New projects on horizon for Poly pier

Joshua Ayers
MUSTANG DAILY

Compared to others in the county, the Cal Poly Pier is a monster. A good monster though. One that has facilitated the marine experiences for Cal Poly students and recently other regional schools as well as marine-related industry.

"The pier is administered through the College of Science and Math but it's really a campus-wide resource and even bigger," said pier facility manager Tom Moylan.

This pier dwalt all others on the Central Coast. Its one-kilometer length — about 3,280 feet — boats secure and private access, high-bandwidth Internet capabilities and electricity, which has played an important part in the university's joint-use arrangements.

"The industry connections are usually in the marine related areas or marine engineering and they're looking for places to beta test instrumentation," Moylan said.

Institutions such as the Monterey Bay Research Center currently utilize the pier for marine projects. In addition, the pier is used for research for the Navy, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and NASA.

Moylan said that the university allows private companies to use the pier facility (Center for Coastal Marine Sciences), which helps expose students to the industry side of the marine field.

"They can come here and put an instrument in the water, plug it in, hard wire it back the pier and then monitor it from wherever they're at," Moylan said.

WET Labs, a company based in Philomath, Ore. specializes in ocean equipment designed to monitor sea life such as plankton. WET Labs was able to test equipment on the Cal Poly Pier while monitoring results in Oregon.

Joint-use projects like this encourage partnerships with the university and allow equipment sharing in addition to potential donations and possible student internships with the companies.

"With those partnerships, we involve students so the students get to see another angle of marine science," Moylan said. "On the industry side, they get to see what it's like for other career options, not just academia."

The pier sees about 1,500 students a year and is open to the public two times a year according to Moylan.

Throughout the regular school year, the heaviest use of the pier is during the middle of quarters, Moylan said. The summers have also been picking up since Cuesta College has secured joint use of the pier for its biology, classics, and writing programs.

"It's really year-round with some lulls during the breaks," Moylan said. "That gives me a chance to catch up on some maintenance things."

Students are also big beneficiaries of the pier.

It is home to a live laboratory that is used for a variety of projects ranging from biological sciences to manufacturing engineering students.

The lab features access to raw and filtered seawater that comes from directly underneath the pier. Two large industrial pumps drive seawater upward from the north side of the pier and some of the water is filtered through four large cylinders filled with sand.

One project last Friday employed the filtered water resource to monitor the effects of a particular type of parasite on sand crabs. Across the lab, four trays of a composite material were submerged in the tanks.

"We're used for research for the Navy, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and NASA."

Although some of San Luis Obispo's fire suppression equipment was down in Montecito, Jane Schmitz, fire captain for Cal Fire, said this was not a cause for concern. It is a common occurrence to have fire crews scattered throughout the state when fires hit.

"We actually grabbed a strike team of engines from Northern California that was headed to the Montecito fire (and) then we had (firefighters from) Grover Beach, Arroyo Grande, Cayucos, Santa Margarita and San Luis city all help to put out the fire."

In the end, over 200 firefighters and one air tanker came to the city and Cal Fire's aid.

Power lines often present another fire hazard at Cal Poly when combined with the buzzards actually sunning themselves on power lines," Dicus said. "Stretching themselves and making the connection and you have this flaming buzzard that hits the ground."

Although Cal Poly has seen four fires on campus in the last three years, it is well protected from a suppression standpoint, Schmitz said.

She said that the school has a contract with the city firefighters, who protect the buildings from being burned. Cal Fire is responsible for putting out brush fires, the most common type at Cal Poly, which usually has fires up Horse Canyon and Poly Canyon.

Dicus said that although local resources have always done a "phenomenal job" putting fires out on campus, he was quick to add that everyone needs to do their part to help the firefighters before a fire breaks out.

"I would say that we as a university and society in general can't rely on the fire service to take care of all our problems," he said.

Despite intense fire season, Cal Poly well-protected

Breehan Voeh-Meller
MUSTANG DAILY

While most were riveted to their television sets watching the Southern California fires rage two weeks ago, firefighters were called to San Luis Obispo to fend off yet another potentially devastating fire.

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Dubbed the El Correro fire, it burned 60 acres, harming no structures or people. Residents in homes at the edge of suburban Southern California fires rage two weeks ago. Firefighters were called to San Luis Obispo to fend off yet another potentially devastating fire.

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"The fire started about 8:30 a.m. Nov. 14. and was out by 5:30 p.m. the same day," Dicus said. "It was caused by electricity arcing power lines connecting there is a drying trend as well as a temperature increase trend," Dicus added that this fire was problematic because of the combination of drought-like conditions and the wind that kept shifting in different directions.

