LIFE IN THE TRENCHES:
The people behind Utilidor

Heidi Laurenzano
Daily Staff Writer

Your consternation is understandable. They're Cal Poly's own Caltrans crew. They're the reason traffic is backed up on South Perimeter. It's them you see shrinking the footpaths of the campus and erecting ramshackle bridges that appear hazardous to walk across. These are the people in hard hats who add to the campus confusion with their jackhammers, life-size Tonka trucks, and shovels. Welcome to the world of Utilidor.

You may feel like you already know these people. More than you'd like to. Maybe you just wish they'd go away. But guess what? They're not going to. Just in case you didn't know, the Utilidor project.

Community invited to special workshop for city budget planning

By Adrienne Gross
Daily Staff Writer

San Luis Obispo residents can share ideas with city council members about goals for the upcoming two-year budget period at a Community Workshop Jan. 14.

"The council has that the community participate in giving their ideas for funding and spending," Mayor Allen Settle said.

Council members believe resident input to be imperative in deciding asked how city government runs.

"I think it's really important that people understand their local government and how it's funded," Councilman Bill Roalman said.

Settle added that those who come to the meeting will typically be representatives of groups and committees asking for funding, such as the Chamber of Commerce, the San Luis Obispo City/County Library and the Sierra Club.

However, all community members are welcome to

Crime Statistics in San Luis Obispo

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Even though crime figures are up, a closer look shows we live with little fear.

By Jennifer Burk
Daily Staff Writer

Three months ago, the FBI reported that the nation's crime rate in 1995 had fallen to its lowest level in a decade. In this past year, the trend continued with overall incidents of murder, rape, robbery and assault falling 5 percent.

Attorney General Janet Reno attributed this to, "more police on the streets, fewer guns in the wrong hands, more fear.

According to San Luis Obispo Police Chief James Gardiner, the three murders last year included a DUI driver.

The number of reported rapes has remained constant at 15.

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Skateboarding

Is it a crime?

By Shoshana Hebshi, Daily Staff Writer

"Four wheels and a board," speech communication junior Amy Morris declared as she heard the familiar sound of a skateboard roll down the sidewalk in front of her house.

For decades, skateboards have intermingled with bikes, cars and pedestrians on city streets and sidewalks. Although the board’s style and shape have changed over the years, its distinct sound as a rider skates down hills and practices tricks off of curbs and ramps alerts any passersby of its presence.

Skateboarding has become not only a form of transportation, but a sport and even a lifestyle for many.

"Skaters," as these boarders are called, live in every town of the United States. They are Cal Poly and Cuesta students, as well as local high school and junior high students, and are recognized by their baggy fashion and cutting edge hairstyles.

They laugh when others would cry, as they fall while trying new jumps. Broken bones, cuts and scrapes are just a part of the game. Even a broken skateboard bears no tragedy.

However, for many skaters trouble with vandalism and the law follows them.

In San Luis Obispo, the skater population is highly visible for a city of 45,000, but local law enforcement bans the sport in most public areas.

The prohibition of skateboarding within downtown San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly has left many skaters disgruntled and frustrated.

Breakin' the Law

For many Cal Poly students, skateboards are their only form of transportation and are upset by the restrictions.

They do not see validity in non-skateboarders' complaints that skateboards impose a danger to pedestrians.

For more than a decade, the city of San Luis Obispo has outlawed skateboarding in the streets and sidewalks of the downtown area. First-time violators receive a $10 fine, but after that, punishment is left up to a judge.

The Atascadero Police Department said it wants the city to ban skating throughout its downtown because of citizen and business-owner complaints about vandalism and safety.

Downtown Pismo Beach has banned skateboarding already. Despite these restrictions, San Luis Obispo did open up a skating rink at Santa Rosa Park for in-line skating and skateboarding this summer. Other parks around the city are skater-friendly, and, as with senior Joe Lob, and sidewalks, excluding those of downtown, also allow skateboarding.

