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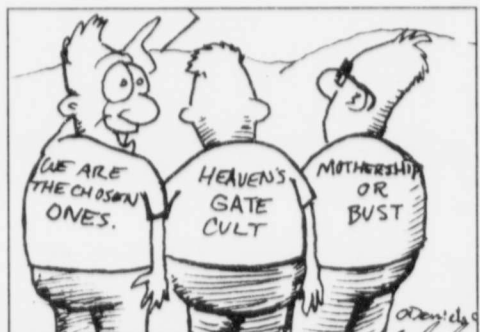
A bicycle and pedestrian advocate brought a presentation to San Luis Obispo Wednesday.

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Cults, nerds and fishing...what more could you ask for?

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Wonder what your favorite club sports team, like rugby, has been up to lately? Check out sports and get updated.

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CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY SAN LUIS OBISPO

MUSTANG DAILY

APRIL 11, 1997

FRIDAY

VOLUME LXI, No. 97

Campus dining announces new meal plan at ASI meeting Wednesday

By Dawn Kalmar
Daily Staff Writer

Campus Dining will be changing its meal plan fee and structure for the upcoming year, including an increase of more than four percent on current prices.

In an unplanned announcement during Wednesday night's ASI Board of Directors meeting, a Campus Dining Committee representative told members of the change.

Alan Cushman, associate director of Campus Dining, said everyone will benefit from the new agreement.

"We have changed our meal plan program that's in a fashion that's win-win," Cushman said.

The new plan eliminates the old 14- and 19-meal per week plans and replaces them with 10-, 14- and 17-meal plans. Whether the student is having 10 meals or 17 meals per week the flat fee of \$2,487 is the same. Those with fewer meals receive extra dollars to compensate for the difference. The extra Plus dollars can be spent at any of the campus dining locations, even those not included in the regular meal plan like Julian's, BackStage Pizza and the Campus Store.

"We wanted to make sure we had Plus dollars available to everyone so they can dine anywhere," Cushman said.

Students will be allowed to carry Plus dollars to future quarters but are required to spend the money by the end of the year.

"Our policy used to be they didn't carry over and I didn't think that was fair," Cushman said.

To insure students don't end the year with an excess of Plus dollars, their transaction records are monitored periodically to determine if they might benefit from another plan. Cushman said there are announcements and advertisements for students reminding and encouraging them to spend their Plus money.

ASI and Campus Dining also ended a year and a half of negotiations renewing the sublease agreement for BackStage Pizza and Julian's. The main controversy surrounded keeping BackStage open during the summer which Campus Dining didn't

See ASI page 6

Where in Avila is Carmen Electra?

Mr. Rick's full of Mr. Rights for MTV promo

By Gil Sery
Daily Staff Writer

It was a case of dim lights, no camera and little action as MTV's popular dating game, "Singed Out," came to Avila Beach Wednesday.

Instead of the regular co-hosts Carmen Electra and Chris Hardwick, patrons of Mr. Rick's bar, where the event took place, were treated to the sharply dressed pair of Tiffany Bowen and Keith Alexander, the co-hosts of a promotional tour sponsored by MTV and Miller Lite beer.

Bowen said that the tour is a three-month, nationwide campaign "to promote the show and the beer." All in all, about 50 stops will be made until May 1 when the promotion ends, but not all of them will feature Bowen and Alexander.

"(MTV has) different teams in different parts of

See GAME page 3



Daily photo by Joe Johnston

Singed Out host Keith Alexander and hostess Tiffany Bowen, along with the Miller Lite girls (not pictured) brought MTV's popular game show to Avila Beach Wednesday, and Izzy Ortega's Friday.

Club gets its robots ready for Open House

By Alan Dunton
Daily Staff Writer

Cal Poly engineering students involved with the tournament Robo Rodentia III, worked out problems and made refinements to their robots on Wednesday, in preparation for their Open House display.

The tournament teams, usually consisting of three to four students, build autonomous robots that are programmed to maneuver

around a maze, collect racquetballs and place them in a designated area. This year, approximately eight teams will enter robots in the contest on April 19, from 1 to 4 p.m. in the faculty offices of building 20.

According to Joe Zuromski, computer engineering senior and president of the Computer Society, Robo Rodentia will draw large crowds.

"This is the best engineering Open House display," Zuromski

said. "Without the tractor pull we would have the largest crowd."

The robots, although unique to each team, center on the same concept. Zuromski explained that each robot has a micro-processor chip that is programmed to follow the maze's walls or a black line on the floor of the maze. The robots have sensors mounted on them that tell the robots where to go and when they should pick up a ball.

See ROBOTS page 6

About 100 prosecution bombing witnesses tied to phone records

By Steven K. Paulson
Associated Press

DENVER — Prosecutors in the Oklahoma City bombing case have lined up about 100 witnesses to testify about telephone records that allegedly tie Timothy McVeigh to the Ryder truck, bomb components and other parts of the plot.

The phone-record witnesses are among 327 people on the prosecution's final witness list, which was made available to The Associated Press. Others include McVeigh's sister and several friends.

Notably missing from the list: four FBI agents under investigation because of allegations that evidence was mishandled at the FBI lab.

The prosecution's star witness is expected to be Michael Fortier, a former Army buddy of McVeigh's who has agreed to testify that McVeigh planned to blow up the building. Fortier faces a prison term after pleading guilty to weapons charges.

McVeigh's sister, Jennifer, has told authorities her brother enjoyed "The Turner Diaries," a novel that describes a plot similar to the Oklahoma City bombing.

Meanwhile, jury selection con-

tinued Thursday. Among the prospective jurors questioned: an airline pilot who lost a friend in a terrorist attack.

The phone records include logs of a prepaid calling card under the phony name of Daryl Bridges. The card was issued through The Spotlight, a far-right publication.

Prosecutors allege McVeigh and co-defendant Terry Nichols used the card in the mistaken belief that it would prevent their calls from being traced.

Among the records are dozens of calls made in the months before the blast to explosives companies, fertilizer dealers and companies that supply fuel.

During pretrial hearings, defense attorney Stephen Jones contended the records were inaccurate, incomplete and misleading. He said the phone card also was used by several of McVeigh's associates, including Fortier.

Prosecutors acknowledged holes in the records and admitted some mistakes in transcribing codes used by telephone companies to track calls made with the card's personal ID number. But they insisted the calls showed a pattern consistent with their theory of a longstanding plot to blow up the federal building.

McVeigh and Nichols are charged with murder and conspir-

acy in the April 19, 1995, bombing that killed 168 people and injured more than 500. Nichols will be tried after McVeigh.

Another name on the witness list is David Paulsen, a Chicago-area gun dealer whose name and number were written on the back of a crumpled business card found in a police car used to transport McVeigh shortly after his arrest.

Not listed were witnesses who could testify to a robbery that prosecutors allege helped finance the bombing, and all but one witness who could tie McVeigh and Nichols to a lake in Kansas where prosecutors believe the bomb was built.

