Student paddles the distance for charity

Alexandria Scott  
ALEXANDRAGSCOTT.MSNO.COM

Cal Poly psychology senior Aaron Hussmann and California State University, Sonoma environmental studies and planning senior Greg Anthenien kayaked around Lake Tahoe for 24 hours to raise money for CampCare and San Luis Obispo County Special Olympics. Hussmann previously paddled across the lake both ways and the next challenge was to go around it, he said. This time he was able to combine fundraising and his passion for kayaking.

"I think it's wonderful that he decided to do fundraising while doing something he loves," executive director for CampCare, Carol Moore, said. "Since Aaron has been at camp he's brought kayaks for kayaking.

former Cal Poly vice president dies of cancer

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Former Cal Poly vice president for university advancement and former Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Sandra Gadebring Ogren died after a nine year battle with a rare form of cancer. She died July 20 at the age of 63.

Ogren served in an interim capacity as the university's vice president for university advancement for two years and was given the permanent position in 2006. She retired from Cal Poly last month, where she was responsible for starting and organizing the Cal Poly Foundation, helped in the advocacy program for the Center for Science and Mathematics and worked closely with each college in organizing fundraising for advancement, President Warren Baker said.

"She was a terrific vice president for advancement," Baker said. "She was a very articulate spokesperson for the university and assisted me in many areas that had to deal with public relations, raising private funds or community relations."

Ogren was a very charming, smart and helpful woman that made friends for the university very easily, Baker said. Her depth of knowledge, ability to work well with everyone and positive outlook will make her hard to replace, he said.

"She was an excellent communicator and very engaging. She had see Vice President, page 3

Orange County launches investigation of possible voter fraud in small city

Richard Winton, Jeff Gottlieb  
and Andrew Blankstein  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Los Angeles County prosecutors have launched a wide-ranging investigation into allegations of voter fraud and conflicts of interest involving municipal business in Bell, District Attorney Steve Cooley said Tuesday.

In an interview with the Los Angeles Times, Cooley described an investigation considerably larger in scope than previously acknowledged by prosecutors, saying that it was "multi-faceted, rapidly expanding and full-fledged." Investigators have been gathering evidence since March, he said.

Until now, prosecutors had said only that they were looking at the $100,000 annual salaries paid to four of the five Bell City Council members and were seeking to determine if the payments were larger than allowed under state law. The voting fraud claims and allegations of possible conflicts of interest in city business add significant new issues about how government operated in the small working-class city where top city officials were among the nation's highest paid.

Cooley also said investigators were looking at whether council members had received pay for meetings they did not attend or meetings that lasted only a few minutes. Most of the pay that Bell council members received came not from their City Council salaries, but as stipends for serving on the boards of city panels, such as the Public Financing, Surplus Property and Solid Waste and Recycling authorities. City records indicate that those boards performed little work and that meetings would routinely occur during council meetings. In some cases, the board meetings would last no more than a minute, according to the records.

Monday night, board members agreed to cut their pay from all sources by about 90 percent, to about $8,000 a year.

see Fraud, page 2
I love working with special needs children, they are the most amazing people on Earth and everyone can learn from them.

— Aaron Hussman

"It sounded like it was a good cause," Anthenien said. "Aaron told me about it and it was a good thing to do; raise awareness, do something good and make a good statement." Wesselmann said it was Wesselmann who encouraged, supported and needed, Wesselmann said. "I will be talking about how a cool guy named Aaron reminded me of why I think Cal Poly is a special place, sacred even.

Hussmann has been the creator of the weekly, inspirational email newsletter entitled The Ripples Project, which is now an international movement, come to Cal Poly often when Hussmann was a freshman to give motivational speeches. Hussmann also received donations by passing around envelopes in class and asking for donations from businesses, Hussmann said. A large quantity of the donations came from online invitations too.

