Big West Big Shot: Track star Maggie Vessey earns Big West title in the 800 meter, 12
PDA, No Way: Take affection somewhere else, 4

Poly, Unocal work to restore coast

► Biology, engineering

students research, work at Guadalupe Dunes
By Dale Quinn

Brown pelicans soar above shifting sands, unaware that beneath the dunes and wildlife, petroleum contamination threatens the fragile ecosystem.

Leaky oil pipes jeopardized the sensitive habitat at Guadalupe Dunes, and Cal Poly now works with Unocal to restore the coastal environment.

Biological science and environmental engineering students have conducted research in the field and laboratory settings and compiled the information to determine the effects of various remediation processes on the contaminated dunes.

G. Todd Rinie, environmental technical services manager for Unocal, said a private company like Unocal does not have the same research capacity as a university. For this reason, the corporation's relationship with the university has provided them with valuable research.

"We can understand how to better restore this environment and what sort of things we should do to speed up that cleaning process," Rinie said.

According to the Guadalupe Restoration Project Web site, the oil field produced petroleum from 1940 to 1994. In the 1950s, diluent, a hydrocarbon, was added to the wells to ease the flow of the crude oil.

Over the years the diluent began to leach from the pipelines, contaminating areas near and below the surface. Cal Poly is now one of several groups working to reduce the plumes of diluent.

The relationship between Unocal and Cal Poly has existed for six years, said biological sciences professor Chris Kitts. In the 1990s, under instruction from the Water Control Board, Unocal took the responsibility of decontaminating the ground water in the Guadalupe dunes.

The presence of endangered plant and animal life at the dunes made the process a significant challenge, Kitts said.

The research Cal Poly has conducted determines the extent to which the natural environment has already repaired itself and how technology can be used to contribute to that process.

"Everything we're doing is giving evidence that the environment is doing something," Kitts said. "We're helping with assessing the use of other technologies such as the land treatment, the use of willow trees and phytoremediation.

Phytoremediation is the use of native plants to slow the flow of groundwater so that the contaminants can break down. Land treat­

ment, including factors such as area.

see DUNES, page 10

Health Center regulates morning after pill
By Amanda Hippe

The popular emergency contraceptive Plan B is now available without a prescription in many California drugstores; however, the Cal Poly Health Center will still only give the drug to those with a prescription.

Currently, female students who have engaged in unprotected sex and feel they want to take extra precautions can make an appointment with a doctor or nurse practitioner for an evaluation and advisement.

"We have many (women) come in and flat out ask for the morning after pill," said director of Nursing Services Marina Perez. "It is not an uncommon request."

"It is not truly over the counter," said Jerry Davis, head pharmacist at the Health Center. "Many people get that confused with not needing a doctor's prescription. There is still an interview process that needs to happen before a woman can get the pills."

Pharmacists must go through a rigorous accreditation process to distribute pills to women who request them at the counter.

There is only one pharmacy in San Luis Obispo that has gone through a successful qualification. At Health Care Plus, located in the shopping center on the corner of Santa Rosa Avenue and Football Boulevard, an appointment and $46 cash will grant access to a prescription-free portion of the emergency contraceptive.

see PLAN B, page 10

Cal Poly student cashes in on 'Wheel of Fortune'

By Stacee Dornin

Practice really does make perfect. This cliché proved to be a reality for Brennan Davis, a math senior whose dedication to practicing word puzzles earned her $13,050 on the "Wheel of Fortune."

"We bought the computer game before she left and sat and practiced all the time," Davis' friend and agribusiness junior Kristin Finkel said. "It was so amazing to see her do so well."