Lawsuit to keep open Camarillo State Hospital puts CSU conversion on hold

Associated Press

CAMARILLO, Calif. — A lawsuit to prevent closure of Camarillo State Hospital has stalled plans to convert the property into California State University, Channel Islands.

"Our plan for occupying that site is now on hold. We will not involve ourselves anymore in developing the hospital," CSUCI President J. Handel Evans told a Rotary Club meeting on Wednesday.

The CSU Board of Trustees recently approved \$1 million to spend toward planning the university. The hunt for partners interested in leasing part of the proposed campus has now been discontinued.

"We don't want to be spending limited resources if there's a chance we won't have this opportunity," said CSU Trustee Jim Considine.

The Greenline Parents Group and Families and Advocates for the Mentally Ill filed the lawsuit earlier this month asking the court to block patient transfers and halt closure of the 60-year-old hospital.

A hearing on a preliminary injunction request, scheduled for Thursday before Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Diane Wayne, was postponed to May 14.

"The fact that (CSU officials) are taking it that seriously lends a little fuel to the fire of our continuing with the lawsuit," said John Chase of Greenline.

"I'm glad they're not dismissing us as lightly as I once thought they were," Chase said. "Certainly they must think there's some

thought of us prevailing."

Mary Stephens, executive project manager for CSU Channel Islands, said it would be inappropriate for the university to be seen as influencing the outcome of the lawsuit.

"If it looks like we aren't taking the lawsuit seriously, that's not appropriate," she said.

"We're not making presentations on what the university would do (at Camarillo State Hospital), but we haven't taken it off the radar screen by any means."

But the lawsuit could threaten how quickly CSU officials can open a university in Ventura County.

Evans has until September to convince CSU trustees that the plan to use the hospital grounds is economically viable. If he wins their approval, the CSU board would ask Gov. Pete Wilson for funding from the 1998-99 budget.

If that process falls behind, the CSU board might have to wait until the next fiscal year to ask for funding, Stephens said.

If the court should force the state to keep the hospital open, Considine said, CSU officials could turn to an alternative campus site on more than 250 acres between Camarillo and Oxnard.

UNC Board elects Cal vice chancellor system president

By Estes Thompson
Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — The University of North Carolina Board of Governors Thursday elected California state university system vice chancellor Molly Corbett Broad to oversee UNC's 16-campus system.

The full board approved Broad to replace C.D. Spangler Jr., who is retiring June 30. Broad, 56, will be the first woman and the first person from outside North Carolina to lead the

UNC System.

Broad's name was put in nomination during a special session of the 32-member board, which makes the final decision for a new president.

Former governor and nominating committee chairman Jim Holshouser said there was strong sentiment to find someone with ties to North Carolina, but said Broad, 56, was an exceptional nominee.

Broad is a former leader

See UNC page 6

Parlez-vous Francais?

By Martha Blackwell
Daily Staff Writer

It's a film festival that costs a mere \$1 to see all five films, less than the regular price of one typical flick, and refreshments don't even have to be sneaked in beneath baggy clothes and inside big purses.

And it's at Cal Poly.

FILM PREVIEW

Beginning Monday, April 14, ASI Program Board will present its French Film Festival.

Throughout spring quarter, the festival will include five different French movies on separate dates.

The first movie, "La Femme Nikita," starts the festival next Monday at 8 p.m. in Chumash auditorium.

The 1990 film "La Femme Nikita," is a stylish 117-minute thriller about a secret French government agency that re-programs a criminal, Nikita, and releases her to the outside world as an agent. As her assigned missions become more and more dangerous, Nikita must choose between her alliance to the agency and her desire to lead a normal citizen's life.

An American version of this movie, "Point of No Return," was released in 1993 starring Bridget Fonda.

Kathi McLaughlin, an architecture senior and co-chair of the films committee, said that the festival will allow participants to see excellent movies that normally wouldn't be available for viewing on a big screen. She encourages people to participate in the entertaining event.

"The movies are really cheap, so if you don't like it, you can leave," McLaughlin said.

However, she said that people who have never experienced a French film before will not be disappointed.

The ASI Program Board carefully selected the five films, attempting to mix more well-known films with some unusual ones. The other four films and dates are, "La Discrete," Monday, April 28, "Cyrano De Bergerac," Monday, May 12, "Cafe Au Lait," Thursday, May 21, and "Delicatessen," Thursday, May 28. All films will be shown at 8 p.m. in Chumash auditorium.

McLaughlin said that the Program Board is concerned about the attendance at an event like this since many students may be intimidated by the subtitles and new experience of viewing a foreign film. She said once the movie gets going, the subtitles only add to the experience.

Paul Kizirian, a mechanical engineering senior, isn't at all intimidated by subtitles and said that he'll definitely try to attend the festival.

"I really like foreign films, and for \$1, I would even consider bringing a date," Kizirian said.

The ASI Program Board, which organized this event and coordinates the University Union entertainment hour, speakers and concerts, is a collection of student volunteers formed as a committee to represent the diversity of Cal Poly and enhance the campus life. The board provides cultural and intellectual programs, which challenge participants to think, grow and reflect their surroundings.

The board meets on Tuesday evenings from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Recreation Center.

New members and volunteers are welcome, and inquiries may visit its web site at <http://www.calpoly.edu/~rnavarra/board>.



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Forum discusses future of human, pedal power in SLO

By Monica Phillips
Daily Staff Writer

Biking and walking advocate Dan Burden attracted the fourth largest crowd out of 200 presentations nationwide at a talk Wednesday night at the San Luis Obispo Veterans Hall.

He spoke about improving transportation to maximize exchange and the livability of a city to a crowd of about 120 people.

Supervisor Bud Laurent sponsored Burden's visit because he wants to inform county residents on issues that go beyond bike lanes.

"We need to stop the sprawl of growth," Laurent said. "As one individual said earlier, it takes one 3,000-pound car to get a one-pound loaf of bread."

Laurent said that the county is considering cutting back its allocated 5 percent funding for bike lanes. Funds have already been approved, however, to build a five-foot bike lane through Price Canyon, which runs from Pismo Beach to Highway 227.

Mary Jane Samoi, a civil engineering senior, frequently bikes or walks around town.

"There's a good majority of students (in San Luis Obispo) that ride bikes and maybe the city can get more support from students if they present the issues at Cal Poly," she said.

Almost 50 percent of the partici-

pants at the presentation were students.

"If we create a good environment then motorists will act more sensibly to bicycles and pedestrians," Burden said. "Tree-lined streets, bike lanes and art on corners all encourage motorists to drive slower."

Burden highlighted the issues of livability in his presentation. His top priority is low driving speeds. People also look for green space, sidewalks and urban containment. He showed how these needs can be met with proper city planning. Cities that have successfully implemented such strategies include Palo Alto, Calif., the Panhandle, Fla. and Stanley Park in Vancouver, British Columbia.

