Student reports racial hate crime

By Carolyn Nielsen
Staff Writer

A Cal Poly student was robbed and beaten this weekend in what San Luis Obispo police are calling a racially motivated hate crime.

Eze Okebata, an electronic engineering senior from Nigeria, suffered a minor injury to his left eye when he was attacked by three white males who hit him and stole his bicycle, police reports said.

Okebata told police his attackers yelled threatening racial slurs at him during the incident.

According to the report, he was turning onto Mill Street from California Boulevard at 1:50 a.m. Saturday when his bicycle lock fell on the sidewalk.

He told police when he bent down to pick up the lock, three men in their early 20s knocked off his bicycle and punched him in the face numerous times.

The report said the men then ran away with his mountain bike. His fancy pack containing his identification, credit cards and British currency was attached to the bike.

Kendall Holbeck, a biology junior who lives on California Boulevard, said Okebata came to his door immediately after the attack. Holbeck said he helped Okebata look for the assailants, but didn't find anyone. Holbeck said his roommate, Tim Cusdill, a biology junior, then called the police to report the attack.

Okebata declined to comment to the Mustang Daily on the incident.

His roommate Joseph Horne, an electronic engineering student, said "I don't feel safe down here anymore." He said that he, Okebata and other international students "have had enough of this." He said he "hasn't felt safe down here in six months and I think this is the final straw." He added, "I don't think I can stay here anymore."

Services held for accident victims

By Bryan Bailey
Staff Writer

Funeral services for Kristine D. Evans and Laura LeAnn Pluma, both 22-year-old Cal Poly students who were lost in an April 4 boating accident, were held Sunday in San Luis Obispo.

Services for the third crew member, 18-year-old Cal Poly freshman Mark Daniel Wingren, will be held Wednesday, April 15, in Lafayette, Calif., said Sabra Parish, Wingren's aunt.

A plaque signed by Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker and Robert C. Stempel, chairman of General Motors, was presented to each award winner at a luncheon Friday afternoon at the Alumni House.

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Wheelchair sprint racer inspires Poly disabled

World-class athlete recounts accident, past challenges

By Alex P. Ramos
Staff Writer

Bob Gibson, a world-class wheelchair sprinter and Cal Poly graduate, described the trauma and challenges of coming his challenges to about 25 students during Disabled Awareness Day at the University Union Thursday.

In 1978, at the age of 17, Gibson went on a joyride with a friend and ended up in the hospital with a broken back and torn spinal cord.

"We blew off the road at 130 mph and hit six trees," Gibson said.

"My friend died." He said he was in the hospital for 10 days and when he woke up, "it was like starting a new life."

"It wasn't really the chair, but the stigma attached to it," he said. "It's took away mobility, didn't fit, and was very heavy."

He felt bothered by the fact that people were looking at the chair the person was in instead of the person in the chair.

His racing career began in 1982 when he met Barbara Chambers, a national wheelchair athletic coach, while he was in Arizona.

In 1984 he went to the national wheelchair competition and set the record for the 100-meter dash.

In 1985, he transferred to Cal State Long Beach and again went to nationals to record a win.

Politics...

Assemblywoman Andrea Seastrand gave a speech at Vista Grande Restaurant in which she addressed some key issues.

A helping hand...

Students relay their experiences helping to build homes for needy families in Tijuana, Mexico, during spring break.

Opinion...

A little research goes a long way: ASI President David Kopic addresses the allegations of Gail Wilson.
BORIS YELTSIN'S CABINET SUBMITS RESIGNATION

MOSCOW (AP) — The Cabinet of President Boris Yeltsin submitted its resignation en masse Monday, telling a combative parliament that abandoning free market reforms could heighten inflation and block Russia's entry into the world marketplace.

If Yeltsin accepts the resignations by Russia's top dozen or so officials, it would create the worst governmental crisis since the collapse of the Soviet Union last December.

