Local group strives to revive native plants

By Stephen Curran
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

For San Luis Obispo resident Lionel Johnston, a Saturday morning does not mean what it does to others. It does not mean sleeping, yard work or shopping. Instead, this retired ironworker and volunteer with EcoSilk uses his Saturday mornings to help clean up the environment.

Along with help from Cal Poly students, scouts and Boy Scout troops, Johnston used Saturday morning to replant a hillside by the Whale Reservoir near Carco, which, according to Johnston, is slowly eroding into the water supply.

To help combat this, Johnston and his team of volunteers spent the morning planting native species along the hillside, which has seen the ravages of weather.

“’The only thing that can stop erosion is the native plants,’” Johnston said.

Currently, the Whale Reservoir is owned by the Whale Rock Authority, a joint power authority that provides water to Cal Poly, the California Men’s Colony and portions of the city of San Luis Obispo. The effects of the run-off are highly preventable, said Neil Hartke, natural resources manager for the city of San Luis Obispo.

“It’s kind of like a disease that’s preventable,” he said. “It might not be life-threatening, but it’s an unhealthy situation.”

The problem, Johnston said, dates back to California’s original European settlers, who planted species native to northern Europe, causing a dramatic change to the California landscape.

“California doesn’t look like California, it looks like northern Europe,” he said. “It’s a dysfunctional environment, even though it looks OK.”

Soil scientist and volunteer Peter Fisher was also on hand, and said that a more long-term approach is needed to keep further erosion from occurring. As mud and silt continue to wash into the reservoir, it can have a damaging effect on native animals, smothering many native fish, including the now-decimated Steelhead Salmon.

The answer, Johnston said, lies not in concrete barriers and elaborate irrigation systems, but in preventative placement of native plants.

“My question is this: if Cal Poly owns part, they should be rescoping it,” Johnston said. “It’s not rocket science.”

see RESERVOIR, page 5

Unocal donates pier to Cal Poly

By Lacie Grimsshaw
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Some students may soon be able to look out of their classroom windows and see a new sight — the ocean.

With the recent donation of the Unocal Pier to Cal Poly, after learning about marine life in class, students may be able to step outside of their classrooms into the “lab” — the ocean — and study that same marine life firsthand.

Unocal donated the historic Unocal Pier in Avila Beach and an endowment to Cal Poly on Thursday. The pier and endowment will help establish a marine science and environmental research center for students and the San Luis Obispo community.

For over two years, Unocal and Cal Poly have been in discussions over the donation of the Unocal Corporation’s historic pier at Avila Beach and endowment to Cal Poly. Together, the donation from Unocal totals $21.5 million. All donations will go toward the development of the Cal Poly Marine Science Foundation and Research Center.

“I couldn’t think of a better group to lease to,” said John Kopt, from the Port San Luis Harbor District. “It’s a very optimistic situation.”

Mark Smith, Unocal vice president for real estate, remediates services and mining, presented the pier to Cal Poly.

"Getting two degrees for the price of one" by Kat Corey
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Some students need a miracle to graduate from Cal Poly in four years. Most freshmen come here knowing they won't be out in less than five. But, believe it or not, a few are leaving here with not just one, but two degrees. Some are even doing it in four years.

Fourth year senior Josh Ruiz will graduate this June with degrees in both agricusiness and crop science. Ruiz's decision to double major came about early in his college career. He applied for his second major after his first quarter at Cal Poly. He said he liked the farming knowledge that crop science offered, but also wanted the office skills that came with agricusiness.

"I couldn't make up my mind and I didn't want to lose out," Ruiz said. Meshing crop science with agricbusiness will put him in a position where he manages workers in an area he knows well.

"It makes it easier for me to manage someone because I've done it myself," Ruiz said. "I will know what's going on out there (in the field)."

Double majoring is not for everyone. Ruiz has been dedicated to it since day one. Since his freshman year, Ruiz said he hasn't had a quarter with less than 20 units. He has a goal to graduate in four years and is sticking to it.

