Student still in hospital after being hit by truck

Lauren Scott
LAURENSCOTT.MD0GMA1L.COM

Kelli Hoffert, a psychology junior who was struck by a gray Chevrolet truck on campus around 11 a.m. Tuesday, is now at Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center recovering from a skull fracture. "She's almost certainly gonna be fine," Hoffert's boyfriend, Devin Laws, said.

When asked the name of the man who drove the truck, Lori Habim, the Cal Poly University Police commander, said she could not release that information at this time. However, Hashim did confirm that the driver is a 22-year-old Cal Poly student.

The student reportedly turned left in his truck onto Highland Drive from University Drive near Campus Marker. A truck tire pinned Hoffert's foot before she fell to the ground near a crosswalk, according to witnesses.

Hoffert does not have any other bone fractures besides the trauma suffered on the back of her skull due to impact with the pavement. At Sierra Vista she was heavily sedated, which is common procedure surrounding brain trauma accidents, Laws said.

Twenty-four hours after the incident, Hoffert was still sedated. "She was still asleep when I saw her," Laws said, "but she looked pretty good considering (everything). She looked totally fine."

Laws said he didn't hear the news of Hoffert's accident until around 1 p.m. when he received a call asking him for emergency contact information.

"I was scared and a little confused," he said.

After hearing the news, Laws immediately went to Sierra Vista to see his girlfriend.

Kelli Hoffert, the students who was struck by a truck Tuesday while crossing a campus street, is recuperating at Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center.

Kinesiology students adapting darts for disabled use

Amber Kiwan
AMBERKIWAN.MD0GMA1L.COM

A unique senior project group consisting of kinesiology and engineering students spent the entire school year developing Adaptive Darts, a dart-throwing device designed to allow people with disabilities the opportunity to competitively play a game against an able-bodied opponent.

The project group began designing the device at the beginning of fall quarter and geared all development and designs toward their client, Friday Club. Friday Club is a program run by kinesiology students and the San Luis Obispo Special Olympics and is designed to host activities for disabled individuals every week during the academic school year.

The device was tested with some members of Friday Club and after it is judged and showcased at Cal Poly's College of Engineering Senior Design Expo today, it will be used by disabled individuals at Friday Club activities.

Mechanical engineering senior Nick Quanstrom said his favorite part of the year-long senior project was making something that is actually going to be used and that will make people happy.

"It's rewarding to make something that makes someone's life easier or more enjoyable," Quanstrom said.

If space at the Design Expo permits, the group will demonstrate how the product works and how it can benefit individuals with disabilities.

"It's a pneumatic, so air powered, device that the user is able to pressurize and then release the energy to throw the dart," mechanical engineering senior Sergio Plascencia said.

Plascencia said through a careful design of pump system, the user can pressurize the tank and have control of the aiming when they release the dart with the push of a button. "We had certain specifications that we set out to meet as we were designing it," Plascencia said. "For example, we wanted it to be easy to use, but at the same time require enough force to get some kind of exercise. It's a balance between making it easy but also challenging and fun."

Plascencia said the individual that the dart system was designed for was usually in a wheelchair, with limited amounts of mobility.

In the first ruling in former dean of engineering Mohammad Noori's defamation suit against a number of defendants, local blogger Roger Freburg was awarded $17,000 to pay attorney fees May 17 by the Los Angeles County Superior Court. With the help of an anti-strategic lawsuit against public participation (SLAPP) motion, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Jan Levine, ordered Noori to pay for Freburg's attorney fees, totaling $16,958. California Anti-SLAPP statute was passed in 1992 in fight against litigation that may "strike a complaint where the plaintiff arises from conduct that falls within the right of free speech and free press," according to the California Anti-SLAPP project website.

Carlos Gardena, Cal Poly's university legal counsel, said the money awarded Freburg is meant only to pay his attorney fees, not as a financial win for his personal benefit.

However, in a comment on the Cal Coast News website — which Freburg said he wrote as a statement to those interested in the case — he wrote "the only question I have now is do I want another Harley or a used Hummer? And did he also write that he 'recovered his legal fees.' Still, Freburg said he "should not have been named in the case, nor should any media person." In fact, Freburg said the case was really about the right of free speech and the poorly conceived and ill-fated Saudi Arabia-Cal Poly venture.

"I do understand that there are those who feel slighted, but it isn't about them," Freburg said. "It was, as the judge said, about 'constitutionally protected free speech' and 'issue of public interest.'"

The "poorly conceived and ill-fated Saudi Arabia-Cal Poly venture" Freburg spoke of stands at the start of Noori's suit.

In 2008, Noori helped in negotiations to create a Cal Poly engineering program at Jubail University College (JUC) in Saudi Arabia. But due to the cultural differences of the Middle East, female, LGBT and Jewish students and teachers would not be
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continued from page 1

Noori

allowed to participate in the program.
By posting a blog and writing an article about the project, Freburg and Cal Coast News reporter Karen Velic were named in the defamation suit filed in December 2010 in Los An­ geles County, as well as the California State University Board of Trustees and Cal Poly. Though the case was filed in Los Angeles, Cordova said it will be moved to San Luis Obispo County if Noori continues with the suit. Noori said although Freburg won, he has not been discouraged to pursue fur­ ther litigation against other defen­ dants. In fact, Noori said he plans on appealing the Freburg decision.