"We've seen this trend across the Western United States where there is a drying trend as well as a temperature increase trend," Dicus said. "This is causing longer fire seasons. Fire seasons are able to start breaking out earlier in the year and they last longer into the typical fire season."

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continued from page 1

merged in seawater to observe its corrosive effects.

Dr. Rohan, a Cal Poly graduate, was hired by Cal Poly physics professor Thomas Bensky to work on a project using the Cal Poly pier.

"I graduated in 2006 and for my senior project, was the beginning design of this project," Rohan said. "I graduated, left for a year or so and came back and the professor I worked with offered me a job just working on the grant money doing the research."

The project, which is funded by the National Science Foundation, is attempting to create a device to shine a blue laser through the water to excite phytoplankton, causing them to fluoresce.

A camera records the quantity of the phytoplankton all the way to the ocean floor.

The unique part of this is that the device can make measurements for different depths without having to go to those depths to take the measurements.

"We work here and on campus — in the boat house that's where we did all the preliminary testing so we don't have to be out in the elements," Rohan said. "As soon as we figured it all out, we brought it out here and we're testing right now."

Rohan works on the project 40 hours a week and was also involved in the conceptual design of the project three years ago when he was completing his senior project.

"It's been three years since we initially got the grant money for this project and in the last three days, it's seen its first kind of maiden voyage in the ocean actually, picking up data that is usable," he said.

Rohan said that he is still running out some technical aspects but said that the project is progressing well.

"With all research it's slow and tedious and sometimes annoying because it doesn't work the way you expect it to, but that's the fun beauty of it too; just being able to work through the problem and get the instruments to do what you want it to," he said.

While Bensky and Rohan's research represents some of the more complex experiments, the pier's location makes it a prime tool to monitor weather and ocean patterns such as swells and current directions with its permanent equipments.

The Meteorological Station (MET) is positioned on top of one of the buildings on the platform and takes real-time atmospheric readings for patterns such as rainfall, wind, humidity, visibility and more.

Another device, the profiler, which is located on the southern side of the pier, is also constantly collecting data. The device is automated and lowers itself into the ocean every 30 minutes to measure water temperature, plankton density and water salinity. "This is a state-wide program and Cal Poly is heading up the area for the Central Coast," Moylan said.

The results are instantly updated on the pier's Web site (http://www.marine.calpoly.edu) along with images and information about current projects.

The Pier was constructed in 1984, after the El Nino of 1983 completely demolished the previous pier. Its construction cost more than $27 million and nearly 10 million barrels of crude oil were pumped through it from the mid 1980s to the 1990s.

Unocal donated the pier to the university in 2001. "I don't think that this day in age you could even get the permits to do it," Moylan said of constructing a pier to the size and capability of Cal Poly's. "Then to build it, you're probably talking about $30 to 100 million."

Pier facility manager Tom Moylan oversees the pier and all of its projects and equipment.

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**WORD ON THE STREET**

"Are you driving more again with gas prices back down?"

"I drive to the store more often because when the gas prices were high, I'd hitch rides with other people."

- Sean Hauser, biomedical engineering junior

"Not really, I just do the same routine. Go home and come back. It's a good thing that it's cheaper now though because I live six and a half hours away in Chico."

- Rocio Cruz, industrial engineering sophomore

"I have to do the same amount of driving so I'm not really driving more and I'm not really driving less. I should be riding my bike though."

- Laura Akin, social sciences senior

"Yeah, definitely. I have an SUV so I'm a lot happier now. I've been driving back home to see my parents quite a bit now. They're happier now too."

- John Gardiner, fruit sciences senior

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**Astronauts step out for final spacewalk of mission**

Marcia Dunn  
**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Astronauts successfully carried out one last spacewalk Monday, finishing an unprecedented clean and lube job that they began a week ago at the international space station.

Spacewalker Stephen Bowen wrapped up work on a jammed solar-ribbon rotary joint as his partner, Shane Kimbrough, squirted some extra grease as a precaution on another joint that is working fine.

When the repairs to the gummed-up joint were deemed officially complete, Mission Control radioed in its applause.


Managers wanted to give the astronauts more time to fix a machine that's supposed to turn urine into drinking water; additional repairs were performed Monday for the fifth day in a row.

The $154 million recycling equipment was delivered by Endeavour, along with other home makeover items needed to expand the space station crew to six next year.

Monday's spacewalk was the fourth for Endeavour's astronauts. Grease repair work on the clogged joint consumed most of their time.

The rotary joint on the right side of the space station hasn't worked properly for more than a year, preventing the solar wings on that side from pointing automatically toward the sun. Grindings parts left the joint full of metal shavings.

Almost all the gritty mess was cleaned up during the first three spacewalks and new bearings were put in. Bowen finished the job Monday, paving the way for the fifth day in a row.