"There has been a lot of times where I have had 20 to 25 units and I could have easily dropped one or two classes, but I didn't,'" he said.

Along with this heavy school load, last year Ruiz was president of his fraternity and vice president of the agricbusiness club on campus. He said the last few years have been stressful, but that there is no better feeling than what he will have accomplished.

Graduating with a double major definitely sets a student apart, Ruiz said. He already has a job lined up at River Ranch Fresh Food in Salinas, Calif, which is anxiously awaiting his graduation. Ruiz said his soon-to-be employer told him that it was not his grades or the two majors, that really makes him appealing. It's the effort and dedication that it takes to graduate with two degrees.

Ruiz said he knew from the beginning that he would graduate with two degrees, but many double majors usually come about because of a change later on in their career.

"Carol Moore, a Career Services counselor, said students typically progress in a major that they should have changed long before, but they don't want to give it up because they have invested so much time in it. She said they end up adding the major they really want without dropping the other one. A student might be one quarter short of a double major, so they just end up going for it, she said.

Jealousy made her double major

Marisa Gray's double major stemmed from a change of interest later on in her college career. Often, a music and English senior, started at Cal Poly in psychology. It wasn't until her third year that she wanted to transfer out of the major. She wanted to stay in liberal arts, so she went with English. Gray had also been in the Cal Poly choir since freshman year and had taken enough units to get a minor in music. She realized that she wanted to keep taking music classes, so she added the major in her fourth year.

"I was jealous of all this information that people would be getting and I wouldn't," she said.

see DOUBLE, page 5

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Jesse Ventura could be down for the count, according to Minnesota poll

By Charles Babington

Minneapolis Gov. Jesse Ventura, the pro wrestler-turned-politician, has often intrigued and amused state residents during his three years in office. Lately, however, voters seem increasingly weary of his bombast, press-hating and secretiveness.

Ventura, the Reform Party upstart who bested Republican and Democratic nominees in 1998, hasn't said whether he will seek a second term next year. If he does, a recent poll suggests he may face problems.

The survey by St. Cloud State University found that 56 percent of adults in Minnesota say they would not vote to re-elect Ventura, compared with 36 percent a year ago. Those rating his job performance as poor went from 8 percent last year to 21 percent.

The Politics in Minnesota newsletter recently predicted he might lose. Ventura always has dealt testily with critics, especially journalists, whom he often calls "jackasses." But his actions grew more controversial recently, with privately paid trips to New York and California, plus a series of tempestuous radio appearances.

In early October, A.R.C News paid for Ventura's visit to the Mall of America and the Metrodome might be top targets in Minnesota for terrorists. He lamented that he didn't have more armed bodyguards. He stopped publicizing his daily schedule, sometimes leaving close aides unsure of his whereabouts.

"This is a governor whose three favorite words are "I, me and my,"" state Senate majority leader Roger Moe said.

In early November, Ventura quietly traveled to California, a day after saying he was too busy with terrorism issues to deal with the possibility that the Minnesota Twins baseball team might move or disband. He told critics he had gone to visit his son. Reporters later found he had been paid for a cameo appearance in a film starring comedian Dana Carvey.

"You're darned right I'd do it again," Ventura told a caller to KFAN radio. "I got a chance to meet Adam Sandler and Dana Carvey. Why not?"

In another event, captured by TV cameras, Ventura got angry when a talk-show caller questioned his leadership.

"He ripped off his headphones, refused to talk to him," said Stephen Frank, a St. Cloud State University political scientist who has written two books on Ventura. "It's OK to holler at the media," Frank said. But it doesn't "behave a politician to "do that to the public."

Ventura's autumn of discontent has emboldened his critics. Some say he has become too self-absorbed to govern well.

"This is a governor whose three favorite words are "I, me and my,"" state Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe (D) told the Star-Tribune of Minneapolis. He said he is giving "very serious consideration" to a gubernatorial run next year. Others planning to run include Tim Pawlenty, Republican leader of the state House.

Ventura, calling a truce long enough for an interview last week with the St. Paul Pioneer Press, defended himself.

"Clearly, these potential candidates are having a difficult time attacking my record," he said.

