Prof fights rapid decline of endangered kangaroo rat

By Rob Lorenz

The Morro Bay kangaroo rat, a rodent indigenous to the Morro Bay/Montana de Oro area, is endangered, and a Cal Poly biology professor is trying to do something about it.

Biology professor Roger Gambs has been studying the habitat and the kangaroo rat itself since 1982, and before he started studying the Morro Bay kangaroo rat, Biology professor Aryan Roost studied it. In fact, the first extensive trapping study was conducted in 1918. Roost became involved in the studies in the late 1950s and has been involved in studying the rat ever since. Gambs became involved in the 1980s, and is concerned with the rapid dwindling of the animal.

"If you were to rank from one to 10 in California, the endangered mammals," said Gambs, "the rat would be at the very top of the list, in terms of numbers of them. There are so few of them it is ridiculous."

The number of rats has been dwindling since 1997, when they numbered 8,000. By 1994, the total number of Morro Bay kangaroo rats in the area was estimated at 21. Although that number had increased to an estimated 50 in 1986, there is still reason for concern.

"What we have done is try to look at the current ecological status of the rat," said Gambs. "That's what this whole report is about. And then from that, we try to develop management recommendations, and research recommendations, as well as trying to describe what the status of the rat is today."

Gambs said along with the estimated 50 animals in the wild now, about 23 to 30 are in captivity at San Simeon fish and wildlife lab.

The reasons for the dwindling numbers are many. The study cites the direct loss of habitat due to development, the change of vegetation in the area, predation and losses caused by vehicles, competition with other species of rodents, and the introduction of the population into several small sub-populations, and interbreeding.

Gambs has come up with a number of recommendations to help increase the population of the rat.

"We don't think that the (controlled) burn is the best way to manage habitat for rats," said Gambs. "One of our recommendations is to try some different habitat management other than what has been done. They (Fish and Wildlife service) have burned, they have cleared an area by hand with brush axes. The situation there was better than in the burned area, but it was really extensive. It took them about two months. We were going to recommend that they go out with bulldozers and tear up a small parcel of land."

The reason the habitat is altered in such a manner is that, according to Gambs, the Morro Bay kangaroo rat seems to thrive in disturbed habitats.

"If burns are all we have to work with, then that may be OK. But post-burns is not as similar to the rat's natural habitat as after a man-made clearing is established."

In the meantime, however, Gambs is monitoring the protected habitat into which they released four rats in 1987, he said. Of the two females still remain, one male has escaped but Gambs believes it will be recovered, and one has probably died.

"They don't breed like rabbits, so it's a very difficult," said Gambs. "It would be best to release them in stages back into the wild."

Study shows AIDS cases will stabilize in LA, SF; increase elsewhere in state

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A study predicts the number of AIDS cases in Los Angeles and San Francisco counties will level off and then decline by the early 1990s, but will continue to increase in other parts of the state.

The state Office of AIDS study estimates the overall number of AIDS cases will about triple over the next four years to 57,000 cases, but the predicted increase is considerably lower than other forecasts.

The vast majority of cases estimated in report will continue to be among gay men, in contrast to New York City where intravenous drug users account for about half the AIDS cases.

Some health officials say the trends in Los Angeles and San Francisco show that many potential AIDS cases were prevented in the early 1980s by a shift toward safer sexual practices by infected and uninfected gay men.

The increase in AIDS cases in rural areas and other California cities, meanwhile, may reflect that changes in sexual practices among gay men in those areas have not been as profound as elsewhere, health officials say.

"The future burden of AIDS in California may shift away from

Los Angeles to the San Francisco Bay Area, where we have been thinking about these things," said Cox, who added that the recent increase in AIDS cases in rural areas is "what we expected in 1984 when the disease first appear in California."
Opinion

MUSTANG DAILY
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Letters to the Editor

Cheating makes system corrupt

Editor — It irritates me to witness fellow students cheating. What happens to these students' values? Has the letter grade become more important than the knowledge gained by the students? I think that these students are damaging their ability to learn and to receive an education. Students should choose Cal Poly because they want to be here, not because they want to be here, not because they are forced to. So, those students who choose to alter the system should reconsider their objective for attending such a fine institution. For there are many students with a genuine desire to learn just waiting to be accepted to Cal Poly.

And, for fellow students and faculty to continue to tolerate this behavior is to approve of it.

Deborah Rogers
Business

An obstacle to real equality

Editor — Ironically, the last half of the last sentence of Peggy Lant's Feb. 17 letter printed Feb. 22 reads, "... and in finding themselves, they shall come to love the country they helped to create."