Davis' journey to become a contestant started more than a year ago when the "Wheel Mobile" came to campus last spring. After entering a see WHEEL, page 10

Speaker discusses Hawaii

By Susan Malanche

Warm beaches, incredible sunsets and a relaxing atmosphere are some of the attractions that Maui is most famous for, but tonight people can find out more about the dramatic changes of this island's past. University of California, Berkeley professor and author Patrick Kirch will speak about the archaeology of Maui at 7 p.m. in the business building rotunda (room 213). According to a press release, his presentation, "From Chiefdom to Archaic State: Recent Archaeological Research in Kohala, Maui," will review evidence for the late prehistoric transformation of Hawaiian society from a complex chiefdom to an "archaic state."

"There is a fascination in the United States with the Pacific Islands' anthropology professor Terry Jones said. They see SPEAKER, page 2
**Crime Round-Up**

May 21: Thirty-five dollars in cash and memory chips from a digital camera were stolen from the business building.

— A cell phone was reported stolen on campus at the University Police Department. I guess we can't hear you now.

— A Sequoia Hall resident reported damage to his laptop computer. Please tell me that the recording industry isn't physically assaulting the computers of those who illegally download MP3s.

— A blue 2002 Subaru station wagon was initially reported stolen from the H-2 parking lot. The vehicle was later located parked by Campus Market and no report was made.

May 22: Hubcaps were stolen from a Volkswagen in the R-2 parking lot. People still do that?

May 25: A 19-year-old male Cal Poly student was pulled over on Foothill at Mustang Village for suspicion drunk driving at 1:45 a.m. He was arrested and booked into San Luis Obispo County Jail for driving under the influence of alcohol. This guy must not have good friends, because everybody knows friends don't let friends drive drunk.

**SPEAKER continued from page 1**

The public will learn about Polynesia's prehistoric past, he said. There are four different types of political structures in the world. The two most complex of these forms are chiefdoms and states, he said.

"People are not aware of it, but the islands have a very dramatic and fascinating past," Jones said. "The simple fact that people founded these islands 1,500 years ago is a pretty interesting topic."

"People are not aware of it, but the islands have a very dramatic and fascinating past," Jones said. "The simple fact that people founded these islands 1,500 years ago is a pretty interesting topic."

Social sciences department chairman Patrick McKim said the public can expect to walk away with a lot of interesting information.

"Everybody loves Hawaii," McKim said. "But I bet they know next to nothing about what it was like in pre-modern times."

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**Rosa's**

**What's Going On**

Coming up this week

*Physics Colloquium - Physics professor Declan Mulhall will speak on quantum chaos and nuclear structure today from 11 a.m. to noon in building 52, room C36.*

*Blood Drive - The Tri-Counties Blood Bank mobile will be available on Mott Lawn today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.*

*BMX and Band Blowout - ASI is hosting this event, which will feature the Ford Focus California Tour. The action sports and music festival will take place Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. in the H16 parking lot (north of Campus Market). Local bands A Long Story Short, Siko, New Tomorrow and national headliner Eek-A-Mouse will perform.*

*Playground Promenade - A 5K and 10K walk/run is planned for Saturday to raise money for the ASI Children's Center's playground. Registration begins at 8:30 and registration fees are $20 for students and $30 for faculty and staff members.*

*Soul Invasion - Three KCPR DJs will host a night of soul, funk and grooves at Z-Pie on Saturday from 10 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.*
National/International News

Thursday, May 29, 2003

National Briefs

Bush hopes to have three-way summit with Palestinian, Israeli leaders

WASHINGTON — President Bush plans to engage in a three-way summit in Jordan next week with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, the White House announced Wednesday.

Despite recent setbacks to the peace process, Bush hopes to "focus on moving forward," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said in announcing the planned meeting.

McClellan said that Bush would also go separately to Egypt next week to meet with Arab leaders, and to Qatar, headquarters of the U.S. Central Command, to meet with U.S. troops.

The meeting with Sharon and Abbas will occur in the Jordanian Red Sea port city of Aqaba, McClellan said. He said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat will not be invited.

The president will depart the G-8 summit in Evian, France, early to focus on Middle East peace issues, the White House said.