Noori said he was asked to step down at the College of Engineering dean in June 2010 “due to a lack of clarity in the direction of the college” by Interim Provost Robert Sobol. Noori, said he was “never given any specifi­ cation of such lack of clarity, and, on the contrary, the College (of Engineer­ ing) was heading in a direction that was reaching peak national recognition.”

Noori said he merely helped facili­ tate the JUC project rather than lead it, and felt he has been blamed for the Saudi Arabia project, which was spearheaded and fully supported by the President’s office.

“I have been portrayed as his Laden, being anti-Jew, anti-guy and anti-wom­ en, all of which are completely false,” Noori said. “These hateful, defamatory and libelous attacks are un-American and have resulted in a lifetime of emo­ tional suffering and have destroyed my entire career and reputation.”

Moreover, Cordova said Cal Poly in no way discriminated Noori when he was asked to step down.

“We clearly deny any discrimina­ tion against Noori,” Cordova said. “We had an investigation conducted by the attorney general of the State of California into his complaints, and they also found evidence that he was not discriminated against while he was dean.” Noori said he still felt as though he was the “scapegoat” in the JUC project because of his Middle Eastern back­ ground. He claims his background in­ fluenced the treatment of the situation, because he had many achievements at the College of Engineering dean, in­ cluding increasing female enrollment and helping the program rank “as the top public undergraduate engineering program in the country three times, which is a record for any five-year pe­ riod in the history of the college.”

Yet, Noori said he has more than helped him continue in education throughout this process in that he is still employed by Cal Poly.

“As a young student, I immigrated to America almost 40 years ago, hoping to pursue my dreams of a better education,” Noori said. “I have de­ voted most of my life and career to improving engineering education, which is why I accepted the position as the dean of the College of Engi­ neering at Cal Poly in July 2005.”

continued from page 1

Accident

“Since I’m not family, they wouldn’t give me information at the hospital,” Laws said. “I had to wait for the family to get in from the Bay Area.”

Hoffert’s parents are currently staying in San Luis Obispo, ac­ cording to Hoffert’s co-worker and friend Juliana Gomes.

“My parents made it in town in record time,” Gomes said.

Ron Yuleelson, vice chair of the economic development divi­ sion of Sierra Vista, spoke to the parents of Hoffert, who have de­ clied to comment.

“The parents of Kelli are re­ questing not to release any in­ formation on her condition right now,” he said.

Cal Poly President Jeffrey Arm­ strong also spoke to Hoffert’s fa­ ther Tuesday night in regards to the accident.

“Our heart goes out to them as part of the Cal Poly family,” Arm­ strong said. “The university is think­ ing about Kelli and her recovery.”

As a parent of two college stu­ dents, Armstrong said he can relate with the parents’ feelings.

“Having your child injured is a parent’s worst nightmare,” he said.

Armstrong also said monetary compensation related to the accident will be determined at a later date.

“We have policies and procedures to handle accidents,” he said. “Any­ thing that happens on campus is in­ vestigated.”

Hashim said she did not have any new information to release as of Wednesday afternoon because the case is still under investigation.

The police report was filed on Tuesday at 11:05 a.m.

According to UPD records man­ ager Fred Mills, the collision where the accident occurred involves heavy foot-traffic every day, especially dur­ ing class rotation times. But there have been no previous issues in the area of the accident.

Although he said nobody has previously complained about the site of the accident, other areas on cam­ pus have had some problems.

“Generally a couple vehicle col­ lisions occur on campus every year,” Mills said. “But they’re usually as­ sociated with bicycles.”

Many students witnessed the ac­ cident, including Gomes. She was at the bus stop on University Drive and North Perimeter Road when the col­ lision occurred.

At the time, Gomes said she didn’t realize she was the victim.

“I saw the University Police from the bus stop,” Gomes said.

“If I would’ve known it was Kelli, I would’ve ran over there to see her.”

Gomes said she informed the Cal Poly Newman Catholic Center of the accident in hopes of encouraging prayer for her friend.

“I’ve felt really bad,” she said. “I continue to have her in my thoughts.”

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Darts

continued from page 1

and possible difficulties with fine mo­ tor skills.

He said it was also designed to re­ move any new information to release as of Wednesday afternoon because the case is still under investigation.

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Other specifications involved creating a design that achieved a certain speed so the dart successfully reached the board.

Kinesiology senior Geralyn Gobayan is pursuing a career in oc­ cupational therapy, where she will work with individuals with disabili­ ties or in need of rehabilitation.

“It was a really fun experience,” Gobayan said. “I’ve never been in­ volved in a project like that in terms of building a device that had to do with adapting to an actual physical sport or game. To see the expression in the clients’ faces, and to see how well adapted they were when it happened, that was definitely worthwhile.”