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An identical joint on the left side of the orbiting complex has worked perfectly, but NASA wanted the spacewalkers to grease it up to ensure its longevity. Once they opened up this joint, the astronauts noticed wear, so they decided to fix it.

"I'm not really driving more and I'm not really driving less. I should be riding my bike though."

- Laura Akin, social sciences senior

The dialogue between the spacewalkers and the astronauts inside was technical and full of numbers denoting the various panels on the joints. "Too many numbers," one of the spacewalkers grumbled.

As they have before, the spacewalkers had to share grease guns 223 miles up. There was one less tool kit inside the space station, meanwhile, skipper Mike Kimbrough, squirted some extra grease as a precaution.

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China maintains hold on Tibet

Charles Hutzler

XIAXHE, China — Chinese para-
military police with riot shields and
barricades abruptly took up posts Mon-
day on the main street of this Tibetan
town, disrupting the throng of Bud-
dhist pilgrims in a reminder of Chi-
na's determined control of the region.
With some Tibetans pushing harder against
Chinese rule, the communist
government is determined to pacify
the area.
The show of force Monday was
to deter unrest while a local
court sentenced a gang of Tibetans for taking part in large anti-govern-
ment protests in March in Xiahe, a
town, disrupting the bustle of Mud-
run Mondiy.
A monk makes a reverential ges-
ture on a space altar in his small
room where a framed portrait
of the Dalai Lama stands at the
Labrang Monastery in Xiahe, China. "We are in the grip of the
Communist Party. Tibet is occu-
pied. The Dalai Lama has fled to
India. My heart is sad," he said.

Spacewalk

continued from page 3

Fincke performed more repair
work on the new urine processor.
NASA was hoping for a full
four-hour test run Monday follow-
ing Fincke's tinkering. On Sunday, the urine processor shut down after
operating less than three hours, be-
fore, it never even made it that far.
When informed more urine
might be needed, Fincke said,"Well,
we've got a very adequate supply of
yesterday's coffee to help," Mission
Control then joked: "We'll see if
we need to add some Diet Coke
to the plan." For the record, there
is no Diet Coke — or any other
soda — up there.
The astronauts have managed
to collect samples of the recycled
water for return to Earth aboard
Endeavour, relying mostly on con-
verted condensation. NASA would
prefer more urine in the mix; that's
the way the system was designed.
No one can drink the recycled
water until tests show it's safe. Ad-
ditional samples will be returned
on the next space shuttle flight in
February, to confirm everything
is working properly. NASA's goal is
to have six people living on the
space station by June.
The extra day in space for En-
deavour now means that the two
crews — eight men and two wom-
en — will celebrate Thanksgiving
together and not part company un-
til Friday. Endeavour's touchdown
is now scheduled for Sunday.

**News**

**State**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A
prominent Hollywood attorney was sentenced Monday to three years in
prison in a swindling scheme that
enticed the former wife of MGM
 mogul Kirk Kerkorian.
Policans and Christensen were
acquitted of recording phone conver-
sations of Lisa Bonder Kerkorian
in her child support dispute with Kirk
Kerkorian.
Bonder Kerkorian, a former ten-
snis pro, was married to Kerkorian,
now 91, for 28 days in 1999. Chris-
tensen paid Polcans $25,000 up
front and promised $100,000 more if
he could identify the true father of
the girl, prosecutors said. DNA tests
later showed nurse producer Steve
Bing was the biological father.
Christensen, 64, was sentenced for
conspiracy to commit wiretapping
and aiding and abetting a wiretap. He
will remain free on $100,000 bond
pending an appeal.

**Briefs**

**National**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George W. Bush has
granted pardons to 14 individuals and commuted the prison sentences
of two others convicted of misdfeas
ranging from drug offenses to tax
evasion, from wildlife violations to
vandalism. The Associated Press learned Monday.
The new round of White House
pardon is Bush's first since March
and comes less than two months be-
fore he will end his presidency.
The crimes committed by those on
the list also include offenses involving
hazardous waste, food stamps, and
the theft of government property.
Bush has been stingy during his
time in office about handing out
such reprieves. Including these ac-
tions, he has granted a total of 171
and eight commutations. That's less
than half a many as President Clin-
ton or Reagan issued during their
time in office.
Sonnenberg memoir
an addicting read

Chelsea Bieker
SUNDAY DAILY

In Susanna Sonnenberg's honest and riveting memoir, "Her Last Death," she displays her mercurial childhood in crisp, fresh prose, painting a vivid picture of what it was like growing up with a drug-addicted mother. This was no cliché addiction story however, and although the typical oversharing, bingeing and disasters all find their home in Sonnenberg's book, they are accompanied by a glamorous, exciting whirlwind of personalities. Enter Sonnenberg's mother, Daphne.