As for Cal Poly skaters, they are seen carrying their skateboards around campus because skateboarding has been prohibited through the California vehicle code.

A section of the code (22133 sect. F) says governing bodies of institutions, such as at Cal Poly, can impose various regulations on footpaths, bike lanes and other pathways.

Thus, skateboarding throughout campus, including Highland Drive, Grand Avenue and Fergusson Road, was made illegal.

Chief Tom Mitchell of Cal Poly Police Safety said campus police receive five to 10 calls a week regarding skateboarders on campus.

"We find about one-third of them," he said. "Most of the skateboarders found on campus are in junior high and high school, not Cal Poly students."

Mitchell said first-time offenders usually receive a written warning if they have caused no damage. But the penalties for on campus while bicycles are, and are given their own lanes to ride in.

Computer engineering junior Kyle Jung would like to see skateboards share the bike lanes.

"Skateboarding is just as dangerous as biking on campus. There's no difference except that skateboarders make more noise," he said.

"I can see how Cal Poly doesn't want to be liable for the skateboards, but when it comes to running over people, it's just as dangerous as biking. Skateboarders should be allowed whenever bikers are allowed," Mitchell explained that certain types of skateboarders are considered pedestrians under the California vehicle code definition and are therefore not allowed to ride in the bike lanes. Skateboarders must follow pedestrian laws around the city and on campus, where as bicycles are considered a mode of transportation and must adhere to the traffic laws.

As far as injuries on campus, Mitchell said that in 1995 Public Safety recorded six incidents of skateboard-related injuries from other runs-ins with cars or by falling down.

A February 1997 issue of Golf magazine reported, however, that more emergency room visits occur from people injured playing golf than from those who ride skateboards.

Despite the ongoing debate on whether skateboarding is more dangerous than other activities, Mitchell said Cal Poly doesn't risk very much liability from injuries because skateboarding is prohibited on campus.

The damage has been done

In addition to potential safety dangers, Mitchell explained that certain types of skateboarding could be considered vandalism such as skating down railings and doing tricks off of curbs because it damages property. A citation for some Joe Brandi marked this as the perfect event to increase support for his petition to legalize skateboarding on campus.

While rounding up signatures, Brandi found out that the process of the legislation would be extremely extensive and tedious since the ban results from the state vehicle code. Therefore, the petitioners would have to convince not only Cal Poly, but the Thras-a-thon, held on Oct. 25 and 26, 1996, sponsored by Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, attracted skateboarders and people who appreciated or were curious about the helmet and kneepad clad skaters defying gravity on a 11-foot-high ramp in the University Union. This annual charity benefit is the only time when skateboarding is allowed on campus.

While many Cal Poly skaters risk consequences by riding their skateboards on campus, others comply with the policy, but seek to change the anti-skateboard laws.

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Though many Cal Poly students, skateboarders or not, Cal Poly hasn't taken any action on the matter and no skaters have come forward with suggestions.
MUSTANG DAILY

UTILIDOR from page 1

isn't expected to wind down until
a year from now. So you'd better
get used to them, if you haven't
already.

All the social science sages agree: one of the best ways to
break down feelings of hostility
and confusion is to open the doors
of communication. Meet the peo­
ple behind the Utilidor project.

Amador Juerero, a laborer
with DJJS Construction, has been
working on campus for about five
months. On the weekends, he
goes home to his wife and kids in
San Diego. Traveling around the
state in pursuit of the almighty-
dollar has become a way of life for
Juerero. His last job was in
Fullerton. Riverside County will
be the site of his next weekday
home.

Juerero runs everything from
bulldozers to competing
machines. When he operates
the equipment, he can relate to how
students and faculty feel about
clamped conditions.

"Sometimes we have little
problems, we get no respect," Juerero said. "We have to wait for
about five minutes sometimes for
students to walk across the
street."