After participating in a series of meetings, a luncheon and dinner, Bush will leave for Egypt to talk with Arab leaders before a planned summit meeting in Jordan with the Israeli and Palestinian prime ministers.

Study: Availability of condoms doesn't increase likelihood of teens having sex

WASHINGTON — Teenagers at high schools where condoms were available were no more likely to have sex than other teens, a study published Wednesday finds.

The study confirms earlier research on the programs developed in the 1990s to spread the use of HIV and reduce teen pregnancy. It found that students in high schools with condom programs were more likely to use condoms, though students in other high schools were more likely to use other forms of birth control.

Some conservative groups have staunchly opposed such programs, saying they send the wrong message and in effect encourage and enable teens to have sex before marriage.

Researchers writing in the American Journal of Public Health examined high schools in Massachusetts, where the state Department of Education encouraged schools to develop condom programs. In most cases, the condoms were available from the school nurse or from other personnel such as a gym teacher.

Suspect in Louisiana killings arrested peacefully outside Atlanta tire store

ATLANTA — A man suspected in the killings of five women was arrested peacefully outside a tire store and agreed Wednesday to be returned to Louisiana, ending a months-long manhunt in a case that terrified women across that state.

Derrick Todd Lee was taken into custody by three police officers Tuesday evening, Atlanta Police Department Chief Richard Pennington said. Authorities had just released apprehending Lee at a homeless shelter and then at a motel.

"We have taken a very dangerous person that is a serial murder suspect off the streets," Pennington said.

Lee, 34, appeared in court Wednesday and waived extradition.

Lee told Fulton County Superior Court Judge Richard Huels in a quiet voice that he understood the charges and would not fight the transfer to Louisiana. Louisiana officers were in the courtroom during the brief hearing.

"I understand they are here and ready to take you back, so we have a good trip," Hicks said. He was handed over to the officers for a flight back to Louisiana on Wednesday.

In Baton Rouge, La., officials gathered to praise the task force of local, state and federal officials that worked for months to crack the case.

"I truly think this group has written the book on how to investigate serial killings," Louisiana Gov. Mike Foster said.

International Briefs

China seizes wildlife from markets to halt SARS: Canada puts hundreds under quarantine

BEIJING — forestry officials in southern China seized pheasants, foxes and other game in raids on wildlife markets under new restrictions meant to control SARS, while hundreds of people in Canada were kept under quarantine following a renewed outbreak.

A Russian hospitalized on the country's chief epidemiologist, told the Press wire service by Mustang Daily news editor Andrea Coberry that the disease jumped from bats to people, has shown the need for the United States to work with the Russian and other officials to update international health regulations.

Saudi Prince Nayef announces arrests of militants related to Riyadh bombings

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — The Saudi interior minister announced the arrests of more militants believed to have had a role in the Riyadh bombings, including a man identified by Saudi newspapers on Wednesday as an al-Qaeda suspect who allegedly masterminded the attacks.

Also Wednesday, the U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Robert Jordan, said the United States was not involved in Saudi plans to seek the extradition of any Saudis who may be among al-Qaida members held in Iran and could have had a role in the Riyadh bombings. The United States has accused Iran of harboring al-Qaida suspects linked to the Riyadh bombings, charges Tehran denies.

In neighboring Yemen, meanwhile, a security official said Saudi Arabia had extradited to that country four Yemenis suspected of being connected to the attacks.