In Crested Butte, Colo., a town with 1,600 residents, success is due to a dog named Maggie who sits in the same spot in the middle of the road everyday.

"Maggie is a traffic-calming feature," Burden said, although he doesn't recommend using this tactic in San Luis Obispo -- at least not with live dogs.

Burden showed slides of successful and unsuccessful cities and said that if areas are designed for bikers and walkers they will also be well-structured for motorists. He said that if new innovations are used anywhere in the nation, they will be implemented on the West Coast.

Laurent asked Burden what the local community could do to make the area more bicycle friendly.

Burden said that San Luis Obispo is doing many things right including the storage of bike lanes, the strong support of a Bicycle Advisory Board and several bike lanes and trails.

But some audience members said the city still needs to do more.

Brian McMinn, a civil engineering senior and Cal Poly wheelman, said more improvements could be made.

"The end of Burden's presentation really reflected what most people came for," McMinn said. "My experience is that there isn't demand for (bike lanes). People don't feel safe riding bikes (in San Luis Obispo)."

Josh Olejczak, vice-chair of the Bike Advisory Committee, said the community is continually working toward improving bicycling conditions.

"Our primary goal is to provide bikeways for people, especially children, from neighborhoods to schools," he said. "I hope (this presentation) rallies people to write to the Board of Supervisors, (to approve more funding for bike lanes)."

Burden also discussed methods of upgrading pedestrian environments.

"People look for ambiance in the streets," Burden said. "They want to see and be seen." Main streets are coming back because they offer a place to walk dogs, get coffee and give people everything they need within walking distance, he said.



Daily photo by Maureen McDowell

Dan Burden spoke Wednesday at SLO Vet's Hall to a crowd of 120 people.

GAME from page 1

the country," Bowen said. "We're the Southern California team."

Alexander added that the tour has already been to some fairly large universities in Southern California, including UCLA, U.C. Irvine and San Diego State.

After Miller Lite's two spokesmodels, Charity Nerelli and Jennifer Figaro, worked the crowd for about an hour, getting people signed up for the show by issuing them registration cards, it was show time.

The game proved to be quite similar to the version seen on MTV. In this case, the woman hoping to meet her match, Kristi Rowe of Paso Robles, was introduced by Bowen as someone who "likes

naked snowboarding and just likes to be naked." Behind her, in true "Singled Out" fashion, about 20 men were lined up, each holding a card whose answers they hoped would match Rowe's, thus putting them in the running for a date with her.

However, the cards also served another purpose. If the contestants filled out some demographic information about themselves, their cards would be placed in a drawing for a trip to a taping of "Singled Out" in New York City.

Bowen said the location of the prize was changed for Southern Californians because the original location of Los Angeles would have been unsuitable.

For round one's first question, Rowe had a choice of six categories to choose from, namely "Worst Gym

Class Activity," "Body," "Underwear," "Career Goals," "Call Waiting," and "Wealth."

Having chosen "Underwear," Rowe then chose "Original Style" over "Extra Crispy," thus eliminating all those males whose cards didn't have the corresponding answer.

Rowe's next question was from the "Call Waiting" category. The choices were "Very Rude" or "Need it Dude" with Rowe opting for the latter.

The field narrowed to eight men in round two, and Bowen presented each with the same question: "If you won the Lotto, where would you take Kristi on your dream date?" Most of the answers had a central theme of snow in them, capitalizing on Rowe's favorite activity of snowboarding.

The game was about to continue

onto round three when the microphone's power suddenly died. After a bit of fiddling with some wires, the microphone started working again.

Round three consisted of the finalists each doing a little dance behind Rowe's back that she could only judge by the amount of audience reaction it garnered.

Finally, round four narrowed the pool down to three men who each stood on a different section of a blue mat covered with three rows of pictures of Miller Lite beer caps. Every time a contestant got a question correct, he would move up one "beer cap." The first one to correctly match five of Rowe's answers would go on a date with her. These answers were given verbally by the contestants and not found on the cards.

Many of the questions in this round involved Miller Lite in some way, such as the tie-breaking question "Miller Lite: tastes great or makes her look great?" Michael Cobel of Lake Tahoe, one of the three contestants left, correctly

guessed the latter and won the date with Rowe.

Cobel said he thought that his personality and style helped him beat out the competition and that he felt "absolutely fabulous" about his win. Rowe, however, had other ideas.

"I thought that Tiffany should be dating him," she said without elaborating.

When asked where she'd be going on her date, Rowe insisted that she and Cobel would be going to the mountains of Chile, which is where Cobel said he'd take her during round two.

On MTV, now would've been a good time to take a commercial break and set up for the next round. However, the game at Mr. Rick's couldn't continue because of the small, overwhelmingly male crowd.

"Look at this place," Bowen said. "You guys need to ship some women in here."

Bowen also mentioned that the game couldn't continue because "we used every guy in here."

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Crime and punishment and fish

NATE PONTIOUS

So there we were, my two cohorts and I, standing abreast facing the Paso Robles courtroom that unfortunately didn't look nearly as glamorous as the one on the "People's Court," and yet was barren enough to impose a sense of sterile imminence—a backwoods Southern ignorant law meets Orwellian oppression, if you will. Our heads hung down in shame, or whatever, reluctantly waiting to hear our sentence. To my left, Jim couldn't seem to wipe that smirk off his face. At my right, Paul gazed at the ground in the kind of somber reflection seen in Roman sculpture. The judge, a stern parochial, Dickens-type, spoke harshly: "So you boys took it upon yourselves to violate the laws of the great state of California by fishing without a license, eh?" The rest of the courtroom began to snicker behind us. We hung our heads lower.

Two months ago I had lowered my head the same way as the fish and game warden approached us for the licenses we hadn't purchased. Funny, only seconds before we still had our innocence, an innocence blindly wasted on fish we didn't catch. Jim and I wanted to blame Paul for our corruption, mostly because we needed a scapegoat and he was older. But we decide if we were going to stick this out, we would have to pool all of our resources.

As we carpooled up to Paso Robles on our scheduled date, a radio news report related the story of a man who, upon becoming angry with his court proceedings, urinated on the court floor when his attorney wasn't looking. Standing together before the judge, I know the same thought crossed each of our minds, repeatedly.

That's not to say the situation was without its rewards. Sure, maybe the REAL criminals—the drunk drivers, the parking violators, etc.—thought we didn't belong. To them, we were the Cal Poly students trying to get on their SLO Transit bus without any ID. But hey, we're lawbreakers too, give us a chance. The judge was, for one, benevolent enough to lower the steep \$195 fine to \$75—a small price to pay for fish you never saw, right? I won't even say how many passes to Sea World that would buy. (There you get to TOUCH the fish! No questions asked!)

