It's butterfly season

Britney Clyde
MUSTANG DAILY

California is the only state in the nation that is home to what Cal Poly entomology professor emeritus Kingston Leong refers to as a "national treasure."

This phenomenon, the Pismo Beach Monarch Butterfly Grove, has been known to support up to 200,000 butterflies. This particular colony is one of the largest in the nation, hosting an average of 25,000 butterflies per year over the last five years. In fact, most years Pismo Beach has had the largest collection of monarch butterflies in the United States. Pismo Beach is not the only area along the California coast that is home to the butterflies though. Montana de Oro, Los Osos and Morro Bay are other groves where the butterflies migrate.

Luckily, what was once kept secret by a select few in the 1940s is now open to all those who wish to gaze upon the thousands of beautiful orange and black monarch butterflies that flock to the grove each year. Gary Espiau, a volunteer docent for the grove, said that as time went on people realized the "importance of being knowledgeable in order to protect the species."

The monarchs that visit Pismo Beach are not ordinary butterflies; they have a life span of six months, as opposed to common monarchs who live only six weeks.

Though scientists aren't sure why the monarchs consistently return to the same spots along the Central Coast and Mexico, some speculate that the insects are equipped with genetic homing systems that lead them to their winter destination.

Espiau believes that past studies which determined that there are two separate populations of butterflies (one that migrates to the California Coast after feeding on milkweed west of the Rocky Mountains, and one that migrates to Mexico after feeding on milkweed east of the Rocky Mountains) are actually wrong. "I think there is a link," he said. "We have found that in the spring when they disperse we find them going over the Rocky Mountains."

Espiau said the butterflies start to arrive around October and come to the grove to avoid freezing to death. "It's the only insect that migrates to avoid freezing," he said. "They're tropical insects and can't stand cold temperatures for long periods of time so they choose a place like this."

Espiau describes the grove as an "oasis" and a "sanctuary" for three main reasons. First, "the butterflies are looking for a place that's got moisture to prevent dehydration and the eucalyptus trees also provide wind protection," he explained. "There's also a meadow and stream where the fog will come in so..."

Cyclists race through SLO

Three Major League Soccer franchises play in an exhibition at Cal Poly today and Sunday.

Coral Snyder
MUSTANG DAILY

In spite of the rain and the chilling wind, hundreds of fans lined Monterey Street in downtown San Luis Obispo waiting for the competitors in the 2008 Amgen Tour of California to cross the finish line.

"The Tour of California is great advertising for California and it shows off how beautiful this county is," mechanical engineering freshman Jim Feliz said.

Dominique Rollin won stage four in a solo 19-second victory after riding through rain and a strong headwind for over seven hours. George Hincapie and Iker Camano Ortuzar, who took second and third place, respectively, followed him.

"It's a lot of fun to see all the pro-tour guys because you see them all year on TV but then now they're in your backyard," said 18-year-old Cuesta College student Trevor Jackson.

Stage four is the longest stage of the tour stretching along U.S. Highway 1 from Seaside (Montery) to San Luis Obispo. The length of the course is 135.3 miles and mostly composed of hilly terrain.

Yesterday's race began at 10 a.m. and the bikers were scheduled to finish between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. However, due to the weather, they ended up finishing just after 5 p.m. 2006 Canadian road champion Rollin began the stage approximately 25 minutes out of the overall lead, but caught up to take the win as other riders faded due to the inclement weather conditions and illness.

Rollin, who is sponsored by Toyota-United, pulled away and rode alone in the final 15 miles of the competition. Downtown San Luis Obispo was bustling with traffic as there were road closures around Monterey, Chorro and Osos streets to accommodate the finish line of stage four of the tour.

The awards stage for the competition was located just past the finish line at the intersection of Monterey to San Luis Obispo. Outdoors showed up with ponchos and umbrellas to watch riders speed through downtown.

Coral Snyder
MUSTANG DAILY

Speaker warns Americans ignore foreign policy at own peril

Rachel Gellman
MUSTANG DAILY

"I genuinely believe that George W. Bush has supplied al-Qaida with more recruits than bin Laden himself," said AbuKhalil, a professor of political science at California State University, Stanislaus, who lectured to a packed classroom of Cal Poly students and community members Wednesday evening. Students for Justice and Peace (SJPME) sponsored the event.

"He's very knowledgeable. The guy spends pretty much all his time researching this stuff and blogging it online and he has a great blog, The Angry Arab News Service," said Marya Mikati, SJPME president and an architectural engineering senior. "So we felt he would do justice to speaking about Iraq."

AbuKhalil, born in Tyre, Lebanon received his bachelor's and master's degrees in political science from the American University of Beirut and his Ph.D. in comparative government from George-town University. Along with his position at Stanis­laus, he is a visiting professor at UC Berkeley.

"Particularly since he speaks with students and works with students and cares about them a lot, we felt like he had a great perspective to bring on Iraq and the Middle East in general," said Ian Muir, vice president of SJPME and materials engineering senior.


He issues a public opinion survey to students in every country he visits; France, Canada, Germany
and Britain all scored much higher than the United States on every question pertaining to foreign affairs.

AbuKhalil said people know that whatever happens in Mexico or Canada will not affect their lives, and noted that just 5% of U.S. media correspondents are stationed in Canada.

The presidential election process thus far does not cover foreign policy much, in part because it is not what Americans want to hear, he said. Americans returned to attacks in the Middle East are Qaeda-related. The truth scrupulously, they will continue to think that most civilians are killed by U.S. strikes in several countries, he said.

They are not video games. These are wars that inevitably kill people, painted out of the news and I think students are particularly susceptible to that because if something doesn't grab their attention, they're not really going to be interested in it."

He pointed out that a majority of military attacks against U.S. troops in Iraq are by "Iraq nationalists, Iraq religious, people who — and I know this offends the American feeling tremendously — people who do not find American occupation to be pleasant," he said, while noting that just 4% or 5 percent of attacks are Qaeda-related.

Osama bin Laden is a popular figure on college campuses in Pakistan and other parts of the Middle East out of deep resentment toward the U.S., he said.