A laborer who wished to be
identified only as Jim said the
waiting translates to a longer
duration for the Utilidor project.

Bruce Teofilo, another laborer
for DJJS, has a different attitude
about the crowded conditions.

"It gives me something to look
at," Teofilo said.

Juerero identified another
problem with the large volume of
people traversing through cam­
pus as he hastened sections of the
infamous orange fencing with
wire.

"Some people turn their faces,
and don't see open trenches. They
try to get into the work places. We
can't tell them to get out," Juerero
said.

Roger Smith, a crane operator
for S&W Industrial, witnesses the
same phenomena.

"A few of the kids, the ones
who haven't been around con­
struction, don't watch where they're going. They don't realize
what's going on," Smith said. "We
have to wait for people to get to
their classes so we can move
through an area. They need to
know this is a potentially haz­
ardous situation."

In mid-October, Smith moved
his family from Del Mar (near
San Diego) to Santa Maria so they
could be together for the duration
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wife would rather be back in Del
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**OPINION**

Division I brings money, excitement to Poly

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To my distaste, it was stated on last Friday’s Opinion page that Cal Poly students were being treated as “second class citizens” at basketball games, and that the decision to move Cal Poly Athletics to Division I, or to cut the Athletic Department down to eight sports and stay in Division II. Luckily for us they voted to save all the Cal Poly sports. So before anyone states that the move to Division I was not in the best interest of the students she should talk to the student athletes that are competing in those eight sports that we will lose (football, wrestling, baseball, volleyball, men’s and women’s tennis and men’s and women’s swimming). She should also talk to the athletes that we have lost because of the move.

Along with the simple continuation of all 17 sports, the number of scholarships and the quality of equipment, staff and coaches has drastically increased. For example, as a member of the Track and Field team, I can remember a time when we had to pay for the team equipment and uniforms ourselves. Can you imagine that — we had to pay to play. The Division I move has brought in a tremendous staff that has improved the Athletic Department in countless ways.

For instance, the fund raising department has shown an almost five-fold increase in income since 1991. A majority of the money goes directly to student athletes in the way of scholarships. But along with additional income comes additional responsibility to these sponsors and alumni. This simply cannot be ignored if we expect to continue receiving their support. These staff members are also going to make it possible to build a new baseball and softball complex which will include a number of surrounding fields for use by the community, rec sports and athletics alike, without increasing our fees one dollar.

As far as concerns over how students are treated compared to sponsors at basketball games, all I have to ask is where you think the money comes from to bring in great athletes and a coach who has the most improved record in the NCAA last year. Last week I saw two of the best basketball games I have ever seen. The excitement shown in the players, coaches and the fans was electric. But building a team like ours isn’t cheap. So if students are so offended by what Mark Roland had to say then I do not think that means he should not be heard. Mr. Nicovich said he was a “bleeding heart liberal” and a “believer in free speech” but in the same breath said Mr. Roland’s opinion was while unpopular, belonged on the “bottom of a birdcage.” That’s like saying “my opinion is more right than yours.”

This country was based on free speech and non-censorship, yet many students, we are taking that right away from ourselves. I do not think you were wrong to print an unpopular opinion and I hope you print many more because those are the opinions that need printing. Not the opinions that are mainstream — those get covered. If this is a controversial and unpopular opinions were printed properly soon we would have a world much like the one depicted in Ray Bradbury’s “Fahrenheit 451.”

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

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**Bill Pedigo is a history senior.**

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**Editor.**

Yesterday, Ralph Nicovich responded to the opinion written by Mr. Roland in a very typical manner. I did not agree with what Mr. Roland had to say but I do not think that means he should not be heard. Mr. Nicovich said he was a “bleeding heart liberal” and a “believer in free speech” but in the same breath said Mr. Roland’s opinion was while unpopular, belonged on the “bottom of a birdcage.” That’s like saying “my opinion is more right than yours.”

