Free final approval of a unanimous City Council resolution would bring funding to "Zero Fare" program

By Joe Nolan
Daily Staff Writer

Just when it seemed that, one and for all, Cal Poly students and employees would lose free bus rides next year, the San Luis Obispo City Council unanimously passed a resolution to allot $40,000 to subsidize SLO Transit's reduced budget.

The council's resolution will now be submitted to the county Air Pollution Control District (APCD). If approved, the funds will keep the "Zero Fare" program alive.

An APCD decision is expected in July.

In 1997 Cal Poly reduced its annual contribution, which subsidized SLO Transit's free rides, from $165,000 to $125,000. University officials thought this amount was too large a portion of the approximately $1 million it takes to support San Luis Obispo's four bus routes, according to Public Works Director Michael McChesney.

That year, Cal Poly Foundation, in addition to the university's contribution, also provided enough financial support to keep the free bus rides for this year.

Foundation felt the disruption caused by the Utility was want- ed its support of bus service during the 1997-98 school year. However, now that the Utility is com­ plete, Foundation will no longer support the "Zero Fare" program financially.

The city would like to provide the $40,000 in a form of a MOVER grant—which comes from state money generated from license plate fees—in conjunction with funds provided by the university to maintain the "Zero Fare" program.

The City of San Luis Obispo has become involved in the traffic fee dilemma because it hopes to pre- vent a decline in ridership and the reduced air quality and increased traffic congestion such a decline could spawn.

If the MOVER grant is not following budget cuts that threaten free bus rides for Cal Poly students and employees, the city has applied for funds which could keep the program alive one more year.

Solar car club looking for sponsor, sun and speed

By Jeremy Rye
Daily Staff Writer

Members of Cal Poly's Solar Car club think they've discovered a way to drive 65 MPH for as long as they want, without ever stopping at a gas station.

The key—the car requires no fuel. It runs on sunlight. Through solar panels mounted on the surface of the car, light is translated into electricity to power the vehicle.

The club is preparing for SunRayce, a 1,250-mile, 10-day competition for college-made solar cars. The June 1999 race begins in Washington, D.C., and is scheduled to end in San Diego.

Last year's winner finished in just under 29 hours, averaging about 43 MPH.

Cal Poly's team wants to bring a new element to sun rac- ing speed.

"Our car is designed to go as fast or faster than any solar car that's been made," said business senior Jim Bentley, co-pres- ident of the club.

In SunRayce 1990, Cal Poly placed 21st out of the 36 cars that finished the race.

Shortly after the competition, the club disbanded. But after a seven-year absence from the competition, the club came together again last fall. It now hopes to improve its ranking.

"We're building for first (place) but you never know," said Bentley. "I want a car that stands out by its technical merit." Bentley said every member of the former Solar Car Design club found a great job in high-tech industries. He spoke of a member of the old Solar Car club who went for a job interview. Once the interviewer saw solar car on his resume, the topic dominated the rest of the interview.

See SOLAR page 5

The Solar car club is building in futuristic-looking car based on computer-generated and clay models. / Photos courtesy of David Thompson

BankAmerica, NationsBank to merge

By Eric R. Olson
Associated Press

The aptly named NationsBank Corp. and BankAmerica Corp. took a giant leap for the banking indus- try Monday in a $82 billion merger creating the country's first coast-to- coast bank.

In the heart of the new No. 1 bank's territory, another giant also was born as Banc One Corp. and First Chicago NBD Corp. announced a $29.9 billion merger to create the Midwest's most domin- ant bank.

The two deals come just a week after Citicorp and Travelers Group said they would combine their sprawling banking, insurance and brokerage businesses into the nation's biggest financial company.

The latest mergers increase the pressure on American banks still without partners in the race to pro- vide broad financial services, and...
The San Luis Obispo County Deputy Sheriffs' Association (DSA) endorsed Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Pat Hedges for the Office of Sheriff-Coroner. The DSA represents 250 of the department's law enforcement officers. Other candidate running for the position are Tom Garrity (received 6 percent of the votes) and Jim Gardiner (received 3 percent of the votes). Hedges was endorsed because, according to the DSA, he has personality traits the groups deem worthy for the position, he has been a lifelong resident of this county, he best understands the county's law enforcement needs and he has more than 20 years experience with the Sheriff’s Office. The election for Sheriff is in November.

