City pays for extended bus hours, students reap benefits

Though SLO Transit route five usually ran behind schedule, officials adjusted the route to run later and more often. The bus travels through the Cal Poly Foothills and Madonna area.

California anxious about abnormally dry January

Terence Chea
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO - California experienced one of its driest Januarys on record, a worrisome development for a state that relies on winter rain and snow for its water supplies.

The unusually dry weather is stirring anxiety among some farmers and water managers, but California's water supplies are still healthy, thanks to heavy storms last winter that filled the state's reservoirs.

The state's snowpack is 57 percent below normal levels, and the Sierra Nevada only saw about 17 percent of its normal precipitation in January, said Elisa Lynn, senior meteorologist at the state Department of Water Resources.

But water levels in the state's reservoirs are still slightly above average because the state got 20 percent more precipitation than average last year.

"We may have a dry year overall, but our reservoir storage is in great shape from last year," Lynn said. "From the state water storage perspective, it's not a drought."

Water agencies around the state are closely monitoring water supplies and hope that February and March will make up for the precipitation shortfall, said Jennifer Perske, spokeswoman for the Association of California Water Reservoirs.

The unusually dry weather is stirring anxiety among some farmers and water managers, but California's water supplies are still healthy, thanks to heavy storms last winter that filled the state's reservoirs.

Business students gathered on Mott Lawn on Wednesday to raise money for several Zambian villages in need of clean water. A drill rig, displaying the importance of water sanitation, will be sent along with sand filters and a brick-making press.

Committee discusses library's future, plans for coffee shop

Library officials are discussing adding a cafe and making the reading room open 24 hours a day.

' ‘Seeds of Hope' sent to Zambia

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Committee discusses library's future, plans for coffee shop

Library officials are discussing adding a cafe and making the reading room open 24 hours a day.

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"I guess further out, maybe in about 2013, we will be opening a major expansion to the building," Miller said.

The existing Learning Commons are on the north wing of the second floor which face the new engineering buildings. Yet, any changes made to this part of the library are heavily dependent on funding.

"What we'd like to do is integrate the books that are on that wing new into the other levels of the library and open up the space to create a series of group project rooms," Miller said. "Students have a lot of projects and yet there are very few places that

Samantha Freitas
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The SLO Transit bus route five was reconfigured by the city of San Luis Obispo at the beginning of the year after it was constantly falling behind by as many as 30 minutes. Route five runs through Cal Poly and stops in front of the University Union.

The new schedule adjustment includes bypassing a stop located further away from campus and allowing the bus to stop in front of the UU more often and an hour later than previously.

"By slightly adjusting the route we were able to make an additional stop at Cal Poly without significantly rising costs since the route isn't any longer," said department director of Public Works Tim Bochum.

Cal Poly is not responsible for any of the costs caused by the adjustments, which Bochum said are very minimal.

"We met with Associated Students Inc. President Todd Make last year and talked about positive changes that could be made. We bounced ideas off each other and came up with a solution. It's really been a rather good experience working together," Bochum said.

So far the new schedule has received only positive feedback and the bus delays have subsided despite the continued popularity of the route.

"I really like it just because I don't have to worry about bothering my roommates for a ride or riding my bike home in the cold. It's nice knowing there's going to be a bus there when I'm done with class," said Nick San Juan, psychology and child development senior.

Route five begins downtown and stops at the UU, see Bus, page 2

Jackie Pugh
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Robert E. Kennedy Library will be witnessing some changes to the second floor Learning Commons in the near future. With the population at Cal Poly growing, the need for more group study rooms has become a pressing issue.

A student advisory committee has been created by the Associated Students Inc. (ASI) to lead discussions between students and Michael Miller, dean of library services.

Some of the issues on the forefront are expanding the Learning Commons, adding a cafe and making the reading room available

24 hours a day.

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Weather
continued from page 1

Agencies, which represents 450 public water
agencies in the state.

So far it’s “not panicking.”

But for Central Valley farmers, the dry spell
marks its latest battle with Mother Nature. Last
spring brought floods, the summer scorched
fields with triple-digit heat and a recent cold snap
destroyed much of the state’s $1 billion citrus
crop.

While most of the state’s crops are irrigated,
prune, barley, oats and grasses that depend on
rainfall are suffering.

Hay farmers in the Imperial Valley lost their
first cutting due to dry weather, a problem that
will impact those growers as well as cattle ranch­
ers looking for hay to feed animals on parched
rangeland, said Dave Kranz, a spokesman for the
California Farm Bureau Federation.

“it’s starting to be a concern,” Fernandez said.

“It’s too soon to tell what that’s going to mean
to plant this year, said Bonnie

Fernandez, executive director of the Woodland-
Based California Wheat Commission.

Hay growth in Riverside County may not
ever be able to plant this year, said Bonnie
Fernandez, executive director of the Woodland-
Based California Wheat Commission.

“it’s starting to be a concern,” Fernandez said.

“It’s too soon to tell what that’s going to mean
long-term, but we’re at the point where we need
to know whether to irrigate.”

Cherry farmers in Northern California are
worried that rain showers may come later in the season, which could hurt cherry trees already in bloom.

The lack of rainfall could also be leading to
more wildfires, with a recent blaze that
destroyed multimillion dollar homes in Malibu,
said Joe Edmiston, executive director of the Santa
Monica Mountains Conservancy.

“It’s very atypical to have a January fire,”
Edmiston said. “Typically you can put your fire
gear away by mid-December. Up until a couple
days ago, we were on fire deployment.”

Kimball Garrett, who oversees the ornithology
department at the Natural History Museum of
Los Angeles County, said they won’t know the
extent of the damage to the bird population until
spring. But he predicted the lack of rain would
mean less vegetation, resulting in the lower
breeding success of many species of birds.

California typically gets about 80 percent of its
rainfall during the winter, but cities statewide
reported significantly less than that in January,
according to Brian Tentinger, a meteorologist at
the National Weather Service in Monterey.

Sacramento recorded its driest January since it
began keeping records more than 150 years ago.
The city only saw 0.07 inches of rain — less than
2 percent of its 4.15 inches it typically gets in
January.