This is the legacy of U.S. foreign policy. This Bush administration, after eight years, is going to leave us with a legacy of harm and damage and insecurity that is going to continue for years to come," AbuKhalil said, noting that current presidential candidates are not saying or doing enough about that.

He said many politicians listed chief goals for the war as eliminating weapons of mass destruction and establishing a democracy in Iraq that can be emulated around the region.

"When you look around the region, there are no takers," he said. "There are no people in the Middle East who are saying, please, we want to copy the Iraqi model. We are dying to have daily car bombs, being shot at checkpoints by U.S. troops, we want to have a Grand Ayatollah running the country and we want to have foreign occupation.

"We ignore foreign policy at our own peril," he added, explaining that an absence of foreign discussion in the election is the public's fault because they continue to watch Britney Spears instead of international news.

"Our candidates will care about foreign policy if we care about it. If we start paying attention, they'll pay attention. But we don't pay attention and as a result we don't do anything about that.

Muir said, "As he was saying, the Iraq story is kind of invisible (friends. Valid college

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Gillian Flaccus
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sometimes, government inspectors responsible for examining slaughterhouse cattle for mad cow disease and other ills are so short-staffed that they find themselves peering down from catwalks at hundreds of animals at once, looking for such telltale signs as droopy ears, stumbling gait and facial paralysis.

The ranks of inspectors are so thin that slaughterhouse workers often figure out when "surprise" visits are about to take place, and make sure they are on their best behavior.

These allegations were raised by former and current U.S. Department of Agriculture inspectors in the wake of the biggest beef recall in history — 145 million pounds from a California meatpacker accused of sending lame "downer" cows to slaughter.

The inspectors told The Associated Press that they fear chronic staff shortages in their ranks are allowing sick cows to get into the nation's food supply, endangering the public. Accordingly to USDA's own figures, the inspector ranks nationwide had vacancy rates of 10 percent or more in 2006-07.

"They're not covering all their bases. There's a possibility that something could go through because you don't have the manpower to check everything," said Lester Friedlander, a former USDA veterinary inspector at a plant in Wynlabel, Pa.

Amanda Eamich, a spokeswoman for the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, acknowledged that the department has been struggling to fill vacancies but denied the food supply was at risk.

"Every single animal must pass antemortem inspection before it's presented for slaughter, so only healthy animals are going to pass," she said.

"We do have continuous inspection at slaughter facilities."

Similarly, Janet Riley, a spokeswoman for the American Meat Institute, defended the meat-packing industry's safety record. "It is interesting to keep in mind how heavily regulated we are," she said. "Nobody has this level of inspections."

The current and former inspectors and other industry critics charged that the staff shortages are also resulting in the mistreatment of animals on the way to slaughter, and may have contributed to the recall announced earlier this week.

The USDA recalled the beef after the Humane Society of the United States released undercover video that showed slaughterhouse workers at the Chino-based Westland/Hallmark Meat Co. kicking and shoving sick and crippled cows and forcing them to stand with electric prods, forklifts and water hoses.

Wayne Pacelle, the Humane Society's president and chief executive, said the video was filmed over a six-week period last fall and all the abuse happened when USDA inspectors were not present.

"The inspection system obviously has enormous gaps if these routine abuses could happen," he said. "The inspector would show up and if there were downed animals, the workers would try to get them up before the inspectors got there."

Generally, downer cows — those too sickly to stand, even with coaxing — are banned from the food supply under federal regulations. Downer cows carry a higher risk of mad cow disease. And because sickly animals typically walk in flocks and have weakened immune systems, downer cows are more likely to carry E. coli and salmonella, too.

Veterinary inspector looks for such symptoms as an unsteady gait, swollen lymph nodes, sores and poor muscle tone.

Industry critics say the staff shortages are compounded by a change in USDA regulations in the late 1990s that gave slaughterhouses more responsibility for devising their own safety checklists and for reporting downer cows to the USDA when inspectors are not present.

That policy places slaughterhouses on an honor system that can lead to abuse in an industry that thrives on close attention to costs, said Stan Painter, chairman for the National Joint Council of Food Inspection Locals, which represents 6,000 inspectors nationwide.

"The fox is guarding its own henhouse," said Painter, who also works as a part-time inspector at hog and poultry packing plants in the South. "If you throw a three-pound chicken away, so what? But if you throw a cow away that's 3,000 pounds of meat, and you can't get any money out of it, that's a big issue."

Inspectors whose job is to make sure that the cattle are treated humansely said staff shortages mean they are forced to adopt routine hours for their checks, removing the element of surprise.

USDA numbers show anywhere between 10 and 12 percent of inspector and veterinarian positions at poultry, beef and pork slaughterhouses nationwide were vacant between October 2006 and September 2007. In some regions, including Colorado and Texas, a major beef-producing state, the rate hovered around 15 percent. In New York, vacancy rates hit nearly 22 percent last July.

To bolster its ranks, the department is offering big signing bonuses of at least $2,500 to inspectors willing to relocate to 15 states. The agency has 7,800 inspectors covering 6,200 federally inspected establishments, 900 of which slaughter livestock.
"What junk food would you eat every day if you could?"

Compiled and photographed by Dustin Stone

"Cookies, because I like to bake them and I always have to eat them once they're done."

— Julianne Taylor, business freshman

"Pizookie, because I'm from Northern California and it would give me a chance to make up for all the years I didn't know it existed."

— Crisle Withem, recreation junior

"It would have to be Ball's frozen yogurt, because it just makes me happy."

— Max Haveltka, animal science senior

"Probably ice cream, because I like it ... a lot."

— Derek Brown, recreation freshman

State

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The University of California went to court Thursday to try to keep animal rights activists away from UCLA employees who say they have had their lives threatened because of their research on animals.

Three times since June 2006, Molotov cocktail-type devices have been left near the homes of faculty members who oversee or participate in research that involves animals, according to a statement from the University of California, Los Angeles.

ENCINITAS (AP) — Bums will be banned on beaches in Encinitas following a unanimous vote by the City Council.

The San Diego County city joins at least 35 other coastal communities in California that have outlawed smoking at the beach.

The draft ordinance approved Wednesday would apply to 6 1/2 miles of beaches as well as 17 city parks, trails and outdoor eating areas.