Freebie book offered to engineering students

If you’re an engineering student who’s about to graduate, you can get a free copy of Andrea J. Stouttich’s book “First-Job Survival Guide.” To request your free copy, go to http://www.hp.com/info/students jobs between April 15 and Oct. 31.

“First-Job Survival Guide” helps new professionals master many everyday work-life skills not taught in schools, including tips on how to make a good first impression, how to manage time, how to avoid saying and doing things that will hurt a career, how to be a team player and how to know when it’s time to move on. This offer is sponsored by Hewlett-Packard.

Booth prepares us for the big one

It's Earthquake Preparedness Week in shaky California and you can find out how to prepare for disaster at the CERTquake '98 booth at the Farmers' Market Thursday, April 16.

Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) is a program sponsored by the San Luis Obispo City Fire Department to prepare citizen and business preparedness for disasters.

The CERTquake '98 booth will provide displays that focus on ways to prepare for disasters, including personal protective measures, locating emergency resources, and communicating with family. San Luis Obispo County and city officials will be on hand to answer your questions. Booths will demonstrate how to build an emergency kit and give out earthquake preparedness materials.

Traveling students can get $50 discount on plane ticket

Students heading overseas this spring and summer can save $50 on the price of a plane ticket. Traveling students can get $50 discount on plane ticket. This offer is sponsored by Hewlett-Packard.

Buses from page 1

approved, Cal Poly has proposed to institute a discounted transit pass program for students and employees.

But some city officials fear a 40- percent ride-up deficit if a pass program was initiated. The Public Works staff estimates that two-thirds of former riders would drive to school instead.

In 1994, Cal Poly students and employees purchased transit passes at discounted prices. The following year, the “Zero Fare” program began and bus rides increased by 150 percent.

Though the MOWER funds would support the “Zero Fare” program for Fall 1996 and Winter 1999, the same funding problems will arise when the money runs out again next year, according to McCluskey.

“The long-term outlook is not good,” McCluskey said. “We’re going to need more government subsidies or we’re going to have to get the money from somewhere else.”

Some resources, other than the federal government, that may be pursued in the future include: the City General Fund, Cal Poly Foundation or the Cal Poly student body, according to the proposal for MOWER funds.

McCluskey said he supports using student body money but doubts this would happen.

“Students would pay the best way to go,” McCluskey said. “The students would probably pay very little to keep their current system going and could even have a Cadillac of a system if they paid a little more. It won’t happen though because AAT conducted a survey and found students don’t want to pay for the ‘Zero Fare’ program.”

Physics sophomore Dan Seaman drives to campus.

“It’s already hard enough to find parking at this school with people taking the bus,” Kimbrough said. “I would be a nightmare if all the people who take the bus start driving to school. I’d much rather pay a few bucks than deal with that.”

Those extra dollars cover fees, mileage and hourly charges specified in the contract between the city of San Luis Obispo and Laidlaw, its transit service provider.

If the resolution is approved by the APCD, the city will take the following actions:

• By August 1, they will inform Cal Poly that a grant has been secured and tell them to defer the advertisement and sale of transit passes.

• They will continue publicity for the “Zero Fare” program as part of a student orientation program for the 1998-99 school year.

• By April 1, 1999, they will establish a funding strategy for continuing the “Zero Fare” program.

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Ftc examining possible cigarette regulation

By Joseph Schenna

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Even as Congress and the White House work on anti-smoking legislation targeting cigarettes, federal regulators are looking at whether the cigar industry merits tougher rules as well, the Federal Trade Commission chairman said Monday.

The National Cancer Institute issued a study Friday indicating the number of cigar smokers has risen 90 percent since 1993, and contending that smoking cigars can be just as deadly as smoking cigarettes. It also said that while cigarette use has declined, the rate of cigar smoking is relatively high — especially among teens.

