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see HAW, page 5

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"She's going to talk about the importance of diversity in institutions in terms of cultivating the intellectual and social growth of students, faculty and staff," he said.

Several groups sponsored the event, including the Multicultural Center, Asian American and Pacific Islander student organizations, Student Life and Leadership, the College of Science and Mathematics and the College of Agriculture.

"Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week brings attention to homelessness and raises money for homeless services," Fabionar said.

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There was continued combat in cities to the north, though, where government troops were under attack from U.S. and British warplanes.

The scenes of liberation in Baghdad and celebrations in scattered other cities undisturbed as the Pentagon announced that 101 American troops had died in the first three weeks of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Eleven others are missing and seven listed as captured. The British said 10 of their troops were dead. There are no reliable estimates for Iraqi casualties, although an Army spokesman said 7,300 prisoners had been taken.

Iraqis topple statue, loot city to celebrate end of Saddam's rule

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NASD to educate about alcohol abuse

By Samantha Yale

Memory loss, hangovers and black-outs. It may sound like an average Saturday night, but these are just the short-term effects of heavy drinking. The long-term effects include heart problems, cancer and brain damage.

The fifth-annual National Alcohol Screening Day (NASD) will be held in the University Union plaza from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. today to help prevent such alcohol-related problems.

The event, which is recognized nationwide in communities, colleges and even mentioned in Ann Landers' column, is designed to help reduce high-risk drinking and to change attitudes and the cultural norms that encourage them.

Cal Poly students, employees and community members will have the chance to learn about the signs and symptoms of alcohol abuse, remove the fear of drinking, friends noticing a problem, not being able to stop drinking once started, dependency and to take a free, confidential self-test for determining alcohol abuse and dependency.

Licensed Cal Poly counselors will then immediately discuss the results of the tests one on one.

Student Health Advisory Council (SHAC) will staff the booth. This is the second year students have worked at the booth. Bob Negranti, projects coordinator for the Health Center, said having students with questions and promoting career as an architect. His father, Greg, said his son has always loved drawing.

"He's a gift," Greg said. "He was really talented."

After high school, Estrada was hired by architect Gordon Rogers in Rocklin, Calif. While Estrada was attending the local junior college, a co-worker who graduated from Cal Poly encouraged him to apply.

see ESTRADA 2, page 10
National/Briefs

House passes legislation to block gun lawsuits
WASHINGTON — The GOP-controlled House on Wednesday passed legislation to protect the firearm industry from lawsuits that allege links between gun marketing and street violence.

House Republicans said the industry is being attacked through frivolous lawsuits blunting gun manufacturers and dealers for violence by criminals. The suits could end the American gun industry by making companies spend millions in court, said the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis.

"Those who are filing lawsuits against the firearm industry are doing so because they want to bankrupt the industry," he said.

The legislation, which passed the House by a 285-140 vote, "would help curb the growing problem of frivolous lawsuits in the United States," he said.

Meanwhile, the legislation "would carefully preserve the right of individuals to have their day in court with civil liability actions." Democrats, however, said the GOP legislation banning suits against gun makers and dealers probably was unconstitutional and was politically motivated.

Channel Island marine preserve opens off SANTA BARBARA — Waters around the Channel Islands officially became part of one of the largest "no-fishing" zones in the United States on Wednesday, a move that pleased environmentalists and angered the fishing industry.

The California Fish and Game Commission voted Oct. 23 to create the 175-square-mile network of marine reserves, one of the largest in U.S. waters. The regulations creating the marine reserves are meant to give endangered white abalone, redfish, giant kelp forests and an array of other species a chance to recover from years of excessive fishing.

Commercial fishermen fear the move will lead to more no-fishing zones and conservation areas up and down California's 1,150-mile coastline. State law requires a draft map of such a network by 2005.