San Francisco, which usually gets 4.45 inches of
rain in January, has only gotten 0.65 inches, mak­ing
it the city’s fifth driest January in the past 150
years.

Fresno in California’s Central Valley has report­ed
0.59 inches, down significantly from the 2.16
inches it normally sees in January.

Los Angeles recorded 0.19 inches of rain, com­pared
with the 3.33 inches it sees in an average
year. The city is on track to having its driest year
ever, receiving only about 20 percent of the rain­
fall it expects at this time of year, said Jamie
Meier, an NWS meteorologist in Oxnard.

A high pressure ridge has blocked storms from
reaching California over the past month, and no
storms are expected for at least a week. But fore­
casters said there’s still time for California to catch
up.

“I wouldn’t worry too much just yet,”
Tentinger said. “You can make up for rainfall fairly
quickly.”

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Library
continued from page 1

groups can go to find an environment
that suits their work.

The new rooms would have white
boards and display technology so that
groups could bring their own laptops.

And while the new rooms would
account for most of the space, the
floor, the section of the north wing
that looks over the reading
rooms, would be turned into a coffee
shop.

That doesn’t have a timeline
because it depends on who we would
work with, whether it be Starbucks or
Peet’s,” Miller said.

Miller also seemed optimistic
about making the reading room on
the first floor a 24-hour facility by
next fall. However, for the changes
regarding the Learning Commons,
the more than 100,000 volumes that
occupy the floor will take some time
to move.

“We have to handle each individ­
ual volume by hand and then get
the people to come in and construct
the group rooms,” Miller added. “The
best case scenario, I would like to
think, sometime next year it might be
available.”

Business and theatre junior Matt
Marini is the chair of the student
advisory committee and was chosen
by ASI President Todd Maki to start
the board. Having previously been on
the executive staff, Marini jumped on
the chance to head this new opportu­
nity.

“The dean of the library attends
our meetings and he asks us questions
for the students’ input,” Marini said.

The plans for the library are changing
and if the committee agrees or dis­
agrees, the administrators will take
their opinions into consideration.

As of now, the committee repre­
sests all six colleges with an 11-mem­
ber board. Marini sent out an e-mail
to all the deans of the colleges asking
for students that would want to join
the committee.

“The first meeting will probably be
the second or third week of February
and we’ll probably meet once or
twice a month and more if appropri­
ate,” Marini said.

The group will hold two meetings,
one with Miller asking questions
about renovations and the second
will be without him so that students
can see what needs to be changed.

“We wanted one with (Miller)
there and one without so that stu­
dents’ ideas aren’t pushed in one
direction,” Marini said.

Bus
continued from page 1

University Square, Descanso and Los
Oso Valley Road, Laguna Village,
House Depot, and the Promenade.

Cal Poly also has bus stops in front of
the Mott Gym and the Agricultural Science building via bus
routes four and six.

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free for children.

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 mustangdaily@calpoly.edu

A pair of skiers ride a lift at Homewood Ski Resort in Homewood, Calif. It was
one of the driest Januarys on record for cities across California and the relative
lack of rain and snow is causing problems for farmers.
Study questions efficacy of the pill

Trevor Davis
OREGON DAILY EMERALD (U. OREGON)

The new generation of hormonal contraceptives are very highly effective," he said.

University Health Center Director Tom Ryan called the initial report "constraining." He said there's a chance the first generation of oral contraceptives were more effective, but they contained high levels of estrogen and progesterin, which caused side effects, as well as higher risks of serious complications.

"As a result, pills have been developed containing much lower doses of hormone," Ryan said in an e-mail.

He said it's possible the effectiveness rates over 99 percent.

Siemsen said the original news report didn't increase student concerns about the birth control pill at the Health Center.

"There weren't any new or different concerns," Siemsen said. "People are always interested in how effective the pill is versus a condom or another contraceptive method, though.

At its meeting this month, FDA officials discussed clinical trial designs to include a broad range of users, according to an FDA statement.

"The whole point of the meeting was really to say, 'going forward, what should clinical trials look like?" Weitzman said.

The FDA wants to investigate how well studies have documented real-world use of new birth control pills, which is less consistent than in clinical studies, Weitzman said.

Nearly 12 million women in the United States were on the pill as of 2002, making it that country's largest user of contraceptives, according to a recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study. The top-selling pill is Ortho Tri-Cyclen.

Few of us can be consistently perfect. The 'actual use' effectiveness for oral contraceptives is about 95 percent, as compared to perfect use effectiveness rates over 99 percent."
Question of the day:

What are your thoughts on public transportation in San Luis Obispo?

“I ride the bus twice a week. I enjoy that it’s there but I wish the hours were extended later, because sometimes I want to go to town and I don’t have a car.”

-Sopael Schafer
social science
freshman

“I drive from Morro Bay and it’s terrible. I feel like I should use public transportation. It would save me the hassle of parking and driving.”

-Bjorn Sorenson
mechanical engineering
junior

“As a freshman I didn’t have a car so I had to take the bus. It was convenient that we didn’t have to pay for it, but it’s a lot more convenient to have a car.”

-Angelica Zerna
architecture
senior

“Buses cover a lot of the area, but they only run every 30 minutes so you’re either on time or 30 minutes late. That’s why I have a car now.”

-Will Law
mechanical engineering
freshman

“I used to take my bike and put it on the bus and then ride my bike around campus. I should probably still be doing that and not buying parking passes. Parking is terrible.”

-Andrea Canas
animal science
senior

SICK?

As a last resort, use the Mustang Daily as a tissue.

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The only thing more powerful than our systems?
Your imagination.
Year of the hi-def Super Bowl party: Fans snap up big TVs for big game

Dave Carpenter
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mark Smithite admits to a moment of doubt when struggling to sell $10,000 for a 65-inch high-definition, flat-panel plasma TV and related gear last week.

The hesitation was brief. He's a Bears fan, after all, and what better way to experience the Super Bowl than to see and hear everyBrian Urlacher tackle in high definition through a system with 2 million pixels and theater-quality speakers?

"In a little bit of keeping up with the Joneses," said Smithite, one of an estimated 2.5 million Americans purchasing televisions for Super Bowl Sunday, based on results of a recent survey. "Our friends' jaws are going to drop when they see this."