Growing up in New York City, Daphne wanted no time introducing Sonnenberg to chaos, removing her from her classroom as a young child to embark on a spontaneous trip to "see your country," after receiving a questionable fake diagnosis of cancer. With little sister, Peri, in tow, Susanna Sonnenberg that absorbed most of Daphne's attention as well as cleaning up after most of her messes.

Daphne is beautiful we are told and having divorced Sonnenberg's father when she was young, makes her mission to seduce anyone who she sees fit. Hiding no detail of her sexual conquests from Sonnenberg as a child, the tables shift as she gets older, from sharing bedroom maneuvers with her, to actually seducing Sonnenberg's own young boyfriends. Daphne has no reserve, and her impulse for men bleeds over into a growing dependency of pills and cocaine. Sonnenberg recalls memories of assisting her mother in shooting Demerol into her leg, and a number of instances of finding her in a fit of seizures, blood pooling from her mouth.

Sonnenberg has an innate ability to tell a larger story with small, sharp, emotional sketches of characters, places and memories. Her way of placing the reader in the moment is addicting, and I found it hard to remove myself from the book. She does not demand sympathy, although it is hard not to feel it as we watch the descent of her mother take hold. She does what all writers attempt to do: show and not tell.

Daphne secures Sonnenberg as her best friend rather than daughter and easily gets away with introducing them as sisters. She finds it amusing when Sonnenberg is caught reading a Penthouse magazine as a 10-year-old. So much so that she buys her the latest copy and makes her read the letters out loud. Teaching her daughter the power of her sexuality at such a young age did not go without scaring Sonnenberg's future, as there is a chapter of the book appropriately titled, "Sex With Everybody," where she documents her own recklessness.

Introducing her daughter to the effects of cocaine at age 12, she carefully explains good dealers from bad, as well as cut and snort cocaine. Introducing her daughter to the effects of alcohol at age 13, she carefully explains good dealers from bad, as well as cut and snort cocaine. Introducing her daughter to the effects of cocaine at age 12, she carefully explains good dealers from bad, as well as cut and snort cocaine.

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Musical at Iowa college acts out scary Bible tales

Melanie S. Weite
ASSOCIATE PRESS

DES MOINES, Iowa — Don’t expect to hear these Bible stories at church.

Cannibalism, rape, a bear that mauls children — this is the Bible.

They’re among six stories from the Old Testament acted out in “Terror Texts,” a musical at Northwestern College in Orange City.

Adding to the shocking nature of the stories are the theatrics, with actors decked out in Gothic attire, a rock band and a mosh pit.

Theatre professor Jeff Barker said the obstreperous nature of the stories belies their value.

“We believe we have discovered something that has been lurking dormant for many, many centuries,” said Barker, who created and directs “Terror Texts.”

The musical was first performed at the 1,200 student Christian college in northwest Iowa in February and came back for an encore this fall, with a list performance slated for this weekend.

Barker uses the King James version of the Bible, and actors speak each verse word-by-word. It is not an interpretation or adaptation, like “Godspell” or “Jesus Christ Superstar.”

“There’s tremendous power waiting when you simply speak and act these stories aloud with faithfulness to the text, not trying to adapt them or add a lot of bits, but just simply play what’s written there,” Barker said.

Barker views the Bible as a “repository of ancient play,” and when performed they can be seen in a whole new light — even the dark stories.

“It was looking for terror text, stories I can say are thematically tied together because they are frightening and mysterious and terrifying,” Barker said. “That’s part of what we’re saying with this whole project that life and God himself are mysteries.”

Williams Perrone, a professor of theology and culture at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., specializes in visual arts in relation to religious tradition.

He said biblical scholars have proposed that much of the Old Testament is poetry and was designed to be sung, especially in the temple as part of worship.

“Terror Text” is far from that to think of it as a play,” he said. “Theologians have argued the best way to understand the Bible is in terms of it being a great dramatic performance.”

He called “Terror Text” a creative variation of that idea.

“This is obviously a very Protestant approach where you’re attempting to understand this story so that you can see the way the Bible applies to your life,” he said. “You carry it on in your life. You become part of the story.”

Sheddar McBride has several roles in the performance, including as a virgin who gets kidnapped at the end of a story of rape, murder and war. McBride said it has shown her something about herself.

“This particular project has affected the way I view negative emotions — grief, anger, bitterness and spite and hate. We are supposed to deal with that,” she said. “We need to embrace that we’re going to be very very sad and we won’t know what to do with that.”

In her role as a virgin, McBride wears a wedding dress that has been destroyed. She describes her look as a “corpse bride.”