DAVIS (AP) — An occupation of California's only tribal college has ended with the arrest of three self-described students.

About a dozen former students had been occupying the dorms and holding their own classes at UC-Davis since university officials called the college lost its accreditation and federal funding over financial and enrollment problems.

CARMON (AP) — A report of a man carrying an assault rifle prompted police to shut down the California State University, Dominguez Hills, campus Thursday morning before they learned the gunman was an ROTC student practicing with a fake rifle.

Police swarmed the sprawling campus 20 miles south of downtown Los Angeles shortly after 8 a.m. Some students and faculty fled and others locked themselves in buildings.

"We were just blindsided," said university spokeswoman Amy Bentley-Smith, who locked herself in her office. "Someone came in and said 'There's a gunman on campus. Lock all your doors.'"

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Briefs

National

WASHINGTON (AP) — Barack Obama won the Democratic Abroad global primary in a race announced Thursday, giving him 31 straight victories in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

The Illinois senator won the primary in which Democrats living in other countries voted by mail, Internet and in person, according to results released by the Democratic Abroad, an organization sanctioned by the national party.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A cat who took a three-week cross-country ride to Arizona in a storge container is headed home to Florida.

Arizona Humane Society officials say the 2-year-old gray cat crawled into the locker in Pompano Beach, Fla., while a man loaded it for a move to Phoenix.

The container spent time in a Florida warehouse and on a semi-trailer before being delivered to a Phoenix facility.

A worker heard a cat meowing inside the container Tuesday.

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. (AP) — A man who killed and dismembered his wife was sentenced Thursday to serve at least 50 years behind bars by a judge who called his actions "demonic."

Stephen Grant choked his wife, Tara, to death, then cut up her corpse in a machine shop. After the killing, he tearfully told reporters he wasn't involved in her disappearance.

"Stephen Grant is evil personified," Prosecutor Eric Smith said.

ATLANTA (AP) — Only about 4 in 1 Americans know the warning signs of a heart attack, U.S. health officials in Atlanta say.

Most are also unaware that the first thing to do is call 9-1-1. Doctors with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the lack of public awareness is alarmingly low.

The warning signs include shortness of breath, pain in the chest, arms or shoulder, a feeling of weakness and discomfort on the jaw, neck or back. Each year more than 900,000 Americans suffer a heart attack.

International

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Serbian broke into the U.S. Embassy Thursday and set fire to an office after a large protest against Kosovo's independence that drew an estimated 50,000 people.

Masked attackers broke into the building, which has been closed this week, and tried to throw furn­ iture from an office window. Officials said some people broke out but firefighters swiftly put out the flames.

Authorities drove armored jeeps down the street and fired tear gas to clear the crowd. The pro­ testers dispersed into side streets where they continued chancing with authorities.

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — A shootout carry­ ing more than 100 passengers collided with a barrier loaded with fuel tanks and sank to the bottom of the Amazon River on Thursday, officials said.

At least nine people died, and another 10 were missing and feared dead.

The Almirante Monteiro cap­ suled at dawn near the isolated Brazilian town of Itacoatiara in the jungle state of Amazonas, state fire spokesman Lt. Cleon Araujo said.

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan's two main opposition parties announced Thursday they would form a new govern­ ment together after their victory over President Pervez Musharraf's allies in elections this week.

The two leaders of the Paki­ stan People's Party of slain former premier Benazir Bhutto and the Pakistan Muslim League-N led by Nawaz Sharif made the announce­ ment at a joint news conference after meeting in Islamabad.

"We have agreed on a common agenda. We will work together to form a government together in the center and in the provinces," Sharif said.

LONDON (AP) — An offi­ cial says Britain helped the United States in a pool of publicly transfer terrorism suspects across the world.