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Just come in and get em!
Poly not the place for PDAs

If this is a hot, it's easy to get caught up in pleasures. I, for one, have very little self control. Pro- it's so hot, when it becomes I'm feeling hot, and you need something cold and refreshing. One particular saliva-prone couple was so disturbing, I cried out "Bloweychick!" before I could stop myself. But as the only one who feels this way? Is Shallen Lester again the conservative fuddy-duddy of Cal Poly? This week I'd like to know: What's the deal with this weird popularity on campus? Is everyone cozier than usual? This week I'd like to know: What's the deal with pretending to be a video game? Is everyone pretending to be a video game? Is everyone pretending to be a video game? Is everyone pretending to be a video game? Is everyone pretending to be a video game? Is everyone pretending to be a video game? Is everyone pretending to be a video game? Is everyone pretending to be a video game? Is everyone pretending to be a video game? Is everyone pretending to be a video game? 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Thursday, May 29, 2003

**Is killing an unborn child murder?**

The Laci Peterson murder case emotionally forced the government and public to bring fetal homicide laws to the forefront of debate in America. Both the Senate and House have recently passed acts that would give an unborn child rights independent of its mother. Euthanizing the abortee could mean commit a crime against a pregnant woman where the punishment is less severe. Also, crimes committed on military bases are handled differently than similar crimes committed against the pregnant woman. Fourteen states perceive the fetus as a victim in all stages of development, and 12 states declare the fetus is a victim only after specific development stages.

California is among the 12 states with fetal homicide laws, recognizing the fetus as a victim in all development stages. This case would give an unborn child rights independent of its mother. According to the Natural Right to Life Committee, 26 states currently have fetal homicide laws that distinguish fetuses as victims of federally stipulated crimes committed against a pregnant woman. Fourteen states perceive the fetus as a victim during all stages of development, and 12 states declare the fetus is a victim only after specific development stages.

The house of representatives previously approved acts similar to the Fetal Death Punishment Act in 1999 and 2001, but they were not acted on in the Senate. With a conservative majority presently in Congress, the bill has a good chance of passing. Bush expressed his support of such a bill and would sign it into law if it reached his desk. In January, he sent a letter to Congressional leaders encouraging the lawmakers to pass such a bill and name it "Laci and Connor's Law." Although this bill specifically exempts abortion as a crime, opposing organizations still see it as a tool for anti-abortion activists. National Organization of Women, American Civil Liberties Union and National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League claim the bill would eventually create a foundation for ammuniting the Supreme Court case Roe v. Wade, which protects a woman's right to have an abortion. The ACLU said the bill "would be the first federal law to recognize a fetus at any stage of development, from conception to birth, as a victim of federal law".

Opinion

**Text messaging & etiquette rules as well**

Recently, there was a suit in Australia concerning the unfair discriminating treatment of an employee via a text message. According to a JCZN.com article, a Sydney traffic air controller, John Eid, received this message from his employer on his mobile phone, "(sic) official, you no longer work for JNI Traffic Control and (sic) have forfided (sic) any arrangements made," his lawyer told the court. Of course this guy is just enraged with the whole situation, and his ex-friend got dumped via text message. She was absolutely crushed and pissed at the fact that this jerk sent her a text message to break up with her. Interestingly, for 15 minutes late meeting your friend at Starbucks, but telling someone in the office for the big letdown?

What is the etiquette for text messaging? First of all, don't send threatening messages to your honey. If you are one of those significant others who have no professionalism or decency anymore? What ever happened for a fact that you're going to be buying minutes late meeting your friend at Starbucks, but telling someone in the office for the big letdown?

The whole text-message phenomenon has really gotten old fast, like face book. It's official, you no longer work for JNI Traffic Control and (sic) have forfided (sic) any arrangements made," his lawyer told the court. Of course this guy is just enraged with the whole situation, and his ex-friend got dumped via text message. She was absolutely crushed and pissed at the fact that this jerk sent her a text message to break up with her. Interestingly, for 15 minutes late meeting your friend at Starbucks, but telling someone in the office for the big letdown?

What is the etiquette for text messaging? First of all, don't send threatening messages to your honey. If you are one of those significant others who have no professionalism or decency anymore? What ever happened...
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Biting the Big One

A Mustang Daily reporter's harrowing tale of consuming a legendary hamburger

STORY BY
GRAHAM WOMACK

PHOTO BY
CARL CLAUSSEN
It takes training, strict diet to perform at peak level of gluttony

By Graham Womack
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Special sauce smear my face in defeat a gigantic hamburger still too big to pick up.

