Society’s decision to list shift work as a probable carcinogen.

New York, who is not connected with the IARC analysis, says, “Getting enough sleep makes your immune system vulnerable to attack and less able to fight off potentially cancerous cells.”

Confusing your body’s natural rhythm can also lead to a breakdown of other essential tasks. “Timing is very important,” Rea says. Certain processes like cell division and DNA repair happen at regular times.

Even worse than working an overnight shift is a flipping between daytime and overnight work.

“The problem is resetting your body’s clock,” said Aaron Blair, of the United States’ National Cancer Institute, who chaired IARC’s recent meeting on shift work. “If you worked at night and stayed on it, that would be less disruptive than constantly changing shifts.”

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

He advises workers to sleep in a darkened room once they get off work. “The balance between light and dark is very important for your body. Just get a dark night’s sleep.”

How do you relax during finals week?

Compiled and photographed by Rachel Gellman

“I like to knit because it soothes and you don’t have to think hard.”
— Sarah Shackleford, 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

Be our guest!
The Mustang Daily is always accepting guest commentaries.

Send your commentaries* of about 500 words (and on an original topic) with your year and major to mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com

* Editors reserve the right to edit commentaries for spelling, grammar, style, length and proficiency.
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 Harman 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 Jeffer's "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 all of the students ready for finals," Davies laughed.
In the music-driven film "August Rush," Freddie Highmore (right) plays a talented young musician searching for his parents, played by Keri Russell (below) and Jonathan Rhys Meyers (left).

### Inspirational ‘Rush’

Whitney Diaz

"August Rush" is the inspirational story of a young, orphaned boy on a quest to find his birth parents — or to help his parents find him. Driven by his love of music, 11-year-old Evan Taylor, played by Freddie Highmore ("Charlie and the Chocolate Factory") leaves his home at a New York state orphanage and makes his way to New York City, where he learns that he is a prolific musician.

Homeless and alone, Evan is looked after by Maxwell "Wizard" Wallace, a crazed, money-hungry, music-loving father figure played convincingly by Robin Williams. Aware that he has a gifted child in his midst, Wizard changes Evan's name to August Rush so the authorities will not identify him.

In a series of twists and turns, the boy finds himself living in a church, taking classes at the Juilliard School and composing an entire symphony played in Central Park. Parallel to his story is the story of his parents: an Irish guitarist played by Terrence Howard ("Crash") is underwhelmed by manufactured pop, and a young, world-renowned cellist played brilliantly by Keri Russell ("Mission Impossible III").

The two star-crossed lovers are separated after one magical night together rocks the course of their lives.

Sounds far-fetched, I know. But this charming, and often unbelievable, modern-day fairytale is a great movie for the whole family. It stretches the imagination, and plants hope in the hearts of cynics.

Russell's moving performance as a mother in need of hope and love is equally touching. Her portrayal is a marvelous performance that will be remembered for years to come.

The real award for excellence should go to the actual musicians in the film and the composer of the music in the final scene. Composer Mark Mancina and the Hollywood Studio Symphony perform better than anyone else in the film, and the final scene and film's score brings "August Rush" to an emotional and enchanting conclusion.

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Take it with you wherever you go in SLO.
“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 adaptations have been generally unwatchable (“Doom,” 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 since the scene is just a boy getting a barcode tattooed on his head and practicing martial arts and other disciplines to become a deadly assassin. Once the introduction finishes, “Hitman” takes off. 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 since the scene is just a boy getting a barcode tattooed on his head and practicing martial arts and other disciplines to become a deadly assassin. Once the introduction finishes, “Hitman” takes off.

Throughout the film, scenes showcase the many deadly talents of Agent 47. The body count he leaves behind includes death by C4 explosives, sniper bullets, strangulation, stab wounds and, of course, many, many bullets from the magazines of his trademark dual-Silverballers (the twin pistols that get any impatient gamer through a mission quickly). Even a few of his barcoded peers make appearances to try and off 47 as the plot reveals that his own 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 minimizing 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 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.

Video game-based movie lives up to its violent origins

Lerche goes overboard on ‘Real Life’ soundtrack

Hilary Stohr-krause

This isn’t a bad album. It’s a bit of a change for Lerche, as most of its songs are instrumental, but the basic core is still there, which is precisely why. “Dan in Real Life” director Peter Hedges recruited the Norwegian alt-pop singer-songwriter to write the music for 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 Sandnes, recalls many 1970s pop with a slight hokey-tok influence. A duet with Regina Spektor, however, falls flat, the swirling sounds not bringing her to life, hence, and not sharp at all, well, Regina Spektor.