“It has that image of what could have been great, I ruined,” she said.

In a world in which religion often is practiced privately or individually, Barker said he hopes people will understand the Bible better through his performance.

“These mysterious, dark stories of the Old Testament, they bring us face-to-face to the suffering of the world,” Barker said. “It says we are capable of great evil and we must not forget these stories and we have some serious things to be accountable for in our own lives as a group and individually.”

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“Your Heart Belongs to Me” by Dean Koontz


“The Pagan Stone: The Sign of Seven Trilogy” by Nora Roberts

New Music:

“Chinese Democracy” by Guns N’ Roses

“508x: Heatbreak” by Kanye West

“Reminder” (Deluxe Version) by Feist

“Day & Age” by The Killers

“Electric Arguments” by Paul McCartney (The Fireman)

“Road to Revolution” by Linkin Park

“24 Hours” by Tom Jones

“Prospekt’s March EP” by Coldplay

New Releases

New DVDs:

“Fred Claus” starring Vince Vaughn, Paul Giamatti, John Michael Higgins, Miranda Richardson, Rachel Weisz and Kathy Bates

“Hancock” starring Will Smith, Jason Bateman, Elizabeth Banks and Eddie Fernandez

“Road to Revolution” by Linkin Park

“24 Hours” by Tom Jones

“Prospekt’s March EP” by Coldplay

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“Prospekt’s March EP” by Coldplay
Matisse
continued from page 5
Instead, the Nazis confiscated it. Kurt Gerstein, an offi­ cer in the Nazi's infamous Waffen SS, got the Matisse, either as a bribe or because he bought it, Glyn said.
An expert in decontainment techniques, Gerstein was assigned to the Hygiene Institute of the SS, accord­ ing to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. On its Web site, it says he was responsible for delivering Zyklon B—poison used in the gas chambers—to Auschwitz and other camps. Gerstein surrendered to French authorities in April 1945, as the Nazi regime was crumbling, and was held at Paris's Cherche-Midi prison, the museum says. It says he wrote a report there recounting his service with the SS and hanged himself in July 1945.
French gendarmes recovered the painting three years later from a cache near Gerstein's home in Tubingen, Germany, said Didier Schullmann, curator at the Pompidou Center National Museum of Modern Art in Paris. It has part of the museum's collection since 1949.
Matisse painted the landscape, showing a building behind a wall, in 1906. The colors are vivid, the picture a little unsettling as it leans left toward the viewer.
"It is not an absolute masterpiece but it is surpris­ing," said Schullmann in an interview. While looted artworks often have complex stories, "this one is particularly amazing," he added.
Harry Fulfdied in 1963 and for reasons unknown willed his estate to Cagisela Martin, a woman who has remained something of a mys­tery in this saga. She in turn left her estate to the British charity when she died in Switzerland in 1992, which explains why Magen David Adom UK is now getting the Matisse.
Glyn said they have not been able to deter­mine the nature of the relationship between Fulfd and Martin, why he left her his estate or why Martin in turn made Magen David Adom the beneficiary of her will.
The Matisse is worth "a good six-figure sum," but will first be displayed in a museum, said Glyn. He said he's in discussions with museums in Germany and Israel.
The charity is also trying to recover other parts of the Fold collection, which included 12th-century Bud­ dha statues, 16th-century Italian masters, furniture and other art, Glyn said.
"There are pieces in the Hermitage (museum in Russia), they're pieces in museums in Germany, there are pieces before it or not in Israel," he said. "Our re­ presentatives are in discussions and negotiations with a whole raft of people, including national museums and governments, to see whether some of this stuff can come back. Some of the stuff is far more important than the Matisse."
But trying to prove ownership, he added, "is a long, slow and expensive process."

Sonnenberg
continued from page 5
Her father is brilliant, and is responsible for Sonnenberg's love of books and writing, introduc­ ing her to the classics as a young child and exposing her to films. Although he never provided an adequate outlet in which she could confide, she still had a great loyalty towards him and as his condition with multiple sclero­ sis worsened, Sonnenberg could see value in reading to him.
"I found it interesting that through all of the dangerous situations, unpredictability, and sudden vio­ lent outbursts with her mother, Sonnenberg never tried to tell anyone (not even her father) that she intended to remove herself from Daphne. She never tried to excuse her mother's behavior with a diagnosis either and al­ though Daphne spends time in a recovery institute, she is never quite labeled a drug addict in the mem­ oir.
"Never hesitating to own any room she is in, Daphne wafts through life on her charm, manip­ ulating everyone in her path. Strangling among numerous hus­ bands to Sonnenberg's dismay, Daphne exercises no self control.
As soon as one drug is not good enough, she switches to a new one, always maintaining her inhalation of growing amounts of coke.
"Her Last Death" is without question one of the most addict­ ing memoirs I have ever read. Sonnenberg makes her story rel­ atable and accessible, while con­ sistently maintaining the mystery that is Daphne.
Next week's read is "A Mercy" by Toni Morrison.