Calif. aid group ships medical supplies to Iraq
LOS ANGELES — Five tons of sutures, surgical gowns, multivitamins and other medical supplies were loaded Wednesday for shipment from Los Angeles to the Middle East, the beginning of a long-term effort by private charities to help rebuild Iraq's health infrastructure.

Los Angeles-based Operation USA, an international humanitarian agency, is sending $30,000 worth of medical supplies on a cargo ship that will arrive in the Persian Gulf within 30 days, officials said.

The organization also has arranged to ship supplies to Amman, Jordan, where they will be packed into Iraq, and purchase supplies from European and Middle Eastern medical firms. Operation USA works independently of the coalition relief efforts and deals directly with health facilities.

Gun stores and other supplies to treat wounds are particularly needed in Iraq, said Neil Freme, the director of procurement and logistics for Operation USA.

"Dozens of hospitals in Baghdad are bringing in at least 100 patients a day," Freme said. "There's a huge need in these hospitals."

Security concerns in Baghdad and other parts of Iraq may delay the delivery of supplies in areas not under coalition control, Freme said.

Doctors from the International Medical Corps, an Operation USA partner agency, are in the Iraq port city of Ummin Qausar, awaiting assurances of stability.

International/Briefs

EU lawmakers endorse addition of 10 new member states
BRUSSELS, Belgium — The European Union's parliament endorsed the bloc's historic expansion eastward Wednesday, but not without casting doubt and future member nations' commitments as the larger union can "speak with a common voice."

In separate votes for each of the 10 acceding nations, the 626-member EU parliament overwhelmingly supported the expansion scheduled for May 1, 2004. Those 10 nations are Poland, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Slovakia, Malta and Cyprus.

The expansion will be the union's fifth and largest since its founding in 1957. It currently has 15 members.

"Finally, after all the arguments and after all the debates, we get the defining moment," European Parliament President Pat Cox said. "The time for enlargement has come and the time is now."

While approving the expansion, the EU assembly in Strasbourg, France, warned that the club's current and future members had to commit to building an "ever-closer union."

The assembly insisted that a 25-member EU "speak with a common voice in world politics" and urged EU capitals to show "a stronger sense of solidarity" — a reference to the gap within Europe over Iraq.

Twelve Afghan civilians killed in accidental U.S. bombing near Pakistan border
KABUL, Afghanistan — An American warplane mistakenly bombed a house, killing 11 civilians near Afghanistan's eastern border with Pakistan, the U.S. military said Wednesday.

The civilians were killed when the bomb landed on the home near the outskirts of Shkin, 135 miles south of the capital of Kabul, U.S. military spokesman Lt. Col. Douglas Lefforge said.

The killings occurred after unidentified, armed attackers attacked a checkpoint manned by soldiers allied to American forces near the town.

Two Harrier attack aircraft were called in and spotted two groups of five to 10 enemy fighters each. The jets attacked one group with their cannon.

One plane then dropped a 1,000-pound laser-guided bomb, but it missed its intended target, Lefforge said.

Cuba says crackdown on the opposition was needed to protect national sovereignty
HAVANA — Cuba defended its recent crackdown on 75 dissidents, saying Wednesday it had to protect itself against U.S. attempts to subvert the government. It also maintained that the cases' timing had nothing to do with war in Iraq.

The United States, which has dismissed the Cuban allegations, condemned the crackdown. "This is symptomatic of the dictatorship of the Cuban regime," White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said Wednesday.

The known sentences for 57 of the government opponents who were tried ranged from 6 to 28 years. The remaining 18 sentences were expected by week's end. None of the trials has lasted more than five days, activists said.

There were no reports of acquittals.

"We have been patient, we have been tolerant," Foreign Ministry spokesman Felipe Perez Roque said. "But we have been obligated to apply our laws."

Roque also denied international criticism that the arrests and convictions over the course of three weeks were timed so that the world's attention would be focused on war.

Briefs compiled from The Associated Press wire services by Mustang Daly.

Managing editor Malia Spencer.