Gobayan said the project was one of many kinesiology engineering collab­ orations funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

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Write a letter to the editor!
Space shuttle returns to Earth, final shuttle prepares for July 8 launch

Scott Powers

The last and next-to-last ships in America's 30-year space shuttle program passed in the night early this morning as Endeavour returned to Earth completing the penultimate mission and Atlantis crawled toward Central Florida with its farewell double sonic boom. Commander Mark Kelly thanked the thousands of workers who kept what he called "this amazing vehicle" flying, and took none of the blame.

"It's sad to see her land for the last time but she really has a great legacy," Kelly said.

Atlantis, scheduled to launch July 8 on the 135th and final mission of the 30-year space shuttle program, took its final rollout a little late because of a hydraulic leak in the gigantic crawler-transporter vehicle that transports it from the Vehicle Assembly building. After Atlantis, NASA officials concede, there will be a lull before NASA can create a new space program for Kennedy that might provide an economic engine for the Space Coast, as the shuttle program has been for 30 years, and as other manned-space flight programs were before that. Already, thousands of shuttle workers have been laid off, and thousands more will yet be after the Atlantis mission is completed.

"It will be different without the shuttle program, that certainly is a reality," Launch Director Mike Leinbach said. "I feel good that the Kennedy Space Center will be used in the future. I don't have a day I can't tell you when the next program will come here."

The next NASA manned-space flight program, using heavy-lift rockets to take astronauts beyond Earth's orbit, possibly to the moon, Mars or an asteroid, is not possible before 2018. NASA also plans to partner with private companies such as SpaceX and Boeing to support private launches from Kennedy.

"It's a ball. But I think we can quickly get some plans together and get some things that are pretty inspiring to move forward and continue to stretch ourselves and do those really hard things that we are really good at doing," said Bill Gerstenmaier, the NASA associate administrator for space operations.

Endeavour left Kennedy Space Center May 16 on its 25th mission, which might be remembered as its greatest. The youngest ship in the fleet, Endeavour took its maiden flight in 1992 and has played critical roles in both repairing the Hubble Space Telescope and building the International Space Station. This mission, though, had the potential to set Endeavour's ultimate scientific legacy. It was specially scheduled to deliver and install the $2 billion, 15,000-pound Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer, with the prospect of catching some that scientists have yet to find, but which are critical to their prevailing theories about the origins of cosmic rays and the universe. The biggest possible prize: antimatter that can be traced to the big bang that created the universe.

"The mission went great," Kelly said after leaving the shuttle. "We installed the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer. The ELC-3 (a module holding a full suite of equipment and supplies) So we have the station positioned to where over the next 10, 15 years it has the space parts it needs to continue doing the science that is so relevant today. The AMS is already collecting data. We're pretty excited about that."

Endeavour's launch was celebrated not just for the mission, but for the appearance of Kelly's wife, U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, the Arizona Democrat who was shot in the head in an assassination attempt in Tucson in January. She had surgery two days after the launch and is currently recovering in a Houston hospital.

Endeavour will head to the California Science Center in Los Angeles. After it completes its 33rd mission in July, Atlantis will remain at Kennedy Space Center, becoming an exhibit at the KSC Visitor Complex. It's sad to see her land for the last time but she really has a great legacy.

— Mike Leinbach

NASA launch director

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Illinois becomes sixth state to issue same-sex civil union licenses

Rex Huppke
Ruth Fuller
Serena Maria Daniels
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Every Valentine’s Day for the past seven or eight years, Roseann Szalkowski and Barb McMillan walked into the DuPage County Clerk’s office to ask for a marriage license, and every year the answer was the same: no.

On Wednesday, promptly at 8 a.m. when the clerk’s office opened, McMillan asked department supervisor Jodi Wilkovich the same question. “I’d like to ask for a marriage license,” McMillan said, tears welling in her eyes. An equally emotional Wilkovich, who for years was saddened to turn the couple away, again couldn’t grant a marriage license, but she told the couple, “I’m happy to say that you can apply for a civil union license.”

Amid applause from clerk’s office workers, Szalkowski, 50, and McMillan, 60, who come from Roselle, Ill., and have been together 11 years, were the first to be granted a civil union license in DuPage County.

Illinois is now the sixth state that allows civil unions or their equivalent, and two other states — Hawaii and Delaware — have passed civil-union laws that have not yet been enacted.

Advocates of gay and lesbian rights say the civil union law is a historic moment worthy of celebration, but they stress that it in no way marks the end of their work. The next step would be to follow either a judicial or legislative path toward the legalization of same-sex marriage.

Similar scenes played out around the Chicago area Wednesday morning, the first day that same-sex couples were eligible for civil-union licenses.

In Cook County, Janean Watkins and Lakentha Harris camped overnight outside the Daley Center to be the first in line as the state’s new civil-unions law kicked in. “It’s historic,” said Watkins, who has been with Harris for 10 years. “We wanted to be first. We wanted to make a statement. For us, for our kids. It really means something.”

The couple has six children who will all be in attendance at a formal civil union ceremony Thursday.

Watkins and Harris were followed by more than 100 other couples who arrived early to get licenses.