Yeltsin, who is both president and prime minister, asked his ministers to continue working a few days longer through the end of the parliament session, when he will decide whether to accept the resignations, Deputy Premier Yegor Gaidar said.

Several legislators said they thought the resignations were a bluff, and Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov addressed the ministers with such derision that they walked out of the 1,046-member Congress of People's Deputies.

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Power outage darkens city, halts business

CHICAGO (AP) - A break in an underground tunnel sent river water surging into office building basements today, blacking out most of downtown and halting trading on the Chicago Board of Trade and the Mercantile Exchange.

Commonwealth Edison Co. initially shut power to a 12-square-block section of Chicago's downtown Loop at 10:48 a.m. because of the flooding. Fire Commissioner Raymond Orozco ordered thousands of workers evacuated, including those in City Hall and the Cook County building.

No injuries were reported. The Merco joined the Chicago Board of Trade in suspending all trading for the day after authorities expanded boundaries of the area affected to include most of downtown. The evacuations were required because of flooding of basements where electrical systems are located, authorities said.

"Water and electricity don't mix, and we're doing this for the people's safety," said Margaret Winters, spokeswoman for the electric company.

The problem occurred in a retaining wall along the Chicago River.

Orange County bans smoking in jail system

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — A ban on smoking went into effect Monday for Orange County's jail system, which became the latest lockup to join a growing nationwide anti-smoking trend.

As many as 40 percent of local detention centers across the country have outlawed smoking since 1988, according to some estimates.

"This is really a phenomenon that is picking up speed, snowballing, and it's spreading around the country in numbers and popularity," said Wayne Huggins, director of the U.S. National Institute of Corrections in Washington.

State and federal facilities have been slower to pick up the trend but are phasing in a smoking ban as well, officials said.

Authorities in Los Angeles, Riverside, Ventura and San Diego counties, where smoking is forbidden in jails, call the program a success. They point to decreases in worker sick days, jail fires and wear and tear on facilities.

"There were a lot of doomsayers who predicted insurrections and riots and all..." See STATE, page 8

Supervisors hold regular meeting, public welcome

The San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors is holding a regular public meeting today at 9 a.m. in the board chambers of the County Government Center.

Agendas of regular meetings can be obtained in the County Administrative Office, room 370 of the County Government Center, or at the SLO City-County Public Library.

Members of the public wishing to address the board on matters other than scheduled items may do so when recognized by the chairman.

Those wishing to speak should fill out an appearance request form located at the back of the board chambers and hand it to the clerk.

See WORLD, page 6

See STATE, page 8

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See WORLD, page 6

See STATE, page 8
Seastrand speaks on pressing issues

By Alex P. Ramos
Staff Writer

The state budget crunch and reapportionment were the two hottest issues Assemblywoman Andrea Seastrand addressed during an afternoon luncheon Friday.

A great portion of the discussion, however, was spent addressing the dilemma over funding for the California State University system.

Seastrand's speech, held at Vista Grande Restaurant, was attended by several Cal Poly professors and a number of City Council members.

"We have the bond issue on the June ballot," said Seastrand, R-29th District, in reference to an initiative that would provide funds for both the CSU system and K-12 education.

"It will be interesting to see what happens. My crystal ball is very cloudy."

Another factor in the California money puzzle is the June 30 deadline on the California state budget.

"We have a budget problem. I hope everybody realizes the seriousness of what we're in," Seastrand said.

Another issue Seastrand took seriously was reapportionment and California's redistricting plan.

"The current plan is a very good plan for the state of California," she said.

See SEASTRAND, page 6

Needy family gets real break

Students build house for family over spring vacation

By Jennifer White
Staff Writer

While many students were tanning their bodies, taking trips or earning a few dollars during spring break, some Cal Poly students were doing something for nothing.

A group of engineering majors and some friends spent most of their vacation in Tijuana building a house for a needy family.