This generous reduction would not have even happened had it not been for some quick thinking from the District Attorney, who by the way, reminded me a great deal of that stuttering public defender from "My Cousin Vinny"—it really was difficult to take the poor man seriously. Another light at the end of the tunnel: we have the option to do community service to work off the remaining fine. Hot dog! One needs little imagination to hear the fruitful conversations between rapists, serial killers, political assassins and three licenseless fishermen. Hopefully we can request solitary confinement, something along the lines of Canadian work camps.

Let this be a prime example to any of you. Never let anybody tell you that the SLO County justice system is unfair. I once thought like you; I too was a skeptic. But as you can see, I am already reformed. I love big brother, I love the Fish and Game Warden. A word of warning though. If you are driving up the Cuesta grade and see three youths clad in orange uniforms urinating on the side of the rode, be mindful. The wind can do very unpredictable things.

Nate Pontious is wanted in five states for, among others, fishing without a license, jaywalking, not tipping meter maids, and leaving the toilet seat up.

A working definition of cults

JUDY D. SALTZMAN

The recent events have led us all to reflect on religious cults and their significance, and why people join them. There is a proliferation of off-mainline groups as the Millennium approaches. In order to understand this phenomenon we must first be clear regarding what a cult is, and then realize that precise definition when it comes to changeable social phenomena is often quite impossible.

First of all, the word "cult" is always used in the pejorative sense in contemporary discourse. Speaking in Judeo-Christian terms, members of a majority mainline denomination, such as one of the large Protestant groups, may regard some smaller group which has beliefs quite different from his or hers as a "cult." The word "sect" is often used to denote a group which may not be in the mainstream, but is longer established, larger and has some characteristics of those in the mainstream, such as Pentecostals, Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses. However, these latter groups have often been labeled as "cults." In other words, someone who does not like the religious ideas of another organization may simply label them as a "cult."

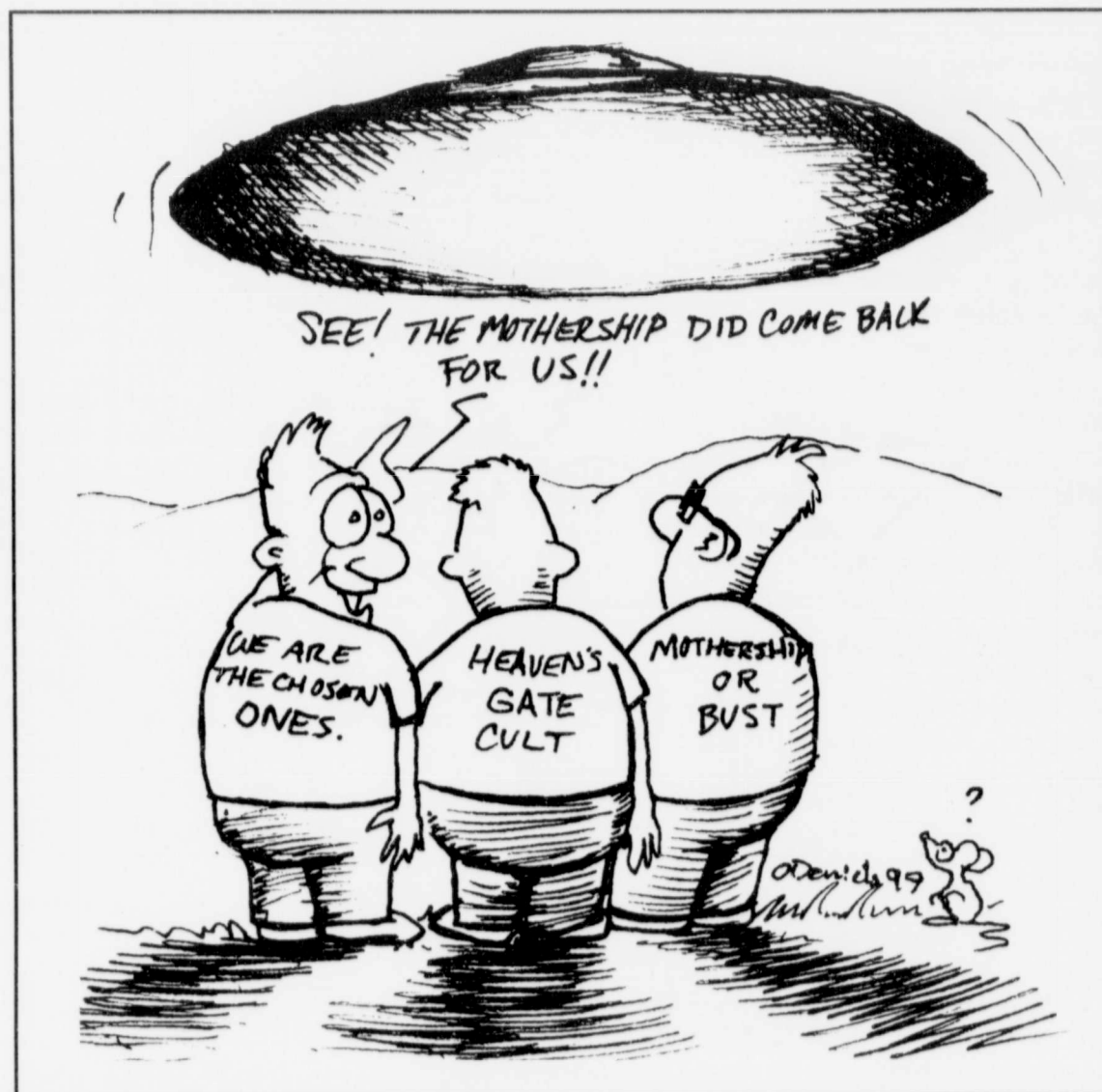
It may also be noted that most groups we could define as cults are not dangerous in any life threatening sense, as were the Branch Davidians, the Solar Temple or the Heavens Gate.

I would also like to note that some people ignorantly think of groups outside the Judeo-Christian mainstream of American culture as cults. This is quite an absurd view, since Muslims, Buddhists, Sikhs, Hindus, Jains, Zoroastrians, ancient faiths with followers all over the world, are just as established as churches, and have long records of helping and nurturing people. This does not mean that cult-like groups do not arise within them, as they have in Christianity and in Judaism. Generally, our use of the word "cult" has been filled with our own cultural biases.

From my studying, I would like to offer a working definition of the word cult, which is partially derived from Robert S. Ellwood Jr.'s definitive work on New Age religions, "Spiritual and Religious Groups in Modern America." According to Ellwood, an overwhelming characteristic of cults is their charismatic leadership, their smallness and deviance from the norm. This does not mean that groups which are not cults are without such leadership. However, the crucial point is how the charisma is used to control and how the word of the leader or leadership can override any previous sacred text, teaching or even what they said the week before.

A cult then is an organization of religious or spiritual seekers who are headed by a charismatic individual or individuals who demand total commitment to them personally, even though they may point to a teaching or to a Higher Being or Beings. They are usually Apocalyptic and claim that the end of a great cycle of age of history is coming soon. They are negative about this world, its people and their prospects, and point to a better one coming, either here or in another world. They make the cult member feel that he or she is among the "elect and chosen," one of the "children of light" who must be free from and struggle against the "children of darkness."

