Chelsea Bieker

Students looking for a place to study can expect to see many changes if they venture to the second floor of the Robert E. Kennedy library.

The space has been undergoing renovations throughout the summer as part of a plan to better accommodate student group work and provide a new home for Julian's Patisserie.

The transformation was almost complete with eight new glassed-in study rooms equipped with flat screen monitors and white boards, as well as many other group seating stations.

Julian's is scheduled to open Wednesday. Associated Students Inc. will be giving tours of the area from 2 to 4 p.m. as part of their "What's new" tour.

Anna Gold, associate dean for public services, said that the changes are not about computers or books, but rather about people interacting, conversing and working together.

"I'm just so excited to see how the students respond," Gold said. "It allows people to see each other and to really have a marvelous environment in which to study."

The renovations began as "a germ of an idea," incorporating the idea that a library is a place where learning happens and relationships are built now that students will not have to leave to fulfill their studying needs, Gold said.

"We expect there will be growth; we're going to see people staying longer," she said. "You can spend hours here and be comfortable and now that you can get food here, you won't have to leave even for that."

"Without this kind of space for students, I don't think anyone has really experienced what a learning commons could be," she added.

Mike Miller, dean of library services, said he has gotten positive feedback from students so far and joked that his favorite part of the renovations is the addition of pastries.

"I think the most fun for me is when students come back in and they get this perplexed look, like, 'It doesn't look like a library anymore, it looks kind of cool, I'm not sure if I'm allowed to be here,'" Miller said. "But we let them know they are, especially in the meeting rooms with the white boards and flat panels and comfortable chairs."

Miller said now that the renovations are in place, students will have all they need when studying long hours. A record 1.3 million visits were made to the library last year.

"Typically students come to work — you need food, you need sugar, you need caffeine to keep you going," he said. "Now we can provide that."

The area will be used as a science café as well, a space where people can discuss topics in an informal setting.

"What we want to do in our polytechnic environment is mix it up a little and not make it exclusively science," Miller said. "I'd like to have a speaker's venue where humanities students can learn about science topics, but I also want scientists and engineers to learn about the arts. I want all the disciplines to talk about ethical, political, and social issues, not in a highly structured academic way, but more in an informal accessible way."

Comfortable seating isn't the only thing to look forward to in the coming year. Dale Kohler, director of library information technology, said network upgrades can be expected.

"We're making more technology available, so we're expanding the number of work stations for students to use in the library — there is going to be around 300 now," said Kohler. "In addition to that, we're trying to make it more friendly for students to bring their own laptops, plug in, connect and get on the network without problems."

They are currently rolling out a common software image for all the computers in the library so that no matter where you go, you have access to the same software and the same capabilities.

"The machines have all been upgraded so that they are all within the last three years," he said. "It should be great."

Renovations in the library are still in motion, with plans to expand the 24-hour study space, provide a quiet section, expand Poly Connect and improve the atrium, Miller said.

"Whether it's an actual project for class, or whether its just the camaraderie of working together with friends, we're creating an environment that helps support people during their scholarship," he said.

What you missed:

The brand-new Poly Canyon Village complex opened for move-in last week. Besides apartments for sophomore students, the village features a resident-only pool and restaurants including Jamba Juice, Peet's Coffee and tea, and Einstein Bros. Bagels, and a market.
Saudi contract signed

A controversial contract to develop and implement a new engineering program at Jubail University College (JUC) in Saudi Arabia was signed by Cal Poly in early July. However, JUC has yet to sign its portion so the contract is not finalized and remains private. The five-year contract would bring $5.9 million to Cal Poly, but opponents worry the deal will lead to discrimination against minority groups including Jews, women, gays and lesbians.

Prop 8 protested

More than 100 protestors gathered downtown on Sunday to demonstrate against Proposition 8, the initiative to ban same-sex marriage.

Rachel Glas

Downtown San Luis Obispo became a scene of political activism Sunday when more than 100 protestors surrounded the courthouse to demonstrate against Proposition 8, the general election initiative measure that would ban same-sex marriage if passed in November.

The protestors, many from gay and lesbian alliance organizations including the Cal Poly Pride Alliance, gathered to show their opposition to the initiative, which they say would be a step backward for California.