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Evelyn Trauma Center Sexual Assault Awareness Program 1997-2000, a project of San Luis Obispo County.
Opinion

Gays and the straight gals who love them

Spring fashion is here and I picked up some fresh accessories to complement my new tan. American flag bikini? Check. French manicure? Check. Cowboy hat? Check! But I don’t lack a certain element of flair and finesse. Of course! I’m missing the essential accompaniment to any straight woman: A gay guy.

A best friend of mine, whom I affectionately call Poodle, helped me through years of bad dates and worse highlights. His sports car and hair are identically gendered, both frequently involving police intervention! I always hated the phrase “fag hag.” It’s a dually accomplisment.

Maybe the impeccable grooming or love of all things Broadway, but his exuberance is to be envied. He can’t contain himself. Life is beautiful, artistic and ripe for the picking! Why should the gay man deny himself anything? He laughs and the world laughs with him.

My friends and I jokingly try to one-up each other about how gross we got. “I feel so ... be-dunk-a-dunk-dunk.” “I’m Bloatesy McGuire.” Only one of us can top the other.

Besides all this, my gay friends are just more interesting. Hilarious stories and saucy debacles abound: - Spriting on a hospital floor with a sprained ankle when the magazine selection had been selected. - Crawling Kathy Griffin’s wedding, stealing forks and shouting “I’m in a boy band!” over the microphone. - Peering in the face wall of a food service line a (a good prank, second only to the old face-tos-face-bird-in-the-track). - Hijacking a staysy shopping mall wheel chair so my shoes started to sting. These days, I look at Poodle with a mixture of pride and envy. He’s got a 100% something to use to UCLA graduate bound for an Ivy League law school, he has love, intelligence, taste and a 2002 BMW 325i coupe.

Gay men are a social safe zone. You don’t have to worry about shaving or shifting complements about his sparkling wit and forwarded hair. Women crave male attention. We need it like oxygen, water or light beer. But we all go through dry spells, which can lead to desperate calls to an ex— or worse. The gay man relieves this pressure. Hey, nobody said we needed attention with the possibility of sex! We’re content to poke at their booby bottles, link arms on a small and cuddle watching “The Birdcage.”

They also provide us with much-needed appreciation. The endless social scene can leave us so drained and worthless. The constant self-deprecation is a welcome change as we engage in becoming white queens.

I think it’s more complex. Gay men are irrestible to straight women. He’s charming, he’s a trickster, he’s football player! I always hated the phrase “fag hag.” It’s a dually accomplishement.

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Letters to the editor

Sex and San Luis

Class availability still lacking

Editor,

For a class I attempted to crash this quarter, I showed up on the first day with hopes that someone had dropped. Sounds simple enough, but I was only one of about 25 people doing the same thing. This situation is absurd. Only one section (26 seats) being offered for a required major class! I think 25 people trying to crash a class implies that there is an obvious need for more classes. My main problem with this situation is that last March, students (not this student, however) voted to increase our tuition by $200 under the apparently false pretense that we would benefit by delving deeper into our already shallow pockets. We took surveys in classes about what we wanted from our contribution, and the overwhelming consensus was MORE CLASSES! 1, for one, have not seen this become the reality of the situation.

There are less than 350 seats this quarter being offered for my required major courses. This is enough for each student to take only ONE required class. This is ridicu­lous. I want to know where my $200 is! Do YOU know where your money is going? Excuse me if I actually EXPECT to get something for $600, but don’t you? It’s time to start asking questions. The only way we will get answers is by getting the questions out there. Ask your professors, ask your department chair, ask your dean. Just start asking! It’s time for the administration to start being accountable to the students who pay for them!

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HAW continued from page 1

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is something the employees of the Maxine Lewis Memorial Shelter anticipate, especially this year, Shelter manager Shawn Ison said he has been facing many challenges.

"We're looking at a huge fall this year with state, county and government benefit cuts," Ison said. "Community donations have been saving our budget where we don't even have the money to spend, and it's the community that pulls us through."