My roommate Russell Prentice, a mechanical engineering sophomore, sits across from me in our booth, taking a minute-by-minute account of my quest for digestive immortality.

"A quick one, Russ," he says.

I've wanted to eat the "Big One" since moving to Los Osos, the home of Sylvester's Hamburgers. Weighing in at 2 1/2 pounds, the burger has five tomato slices, 13 pickle slices and enough lettuce to make a shirt.

It is also the only burger I've heard of that requires a $20 deposit in advance, but eating it is a badge of honor. Anyone who attempts to eat the monster gets his or her picture wall-mounted on the wall below.

Seventy of the 95 people who have attempted to eat the "Big One" have finished. As I've spent a whole year living on a rich carbohydrate diet of rice, chips and instant mashed potatoes, my chance of both becoming the 71st person to finish the burger and gaining some much needed weight is high.

"Most skinny guys can eat it. Big guys have problems,"cook Gary Dowley said. "Skinny guys chow it down in 10 minutes."

Ten minutes in and with already more than a third of the burger finished, I'm certainly not on any record pace. The all-time record holder at Sylvester's finished in an ungainly 5 minutes and 10 seconds. A former Morro Bay High School wrestler, he beat a dog to reclaim his title.

I'm feeling dogged myself, though, as I pass the halfway point. Every bite closer I get to finishing the burger, the slower I eat. It becomes hard to see, as I hold the monstrous feasting on my burger, about 15 minutes into my quest. Russ takes note of my plight.

"Feels like an Indian on the plains of Mississippi eating the last buffalo," Russ writes.

My other roommate, aerospace engineering sophomore Carl Claussen, and his girlfriend Meghan Beerslev, journalism sophomore, are also on hand, sitting in the booth across from me, eating normal 1 1/3 pound hamburgers. It's getting harder to live up to their cheers even as I start belching incessantly. Meghan's cool about it, all the same.

"You have to clear room in your stomach," she says.

Russ is less polite in his note taking.


I'm on a negative exponential scale of eating. Every bite closer I get to finishing the burger, the slower I eat. It's getting smoky in here, or I'm just woozy, I thought.

Carl and Meghan look at me with blank stares, their own meals long since finished. Russ begs me to stop being a pansy and just put the last bite in my mouth.

I'm crawling toward the finish, taking small nibbles.

Carl and Meghan look at me with blank stares, their own meals long since finished. Russ begs me to stop being a pansy and just put the last bite in my mouth.

I finally oblige and polish off the burger, at Sylvester's in Los Osos. It took our fearless hero a mere 47 minutes and 30 seconds to polish it off. There was no reported time on how long the burger stayed in his system.

I go home with orders to use the upstairs bathroom.

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The look of a champion: Reporter Graham Womack above basks in the afterglow of finishing The Big One (left), a 2 1/2 pound hamburger, at Sylvester's in Los Osos. It took our fearless hero a mere 47 minutes and 30 seconds to polish it off. There was no reported time on how long the burger stayed in his system.
San Luis Obispo's own version of Audioslave — sort of

Don't mistake their sound; punk bands join forces to form veritable supergroup

By Josh Petray

New Tomorrow has regrouped and reformed with the additions of two new members from former San Luis Obispo pop punk band Two Hand Touch, and will play at the Vans Warped Tour 2003 this summer in San Francisco.

Brandon Wood, former lead singer of Two Hand Touch and an English junior, is now the lead singer of New Tomorrow and will replace former lead singer/guitarist Joseph Lee. Along with Wood comes a new, darker sound, complemented by the lead guitar of Mark Kinnick, former guitarist for Two Hand Touch.

New Tomorrow — now comprised of Wood, Kinnick, former guitarist for Two Hand Touch, James Scherz, bassist James Scherz, and singer Brandon Wood — is set to play the Warped Tour in San Francisco this summer.