Vicki Kenyon and Lisa Martin of Skokie were up at 4 a.m. and headed to the Daley Center to get a license to legally cement their nearly 10-year relationship. “We thought we’d just get it done in Skokie,” Martin said. “But then we figured, hey, if they’re going to throw a party downtown, we should be there, be part of history.”

Couples can obtain licenses starting Wednesday, but must wait a day before holding a ceremony. On Thursday, the governor and Mayor Rahm Emanuel will be in Millennium Park as more than 30 couples enter into civil unions.

The group The Civil Rights Agency plans to host another cluster of civil union celebrations Friday at the Chicago History Museum. Anthony Martines, the group’s executive director, said at least 30 couples signed up, reflecting the widespread enthusiasm he has seen in the city’s lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

Mel Robson, 39, and Jessie Ritter, 33, of Gunmete, a lesbian couple, came to the courthouse Wednesday morning with their 2-year-old daughter, Bella Ritter-Robson. The couple has been together for almost 11 years. “This is a big step for our family, so she should be a part of it,” Ritter said.

The couple had a wedding for family and friends over five years ago. “That was the celebration,” Robson said. “This is the paperwork that follows.”

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Egyptian authorities Wednesday set Aug. 3 as the start of former President Hosni Mubarak’s trial on criminal charges — a date that will help make real for many in this country his stunning descent from once-untouchable strongman to an infirm octogenarian stripped of power and possessions. Many here believe the sight of Mubarak shuffling into court also will send tremors through other Arab nations where unelected rulers are battling popular rebellion.

Whether the trial will begin on time is an open question, however. Egyptian Attorney General Mahmoud Abdel Maguid told Egyptian news outlets this week that Mubarak’s health has deteriorated so much that he cannot be transferred to Cairo’s notorious Tora prison from a military hospital in the Red Sea resort town of Sharm el-Sheikh, where he’s been undergoing treatment since reportedly suffering a heart attack on April 12. His exact condition has been a mystery since, though Maguid said one of the concerns authorities had was that the Tora prison hospital didn’t have a fully equipped intensive care unit.

According to the state-owned MENA news agency, Mubarak, his sons, Gamal and Alaa, and a business- man, Hussein Salem, will face charges that they used their positions to illicitly enrich themselves and others. Mubarak, 83, also will be tried on charges that he conspired with former Interior Minister Habib el-Adly and others in the killings of protesters during the 18 days of demonstrations that ended with Mubarak’s ouster. MENA said at least 846 people were killed and more than 6,400 were wounded.

The announcement of a trial date appeared timed to quell public criticism of the ruling Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, which took over after Mubarak’s resignation. Activists complain that the military council has acted slowly and in secrecy to prosecute former regime figures, while ordinary protesters have been sentenced after military trials that lasted only an hour.

So far, access to court proceedings against members of the former regime has been severely restricted, which angers Egyptian activists who seek a public reckoning for the regime’s long list of alleged human rights violations and misuse of Egypt’s funds.

"The investigations are kept secret and the trial as a whole is treated as top secret," said Ahmed Helmi, a lawyer and founding member of a group of legal scholars compiling evidence against the regime. "We can never see what’s happened behind closed doors; we can’t see if the process is legally correct or not, witnesses are not allowed in.”

Tens of thousands of Egyptians returned Friday to Tahrir Square, the revolutionary nerve center, to reiterate demands, including that the Mubarak family be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

To date, the only major regime conviction is of el-Adly, the former interior minister, who was sentenced to 12 years in prison for corruption. El-Adly still faces the charge of ordering the killings of protesters as head of the nation’s feared police and security apparatus. His next court date is June 26.

Last month, an Egyptian criminal court sentenced a police officer to death for killing 28 protesters and wounding another 15 on Jan. 28, one of the bloodiest days of the revolution. That sentence was handed down in absentia — authorities still haven’t tracked down Mohamed Mahmoud Abdelnemien, the convicted officer.

It’s not clear what access the public will have to Mubarak’s trial. If it follows the el-Adly model, Mubarak will be brought into the courtroom in a prison uniform and held in a small cage-like pen during proceedings.

For the el-Adly hearings, a few journalists and families of dead protesters attended. The families sometimes disrupted proceedings, calling el-Adly names and demanding justice for their slain relatives.

Few details of the charges have been released. In the corruption case, prosecutors told the Al Masry Al Youm newspaper that Mubarak allowed Salem to seize hundreds of thousands of acres in the most prestigious tourist areas of Sharm el-Sheikh.

The newspaper’s report added that Mubarak, Salem, a former petroleum minister, and other officials enabled Salem to obtain more than $2 billion illegally by awarding Salem’s company the contract to sell discounted Egyptian natural gas to Israel.

The specifics of the alleged conspiracy to kill demonstrators haven’t been made public. No criminal charges have been brought against Mubarak’s wife, Suzanne. Activists have been pressing a campaign against clemency for her after it was announced that she might receive immunity from prosecution in exchange for handing over two bank accounts and a villa in Cairo. The former first lady’s bank accounts contained more than $3 million, according to state media.
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Poetry contest announces winner

David Liebig
DAVID.LIEBIG@GMAIL.COM

Kathryn Sugar, an English junior, was chosen to receive Cal Poly's 2011 Academy of American Poets Award. The Academy of American Poets is an organization based in New York that promotes the study and writing of poetry. It holds writing contests at universities across the country.