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**letters to the editor**

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**Editor.**

I was dismayed to open the Daily’s first edition of the new quarter only to find the Opinion page dominated by a piece of sexist drivel. I will not even bother dignifying Mr. Roland’s piece with a reply; I am more concerned about the lack of journalistic ethics displayed by the Daily’s editorial staff.

I suggest that you go back and re-read Roland’s piece, substituting the words “African American” for “women.” Would you still publish it? I think not. You would immediately, and correctly, be vilified as racists. Why is it considered acceptable to be sexist?

The juxtaposition of Ms. Miller’s high-minded opinions on the right and a “forum of public discussion” with Mr. Roland’s sexist tract was particularly disconcerting. While I applaud her notion that everyone should have “informed opinions,” I wonder how she thought Roland’s piece would make any sort of contribution to her readers’ fund of knowledge.

I support Mr. Roland’s right to pen any kind of commentary that he may choose; what I don’t understand is why the Daily editorial staff would opt to print it. There are certainly issues that are of great importance to the Cal Poly community. When they may not be as necessary as an attack on 50 percent of the human population, certainly you must accept some journalistic responsibility in choosing what is printed in your paper.

Misogyny is neither new nor news, and to use it to its toll for response is cheap and cheezy journalism. **Patricia Harris,** Women’s programs and services
MUSTANG DAILY

CRIME from page 1

victims other than such crimes that usually occur between people who know each other at social settings involving alcohol.

Sex crime, meaning a misdemeanor other than rape, has gone up 91 percent from 34 in 1990 to 65 in 1996. This includes citations for public nudity and public urination. One Cal Poly student, who wishes to remain anonymous, contributed to this figure on the night of his 21st birthday. While walking home from downtown bars with his friends he urinated on a Higuera Street storefront, only to be spotted and cited by a police officer.

Even with a rise in murder, simple assault and rape rates, many residents still feel relatively safe. "For my well being, I feel very comfortable, but with my material property I feel a little uncomfortable," said architectural engineering senior Nathan White.

Someone broke into White's car and attempted to steal his stereo in the beginning of the year. The thief failed to remove the bolted-down stereo, but White said he still felt violated.

Many students who live in the area believe most local crime is due to the presence of a large university and its students. Thieves can make quick cash of selling books to bookstores or students at the end of each quarter. Many students complained about book theft as a big concern. One person even had his backpack stolen out of his locked car, although overall vehicle theft dropped 26 percent from 80 to 58.

Many students also seemed concerned about the security of their homes. Many student dwellings could be easy targets for stealing goods such as televisions, stereo equipment, and computers. Despite students' worries, residential burglary dropped by 15 percent to 122 incidents from last year's 143.

With students renting their own houses, a significant number of them chose to host parties last year, which was reflected in an increase in noise complaints by about 5 percent, Gardiner said.

Last year the number of complaints reached above 3,000, which is significantly higher than in the previous year. The thief failed to remove the bolted-down stereo, but White said he still felt violated.

Many students who live in the area believe most local crime is due to the presence of a large university and its students. Thieves can make quick cash of selling books to bookstores or students at the end of each quarter. Many students complained about book theft as a big concern. One person even had his backpack stolen out of his locked car, although overall vehicle theft dropped 26 percent from 80 to 58.

Many students also seemed concerned about the security of their homes. Many student dwellings could be easy targets for stealing goods such as televisions, stereo equipment, and computers. Despite students' worries, residential burglary dropped by 15 percent to 122 incidents from last year's 143.

With students renting their own houses, a significant number of them chose to host parties last year, which was reflected in an increase in noise complaints by about 5 percent, Gardiner said.