Roses
continued from page 5
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China approves only limited numbers of foreign films and re­ cordings for distribution each year, partly due to political concerns but also to protect domestic producers. Live performances are also closely regulated, with bands forced to submit set lists beforehand. The Rolling Stones were asked not to play several songs with suggestive lyrics during their 2006 China debut, including "Brown Sugar," "Honky Tonk Woman," "Beat of the Burden" and "Let's Spend the Night Together."

Earlier this year, bandleader Harry Connick Jr. was forced to make last-minute changes to his show in Shanghai because an old song list was mistakenly submit­ ted to Chinese authorities to se­ cure the performance permit for the concert. Authorities insisted he play the songs on the original list, even though his band did not have the music for them.
That came just a week after Ir­eland's singer Bjork embarrassed authorities by shouting "Tibet!" at the end of a Shanghai concert, prompting stricter vetting of for­ eign performers.
Despite such restrictions, computer file sharing and pirating of DVDs, computer games and music CDs is rampant in China, meaning that much banned material is avail­ able through alternative channels.

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Climate change summit calls for thinking globally, acting locally

Last week, Governor Schwarzenegger held an International Summit on Climate Change. Governors from Kansas, Illinois, Florida, Wisconsin and international representatives from China, Indonesia, Brazil, Mexico, Canada, India, European Commission and the United Nations participated in a symbolic signing of a declaration to stop rainforest cutting in Indonesia and the Amazon. This gathering was intended to prepare a roadmap for a global treaty on climate change in Copenhagen, Denmark in Dec. 2009.

Of the 400 participants from around the world, 40 students attended, and two represented Cal Poly. I was invited as a representative of the Empower Poly Coalition, a group of sustainability clubs on-campus that work to green campus curriculum, facilities operations, and campus procurements. The privilege of participating in this influential summit was met with feelings of excitement and concern by what these global decision makers envision the future of cropping carbon emissions to look like.

President-elect Barack Obama gave a surprise address to the Summit via Webcast, pledging to vigorously participate in discussions at the global treaty. What we can expect from his national policy, as stated in the address is 1) a National cap and trade program, 2) creation of 5 million new green jobs, and 3) Fifteen billion dollars in annual investments to solar, wind and biofuel. Tony Blair, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom also addressed the delegation, noting that an international treaty was critical in dealing with an issue like climate change.

Our governor and our president-elect agree that establishing a cap-and-trade system that controls pollution by providing economic incentives to reduce emissions is the best solution, my fellow constituents and I question that notion. The challenge with this policy is that cap-and-trade does not make emitters pay, it just gives them incentive to pollute less. Other systems, such as carbon taxing that establishes a price on emissions, are straightforward mechanisms for greenhouse gas reduction.

Unfortunately, my qualms are only in vain, the global regulatory community seems to be in consensus that cap and trade is the best system, so there is no point in complaining. Further, some greenhouse gas legislation is better than none at all. Whatever shape next year’s global treaty takes it is certain that local communities will be the ones to take action and actually start cutting back on emissions. As it turns out the whole “think global and act locally” idea is really true.

So, as a global citizen, a student, and as a member of the San Luis Obispo community it encourages you to get educated and involved in solving the climate crisis right here in San Luis Obispo. With our city’s greenhouse gas inventory near completion we are at the step of identifying which paths we can take to change San Luis Obispo’s energy future. On Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. at the Steynberg Gallery, students and community members will hear from newly elected city council members Jan Marx and John Ashbough about their plans to make San Luis Obispo a leader in the renewable energy economy in an Energy Town Hall meeting. You are all invited to participate and make your voice heard here in San Luis Obispo and maybe even across the pond in Copenhagen.

Nancy Cole is a Mustang Daily columnist, a city and regional planning senior and the former vice-president of the Empower Poly Coalition.

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Guzzlin' gas at $1.99

Nick O'Malley

So, what's the revolution? Why don't you remember? It was only a few months ago. Back when they were lingering at about $4, every- one was saying how outrageous the gasoline prices were. We were facing. Now, with prices going down, all of a sudden the coup d'etat over the gas giants seems to have vanished into the wind.

The Facebook groups to boycott pumping gas on a certain day or to put more effort into alternatives fuels haven't popped out since summertime. How strange.