"I pretty much asked for anything someone could afford," Hussmann said. "Anthenien helped spread the word in Sonoma too, so that was really cool. I was planning on doing the event alone but I wanted someone with me and he was totally down." The fundraiser just kind of sounded like a fun and beneficial thing to do, Hussmann said.

"Camp Care has given me so much over the last four years and I felt like I had to give something back to them. I love working with special needs children, they are the most amazing people on Earth and everyone can learn from them."

Fraud

continued from page 1

Cooley declined to provide details about either the conflict of interest allegations or the voting fraud probe, other than to say that his investigators were reviewing several elections. Sources with knowledge of the investigation said that among the subjects that prosecutors are looking at is the use of absentee ballots during the March 2009 City Council election.

Six candidates ran in that contest in which incumbents Teresa Jacobo and Luis Artiga, both current council members, retained their seats, with 31 percent and 28 percent of the vote. The next largest vote getter received 11 percent. About 40 percent of the city's near-10,000 registered voters cast ballots and city records show that 99 percent of the votes in the election were absentees.

Cooley, who is the Republican nominee for state attorney general, said prosecutors began their investigation in March after receiving a complaint about conflict of interest. The investigation is in its early stages.

In addition to the district attorney's office, several other law enforcement agencies are examining various aspects of Bell's affairs. Attorney General Jerry Brown, who is the Democratic nominee for governor, announced Monday that his office has subpoenaed hundreds of documents from Bell as it looks into the city's highest salaries.

Also Tuesday, state Controller John Chiang, a Democrat seeking re-election, announced at a news conference at Bell City Hall that his office would audit the city's finances. He called the salaries and pensions for city officials "unjustifiable" and said his office will be taking a "hard look at the books."

In a police report attached to his complaint, Corcoran listed the names of 19 voters who he said were either dead or living in Lebanon at the time their votes were cast. Bell has a small Lebanese community.

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Hey, we've got a real news feed too.
Two Americans found to be among 152 dead in Pakistan plane crash

Saeed Shah

ISLAMABAD — Two Americans were among the 152 passengers and crew members who died Wednesday when an Airbus A321 operated by a private Pakistani carrier crashed amid heavy rain into the hills that surround the capital of Islamabad. It was the worst air crash in Pakistani aviation history.

The Airbus plane was on a flight from Karachi, Pakistan, when it crashed at around 10 a.m. local time. It carried 146 passengers and a crew of six.

The aircraft had made one pass at landing before airport controllers ordered it to abort. It remained unclear why the plane then flew so low and seemingly straight toward the cloud-covered hills. The plane disintegrated on impact, scattering the wreckage.

Thick smoke rose from the crash site on impact, scattering the wreckage.

The plane crashed in dense forest near the top of a hill, about an hour from the nearest road, making access to the wreckage difficult. Rescuers had put the parts in bags, "said a dirt-covered Kayani, who had gone to the hospital.

"Hundreds of relatives, friends and colleagues of those killed gathered across the grounds of Islamabad's Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences hospital and many rushed forward as each ambulance arrived. Hospital authorities hadn't set up any identification process, and the only information available was a list of those who had been on the flight posted on a wall. The bundles of body parts were unloaded carefully from the ambulances onto trolleys as anxious relatives rushed forward, hoping to catch a glimpse of a loved one."

"It is a great tragedy, and I confirm it with pain that there are no survivors," said Iftiak Elahi, the chairman of Islamabad's Capital Development Authority, which deals with emergencies in the city.

The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad confirmed the deaths of two Americans, Richard Szelante, a spokesman for the embassy, said that no further details would be released until the next of kin were informed.

"What can the hospital do? It can't save anyone," said Sutara Khan, whose 25-year-old son, Ansar, a captain in the army, had been on board the aircraft.

"Life is in God's hands. It is he who gives, and it is he who has taken it away," he added, speaking at the hospital.

"Everybody has to go sometime, but if you see the body at least you get some peace," said Muhammad Shakeel Bhinder, who had gone to the hospital in place of a co-worker who was too distraught to go.