"So, therefore, they're going to attack my style; they're going to attack my personality."

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New anthrax developments

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is considering making concessions on the death penalty and the use of military tribunals in order to gain control of the situation in the Middle East. The president has also been informed about the death penalty.

U.S. weighs terrorism extradition

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is considering making concessions on the death penalty and the use of military tribunals in order to gain control of the situation in the Middle East. The president has also been informed about the death penalty.

NY blaze injures 42 people

NEW YORK — A blaze in the basement of a commercial building above a market in the World Trade Center injured 42 people. Firefighters responded to the building and found 12 people in the basement, where a fire was burning. The building was later found to be a construction project.

Europe

MOSCOW — A Russian military cargo plane exploded before it was able to make an emergency landing after catching fire Saturday. All 18 people aboard were found dead. The Ilyushin-76 transporter was operated by Russian border guards and was en route from Bratsk to Andir. It was flying at 24,530 feet when the fire broke out, and the captain told air traffic control he was making an emergency landing. The cause of the blaze has not yet been determined. The plane was carrying food and some parts.

THINK YOU CAN DRINK as much as you want as long as you’re not driving? Wrong!
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The preview screening of Columbia Pictures' new film NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE to be received at the Cinema. This offer will be given at

The Movie Experience
Downtown Center Cinema
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Wednesday, December 5

El Nino storms in 1983 terrorized the pier while three company employees were on it. One of these employees, Jack Spaulding, spoke at the dedication ceremony. Speaking as an employee of Union Oil for 35 years, he said he had mixed emotions about the donation. He said although he'd jokingly been accused of tearing down the pier before he was on it during the 1983 storm, without him there wouldn't be a new one to dedicate.

Davis said the pier will add more to the university.

"The pier is worlds apart from any­thing Cal Poly has experienced," Davis said.

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Opinion

Cloning ethics outweigh advances

Scientists at the Roslin Institute in Scotland created controversy in 1997 when they revealed that they had cloned a sheep named Dolly. Following the announcement, apprehension loomed about the day when scientists would seek to clone human beings.

That day has finally arrived. On Nov. 27, a Massachusetts company announced that it had successfully cloned human embryos, bringing the world to the crossroads of scientific research and ethical concerns.

Commentary

The company

Advanced Cell Technology (ACT), grew embryos but quit developing them once they reached six cells. If the embryos are continued, scientists may be able to grow cells large enough to create special stem cells. These cells then may have the ability to grow into various types of human tissues.

This process of creating cells, called therapeutic cloning, could lead the way for treatments for strokes, diabetes, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, AIDS and cancer. For years, scientists have been growing human embryos for the sole purpose of destroying them.

It is this idea that raises a highly justified controversy across the globe.

President Bush opposed the practice of cloning embryos in a Nov. 27 article in (U-WIRE) MUNCIE, Ind. — When my brother was in high school, he wasn't pretty.

He had little glasses, slouchy long hair down to his chin, oversized-ragged jeans that he had a habit of wearing rolled up at his waist, his beard. He also wore his beautiful underwear hanging out, and he walked a lot like he was trying to reach his paws of pants down at his knees.

Up, my brother was the pimp.

After high school, I broke away from being a part of his gang, made the dean's list and by the time he was done with his degree, only Polo could touch his body. 

So, let's get this straight. In high school, my brother wore pants with a 36-inch waist. He then went to college, made the dean's list and by the time he was done with his degree, only Polo could touch his body. 

Now, he is a manager at Abercrombie and Fitch. Which leads me to my next point. Since he's manager, I was lucky enough to get a job with him over the winter break.

After refusing to wear their clothes for so long, I broke down.

I'm a traitor to nonconformity, I know, but I needed the job and I had a contradiction — a wrinkle in my lap, along with a pair of jeans and two shirts.

I am now an employee of Abercrombie and Fitch, the store where

"I've never worked at a place where you couldn't tell the difference between the customers or the employees."

the hottest of the hot go and buy clothes that are too small for them. 