Continuing with the week, Beyond Shelter will hold a needed items drive Wednesday, where donations of items like cereal, coffee, blankets and diapers will be collected, as well as canned goods for the San Luis Obispo County Food Bank. Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week will conclude with two events to experience what it is like to be homeless and without food. The Hunger Banquet at Veranda Café will demonstrate how food distribution inequalities people face around the world, and the Fast to End Hunger participants can donate money to the food bank that would have otherwise been spent on food.

At this final event, participants can join in a candlelight vigil through downtown and break the fast. Along with students and community members, the shelter clients have been looking forward to participating in the week's events.

"They like to take this opportunity to interact with the community and show that they are normal human beings and not the stereotypes of us expect," Ison said.

SHELTER continued from page 1

ner, and the Prado Day Center, which provides an afternoon hang-out and lunch.

These facilities are becoming packed as people are no longer able to afford housing in the city with the sharp reductions in funds, said Shawn Ison, program manager of the EOC Emergency Shelter.

"I don't need to improve funding because we have a huge shortage," Ison said. "Sadly enough, we have had to discuss closing during the summer in order to save money. Most people think that our clients are the stereotypical homeless people see standing on corners with signs. Especially lately, however, they are just regular people who have hit hard times and can't afford their housing anymore."

Only large enough to hold 49 beds, the Emergency Shelter has turned away the majority of the 100 to 120 people they see daily. Even the daily breakfast and dinner meals that the shelter provides have become impacted recently.

Despite the financial strain recent cuts have forced upon the shelters, the facilities are continuing to experience much success with their clients, albeit on a slightly more limited basis.

Guido Patterson landed in San Luis Obispo as he was looking for a ride from the area and dropped off in front of the Prado Day Center. Eight months later, Patterson found himself working for the state utilizing his linguistic skills, which he had used the time to freshen up on.

"(San Luis Obispo) has an instantly wider range of possibilities than any other city I've ever been in," Patterson said. "It is a bike-friendy, and the town has a personal side to it."

With a teaching credential and much worldly experience, Patterson said he chose to take a job commitment to a project in the city and get back on his feet. "The sky is the limit. I'm going to be here a long time," Patterson said. "I don't have any bills, all I needed was an opportunity. I wouldn't have thought to come here, but we were definitely a God-send."

In addition to the town's atmosphere, the center itself provides much of the support necessary to help people return to the workforce.

"I think it's excellent," Patterson said. "They make it challenging, but it definitely works out for the best for those who want to get back to work."

Daniel Chaffin, a three-month client of the shelter, agreed.

"The facilities are pretty awesome," Chaffin said. "They couldn't do it better than they are doing it. If you have a positive attitude, it's all around you. You'll discover help everywhere."

In order to continue to experience the same success of previous years, the centers are looking for volunteers and donations. Anything from necessities to food is in great demand.

As an engineer in the U.S. Air Force, there's no telling what you'll work on. (Seriously, we can't tell you.)
The Cal Poly chapter of the California Faculty Association (CFA) is seeking nominations for the “Distinguished Educator Award.” The “Distinguished Educator Award” is being given to recognize faculty and educators who are not yet tenured. Tenure-track faculty, librarians, and counselors are ineligible for most teaching awards, yet they deserve recognition and distinct privileges, and service as they work to achieve tenure at Cal Poly. We encourage students and faculty to nominate a tenure-track faculty member, a librarian, and/or a counselor they think is deserving of special recognition. This is your chance to make your voices heard. Three $500 awards will be presented at CFA’s end-of-the-year banquet in June.

Below is a list of tenure-track faculty members, librarians, and counselors at Cal Poly. Please take a moment to peruse the list to see if there is someone you’d like to nominate. Then write or e-mail the nominee’s name and reasons supporting your nomination to the address below. The CFA Distinguished Educator Award criteria may include teaching, scholarship, service, and leadership. Thank you.