Just buying chip and dip and a 12-pack of beer doesn't cut it for Super Bowl parties anymore. If you expect your friends and neighbors to choose your place for the big game, you may have to pony up for a flat-screen TV, digital tuner and surround-sound speakers so they can spectate with quality.

Sunday's showdown between the Bears and Indianapolis Colts is aptly timed for a flat-screen TV buying frenzy that already was under way thanks to a 20 to 30 percent drop in prices from a year ago and heavy promotions by retailers and manufacturers.

"A lot of people want them and they've been waiting for prices to come down," said Mike Gatto, executive director of the Retail Advertising and Marketing Association, which conducted the nationwide survey on consumers' TV buying intentions in early January. "They're still not cheap, but they're starting to get within range of people who are saying "Gee I'm going to get one now."

In Chicago, where the Bears are making their first Super Bowl appearance in 23 years, flashy flat-panel sets are in demand like never before. A surge in business that followed the team's Jan. 21 victory in the NFC championship game generated höly-sized crowds of customers in the same theater departments of Best Buy stores for the first time, according to the nation's largest consumer electronics retailer.

Some buyers weren't waiting for installation appointments. Many shoppers said they would stand their flat-panel sets on the floor for the game and get them properly mounted later, according to Mike Obecina, a supervisor at a store on the city's Northwest Side.

"Because the Bears won, it literally made people say 'I'm done waiting,' " he said. "I'm going to get my flat-panel TV now."

Al Electronics, a gigantic family-run store in north suburban Glenview, Ill., that claims to sell more televisions than any other single store in the country, sold about 170 large-screen TVs a day in January during a traditionally slow month gone crazy. That made it busiest month ever for TV sales.

Money isn't necessarily an object. On one recent day at the 70,000-square-foot store, customers with fountains, granite and marble floors and

State

SACRAMENTO (AP) — How many legislators does it take to change a light bulb? In California, the answer is a majority — plus Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Despite the inefficiency of the common light bulb, a Democratic Assemblyman from Los Angeles wants California to become the first state to ban it — by 2012.

Assemblyman Lloyd Levine says compact fluorescent light bulbs, which often have a spiral shape and are being promoted at Wal-Mart, are so efficient that consumers should be forced to use them.

The compact bulbs use about the quarter of a conventional light.

DEVORE (AP) — A small quake shook the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains on Tuesday, although there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage.

The magnitude-3.3 temblor struck at 3:56 p.m. and was centered 6 miles west of Devore, according to a preliminary report by the U.S. Geological Survey.

Devoe is about 50 miles northeast of Los Angeles. It has no reports of damages or injuries, a San Bernardino County fire dispatcher said.

International

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — A congress wholly loyal to President Hugo Chavez approved a law Wednesday granting him authority to enact sweeping measures by decree.

Meeting at a downtown plaza in a session that resembled a political rally, lawmakers unanimously approved all four articles of the law by a show of hands.

"Long live the sovereign people! Long live President Hugo Chavez! Long live socialism!" said National Assembly President Cilia Flores as she proclaimed the law approved. "Fatherland, socialism or death! We will prevail!"

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Decades after the Middle East was hit by the mass upsurging of Palestinians, it is again struggling with a gigantic refugee problem — this time from Iraq.

The exodus — one million to neighboring Syria alone, according to the U.N. — is another unforeseen byproduct of the 2003 Iraq invasion.

Iraqis now make up more than 5 percent of Syria's population by 12 percent, and its officials say they have already moved to cut off the flow. So has Egypt, with 136,000 Iraqi newcomers.

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Circle

BrieFs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Training the police is important to stabilizing Iraq as building an effective army there, but the United States has botched the job by assigning the wrong agencies to the task, two members of the Iraq Study Group said Wednesday. "The police training system has not gone well," said former Rep. Lee Hamilton, who co-chaired the bipartisan commission.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said Wednesday he will turn over secret documents detailing the government's domestic spying program, ending a two-week standoff with the Senate Judiciary Committee over surveillance targeting terror suspects. "It's never been the case where we said we would never provide access," Gonzales told reporters.

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Kidnapping plot uncovered in Britain; 9 arrested on terrorism charges

Rob Harris
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BIRMINGHAM, England — Counterterrorism police arrested nine men in an alleged kidnapping plot Wednesday — a plan that reportedly involved torturing and beheading a British Muslim soldier and broad-casting the killing on the Internet.

The kidnapping plot was the first of its kind to be uncovered in Britain, according to counterterrorism officials who spoke on condition to be uncovered in Britain, according to counterterrorism officials who spoke on condition that their names be withheld.

The potential victim of the latest plot — a British Muslim soldier — was under police protection, Sky News reported, saying the kidnapping was going to end in an "Iraq-style" execution. The British Broadcasting Corp. also reported that the plan was to kidnap a soldier.

"The threat of terrorism has been growing over the years," said David Shaw, a police spokesman in Birmingham. The operation took months.

Birmingham is the hometown of Britain's first Muslim soldier to be killed in Afghanistan last year — a death that prompted militant Islamist Web sites to denounce Cpl. Jabron Hashmi, 24, as a traitor. One site — that of extremist British sect al-Ghurabaa — posted an image of the soldier surrounded by flames.

Last year, a London street vendor was sentenced to six years in prison in a plot to kidnap a decorated British soldier. Abu Baker Mansha was accused of targeting Cpl. Mark Byles, whose address and other materials, were found in Mansha's apartment. Byles was awarded a military cross for bravery following an attack in which several Iraqi insurgents were killed — a crime covered by British newspapers. One of the articles with Byles' name was circled and found in Mansha's apartment.

The British Broadcasting Corp. also reported that the plan was to kidnap a soldier. The plan included "Iraq-style" execution.

The service had previously had regional branches in Northern Ireland, but uses the new offices to liaise with police in counterterrorism work.

Prime Minister Tony Blair's official spokesman declined to comment on the operation.

Sky TV reported that British investigators contacted Pakistani intelligence agents four days ago about the plot. The Foreign Office would not confirm there were such discussions.