This love that dared not speak its name, now speaks it out; now can speak it freely. It imagines, wears ipsoception; for out of persecution rises the martyr, and out of the martyr rises the heroine, and the heroine yields power.

She experiences distinction, and her play is glorified.

Distinctly, glory, and power won because of one's own discrimination of one's own race, color, creed, sex, or sexual preference. That won because of one's own values and beliefs can't withstand verbal challenges then there's something wrong with one's values and beliefs.

Mlama is rising right into the hands of Christian fundamentalists who claim the followers of Muhammad are nothing but heathen barbarians. If the Muslim world doesn't quickly do something to put an end to this madness, more harm will be done to Islam than Salman Rushdie's book could have ever done.

Mark Cassidy
Biological Science

BLOOM COUNTY

by Berke Breathed

Overzealous ticket givers

As I turned onto Kentucky from Hathaway on my bike, I was greeted by a sight that sent shivers down my spine. They had me and there was no place to run. There were 20 squad cars, seven motorcycles, and a myriad of police officers decked out in full riot gear, just waiting for a hardened criminal such as myself to run one of their precious stop signs. One of the officers, astride his ornery motorcycle, pointed an authoritative finger at me as I headed toward me at three miles an hour. I pressed down hard on the brakes because I knew that if I went even an inch past him, my life wouldn't be worth a plugged nickel. I had broken the stop sign, and most of San Luis Obispo's finest had seen the crime with their own steel, determined eyes. I put my hands in front of me, expecting to be handcuffed and roughly thrown in the back of a squad car, but I was to be one of the lucky ones. He only wrote me a ticket, and I was free to run more stop signs, to commit more unimpeachable crimes.

OK, granted, I ran a stop sign. It is against the law. And sure, it did exacerbate just a bit. When I turned onto Kentucky, there were only three motorcycle cops waiting there. But that brings me to my point. Why, when the San Luis Obispo Police Department only has five officers who are on duty at any one time, is it sitting idly on Kentucky waiting for us to commit more stop sign violations? I think it's safe to assume that the three officers were the only motorcycle cops on duty at the time.

So, for the record, there were six officers on Kentucky nailing errant stop sign runners. I thought, then, who was keeping law and order throughout the remainder of the 5,500-kilometer police force? San Luis Obispo High School students could have been doing doughnuts in the middle of Hilgaard, for all these fine officers knew.

My other gripe is that they chose to stake out a stop sign that shouldn't even be there in the first place, and is therefore ignored by the police officer, the student, or otherwise. Obviously, people are going to run a stop sign when they can look years farther down the road than we are looking at the occurrence traffic. I mean, a yield sign at this intersection would be overkill. The Kentucky Avenue stop sign should be there, but get rid of the two on Hathaway. They're worthless. I wonder if the intersection is a regular part of the police department assignments. I can see it now, "Kaminsky, get down there to Kentucky and nail any of those dirty, stinking college students who don't bring their bikes to a full stop on Hathaway. If you get them a stop sign on a Saturday, they'll be turning right on red without coming to a full stop tomorrow, and the next thing you know, they'll be up for five to 10 at San Quentin for armed robbery.

I wonder if, should we, the taxpayers, pay for uniformed police officers, when all they are going to do is to write minor traffic tickets for running a stop sign? It seems like they would have more important things to do. Maybe it's just me, but I'd like to feel secure in knowing that the police officers in my town were doing more than casing doughnuts, drinking coffee and sitting in Mabel about the old times. Oh, and I'd rather not see three motorcycle cops sitting on a traffic light in the middle of the ball and catching college students as they are running stop signs.

Reporter's Notebook

By Rob Lorenz

Is the end of Islam nearing?

Editor — Will the uproar over Universal Graphics Systems: Laura Silverberg, General Mill Skerry, Production Manager: Mgr Paste-up: Lisa Wong, Mgr. Electronic Imaging: Derek Richmond. Mgr Camera/Stripping; Gary Wood, Mgr Sheetfed; Rich
Commentary

A Brown by any other name...

By Saro Giuliano Rizzo

A little over two weeks ago, Ronald Brown was elected chairman of the Democratic National Committee. With this victory he became the first black to head one of the country's two major political parties.

His new position came at the latest step in a career that has evolved from the streets of Harlem, through the ranks of the Urban League and into the power world of Capitol Hill lobbying.

Along with invaluable knowledge of internal Democratic Party dynamics gained from years as deputy chair, Brown also brings to the position practical campaign experience acquired from working on both Senator Edward Kennedy and Jesse Jackson's presidential bids.