To me, there, clothes must be bought to fit so we can show off the latest styles, strut our stuff, flip back our hair, tell people we're trendy and show others that we look at, especially when we're bending over to pick something up.

The problem with being near a store like this is, when the employees are working, they're on a hair. 

We don't get those cool shirts like Old Navy that say "staff."

While folding shirts, one of my coworkers asked if he could help me find anything.

"Uh-huh," I said. I wasn't sure what to tell him, because apparently he had the same problem I did. "No, I'm doing anything," I told him. I then went to another aisle with a pile of shirts and continued to fold at another table.

I finally realized what made the store work during the Friday after Thanksgiving shopping apocalypse, the district manager apparently came into the store for a little chat about numbers and saw my non-traditional hair.

I had to wear a hat over my dyed red hair.

But at least the techno music thumping in the background, foreground, inner ear and inside my chest has a good reason to be there, especially when it breaks 120,000 decibels.

Elvan Williams, Daily News (Ball State U.)
Letter to the editor
Media should not get names of detainees
Editor,
I'm not writing in response to anyone or any article, but I'd like to speak directly on the subject of military tribunals. If military tribunals had their place during World War II, they have their place in our military establishment now, and they'll rightfully have their place in this war on terror.
Also, on the subject of those detained for questioning about terrorism by the Department of Justice: The media are asking for the names of these persons, but for what reason? Are the media running out of stories? Because if those names are released, think how hard it would be for that person to find another job, among other things, guilty or not. Not releasing names is helping those who are detained keep their normal lives when they return to them—if they aren't guilty, of course. The media need to address the real stories and not nit-pick the administration, because they're more than proven their effectiveness thus far. Take yourself back five years, when Clinton was president. If this tragedy had occurred then, would you have been confident in his judgment? Stlick Witty couldn't take a murder suspect, seriously, he's a draft dodger, and some of the most disastrous special-forces operations occurred on his watch. Chew on that.
Greg Maita is an industrial engineering junior.

Cal Poly Student Health Center Advice: What Should You Do if You Have a Cold or Cold-Like Flu?

Your time is precious. Under most circumstances, there are no medical treatments for a common cold or the flu. Waits can be long at the Health Center, because they've more than proven their effectiveness thus far. Take yourself back five years, when Clinton was president. If this tragedy had occurred then, would you have been confident in his judgment? Stlick Witty couldn't take a murder suspect, seriously, he's a draft dodger, and some of the most disastrous special-forces operations occurred on his watch. Chew on that.

Greg Maita is an industrial engineering junior.

Opinion
September 11, 2001: In the wake of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the American public witnessed the power of education to change people's lives, to shape their understanding of the world, and to promote peace and justice. The September 11th attacks were a tragedy that affected millions of people around the world. The attacks also served as a reminder of the importance of education and its role in shaping our society. In response to the attacks, education leaders and policymakers called for a reexamination of the education system, with a focus on critical thinking, civic engagement, and the development of global citizenship. This led to the establishment of the September 11th Commission, which conducted a comprehensive investigation of the attacks and recommended reforms to the education system. The commission's report emphasized the need for education to be more inclusive, to foster a sense of community, and to prepare students for the challenges of the 21st century. As a result of the commission's recommendations, education systems across the country have undergone significant changes, with a greater emphasis on critical thinking, civic engagement, and the development of global citizenship. These changes have helped to ensure that education is a tool for promoting peace and justice, and for shaping a more just and equitable society. Today, as we remember the September 11th attacks, we must continue to support education as a tool for promoting peace and justice, and for shaping a more just and equitable society. For more information, please visit the website of the September 11th Commission at www.911commission.gov.
Sports

Marcillac, Wheelmen place nationally

By Katherine Gernhardt
MUSTANG DAILY CONTRIBUTOR

Neither snow, nor rain, nor sleet, nor hail could stop Cal Poly's Wheelmen Cycling Team from capturing fourth in the country at the National Collegiate Cycling Association's Mountain Bike National Championships last month.