In Islamabad, Foreign Ministry spokesman Tasnim Aslam said, "The British authorities have confirmed to us that there is no Pakistan connection." She gave no other details on the contact between authorities in the two countries.

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Check out what's going on in SLO County this week. Whether it's art, film, music, theater or culture, POLYBILL posts the latest events.

Orchesis Dance Company presents "Dancing on the Edge" Feb. 2-4 and Feb. 8-10 with performances at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. The show incorporates ballet, jazz, tap, ballroom, Filipino and Mexican traditional dance. Tickets are $12 for the public and $9 for students.

"He does have the chops to get through it," Snoman said. The former "Knight Rider" actor also has his "ego in check" and doesn't take his Hollywood persona too seriously, she said. "He has a fearless quality and he's not afraid to try anything."

Hasselhoff gets star billing for the show, even though it's mainly about a scheme by producer Max Bialystock, played by Brad Oscar, and his accountant Leo Bloom, played by Larry Raben, to over-finance a surefire Broadway flop and pocket the difference.

"It's still the story about Max and Leo," although their scenes are shortened, Snoman said. None of Debra appearances are abbreviated, she said. "I have to say (David) has been very gracious about letting it be Max and Leo's show. Max and Leo have the last bow," she said.

But Hasselhoff is clearly the draw for the company's show, said Michael Raben, vice president of marketing for Paris Las Vegas, and will attract an international female audience that has seen him on TV.

Hasselhoff said he will be with the show at least three months, and after­ ward he'll resume taping of "America's Got Talent" on which he's seen him on TV. Hasselhoff said he will be with the show at least three months, and after­ ward he'll resume taping of "America's Got Talent" on which he's seen him. Hasselhoff's pipes — he enjoys fame in Germany as a singer — and athleticism helped land him the role, said director and choreographer Susan Stroman. He has also played Billy Flynn in "Chicago" in London and made his Broadway debut in 2000 the title role of "Jekyll & Hyde," which opened in 1997.

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He may do both for a while, and perhaps even migrate to another property on the Strip with a one-man singing show: "Something very straight," he said. "Something for the ladies."

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But Hasselhoff is clearly the draw for the company's show, said Michael Raben, vice president of marketing for Paris Las Vegas, and will attract an international female audience that has seen him on TV.

Hasselhoff said he will be with the show at least three months, and after­ ward he'll resume taping of "America's Got Talent" on which he's seen him. Hasselhoff's pipes — he enjoys fame in Germany as a singer — and athleticism helped land him the role, said director and choreographer Susan Stroman. He has also played Billy Flynn in "Chicago" in London and made his Broadway debut in 2000 the title role of "Jekyll & Hyde," which opened in 1997.

"He does have the chops to get through it," Snoman said. The former "Knight Rider" actor also has his "ego in check" and doesn't take his Hollywood persona too seriously, she said. "He has a fearless quality and he's not afraid to try anything."

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V for ‘Volver’: more proof of Almodovar’s brilliance

It is an homage to the colorful world of Hollywood in the ’50s, complete with superlative narrative vision and a Spanish bombshell hugely reminiscent of Sophia Loren in her glory days. “Volver” is proof to the skeptics who contend that long dead are the creative masterminds of old, and attests to the potent creativity of our own age. This film graciously falls into place as being one of the finest Spanish exports since paella and perhaps Picasso.

Thematically, in true Almodovar fashion, “Volver” is saturated with dynamic characters, intense plotlines and colorful landscapes. Set in both “the burbs” of Madrid and a small village in the La Mancha region of Spain, a place Almodovar calls home, the film explores the familial bonds between three generations of women who struggle with daily life, death, and the shocking secrets of the hereafter.

Penelope Cruz does a fantastic job as Raimunda, a working-class mother haunted by an unsettling family secret. Together with her sister Sole (Lola Dueñas), her daughter Paula (Yohana Cobo), and her close friend Agustina (Blanca Portillo), Raimunda not only uncovers the truth surrounding what can only be described as the family ghost, but also discovers some important truths about herself. Following a whirlwind of plot twists and turns, from an unexpected murder to the return of an unexpected guest, “Volver” depicts the unadulterated, unashamed fortitude of women in numbers and culminates in a triumphant display of sisterhood.

Cinematically, Almodovar takes his audience into the heart of the complicated and oftentimes misunderstood world of women, entertaining us on a roller-coaster ride of life’s ups and downs, through intense bits of happiness and to the very brink of utter despair. Together with his characters, we the audience experience a kind of cathartic self-awareness as only Almodovar is capable of creating.

Overall, “Volver” proves to be a relatively benign mix of murder, mystery, and scandal; for all intensive purposes, a classic melodrama. This film comes fully equipped with droll humor, gratuitous boob shots, and of course, a kind of violence that Hitchcock would approve. Combined with the sultry looks of Spanish señorita Penelope Cruz Volver is everything the American public relishes in movies. With the help of this predominantly all-female cast combined with a little something-something from the genius of Almodovar, Cruz delivers her best performance to date, proving to the world that this Spanish actress is the real deal. Can we say “brillio, Oscar?”

In my book, “Volver” is the film to watch out for at the Academy Awards, and steps up to bat at a number one on this year’s must see movie list. But please, don’t take my word for it. Go out and see for yourself, Bravo, Pedro, Bravo indeed.

Alexandra Bezdikian is a journalism senior with a religious studies minor. Her column, Pop Tart, covers a range of artistic mediums and trends in American pop culture. Send any questions or recommendations to albezdikian@gmail.com.
Cal Poly offers artisan cheese making courses, workshops

Cal Poly's Dairy Products Technology Center welcomes cheese makers from all over the country to participate in special courses.

Brittany Ridley
MUSTANG DAILY

Great cheese comes from happy cows, and happy cows come from California — or so they say about real California cheese. And Cal Poly's Dairy Products Technology Center is a major contributor to California's cheese production.

The center will be offering two cheese making workshop this year on March 20 to 23 and Sept. 11 to 14.

Cheese makers from around the country travel to San Luis Obispo to participate in the weekend courses, said Phillip Tong, professor and director of the Dairy Products Technology Center.

