Now’s the time to try commute OPTIONS
Try a new way of commuting this month, and you might win a bike or other prize in the OPTIONS: WIN Contest. Staff, faculty and students may enter the contest online at the OPTIONS Web site, http://www.commuteoptions.calpoly.edu. After registering online, log the number of days you bike, walk, carpool, vanpool or ride the bus through Nov. 30. The person who logs the most days will win the grand prize: a bicycle from Art’s Cyclery. Other prizes include sports accessories, movie passes, campus dining certificates, bowling passes and more.

Parking availability has changed recently on campus, and more changes are on the way. OPTIONS is encouraging individuals to plan ahead by trying some alternative ways of commuting. Check with the OPTIONS Web site for up-to-date information on what’s new.

Vanpool has vacancies
With fuel costs rising, now is the time to hop on a van and ride to work. Commuters will save money, as well as wear and tear on personal vehicles, by joining the vanpool program today. Rates range from $32 to $75 per month, depending on location and the number of riders per van. There’s no need to purchase a parking permit, and a daily stipend is credited to the participant’s Campus Express Card. There’s a guaranteed-ride-home program for life’s little emergencies, free lunch shuttles to various restaurants in San Luis Obispo and a shuttle available for medical appointments. For more information, contact Commuter & Access Services at ext. 6-6680 or commute@calpoly.edu. Or visit http://www.commuteoptions.calpoly.edu.

Lectures to address sexual assault
The Committee on Women’s Safety and Campus Climate will sponsor two discussions on sexual assault, including one session for men only. Diane L. Rosenfeld, a lecturer on Women’s Studies at Harvard University, will address sexual assault on Wednesday, Nov. 10. Rosenfeld co-produced the “Rape Is ...” documentary, featuring Eve Ensler, author of “The Vagina Monologues.” The “male only” audience session will be held in San Luis Lounge in the UU at 9:30 a.m. and will include a breakfast buffet sponsored by Student Affairs. It will be followed by a general presentation for all students, faculty and staff, from noon-1:30 p.m. in UU 220.

Food donations needed for holiday baskets
Interlocking Arms, a student-run volunteer group that works with the Women’s Shelter of San Luis Obispo, is seeking donations for holiday gift baskets. If any department wishes to organize a collection in their office, please notify Sara or Christa at ext. 6-2600.

The food will fill holiday baskets to be presented to women and children who are current clients of the Women’s Shelter in time for Thanksgiving. Items collected should be brought to the Women’s Center in the UU by 3 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 11. Items needed are: canned fruit, canned vegetables, cranberry sauce, flour, gravy, macaroni and cheese, oatmeal, piecrust, potatoes, pumpkin, rice, sugar, stuffing, yams, and salt and pepper.
Interdisciplinary course proposals sought
Faculty requests for a university wide institutional arrangement that is more friendly to the offering of interdisciplinary courses than our present college-based system have led to the introduction of a new course prefix (“University Studies,” UNIV). On a pilot basis, the provost will underwrite the offering of a few interdisciplinary courses, each taught by one or more faculty members whose departments will receive funding as necessary to hire replacement faculty. Proposals are being solicited for existing or experimental courses to be offered under the UNIV prefix in spring 2005. Submissions should be made to Vice Provost David Conn by Nov. 15, using the standard new course proposal form at http://www.calpoly.edu/~acadprog/curriculum/Course-form.doc. For more information, contact Mary Whiteford at ext. 6-5475.

Changes impact service-credit costs
Changes to costs for purchasing optional retirement service credit will become effective Dec. 31. The CalPERS Board of Administration adopted the changes that will impact service credit purchase costs for additional retirement service credit, military service credit, maternity/paternity, or Peace Corps, AmeriCorps Vista & AmeriCorps Service. Depending on each individual's situation, these changes may result in an increase or a decrease in the cost of purchase. Employees who are considering purchasing additional retirement service credit should compare the cost under the current and new actuarial assumptions as soon as possible. Directions to the Service Credit Cost Estimator are available on the Human Resources Benefits “What’s New” Web site at http://www.afd.calpoly.edu/hr/benefits/whatsnew.html. Forms for purchasing service credit are available in Human Resources, Administration Building, Room 110, or on the CalPERS Web site at http://www.calpers.ca.gov (forms and publications).

Instructions for nonprofit mailings
Are you responsible for departmental nonprofit mailings? If so, you are encouraged to attend one of two information seminars to be offered on Tuesday, Nov. 9, 10:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-2:30 p.m. in Chumash Auditorium. Nonprofit mail is printed matter such as pamphlets, newsletters, direct mail, or merchandise that weighs less than 16 ounces and is eligible for reduced rates as a nonprofit mailing. These seminars will be conducted by a representative from both Business Mailing Center and the United States Postal Service and will include information regarding the new process for nonprofit mail that will begin on Dec.1. For information, go to http://www.afd.calpoly.edu/distribution/permit.html.

SARC presents Roland Bunch
The Sustainable Agriculture Resource Consortium (SARC) will host international agriculturist and best-selling author Roland Bunch on Friday, Nov. 5, from 7-9 p.m., Business Rotunda (Room 3-213). Bunch will discuss “International Agriculture: Effective Rural Development with Cutting-Edge Technologies.” The lecture is free and open to the public.

Top Web designers to share expertise
Husband-and-wife team Lynda Weinman and Bruce Heavin, leaders in Web design and developers of the first Web-safe color wheel, will present a free public forum on "Digital Entrepreneurship and the Dynamic Colors of the Web," Friday, Nov. 5, from 2 to 4 p.m. in Philips Hall.