Please submit your nomination NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, MAY 2 to:

Distinguished Educator Award Nomination Committee/CFA/Building 38-141 or
e-mail your response to mmertogu@calpoly.edu

Please include:

1. Name of Educator Nominee
2. Reasons supporting your nomination (a minimum of 50 words should be considered)
3. Your name
4. Your e-mail address.
You can just put it up against the wall and it will spin anywhere. It's nice to hold in your hand, larger than the other ones. When you slide it out of the plastic, a feeling of wonder and satisfaction comes over you. It's addictive...

After CD and tapes and CDs, vinyl has proven that it is not just a passing trend. Collectors, DJs and DJs have a spinning. Hearing of several people with records on a turntable, I sat out to discover the appeal behind vinyl.

*Why vinyl?*

"Records are special, they're big and old, they just have that special quality that digital doesn't have," said DJ Ally Davis, a third-year Cuesta College student.

Davis, who plays mostly hip-hop and old funk, finds her records locally at the swap meet, thrift stores and Boo Boo Records. The cleanliness of the record, its price and the label determine her purchases, which sometimes cost up to $25.

"Though she didn't start buying until after an old roommate left her with his Numark turntables, she can't foresee getting rid of the medium.

"I like the motion, but I want to get better," Davis said. "I want to have a disco dance lab."

Though vinyl isn't the only medium in stacks of 10 or more according to their various musical tastes, many attribute a similar appeal to the sound of a spinning album. "It's the authenticity, like you're almost with the singer," Cuesta student Rebecca Cottrell said. "It has a different quality than other music mediums that I listen to.

The pure sound of the needle on the album, for many, adds to its availability, just what you put down the needle, how that box and the little crackles, it adds more character to the music," Davis said.

"You can't replace the feeling of a vinyl," Davis said of the unique atmosphere that vinyl adds.

"There's only one way to discover the appeal behind vinyl.

**Cue Up Memories**
It's interesting, the connection people have with their records. For me, it's just a connection, reminiscent of things that are warm and fuzzy. I want it to be like Earth ('buy')," Moyer said. "It's good for the country to get together with friends and family to boogie." Besides his self-labeled 'vinyl junkie' status, he said it's great to see college students who grew up during the CD age, becoming intrigued with vinyl. Since records have withstood the decades, "people are used to them, and now there's a mystique to it — it's retro," Moyer said. Freiberg, now 53, has collected albums since his early teens. He will leave his position as an investment adviser to embark on a new vinyl record career, focusing his efforts into making Vinyl Record Day a national event. Freiberg said, "It's good for the country to get together with friends and family to boogie." Freiberg said. "I'm very excited about the future of vinyl." Vinyl Record Day is Aug. 16 and runs along with Classic Car Day in the Mission Plaza. Spinning the Details Though anyone can find vinyl at record stores, as well as at swap meets and thrift stores, Sweeney said shopping online at e-bay is also a good idea for those hard to find records. Since many of Freiberg's choices are only available in Europe, he encourages contacting the artists directly. But without the player, records are useless. "Budget is the answer," Freiberg said, suggesting that all turntables will serve their purpose. For DJs, however, quality is a must. "Technics turntables are the industry standard — the basic, solid turntable," Sweeney said. Since CDs are aluminum and vinyl is a more resilient material, records can be expected to outlive their owners. "Vinyl may be much easier to play 100 years from now," Moyer said. Regardless of the sound debate between CD fans and vinyl junkies, an innocent bystander to my barrage of questions — an obvious record breaker — broke down the true appeal of vinyl. "It gets in your blood," he said, smiling. "No matter what your experience, it all comes back to that feeling."
Comedian's directorial debut allows him to shine, but don't expect to see him in office anytime soon

By Michael Hirtzer

(THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE (COLUMBIA COLLEGE))

(U-WIRE) CHICAGO — Where Chris Rock once portrayed a crackhead in the 1991 film "New Jack City," he can now be compared to a much more dignified rock: Mount Rushmore, where his likeness is carved in stone alongside Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln in "Head of State."