The official in London says British aircraft have been used in a program of "extraordinary rendition." The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive counterterrorism work.
**Movie guide**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>film</th>
<th>grade</th>
<th>cast &amp; crew</th>
<th>the big picture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atonement (R)</strong></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>James McAvoy, Keira Knightley, Romola Garai, Saoirse Ronan, Vanessa Redgrave; directed by Joe Wright</td>
<td><strong>Summary:</strong> When a girl accuses her sister's lover of a crime he did not commit, the couple's future together is threatened and the girl grows up seeking atonement for her actions. <strong>The Good:</strong> British acting at its best; Wright's cinematic beauty shines an uncanny experience. <strong>The Bad:</strong> May be too slow, depressing for some; editing problems from first to second act. (Ryan Chantland)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Be Kind, Rewind (PG-13)</strong></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Jack Black, Mimi Def, Danny Glover, Mia Farrow, Melanie Diaz; directed by Michel Gondry</td>
<td><strong>Summary:</strong> A paranoid Jack Black accidentally erases the tapes in a rundown New Jersey VHS rental store, forcing him and Mimi Def to recreate zero-budget recreations of the destroyed movies. <strong>The Good:</strong> Written by Charlie Kaufman (same writer of &quot;Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind.&quot;) <strong>The Bad:</strong> Jack Black is still obnoxious and the customers' embrace of the rip off is a tad unrealistic. (Metacritic.com)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Charlie Bartlett (R)</strong></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Anton Yelchin, Robert Downey; directed by Jon Poll</td>
<td><strong>Summary:</strong> A divorcer's daughter encourages him to explain his romantic failures to her. The daughter (Breslin) insists on helping him find her a new stepmom. Happy ending ensues. <strong>The Good:</strong> Isla Fisher shines as always. <strong>The Bad:</strong> The story hardly lends itself to romance or comedy. (Metacritic.com)</td>
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<td><strong>Definitely, Maybe (PG-13)</strong></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Ryan Reynolds, Isla Fisher, Derek Luke, Anglia Brnix, Rachel Weisz, Elizabeth Banks; directed by Adam Brooks</td>
<td><strong>Summary:</strong> A divorcee’s daughter encourages him to explain his romantic failures to her. The daughter (Breslin) insists on helping him find her a new stepmom. Happy ending ensues. <strong>The Good:</strong> Isla Fisher shines as always. <strong>The Bad:</strong> The story hardly lends itself to romance or comedy. (Metacritic.com)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fool’s Gold (PG-13)</strong></td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Kate Hudson, Matthew McConaughey, Donald Sutherland; directed by Andy Tennant</td>
<td><strong>Summary:</strong> A surb bun-burnt-treasure-hunter (McConaughey) and his ex-wife (Hudson) embark on a Caribbean adventure in pursuit of the 18th-century Queen's Dowry, lost at sea in 1715. <strong>The Good:</strong> In its more exciting moments, the movie channels the classic pirate films of yesteryear. <strong>The Bad:</strong> An abundance of dumb jokes; the predictable storyline moves slowly in some parts. (Sara Hamilton)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jumper (PG-13)</strong></td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Hayden Christensen, Jamie Bell, Rachel Bilson, Samuel L. Jackson, Diane Lane, Michael Brooker, Anna Sophia Robb; directed by Doug Liman</td>
<td><strong>Summary:</strong> David Rice discovers his ability to teleport at a young age and spends his days traveling the world — until he finds himself and his crush in the middle of a war with anti-teleporters. <strong>The Good:</strong> A clever idea lost in poor execution — to be expected of Christensen, but not Jackson. (Kristen Marshall)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No Country for Old Men (R)</strong></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin; Woody Harrelson, Kelly Macdonald; directed by Ethan and Joel Coen</td>
<td><strong>Summary:</strong> Evil is personified in Anton Chigurh (Bardem), a man on a hunt down Lewelyn Moss (Brolin) to recover stolen money. Chigurh is tracked by smalltown sheriff Ed Tom Bell (Jones). <strong>The Good:</strong> Flawless acting; plot for both thought-provoking drama lovers and scary movie aficionados. <strong>The Bad:</strong> Some may not like the debatably appropriate ending. (Brooke Robertson)</td>
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<td><strong>Persepolis (PG-13)</strong></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Chiara Mastroianni, Catherine Deneuve; directed by Vincent Paronnaud and Marjane Satrapi</td>
<td><strong>Summary:</strong> An adaption of the graphic novel, the film paints a vivid portrait of Iran during the Islamic Revolution, as told through the eyes of 9-year-old Marjane. <strong>The Good:</strong> Cinematic poetry highlighting the power of resilience. <strong>The Bad:</strong> Story is familiar, slightly frightening images. (Metacritic.com)</td>
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<td><strong>The Spiderwick Chronicles (PG)</strong></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Freddie Highmore, MaryLouise Parker, Nick Nolte, Joan Plowright, David Strathairn, Seth Rogan; directed by Mark Waters</td>
<td><strong>Summary:</strong> Three children dealing with the separation of their parents find that there’s more to the world than what they see after opening a chest that leads them on a fantasy adventure. <strong>The Good:</strong> Entertaining for kids and adults alike. <strong>The Bad:</strong> Might be too scary for the little ones it’s meant for. (Metacritic.com)</td>
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<td><strong>Step Up 2: The Streets (PG-13)</strong></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Briana Evigan, Robert Hoffman, Will Kemp; Causer Ventura, Adam G. Sevani, Telisha Shaw; directed by Jon M. Chu</td>
<td><strong>Summary:</strong> Street dancer Andre (Evigan) enrolls at the elite Maryland School of Arts and struggles to fit in, until she competes in an underground dance competition with the popular Chase (Hoffman). <strong>The Good:</strong> Rihanna-worthy ending. <strong>The Bad:</strong> A bunch of clichés loosely bundled together. (Metacritic.com)</td>
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<td><strong>U2 3D (G)</strong></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>U2; directed by Mark Pellington and Catherine Owens</td>
<td><strong>Summary:</strong> U2 gives the concert film genre a flourish through footage of their 2006 South American tour, billed as the first digital 3D, multi-camera, real-time production. <strong>The Good:</strong> It's U2. <strong>The Bad:</strong> It's U2. (Metacritic.com)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Vantage Point (PG-13)</strong></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Dennis Quaid, Matthew Fox; directed by Peter Travers</td>
<td><strong>Summary:</strong> Eight strangers with eight different points of view struggle to unlock the puzzle behind an assassination on the president of the United States. <strong>The Good:</strong> Endlessly surprising and satisfying action thriller that doesn’t ignore your intellect. <strong>The Bad:</strong> The pileup of conspiracy and gunfire at the end may leave your head spinning. (Metacritic.com)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>27 Dresses (PG-13)</strong></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Katherine Heigl, James Marsden, Moin Akerman, Edward Burns, Melora Hardin, Judy Greer; directed by Anne Fletcher</td>
<td><strong>Summary:</strong> A 27-time bridesmaid with the closet to prove it. Jane (Heigl) just can't get enough of weddings— until she has to plan her sister's wedding to the man she loves... in three weeks. <strong>The Good:</strong> A quintessential, feel-good chick flick with clever dialogue and one hell of a wardrobe. <strong>The Bad:</strong> A bit cliche and a little too predictable. (Kristen Marshall)</td>
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**FRIDAY SHOWTIMES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fremont Theatre</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>U2-3D</strong> 6:00, 7:30, 10:00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hannah Montana &amp; Miley Cyrus: Concert in 3D</strong> 2:45</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Charlie Bartlett</strong> 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Step Up 2: The Streets</strong> 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Be Kind Rewind</strong> 2:25, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15</td>
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<tr>
<th>Downtown Centre Cinema</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Vantage Point</strong> 2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:15</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The Spiderwick Chronicles</strong> 2:40, 5:15, 8:00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fool's Gold</strong> 2:10, 4:35, 7:40, 10:20</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Atonement</strong> 3:55, 6:45</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Jumper</strong> 3:30, 4:10, 6:30, 9:00, 10:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Definitely, Maybe</strong> 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Persepolis</strong> 4:40, 9:35</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>No Country For Old Men</strong> 2:05, 4:45, 7:25, 10:00</td>
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<th>Palm Theatre</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The Great Debaters</strong> 4:15</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Into the Wild</strong> 8:00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Juno</strong> 4:15, 7:00, 9:15</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>There Will Be Blood</strong> 4:45, 8:00</td>
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<th>Sunset Drive-In</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fool's Gold</strong> 7:00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>27 Dresses</strong> 9:00</td>
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Jessica Ford

**With hopes of bringing clean, running water to those in need, the Engineers Without Borders (EWB) club on campus is sponsoring a benefit concert to raise funds for its work in Nicaragua.**

Sunday’s “Agua for Nicaragua” concert will feature four bands that have agreed to play free of charge.