The contest came to Cal Poly 20 years ago and awards $100 to a student whose poem is chosen by an off-campus judge selected by the English department each year. The winning poem is also published in the College of Liberal Arts' annual journal, Moebius.

This year, award-winning poet Eleanor Lerman chose Sugar's poem "Communion." Amber Brodie and Sierra Jahoda received honorable mentions.

The winning poem presents the story of a missing child, ending with the unresolved conviction: "I'm coming, Christina."

Sugar said she was surprised her poem won.

"I have never before submitted my creative writing to contests or to be professionally judged, and this unexpected honor is simultaneously shocking and inspiring," Sugar said.

Sugar also said receiving this kind of recognition from a professional poet is "remarkable."

"I love sharing my poetry with classes, professors and friends and receiving their feedback, which I highly value," she said. "However, to be recognized by a prominent and impressive poet, who doesn't know me personally, is an incredible honor."

Lerman, who has written critically acclaimed work since 1973 and was the featured reader at the San Luis Obispo County Poetry Festival in November, said that kind of reassurance for an aspiring poet is important because it comes from outside of the classroom.

"It's a way of testing yourself against your peers," she said.

Lerman said that even though all of the submissions were impressive, "Communion" stood out as an exceptionally powerful, mature piece.

"It didn't seem like it was a student who wrote this," she said. "It seems like it was written by someone who's been practicing the craft for a very long time. Poetry is meant to be recognized by a prominent and impressive poet, who doesn't know me personally, is an incredible honor."
THURSDAY, JUNE 2

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — The time will pass as it always does, but you are likely to fill it in a way that brings a new kind of richness to your day.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You may be tempted to try something new, but the catch is that once you try it, you may not want to enjoy anything else.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 20) — You can surely have a little fun, but take care that you're not having your fun at someone else's expense.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You'll need a little more information before you can put your plans in motion. Once the ball starts rolling, you can stand back and watch.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — You may not be wise to do just anything you want, but this needn't stop you from making the most of your day in a creative way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You may want to put yourself in another's hands in order to see things more completely through his or her experienced eyes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You may feel as though someone in charge is putting you on the spot in ways that perhaps he is just doing his job.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You're ready to move on to another endeavor at this time, but take care that you don't cease all efforts on another prematurely.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — You may know more than anyone else just what is going on beneath the surface. Indeed, certain odd currents are perceptible.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — If you're going to throw in your lot with a certain someone, you're going to have to follow that certain someone's rather unusual rules.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — The beginnings of a daring sort of plan are taking root in your imagination, but you may not yet know just how they will ultimately take shape.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You mustn't let another know that you are in any way weak or indecisive; such vulnerability can prove hazardous at this time.

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Festa's Corner

Tell us how the Mustang Daily made a MARK on your college career and get a free shirt!

KELLY YOSS
Junior, Animal Science

"I read the Mustang Daily to pass the time between my classes."
Cal Poly professor to speak at Botanical Garden

Marisa Bloch
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In a world trying to lean more toward sustainability and environmental friendliness, imagine not watering your lawn as often, using a lot of fertilizer or even mowing it as often. These are all possibilities today.

Cal Poly landscape architecture professor David Fross will speak about landscape diversity and sustainability at the SLO Botanical Garden on June 11.

“He is a huge advocate for using native plants,” landscape architecture junior Ryan Burger said. “These plants are a lot more sustainable because the plants are more adapted to this environment. He even has his own nursery that he takes his students to, which is truly amazing.”

Burger said he has learned a lot about native plants in his classes. He said it is a growing trend in society lately because native plants last longer and are easier to care for because they do well in the weather and are from the area.

Fross is the co-author of the book "Ceanothus, California Native Plants for the Garden and Reimagining the California Lawn." The event is part of his book tour.

He said it took approximately two years to write the book, and the topic came up due to drought issues in western North America.

“This specific event will focus on how there are many design alternatives to replace a traditional lawn,” Fross said.

Some alternative lawn styles include greenswards, meadows, cobblestone and gravel gardens that add diversity and sustainability to landscaping.

Fross said many people don't know how impractical their lawns are but don't know about alternatives that can be used. Through his classes at Cal Poly, his book and events like this one, Fross said he hopes to better educate the population on their improved options for gardening, especially in this area.”

Lindsey Collinsworth, press release director at SLO Botanical Garden, said Fross was chosen by a program committee that chooses a different professor or community member each month to help inform the public on what is up and coming in environmental awareness.
"At the garden we try and focus on education and connecting people back with nature," Collinsworth said. "We want them to get to know the plants that we rely on, and work to get a more sustainable lifestyle. We also try and get people more interested in gardening."

When the garden is completed, it will be the only garden of its kind in the United States because it is devoted to systems and plants of the five Mediterranean climate regions of the world.

The garden aims to build a partnership between people and plants to increase understanding of the natural environment.

The event will be held at the SLO Botanical Garden from 1 to 3 p.m on June 11 and costs $5 to attend. The gardens are open seven days a week from dawn until dusk. The Saturday at the Garden events are held on the second Saturday of each month.