And while Rock is a registered voter and plays a presidential candidate in "Head of State," his latest film and directorial debut, he has no further political plans.

"I will never pursue a political career — ever," Rock said. "There's no money, unless you're going to steal it," he added. "You can do so much more. Look at Oprah; she does so much. You couldn't do that as a politician."

Indeed, Oprah can cause even a hardened comedian to lose his cool during her talk show. Rock, who was in Chicago late in March promoting "Head of State." was in an uncharacteristic misty-eyed condition on "The Oprah Winfrey Show" after segments featuring his mother, wife and baby.

It was a time of reflection for the 37-year-old comedian-turned-actor, who, after doing stand-up for more than a decade, landed a role in his first film, "Beverly Hills Cop 2," and then as a cast member on "Saturday Night Live."

Asking if he had any advice for young people, Rock said, "Go to school, don't have a kid until you're married and stay off drugs, and things will pretty much open up. Being rich isn't about having money; it's about having options. If you make certain mistakes, it cuts down on your options. Spend your money on drugs, you (have) less options for your money."

"There's no magical path," Rock added. "Nothing remotely special happened to me — I just worked hard and didn't have a kid."

NO ONE who rides a bicycle likes to stop. Stopping is for losers. But ignoring stop signs is just plain dumb. First, you can be popped with a ticket and hefty fine.

Second, you might just get popped by a vehicle — then you're not so fine.

STOP THE CYCLE

- Never ride against traffic
- Obey traffic laws as if you were driving a vehicle
- Ride defensively; assume drivers don't see you

So remember, Stop the Cycle.
faith. She was a member of Little Sisters of Maranatha, an auxiliary to the Christian-based fraternity Alpha Gamma Omega, and was going to be a Bible study leader this quarter, Jim said. She was also a regular at Celebration Sunday nights at First Baptist Church of San Luis Obispo.

"That was probably one of her favorite times of the week," Daniels said. "She would usually go to both services instead of just one."

Brownlee was very giving of her time and cared more for her friendships than anything else.

"She loved being with her friends," Daniels said. "That was the biggest thing, just spending time with the people she was close to."

Brownlee often found creative ways to express her feelings toward her friends.

"She would always write nice letters telling her friends how much she cared about them and what they had done for her in her life and how they affected her," Daniels said.

Family was equally important to Brownlee. She talked to them almost daily on the telephone and was a key influence on her sister’s life.

"The best thing I could say about Nicole is that she is the kind of child every parent wishes they could have," Jim said.

Jim was diagnosed with cancer five years ago and Nicole’s smile and encouragement helped keep him going. Part of his treatment called for exercise and Nicole was always there to play tennis with him.

She’d always be the first one there, always giving, always helping, Jim said.

In addition to helping those she was close to, Brownlee also served at homeless shelters in her hometown area, Jim said.

"She loved working with people" in a positive way that would lead to a better and healthier life, he said.

The memorial service for Nicole Brownlee will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Trinity Evangelical Free Church at 1551 Reservoir Road in Redlands.

Brownlee’s parents have set up a memorial fund in Nicole’s name and will benefit charities that have yet to be determined. Donations can be sent to the Nicole Brownlee Memorial Fund at the Trinity Church.

Brownlee is survived by her parents, Jim and Leigh, and 17-year-old sister Jaci.

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"He sent his portfolio to the school and then one night he called me crying," Greg said. "I asked him why he was crying and he said that he got accepted to Cal Poly. He told me, ‘Dad, Cal Poly doesn’t take kids from Sierra College in Rocklin.’ He was so happy to get in."

Estrada had a year and a quarter left before graduating, but he already had a job lined up with architect Steve Young in Sacramento. He continued to work for Gordon Rogers company while at Cal Poly, sending projects via e-mail.

"He did a lot of rendering jobs and some Auto CAD work too," said his mother, Ivonne Wedding.