The club is attempting to raise money for an upcoming project that involves going to a small village in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua, to create a reliable water source for village members. “The poverty is really great over there (in Nicaragua) and usually the biggest thing is water. These villages don’t have access to clean, running water,” said mechanical engineering senior Daniel Silveria, an EWB member and benefit concert coordinator.

Kevin Toque, a communications senior and acoustic artist, starts the show at 6 p.m. in Chumash Auditorium. Other performances include The Kicks, a reggae group comprised of Cal Poly graduates, the Fresno-based rock band Jellyfish Tree; and Rademacher, another rock band from Fresno, to close out the show.

Tickets for the event are $7 in advance and $9 at the door and can be purchased at Boo Boo Records. EWB members finished a project this summer in Nicaragua that involved developing a water storage facility for a clinic in the village of Nueva Vida. The club was able to build water tanks to store excess water because the village does not have running water throughout the day; water is usually only available to the villagers between midnight and 6 a.m. The water tanks are now hooked up to the clinic and allow villagers to have access to water during the day.

“We try to find projects that will help the community as a whole,” said civil engineering senior Otto Melara, an EWB member and public relations coordinator.

Silveria added, “We don’t go over there to do the work for them — we do the work with them. We educate them on how to use the material and the key is that these are developing communities. They are not able to grow as a community because they have to focus so much on getting the most basic necessity, which is water.”

Club members stay five years with a certain community to ensure their work is truly serving the people. EWB plans on returning to the village of Nueva Vida this spring to assess the old project and make sure everything is running smoothly in the community.

“We go there; we use engineering to help them solve this problem and then we teach them how to use it and maintain it,” Silveria said. “We stay in contact with them — it’s a relationship. We don’t just go and leave.”

Cal Poly’s EWB club is broken up into three teams — Nicaragua, Thailand and Southeast Asia — to better serve the developing communities in these areas.

The club begins by taking an exploratory trip to a given area, where club members evaluate the needs of various communities. Then there is an assessment trip after a project idea has been developed. The club figures out what is needed and how the details of the project will work out. Finally, an implementation trip begins the execution of the project.

The club selects heavily on grants, scholarships, sponsors and fundraising events like the benefit concert Sunday, because EWB members have to finance the projects themselves.

Melara said, “We try as hard as we can to get money from outside sources, but sometimes we are, of course, going to fall short of our target financial goal.” In these cases, club members have to “pay out of their own pockets” to fulfill their plans.

All proceeds from the concert will benefit the efforts of the club and help support their work in Nicaragua.

In addition to the concert, T-shirts will be available for purchase along with a raffle sponsored by Three Ink Screen Printing, Starbucks, Planet Beach Tanning Salon and Trader Joe’s.

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**Radeacher (above), a Fresno-based rock band that has been gaining national attention, is part of the four-band lineup for Sunday’s “Agua for Nicaragua” benefit concert. Cal Poly’s Engineers Without Borders club is hosting the event, and all proceeds will go toward water-treatment projects in Managua, Nicaragua.**

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**Helping put agua in Nicaragua**

Jessica Ford

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**ECHO Artspac e’s ‘Black History is American History’ pushes art to its limit**

Jessica Ford

The exhibit, hosted by Patrick Germany and the Cultural Collective Group, displayed a variety of art mediums. Germany said he hoped the exhibit would help the Central Coast recognize that “this culture offers a lot on the positive side.”

There was a couch in the corner of the room with a few children of multiple races crawling on it, unable to realize their impact on the future of the community. High school students as well as senior citizens were scattered throughout the room, admiring the artwork that lined the walls.

Local photographer Joe Schwartz sat at a table with his work on display next to him. At 94 years old, Schwartz has photographs documenting many decades of black history in America. His photographs were striking, especially with his motto of “seeking to capture the humanity within us.”

Another wall contained the work of local black artist Chris Matthews, whose artwork was recently featured at Cloud 9, San Luis Obispo’s local hookah lounge. Matthews is known for his graffiti art, especially the lunar landscapes he creates with aerosol sprays.

The exhibit also featured the work of Abbey Oniokoyi, who is originally from Nigeria. His large, colorful paintings of African women popped against the black of the walls. Oniokoyi owns the Spirits of Africa Gallery in downtown San Luis Obispo.

In the center of the ECHO Artspace were multiple columns that showed off the artwork of Kerry Sawyers who is known for her street urban artistic style. Sawyers also had the most unique work on display. Many of her pieces were painted on wooden boards and incorporated various other types of materials. One of her most striking works was a piece that said, “The whole world reminds me of music, and the music reminds me I’m free.”

Sawyers had another unique creation that seemed to catch the attention of many visitors — a work that can only be described as “a painting with a kick.” The painting was done on a wooden board with multiple cutouts of funky tennis shoes that appeared to be from magazines.

The art exhibit will be on display until the end of February. ECHO Artspace is located at 431 Leoni Drive in Grover Beach.

ECHO Artspace, the Cultural Collective Group and other local groups will host a Black History Month finale Feb. 28 at San Luis Obispo’s Farmers’ Market. The event begins at 6 p.m. and includes multiple musical performances.

**Support College Radio! Listen to KCPR 91.3 FM**

**Take it with you wherever you go in SLO.**
There's a movement happening on the Central Coast. It's not social, cultural or musical — it's all of them combined, and it's coming to The Graduate this Saturday night in the form of local hip-hop group Public Defendaz. Consisting of five guys from very different walks of life, the group uses its unique and fresh blend of hip-hop as a means to spread "people music" to the masses.

As its members claim, Public Defendaz makes "music for the people." Hip-hop, for them, is both a cultural influence and a way of life. Members Taktical, Royal, Tha Oktapud, J4rd (pronounced Ee-yah-yee) da Cali Kid and Iyayl (pronounced J-ford) are all hail from (California, and each one brings a wide range of influences to the table. Rap, classic hip-hop, funk and soul all come together, forming a virtual gamut of sounds that the group describes as "earth tones.

