Two Poly students dig into Avila Beach oil spill

Diane Farnsworth
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Cal Poly seniors Ryan Tapperò and Ryan Tognazzini are looking for answers in Avila Beach.

In an effort to help with the restoration of Avila Beach, Tapperò, majoring in soil science and chemistry, and Tognazzini, majoring in biochemistry and microbiology, are proposing a research project that will identify the source of oil under the ocean.

Unocal has taken responsibility for the oil contamination along Front Street in Avila Beach and is in the process of removing the contaminated soil from under the town and along the beach. But the ocean bed from the pier to the San Luis River outlet is an area of controversy.

Tognazzini said: "There's a huge mixture of oil products under there."

The Senior Research Team, comprised of two students and several professors, will investigate one theory that some of the oil may have come from the 1926 oil fire at Unocal's San Luis Obispo facility north of Tank Farm Road. Three hundred and fifty million gallons of oil caught fire and burned for two weeks. Some of the burning oil flowed down the San Luis River and into the ocean. Tognazzini said: "What we're thinking is as the lighter molecules burned, the heavier stuff hit the resistance of the pier and may have gone into the ground at that point," Tognazzini explained. "That's just one of our hypotheses. It's absolutely possible that it's from a natural oil seep also."

Tapperò said that is why the team plans to collect samples from several places. The team will get oil samples from tank farms in both San Luis Obispo and in Avila and from natural oil seeps near Avila Beach.

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History professor John Orji agreed. "The summit at Cal Poly is a very big deal for the college. We are often isolated from national debates, so this is a wonderful opportunity. These are very important issues."

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According to political science professor Nanette Pietroforte. see AFRICA, page 5

Repainted handprints not representative of new crimes

By Nanette Pietroforte
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Students concerned with the newly repainted red handprints have flooded various departments on campus with phone calls.

The handprints, which represent sexual assaults that occur on campus, were removed earlier this year while a new criteria were created for handprint placement. Facility Services started repainting the new handprints two weeks ago. The handprints will be updated annually and will remain for a 10-year period.

Vicki Stover, associate vice-president of administration, said the new handprints represent previous incidents that meet the new criteria: "They're not new ones," Stover said. "They're old ones based on the new policy in effect."

Susanne Kelley, adviser of Women's Programs, said students do not need to worry about the new handprints. "There has been a lot of confusion because the new handprints are placed in different areas," Kelley said. She said the old handprints at Trinity Hall used to be directly in front of the entrance, but because of new criteria, the new handprint is on the side of the building.

The new criteria includes moving handprints representing assaults that took place inside a building to see CRIMES, page 2
There is a legacy of globalization, ancient traditions and experiences of colonialism that have formed a vacuum in Africa.

Randal Cruikshanks
political science professor

"There is a legacy of globalization, ancient traditions and experiences of colonialism that have formed a vacuum in Africa."
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Buchanan is right to leave Republicans

Chris Campbell

On Tuesday, November 2, 1999

The party should have rallied the voters around its conservative principles, not cowering its "golden boy" before he had even made his first speech. Here's where Buchanan is correct in running from a somewhat confused party. Back in 1994, when the Republican Party gained control, there was so much optimism for success, yet the power produced very little. Besides sweeping welfare reform, what can be said for a Congress that had so much potential? The party should have rallied the voters around its conservative principles, not cowering its "golden boy" before he had even made his first speech.

Finally, the "party of Lincoln" has taken away the people's right to choose. Through the millions of dollars that George W. Bush has raised and the open support that Clemson's "golden boy" has been made of immigrants. Our country's "golden boy" should either go along, or risk losing a voice. This reality, though, does not mean that the political system will not reward a party with the most votes. This IS why the leadership has openly called candidates like Pat Buchanan "radical." Disappearing from the right will also restore the people's faith in the Democratic system. As for the Republican Party, maybe it needs to sit in the gutter and thus decide the nomination before the primaries and thus decided the nomination before the primaries have even begun. I'm tired of party leaders and the press deciding whom the best candidate is before it goes to the voters. Didn't the Republicans learn their lesson from 1996 when Bob Dole was clobbered by a powerful Democratic opponent? This is why I hope that Buchanan's departure serves as a wake-up call to those that support George W. Bush, because not only will Buchanan provide conservatives with a voice, but he will also restore the people's faith in the Democratic System. As for the Republican Party, maybe it needs to sit in the gutter until it can get political party that is lost in a thick forest of potential, with no flashlights to guide them. Chris Campbell is a business administration junior.