Could it be that, now that gas is affordable, going to the pump isn't the travesty to be used? Let's face it: It's much easier to be up in arms about the oil industry making record profits when we're paying $4 a gallon. Exxon Mobil's $46.6 billion earnings of earlier this year haven't been mentioned for a while. But since we're not paying what we used to, those profits don't seem too bad.

According to American Automobile Association, the national gas price average has dropped to $2.02 per gallon. The average has dropped below the $2 mark in 23 states and in Missouri, the prices are set at $1.73 per gallon. Suddenly, a gallon of gas has dropped to near the price of a half-gallon of milk.

In July, when prices soared to $4.11 per gallon, it seemed a gas price prepared to do away with gasoline forever and change their driving habits. The Internet was littered with specific days that people were going to refuse to pay to not pump gas and it seemed that everyone was looking into any alternative fuel that could come up with.

But combined with the return of lower gas prices, we've returned to the gas-guzzling mentality that we once had. If America was really interested in ending its dependency on foreign oil, then why are there constant commercials for trucks and SUVs that go over mountains and pull freighter ships down highways? Because we're having problems making due financially. So what if your car looks sort of goofy? It's something bigger than the economy at work here. It's a lack of adaptability and adjustments made in Detroit that has led to this problem.

Some people haven't noticed how fuel efficiency is a pretty cool thing. Going longer between stops at the gas station helps out when a lot of people in this country are having problems making due financially. So what if your car looks sort of goofy? It's unfortunate, though. When gas was reaching ridiculous prices at the pump, people seemed ready to shun some of the more popular trends of the American car industry. The Prius and Versace of the world were finally getting some legitimate recognition over F-350s and Hummers. Rumsfeld!

But now, it looks as though it's time to head back to the Ford Explorer and stop carpooling, taking the bus or, dare I say, walk places.

So, was all of that hubbub about changing the oil industry's grip on American culture legitimate or just complaints over the high gas prices?

Regardless of the motives, the resistance to gas dependence is a good thing for this country. The more effort that people put into alternative fuels and conservation of the ones that we have, the better.

Whether or not you believe in global warming, cooling, El Niño or the flying spaghetti monster, emissions from fossil fuels are not good for the environment. The world isn't necessarily heading toward a fate of raining sulfur or whatever that was in "The Day After Tomorrow," but it's not good.

Going beyond the financial, environmental, moral, international issues involved with the usage of fossil fuels for contemporary transportation is the fact that the issue of oil's image being dictated almost solely on the prices at the pump.

High prices? We're all looking at solar power. Low prices? I'm buying a Hummer, dude. America's addiction to oil needs to be quelled. But nobody's going to care until prices go up again.

Nick O'Malley is a columnist for the Massachusetts Daily Collegian.

Will Bush pardon officials who used coercive interrogation tactics?

Hannah Bloch-Webh

Recent reporting suggests that President George W. Bush, in an attempt to wrap up eight years of failed foreign-policy initiatives, may issue a blanket pardon to administration officials who participated in the formation and use of coercive interrogation tactics during the war on terrorism. Under the administration's view of constitutional and international law, none of these acts were illegal. A presidential pardon would make it difficult to conduct domestic investigations and build official responsible for war crimes. Bush is just hoping that when the next administration crashes his party, it won't notice the beer foaming up in the tulip bed.

In 2001, Bush administration officials determined that the Geneva Conventions did not apply to the conflict in Afghanistan and set about creating a new legal architecture for the war on terrorism. Since then, American prisons in Afghanistan, Iraq and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, have drawn international scrutiny for their treatment of prisoners. Although the administration has continually maintained that any violations of human rights were the work of "a few bad apples," executive branch legal memorandum proves that this is untrue. Philippe Sands, an international lawyer and scholar at University College London, addressed this issue at Monday's rally-tally named Human Rights Happy Hour. In his talk, sponsored by UV's Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice, Sands argued that a blanket pardon would draw the ire of international courts, possibly resulting in an international investigation. Imagine if Vice President Dick Cheney and former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales could never again travel abroad, lest they, like Augusto Pinochet, be snapped up by foreign police and charged with war crimes. (Incidentally, Cheney and Gonzales have recently been indicted in Willacy County, Texas, in connection with abuses at the immigration detention facility there.)

Trial in international court would be a deeply ironic form of compensation for officials who devoted eight years to avoiding the nation's international legal obligations. But it would also be another mess. If Bush issued a pardon to all those involved with the interrogation procedures, he would effectively pardon himself. Preventing a full and lengthy domestic investigation, replete with criminal charges where necessary, would impinge on the nation's ability to fully come to grips with the abuses of Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo. Instead, this fact-finding mission would be outsourced to someone else. Lawyers in Brussels and at the Hague might be tasked with charging our elected officials with war crimes they committed on our soil — offenses against U.S. citizens as well as against the victims of torture and indefinite detention.