"When we get on stage, we let people know that we're enjoying ourselves and having a good time, so if you're not, then we will anyway. That's our attitude," Wood said. "It's just good to see fresh ideas and fresh faces. It's definitely different than Two Hand Touch and what New Tomorrow was."

The songwriting process for New Tomorrow involves the input of every band member, and no one is excluded from the creative process.

"Everybody collaborates in our music," Wood said. "It's even-handed."

Upcoming concert dates for the band include Saturday May 31 at the BMX and Band Blowout on campus Saturday, and having a good time, so if you're not, then we will anyway. That's our attitude," Wood said. "It's just good to see fresh ideas and fresh faces. It's definitely different than Two Hand Touch and what New Tomorrow was."

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Upcoming concert dates for the band include Saturday May 31 at the BMX and Band Blowout, Tuesday June 3 at Club SLO Brew, a benefit show June 7 at Paso Robles and San Luis Obispo High School's graduation night.

"In what will be their biggest show yet, New Tomorrow is scheduled to play at the Warped Tour on the Local Heroes stage when the tour comes to San Francisco this summer."

"We made the decision to play Warped because it was a real big step for us," Wood said. "For Scherz, his love for music comes from an appreciation of his fans, along with a love for music and years and years of dedication."

"The excitement is overwhelming and it's pushing the antics to the boundaries of explosions," Scherz said.

And the band is ready to take these antics to the boundaries of new genre classifications, as well.

"New Tomorrow is a mixture of old school punk with some new pop punk," Wood said. "I would call it scream punk."

"New Tomorrow plans to record their first album in June and to tour the West Coast in July. Check out www.newtomorrowmusic.com for more information from the band."

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WHEEL
continued from page 1

ruffle to audition, Danis was selected to solve practice puzzles while being videotaped. Danis said that the show coordinators were looking for enthusiastic students who looked like they were having a good time.

Meeting the judges' standards, Danis was asked to go second round tryouts in Avila Beach. There she took written tests and interviewed with contestant coordinators.

“They asked me to pretend like I was spinning and solving puzzles with lots of energy,” Danis said.

Two weeks later Danis received a letter congratulating her on becoming a contestant. The former Cal Poly Dance Team captain was originally asked to tape her episode during Homecoming Week, but had to reschedule for Feb. 21.

Accompanied by six of her friends and dance team members, Danis went down to Sony Pictures Studio in Los Angeles for the filming.

“It was an all day thing, starting at 9 a.m. and going till 6 p.m.,” Danis said.

She said the day started by filling out legal forms and talking with the show's lawyers about the details involved with winning money. The contestants then met Vanna White and Pat Sajak.

“Vanna came out without any makeup on and was so cool,” Danis said. “She was down-to-earth and Pat was really funny too.”

The contestants then practiced spinning and solving puzzles on the set before the taping began. “The audience was filled with people cheering for us,” Danis said.

“Every time we’re doing is giving evidence that the environment is doing something. We’re helping with assessing the use of other technologies such as the land treatment, the use of willow trees and phytoremediation.”

Chris Kitts biological science professor

Another benefit of the university’s work is determining which method will have the largest impact on the environment. In this way Unocal can use the research to evaluate how much time is required to restore the habitat, Ririe said.

DUNES
continued from page 1

tion, soil moisture and nutrient level and bioremediation, where organisms are used to break down contaminants, are also being analyzed at the site.

Both biology and engineering students are working on the project. The biologists are working on evaluating bacteria and plants, while the engineers then connect those processes to the remediation of the dunes, Kitts said.

The biological work consists mainly of field work, collecting data samples and analyzing them. The engineering approach involves the isolation of variables in a lab setting and determining their effect on the environment. The research of both fields is necessary to determine the best course of action. This is because different locations throughout the habitat may require a different approach to rehabilitation, Kitts said.