His colleague, Habibullah Dumki, who works in Islamabad at the Federal Investigation Agency, which probes fraud and other serious crimes, lost his wife and three young children on the flight. "He keeps fainting. He's in no condition to come here," Bhinder said.

Among the dead were a newly married couple, en route to the hill resort of Murree outside Islamabad for their honeymoon. Also killed were six members of the "youth parliament," an initiative by a civil rights group to train youngsters to be politicians, including the "youth prime minister." They were all in their late teens or early 20s.

Late Wednesday, Information Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira announced that about 115 bodies had been removed from the site, though he couldn't be exact as only 12 were being unloaded carefully from the ambulances onto trolleys as anxious relatives rushed forward, hoping to catch a glimpse of a loved one.

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There is no plot in the fourth San Luis Obispo Little Theatre (SLOLT) FUNdraiser production "Shimmy Shake Shine!", choreographed by Emmy-award winner Suzy Miller. There are no main characters, no common setting and there isn't much dialogue.

Miller said "Shimmy Shake Shine!" does present a "new animal," which she defines as a raw, emotional experience with a non-linear form that celebrates the human spirit and all its complexities.

"The concept is sort of a trip down the rabbit hole, the idea of going to all different worlds, the idea of going from a Bollywood scene to a Marie Antoinette court. I loved the variety world to a Gothic Lair to a Marie going to all different worlds, the idea of going from a Bollywood scene to a Marie Antoinette court. I loved the variety world to a Gothic Lair to a Marie Antoinette court.

"There was a real excitement in doing all different styles. I didn't want anything to be repetitive or like another dance," Miller said. "Just like the different dance styles, the costumes are a random mix of deconstructed scrap material provided by Miller, the cast, the Nepomo High School Drama Department, and various contributors. Each number had a different source for the costumes," Miller said.

Along with the costumes, all of the dance numbers explore the themes of time, love, relationships, loss and transformation. "Shimmy" represents "finding beauty (in life) no matter how bi- tween," and the "triumph of the human spirit," Miller said. "It is important that we laugh at ourselves and the human condition because we make ridiculous mistakes. You just gotta laugh or else you'll be mortified."

What one experiences from the performance depends on the person, Miller said. She compared it to a Rorschach inkblot test because each person will get something unique out of the production. The production's title alludes to the various dance numbers which include renditions of "True Colors" by Cyndi Lauper, "Man in the Mirror" by Michael Jackson, a cross between "We Will Rock You" and "I Love Rock 'N Roll," and other favorites of Miller.

The incorporation of all the different music genres and artists made creating a comprehensive show difficult.

"We worked really hard on the flow, and it took a lot of experimenting to find a way for it to make sense. I think ultimately, hopefully, we got the rollercoaster we wanted," Miller said.

"Shimmy" features no main characters; instead, it is a showcase of performers. Each of the 29-member cast was given a number that catered to their talents and showcased them as an individual, Miller said.

Kevin Harris is Miller's co-creator and the managing artistic director of the SLOLT. By excluding main characters, "Shimmy" provides the audience with a way to put their own story to it," Harris said.

"It's so serendipitous that we got this group of people because it's the only group of people that could make that show happen. If you take one of them out or switch them around, especially with a show like this, it'd be totally different," Harris said. "The entire journey and flow would be disrupted."

Jessi Brown-Carlin, the house manager of the SLOLT, agrees. "As far as Suzy goes, it's one of her more exotic pieces. I think she showcases the stars in a way that allows them each to shine," Brown-Carlin said. She did a good job of putting the cast in roles that were for them. Having 29 cast members...it's not an easy thing to do.

Many of the cast members worked with Miller in the past, so they understand her rehearsal process and choreographic language. Nineteen-year-old cast member and vocalist Isaac Bromby recalls the intensity of the weeks leading up to the show.