"We just make the music we like," Royal said. "All of us listen to our own genres of hip-hop, so we never stick to the same sound. Listening to our album is like listening to a compilation.

All members share mic duties, while three of the five (Taktical, J4rd and Iyayl) make the beats. Scanning through tracks off their album "Speedy Trials, Vol. 1," representations of almost any style of hip-hop can be found. Lyrics that deal with honest, thought-provoking topics are delivered diversely over beats ranging from bass-driven slappers to mellower, more intricately produced rhythms.

"Even though we're from different backgrounds, we're all spirit for the same cause," Oktapud said. "We all know reality and right from wrong, and we project that through our music but still keep it hip-hoppin'."

The Defendaz have opened for such high-profile acts as Slick Rick, Tech N9ne, Boot Camp Click and Andre Nickatina, among others. Along the way, the group has managed to gain a considerable fan base throughout the Central Coast. Initially performing separately as friends, the group formed in 2006 out of a mutual love for music, friendship and collaboration.

"We all had the same vision — it's all about the music," Royal said. "It just came together the way it was supposed to.

"We have a deep appreciation for each other's talents," J4rd added. "I have a ridiculous amount of respect for these cats."

If you have to draw comparisons, the group strives for a "West Coast Dungeon Family sound," referring to the hip-hop musical collective that includes artists OutKast and Goodie Mob.

But the Defendaz's music defies modern tags and refuses to be pigeonholed, and the group credits this in part to living on the Central Coast. "San Luis is one of those places a lot of people come to from outer areas," J4rd said. "Just like other places have done, it's developing its own sound."

Response to the group, especially in live performances, has been overwhelmingly positive, prompting the band to call itself and its fans a "movement."

"We started calling it that when we saw people singing along at shows," Oktapud said. "The movement is our message and our music," Taktical added. "But it goes beyond that and includes our fans. Anyone can join our movement."

One benefit to having a larger group is that each member is able to rely on others' abilities, becoming almost entirely self-sufficient in the process. In addition to the music, group members handle most recording, photography and album design.

"There's a lot that goes into it," Iyayl said. "Almost everything is done within the group, but we owe a big thanks to our promoter, Numbskull Productions and J-Neal."

The group plans to release a second album later this year, and if the movement continues, it'll also be touring California. But for now the group is content doing what's doing the best it can, and hopefully expanding in following while doing it.

"We love everyone that supports us, the new fans and the ones that keep on comin' back to shows," Iyayl said. "We're not tryin' to reach any certain crowd. If you dig it, you dig it.

"That's why we call it 'people music.'"

To join the movement, check out Public Defendaz Saturday night at The Graduate or pick up their album at Cloud Nine Imports for $5.
Friday, February 22, 2008

Editor in chief: Kristen Marshall
Managing Editor: Ryan Chatrand
mustangdaily@gmail.com

Vote to make Cal Poly LEED-er

Yes, I know. We already cast our ballots on Feb. 5, but peel off that “I voted” sticker and make room for two more big votes.

The campus will vote on Feb. 27 and 28 whether or not to approve the Rec Center Expansion.

That's not all. The Green Campus interns collaborated with ASI to include a new opinion poll where voters decide whether they want the Rec Center expansion to be LEED-certified.

They also put together a video explaining the criteria that you should vote YES for LEED certification of the Rec Center, complete with interviews from professors, faculty, employees, professional architects and ASI President Brandon Souza. Find the video on YouTube.com by searching “LEED the Way.”

What is LEED?

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System is a program of the United States Green Building Council, and, according to its Web site, “is a nationally recognized certification system to promote integrated, whole-building design practices for the building industry.”

The LEED rating system and certification is integral to the recent green movement within the building industry. The framework that the LEED rating system offers helps support green building design and implementation. The system awards silver, gold and platinum plaques to buildings that implement sustainable features and earn a certain number of points. Think of it as a “green building Olympics” meets your English professors grading your leadership in the building industry.

Although it varies depending on the type of building, the rating system typically includes six categories: Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, Indoor Environmental Quality and Innovation and Design Process. It lists strategies in each category and allows points accordingly.

Unfortunately, the emphasis is on reducing a building’s carbon emissions, other measures include providing views, implementing water conservation and reduction strategies to the building and exterior landscaping, and ensuring a certain air quality by prohibiting the use of chemicals (typically VOCs and formaldehyde) for indoor products, such as paints, furniture and carpets. That’s pretty important while you’re buffing and polishing on the treadmill.

So, that’s LEED in a nutshell, and for those of you who are more familiar with LEED, I have to add that as an architecture student, I understand that it is not the end-all, be-all of green building. Good design requires a holistic approach and flexibility according to specific site, climate and requirements.

However, green building is not mainstream enough yet to not need rating systems and third-party certification within the industry, especially for large-scale, institutional projects such as this one.

Back to campus matters

For those of you who decide to vote in favor of the Rec Center expansion, let ASI know that LEED-certification should be required by voting YES in the opinion poll.

During the Tech Solutions 2: Architecture panel at the Focus the Nation event that rocked campus a few weeks ago, we all learned that buildings account for 36 percent of our country’s total carbon emissions. So, reducing our buildings’ energy consumption is a necessary component to our fight against climate change. Another important fact: requiring LEED certification will NOT raise the proposed $65 student fee increase, which would become effective in 2011.

While we’re talking about money matters, it is necessary to point out that case studies of LEED-certified buildings show long-term cost benefits, which will be beneficial for future ASI needs.

Focus the Nation got us talking about sustainability and solutions, now it’s time to start taking action. With LEED-certification, the Rec Center expansion could be more than just a larger building that fits more exercise machines and doubles the square footage.

Just as we are reminded everyday of the global problems our generation faces, a LEED-certified building front and center on the main drag will give us all the opportunity to walk past a solution every day. Besides providing the tangible benefit for reducing our campus energy use, bringing us closer to the CSU-wide goal of 15 percent reduction of 2003-04 carbon emission levels by 2009-10, it can also serve as a symbol — for ourselves, the greater community, our future employers, and other universities — of our commitment to making tangible changes towards achieving overall sustainability on campus.