“There may be a series of situations, and each requires a different approach,” Kitts said. It will be up to a practitioner that will involve an assessment of the habitat, Kitts said.

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BIKING
continued from page 12

events of the season in San Luis Obispo."

Amid with cyclists who Rocele said "not only enjoy riding, but are very good at it," the team quietly rides itself on a string of successes. This includes not only winning conference championships in mountain biking for the last five years but also placing in the top three schools in the conference for road racing.

"People also join for social aspects, including finding people to go on group rides with and various other activities," Rocele said. He also noted that the terrain around Cal Poly caters to riders of all sorts, so those interested riders should not be intimidated.

"Mountain biking in this area is especially great for the college student," Rocele said. "It provides us relatively limitless access to many miles of trails suitable for all skill levels and preference."

"We have so many mountain bike trails of all terrains that I never want to leave this place," he said.

The two recommend several very

VESSEY
continued from page 12

focuses on her own races, she still
wants her teammates to do well, she said. When they run, she says she's out there yelling for them. But she tries to block it all out once it becomes her own time to shine.

"They say track is a team sport, but when you're on the line, it's all you," she said.

Vessey will attempt yet another win soon.

After defending her title at the Big West Championship in the 800 May 17, Vessey will travel to Stanford for the NCAA Regional Championship Friday and Saturday.

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Junior Maggie Vessey has worked her way into the NCAA’s track elite
By Katie Schiller
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Cal Poly track and field athlete Maggie Vessey doesn’t count on pre-race superstitions to help her win; she relies on good old-fashioned practice. In March, with this attitude, she won sixth place in the 800 meter at the National Collegiate Athletic Association Indoor Championships.

For the past three years, she has dominated the track with her running ability and dedication. "It’s not the hair tie that’s going to make me win," Vessey said. "It’s how much I’ve been practicing."

Going into the NCAA Indoor Championships, Vessey was ranked 15th. After winning sixth place, she said she was glad to have been the underdog. "She has a great taste of success and I just wanted more of it," she said. "When you have a Cal Poly uniform on, you’re not messing around. I have a job, and my job is to win."

This attitude has helped her become a major force in Cal Poly track and field over the past three years. Besides the 800, Vessey runs the 4 x 400 relay and the 400.

"She’s a super athlete," Crawford said. "She has been a big factor in the things our women’s team has accomplished over this last year."

Originally from Santa Cruz, Vessey started running in sixth grade. Track came easily to her, she said. "Unlike track in high school, every meet in college is important," she said. "I have much better competition now."

Although she has been running for a long time, she still gets very nervous before races, she said. Instead of checking out the competition, she usually just focuses on herself. "At the beginning of a race, I don’t look around me," Vessey said. "When I run, everyone else is the enemy."

Vessey has set many goals for her running career. With practice every day and meets almost every weekend, she has devoted a lot of her time to the sport. Even so, she still strives to see Vessey, page 11

Mountain Biking
Pedaling straight to the top
By Emily Fryndel
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Although Cal Poly is a year-round home to a large community of athletes from countless families of sports, spring quarter especially inspires groups of athletes like the Cal Poly Wheelemen to happily roll out of the woodwork. It’s at this time that members are able to take advantage of the top trails in San Luis Obispo County and search for new participants.

"The Cal Poly Wheelemen are a group of students who come together to share their love for anything with two wheels," president Danny Rozelle said.

And according to John Denson, the team’s mountain bike race coordinator, Cal Poly students have been coming together to form the Wheelemen since the early 1980s. In recent years, they’ve been making quite a name for themselves.

As part of a conference consisting of 13 normally competing schools in California and Nevada, Rozelle said Cal Poly is “known for putting the largest number of competitors in all race categories and holding the best English senior Jim Muff rides his bike on a trail through Poly Canyon. It’s one of many trails used by the Cal Poly Wheelemen, a group of cyclists who train year-round for mountain biking competitions.