"It this measure passes, it will be the first time that discrimination has been written into the California constitution," said Michael Beck, president of the Central Coast chapter of the Gay and Lesbian Acceptance organization.

"It's the right step for California to take," said Danielle Dykeman, a Cuesta student and member of Student Alliance for Equality, or SAFE. "We're seen as the liberal state on what Proposition 8 is relative to," Beck added. "It's a slippery slope, but that's just not true.

Same-sex marriage has been legal in California since June 17, 2008 when the California Supreme Court's decision to overturn the state's ban on same-sex marriage took effect.

Opponents hope that with enough action on their part, the measure will not pass.

"This was one of our most successful events, a lot of students got involved and there was a lot of coverage. We will make sure this proposition won't pass," Beck said.

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Representative needed for College of Engineering

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Congress is hurrying to pass new rail safety laws in the wake of the La­
ta Metrolink disaster that would limit hours engineers work, mandate tech­nology to stop trains on a collision course and enact the industry’s first other major reforms in 14 years.

The train oversight and safety agen­cy, the Federal Railroad Administra­tion, has operated under an expired 1994 law and it looked like Congress would end another legislative session without changes until 25 people were killed in the Sept. 12 commuter-freight collision.

Now lawmakers are scrambling to come up with a final deal by the end of the week on sweeping reforms pushed for years by the National Transportation Safety Board. The House and Senate have passed ver­sions of the bill, but hope to resolve differences before the election recess Friday, according to Senate aides.

“We regulate in this country by counting tombstones,” said Harry M. Sweedler, the former director of the NTSA’s office of safety recom­mendations. “If you don’t have enough people dead, not much gets done. The pressure isn’t there to do it.”

A recent collision between a Metrolink commuter train and a Union Pacific freight train was the nation’s deadliest train accident since 1993, when Amtrak’s Sunset Limited jumped the rails on a weakened bridge and plunged into a bayou near Mobile, Ala., killing 47 people.

The following year, Congress passed the Fed­eral Railroad Safety Authorization Act of 1994, but it expired four years later and the FRA has since been operating without new congressional guidance.

Critics say serious safety issues have gotten short shrift in that time. Among the most pressing are train operator fatigue — which the FRA estimates is at least a contributing factor in 25 percent of serious train accidents — and instal­lation of technology that can engage the brakes if a train misses a signal or gets off track.

“A 21st century rail system cannot run safely unless Congress wants it to come with a congres­sional mandate,” said George Ciavalla, a railroad safety consultant and former head of the Federal Railroad Ad­ministration’s safety office, said there are large areas of railroad activity that are not subject to federal regulation.

“Over the years, on a piecemeal basis the FRA would issue regulations to specific prob­lems,” Ciavalla said. “Every time there’s an acci­dent ... or if there were recurring accidents of a certain severity, there’s a new regulation to address it.”
"Are you worried about the current state of the U.S. economy?"

"No, not really. I think it will catch up and everything will work itself out like it has in the past."

-Megan Wearin, chemistry junior

"I am very worried about the current economy since it seems very cyclical, but I have confidence that we will get out of it."

-Adam Coeffler, mechanical engineering senior

"At the moment I'm not worried because I'm sure (Congress) will figure out something."

-Henry Lu, aerospace engineering freshman

"Definitely. I hope it gets better... a lot of my friends are unemployed especially artists in San Francisco and even those who have real jobs like accountants."

-Maira Simas, nutrition senior

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., speaks to reporters after members of Congress met with government officials to discuss the economy last week in Washington. Congress is looking at options on a bailout as they confront the gravest threat to Americans' standard of living since the Great Depression.

Bush seeks to assure leaders about bailout plan

Terence Hunt
Associated Press

President Bush sought to assure anxious world leaders on Monday that the United States is taking "bold, aggressive, decisive action" to rescue the crisis-ridden economy with a $700 billion bailout package.

"The whole world is watching to see if we can act quickly," Bush said, prodding lawmakers in Washington to approve his plan.