I'll bet a keg that on Jan. 19, 2009, Bush will issue his blanket pardon and that two days later, ex-administration employees will come forward with their own (now moot) accounts of the detention and interrogation decisions. There have now been four Supreme Court cases on the war, dozens of federal cases and hundreds of habeas corpus petitions. President-elect Barack Obama will decide whether the nation needs a new preventive detention law and new national security courts. Justice still hasn't been served. Maybe Obama message of change can successfully move the nation into the necessary period of national healing — without the disruption of criminal investigations.

But the nation is too used to this sort of impunity — for our historic abuses — and how can we prevent them from reoccurring.

Hannah Bloch-Webh is a columnist for the Daily Texan at the University of Texas.
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Men’s water polo falls in championship round

Jennifer Titcomb

The Cal Poly men’s water polo club team came up short Nov. 16 at the National Collegiate Club Water Polo Championships in Athens, Ohio.

The Mustangs took second place, losing to Michigan State 15-13 in the final game.

“We scored 13 goals and that should always be enough to win,” Mustangs junior driver Josh Mix said. “We just got some unlucky breaks and we just didn’t play defense as well as we should have.”

Last year, the Mustangs edged the Spartans for the title, 7-6 in overtime. This season, though, said. “We just got some unlucky shots that went in that were a bunch of us that just have to do what we did on the last 30 snaps,” Ellison said. “If you can do it for 30 snaps, why can’t you do it for 31 snaps? Because if you do, we win.”

Editor’s note: For a preview of the football team’s playoff game against Weber State, please see the Mustang Daily’s Web site at mustangdaily.com on Friday morning.

Gardner continued from page 12

continued from page 12

Wrestling

defeated by top-seeded Michael Chandler, also of Missouri, 5-1.

Four other Mustangs had strong finishes in Missouri: Joel Shaw (fourth at 165 pounds), Ryan DeRoches (fifth at 174), Eric Maldonado (sixth at 149) and Ryan Smith (sixth at 184).

Competing unattached, Boris Novachkov won the 141-pound title and Geoffrey Doss took the 149-pound championship at the Cal State Fullerton Open, also on Sunday.

Novachkov won his first match with an 11-2 major decision over Tony Denegar, shut out Cal State Fullerton’s Andrew Gonzalez 2-0. Novachkov took a 6-4 decision from Elijah Nacita and defeated Cal State Fullerton’s Teddy Atanga in the final 3-0.

A pin in his first pin, Doss recorded a 12-3 major decision over Calvin Miller in round two and then an 11-2 major decision over Jarrid Price.

Doss proceeded to pin Cal State Fullerton’s Nick Blackshaw en route to his championship victory over Tyler Chang, 9-5.

The Mustangs will return to competition at the Las Vegas Invitational starting Dec 5.

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Men's cross country

Mustangs finish 23rd at NCAA Championships

Two days after his kicker drew national attention for missed kicks during a 36-35 loss to Wisconsin, Cal Poly football head coach Rich Ellerson said Monday that there's enough blame for the loss to go around.

Mustang junior Andrew Gardner missed three extra points Saturday. The last man came in overtime.

"If everybody wants to throw Andrew under the bus, we're going to need a bigger bus," Ellerson said. "Because there are a lot of people that need to be under the bus."

Gardner, who is 6-of-8 on field goals this season, 30-28 to Montana on Sept. 6, when Gardner was wide left from 27 yards with 38 seconds left.

Catcher opened up the spot for competition. In practice, Gardner and West each took turns from about 40 yards, while players gathered to simulate game environments by yelling, spaying water and throwing grass, and Gardner kept the job by being more consistently accurate.

"We'll continue to make it competitive," Ellerson said Monday, when Gardner was listed as the No. 1 placekicker, ahead of West, on the team's official depth chart.

Gardner's "heating himself up," Ellerson said, but has the support of his teammates.

"He's doing OK," Ellerson added. "The guys are circling the wagons around him. He'll be fine."

"It's a tough business," Ellerson said. "Everybody wants to be a kicker on Tuesday. Nobody wants to be out there when the wind's blowing, it's cold and there are a bunch of angry people after you."

The Mustangs (6-2), ranked third in the Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA), could soon find themselves in another close game.

They open the playoffs by hosting Gardner, page 11

Saturday's loss was reminiscent of the Mustangs' other defeat this season, 30-28 to Montana on Sept. 6, when Gardner was wide left from 27 yards with 38 seconds left. The week after, Ellerson opened up the spot for competition. In practice, Gardner and West each took turns from about 40 yards, while players gathered to simulate game environments by yelling, spaying water and throwing grass, and Gardner kept the job by being more consistently accurate.

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