Besides excellent credentials, his integrity is impeccable. As Lanny Davis, a white Democratic activist and law partner of Brown said, "Ron is a good friend, a straight hitter, loyal and as mainstream a Democrat as I can think of."

As chair, Brown stated that he will develop strategies to both extend the Democratic base amongst poor minorities and to strengthen the party's appeal to defecting whites. However, this task will not be easy.

Brown comes to the party at a crucial time. The party is still plagued with the factionalism within that has been so apparent since the historic 1968 Chicago convention.

This divide rears again during the last presidential election when the Dokakis campaign failed to win broad based party support. Winning "back the so-called Reagan Democrats" from GOP ranks will not be easy for Brown, who is also faced with placating black constituents who are upset over Jerry's handling of Jackson in 1988.

But for all his talents, Brown will not play color politics. Illinois State Comptroller Roland Burris said, "Each person has to make his bed. Then when you're in bed there's no room for being unkind on both sides. He has not committed all his eggs to black, black. He has committed his eggs to coalition politics."

Brown has yet to outline his strategies. With tactful and cautious way, he said "I will work through a transition process, to come up with the best people with the best skills. I'm not going to rush it."

Saro Giuliano Rizzo is a philosophy minor.

The return of Jerry Brown

'Brilliant idealist' has visions state needs

By Iliana Ung

The media has renewed its love affair in Jerry Brown. The Los Angeles Times described him as the "Dream Merchant." Newsweek called him a "California comeback," while biographer Robert Pact coined him the "philosopher prince."

No matter what you call him, Californians are fascinated by Edmund G. Brown, Jr. Two weeks ago, state Democrats gathered in Sacramento to elect the new party chairman. In a state as unpredictable as California, and in a time of great uncertainty for Democratic political strategists who are reevaluating the party's liberal image, grassroots activists cast the darling of Liberalism and counterculture into what has until now been a cameo role on the political stage.

The unpaid position of state party chairman has only been a supporting role to the more powerful elected officials, but the passage of campaign reform Proposition 73 has given political parties greater clout.

Twelve books and hundreds of articles have been written about Brown as an enigma. As the young bachelor governor of the most populous state, Brown was blessed with the good fortune of name and breeding. He was called the champion of "quality-of-life" issues. His moral order of social justice called for subsidizing the poor while giving corporations tax breaks in the form of the abolition of California's income tax.

Unfortunately, California's middle-class, who were exasperated with the state of the economy, found in Brown a savior. The return of Jerry Brown led to his election as governor of the state in 1974.

A news article about the governor who avoids luxuries while dating Liv Ullman, Natalie Wood, Candice Bergen and Linda Ronstadt attract interest. But living under the misery effects of the Brown administration did not play well with Californians of the 70s who were trying to find the good life rather than appreciate the quality of life.

One can expect Edmund G. Brown, Jr. to remain the character he has created — brilliant idealist, a grand inquisitor with a vision. Brown is not a nuts and bolts detail man. He paints his great picture of a better world and he depends on others to bring those ideas to life.

When the Democrats waged a successful campaign in 1986 on education issues, Brown, Jr. was the leader. Democratic liberals looked for Jerry Brown to help save the Court's integrity but the philosophical former governor made way for the more pragmatic chief justice, Chief Justice Rose Bird. Brown had passed over some very well qualified judges in order to appoint a woman to the Supreme Court. The break in tradition angered party loyalists but the real slap to the party's face came recently when Brown's judicial choice, Bird was able to exercise her great labor diplomacy in settling the long United Farm Workers dispute which had dragged on for years.

"The return of Jerry Brown" is the "Dream Merchant." He is a politician cast from a different mold, and Californians know they need not be satisfied with a winter, social or judicial. Brown had passed over some very well qualified judges in order to appoint a woman to the Supreme Court. The break in tradition angered party loyalists but the real slap to the party's face came recently when Brown's judicial choice, Rose Bird, was able to exercise her great labor diplomacy in settling the long United Farm Workers dispute which had dragged on for years.

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Landry says he probably won’t coach again

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Tom Landry was released, somehow relieved as he cleaned out his desk.

If he was bitter over being fired after 29 years as the Cowboys’ head coach he never showed it. The only emotion he displayed Sunday was a smile.

He looked a little tired, like he had lost some sleep in the hectic last 48 hours.

In Landry’s first interview since he was replaced by Miami Hurricanes’ head coach Jimmy Johnson, he told The Associated Press he will probably not coach again. It wouldn’t be fair to keep me around, hanging over everybody’s shoulder,” he said.

And even though he was the only coach the Cowboys had in their 29 years, Landry said, “People will forget me pretty quick.”