Rogelio Fontes, a civil engineering senior, was the person behind the project. Not only did he come up with the idea, but he also did most of the organizing and the fund raising.

Fontes, a native of Tijuana, said that he thought of the idea after a priest had told him about a family of seven people who were living in two rooms, one of which was part of a kitchen.

During winter quarter, Fontes discussed his idea with Jeff Falero, president of the Society of Civil Engineers.

Falero, a civil engineering senior, liked the idea and brought it before an SCE meeting at which he asked for volunteers for the project.

Fontes said that once people started volunteering, he knew the project was underway and that money needed to be raised.

See CONSTRUCTION, page 7
"Grabbing city council by the gonads" is a little extreme
By Ann McMahon

Can someone please explain it? What qualifies a city council candidate to be deemed "pro-student," and what are the "student issues and concerns" that such a candidate should attend to? What causes might he or she embrace?

After reading the March 16 Mustang Daily (Special City Edition) and other more recent articles about Cal Poly Students' Commission Organized for Political Equality (PolySCOPE), I sure don't know. I wonder whether I have missed something. I wonder whether I have missed something. I wonder whether I have missed something. I know we have things in common.

So, fellow students, what are your concerns? I've seen mention of local liens on the number of non-related people living under one roof and efforts to legislate where and when you can park your car overnight—moves labeled "anti-student" by some. These are issues of local control, and I admit there may be some legitimate reason for student disaffection with the City Council's handling of them. But I am still waiting to read something—anything—that explains what it is that students want and expect from city or county government, and, more importantly, what they expect from themselves and their peers in order to get it. Nowhere has there been any admission or acknowledgment that some of the "anti-student" best in local politics is directly a result of students stepping over the line of good citizenship. I don't blame Residents for Quality Neighborhoods and others in the community for being fed up with the shenanigans of drunk and rowdy students, loud parties and strangers urinating on their rhododendrons—not to mention the growing list of student disaffections.

I am uneasy about the mood of Jason Foster's column, "Students should grab government by the gonads" (Mustang Daily, March 16). I appreciate the goals of PolySCOPE and any other organization trying to encourage more people to vote. But if this column is representative of the feelings and attitudes of Cal Poly students, it is worrisome. Just don't see that Cal Poly students have that much to criticize about local government. On the other hand, I do see that the problems local government and law enforcement have with students.

Let's face it, during the last few years there have been some pretty embarrassing episodes for the university. And as far as the bad apple argument—well, can only explain so much.

It may not be fair, but Cal Poly students have a way to go before they can regain the trust and respect of their neighbors in the community. It must be EARNED, not voted in. I don't see how recent statements made in Mustang Daily by Foster, who called the City Council "mostly indifferent or ignorant" (March 16), and Vince Battaglia, who accused the City Council of being "absolutely out of touch" (April 9), can do much but aggravate and anger people in the community—especially the City Council.

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Stop wasting the student's money!

By David Kapic

How easy it is to play the part of skeptic. How easy it is to believe everything one reads without doing one's own personal research. How easy it is to give credibility to someone like Gail Wilson who can talk a big story. It is time for the other side of the story to be told about ASI. ASI need not continue to sit silently by while Gail Wilson tarnishes its reputation with unfounded accusations.

Let's cut to the chase. Gail Wilson has been on a personal mission to make life miserable for ASI Executive Director Roger Conway for the past few years. Now she seems to have grabbed the attention of the Poly Review and Dennis Long and seems to have stepped up her attack. In her recent letter attacking Roger Conway's personal character she has discredited ASI in the eyes of many students.

Gail Wilson's primary methods of attack range from derogatory news articles to most recently a petition to the ASI Board of Directors asking them to prevent the School of Ag from being pushed out much like its statement was incorrect. Long is a candidate for ASI Board of Directors. If he wins, the petition would be removed from the editorial. That chunk of type explained that should have read: "I am determined to run for the board of directors of ASI to prevent the School of Agriculture from disappearing from the editorial. That chunk of type explained that should have read: "I am determined to run for the board of directors to prevent the School of Agriculture from disappearing from the editorial."