"It's pretty unusual if you are eating cheese from California that someone from that cheese company hasn't taken our courses," Tong said. "Some of the very largest operations like Kraft have sent people to our short courses. We have had people from the East Coast and South America take the classes."

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Science began offering the courses approximately 20 years ago, and since then has instructed well-known cheese makers from companies such as Cowgirl Creamery, Three Sisters Cheese and Point Reyes Farmstead Cheese.

"They come from all across the country," Laurie Jacobson, outreach specialist for the Dairy Products Technology Center said. "Pretty much any person making farmstead cheese in California has come to one of our farmstead courses."

The courses began with the Cheese Short Course 1, a workshop designed to teach large cheese makers the basic scientific skills and information needed when manufacturing cheese.

As the course became more popular, the need for a course focusing on small artisan cheese makers became imperative, Jacobson said.

"We started doing the new course, Dairy Science and Technology Basics for the Artisan/Farmstead Cheesemaker, because people were coming to the Cheese Short Course 1 and it wasn't meeting their needs," Jacobson said. "The farmstead class covers some of the issues that smaller cheese makers face. We get a lot of people that are sheep's milk, goat's milk people. It's just a totally different crowd than the Short Course 1."

Both courses are sold out annually.

"Usually, the classes get sold out about a year in advance, so there is a waiting list for the March workshop," Tong said. "They fill up right away. The cheese classes in particular have been very popular over the years and because we do hands-on cheese making we limit the class to 35 people so they get a chance to get their hands dirty."

The artisan/farmstead course it open to students and community members who are interested in learning more about the art of artisan cheese making, Tong said.

"The class we offer in the fall, which is more geared toward the artisan cheese maker, has a lot of individuals that just like cheese and want to learn more," Tong said. "We've had culinary instructors and cheese buyers come take the class. It's very much like the wine industry was about 20 years ago. We are starting to have computer science people, doctors and lawyers who are tired of city life and decide they want to make cheese. So they come take our class and decide if they want to get into the cheese making business."

Along with the growing popularity in artisan cheese making also came the growth of California cheese production, Tong said.

"California is soon to be the largest cheese producer in the United States," Tong said. "We are going to surpass the state of Wisconsin in the next year or two."

The dairy sector is the largest agricultural sector for the state of California. It's much larger than the meat, wine, fruit or vegetable sectors. If California were a country we would produce more milk than Australia and New Zealand together."

Tong said the cheese industry is a growing and successful field that all students should consider when entering the work force, especially those in chemistry, microbiology, marketing and engineering.

Cal Poly also offers a 10-week cheese making course to students.

For more information on the Dairy Products Technology Center workshops go to www.calpoly.edu/~dprc or call (805) 756-6101.
Status report: the e-relationship

I have no qualms admitting it: I'm a geek.

Mostly I'm referring to my technological geekism, which I've been spending some extra time cultivating lately. In the past couple of months, I have acquired a cell phone (very sleek, very sexy) and a Bluetooth dongle (black and NOT an iPod), and various accessories (microSD card, card reader, Bluetoothdongle).

I know more than a few people (including some of my anti-tech friends) who are no doubt wrinkling their noses in disdain to see yet another poor young thing swept up by this confounded electronic revolution. Jagghable. What in tarnation is this world coming to?

The exchange of information over the virtual lines has now blended seamlessly into modern culture. It feels as though ages have passed since I first took to e-mail, instant messaging, and surfing the Web. For better or for worse, Google is now a verb and text messaging has become our thumbs' second nature. There isn't an inch of our everyday lives that technology hasn't touched.

Including relationships.

So let's examine a term that I'm sure you've haunted on sooner: the e-relationship.

The first thing that probably comes to mind is the infamous internet dating service. But there has been plenty of commentary on that. Personally, I've had enough of e-Harmy and Match.com radio and TV commercials and online banners. I don't care how many "levels of compatibility" they're selling. I'd like a face-to-face connection with which to start a relationship, thank you very much.

Electronic communication has introduced a whole new "level of compatibility" to the relationship stage. Whether you meet online or not, electronic media are key in the progress of a modern relationship.

It begins with some research, conveniently provided to you by Facebook or MySpace (or both). Sometimes you summon enough courage to dare a one-click Facebook poke, and to your delight, she pokes you in return.

Things escalate as poking blossoms into friendship messaging, couples adding each other to their buddy lists and surfing the e-relationship.

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Youth still waiting for the world to change

Kristin Colella
DAILY COLLEGE (PENN STATE)

It is me, or do today’s antiwar protesters look more like our parents than our peers?

Although some young people are speaking out, the majority seems to be adults old enough to have protested the Vietnam War.

You might say that it’s because most young people today support the war, but a national Election Day poll reported in the Philadelphia Inquirer last Saturday found that 62 percent of young people are opposed.

Just like college students in the ’60s and ’70s, we can hold signs, organize rallies, march through Washington, write letters to our legislators and join political campaigns.

If nearly two-thirds of young people today are against the war, then why aren’t more out there protesting in similar ways?

OK, this may sound crazy, but I think I found the answer in a John Mayer song.

In his latest tune, “Waiting on the World to Change,” Mayer sings: “We just feel that we don’t have the means/To rise above and beat it.”

His words speak volumes.

Unfortunately many young people are under the false assumption that our generation is powerless against our government’s decisions.

Sure, it may seem like the current administration operates according to its own agenda and doesn’t care what the little people think.

But as American citizens living under the Constitution, young people have the rights and the means to publicly protest the war and the government.

And that’s pretty powerful. Remember that.

Unfortunately they have turned stuff we learned in high school! Well, it really comes into play for young people today because it’s more important than ever to know your rights.

As young people learning religious freedom, the First Amendment guarantees us the freedom of speech, press, assembly and petition.

Yep, that means we can openly voice our political views through speaking and writing, organize and join political groups and appeal to the government about our grievances.

Some young people are doing just that and making changes in big new ways.

Many took part in an anti-war rally Saturday on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Whether you agree with those protesters or not, you have to admit that they got their point across and made people think.

While not everyone is inclined to protest, there is no excuse not to vote.