"The rehearsal process was like a marathon. You had to have lots of endurance," Bromby said. Finding a time to have the cast rehearse all at once proved to be one of the biggest challenges. They finally did the day before opening night. Even with the insane rehearsal process, the cast became very bonded, Bromby said.

Tickets are available for $35 for tonight, Friday and Saturday afternoon, and $30 for the Saturday Martini Night. The evening shows begin at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday's afternoon show begins at 2:00 p.m. All funds go to the theatre.
Move over, Michael Scott. Steve Carell's character in "Dinner for Schmucks" is even more oblivious than the socially inept manager that the actor plays on NBC's "The Office." In the comedy, which opens Friday, Carell portrays Barry, an IRS employee and amateur taxidermist who's the hilarious heart of the film.

"It's just a guy trying to make it through and to keep a healthy, positive outlook on things," says Carell. "And it's nice to run into somebody like that, even if they make your life a living hell."

The 47-year-old star of movies and television didn't see the French film "The Dinner Game" that inspired "Dinner for Schmucks" on purpose.

"It was for the same reason that I didn't watch the British 'Office.' I just didn't want that to sort of cloud whatever characterization I was going to attempt," he explains.

Carell delivers an endearing performance as Barry, a well-intentioned man who wreaks havoc on the life of Tim (Paul Rudd), a financial analyst who's hoping to meet the woman of his heart.

"He and I have kind of paralel lives right now," says Carell of Rudd. "We both have two little kids. And we've both been married for a number of years. And I think he has a very similar work ethic ... I think the things we find funny are very similar as well."

Although Carell has become a box-office star — this year, he's also starred in "Date Night" with Tina Fey and "Despicable Me," for which he did voice work — he didn't envision this sort of success when he was starting his career.

"I moved to Chicago after college in the hopes of just getting some experience and I really had no designs on being discovered or anything beyond a potential paycheck," says Carell, who's originally from Massachusetts.

He worked at Chicago's Second City, the famous comedy troupe. And he's still an ensemble actor at heart.

"With 'The Office,' with this (Dinner for Schmucks), I feel most comfortable as a member of an ensemble," he says.

There's been a lot of buzz about what will happen over at "The Office" now that Carell plans to leave the show at the end of the next season.

"I don't want that to sort of cloud whatever the speculations are, I'm sure the show will continue and be incredibly strong," says Carell.

But he doesn't want to play the who'll-replace-Michael-Scott game.

"I don't know what the plan is. I think I want them to decide where it goes from there. I think there are better people than I to decide the future of the show."
Immigration facts, figures, and thoughts

With the immigration debate heating up — and a federal court case over Arizona’s SB 1070 brewing — you’d think that the U.S. was besieged by growing numbers of illegal immigrants. But you’d be wrong.

Despite the heightened rhetoric and the bloodcurdling viral surrounding the issue, illegal immigration has actually declined significantly over the last few years. While journalism like to characterize the anger over immigration as a response to facts on the ground — i.e., people are inundated and incensed — the numbers don’t bear them out.

In fact, the opposite is true. According to a February report by the Department of Homeland Security, the number of illegal immigrants living in the United States actually dropped by a whopping 1 million between 2009 and 2009, which amounts to the sharpest decrease in 30 years. It was the second year of declining numbers.

Likewise, the Border Patrol reports that apprehensions are down by more than 60 percent since 2000, to 550,000 last year, the lowest number in 35 years, even though the border is more tightly controlled than ever. As William Forney writes in last week’s New Yorker, “The southern border, far from being uncensored, is in better shape than it has been for years — better managed and less porous.”

And there’s more. Despite the drumbeat about hordes of undocumented Mexican who have come north to take our jobs, consider this: According to the Pew Hispanic Center, between 2005 and 2008, the number of Mexican immigrants arriving in the U.S. actually declined by 40 percent.