With an eye on rising cigar sales, especially to teens, the FTC earlier this year ordered manufacturers to report how they market cigars, how much they pay to advertise and who is buying. The FTC received those reports last week.

FTC Chairman Robert Pitofsky said Monday that it is too early for the commission to consider specific new measures, but the weakly regulated cigar industry might eventually face rules like those cigarette makers have dealt with for decades.

"I would think a warning label would be justified if in fact cigars can be as bad for you as cigarette," Pitofsky said.

Although the government requires health warnings for cigarettes and smokeless tobacco, it has no such alerts on cigars. And the Clinton administration left out cigarettes when it gave the Food and Drug Administration jurisdiction over most tobacco products.

More than 95 percent of cigars sold in the United States already come with health warnings to comply with a 1989 California law, said Norman Sharp, president of the Cigar Association of America.

Sharp said he was dubious about any comparisons to cigarettes.
Assembly rejects new ban, but author will try again

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A University of California, Los Angeles, fraternity under investigation for an alleged hazing incident that sent three pledges to the hospital was suspended from campus activities and buildings, university officials said Tuesday.

Omega Sigma Tau's suspension will continue until a probe is completed and any senior administrators are contacted.

"The fact that we've taken action prior to the administration's own investigation indicates that some of the activities that are alleged to have happened really did," Robert Naples, the university's vice chancellor for student affairs and campus life, said Friday.

The move is sometimes taken prior to an organization's expulsion.

It follows allegations that the pledges underwent a weekend of fraternity "boot camp." Marshall Lai, who suffered the most serious injuries, continued to improve, Naples said.

In 1989, the California Legislature passed a bill to ban sale, manufacture or possession of 62 specific semi-automatic rifles, pistols and shotguns. It also authorized the attorney general to go into court to add additional weapons to the list if they are deemed essentially identical.

That bill was approved after another school board massacre. On Jan. 17, 1989, drifter Patrick Purdy went to a Stockton elementary school and fired 105 rounds from his AK-47 assault rifle. He killed five students and wounded 24 children and a teacher before killing himself with a hand grenade.

In 1994, Congress passed an assault weapons ban that relies on photographs of guns, rather than specifying brands.

Supporters of the 1989 state law say the portion allowing the attorney general to add weapons to the list has never worked. The 3rd District Court of Appeal last month declared that portion which delegated authority to add weapons to the list was invalid because it violates the separation of powers between the legislative and executive branches of government.

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Don Perata, D-Oakland, said he would try again, as soon as the next session on Thursday.

"This one's been tough since Day One," he told reporters after the 4-0-vote, one short of a majority in the 80-seat Assembly. "It's a high-pressure game.

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Apathy gets you nowhere

By Gil Sery

If Cal Poly’s motto is “Learn by Doing” then the student body’s motto should be “Apathy Rules OK.”

I have read the few articles that have appeared in the Daily recently about state-employed students not getting the minimum wage increase, and am surprised at the laid back response of these students. The letters that I have read thus far have complained that this isn’t fair but have done nothing else about it. That is where I think student apathy comes in. If you don’t like something, make it known, make waves, rock the boat.

When Pepsi overran our campus there was better complaining from students, but nothing else. True, the clubs involved weren’t given much time to protest, but they could have raised a fuss about it. They didn’t.

Now I’d just like to get something straight. I’m not advocating action the likes of which this city has never seen since the days of Poly Royal. I’m suggesting that students take advantage of their “right to petition government for a redress of grievances.” Sound familiar?

Take a lesson from the recent picketing done by department secretaries, they picketed during their lunch hour, they got a front page story (complete with picture) in Mustang Daily and the departments agreed to negotiate.

Or take a lesson from Kevin Rice. Remember him? He spearheaded a campaign against the Poly Plan. He created a website, distributed flyers and got his story in Mustang Daily, he wrote the con statement for the official Poly Plan voters booklet. There was even an anti Poly Plan banner in the UU. That’s activism. That’s standing up for what you believe in. That’s making your voice heard.