According to that report: "Our conclusion is that all but one of the allegations are either without merit whatsoever or simply overly critical of a less than perfect organization in decision-making. Overall, we believe that the San Luis Obispo personnel committee, through union director, through investigative dedication, initiative and creativity, performs in an exemplary manner in a difficult court and proves her accusations are wrong."

Gail Wilson has diverted hundreds of hours of stu-
dent-funded staff time and thousands of dollars in legal fees to respond to her endless barrage of allegations and charges. As a public benefit corporation, we are saddled with a responsibility to investigate and respond to these allegations. She has precipitated investigations and extended reviews by the Trustee's Auditors, the Attorney General's office, and the San Luis Obispo University internal reviews. If only we could utilize these resources (people and dollars) to support more student programs.

Ms. Wilson, you are the one now wrestling with. If ASI does go to court, it will be found in the right. The problem is that proving one is right may cost ASI's constituents a lot of money. How long would you allow someone to discredit you personally before you would take action?

ASI's constituents do not have to always agree with everything ASI does and should not stay silent when they would like to see changes. Other points of view are healthy and often provide an avenue to produce creative solutions to very real problems.

We welcome and encourage questions and appropriate scrutiny by concerned students or concerned organizations. However, what Ms. Wilson has created is a long-term systematic vendetta against a valued employee of ASI. It has gone too far. Enough is enough.

If you have any questions as to anything ASI has ever done, please do some investigating of your own. Do not simply believe false accusations or facts that may not be true.

The fact is that the personnel committee voted its approval only after clear justification of its necessity. The fact is the budget to fund the position was reviewed at five levels, including Auxiliary and Business Services in the Office of the Chancellor, before funding was approved and a national search conducted.

The fact is the Search Committee was chaired by Shawn Reeves and the committee's first choice was selected by the executive committee.

Should Gail Wilson's continual harassment be viewed as credible? Maybe we should look back to the 1989 CSU Trustees' Staff Audit on the Julian A. McPhee University Union. According to that report: "Our conclusion is that all but one of the allegations are either without merit whatsoever or simply overly critical of a less than perfect organization in decision-making. Overall, we believe that the San Luis Obispo personnel committee, through union director, through investigative dedication, initiative and creativity, performs in an exemplary manner in a difficult court and proves her accusations are wrong."

Correction

In yesterday's issue of Mustang Daily, David H. Long's candidate statement was incorrect. Long is a candidate for ASI Board of Directors in the School of Agriculture. Long got a student teacher evaluation and the $1 library fee increase His statement (in part) should have read: "I am determined to run for the board of directors to examine the School of Ag from being pushed out much like its heritage."

In the same issue, a computer error caused a chunk of type to disappear from the editorial. That chunk of type explained that Mustang Daily asked all presidential and chairman of the board candidates a series of standardized questions. Mustang Daily apologizes for the error.

Mustang Daily Policies

Comentarios, pro/con articles and reporter's notebooks are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the viewpoints of Mustang Daily. Unsigned editorials represent the majority opinion of the editorial staff. Letters to the editor should be typed, less than 250 words, and should include the author's name, phone number and major or occupation. Because of space limitations, letters can be accepted only between two and three pages, double spaced, and turned in to the opinion editor's box at Mustang Daily. Commentaries are welcome from students and members of the community. Mustang Daily's opinion staff reserves the right to edit letters and commentaries for length, accuracy and clarity.
SEASTRAND

From page 3
Currently, the 29th District includes San Luis Obispo and Monterey counties — the areas from Port Ord through Salinas to Vandenberg Village.

Under the reapportionment, San Luis Obispo county will become part of the 33rd District along with the northern part of Santa Barbara County, including Lompoc. Monterey County will not be part of the 33rd District.