Last year the number of complaints reached above 3,000, which is significantly higher than in the previous year.
## Peace Corps reps in San Luis Obispo January 14, 15 & 16, 1997

### TUESDAY, 7:30PM

Coffee Talk at Linneae's
1110 Garden, San Luis Obispo
Informal discussion with recruiters and Returned Peace Corps Volunteers
(800) 424-6580 press 1 at the prompt

### WEDNESDAY, 7:15-8:30PM

Opportunities Seminar
San Luis Obispo County Library
995 Palm Street, SLO

### THURSDAY, 9 AM - 3PM

Information Table at U.U. and Opportunities Seminar
11:50am to 1:00pm
U.U. Room 216

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### BUDGET

attend the meeting and present their ideas for funding, with or without prior written proposals.

“This is a golden opportunity to find out what the community needs,” Councilwoman Kathy Smith said.

City officials expect a large turnout.

“I expect a lot of participation at the meeting,” city clerk Bonnie Gawd said.

Smith said 24 community groups and 14 advisory organizations have already turned in written funding requests.

Smith said presentations at the meeting are limited to three minutes, which will provide adequate time to go over the main points of the written requests previously submitted.

Bauman said some main topics will be Cal Poly’s new soccer fields and the city/county library.

Chuck Sleeper, the Cal Poly assistant athletic director, said they will be asking the city for $83 million for the soccer, softball and baseball fields being built for use by the city and Cal Poly.

“If we get the mayor and the four council members on our side, the project will rank high enough to get the full funding that we’re asking for,” Sleeper said.

Morgan Phillips, city/county library circulation manager, said the library is asking the council to fund three additional hours of service on Wednesday nights so it can stay open until 8 p.m.

A letter issued by Settle and City Administrative Officer John Dunn stated that the council’s goal for the evening is to listen to residents’ needs.

After all ideas are presented, the council will discuss what was heard and identify the main areas of need.

Smith said the council will prioritize the funding requests, based on the monetary constraints of the budget and the necessity to the community, at a special meeting on Feb. 1.

“There are certain services we must provide like sewer and water,” Smith said. “We must look at the big picture.”

Settle said the priority of the council will be basic government services provided to community members, such as the police and fire departments and public works.

The Jan. 14 meeting is scheduled from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Forum.
**CRIME** from page 1
the 2,500 recorded in the early 1990s.
In the wake of the recent undercover crackdown on under- 
aging drinking, liquor violations 
rose 122 percent from 46 in 1995 
to 102 in 1996.

Gardiner also said drunk dri-
v ing is a top priority because inci-
dents rose by 5 percent last year.
Although this may seem like a 
small amount, there were still over 
300 cases of drunk driving in 1996.
Gardiner said DUIs occur 
during the evening toward the 
end of the week. Over the holi-
days, typically a time full of 
drunk-driving accidents, a grant 
allowed the San Luis Obispo 
Police Department to pay for over-
time to increase the enforcement of sober driving.

**FOOTBALL** from page 8
1990 Giants, who upset Buffalo 
by controlling the ball for more 
than two-thirds of the game and 
winning 20-19 when Scott 
Norwood missed a 47-yard field 
goal attempt in the final seconds.
It also may prove the rule. 
That year, there was only one 
week between the NFC title 
game and the Super Bowl.
Parcells started forming his 
game plan early against a Buffalo 
staff that was making its first 
appearance.

He used six defensive backs 
most of the game to shut down 
Jim Kelly and the no-huddle 
offense and let Thurman Thomas 
try to beat them.
This year, Parcells goes 
against a Green Bay team that’s 
a lot more than Brett Favre and 
Reggie White.
The heroes of the late season 
and playoffs have been Antonio 
Freeman, Desmond Howard and 
Dorsey Levens, all members of the 
supporting cast.

**BASEBALL** from page 8
Devil Rays CEO Vincent Naimoli 
said.
Appointing a search committee 
for a permanent commissioner is 
the other big item on the agenda 
for this week’s owners’ meeting, 
which starts Tuesday at 
Scottsdale, Ariz.