Embrace growing CA diversity

A recent demographics study by the California Research Bureau revealed that by the year 2000, whites will only make up 50 percent of the state's population, the lowest since the Gold Rush. The Latino population will account for almost a third of the state's 34 million people, while Asians and Blacks will account for the remaining 20 percent. As one of the leading states in a country historically known as "the melting pot," where cultures blend together to form a unique and diverse society, Californians should embrace our cornucopia of ethnicity.

The demographics study demonstrates the growing diversity of our state, but some may not see the new "majority" as a welcome change. Unfortunately, the study comes within two months of another newly released report from the Center for Immigration Studies. The study, titled "Importing Poverty: Immigration's Impact on the Size and Growth of the Poor Population in the United States," finds that immigration accounts for the vast majority of the growth in poverty over the last 20 years. The findings of the two studies paired together do not shed much of a positive light on our state's ethnic divisions. The demographics study reveals that international migration, particularly from Mexico, is now the second leading cause of the state's growth. The announcement for the immigration study said the findings "that immigrants are increasingly likely to be poor and are accounting for a growing share of our total poor population, should be disturbing to anyone concerned about the plight of America's poor and the future of our republic."

These studies together, if only taken at face value, encourage the pointing of fingers at ethnic groups as a scapegoat for our economical problems. What we need to remember is our country has always been made of immigrants. Our country's founders emigrated from Europe to the United States to escape a harsh and unfair society. We'd be hypocrites not to allow others the same opportunity for a better life. However, there are some encouraging results within the demographics study. There is evidence suggesting the sons of daughters of first generation Latinos in California are surpassing their immigrant parents educationally. With a better education, their chances of poverty, as suggested in the immigration study, are significantly decreased.

Poly does not shars the same ethnic n parallels as the state, but last year 3 percent of its student body belonged to a minority group. The number is encouraging, considering years ago the number was probably much smaller. As a school, and as a state, we should look at the diversifying of our population as a chance to learn more about other cultures. There are traditions and beliefs within each culture that have the potential to shape our convictions and open our minds.

Nanette Pietroforte is a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily staff writer who checks more than one ethnic box.

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"I'm so excited, I'm going to paint my nails!"
Mentor program helps teens TAPP into resources

Melissa McFarland
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Handling the pressure of parenthood is never easy — but as a teen, the responsibility can be even more daunting.

The Teen Academic Parenting Program (TAPP) Mentor Project can help ease this stress, but the local program is without sufficient volunteers.

TAPP matches up pregnant and parenting teens with volunteer mentors who offer the missing link teens often lack — parenting skills.

No Cal Poly students currently volunteer as mentors, said Jennifer Simon, the program's coordinator. She hopes this will soon change.

"Seeing students going to college and working hard will help the teens realize that they can go further," Simon said. "We're trying to get them to finish high school and maybe go to college. If students take the teens on campus and show them the child care facilities provided, they'll see that there are resources to make their dreams happen."

Simon said the project's purpose is to help the teens continue their education, establish goals and provide encouragement.

"The mentors give parenting support, find out about community resources and help solve problems," Simon said. "They just need someone who'll listen and who is consistently there."

With students' hectic schedules, finding time for anything extra is often stressful. But making a difference in a teen's life doesn't need to be a full-time job, Simon said.

"Mentors don't need any prior experience. A three-part training series — which includes orientation, child abuse education and mentor training — supplies the needed preparation. "They don't have to be parents already," Simon said. "We just need someone willing to help. Many of the teens don't have the skills to go out and find a pediatrician or get a job. The mentors are there to help with these life skills. But the mentors don't need to always have the answer — they just need to help the teens find their own answers."

Mentors also attend quarterly meetings as well as participate in one monthly activity with their teen.

"Sometimes just getting out of the house is great," Simon said. "If the mentors have a certain hobby they enjoy, they can get the teen involved in it. Whether it's walking at the beach or doing crafts, it'll open their doors to new opportunities."