Do you want to be a student at a university that leads the way? Do you want to be a student at a university that focuses on climate changes solutions? Do you want to be a student at a university that smells like cow pies? Ooh, tricky.

OK, seriously. Can you think of a reason why we shouldn’t vote for a LEED-certified Rec Center expansion project? Neither can I. Vote YES Feb. 27 and 28.

Lucia Castelló is an architecture student, a regional coordinator for Energize Poly Coalition and columnist for the Mustang Daily.

“Nothing Better To Do Than Write” was very inspirational to me. I have always enjoyed writing and hopes to one day publish a book. Vincent Grigibly’s story demonstrates to young people that they too can accomplish things that seem out of reach. I applaud Grigibly and his accomplishments and hope to hear more of his books in the future.

— Stephen Moore
Response to “Nothing better to do than write”

Now THIS is a humor column! Good job, James! This is so much better than “Why I Hate White People.”

— Emma D.
Response to “All my pets are dead”

For as president in 2005-06 I worked diligently to solidify the relationship between Cal Poly and CSSA and it is disappointing to see this recent development. While I support ASI’s decision due to the new CSSA policy, it is important that Mr. Souza and the ASI Board of Directors do their best to ensure that Cal Poly’s voice is still considered at the statewide policy level. This may mean sponsoring independent delegations to the Board of Trustees to express our shared viewpoint in the new policy, and urge the decision to be reversed. CSSA needs to be more diligent in its efforts to represent all students regardless of dues-paying status — if it claims to represent all 400,000-plus students, it must entertain our voices in the debate. Otherwise its mission statement ought to be altered so that it claims to represent the portion of students whose campuses actively pay dues.

— Tyler Middleswart
Response to “Cal Poly withholds votes from CSSA”
Girls & Sports

Last Ditch Effort

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

The New York Times Crossword

Across
1. Kind of year
6. Fed up with
13. It can be scary
14. Key
16. How some names are scattered
17. GG figure
18. Deteriorate
19. Late rocker
22. Auction
23. Draft
27. Airport uniform
28. Requirement
29. They make
30. Mathematician famous for his incompleteness
31. Pastas choose
32. One guarded in a soccer game
33. What you take when you do the right thing
36. Co-worker of Diller
37. Start of the Boy Scout Oath
38. Innovative chair
39. Impulses
40. Natural fluid
41. Backyard July 4
42. Decision time
43. _______ cat
45. Practices
46. "Bummer"
47. Nail-biter's cry
48. Negative sign
49. It follows Shevat
50. It follows Shevat

Down
1. Pass superciliously (over)
2. Free
3. "Don't worry about you"
4. Rough estimate
5. "Guilty", in a Latin legal phrase
6. Exchange of thoughts?
7. Burn up
8. Name of 11 ancient kings
9. Some cells
10. "White Flag" singer, 2003
11. Recovered from
12. Believed
14. Sign
15. Transition to a heliocentric model of the universe, e.g.
19. Latin root
20. Barnett
22. Auction
23. Draft
24. Like smooth
25. Nut cracker, perhaps
26. "Outa sight!"
27. "Outa sight!"
28. Landing (Philadelphia area)
29. Concerning
30. "Outta sight!"
31. Pasta choice
32. Really take off
33. What you take when you do the right thing
34. Winter coat?
35. Moon unit
36. Co-worker of Diller
37. "Outta sight!"
38. Innovative chair
39. Impulses
40. Natural fluid
41. Backyard July 4
42. Decision time
43. _______ cat
44. Fill-in
45. Practices
46. "Bummer"
47. Nail-biter's cry
48. Negative sign
49. It follows Shevat
50. It follows Shevat
51. "Win some, lose some"
52. "Outta sight!"
53. Historic capital of Scotland
54. Concerning
55. "Outta sight!"
56. "Outta sight!"
57. "Landing (Philadelphia area)

Solution, tips, and computer program at www.sudoku.com

www.nytimes.com/puzzles
www.sudoku.com
Angela Marie Watkins

It's roller derby season. And The Home Wreckers, a Central Coast Roller Derby host their season opener at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Skate Mor skating rink in Paso Robles. The match will be between The Heart Breakers and The Home Wreckers. This is the first match of the year for the organization that formed only two years ago.

Both teams are made up of members of theCCR D, but that doesn't mean they're going to go easy on one another. This is the third time CCRD teams have played each other aside from practice scrimmages, and the organization is having the match to entertain fans and give CCRD's traveling team some more practice before skating head-on into the 2008 season.

So far, CCRD's traveling team has six matches scheduled for its nine-month season against a variety of California roller derby leagues, but has already set its sights on one for in particular, Angel City Derby Gals. CCRD faced ACDG in 2006 and was defeated by more than 80 points, said team manager and traveling team member Berta the Hurta.

Overall, CCRD has lost to ACDG three times. "(The first time) we really thought we were really good and we all went there with our ego pumped up, and when we got there they showed us the floor every chance they got," Hurta said.

"We'd really like to have a win with them," Veteran jammer (the speedy position that earns points) Wonder Roller already has high expectations this season.

"I just like to continue improving my game and get my points up and work on being more effective in the pack," Roller said. "I feel like I miss some opportunities because there's so much going on. I just want to work on getting our team strong, getting strong together and really just kicking ass — it's fun to win.

"We just now started to know how each other skate and CCRD is known for being heavy hitters — we can really be a force," she added.

"My biggest goal this year is to build endurance, to skate longer, harder and faster," Miss said. However, CCRD also has several large off-the-rink goals. "We want to give to charity," Hurta said. "Each year we've given $5,000, plus time. This year we'd really like to see that increase."

The organization is also looking to receive Women's Flat Track Derby Association certification and will begin asking rivals to write letters of recommendation to the WFTDA board to expedite the process. Hurta said CCRD hopes to be certified by December.

Tickets for Saturday's match are $12 in advance and $15 at the door — youths get in free. All proceeds go to Big Brothers and Big Sisters of San Luis Obispo.

Baseball

continued from page 12

"The game moves pretty fast when you don't have experience with college baseball. The experience the team has should pay dividends this year.

"A number of players that performed well last year are back and improved," he added.