Some owners are again press-
ing acting commissioner Bud Selig 
to accept the job permanently, but 
Selig keeps telling them he’s not 
interested. It appeared that the 
executive council might be 
appointed as the search commit­ 
tee, but Selig won’t be the head of 
the search.

“I’ve done that too many 
times already, and I already have 
too many other things to do,” said 
Selig, who headed the searches 
that recommended Peter 
Deberrhoth and A. Bartlett 
Giamatti, “It is a full-time job; it is 
a huge job.”

After Selig was voted acting 
commissioner in September 1992, 
Atlanta Braves chairman Bill 
Bartholomay was picked to head 
the search committee. He 

nded the field to Harvey Schiller 
of the U.S. Olympic Committee 
and Arnold Weber of Northwestern, 
and neither garnered much support among own­ 
ers. In January 1994, they decided 
to stop the search until after a 
new collective bargaining agree­ 
ment was reached with the play­ 
ers.

Some in baseball have suggest­ 
d that AL president Gene Budig 
and NL president Len Coleman 
lead the search. Fred Wilpon 
of the New York Mets, a member of 
the executive council, also has 
been mentioned as a possibility.

In making the expansion deci­ 
dion, owners leave themselves 
open to another fight with the 
players’ association. By creating 
two 15-team leagues, owners need 
interleague play to create a sched­
ule. 
The new labor agreement has 
provisions for interleague play 
only in 1997 and 1998. Another 
agreement would have to extend 
interleague play to future seasons.

“I’d like to think we’ve put 
some of these things to bed with 
collective bargaining,” Colangelo 
said. “I think it’s important for 
baseball to have a place in so 
that we don’t continue to play this 
game of leverage. It shouldn’t be 
that way.”

While the Diamondbacks are a 
natural fit in the NL West, placing 
the Devil Rays in the AL creates 
the need for realignment. Putting 
Tampa Bay in the East, shifting 
Detroit to the Central and Kansas 
City to the West appears to be the 
most obvious solution, but teams 
don’t like changing divisions.

AL owners are expected to 
appoint a committee to study the 
matter. With 15-team leagues, 
owners also must come up with 
a new schedule format for 1998.
Swimming anyone?

With a total of 27 first-place finishes across Northridge this weekend, the Cal Poly men’s and women’s swim teams soundly defeated the Matadors 198-79 and 203-94, respectively. Here’s a look at the names and times of the Mustang swimmers that placed first.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200 Medley Relay Team</td>
<td>Krista Kiedrowski</td>
<td>2:09.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kelli Quinn</td>
<td>2:08.25</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ashley Froger</td>
<td>2:06.84</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jodie Snowbarger</td>
<td>2:07.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>100-Meter Freestyle</td>
<td>Leisha Masi</td>
<td>52.24</td>
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<tr>
<td>100-Meter Fly</td>
<td>Krista Kiedrowski</td>
<td>1:00.45</td>
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<tr>
<td>200-Meter Individual</td>
<td>Jerey Dyer</td>
<td>2:14.03</td>
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<tr>
<td>400-Meter Freestyle Relay</td>
<td>Jodie Snowbarger</td>
<td>3:44.42</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kim Jackson</td>
<td>3:40.42</td>
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<tr>
<td>50-Meter Freestyle</td>
<td>Jodie Snowbarger</td>
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<tr>
<td>100-Meter Freestyle</td>
<td>Kim Jackson</td>
<td>54.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>200-Meter Backstroke</td>
<td>Krista Kiedrowski</td>
<td>209.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>200-Meter Breaststroke</td>
<td>Kelli Quinn</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-Meter Freestyle</td>
<td>Jodie Snowbarger</td>
<td>2:30.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200-Meter Individual</td>
<td>Jodie Snowbarger</td>
<td>2:30.78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parcells knows what it takes to win a Superbowl title

By Dave Goldberg
Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Bill Parcells knows a thing or two about big games, and now the New England coach has two weeks to prepare for the Super Bowl.