Landry was fired after Arkansas oilman Jerry Jones bought the team in Landry’s first interview since he was replaced by Miami Hurricanes’ head coach Jimmy Johnson.

“If he was bitter over being around anymore, hanging over everybody’s shoulder,” he said.

Even though he said he only coach the Cowboys had in their 29 years, Landry said, “People will forget me pretty quick.”

Landry said he knew his career was finished when Jones was announced as the new owner. “No one had to tell me. I would have had to be pretty stupid not to know when they got on the airplane to come see me,” Landry said.

Though it was an emotional experience, Landry said: “I’m not upset over what happened. I’ve never been one to get upset, because I accept people as they are. Sure, the firing could have been handled better, but I won’t get upset over it.”

Landry said it might have been best if he had stepped down three years ago, but that he felt an obligation to bring Dallas back to one more Super Bowl. The Cowboys went 3-11 last year, the second worst season in their history.

“I probably should have gotten out, but I really enjoyed the challenge of bringing a team to that game. In fact, I probably enjoyed the challenge of it more than the actual game,” he said.

“I don’t like the term ‘bitter’...but sometimes it’s not what you know much as it is in this case, who you know. And I didn’t know Jerry Jones.”

But that’s the way he feels sorry for Schramm. “Tex has really showed a lot of emotion about this whole ordeal, and I guess that’s understandable. You’re around someone as long as we’ve been around each other. But Tom will probably have a harder time than I will, because it looks like he’s going to have some troubles (restrictions) put on him.”

Poly takes five-team meet in Riverside

The Cal Poly Women’s track team left 40 percent of its scoring potential home on Saturday but still came away with a victory as a five-team meet at UC Riverside.

The Mustangs finished with a total of 136 points far out distancing their nearest opponents by 100 points.

Tricia Lundberg qualified for the nationals with a 151-foot toss in the javelin throw. Coach Harter said that Lundberg looks to be a strong All-American candidate this year.

Freshman Lori Phillips had a personal best in the high jump at 5 foot-6 inches and finished 3rd in the 200-meter and 100-meter high hurdle plus and anchored the 800-meter relay in a first place win.

An overconfident Cal Poly Rugby Club was almost knocked into a hole by a club of lesser ability, Visalia Rugby Club. This non-league match, which was played mostly for pride, turned into a loss by a club of lesser ability, Visalia Rugby Club. This non-league match, which was played mostly for pride, turned into a loss by a club of lesser ability.

By Rob Fraser Special to the Daily

An overconfident Cal Poly Rugby Club was almost knocked into a hole by a club of lesser ability, Visalia Rugby Club. This non-league match, which was played mostly for pride, turned into a loss by a club of lesser ability.

The appeals court, in the decision made Friday and leading the way for the Mustangs throughout the second half of play, Cal Poly will play to host Long Beach this Saturday at 1 p.m. at Biddle Park.

Amount in Boggs’ suit cut

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — An appeals court has thrown out a $11.5 million damage claim by a former girlfriend who had been looking forward to a trial of a lawsuit against slugger Wade Boggs, ruling his former girlfriend can’t sue him for emotional distress.

The 4th District Court of Appeal ruling means Margo Adams cannot seek the $11.5 million in pain she had hoped to get the most amount of money for in pain her attorney contended Boggs caused her by allegedly accusing her of extortion in an FBI interview, said attorney Jennifer King.

The appeals court left intact the portion of the lawsuit in which Adams seeks $500,000 for loss of income and expenses she alleges Boggs caused her but never delivered in the four years she traveled with him on road trips, said King.

“We are extremely happy with this decision and with King. ‘The part of the lawsuit they had hoped to get the most amount of money for is now gone.’

The suit contends that Boggs, who is married, and Adams essentially lived together during the Red Sox road trips, and that by breaking off the affair, Boggs broke an oral contract that called for her to provide companionship.

King has argued that if such a contract existed, it necessarily would have included sex. A contract between the two, she alleged, in validating any legal claim by any party to such a contract, King said.

Adams attorney, James Morris, was unavailable for comment Sunday. A call to his office was not answered.

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Tower pledge to avoid alcohol intended to save battle

WASHINGTON (AP) — John Tower, angering for Democratic support in his confirmation battle, says he will swear off alcohol if he is approved as defense secretary, and would be "obliged to resign" if he broke that promise.

As Tower made his extraor­dinary promise Sunday in televised interviews with ABC-TV's "This Week With David Brinkley" and Cable News Network's "Newsmaker Sunday," he said that if confirmed, during the course of his tenure as secretary of defense, he will not consume beer, wine or spirits of any kind.