Although studies by scholars in the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion show that people enter into cults and stay voluntarily, the over-



whelming psychic aura of the group may actually be causing them to say and to do things that they would not ordinarily do in other circumstances. However, so called "cult" members who have been interviewed claim that they are there of their own free will and vastly resent deprogramming attempts by family, friends and professionals. Most people are not successfully "deprogrammed."

In order to foster dialogue on the matter, I would like to offer 12 points which have come from many years of reflecting on the meaning of religious cults.

1. "Spiritual," compelling and pleasant. Cults have some characteristics of mainline denominations and sects, because their teachings are about

social, and professional decisions are irreversible. They may have given away all their money, lost their job and their family and friends. They be asked to stay up all night doing work for the group, or be called at hours such as 3 a.m. to come to the leader or to attend to other followers.

3. Anti-intellectual and secretive. Cults tends to be anti-intellectual in a selective way. They are also secretive about the "highest truths" available to them. They may ask their followers to read difficult religious texts or to do a great deal of thinking about their dogmas. However, they take the line that ordinary education is "worthless" or only a preparation for something better. Lines, such as, "you must give up all

you have learned in the world," or "only sacred text X" is worth reading are common. Your teachers, family, university all are useless and know nothing. The "Teacher" knows all and will reveal the mysteries when the time comes. They are told that ordinary science and logic are

valueless and even impediments to enlightenment.

4. Anti-social, isolating and proselytizing. Although cults tend to recruit by having leaders give lectures and by approaching people, often on a one-on-one basis, people in the group are told to give up social contact with the "Non-X" other than on a proselytizing basis. This usually means estrangement from families and former friends, even divorce and abandonment of children. Although they want members to give up their former world, they often do not allow new members to be alone, and even follow them into the bathroom.

5. Anti-political and democratic participation. Quite often cult members are told to forget about all things of the world, because they are temporary. These include voting, political rallies, serving on juries and other rights and privileges. Although in a few cases, a cult can be fanatically politicized, and even armed, as were the Branch Davidians and Rajneeshpuram groups, they tend to demean the ordinary political process.

6. Anti-medical. Cult members may be told not to visit any ordinary qualified medical doctor or other health prac-

"So called 'cult' members who have been interviewed claim that they are there of their own free will and vastly resent deprogramming attempts by family, friends and professionals."

the ultimate meaning of existence and reflect the deepest spiritual longings of all of us. They do give support to the lonely, alienated and emotionally disturbed. They are quite often made up of extremely nice people who are highly intelligent and often well educated. However, they have come to the group because nothing in the mainline has satisfied them. Yes, there is always much that is "good" and "true" in the teaching of any cult. Otherwise they would not last even a year or two, and some do not.

2. Totalitarian, authoritarian and irreversible. Cults demand a total commitment of time, money and energy. Many members of such groups find themselves without time for their families, for fun or for any other activity than the group. They may be asked to quit their job and move into a commune, although not all communes are cults. They may be asked to give all of their money and possessions, such as a house, car or inheritance. Members are often asked to obey the leader or leaders without question, even if what they are asked to do goes against their better judgment. Quite often the economic,

One philosophy professor's view of cults, based on research, local examples

tion, such as licensed chiropractor. They may be told that a deity, through a leader, will heal this in time, or that a pregnancy may be supervised by a "midwife" who is not qualified. Faith healing may go on, and a member may be told to have patience concerning his or her ailment. It should also be made clear that not all faith healers are cult member, nor do they all disallow all modern medicine.

7. Anti-world and the goodness of life as it is. Cults convince their followers that the world is a temporary place of sorrow and is to be abandoned for a higher kingdom or a higher source or a better life. The world is an evil place of temptation and is to be abandoned. Furthermore, there is not a way those who will not join the cult's version of the "truth" can be helped. They are going to hell, to reabsorption, or may make it in the next cycle.

8. Millennial, apocalyptic, teaching the end is near. Quite often the leader will set a date for the end and a place for the followers to go to achieve their final spiritual fulfillment. The "end" is often

described in terrifying terms. Selective passages are often cited from the Bible, Koran or other scripture to convince the follower. The date may have been arrived at by mysterious and undivulged methods, astrology, etc. Life is suffering and a way to escape life an get into a paradise is to follow the leader. One does not need to accept responsibility for oneself.

9. Anti-other groups or "non-x". The stance of the cult is quite intolerant. They are the only people who have the "true interpretation" of a scripture or a set of symbols or phenomena, such as the coming of the a comet, an eclipse, etc. The idea of more than one interpretation or a hermeneutic study is ridiculous to them. Others outside the group may be regarded as "enemies or satanic."

10. Humorless. Although cult types may be able to laugh at a joke about someone else or some situation, you will find that they are unable to laugh at themselves, nor can they be teased. It is always a danger signal if someone becomes totally without humor and light heartedness. One characteristic of professional clergy is that they usually have a good sense of humor, and do

not take themselves too seriously. Some say this is necessary for survival in their profession.

11. Unusual attitude toward sexuality and gender differences. Some groups may teach that sex is completely wrong or evil and should be given up, even to the point of castration or mutilation, while others encourage unusual forms of sexual interaction, such as group marriage, polygamy, temporary marriage, etc. Some groups have their followers dress in a uni-sex fashion, whereas others may forbid women from wearing pants. Some may be highly sexist and force women into serving roles for men, and place much emphasis on the filth of the female body, such as menstrual blood. Other may say that semen is a pollution, and males may be encouraged to retain it by forms of yoga. Others may simply rail

"If you have a friend or relative involved in a 'cult,' that you should make sure that you really understand the nature of the involvement."

against the body in general and claim it is dirty, temporary and worthless.

12. Abusive Charismatic Leadership. The leader or leaders are always people with some considerable talent for speaking. They may be very "nice, caring and good communicators." However, they demand obedience for mysterious reasons. Their word and no scripture is "law." All of the above could not be enforced without them. One should always be suspicious of a group that places emphasis on personalities, not on a teaching. Even if a teaching is involved, they may claim to be a prophet, avatar or messiah and have the absolute word on the teaching. The personality supersedes all scriptures.

Finally, I want to make it clear that the above is an "ideal type." Not all cults will have all these characteristics except for the one about the charismatic leadership.

However, most of those groups properly called cults, do have these characteristics to a great extent. Most, however, are not suicidal or violent toward themselves and others. Even the Church of Satan seems to be teaching that selfishness is a "good thing," and is not necessarily doing harm by private rituals. They too are protected by the First

Amendment to the Bill of Rights. Some Satanist groups may be harmful, but these are isolated incidents.