Lee cites centerfielder Logan Schafer, third baseman Brent Morel and starting pitcher Eric Masingham as leaders.

Among Cal Poly's strengths are starting pitching and defense, while lack of depth in the bullpen is a concern, Lee said.

Another concern is an injury to first baseman Adam Baschini, who hit .294 and had a .378 fielding percentage in 2007. He's currently recovering from Tommy John surgery.

Sophomore starting pitcher Matt Leonard is also out with an injury. Both players are expected to miss the season.

"It's tough since they're good players, but we'll just have to carry on without them," Masingham said.

Masingham (3-1, 4.17 ERA in 2007) is expected to anchor the starting pitching staff as the Friday starter.

Because of Leonard's injury, junior Derrick Saito is expected to pitch Saturdays, with sophomore Steven Fischback pitching Sundays.

Returning position players include Schafer and catcher/first baseman Wes Dorrell (.303 batting average in 2007), both All-Big West Conference honorees.

"A number of players that performed well last year are back and improved," he added.

"We've been at it since Septem-

ber," Schafer said. "We worked hard all fall, practicing hitting and pitching and playing scrimmages."

Morel says the practice and experience will help in realizing a Big West title.

"I think that this is the best team we've had so far," Lee said.

The Mustangs begin their hunt for the Big West crown at 4:30 p.m. Friday at Alabama.

Their first home game will be at 6 p.m. March 11 against UC Santa Barbara.
The Mustangs' 19-11-1 record going into Thursday's match made them a top-tier Division I program, said coach Kevin Keel, who guided the Mustangs to a 14-2-1 record last season.

"We're not too worried about Cal Poly," he said. "We have a lot of depth and we're going to go out there and play well."
Major League Soccer arrives at Cal Poly

San Jose Earthquakes, D.C. United, Columbus Crew play in exhibition at Alex G. Spanos Stadium today and Sunday

Brittney Clyde

Finally, the world's most popular sport is gaining momentum in the United States, and now, in San Luis Obispo, as three Major League Soccer franchises will participate in the MLS Central Coast Showcase tournament through Sunday at Alex G. Spanos Stadium.

"Right now in the community, Cal Poly athletics is the highest form of youth sports, so to have pro teams come in gives them a glimpse of a higher level," said Cal Poly men's soccer team assistant coach Brian Reed. "The kids that have gotten to know Cal Poly soccer have a chance to see another level of the sport so hopefully it can give them something to shoot for.

In the first of a pair of MLS preseason contests, the San Jose Earthquakes will take on the Columbus Crew at 7 p.m. The Earthquakes will challenge D.C. United at 1 p.m. Sunday. Perhaps the most renowned talent that will be featured is that of D.C. United also boasts Jaime Moreno of Bolivia, MLS all-time leading scorer, who also has two World Cup tours on his résumé, and Brazilian Luciano Emilio, the 2007 MLS Golden Boot winner.

The Earthquakes have returned to MLS play after a two-year hiatus. Key to their attempt at a resurgence ought to be Joe Cannon, a two-time MLS Goalkeeper of the Year.

San Jose opened its season with a pair of exhibitions against the Houston Dynamos, losing the first 1-0 and ending the second with a scoreless tie.

Cal Poly, which finished third in the Big West Conference last season, scrimmaged the Earthquakes Wednesday night, falling 1-0 on a Takeuchi Suzuki 56th-minute score. Two hours prior to each MLS game, the Mustangs will have intra-squad scrimmages.

"The boys have been working on their strength and conditioning programs and it's fun for them because now they can get out and play some games again," Reed said in light of Cal Poly not having played a game since Nov. 16. "So I know they're really dying to get back in the stadium."

see MLS, page 11

Poly softball team hosts annual Mustang Classic

Aaron Gaudette

The Cal Poly softball team will host its annual Mustang Classic tournament this weekend in a round-robin format through which the Mustangs will welcome a quartet of teams.

"It's always great to host the Mustang Classic tournament," said Cal Poly head coach Jimmy Condon. "It's a good opportunity for the community to come out and get excited about supporting the team, and it's nice because the players don't have to travel and get to sleep in their own beds."

Coming to Cal Poly are Cal (7-5), Santa Clara (0-10), Sacramento State (1-3) and Alabama-Birmingham (8-3). The Mustangs view the tournament as a good opportunity to continue the fruitful series against Santa Clara and Sacramento State, and also to even the score against Cal. They've never faced Alabama-Birmingham.

"It's exciting to have a team like Cal, which is a good team from a good conference, involved in the tournament," Condon said. "All of these teams will be a good test for our players, and this will further allow us to learn where we're at and how we compare."

Cal Poly (2-8) was off to a rough start, but wasn't without its fair share of individual victories boosting team morale. Somewhat of a surprise is Cal Poly's leading hitter, Stephanie Correia, a freshman catcher who boasts team highs in batting average (.367), hits (11) and RBI (seven). She also owns a .467 slugging percentage and a .487 on-base percentage, as well as three multi-hit games.

Another standout is junior shortstop Melissa Pina, who was named Jan. 30 to the USA Softball National Collegiate Player of the Year Award Watch List. She ranks among the top 10 conference players in a number of categories, and also leads the team in on-base percentage (.571) and slugging.

see Softball, page 11

Women's basketball team loses for seventh time in nine games

Rachel Glaser

The Cal Poly basketball team returns elder and wiser this season. In 2007, the Mustangs fielded an almost entirely new team, including four freshman position players and one freshman pitcher.

But this year is different. "We're quite a bit more experienced now," Cal Poly head coach Larry Lee said.

The Mustangs lost just four players from last season in outfielder Grant Deane, designated hitter Bryan Kepner, starting pitcher Thomas Eager and closer Evan Reed. Seven position players and five starting pitchers are back this year.

Lee hopes their experience will translate into a strong start. Though the team ended the year with a record of 34-24, a slow beginning stretch in which it went 13-16 kept it out of the postseason.

"Last year we kind of got off to a slow start," he said.

see Baseball, page 10

Cal Poly junior centerfielder Logan Schafer, an All-Big West Second Teamer last season, hit .335 with 34 RBI in 2007.

Matured Mustangs open season on road

Cal Poly brings back all but four players from last year's squad that finished 19-8