The 12-member team was one of 75 entries sent across the nation competing in Roslyn, N.Y. The event was held at the Ski Plattekill Mountain Resort Oct. 26-29 and was sanctioned by NORBA, the National Off-Road Bicycle Association.

Cal Poly's Nichole Marcillac placed the highest of the Cal Poly riders, coming in second in the Division I women's omnium. The term "omnium" refers to overall standing, and includes results from all races. Therefore, Marcillac is the second-ranked women's collegiate mountain bike rider in the country.

"We're really proud of her," said teammate Frank Thaxter. "She really helped us get that fourth-place finish."

Marcillac finished third in the short track, with a time of 35:08, in the women's cross-country race, ninth out of 32 riders in the women's downhill, and was Cal Poly's top finisher in the women's dual slalom race, finishing 11th. Cal Poly rider John Dawson said that the "short track" is an abbreviated cross-country course of less than one mile, and riders do several laps.

'Thought the morning of the cross-country race, Thaxter was pleased with his team's performance. He said that he made sure to spend extra time warming up before his race.

"We just covered our clothing up a little more," he said. Thaxter said he noticed the cold the most on the third and final lap of that race, but that it didn't slow the team down very much.

"We all ended the race really well," Thaxter said.

Marcillac was leftover to pick a favorite race.

"I loved them all," she said. "They all bring something unique to the experience. That makes the whole your most favorite." 

Marcillac said that the cross-country race was the most physically challenging for her.

"It seemed, which made the temperature cold and conditions slick and challenging, but it was also really beautiful," she said.

Teammate John Cullen agreed, citing weather conditions that made the trail obscure.

"There was one point in the (cross-country) race where the people who were spread out on the course had to follow the tire tracks in the snow because there was so much snow covering the trail," he said.

In the dual slalom, the men's highest finisher was Brian Long, in 11th place. He advanced the fastest of the Cal Poly riders in that event.

Cullen explained that the race starts out with about 75 racers, who each ride the course once. The 32 fastest finishers qualify for the final heats, where the riders go head-to-head individuals.

"Cal Poly did really well in the (dual slalom) because you get points for just qualifying," he said. "All of our guys qualified, so we had a really solid team." Cullen, Curtis Beavers and Danny Muns were the other riders in that event.

The format is the same for the men's dual slalom.

Marcillac also noted that the weather and specific courses brought about changes in her riding techniques.

"For the downhill we had to change tires to compensate for the icy terrain," she said. "On the road (oval) they don't have slick tires or granite slabs, so we had to modify our riding style as well."

Kristi Jeben was close behind Marcillac in the women's cross-country competition, finishing ninth. Harmony Helton finished 29th.

The women's downhill competition had 32 total riders, with two more Cal Poly riders finishing close to one another. Tara O'Connell came in eighth, Marcillac ninth and Helton 26th.

Cal Poly's male riders also fared well. In the men's downhill race, Cal Poly riders took the following places:

With their 5-2 start, the Mustangs List season, and thus the season poll, all the Mustangs have provided valuable minutes off the bench.

Sophomore Vannie Dennis has picked up where he left off last season, when he made the Big West's all-freshman team. The 6'9" center has nearly doubled his scoring average up to 15 points per game and has shown a potent stroke from beyond the arc, nailing his first five three-point attempts this season.

After missing all of last season with a back injury, Steve Greer has returned and given the Mustangs the true point guard they sorely lacked last year. Senior Brandon Beeson has been his usual reliable self as the team's second-leading scorer and tip rebounder, while David Henry and newcomer Eric Jackson have provided solid outside shooting on the wings.

The real limus test will come Dec. 15 against Oregon State at Mott Gym. The long-awaited season match-up pits the Mustangs against Pac-10 competition, and could go a long way in proving that this year's edition bears no resemblance to last season's underachieving bunch.

Two things are certain. First, the Mustangs are playing hard-nosed basketball again, spreading the ball around unselfishly, and putting an exciting product out on the floor, which they were often unable to do during last year's debacle.

And second, I won't be making any predictions again any time soon.

Jacob Jackson is a journalism sophomore and Mustang Daily staff writer.