Bush balanced the economic meltdown with foreign policy priorities from Pakistan and North Korea to Russia and Iran as he opened three days of diplomacy with presidents and prime ministers assembled for the annual ministerial meeting of the U.N. General Assembly.

The activities were opening with a reception Monday night for foreign delegations hosted by Bush and his wife, Laura, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

After seven years of criticizing the U.N. for its huge, costly bureaucracy and indecisiveness in the face of grave problems Bush will make his final address to the General Assembly today.

His speech, scheduled to last 15 minutes, was to stress the need for multinational diplomacy.

The nation's burgeoning financial crisis, anchored not far from Bush's hotel, overshadowed his U.N. visit. Bush is in the awkward position of advocating capitalism, free trade and deregulation throughout this presidency but then overseeing see Bush, page 5

Are you suffering from a recent ANKLE SPRAIN?

Doctors are evaluating investigational, medicated patches to see if they relieve pain when applied directly to the ankle.

Local doctors are currently conducting a clinical research study evaluating the effectiveness of investigational, medicated patches for treating the pain associated with an ankle sprain, when applied directly to the injured ankle.

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screams can be heard above the din of sirens of ambulances and fire trucks. A video of the crash scene released by police Monday shows expectations to fully recover.

Burns.

Survived the Friday night crash — As repair crews work to make pact, officials said Monday. A pilot and co-pilot died from smoke inhalation and burns, and two passengers were killed from the impact and burns. Former Hlink-Carolina died from smoke inhalation and burns, and two passengers were killed from the impact and burns.

GAISABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Confessed Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed volunteered to help per­secute one of his co-defendants to leave his prison cell for a pretrial hearing at Guantanamo Bay.

Mohammed volunteered to reach out to Ramzi Bin al-shibh after the military judge overseeing the case suggested that he might offer a separate trial for Bin al-shibh, who has refused to appear with his four co-defen­dants in America's most impor­tant war-crimes trial since the close of World War II.

Bush continued from page 4

a costly government takeover of failing finan­cial institutions.

White House press secretary Dana Perri­no explained Bush's turnaround.

"This is not the president's first ins­truct that he would not have wanted to take this action to help these companies if he wasn't convinced by the considered judgment of his senior economic team that it was critical in order to protect the American taxpayer and the American economy as a whole," Perino said.

With the U.S. economy increas­ingly in­ter­connected with the finances of other coun­tries, the turmoil from Wall Street to Main Street will naturally be a topic of Bush's dis­cus­sions in New York, Perino said.

Before leaving Washington, Bush said differences over details of the administra­tion's bailout plan were understandable. But he warned lawmakers not to bog down.

"Americans are watching to see if Demo­crats and Republicans, the Congress and the White House, can come together to solve this problem with the urgency it war­rants," Bush said. "Indeed, the whole world is watching to see if we can act quickly."

In the diplomatic world, it is a time of usual turmoil.

North Korea is backing away from pledges to abandon nuclear weapons, and Iran is pursuing a nuclear program in de­fiance of U.S. and international demands. Russia has drawn condemnation from the West for its invasion of Ukraine's Crimean peninsula.

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I'm sure you're all chewing your fingernails to a pulp waiting for the movie that is being released next is month. I am speaking of neither the Marky Mark-goes-gamer-nerd fantasy "Max Payne" nor the shining "Beverly Hills Chihuahua," a movie which will doubtlessly spark a wave of never-before-seen anti-Disney violence.

Actually, I am referring to Oliver Stone's new epic, "W." In case you were unaware of this upcoming release, please take a moment to soak it in: yes, it's about George W. Bush. I am not here, though, to lament Stone's bombist or gall in taking up such a project. Stone's "Any Given Sunday" and "Alexander" are far more perfect targets for this criticism than any successive film of his could ever be. I am not going to gnash my teeth and moan about how unfortunately political the film might be or how unfairly apolitical it might be otherwise.

Instead, I am taking umbrage with the fact that the film is being universally described as humanizing. Both the studio and critics are scrambling to detail just how human the film makes Bush and why the late duchess deserves this treatment.

Such a tactic is by no means a new one for Stone (see his 1995 "Nixon") but that does not mean it is an entirely benign one. Sure, looking at the personal life of a public figure can be edifying, but what does it mean to humanize him, and what are the side effects?