In all of his projects, Estrada liked to stand out.

"He was going to do something different," Ivonne said. "Sometimes people would even tell him that he couldn’t do something and he would tell them, ‘You watch me.’ He did a lot of wonderful work."

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VLADI continued from page 12
States). I've always wanted an oppor­
tunity to participate in higher educa­
tion, and the U.S. is the best place for
that. Basketball was my ticket."

Lisinac began playing basketball at
the age of 13. At 6 feet 10 inches tall,
Lisinac's height was a natural asset to
his performance on the court.

"I worked extremely hard on my
skills," he said. "My coach really
pushed me and inspired me a lot, but
it wasn't easy. People back home
don't see a future in pursuing basket­
ball. The sport is not paid well profes­
sionally, and the conditions are bad."

Nevertheless, Lisinac remained
dedicated to the game, often playing
nine consecutive hours of one-on-
one with his younger brother until
the early morning.

With the assistance of an agency
much like a student exchange pro­
grame for athletes, Lisinac received a
call from the coach of the high school
basketball team at Mt. Zion Christian

Lisinac was offered a chance to play
for the nationally ranked prep team on
a 50 percent scholarship.

After a difficult scramble to raise
money for a plane ticket, Lisinac
made his way to the United States in
July 2000.

"It was a shock," he said. "The food
was different, prac­tice was different,
more or less, and just living in gener­
al. I had to adjust myself very quick­ly.

Lisinac was the only white student
at the prep school, and rooming with
12 other men pre­

ved some initial conflicts.

"We had some crazy nights," he
said. "I think I got in four fights in less
than two months."

Vladimir Lisinac
On moving to America
Lisinac said he rejected offers from
the academically demanding Ivy
League schools in order to maintain a
more equal balance between acade­
my and basketball.

"Poly was the perfect choice for
me," he said. "It has a beautiful loca­
tion, and it's a very good academic
school. I have a great deal of respect
for the coaches, and I feel the same
way about my teammates."

This past season was Lisinac's sec­
tend year playing for Poly. The two­
more business student said his imme­
diate goals for the future include per­
fec­tion his basketball skills, graduat­
ing Cal Poly and starting a family
business in the United States.

Shooting guard Eric Jackson said
Lisinac brings to the team can be a
beneficial learning experience for one.

"It's refreshing to see someone who
really appreciates the higher educa­
tion system, which is something most
of us grew up taking for granted," he
said. "We come from a war-torn coun­
try, and his family had to survive
those wars. He really appreciates
what he has here and loves America."

Lisinac said although his cultural
background is different from his
teammates, together they share one
important similarity.

"I think I bring in a different view
on things, just because I come from
another culture," he said. "I bring more
to the table in the way of life
experience and struggle, but in any
other way, I am the same as any other
player. I work hard and plays basket­
ball with love."

Sports
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Thursday, April 10, 2003 11
Cal Poly's Vladimir Lisinac

Aian sensation

Vladimir Lisinac left war-torn Serbia in July 2000 to play for nationally ranked Mt. Zion Christian Academy in North Carolina.

"I was there with my mother and my father," the 17-year-old said. "It was a dream come true to see the United States."

Lisinac was the top javelin thrower in Europe last year before he defected and moved to the United States. He now competes for Cal Poly and is the school's top shot putter, as well.

"I was not used to packing," he said, "but I have been doing it for the past five years."

Lisinac transferred last year from UC Riverside to Cal Poly where he qualified for his first NCAA meet this week with a national-qualifying mark of 81-6 1/2.

Lisinac pleaded with the Cal Poly administration to allow him to compete for the Mustangs this year, but his request was denied. Instead, Lisinac qualified for the NCAA meet through a provisional entry.

Cal Poly head coach Dan Howes said Lisinac was "too good a combination" to keep out of the NCAA meet.

"I am really excited about this whole deal," Howes said. "I think it is going to be a good situation for us."