So if you really want the wage increase and if you truly believe that it should apply to you as a state employee, DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT! Write a letter to Congresswoman Capps (after all, she was elected to serve her constituents); write a letter to President Baker, pcket in the UU during Activity Hour (or any other time), create a website and spread the word about it, collect names on a petition, there are thousands of ways you can protect this legally. We are all fortunate to live in a country where if we try to march to an authority, there is practically zero chance of creating another Bloody Sunday but think freedom of expression is protected by the Constitution.

Writing letters to the editor is just the first step. If you show your opposition, instead of just complaining, there is a greater chance that something will be done about it. By doing nothing, you are saying that you agree with the decision not to give state employees the increased minimum wage, and from what I’ve read so far, this certainly isn’t the case.

Gil Sery is a journalism major.

Letter Policy

Mustang Daily welcomes and encourages contributions from readers. Letters should be submitted complete with name, major or department, class standing and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit grammar, spelling errors and length without changing the meaning of what is written. Letters sent via e-mail will be given preference and can be sent to: jboras@polymail.calpoly.edu. Fax your contribution to 756-6784 or drop letters by Building 26, Suite 226.
David Thompson, biology senior and co-president, in working with the fund-raisers to round-up sponsors. "We've found that materials are a lot easier to come by than cash," Thompson said.

Although it's difficult to get sponsors, Thompson said the club is working hard to meet its financial needs. "IBM is making a decision about whether they are going to give us money or laptops in the next week," he said.

The club also has a tentative pitch meeting scheduled with AirTouch Communications in Burbank later this quarter. If a sponsor makes a large contribution, the Cal Poly car might bear that corporation's logo, Thompson said.

To promote awareness of the project and attract more sponsors, the club is raffling off a mountain bike in the U.U. and will run two booths during Open House this weekend.

Thompson said club members want to complete the car by Spring 1999, to allow time for testing before the race. To remain on schedule, Thompson said the mold of the car needs to be finished this quarter.

Thompson described the process of building the car's body.

"Picture a big, square chunk of foam. We have a 3-D computer image of the car which we give to a company and a machine cuts out the exact spec of the car into the foam," he said. "From there we lay in the carbon fiber that provides the structure of the car."

Cal Poly's original car had a frame made out of metal which weighed approximately 700 pounds. The new model will weigh closer to 300 pounds, because its composite construction is significantly lighter than metal.

The reduced weight of the car allows it to travel faster than heavier models.

"Carbon fiber eliminates a lot of weight while maintaining the integrity of the car," Thompson said.

The car seats one driver, but the club plans to train four drivers so they never run out of people who can operate the car.

Thompson said he thinks the new car design will attract attention.

"New innovations will turn heads," he said. "Part of it is to give Cal Poly exposure — and it will do that, even if we don't win."

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MUSTANG DAILY

TEXAS from page 8

players. He said he would wait to evaluate the Longhorns' talent before deciding if the team would continue to play up tempo or change to a more deliberate half­court game.

"I told them that being successful is difficult and that it requires giving up something," Barnes said. "I said I wanted to see who was willing to make the sacrifices necessary for us to come together as a team. If I see progress, I may relent on a couple of the rules.

The rules take effect immediately.

"It'll shave," said freshman center Chris Mihm, rubbing his goatee. "I said. "You can hear it in Mack's voice," Barnes said. "The talent pool in this state was a big factor.

"Barnes' intensity — which included getting in the face of North Carolina coach Dean Smith three years ago over what Barnes consid­ered unfair badgering of Clemson players by Smith during a game — was evident Monday.

"I'm extremely competitive," Barnes said. "When I'm on the court with the players, we have a job to do and I'll be hard on them. But off the court we're going to have fun. I like to play practical jokes.

Barnes said he has received a lot of support from Texas football coach Mack Brown, who visited with Barnes and his staff early Monday.