The prickly side of humanization is that it always succeeds in creating exactly what it aims to undo: mythologizing. The driving force behind the will to humanize is the idea that a sufficiently capable artist can cut through the mythic pomp around a figure and sketch out the man is like rather than the legend.

However, something covert goes on behind the scenes of this seemingly attractive strategy. To make it your explicit task to humanize a person is implicitly to suggest that such a figure needs humanization. Saying that Stone's "W." humanizes Bush is tantamount to arguing that all other portrayals of Bush in the media do not accomplish this feat. Such a claim is not terribly wrong in cases of a historical figure like Alexander the Great or a more-than-famous celebrity such as Marlon Brando. However, we are talking about a man whose very human faults have been plastered all over the national media for eight years.

Mythology surrounds chiseled Greek warriors, not inarticulate good ol' boys. The humanizing objective of Stone's "Nixon" is to convince us that we see Bush as a face of evil in a 10-gallon hat or some other mythic character. The danger is that the media are very good at convincing us. Bush is dangerous enough. Do we really want to allow him to be made mythical?

An additional problem with humanization is that it is ultimately a failed enterprise. Not only do humanizing works mythologize public figures, but they also support the fallacy that it is possible to make a public figure into just another person. This is impossible by the sheer fact that the ordinary person does not have one of the biggest directors in Hollywood attach his name to his story and pour $30 million into the endeavor.

To say that your film humanizes a figure is to do nothing more than try to win audiences over subtly to believe that your version of a person's life is an authentic one.

But what is the actual danger of this whole mess? Mythology is not problematic in itself, so why should a new myth be anything to worry about? The issue is two-fold. Most myths identify themselves as myth, and we can then deal with them accordingly. There is not too much doubt about the mythic status of Hercules. When we read about a man who could hold the world on his shoulders, no one claims that any man that we might encounter in the world could similarly perform this task.

Humanizing films pretend that their subjects are larger-than-life without letting viewers know that what they are watching is actually a myth. I am not saying that audiences cannot separate Hollywood from reality but, rather, that audiences cannot separate the images they have of public figures that they develop for themselves from the one that the media inculces in them.

And, traditional myths are products of a collective culture. The myths that humanizing movies create are products of a few men and their crew. When culture is creating myth, there is some democratic filter. In film, we lose control.

The take-home message: When you go to see "W," or, more likely, when you stay home from the theater, keep a keen eye on the myth you are being sold. Take humanization with a grain of salt and demand a say in your mythology.
Books with power: fall quarter must-reads

Read and reread these modern classics

He, my name is Cheba and I am a book-o-holic. I love beginnings, middles and ends, the anticipation of what happens next, and, of course, the way the pages smell. (Is that only me?) Reading offers a calm escape in today's fast-paced world, and should not be put on the back burner now that the rigors of fall quarter are bestowed upon us.

Consuming an amazing book is a rich and rewarding experience that no amount of television or video games can replace. I have found that in the course of my reading career, there are a handful of books that never manage to lose their place as my favorites. It is because of these books that I continue to read, always searching for my next favorite.

With this column, I hope to inspire you to find some favorites of your own, or at least read some of mine. I will do my best to examine great new writers, and interesting new releases, and maybe even throw in some award winning best-sellers here and there. But overall, I want to tell you about books that are worth your time and thought. I won't rant and rave about a book I hated; I don't see the point here. If you have not read this Pulitzer Prize-winning collection of short stories, you have some catching up to do. This book offered me the opportunity to make an everyday situation a laughfest while still conveying a deeper emotion throughout. I have read this short lie of books that I find are worth a read:

"The Time Traveler's Wife" by Audrey Niffenegger — I have read this book about five times, and have not been dissatisfied to date. Read it. And guys, don't be thwarted by the semi-feminine cover; it's for you too.

"The Kite Runner," by Khaled Hosseini — There is something haunting about Hosseini's writing. I found it impossible to remove his characters from my mind long after closing the book. This led to some undeniable crying while reading the novel. It was worth every tear, let me tell you. Also don't miss "A Thousand Splendid Suns," an equally beautiful vision of Hosseini's literary grace.