Poetry continued from page 8

"Communion" is a persona poem, meaning the narrator is someone other than the author. English professor Kevin Clark said personas poems can be difficult to write, but Sugar does a "stunning" job at it.

"(Sugar) puts herself in the voice of a character she is clearly not," he said. "This is a mother whose child has been kidnapped and possibly murdered."

The story is told using metaphors and similes that reflect the narrator's psychological state, Clark said.

"That is not easy to do," he said. "I think at this stage (Sugar's) intuitive abilities with expression are more formulated than she recognizes, because we can only half know what we're doing when we're writing well, and this poem was so well written that she — I'm sure — could only half know it."

Clark said he believes Sugar, Brodie and Jahoda could all get into Master of Fine Arts programs for creative writing.

Sugar said she may pursue a graduate degree in creative writing or poetry writing but has no firm goals for the future yet.

"I would love to continue reading, writing and studying poetry," she said. "In terms of career goals, I would love to one day be an educator or professor."

She said her own professors helped her win the contest.

"I would never have won this award had it not been for the consistent support and guidance of the English department faculty and my fellow English major classmates," Sugar said.
Wal-Mart: green business is good business

Edward Humes is the author of "Force of Nature: The Unlikely Story of Wal-Mart's Green Revolution."

If you care about green, it's hard not to view these as the worst of times, marked by looming climate, water and energy crises, vanishing fisheries, miniaturized shorelines and habitat destruction — the list is mind-numbing endless. In response, we have a largely apathetic public, an environmental lobby rendered toothless by said apathy, a political left and central paralyzed by fear that protecting the planet might hurt the economy and a political right that's never been more visibly opposed to all things green as job-killing, business-bashing and boogiemen.

But then there's Wal-Mart. Of all companies, the "bully of Bentonville" has ridden into the fray wearing the white — or rather, green — banner, by assenting to all that this paralysis and animosity over protecting the planet is sheer crazy talk.

Believe it or not, this redditor of red-state retailers — joined by a growing number of like-minded companies large and small — insists there is a business case for sustainability, a profit motive for investing in green. And it has the data to prove it: The company is pocketing hundreds of millions of dollars with more planet-friendly practices that lower carbon emissions, conserve energy, save forests and radically reduce landfill waste. So, inspire this sustainability and toil planning have saved Wal-Mart hundreds of millions of dollars. The retailer also has shown its suppliers in the United States and China how to lower their carbon emissions and energy bills by 20 percent to 60 percent.

Reducing packaging, meanwhile, has saved hundreds of millions in shipping costs. Wal-Mart can afford to shrink laundry detergent bottles several times that amount. Better fuel and energy efficiency, streamlined trucks, energy-saving lighting and refrigeration and beer waste planning have saved Wal-Mart hundreds of millions of dollars.

It's time to rethink this position. Since 2005, Wal-Mart's "evil empire" has lowered the carbon footprint of its stores by more than 10 percent and of its trucking fleet by several tons. The company's pollution is less than one percent of all of America's pollution.

A seemingly unrealistic goal of zero waste to landfills is suddenly looking attainable; the company cut its waste 81 percent in California, a pilot program now going nation-wide. The trick to it was finding new uses for former trash: turning plastic waste into dog beds, food waste into compost sold in its stores, expired but still healthy foods into food bank donations. The waste Wal-Mart once paid to have hauled away is now earning the company more than $100 million a year.

Big manufacturers such as Unilever and General Mills, as well as sustainability pioneers that once criticized Wal-Mart — Patagonia and Seventh Generation — have partnered with the retailer on green efforts. Lately, whole industry groups, including leading apparel companies, electronics and dairy, have allowed related initiatives to become greener and to go public with the information on how clean — and dirty — their products are.

The golden age of environmentalism is long over. The days when 20 million Americans showed up for Earth Day and pressured Congress into creating landmark bipartisan legislation to protect air, water and endangered species are unlikely to return any time soon. Back then the enemy of the environment was big business. Today, businesses provide one of the few encouraging trends on the environment, a way to turn the tables and show that opponents to investing in green are the ones hurting America.

Outsourced global companies like Wal-Mart can never be completely green or sustainable. But they can do better, and some of them are doing better. Their realization that profit and planet can and must live on the same side of the ledger sheet puts them way ahead of most politicians and voters.

For environmentalists, this business case for sustainability should be one of the most critical messages of our time. There's a lot of talk about it among insiders and true believers at green business conferences, but it's barely a whisper as far as Washington and the American public are concerned. It ought to be a drumbeat.

— Edward Humes

Author of "Force of Nature: The Unlikely Story of Wal-Mart's Green Revolution"

I'm surprised these events don't happen more often. The intersection where this girl was hit is completely unsafe. It's a major entrance and for the campus, and is also a crosswalk that connects to one of the largest parking lots — the design is terrible. They put in a traffic light at the stadium, but completely ignore this intersection!

A couple months back, I had to sprint and jump out of the way of a car at that intersection. It was a close miss and the driver kept on driving. Not only is the intersection dangerous, but it walks it at night. There is no proper lighting on that intersection and it is a lawsuits waiting to happen.