It should also be stressed that, if you have a friend or relative involved in a "cult," that you should make sure that you really understand the nature of the involvement. It may not be a cult with dangerous characteristics at all. It may not be harmful. He or she went there of their own will to answer some need. They will come back by their own will or probably not at all. Forced deprogramming can often do as much a harm as the alleged cult itself. Being passive, unaware and in need of spiritual life is what leads people to cults. We all have these tendencies and these needs.

To end, I want to offer two examples of cult operations in San Luis Obispo County. Professors Ericson, Enroth and Peters of

Westmont College describe on page 46 in their book "Old Time Religion in the Age of Aquarius" that in 1972 the Children of God commune bus stopped near the dormitory of Cal Poly. The group went through the dorm ask-

ing students if they had read the Bible, and if they loved Jesus and wanted to do something important for him. Many gave them large cash contributions, stereos, gold watch, jewelry, etc. Three students were persuaded to renounce the world and to board the bus. They were minors. The highest university authority, then President Robert E. Kennedy, called the Highway Patrol. The bus was stopped, and the students were recovered. When I was first at Cal Poly in 1975, I talked to a campus chaplain who had counseled these students.

Another incident around 1975 concerned the UFO Cult called Heavens Gate. At one time Marshall Applewhite and his companion called themselves "The Two." They filled an auditorium at Cuesta College. They were very convincing that they had been in flying saucers and that these would be landing soon for the elect few. These chosen few should leave all employment, family, friends and even abandon children. I got three papers on "The Two" in my world religions class, and two out of the three were fairly convinced that there was something to the cult's mythology. Unfortunately, I returned the papers or discarded them. However, it is a good example of how having psychic energy sucked off from you and given back can be mistaken for the spiritual. It is an incidence of how quasi-religion and pseudo science can masquerade as the scientific and spiritual truth. It is a seductive appeal to the lower imagination and emotional need rather than a directive to a path that could lead one to a higher consciousness or awareness about the meaning of human existence.

Judy D. Saltzman is a philosophy professor.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Resistance is Futile

As a member of the species *Homo Sapiens Nerdosa*, I am inspired to respond to Zeke Parnow's recent commentary on my sub-species. Parnow is correct in his observation that we are an apathetic species, however he fails to realize *why* we are apathetic.

You see, nerds are not activists because we've already figured out all the pressing issues of the day. For example:

1. STD's and unplanned pregnancy — Nerds hardly ever have sex, let alone procreate.
2. Over-population — see above.
3. The environment — working on cloning the spotted owl right now, yes-sir-ree.

We already live the life which will solve the petty problems caused by our evolutionary predecessors. There's no need for deep discussion. As for our supposedly "useless" discussions of odd topics, I would point out that nerd curiosity is the fountainhead of human progress.

The motion picture camera was invented by a nerd trying to find out if horses ever picked all their feet off the ground while running.

The air conditioner was invented by a nerd trying to keep his malaria patients cool. The next time you hear a nerd discussing odd topics, just think: the conversation you scoff at could be the key to building a stable fusion reactor or a cure for cancer.

So fear not, ye of lesser cranial capacity, when your progeny refuse to play outside in order to stay home and program their HPs, don't fret about their "lack of social skills" — instead take pride in the fact that you have brought into this world the next step in the evolution of mankind.

Kurt Horner

Architectural engineering sophomore

Mustang Daily welcomes contributions from readers. If you've read something that struck a nerve, let us know. Or, if you feel like striking a nerve, give it a go. Simply e-mail your contribution to jamiller@harp.aix.calpoly.edu.

Or, if you haven't reached the upper limits of technology, drop off a typed copy of your submission at Graphic Arts room 226. We reserve the right to edit out mistakes, but we promise not to change the meaning. Thanks. Go crazy.



MUSTANG DAILY

"Some zits are so big, they need their own Uttilidor."

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ASI from page 1

want to do.

"They wanted to open that and we said we can't do that because we're fiscally responsible," Cushman said.

Other points of discussion and dissension revolved around the proposed credit/no credit grading changes. The plan under consideration by the Academic Senate sets a limit of 16 units of credit/no credit for classes which are normally graded. The 16 units are divided into four units from a major course, four GE courses and four free electives or excess units.

"My guess is it will pass because most people will see it as a compromise," said Academic Senate Chair Harvey Greenwald.

Not all ASI members were so optimistic, with engineering majors voicing concern for students who are forbidden by their

departments to take classes credit/no credit or who do not have free elective units.

In preparation for the Cal Poly Plan referendum vote on April 30 and May 1, Tom Spengler, representative for the College of Business, encouraged members of ASI to wear new buttons saying, "Ask me about the Poly Plan."

"The worst thing that could happen is an uninformed vote," Spengler said. He encourages students to be skeptical but informed by coming to one of the open forums or to the ASI office for more information.

"The decision is going to be made by the students. Please come out and vote on the facts," he said.

ROBOT from page 1

"Most teams start building their robots in January and spend around \$100 on all the parts," Zuromski said.

Donations from Intel, Hewlett Packard, IBM and Microsoft help reduce costs that students must pay out of their own pockets.

Michael Carmel, an electrical engineering senior, became involved with the contest because of his interest in artificial intelligence.

"Minoring in artificial intelligence, I decided to put it to use," Carmel said. "It's real exciting working with robots."

Because the teams are working with current technology, programming computer systems and working with analog and digital signals, Zuromski said the competi-

tion is a great resume builder.

"This contest has real world applications, it exemplifies Cal Poly's hands-on experience," Zuromski said.

Although no class credit is given to participating teams, some students use the contest to fulfill their senior project requirement.

Teams finishing first or second will win either HP calculators or Intel overdrive chips.

Aside from the robot contest, the Computer Society plans to network together four computers for a Doom or Quake video game tournament.

For more information about Robo Rodentia III visit the Computer Society's website at <http://www.elee.calpoly.edu/clubs/cs>.

UNC from page 2

of the University of Arizona system and former administrator at Syracuse University. Broad became senior vice chancellor for administration and finance for the California State University system based in Long Beach in 1991. She became vice chancellor in 1993.

"She's really done it all," Holshouser said in making the announcement. Broad is "one of the few people with the vision to raise an institution to the next level."

Broad was in Chapel Hill Thursday and spoke before the board and the media after the announcement.

Spangler, who has headed the system for 11 years, told the board last August that he wanted to retire at the end of June at age 65.

Spangler was paid \$190,000 for the 1996-97 year, but is independently

wealthy and has divided his salary among the UNC schools. Spangler's salary is less than two chancellors — N.C. State and UNC-Chapel Hill, where each chancellor is paid \$212,000 — and some board members said the president's salary would have to be increased.

UNC - Wilmington Chancellor James Leutze apparently also was a top candidate for the job.

The California system has a \$4 billion annual budget and 340,000 students. The UNC system oversees a \$2 billion budget and 154,000 students.

Broad will be the third person to take the president job since the post was formed. Former UNC-Chapel Hill chancellor William Friday became the first system president in 1972.