"Apathy and Other Small Victories," by Paul Nelian — If you aren't hooked by this funny little number after the opening line, there is no hope for you. This book is off-the-wall hilarious, no matter who you are.

"The Gum Thief" by Douglas Coupland — This book is unique, incorporating a novel-with-a-novel approach. Witty and original, like most of Coupland's adventures, and told from various points of view, it is impossible to become bored.

There are many more, and if we had the time, I would list all of my favorites from Salinger to Sedaris. But enough of my past literary relationships. It's time to begin some new affairs and I have my sights set on fresh new talent, including Sloane Crosley and her recent release, "I Was Told There'd Be Cake," an honest and cynical collection of essays examining her life. But that will have to wait until next week. Until then, happy reading!
For those who hate their taste buds...the spiciest foods downtown

Jim Cameron

With several delis, taquerias, sushi bars and a variety of restaurants, San Luis Obispo has several options capable of pleasing the palate. However, anyone interested in setting a little fire to that palate may have a harder time finding something that can do the job. The Mustang Daily went to several eateries in search of the spiciest food in town, and here are our spicier four picks.

Taj Palace- Chicken Curry

Many students already know Taj Palace solely for its delicious buffet, but the Indian restaurant also has a menu for those who see dinner and lunch as more than an eating contest.

One of the spiciest dishes on the menu is the chicken curry, which tastes just as good as anything in the buffet, but is spicy enough to make an appearance in this article. The chicken is moist, tender and full of curry flavor. The spiciness doesn’t drown out the other flavors, but instead compliments them. This creates a wonderful taste that provides an excellent distraction from the mouth, tongue and throat all in dire need of soothing water.

Taj Palace isn’t the spiciest place to get hot food, but it does do a commendable job. Its Football location provides a close-to-campus alternative for anyone who doesn’t want the hassle of going downtown to eat dinner.

A word of caution though: if you’re going to try dishes this hot, take a group of friends and let everyone sample the spicy stuff. No one wants to suffer alone.

Hanabi Sushi- The Heart Attack

Most sushi restaurants downtown don’t offer anything seriously potent. Often, the spiciest menu item is a variation of the California roll with chili oil added in excessive amounts. This is where Hanabi stands out.

The Hanabi appetizer menu has the Heart Attack, easily capable of beating any spicy sushi roll offered elsewhere. The Heart Attack is a jalapeño filled with cream cheese and spicy tuna, then battered and deep-fried. Definitely not for the weak of heart, the immense spiciness of the dish makes its namesake a definite possibility.

The first bite is a pleasant sensation, due to the mixture of the crunchy exterior and the creamy center, but the jalapeño kicks in moments later. While it’s fiery enough to not be extinguished by several glasses of water, it doesn’t overwhelm the flavor of the actual ingredients.

The appetizer has several stuffed peppers, allowing for one person to endure severe torment or for the anguish to be spread amongst a large party.

Thai Palace- Spicy Pad Garee Goong Muerk

It shouldn’t be a surprise to anyone that a Thai restaurant has made this list, and Thai Palace has definitely earned its spot.

The Pad Garee Goong Muerk — a mixture of prawns, calamari, and vegetables sautéed with yellow curry powder — is just one of many dishes that Thai Palace offers in either mild, medium or hot, and it’s excellent. The seafood is fresh and well prepared, the prawns are crisp and the calamari is soft, not chewy. The vegetables are crunchy and the curry flavor is prevalent, which is impressive considering the dish’s overwhelming spiciness.

While the first bite is merely spicy, continuing to eat it has side effects beyond any else considered spicy. Instead of a burning feeling in just the mouth and throat, the entire body responds as though it is close to a blazing bonfire. Limbs get uncomfortably warm and pores open and form droplets of sweat. Asking the waiter for a glass of milk to stop the torture isn’t just a good idea, it’s necessary for survival.

More than just spicy food, Thai Palace is a great place to eat. It has an incredible amount of choices and great atmosphere.

Flame Bay- Extra Hot Kung Pao Stir-Fry

Located at the far end of the Network on Higuera, Flame Bay offers some of the spiciest food downtown. Based on the Mongolian barbecue, the restaurant lets customers pick out a variety of meat and vegetables of their own choosing, which are then stir-fried for them personally in a giant wok.