"I hereby swear and undertake that if confirmed, during the course of my tenure as secretary of defense, I will not consume beer, wine or spirits of any kind," he said.

Tower also vowed that if he broke his pledge not to drink, he would step down. "I think I'd be obligated to resign if I broke the pledge. I've never broken a pledge in my life," said the former senator.

Dissident of China says
Bush regret 'a beginning'

BEIJING (AP) — Fang Lizhi, the dissident Chinese physicist who prevented an attended ban­quet given by President Bush, said today the president's statement of regret was "a beginning," but he hoped for more.

White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said Bush today sought the Chinese for the first time since they had transferred and are seeking help.

They insisted that the White House seek help.

The former senator's office said today that he had been barred from the banquet.

Police then tailed the couple to the banquet when the White House had been leaking information about the former senator's drinking habits.

The Committee chairman coupled his statement with a complaint that the Chinese White House was leaking information from the FBI's background report on Tower to a bid to rescue the nomination.

Nunn's Democratic-controlled committee voted 11-9 along party lines last Thursday to recom­mend that the full Senate reject Tower's nomination, with the chairman citing allegations of excessive drinking by the nominee.

"The comments by Tower and Nunn were a prelude to an inten­sive week of political maneuver­ing over the nomination, which the full Senate is expected to debate beginning this week.

President Bush intends to take personal charge of the lobbying campaign for Tower, and has in­vited several Democrats to the White House to discuss the issue later in the week.

But Tower wasn't waiting for Bush to return home from his Asian trip.

"Noting the principal concern of Senator Nunn and other members of the Senate relative to my confirmation as secretary of defense, namely the extent to which I may engage in excessive use of beverage alcohol, let me state that I have never been an alcoholic nor dependent on alcohol," Tower said in a state­ment he read on ABC-TV's "This Week With David Brinkley" and Cable News Network's "Newsmaker Sunday."

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Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole called Tower's pledge "very, very significant" and urged Democrats and Republicans to reassess the nomination.

"My view is it ought to be a new ball game. We ought to sit down and try to work it out and raise any hard feelings," Dole said.

Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, said Tower's pledge "is another factor to be considered" as he agreed to a meeting with Dole today.

Sen. Howard Heflin, D-Ala., an undecided senator whom the Bush administration hopes it can convince, said Tower's vow is important. "He has a reputation as a man of his word," Heflin said.

Nunn had no comment on Tower's pledge, according to Ar­nold Punaro, a member of the Armed Services Committee staff.

President Bush begins courting undecided Democrats on Tuesday in hopes of capturing enough votes for Tower to win confirmation. Democrats hold a 55-45 majority in the Senate, meaning Bush must pick up at least five Democrats to assure Tower's confirmation.

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Employee shortage didn’t do email mailroom

By Kathryn Brunell
Staff Writer

The mailroom is back to normal after its employee shortage during winter break.

"He was selected from approx­imately 60 applicants," said Carlos Diaz, who was hired for the job of mailroom and telecommunications assistant.

"They were happy with our decision," said Ray Macias, procurement and support services manager.

"We are working with equipment and procedures that are 30 years old," said Diaz. "We’re working to improve the situation."
LACTOSE is one element the DPTC is working to remove from dairy products.

Often people are lactose intolerant, Geilman said. "By removing lactose to produce a dairy product, then those people can get the benefit of the protein and calcium without the discomfort of lactose."

The DPTC is looking at ways to keep the protein content high in certain cheeses. Twenty percent of the protein leaves when the whey is removed in the cheese-making process. Microwavable cheese is another possible product the American population may be interested in. The production of Hispanic cheeses is another project that is being worked on. This is a challenge, Geilman said, because there are certain bacteria that can cause death in certain Hispanic cheeses. "We want to help develop a procedure to ensure the problems with this cheese," are minimized, he said.

The possibility of a drink like Gatorade is being investigated as well. The by-products of milk — sugar, water, and minerals — could be used for this type of a product. The DPTC is also doing research into why the consumption of different products are decreasing.

"Cottage cheese is a low-calorie product," Geilman said, but consumption of this product is down. A fake fat product is being considered. This product will have the flavor and texture of butter or fat, but will really be a type of protein from milk by-products.

Geilman said the ultimate goal of DPTC is to "make dairy products more acceptable to what consumers are looking for."

The DPTC will probably become expanding in the future, Geilman said. Using the campus population for taste tests is a possibility. Undergraduates and graduate students are also involved in the research process. The research labs are located in the Food Processing Building.