**NFL**

The Packers are the better team, which is one reason they open as 13 1/2-point favorites over Green Bay will be trying to give the Patriots in the Jan. 26 title game, which is one reason they make Parcells the first coach to win the Super Bowl with two different franchises. He has to figure out a way to shut down a team that both led the NFL in scoring and allowed the fewest points, and he has to do it with a 24-year-old quarterback, Drew Bledsoe, who’s consistently inconsistent.

Sure, the Patriots defense has not allowed a touchdown in two playoff games. Those were against a Pittsburgh team without a legitimate starting quarterback and a Jacksonville team that was only in the NFL last year. And the Jaguars were threatening to tie when they turned the ball over three times late in the fourth quarter.

Both the Packers and the Patriots represent a changing of the guard in the title game. Only six of the 106 players on the two teams’ rosters have ever been to Super Bowl.

Jim McMahon, the backup quarterback to Brett Favre in Green Bay, was the starter for Chicago in their 46-10 win over New England after the 1985 season. And Don Beebe, the Packers’ third wide receiver, played for the Bills in four straight losses from 1986-90.

"It would be nice to be on the winning team at least once," Beebe says.

The Patriots have four Super Bowl veterans — Roberts, Bob Kratich, Dave Meggett and Shawn Jefferson. Kratich and Meggett are from the Giants’ second Super Bowl team, and Jefferson played for San Diego two years ago.

While the players may not have much Super Bowl experience, the coaches do.

Two-thirds of New England’s coaching staff was with Parcells in New York, and Maurice Carthon, now an assistant coach, was the fullback on the Giants’ two Super Bowl winners.

Green Bay coach Mike Holmgren was the offensive coordinator on the San Francisco teams that won back-to-back titles after the ’88 and ’89 seasons, and Sherm Lewis, the Packers’ offensive coordinator, was on those staffs as well.

Holmgren and Lewis certainly know Parcells and his staff. In the late 1980s, the Giants and 49ers, along with the Bovikins, were the NFC’s dominant teams and often met in both the regular season and playoffs.

The bottom line is this: Most seasons, the team that’s been the NFL’s best during the regular season wins the Super Bowl. This year, that’s Green Bay, although Denver was up there with the Packers until the Broncos clinched AFC home field with three games to go and lost their momentum.

The one exception was Parcells’

Tampa Devil Rays happy in AL; Diamondbacks at home in NL

By Ronald Mann
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Baseball’s expansion teams will finally be allowed to lease teams this week, and it appears virtually certain Phoenix will wind up in the National League and Tampa Bay in the American.

**MLB**

When baseball owners approved the expansion on March 9, 1995, they set a deadline of January 1997 for the league assignments.

**NFL Brief**

Ross hired as Lions coach

By Associated Press

PONTIAC, Mich. — Bobby Ross is the new coach of the Detroit Lions, bringing stern discipline and more important, hopes for a championship.

"I want perfect practices," said Ross, whose appointment was announced at a news conference Monday. "Perfect practices make for perfect games."

The Lions have had few of those lately, completing a 5-11 season that culminated with the firing of Wayne Fontes on Dec. 26. Ross, who resigned after five years as coach of the San Diego Chargers on Jan. 3, signed a five-year contract worth a reported $5.7 million.

He will have the final say in all personnel moves involving trades, free agency and the draft. Detroit has the fifth pick in the NFL draft.

"It’s not so much where you work — as the people that you work with and the people that you work for," Ross said, calling Detroit "as fine an organization as there is in the National Football League."

At first glance, Ross, 60, appears to be everything Fontes wasn’t. Fontes, who spent eight full seasons with the Lions, was a jovial, charismatic coach who seemed to go from one crisis to another. He often got by on little more than a joke and a hug.

"We’re going to have a break­fast for a significant number of people in our area, both elected officials and prominent sponsors," said Ross.

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**SPORTS**