The result is a dish with varying textures, but the same extra hot flavor throughout. The lack of variety in taste is compensated for by the overwhelming spiciness of the sauce.

The first taste may induce choking if the customer isn’t prepared. Later bites may lead to tears. The sauce burns the entire mouth and continues to do so for several minutes after eating. Luckily, it comes with a side of rice that provides a bland haven for taste buds scorchcd by the extra hot Kung Pao.

Although Flame Bay’s stir-fry is the least tasty food of the five restaurants reviewed, it is by far, the spiciest, making it ideal suited for an enjoyable dinner, but ideal for hazung fraternity pledges.

CAL POLY ARTS says "WELCOME BACK CP FACULTY & STAFF"

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Looking into the crystal ball of the American economic future is a frightening prospect. For a college student with less than a year until graduation, exactly what kind of economy are we as young Americans inheriting and what will we stand in the world marketplace in a few years? More importantly, will — as the country's future entrepreneurs, innovators and workers — be allowed our chance at the American Dream? Will the United States still be the shining beacon of free enterprise and industry by the time the government is through? The outlook doesn't look pretty.

Since March, the Federal Reserve has bailed out investment bank Bear Stearns, essentially nationalized mortgage giants Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae and taken over insurance giant AIG — all at the expense of innocent taxpayers. In operation as a crisis-control mode, it now looks to further expand its regulatory powers and the Federal Reserve's unprecedented power to nationalize companies and regulate industry at the cost of a proposed $700 billion bailout for ailing Wall Street firms.

When does it end? Certainly not on November 4. Although the economy has supposedly been the presidential race's hot-button topic, hope is not imminent on the horizon. Sen. Barack Obama tentatively backs the proposed bailout legislation, but is also in favor of taxing private industry more. In addition to the $700 billion bailout, he also wants to tack on a $115 billion economic "stimulus" package and tax breaks for the middle class (where does all this money come from?).

He went on to say that he wouldn't support giving a "blank check to Washington with no oversight and accountability when no oversight and accountability is what got us into this mess in the first place." But "oversight" of financial markets is not the solution to our economic problem; it's the next crisis. The legislation on the table is presented as a cure-all of our economic woes, but in reality it's the worst cause! The legislation on the table is presented as a cure for the housing bubble, but in reality is the cause! The legislation on the table is presented as a cure for the credit system, but in reality is the problem; it's the nw > t cause! The legislation on the table is presented as a cure for the housing bubble, but in reality is the problem.

How to play the Daily Dots

1. Find a playing partner.
2. Each person takes a turn drawing one line connecting two dots. Only horizontal and vertical lines can be drawn.
3. The first person to close a square, wins that square. To keep track, place winners initials in the box.
4. Once one square is closed, that player gets to go again. They continue until no more squares can be closed.
5. Player with the most squares wins.

Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

PHOTO W E’LL ROCK-PAPEK-SCISSORS! FOR IT

Gold and silver;

Girls

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IF YOU WIN,

I LEAD.

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Chargers get first win, land Jets

BERNIE WILSON / ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Diego — Philip Rivers, LaDainian Tomlinson and the rest of the San Diego Chargers simply left too many on the field.

Forced out by two gut-wrenching losses, the Chargers raced past Denver and the New York Jets for a 48-29 victory Monday night in a wild game that left two original NFL teams.

Rivers threw three touchdown passes, Tomlinson scored his first two TDs of the season and San Diego finally got back at Favre after all these years. They sacked him four times and intercepted him twice, including a 52-yard return for a score by All-Pro cornerback Antonio Cromartie.

Favre always seemed to come up big on Monday nights with Green Bay. This night, though, he finally lost to the Chargers after beating them five straight times dating from 1993.

San Diego (1-2) looked like the team picked by many to reach the Super Bowl. The Chargers lost their opener to Carolina on the last play, then lost to high-flying Denver in a game remembered for referee Ed Hochuli's blown call that set up the Broncos' winning score.