Cal Poly, please address this safety issue. Having roads running through high pedestrian traffic zones is never a good idea, but you have to make do with an old design by making sure it's safe.

— B

In response to "Student hit by car walking on campus"

Nick, I care about this Fraternity. I care about SigEp with all my heart because I know the good nationals and my chapter has done. However, I'm not so sure about the SLO Chapter. YOU of all people should care. The culture was influenced by older members like you, aka alumni. You said you are a former member of that chapter. It is the responsibility of YOU and the other SLO alumni to improve the chapter. It is the responsibility of YOU and the other SLO alumni to hold your chapter accountable. It's time to rethink this position.

I'm sure you had say with the SLO chapter. YOU of all people should care. The trick to it was finding new uses for former trash: turning plastic waste into dog beds, food waste into compost sold in its stores, expired but still healthy foods into food bank donations. The waste Wal-Mart once paid to have hauled away is now earning the company more than $100 million a year.

Big manufacturers such as Unilever and General Mills, as well as sustainability pioneers that once criticized Wal-Mart — Patagonia and Seventh Generation — have partnered with the retailer on green efforts. Lately, whole industry groups, including leading apparel
U.S.-Pakistan ties strained following bin Laden’s death

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Since Navy SEALs killed Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad, Pakistani generals have been consumed with rage.

U.S. officials don’t believe the top Pakistani brass knew bin Laden was there. But the fact that the Americans carried off the raid without Pakistan’s knowledge has humiliated the military and angered its public, to the point where essential military cooperation is in jeopardy.

Sadly, that anger is more centered on the violation of Pakistan’s sovereignty than on the fact that bin Laden hung out undetected for five years only an hour from the Pakistani capital.

So Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, made a sudden, unannounced trip here to try to salvage a relationship with a country whose cooperation is vital for a decent end to the war in Afghanistan.

Yet, as a tense Clinton made clear at a Friday news conference, unless the two sides can be more candid in private and in public, this crucial relationship will fail.

For the last couple of years, Mullen has repeatedly traveled to Islamabad to build closer ties with his counterpart, Pakistani military chief Ashfaq Parvez Kayani. Clinton tried to do the same by pushing for more nonmilitary aid to Pakistan.

Despite a degree of military and intelligence cooperation, however, neither side ever fully trusted the other; deep resentments festered. Pakistan blamed America for botching the Afghan war, which pushed Taliban groups into its tribal areas and helped fuel militancy there.

The United States blamed Pakistan for providing sanctuary to Afghan Taliban commanders and letting the militants cross back to kill Afghans and U.S. troops.

Neither side wanted to confront the other openly. The Americans didn’t want to anger the Pakistanis, whose territory provides the main supply route for our troops in Afghanistan. The Pakistanis didn’t want to bite (at least, too deeply) the hand that funds their army.

So the two sides never came clean with each other. The Americans fumed that Pakistan secretly protected Afghan Taliban leaders, while the Pakistanis complained that America failed to appreciate the cost of their war on Pakistani Taliban groups.

Meantime, Pakistani officials privately cooperated with the U.S. drone strikes against militants, even as they publicly denounced the strikes. Pakistani officials often portrayed the struggle against terrorists as America’s war, not their own.

Clinton, speaking firmly, made clear that the era of evasiveness had to end.

One way to start clearing the air, she suggested, would be to confront bizarre conspiracy theories that proliferate in Pakistani media and promote virulent anti-Americanism.

U.S. officials say they believe such stories are often planted by the Pakistani military.

"Pakistan should understand," she said, "that anti-Americanism and conspiracy theories will not make its problems disappear."

What she referred to has been on full display since bin Laden’s death. A raft of stories making the rounds allege that the al-Qaida leader was killed elsewhere and his body brought by the CIA to Abbottabad to embarrass the Pakistani military.

"We are in a state of denial," says retired military analyst. "As a country today, there is a huge siege mentality. America, Israel, and India are after us, the stories go, and they want to weaken our institutions. But if you brand America as the villain, how can you have a good relationship?" How, indeed?

Clinton also suggested that more be done to let Pakistanis — and Americans — get a fairer picture of the other’s efforts.

Few Americans realize, she said, that Pakistan has committed one-third of its army to fight Pakistani Taliban in the tribal areas along the Afghan border, suffering more than 3,000 military and 30,000 civilian casualties in the process.

Nor do most Americans know that Pakistan has cooperated in hunting down al-Qaida operatives over the past decade. The Western media focuses more on the fact that Pakistan has not seriously pursued Afghan Taliban who take shelter on its soil.

Not do Pakistanis appreciate, she said, the extent of U.S. aid to their country. A $7.5 billion U.S. civilian aid package spread over 10 years was denounced in the Pakistani press (with apparent military encouragement) because conditions were put on some of the money.

"We need to ... tell the truth ... about the level of aid the U.S. is providing," Clinton insisted. "We provide more support than Saudi Arabia and China and everyone else combined. But I’m not sure many Pakistanis know that. We provided the most aid for the floods (that ravaged Pakistan last year), but I bet not many Pakistanis know that.