Voting is one of our most important constitutional rights and civic duties, but less than half of young Americans ages 18 to 24 voted in the November 2004 elections.

How can we expect our concerns and opinions to be heard if we don’t take advantage of our opportunity to determine the political direction of our nation?

Staying informed also helps us to become politically-minded citizens.

However, only 40 percent of people ages 18 to 24 read a newspaper on weekdays, according to data from a consumer market company Scarborough Research.

Some young people avoid reading the news or reading newspaper articles because they are upset and disturbed by the state of the world.

Others just don’t see the point in keeping up with events that they feel they have no control over.

But by remaining ignorant to what is happening in the world, we are giving all the power to the decision-makers and underestimating our power of public opinion, and nothing good can come from that.

To its credit, John Mayer’s song does capture the ambivalence some young Americans, including myself, feel about the war in Iraq.

We’re not sure what the best course of action is to take, with the United State’s purpose there so unclear and the stakes so high, it makes sense that we’re struggling to find a solution.

We don’t want to see our young soldiers take the field, but we also don’t want to “cut and run” too soon and risk leaving Iraq an uncertain haven for terrorists.

Still, no one can argue that young people don’t have the means to speak out and we feel passionately about something. We can and we should ask questions if we are confused by the mixed messages we receive from the government and the media.

And if you have something to say about the war or another political issue, take a lesson from the old school.

Stop waiting and start changing.

Got something to say? Send a letter to the editor!

submit your thoughts, opinions, rants and raves in 250 words or less to

mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

Holistic college admissions devalue academic potential

Anna Williams
THE DAILY MUSTANG (U.W. MAdISON)

According to an ACT report released last March, high school graduates are unprepared for college in math, science and reading.

Furthermore, the number of unprepared students has risen over the last decade, with 49 percent of those who took the ACT lacking the reading and math, science and reading.

Because of the pressure of holistic admissions, high school students feel school guidance counselors do year-round sports, participate in student council, pride, as vice president Washington, D.C., perform first-chair clarinet and help out student publications in their community.

On yeah, and they don’t have the time to focus on advanced good grades and test scores.

Though holistic admissions original 

... High school students should readdress attention on activities instead of academic potential the classroom that they might contribute to their college success.

Unfortunately, they can have turned into ammunition for students to participate in an overabundance of clubs, sports and community service activities merely to beef up their college applications.

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Todd Lewan

**New law against feeding homeless in Orlando**

**ORLANDO, Fla. —** At Lake Eola park, there is much beauty to behold — robust palm bushes, beds of cheeky begonias, a cascading lake fountain, clusters of friendly egrets and swans, an amphitheater named in honor of Walt Disney.

But when the Orlando Sentinel posted Leno's wristscrack on its Web site, local bloggers weren't laughing.

"Feeding the homeless only encourages more homelessness," one resident, with the moniker "Justin Credible," wrote. He then summed up his argument in an equation: "Less Homeless = Less Problems = Better Place to Live."

Another, "TG," didn't oppose feeding the destitute. "But there are places set up for this. Soup kitchens exist ... It is not unreasonable to want to keep Lake Eola Park from becoming a homeless cafeteria."

William Beem added: "For what it's worth, La-Vegas enacted a similar law at the same time as Orlando. Tourist towns think alike."

Indeed, a week before Orlando's ordinance took effect, Las Vegas criminalized giving food to even a single transient in a city park.

In August, the American Civil Liberties Union filed suit challenging the La-Vegas ban, saying it violated constitutional protections of free speech, right to assembly and right to practice one's religion. A federal court in Nevada has prohibited the city from enforcing the ordinance until a final ruling is issued.

Advocates for the homeless feared it wouldn't be long before other cities passed similar laws. As it happens, they were right.

Already, the cities of Dallas, Fort Myers, Fla., Gainesville, Fla., Washington, D.C., Atlanta, and Santa Monica, Calif., have laws restricting or outright prohibiting the feeding of the homeless. In Fairfax County, Va., homemade meals and meals made in church kitchens are now distributed to the homeless unless first approved by the county.

Other cities, including Miami, are considering similar anti-feeding measures.

"We've seen cities going beyond punishing homeless people to punishing those trying to help them, even though it's clear that not enough resources are being dedicated to helping the homeless or the hungry," said Maria Foscarinis, executive director of the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, NLCHP's affiliate in Washington, D.C.

A 2006 report on 67 cities by her group and the National Coalition for the Homeless, a nonprofit, non-profit network, found an 18 percent increase since 2002 in laws prohibiting aggressive panhandling; a 12 percent jump in laws outlawing "passive" begging; a 14 percent rise in laws defining sitting or lying in public places as criminal acts.

"It's now illegal to feed the homeless in Orlando... Have you seen the fact people walking around Disney World? We should make it illegal to feed THEM."

--Jay Leno

Host of NBC's "Tonight Show"

**It's now illegal to feed the homeless in Orlando... Why?**

"We were receiving dozens of complaints about individuals feeding the homeless in our city park."

"If we do not act soon, we will lose tourists and investment in our city."

"We need to preserve our parks for wholesome use."

"We need to ban feeding of the homeless to avoid a negative image of our city."

"We need to prevent other problems as well."

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Bush criticizes executive salaries in speech Wednesday

Ben Feller
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — President Bush took aim Wednesday at lavish salaries and bonuses for corporate executives, standing on Wall Street to issue a sharp warning for corporate boards to "step up to their responsibilities" and tie compensation packages to performance.

Bush's "State of the Economy" speech, delivered from the financial center of the world, was aimed at bringing his economic message out of the shadows of the Iraq war. On his second day in a row focused on the economy, the government reported faster-than-expected growth of 3.5 percent in the final quarter of last year.

The president acknowledged people's continuing nervousness about their financial picture, despite a string of similar reports that provide some reason for optimism. He said some workers are being left behind in the booming economy and the disparity between the rich and the poor is growing.

"The fact is that income inequality is real. It has been rising for more than 25 years," the president said. "The earnings gap is now twice as wide as it was in 1980," Bush said, adding that more education and training can lift people's hands from poverty.