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CLUB from page 8

The team will compete again on April 26 when it heads to Davis and then to a competition in Santa Barbara in May.

According to Grant, the league plans to formalize by next year and create a scoring system.

"We have got a lot of momentum," Grant said.

The men's waterpolo team is trying to get its own momentum going for its spring tournaments, after finishing the fall season 14-2 and ranked fourth in the nation.

The season starts late April and the team will head to Oregon State, U.C. Santa Cruz and a Ventura tournament to compete.

According to club president Will Schulz the team hopes to continue its success and increase its

RUGBY from page 8

The tournament includes about 10 other Division II schools including the University of San Diego, Pepperdine University and U.C. Santa Barbara, against who, Jensen believes the team will compete well.

Thanks to a No. 1 seeding in the league, Cal Poly will be the host for the team's first match in the playoffs, which occurs April 26 and 27. Cal Poly's main competition in the playoffs will come from second-seeded USC.

Jensen said that next year she hopes to see the successful team ready to move up to Division I action.

The men's lacrosse team

also had a winning season with a 7-3 record. Though the team, known for its defense, lost a heartbreaker to Sacramento State for the regular season title, Adam Stowe, a team assistant coach, said the team has reached an all-time high point.

"I think our team has finally realized the time and effort it takes to win, and they've been putting in more than the adequate amount to play really well," Stowe said.

Besides preparing for a few possible random matches, Stowe said the team's main focus is toward the match on April 20 against Chico State.

Stowe said that it will be a very exciting match and a stepping stone toward the

Final Four in San Diego at the end of the month.

The men's rugby team, 6-6 for the season, is another team that's continuing play into the spring.

The team took second place to UCSB last weekend at the Santa Barbara Invitational Rugby Tournament.

Terence Quinn said that the team is still practicing twice each week and has finished up its league play.

This weekend three team players, Mike Buckley, Pat Dowley and Kevin Pekar are heading down to Long Beach for the All-American tryouts.

Remember:

If you have an underground zit and you squeeze it, it will bleed.

MD TIP #17

(Just another helpful hint from your friends here at Mustang Daily.)

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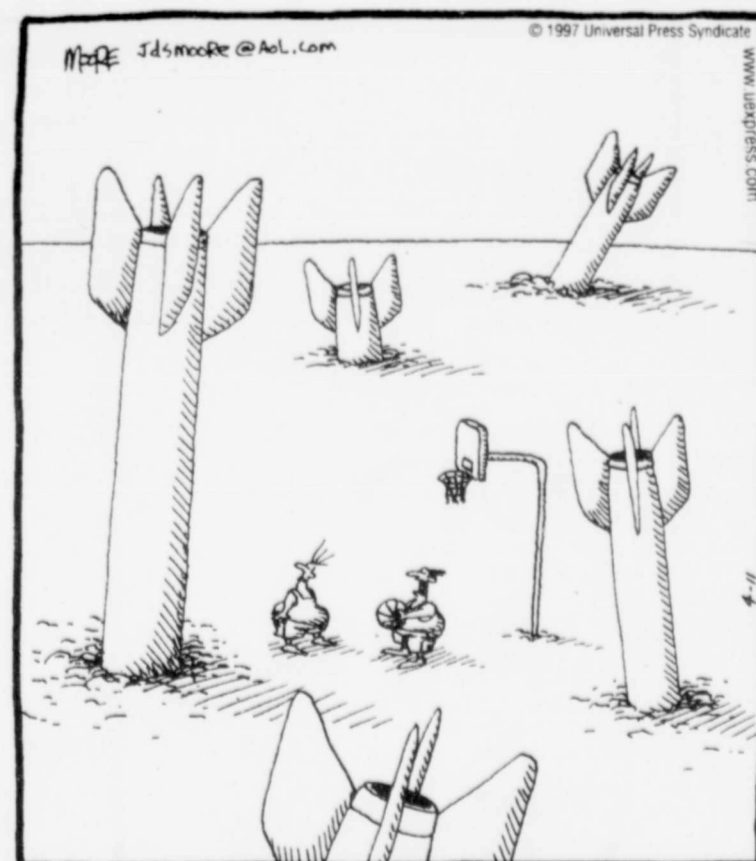
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SPORTS

8 FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 1997

MUSTANG DAILY

It's playoff time... for many Cal Poly club sports

Here's an update on the men's volleyball team, the Wheelmen, fencing and men's waterpolo.

By Kimberly Kaney
Daily Staff Writer

Winning is to achieve success in an effort or a venture, according to the American Heritage Dictionary.

Four Cal Poly sport clubs know exactly what winning is. And even though they are each completely different, winning happens to be the one thing they all have in common.

Men's volleyball is ranked 16th in the nation. The Cal Poly Wheelmen Cycling club is ranked fifth in mountain racing in

the nation, among the top five in the nation for road racing and are currently the leading team in the state. Men's waterpolo is starting its spring season after ranking fourth in the nation last year, while fencing is leading in the new intercollegiate league formed this year.

Over spring break men's volleyball (10-2) lost to No. 1 ranked Sacramento State in four games, 15-13, 4-15, 0-15, 6-15.

"They spanked us pretty good," club president Bryan Garbo said. The Mustangs' only other loss this season was to No. 2 seed

U.C. Berkeley. With a conference record of 6-1 they are leading the southern division.

The team is ranked the highest it ever has been as it heads for the playoffs in U.C. Santa Barbara this weekend. The Mustangs will play U.C. Davis on Friday, and if they win they will face Sacramento State on Saturday.

"If we bring up the intensity level we are unstoppable," Garbo said. He said Sacramento is the one game that is really important to the team.

Wins in the playoff games will improve the Mustangs' seeding as they head to the National Championship in Arizona on April 16 for a four-day tournament with 115 other teams.

The Wheelmen are also looking forward to their National Championship. They continue to be a dominant force in road and mountain bike racing.

During the break the Mustangs raced in the Sea Otter Classic. In the road race Scott Gordon placed second and Randy Parody placed fourth. In the mountain bike race Tim Cowley placed second, Ian Schiller placed third, Danny Minx placed seventh and Gordon placed eighth.

The Wheelmen won both the criterion and the hill climb time trial up Mt. Baldy on April 5 and 6 in the Pomona Race. In the criterium for the men's "D" team Kenny Gong placed first. For the men's "B" team Brian Chapman placed first and Oliver Pohl placed third.

In the criterion, for the women's "B" team Jumana Nabti placed first and for the women's "A" team Lisse d'Hansen placed first.

In the hill climb time trial up Mt. Baldy, the men's team led the way. For the "C" team Gordon placed first with Chris Newman coming in fourth. For the "B"

team Chapman placed first and Patrick Lee placed second. For the "A" team Alex Smith placed second.

"We are really doing well individually and as a team," Gordon said.

Saturday the Wheelmen head up to Chico State for a road race and criterium. Open House weekend they will be racing in UCLA and on April 26-27 they head to San Jose State University.