Lerche performs a couple of weeks ago in Omaha. 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 punch of the live performance. To a certain extent, that’s inevitable, but even so, it’s subdued to the point of being boring. However, the acoustic guitar is crisp and cleanly punctuated. Similarly, “Human Hands” was much better live. An Elvis Costello cover, the style of the song fits perfectly with Lerche’s musical abilities, but the production is a game lacking. Lerche 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 boisterous charm of last spring’s “Phantom Punch.” “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 union for society. Eco-savvy young professionals will be capable of meeting 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 the challenges they will face in the working world. Nowhere is this more true than at Cal Poly. In order to just start the discussion about climate change, campuses from across the nation will host the largest teach-in in American history. On Jan. 31, more than 1,000 college campuses will host the national "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, faith, economics, psychology and public policy. All members of the community are invited to attend the events and take on an active role in the conversations that grow out of them. Focus the Nation will also include • speeches by local political leaders, including expected addresses by California Congresswoman Lois Capps and California State Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee • an alternative 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 • a green job fair and trade show Last year, Cal Poly became the second university in the country to receive Focus the Nation endorsements 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 correspondences, conferences and meetings that have taken place with other educational venues, Cal Poly has been named 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 taking part in one of the export panels. Focus the Nation is an incredible opportunity for Cal Poly students to work together in preparing for the challenges that lie ahead. By capitalizing on the academic diversity of our student body and interacting with expert guests and panelists 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 focusthenation.pbwiki.com or contact organizers at focusthenationcalpolygmail.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

Edited by Will Shortz
No. 1019

Across
1 Windshield wipers
10 "Unbelievable!"
15 Darwin's home
16 Superrealist sculptor Hanson
17 Zip
18 They stand for something: Abbr.
19 Statio 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 Booster
8 Astronaut Collins and others
9 Toasted triangle hopper
10 One of Jon Arbuckle's pets
11 Changsha is its capital
12 "Hang it!"
13 Edgar
14 Things that may be shot in stages?
15 "La Reine Margot" novelist
16 15.creator of lofty lines
17 Freshening naturally
18 (lighten up, will ya?)
19 [name]
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

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Soccer: A young and kicking club

Megan Priley

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 Soccer Club get up and running. They were able to find a coach, Johnny Costa, who coaches the local youth soccer team SL0 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 the Cal Poly men's soccer 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 Robles.

"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 (C4CSL)," 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."

The team's popularity has already forced them to turn people away this year during winter and spring season tryouts.
Swimming

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"He comes in with a great work ethic and he's pretty much prepared and on schedule." Some of the other stats that Waggoner currently uphold include records in the 500, 1000 and 1650 meter freestyle. He is also the recent leader in the Big West Conference for the 500 and 1000 meter freestyle.

Another talented swimming making waves in the freshmen ranks is business major Melody White. White said that when she decided to attend Cal Poly, she was already familiar with the university because both of her parents are Cal Poly alumni. White said one of the things she is definitely looking forward to is her dad's impending visit.

"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 that improvement will come the chances of someday going for the gold.

"I definitely think this weekend will put me closer to qualifying time," White said. "If not an Olympic trial grade, 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.

Despite her promising late first half showing and a close finish, the Mustangs, who turned the ball over 22 times and were out rebounded 39-31, 20-12 on offensive boards, executed more like a free-style break dance than a ballroom performance. The Aztecs hands were too quick and they hit big shots in the end.

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

"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 whole country."

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

Washington 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

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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 fresh man Artic Paris Johnson led her squad with 12.

Harrison took a charge to open up the second half on a positive, though probably 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 Aztecs gained their first lead of the second half (50-49) on a Jone Morris three and then coco Davis laced 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 Artic long bomb by Morris on the following possession. The Aztecs were 4-4 from behind the arch at this point in the second half, yet the Mustangs remained 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.

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Lady Mustangs stumble over the Aztecs

Rachel Gellman

Junior forward Megan Harrison scored 20 points 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 (3-1, 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 and thus took some extra attempts afterward. Her hard work carried over.

It was a slow start for both teams Thursday night, 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 lary 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 that can be heard on ESPN 1280 for the first time in 1981 and returned for nine straight showings. For 10 years, Poly saw no tournament action. Then, after the 1999 campaign, the Mustangs entered the big dance in 2000 and 2002. This year marks Poly’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.

Volleyball takes on Xavier in first round of NCAA Tournament

Mustang Daily Staff 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, 15-1 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. Poly 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 stumped the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 1981 and returned for nine straight showings. For 10 years, Poly saw no tournament action. Then, after the 1999 campaign, the Mustangs entered the big dance in 2000 and 2002. This year marks Poly's first second-consecutive playoff appearance since the 1981-89 run.

Cal Poly to host Mustang Invitational

Future golden Olympians give the Cal Poly swimming team its silver lining

Daniel Seguin

Cal Poly will play host this weekend at Cal State Bakersfield and UC Santa Cruz, among others, to compete in the second annual Mustang Invitational swim meet.

This year’s two-day event takes place at Sinshemer Park in San Luis Obispo.

The schedule begins at 11 a.m. tomorrow and culminates at 10 a.m. Saturday.

As Cal Poly enters this year’s invitational, a handful of standout athletes highlight the swim team’s path to victory.

Head coach Tom Milich has been coaching for the past 33 years, the last two at Cal Poly.

He said he knows true talent when he comes across it and this year’s mostly freshman group has definitely got it.

“We have a pretty awesome group this year,” Milich said. “Records have been broken all across the board and they’re going to keep getting broken.”

One of those top athletes who is swimming laps around the competition is biochemistry freshman Matthew Waggoner.

Milich had much to say as he proudly discussed some of Waggoner’s many swimming related accomplishments.

“Matthew was a high school All-American who qualified for the United States Olympic Trials in the 1500 meter freestyle,” Milich said. “He had a top-ten time in the 800 meter freestyle and also qualified for the 400 meter freestyle in the National Championships.”