"He made an unbelievable impression on my staff," Barnes said. "You can hear it in Mack's voice that he is excited about what he's doing. And I love bringing recruits in on a football weekend, when they can feel the energy on campus.

Axtell's attorney, Sherry Rummans of Austin, said Axtell's deci­sion to transfer was based, in part, on a possible backlash from Texas fans regarding a freeform the freshman began when the freshman was sus­pended by Penders March 17 for academic reasons.

Axtell fired back, saying he would leave UT because Penders verbally abused him. Then, Penders assistant Eddie Oran took responsi­bility for releasing Axtell's grades to a radio station.

After a two-week investigation into the grade release, Penders resigned.

"It is our contention that this obvi­ous timing misfortune adversely affected the game official's ability to make a fair split-second decision on the game-winning basket."

"To me, it's not a hard one," Van Gundy said. "It's simple and straightforward: the clock malfunc­tioned, the shot goes in, the Knicks win."

"Obviously I think there's anger and disappointment, and the play­ers know the playoff implications — if we win we're in seventh place, if we lose we're in eighth."

With three games remaining, the Knicks would prefer to finish in seventh place to earn a first-round matchup with Miami, a best-of-5 series against the defend­ing champion Chicago Bulls.
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MUSTANG DAILY

SPORTS

Yankees and Angels postponed because of structural problem

By Dan Walker

NEW YORK — A 500-pound support beam that had kept the upper deck of the nearly 75-year-old Yankee Stadium on Monday, forcing postponement of two games between the New York Yankees and Anaheim Angels and shifting a third game to Shea Stadium.

There were no fans inside the ballpark — baseball's most storied landmark — when the beam fell from the underside of the upper deck into the mezzanine section and landed on seats between third base and left field about 2 p.m., city officials said.

More than 20,000 people had been expected at Monday night's game at the stadium, known as "the House that Ruth Built," said Mayor Rudy Giuliani. Some one almost certainly would have been killed if the collapse had happened during the game.

The beam crushed the entire back of the upper deck — a view that can be seen from a little-dialparks right now," said pitcher David Cone.

While night games Monday and Tuesday were postponed, the Yankees announced they would play the Angels at 1 p.m. EDT Wednesday at Shea Stadium — the 104th game of the run.

The Angels are also scheduled to play at Shea that day, at 7:40 p.m. against the Houston Astros.

"Yankee Stadium is crumbling.... Everybody is in a little disarray right now," — David Cone, Yankees pitcher

Bonds bats in win for Giants

San Francisco Giants' Barry Bonds, who has the longest home run hit and the longest field seat at the stadium, hit the Giants' 1,000th home run. He became the first player to hit 1,000 home runs. The game was played in the afternoon at Shea Stadium.

By Rob Gloster

SAN FRANCISCO — Barry Bonds hit his first homer of the season and Kirk Rueter pitched six scoreless innings as the San Francisco Giants defeated the St. Louis Cardinals 8-2 Monday.

Bonds lined his first pitch of the fifth inning into the seats beyond the upper deck in right field, with a breaking 59 at-bat homerless drought that the last home run came Sept. 23 at Colorado.

Bonds had gone home games this year without a homer, his longest homel ess streak to start a season. The blast also ended the Giants' streak of six games and 227 at-bats without a homer.

Bonds added an RBI double in the first as the Giants took three of four games from the Cardinals.

Punch-hitter Marvin Benard, who hit a home run in the 10th inning, also had an RBI.

Darryl Hamilton and Bill Mueller had RBI singles and J.T. Snow scored three runs or fewer in 77 of his 97 major league starts with Montreal and St. Louis. The Giants beat the Cardinals 8-2 Monday.

Rueter (2-1) allowed five hits and three walks, and struck out five. He has allowed three earned runs or fewer in 77 of his 97 major league starts with Montreal and St. Louis.

Eli Marrero and Willie McGee hit back-to-back singles in the ninth inning. potent California Giants; defeated the St. Louis Cardinals 8-2 Monday.

The Giants, who have won five of their last six games, including a 1-0 shutout of the Cardinals, improved to 15-16 on the season.

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