Tomlinson, the two-time defending NFL rushing champion, wound up on a 22-yard leap to give the Chargers a 38-14 lead in the third quarter. He had been slowed since jamming his right big toe late in the Carolina game. He scored on another 2-yard run late in the fourth quarter, one play after Rivers' 40-yard pass to Vincent Jackson.

Rivers has thrown three TD passes in every game this season. He was 19-of-25 for 250 yards on Monday. While Tomlinson had 67 yards on 26 carries, his third straight game under 100 yards.

Favre was 30-of-42 for 271 yards. The Chargers could have had two more picks, but safety Clinton Hart dropped Favre's fourth-down pass in the end zone late in the third quarter and Cromartie let an interception and a sure touchdown clang off his hands in the first quarter. Cromartie intercepted backup QB Keller Clemens in the end zone in the final minute.

The Chargers scored three times and the Jets once in a crazy span of five minutes, 46 seconds spanning the first and second quarters.

Rivers recovered from an early blunder to throw a 1-yard touchdown pass to rookie fullback Mike Tolbert for a 10-7 lead late with 2:23 left in the first quarter.

On the fourth play of the next Jets' drive, Cromartie overpowered Laveranues Coles and took the ball away, racing 52 yards for a 17-7 lead.

Leon Washington returned the kickoff 94 yards to the San Diego 5. Two plays later, Favre hit Coles on a 3-yard TD pass to pull the Jets within 17-14.

San Diego quarterback Harris recovered an onside kick at the Jets 44. But before Favre could set up the Jets' next touchdown by throwing a 32-yard scoring pass to tight end Antonio Gates for a 34-14 lead late in the second quarter.

Jets cornerback Darrellle Revis intercepted Favre to set up Rivers' 6-yard scoring pass to tight end Antonio Gates for a 34-14 lead late in the second quarter.
Cal Poly defense tries to dominate again

Donovan Aird

SPORTS

MUSTANG DAILY

Every time Cal Poly football players enter Alex G. Spanos Stadium, they know the bar—or rather, a recurring sort of banner—is set high.

The trio of commemorative banners honoring Jordan Beck, Chris Goggin and Kyle Sholett remind of a golden age of Cal Poly defense, when those three won the Buck Buchanan Award—given to the best defender in the Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA)—from 2004 to 2006.

“It’s a good point for us to reach for—the Chris Googin, Jordan Beck, Kyle Sholett and Courtney Brown,” Mustang senior defensive end Sean Lawton said of an NFL-bound foursome that in 2004 had a hand in the NFC’s No. 1 rushing defense. “We want to make sure we’re living up to their standards, and I’m sure they keep an eye on us and want us to do well.”

The Mustangs followed suit during a 52-18 win Saturday at Northwestern State. They don’t want their predecessors’ legacy to become too much of a distant memory.

Two years after leading the FCS with 62 sacks, and one removed from finishing sixth in total defense, the Mustangs finished 63rd in the latter category last season, when they finished 7-4 and missed the playoffs.

Although their defensive front-standing has improved slightly this season to 59th through three games (yielding an average of 348.7 yards), they shut out Northwestern State in the final 24-plus minutes and held the Demons to 13-of-30 passing overall.

The unit collected six sacks, bringing its three-game total to 14 — and with Dayton for No. 1 in the FCS.

“That’s what Cal Poly is,” Lawton emphasized. “When I was younger, we led the nation in sacks, and we’re trying to get back to that.”

Mustangs head coach Rich Ellerson was late Monday’s weekly athletics news conference in Mont Gerym, he said, because he and assistants were at their offices near Grandall Gym “agonizing over some issues like forcing turnovers (which the defense hasn’t done since week one) and giving up too many rushing yards due to missed tackles.’’

“That defensive front needs to be better than pretty good,” Ellerson said. “Quite honestly, they’re pretty good, but we’ve got to be a little better than we are now.”

Strides seem to have been taken thanks in part to the effort of a quicker, more explosive secondary featuring new faces like cornerbacks Asa Jackson (a true freshman) and Eric Gardley (a sophomore converted from receiver), and safety Greg Francis (a redshirt freshman).