The president spoke to an audience of business leaders at the venerable Federal Hall - a symbol of both America's democracy and its economic resilience. Later, he stopped along Broad Street to shake hands with New York police officers and then ducked inside the New York Stock Exchange. The surprise visit caused a frenzy on the trading floor. It was already chaotic trading floor. It was better view of him on television screens.

In his address, Bush said he realized that stories about the enormous salaries and other perks for CEOs, for instance, create anger and uncertainty that affect the country's investors.

The president does not endorse any government role in reducing those packages. Instead, Bush highlighted new federal rules that the administration thinks are a better path toward wise compensation decisions by companies.

"Government should not dictate the compensation for America's corporate executives," he said. "But the salaries and bonuses of CEOs should be based on their success at improving their companies and bringing value to their shareholders."

In effect starting last month, the rules give investors access to clearer and more detailed information from public companies on their top executives' pay packages and perks. Their impact will become apparent as corporations begin issuing 2006 annual reports.

"America's corporate boardrooms must step up to their responsibilities," Bush said. "You need to pay attention to the executive compensation packages that you approve. You need to show the world that America's businesses are a model of transparency and good corporate governance."

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, has said he will push legislation to require more shareholder approval of executive compensation plans. And a separate bill before the Senate to raise the minimum wage would fund accompanying tax breaks to ease the burden on small businesses by capping executives' tax-deferred pay packages at $1 million a year.

Still, even Bush's words on pay were met with complete silence from the business crowd he addressed.

Huge salaries and other perks for CEOs have drawn investor ire and made splashy headlines. Anger over executive compensation unrelated to performance, even as companies stumble, lay off employees or renege on billions of dollars in pension obligations for workers' retirement, has spread from shareholders to union activists and buttoned-down mutual fund trustees.

The chasm between executives' pay and the pay of rank-and-file employees continues to widen.

Home Depot chief executive Robert Nardelli, who earns $9 million a year, was the largest individual compensation package given to a CEO in 2005.

Fiscal responsibility, Bush said, is a model of transparency and good corporate governance. "President Bush can deliver all about the economy. "President Bush can deliver all the economic pep talks he wants, but the fact remains that his failed leadership has led to the worst job recovery on record, stagnating household incomes, a rise in poverty and record deficits," said Stacie Paxton, spokeswoman for the Democratic National Committee.

Since Bush took office in 2001, the country has seen one in five manufacturing jobs disappear, a total of 2.96 million lost jobs. The U.S. trade deficit is expected to climb to a fifth consecutive record when final 2006 figures are totaled next month.

Johnny
continued from page 16
really matter.
My first target was Peyton Manning. I waited my turn until I saw an opening.
"Peyton, if Eli got arrested after the Shaq-Jay-Z party will you have to related question then.
No comment, understandable; he's just really focused. I'll ask a football-related question then.

"Hypothetically speaking, could the Cal Poly football team beat the Rams on their best and your worst day"?
"Cal who?"
I was done with Peyton right there. I was off to Marvin Harrison. Since I have never heard Harrison speak, I was wondering what type of interesting insight he may have into the game.
"Marvin, have you considered dancing with the Stars?"
Not only did Harrison not comment, he didn't even really move. I felt I was wasting my time with a guy who may not even be able to talk. So I decided to go check our Bears camp. I know just who I wanted to talk to — Brian Urlacher, the reigning Defense Player of the Year and one bad man, if you know what I mean.
"Brian, do you not like Matt Leinart?"
"Hypothetically speaking, could the Cal Poly football team beat the Rams on their best and your worst day?"
"What?"
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Truck Runs on Fryer Fat
Melissa Montecuollo
CAMPUS DINING STAFF WRITER
This year, one of Campus Dining's big box trucks has been converted to run on fryer fat, otherwise known as "Biodiesel.
According to Mike Hogan, Campus Dining Facilities Manager, for the next three months, this truck will run on a mix of 20% biodiesel, then switch to 50% biodiesel for a few more months and eventually increase to 100% biodiesel one month prior to the 2007 graduation this spring.
"Biodiesel is harder on hoses and filters than standard fuel," said Hogan. "So those components will need to be changed every quarter; however, the truck should run normally otherwise." The truck's wheels need to be replaced every 600 miles.

Surfing
continued from page 16
on their averaged scores in technique, style and wave selection.
The team is made of nine people — six male shortboarders, two female shortboarders and one longboarder.
Currently, it costs $30 per competition with a $60 membership fee for that covers the year. The season runs from October to February, with four competitions throughout the year and finals ending in March.
Club vice president and philosophy sophomore Patti Alleborn has been surfing since she was 12 years old and teamed up with Davis to start the club last quarter.
"It was a struggle, but it's a lot of fun," she said. "I've gotten to know a lot of cool, unique, fun people and just surfing with everyone is way chill."
Cal Poly freshman shortstop Kyle Smith was 3 for 5 with two runs in the second inning staked the Trojans to a 4-0 lead and could not be stopped in falling to 0-4 on the season. The Trojans (1-4) gave Chad Kreuter a win in his coaching debut when he allowed no runs in six innings.

Sophomore southpaw Tommy Milone picked up the win, allowing two runs and six hits in two innings in relief for Cal Poly, allowing no runs, no hits and no walks with 3 strikeouts in five innings. The Trojans scored a run in the first inning on Matt Cusick's RBI single but Cal Poly answered with a run in the second on singles by Ryan Lee, Pat Perez and Kyle Smith. USC then broke the game open with the Trojans bunched together two walks and four hits — the key blow Duda's three-run home run to right.

Congratulations to Andrea Aiken who won two tickets to the game at UCSB for long time member and season ticket holder. Andrea is a long time member of the Trojans basketball program and always supports the team. Thank you to all of you who support the program and we hope to see you at the game this week.

Basketball continued from page 16

Jacks, old and new, have missed significant time this season including starting guard Tony Newman (leg stress fracture), backup point guard Ashlee Stewart (ankle sprain) and combo guard Kyla Howell (ineligibility). Newman and Stewart have since returned and started in the backcourt Saturday in Cal Poly's 78-72 Big West win over visiting Cal State Northridge, a game in which they combined for 14 points on 6-for-12 shooting, 15 rebounds, four assists and four steals.