Simon emphasized the reward aspect for the mentors themselves.

"It's helping people reach out into their community," Simon said. "Mentors do something not only rewarding for the teen, but also hopefully for that child's life. And since the teens come to us by referral, they want to be there and are very thankful."

Many times the mentors serve as the only role model in a teen's life, Simon said. Still, mentors often provide the exact kind of support the teens lack.

"The mentors have really been able to help," Simon said. "One got a teen a full-time job and found her a place to live. Others have gotten (teens) registered at Cuesta ... there are all sorts of things they can do. When you help someone make real accomplishments in their life, it's so rewarding."

Students interested in becoming a volunteer mentor can contact Simon at 544-4355, ext. 324.

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NFL great Walter Payton dead at 45

CHICAGO — Walter Payton, whose aggressive, elusive style made him the NFL's all-time rushing leader and took Chicago to its only Super Bowl victory, died Monday. He was 45.

Payton died at his home in suburban Barrington, Ill. The cause of death was not immediately released.

Payton had suffered from priapism, a rare blood disease that could only be cured by a transplant. He'd been on a waiting list for a transplant for nine months.

"He's the best football player I've ever seen," said Mike Ditka, who coached Payton for six of his 11 years with the Bears, including the 1985 Super Bowl season.

"People are better runners than Walter," Ditka said. But "he's the best football player I've ever seen.

Payton's death was announced by the Bears. Representative of Payton's family and his doctor planned to attend a news conference, scheduled for later Monday evening at the Bears' practice facility in Lake Forest, Ill.

Fans were stunned in February when Payton, looking game and trim, announced he had PSC. He made few public appearances after that. His condition gradually deteriorated, and his son, Jarrett, a running back with the Miami Hurricanes, was called home just last Wednesday night.

Reports of how sick Payton was first surfaced Sunday, with at least two radio stations reporting prematurely that he had died. One newspaper columnist wrote that "fans expected to live through the weekend.

Payton rushed for 16,726 yards in his 15-year career, one of sport's most awesome records. And Barry Sanders ensured it would be one of the most enduring, retiring in July despite being just 1,458 yards shy of breaking Payton's mark.

"I want to set the record so high that the next person who tries for it's going to bust his heart," Payton once said.

Though his nickname was "Sweetness," Payton's running style was bruising. He vaulted over goal lines. He stiff-armed and barreled over tacklers on the open field almost as often as he dodged them.

Against Buffalo in 1979, he took off from the two-yard line and landed a yard deep in the end zone — on his head. In one of his more famous runs, he bounced off every defender on the Kansas City Chiefs.

NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue called Payton "one of the greatest players in the history of the sport.”

"Walter was an inspiration to everyone in the field. The tremendous grace and dignity he displayed in his final months reminded us again why he was the perfect nickname for Walter Payton," Tagliabue said.

Payton was awe-inspiring at every stage of his career. His 3,863 yards rushing at Jackson State was one of nine school records he set, and he scored 66 touchdowns. He once scored 46 points in one game.

He led the nation in scoring in 1973 with 162 points, and his 404 career points set an NCAA record.

"The thing with Walter was you didn't have to coach him at all. He had all that ability already," W.C. Gorden said, the defensive coordinator at Jackson State when Payton played and the head coach when Lewis Tillman broke Payton's single-season and career rushing records.

Holtman's third-place finish was followed by Brian Hayes and Avery Blackwell, respectively, giving the Mustangs four of the five best finishes.

Most athletes are fortunate to spend time in the bright light that their sports shine on the rest of the country. It is a monumental privilege to play professional sports, and every athlete should thank the fans who make playing a game a way to collect a paycheck. These, everyday athletes should also thank Wilt, Farm and Payton because it's their shining performances that turn sports into life.

And now that they've left us, the sports world is a little dimmer.

Every time someone dies, someone always says, "This is just a reminder that sports are only a small facet of life." While it may be a cliché, it is entirely correct. These three athletes, however, took this cliché step further. They offered as much to society as they did on the field, court or green.

Wilt, Farm and Payton died "Sweetness," possibly the most accurate nickname of all time. His jokes forced people to look beyond his image and consider him a full-fledged human being.

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