“A lot of the (six sacks Saturday) were just coverage sacks,” Lawton explained. “The quarterback had nothing to do and we just swarmed over him. We just have to stick with our packages every single week because they’re pretty bulletproof if you run them correctly.”

Coverage sacks or not, the front’s resurgence has been aided by the return of nose tackle James Chen, who suffered a season-ending knee injury in the opener of 2007, his freshman season.

Chen’s unsuitfulness in fretting up around him exemplifies the line’s mindset, according to sophomore end Gavin Cooper, whose seven tackles and two sacks Saturday earned him Great West Conference Defensive Player of the Week honors — which Lawton received two weeks prior.

“That’s the great thing about our d-line,” Cooper said. “(Chen) doesn’t care if he gets a sack as long as he can help someone else get one. He draws double teams non-stop and just loves what he does.”

Unselfishness aside, a little friendly rivalry hasn’t seemed to hurt.

Defensive coordinator Payam Saadat has “challenged (the Mustangs) to get to the QB and pepper him up so the DBs can have a safety net,” Cooper said.

“We challenge each other every game to see who can get the most sacks, and that fires us up,” he added.

The Mustangs (2-1), ranked ninth in both the FCS Sports Network media and coaches polls, will have to wait a bit for their next com-

Kiffin remains Raiders coach for now

Josh Dubow

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Lane Kiffin went over the injury report and the aftermath of the Oakland Raiders latest loss before the questions predictably turned to his shaky job status amid more reports that his firing as coach would be imminent.

“This seems to be a common question here every week,” Kiffin said Monday. “I’m going to kind of put it this way. Until I am told by Al Davis that I’m not the head coach here anymore, we’re going to keep plugging away the same way we have been. So I have not been told by Al Davis that I am not the head coach. Until he tells me directly, we’re going to keep plugging away.”

With no word yet from the owner, Kiffin began preparation for Sunday’s game against the Raiders (1-2) and San Diego.

Kiffin’s weekly Monday news conference had turned to the mundane to must-sees since reports about Kiffin’s firing first surfaced on Sept. 13. This week’s session included a Raiders official interrupting a question that he said was based on an incorrect premise and later calling the columnist a liar and saying he’d like to

Cal Poly’s Sean Lawyer (77), Marty Mohamed (17) and James Chen (not pictured) tackle San Diego State’s Brandon Sullivan for a safety in the first quarter of a season-opening, 29-27 win over the Aztecs on Aug. 30.

Atherstone earns 11th Big West Player of the Week

JOSH AYERS

Embattled Oakland Raiders head coach Lane Kiffin grimmaces Sept. 15 in Alameda when asked about his future coaching under volatile team owner Al Davis.

Promising defensive coordinator Piyyam Saadat has turned to his shaky job status in a sort of limbo, saying he’s waiting to hear directives from Davis. The two have not talked since before the season opener against Denver on Sept. 6.

“I have not had a conversation with him about it, nor has he gotten

In touch with me. So I can’t worry about what other people say,” Kiffin said. “If we believed everything people said around here, we would be in a lot of trouble.”

Kiffin said he will not go into Davis’ office to discuss his job.

“He has been a great coach and a great mentor to me,” Kiffin said. “I have had a great conversation with him about it, nor has he gotten

women’s volleyball

Embroiled Oakland Raiders head coach Lane Kiffin was named Monday the Big West Conference Player of the Week after leading Cal Poly (5-6) at the Pismo Beach Invitational.

Atherstone amassed a season-high 21 kills with a match-high .450 hitting percentage against Saint Mary’s in the Mustangs’ first outing at the invitational, along with 17 digs and two aces in a four-game loss.

She followed that performance with a team-leading 17 kills against 2007 national runner-up Stanford — ranked sixth nationally — against whom the Mustangs won their first game in 22 years.

The award is Atherstone’s 11th over her four-year career at Cal Poly, where she has been named the Big West Player of the Year the past two consecutive times. She is looking to become the first three-time winner of the award since Olympic gold medalist Misty May-Treanor accomplished the feat at Long Beach State. Atherstone currently ranks second among Big West players in kills (273) and aces (48) per set.

Call Poly opens Big West play at 7 p.m. Friday at Cal State Fullerton.

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