"With all our injuries and stuff, Jess has really been forced to step up," Nakamoto said. "She's shouldered a lot of the weight this season. We've got Tony back now, so there's not as much pressure on her here."

There is not as much pressure on the upperclassmen as there was earlier in the season because of the improved performances of Cal Poly's six freshmen, including power forward Briah Feld (9.5 PPG, 5.9 RPG).

"Our freshmen are starting to get comfortable in game experience," Nakamoto said. "That's really making a huge difference for us. The seniors all feel more comfortable with the freshmen, leaving the game for them."

Tonight marks the last game in Cal Poly's four-game homestand. The Mustangs play four of their final six on the road before the road trip, five of seven from March 7 to 10 in Anaheim. As for the UC Davis game, there are more reasons than meet the eye in terms of it being a rivalry.

"We compete with them for recruits, so it's big to be able to say we beat them, or at least split with them in this case," Nakamoto said.

Cal Poly baseball team falls to 0-4 with 6-4 loss at No. 25 USC

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3 Crabber’ s bait
2 Take us out
1 Takes to heart?

Los Angeles — Junior left fielder Lucas Duda's three-run home run in the second inning staked Southern California to a 6-1 lead and the No. 25 Trojans held on for a 6-4 victory over Cal Poly in a non-conference baseball game Tuesday night at Dodger Stadium.

Cal Poly rallied for a run in the sixth and two more in the seventh to cut USC's lead to 6-4, but could get no closer in falling to 0-4 on the season. The Trojans (1-4) gave Chad Kreuter a win in his coaching debut when he allowed no runs in six innings.

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Basketball continued from page 16

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Duo of forwards lead Mustang women into UC Davis game

Jessica Eggleston and Megan Harrison combined for 78 points in the Mustangs’ last two games, both wins.

Tristan Aird

It is no coincidence that when the Cal Poly women’s basketball team is winning, its standout tandem of forwards performs well.

So well, in fact, that senior Jessica Eggleston and sophomore Megan Harrison combined for 78 points, 28 rebounds, 12 assists and six steals over their past two games last week in leading the Mustangs to consecutive victories for the first time since November 2006.

“They complement each other really nicely,” Cal Poly assistant coach Kerri Nakamoto said of Eggleston and Harrison. “Inside-out, one plays perimeter, one plays inside. They can swap equally well from there. They look for each other now. After a year of playing together, they’ve really developed their game together.”

Nakamoto spoke Monday at a weekly athletics department press conference in the absence of head coach Footh Mimmough, who was busy recruiting.

Eggleston, Harrison and the rest of the Mustangs (7-12, 3-4 Big West Conference) will be looking for their third straight win when rival UC Davis (9-12) visits Mont Gym for a nonconference game at 7 p.m. today. UC Davis is independent of a conference because it is still transitioning from the Division II ranks, but it will officially join the Big West next season.

Cal Poly will be trying to avenge a 78-64 loss at UC Davis on Jan. 11 in which the Mustangs committed 25 turnovers and shot 37.1 percent from the field.

“Last time we played Davis, we played them zone because they have a really good motion set where they run a lot of screens and cuts,” Nakamoto said. “We thought it’d be difficult to match up with them man-to-man.”

One player difficult to match up with man-to-man has been Eggleston, who was named Big West Player of the Week on Monday for the second time in her career. She leads Cal Poly in points per game (13.8), rebounds per game (7.8), assists (54) and is tied for the team lead in steals (49).

Eggleston, who is ninth all-time in points scored at Cal Poly with 927, is 73 days of becoming the seventh player since the program’s inception in the 1974-75 season to reach 1,000 points in a career.

“Athletically, there’s not a player in the league that can match up with (Eggleston),” Nakamoto said.

“She’s worked on her outside shot, which is making her even more of a dangerous weapon.”

Cal Poly senior forward Jessica Eggleston is the reigning Big West Conference Player of the Week. She averages 13.8 points, 7.6 rebounds, 2.8 assists and 2.1 steals per game.

That production has been key for an injury-plagued team that is playing without four-year starting point guard Sparkle Anderson, see Basketball, page 15

Polysurfing club team continues to grow

The team finished 24th among 29 teams at the National Scholastic Surfing Association competition in Ventura on Jan. 20.

Jackie Pugh

The return of the Cal Poly surfing club team has been long overdue, but finally the club is back to hit the waves.

The group’s president, business sophomore Derek Davis, started recruiting students last quarter after realizing all the interest in surfing around campus.

Cal Poly competes against other schools and provides an opportunity to surf with friends and network for rides to the beach.

The club recently returned from its first National Scholastic Surfing Association competition in Ventura on Jan. 20. Placing 24th out of 29 teams, the all-day competition began at 6:45 a.m. and consisted of 29 total heats with 15 heats in the first round and whoever advances to the top three in the second.

Cal Poly business sophomore Derek Davis surfs in Costa Rica during spring break last year. He has helped revamp the Cal Poly surfing club team.

Cal Poly senior forward Jessica Eggleston is the reigning Big West Conference Player of the Week. She averages 13.8 points, 7.6 rebounds, 2.8 assists and 2.1 steals per game.

The club plans on visiting South Jersey, Sands Pitts and the Hazards around this area, as well as a trip to Mexico or Big Sur for spring break.

Tryouts were held two weeks ago at Studio Drive in Cayucos.

Cal Poly shortboarder and agricultural business senior Matt Cooke advanced to the second round.

“There was a lot of good competition who really rip from other schools,” Cooke said.

While Mira Costa College of Manhattan Beach won the competition, there was a mix of UC and CSU schools as well as community colleges that competed in the heat.

“Those 29 teams total and at least 18 or 19 are state or UC schools, the rest are community colleges,” Cooke said. “I’m just really happy that Cal Poly is getting on the boat.”

The surf club is now looking to end the season stronger as it takes on its next competition from Feb. 9 to 10 in Huntington Beach.

However, Cal Poly surf club team member and biology sophomore Megan Cimino made it clear those interested don’t have to surf competitively to be in the club.

“We plan to have surf trips and social events for the rest of the year,” she said.

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Poly surfing club team continues to grow