The Wheelmen will wrap up the season May 10-11 at Fort Ord in Monterey as Stanford hosts the State Championship.

They will also send a team of five men and five women to Durango, Colo., for the National Championship on May 24-25.

The Fencing team doesn't have a national championship to go to. This year Cal Poly along with U.C. Santa Cruz, San Jose State, U.C. Davis and Chico State has created an intercollegiate league with open invitationals for both individuals and teams to compete.

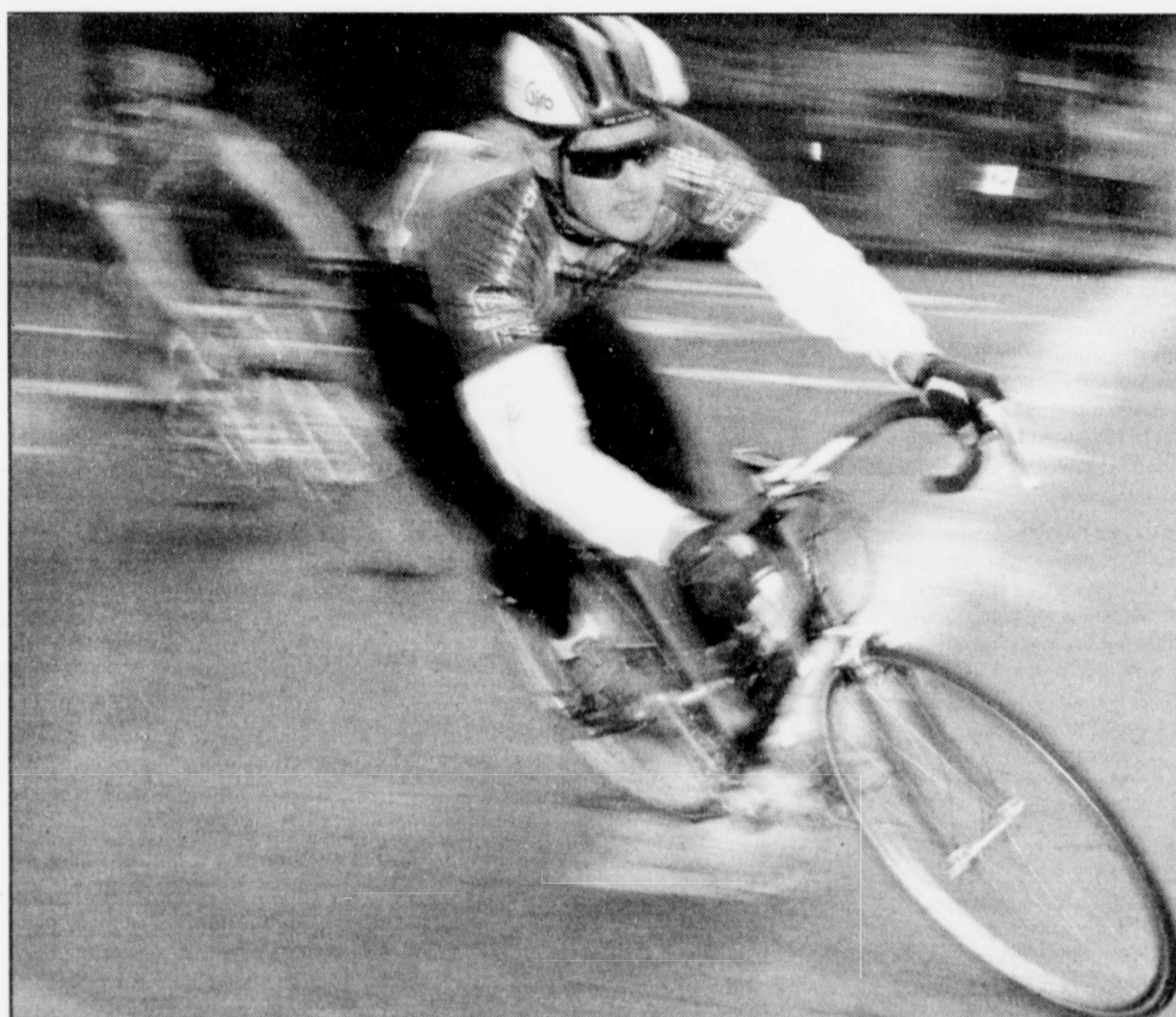
"The league is so new, a scoring system is not established, but if there was one Cal Poly would be far ahead," member David Grant said.

During a March 1 tournament in Santa Cruz in individual foil competition Nick Ustin placed second, Dan Sommerville placed third and David Grant placed fourth. In the team foil competition each team is required to be co-ed with at least one man and one woman. Cal Poly didn't have any women fencers, but they managed to place second when Santa Cruz loaned them a female team member.

"We all enjoy fencing, we all enjoy each other, it is good camaraderie," Grant said. Grant placed second at a small tournament in San Jose on March 22. He lost to the instructor of San Jose's team in a close match.

Another standout on the fencing team is senior Keith Steinbeck who has received a "C" rating from the United States Fencing Association. In fencing there are ratings from "A-E." "A" and "B" fencers compete in the Olympics. A "C" rating is the equivalent to a national champion according to Grant.

See CLUB page 7



Daily file photo

The Cal Poly Wheelmen head up to Chico State tomorrow for a road race and criterium. Next weekend they travel down to UCLA. They wrap up the season May 10-11 at the State Championships in Monterey.

Three winter sports teams still playing

By Martha Blackwell
Daily Staff Writer

Winter quarter is over. The rain, cold temperatures and heavy class loads are nothing more than slight memories. There are, however, a few remaining winter club sport teams playing strong into the spring.

Women's and men's lacrosse teams are gearing up for playoffs later this month.

Team captain and goalie Karen Jensen said the women's lacrosse team has had a good season. The team finished undefeated in its league and only lost to U.C. Santa Barbara. The team practices every day for two hours, preparing for this weekend's road trip to Santa Cruz for the Western States Tournament.

See RUGBY page 7



Daily file photo

The Cal Poly men's lacrosse team finished in second place in league play with a 7-3 record. The team is preparing for its April 20 game against Chico State - a stepping stone toward the Final Four next month in San Diego.

SCHEDULE

TODAY'S GAMES

- Baseball vs. U.C. Santa Barbara @ Santa Barbara, 2:30 p.m.*

SATURDAY'S GAMES

- Softball vs. Cal State Northridge @ Northridge, 1/3 p.m.*
- Baseball vs. U.C. Santa Barbara @ Santa Barbara, 1 p.m.*
- Men's tennis vs. U.C. Irvine @ Irvine, 1 p.m.
- Track and Field @. Pierce Invitational @ Berkeley.

SUNDAY'S GAMES

- Baseball vs. U.C. Santa Barbara @ Santa Barbara, 1 p.m.*
- Women's tennis vs. Cal State Long Beach @ Long Beach, 1 p.m.

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