It’s not only the number of Mexican illegal immigrants that has dropped. The fact that the U.S. economy is struggling has discouraged high-skilled immigrants from coming to this country, according to a recent USCIS report. And the flow of applicants for H-1B visas, or work permits, has slowed. Before the recession, the entire 85,000 H-1B annual quota would be filled within days of the application date on the first day of April. For fiscal year 2010, the quota wasn’t reached until December 2009.

But there are also signs that the process is slowing down dramatically, what’s all the fuss about? Why has the debate turned so nasty? Why does it seem worse than it did in 1994, during the debate over Proposition 187, California’s anti-immigrant ballot measure? Why has the rhetoric will keep even more illegal immigrants from coming north, and what’s the point of a law that’s supposed to be tough on immigrants if it is the first time since the 1970 census — 40 years ago — that the for-

But today I think there are other contributing factors. The political discourse overall is pretty horrific, and on over-the-top rhetoric.

Smuggling, newspaper seeking to engage readers at any cost are also part of the problem. Whereas racist rants were once confined to marginal websites, today many papers — including this one — have opened their online comment sections to, well, complete nutjobs. Allowing vitriolic racial rhetoric to remain on a mainstream website is to give it a level of acceptability. Last week, in response to my column on the so-called birther bandwagon in France, a rabid

journalist projected that all those crossing the U.S.-Mexico border without work permits, has slowed. Before received by Dr. Emmet “Doc” Brown.

It was still hotly debated. This is also when the DNA double-helix model building was for the purpose of helping foreign-born — from 12.6 percent in 2007 to 12.5 percent in 2008. That represents only about 40,000 people numerically, but it is the first time since the 1970 census — 40 years ago — that the

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Amanda Sedo

The Cal Poly women's soccer team went (14-5-1, 7-1-0 Big West) and sent six players to all-conference teams last season.

Arizona and San Jose State, as well as Pacific and Westmont College.

leased its 2010 regular season schedule.

Women's Soccer gears for tough regular season schedule

Tuesday asked the mayor to delay considering a vote of three-quarters of baseball's team owners.

whether San Jose even needs a ballpark measure on the November ballot, Major League Baseball on Tuesday asked the mayor to delay his plans — which Reed said he'll consider.

And to sweeten their request, MLB officials told Reed that if a special election is required in the spring, they would help foot the $1 million-plus cost.

"I want to think about it, and talk to Lew Wolff, and he and I and Bob DuPuy will talk again," Reed said Tuesday, referring to the A's owner and to MLB's president, respectively.

Reed also apologized to DuPuy for not speaking with him before last week's announcement. Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig has said he was "surprised and disappointed" by the news, which

The Mustangs are trying to rebound from a loss in last year's Big West Conference Tournament, falling to rival UC Santa Barbara in last year's championship game. Cal Poly went (14-5-1, 7-1-0 Big West) and sent six players to all-conference teams last season.

To this point, head coach Alex Cruzie said none of that has rubbed off onto his expectations for next season.

"Our main focus right now is finding the right group and working hard in the offseason," he said.

Cal Poly opens conference play at Long Beach State on Oct. 1 and continues its road trip to UC Riverside on Oct. 3.

Then the Mustangs return for a four-match stretch at home. They face UC Irvine on Oct. 8 and then Cal State Northridge on Oct. 10.

The home stand continues with Pacific on Oct. 15 and is concluded by a match against non-conference Seattle on Oct. 17.

"There's always a rivalry with UCSB, just as much as the men's team. We always want to play our hardest against them," Hemenez said.

"It was my fault for not reaching out to voters," said Reed. But he said baseball officials had been apprised of the Aug. 3 deadline.

San Jose State political science professor Larry Gerston said Reed good to not leaving baseball known about his intentions. "Mind read-

whether San Jose can let the A's build a $461 million stadium on city-owned land downtown. But Selig has insisted that a vote would be "premature" until a special committee he appointed last year to study the team's options completes its work.

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"It was my fault for not reaching out to voters," said Reed. But he said baseball officials had been apprised of the Aug. 3 deadline.

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