Seastrand feels the new plan will eliminate problem situations, like her own, where the representative of a given district does not reside near enough to the issues to keep a close eye on them.

Seastrand also expressed concern for an educated, informed voting public.

"This is still the best system of government with all its wrongs and faults," Seastrand said.

"In a system of government and politics you need an informed electorate."

The speech was hosted by the American Society of Public Administrators and the Cal Poly Committee on Practical Politics.

An Evening With Groucho!

Saturday April 25, In Chumash Auditorium
Join Actor Frank Ferrante for dinner and a nostalgic look back at the comic genius of Groucho Marx.

Dinner begins at 6:30p.m. and laugh
Join Actor Frank Ferrante for dinner
Dinner begins at 8p.m.

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Enter the raffle for a Japanese dinner for two (approx. $30.00 value) at YUGI'S restaurant, simply stop by SECOND EDITION CAMPUS COPY CENTER (lower floor University Union) and answer afinal question!
Volunteers included Keith Kai, a UC San Diego electrical engineering senior; Jeff Graham, a San Diego carpenter; and Rosanna Cooper, a liberal studies senior at Cal Poly.

"I put up a lot of flyers and contacted a lot of people for any kind of donations," Fontes said. However, money didn't come as readily as Fontes had planned. A few days before the project was to take place, he thought his idea would have to be postponed due to a lack of donations.

"My hopes were down," he said. "I didn't think we'd be able to do it (the project) until summer."

Tony Fermelia, Tom Banks, Mike Colety and Jeff Violet, all Cal Poly engineering students, volunteered to help out. Other services has project director Get involved and gain some hands-on experience in the community. Student Community Services and Involvement in sponsored projects and events are open to all, but priority is given to students as part of a group that built a 16-by-24-foot house for the family.

"A mission in San Luis Obispo has already donated about $3,000," Fontes said.

"We all felt great about the whole experience," Gomez said. "We were presented with a task, and we accomplished so much for us and those people in so little time."
From page 1

Ma, a civil engineering senior, was recognized for his extensive volunteer involvement in the community of San Luis Obispo.

"I got started with volunteer community service three years ago when I was community service chairman for Kappa Sigma," Ma said. "I adopted a highway cleanup program, and organized a Couch-A-Thon for charity."

Some of his other community service contributions include organizing a Halloween Skate Day as well as organizing a Bowl-A-Thon to benefit Casa Solana, a service designed to aid mothers who are recovering alcoholics.

Ma also served as vice president of Student Community Services, where he was responsible for directing the outreach program.

He is currently helping to revive Alpha Phi Omega, a national coed service fraternity.

"It is a great feeling to get this award. It is an opportunity to set an example for others," Ma said. "I feel no requirement to do the work. I get a lot of personal enjoyment out of it, even though it is behind the scenes, without a lot of people knowing about it. Volunteering is a good thing."

Nagai was recognized for her commitment to community service. Nagai worked with the American Cancer Society to coordinate a committee of 10 volunteers to make bouquets for distribution on Daffodil Days.

Since 1991 Nagai has volunteered her time to the People's Kitchen. Her work entailed organizing, budgeting and guiding 5-10 volunteers, once a month, in assisting in the purchasing, preparation and serving of lunch to the needy.

Nagai was also responsible for the development and implementation of a benefit Tennis Tournament, sponsored by Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. The proceeds provided financial assistance to the Court Appointed Special Advocates Association.

"I never expected this award. Personally, it is a great honor," Nagai said. "I really enjoy working with people and helping others."

"So many times people are recognized for their academic achievement. This can emphasize to other Kappa Alpha Theta students who have volunteered their time for the benefit of others. The program is in its fifth year.

All currently enrolled students at Cal Poly are eligible to apply. Three award recipients were selected by an independent committee of Cal Poly administrators, faculty members, staff and student representatives.