Indeed they don’t.

If candid became the watchword of the U.S.-Pakistan relationship, Pakistan’s leaders would shoot down nonsensical conspiracy theories. Pakistan could demand honest answers about U.S. strategy and staying power in Afghanistan. U.S. officials could in turn demand to know whether rogue Pakistani military elements are backing terrorists who hit India and threaten the West. And both sides could expect serious answers.

Each side could set out its red lines for an Afghan solution, and then decide what degree of cooperation was feasible.

"The point of friendship," Clinton said, "is telling each other difficult truths where we see them." But if this relationship remains trapped in a web of wild theories, evasions, and rumors, there is no way it can work.

The fact that the Americans carried off the raid without Pakistan’s knowledge has humiliated the military.

—Trudy Rubin
Philadelphia Inquirer columnist
Andre Ethier has rekindled his swing

Dylan Hernandez
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Andre Ethier is starting to emerge from his recent two-week slump, something he said is a result of breaking some bad habits he developed during his 30-game hitting streak at the start of the season.

Ethier began Tuesday's game batting .371 (eight for 14) with two doubles, a home run and four runs batted in over the first four games of the Dodgers' current homestand.

He credited Manager Don Mattingly's decision to hold him out of the lineup from Friday to Sunday in Houston. He said he spent three days working on his swing.

"Balance, hands, body position, everything," he said.

Ethier said there was something mechanically wrong with his swing during his hitting streak, which spanned from April 2 to May 6.

"I don't think I ever had a good feeling during the streak, really," Ethier said. "I was just getting hits. I think that was the problem."

The way he tells it, his success was reinforced when he was doing wrong.

Of the 46 hits Ethier collected during his streak, only three were home runs.

"It was tough to hit for power the way I was hitting, where I was mechanically," he said.

Ethier said he remembered what former Dodgers manager Joe Torre used to tell him: "Rather than go up there and hit a single, go up there and try to drive the ball. That's why you're in the middle of the lineup."

When the streak ended, Ethier's form dipped significantly. In the 15 games that followed the streak, he batted .145.

"You step in the batter's box and you wonder if your hands are in the right position, you get your weight right, getting your weight right, thinking about it rather than have it come natural," he said.

Also, Ethier was fourth and Matt Kemp was fifth among National League outfielders in the first round of All-Star balloting, which was released Tuesday.

Ethier, who was selected an All-Star starter last season, received 776,971 votes. Kemp had 549,215.

Ethier is fewer than 100,000 votes behind Lance Berkman of the St. Louis Cardinals (872,434 votes), who holds the third and final starting spot. Ryan Braun of the Milwaukee Brewers (971,809) and Matt Holliday of the Cardinals were the top two vote getters among NL outfielders.

Balloting at stadiums will conclude June 24. Online balloting at mlb.com runs through June 30.

In other news, reliever Vicente Padilla could be activated as early as Friday for the Dodgers' series opener in Cincinnati, Mattingly said.

In what could be his final tune up before his return, Padilla pitched two scoreless innings for Class-A Rancho Cucamonga. He got five groundouts.

Hey, we've got a real news feed too.
The Major League Baseball 2011 first-year player draft is fast approaching. For thousands of players, it represents a culmination of a lifetime of practice and dedication. For many Cal Poly players, it will be the big step that transforms them from student athletes into professionals.

After a roller-coaster season of injuries, upsets and letdowns, head coach Larry Lee said many of Cal Poly's current players have earned their spot in the draft this season.

Lee also said he expects Cal Poly's trio of ace pitchers, Steven Fischback, Mason Radeke and Jeff Johnson, to get drafted in the early rounds.

Fischback finished the season with a 7-3 record, 3.33 ERA and 77 strikeouts over 92 innings. Radeke posted an 8-4 record, 3.07 ERA and 95 strikeouts over 99 2/3 innings.

Besides Crocker, other Cal Poly players have fought hard to separate themselves from the pack in this year's draft.

Lee said Bobby Crocker would most likely be drafted highest. Crocker finished third in the Big West with a .497 slugging percentage, .339 batting average and five home runs.

"He's what professional teams are looking for," Lee said. "He's got good size, speed and power. He just has a high upside. He's a perfect fit for a professional club."

But for Cal Poly's junior center fielder and lead-off batter, this won't be his first shot at the big leagues.

In 2008, coming right out of Aptos High School in Aromas, Calif., Crocker was selected in the 38th round by the Oakland Athletics, but he turned it down because he said he didn't feel ready.

"I wasn't very good coming out of high school," Crocker said. "I had a lot of holes in my swing and just wasn't developed enough."

But with help from Lee and his experience at Cal Poly, Crocker said he improved his game.

"I came here and Coach Lee just took me to another level," Crocker said. "He not only made me want to put in hard work but to become the professional baseball player I've always wanted to be."

Crocker said he feels at the top of his game, and knows he is ready to take his game to the next level.

"I'm very excited," Crocker said. "It's going to change my life in a couple (of) days. I don't know where I'm going or what I'm doing, but there's nothing else I'd rather do than play every day. I'm looking forward to it."

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