

Dang, this hurts:

Things to keep in mind when getting a piercing, 3

Spectating 101: How to enjoy Poly wrestling, 8

High: 65° / Low: 35°
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Mustang

DAILY

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Volume LXV, Number 75, 1916-2001

VISA cards not accepted for tuition, state fees

By Sonia Slutzki

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

If VISA is "everywhere you want it to be" then it forgot to visit Cal Poly, because it definitely isn't here.

Six months ago, Cal Poly introduced credit card use as an option to pay for school fees via the Internet or over the phone, a benefit that was not available prior to July 2000. MasterCard, Discover and American Express are currently the only three credit cards accepted.

"Before we began to accept credit cards, we had looked at (the possibilities) for several years," said Robert Dignan, director of Fiscal Services, in a letter explaining Cal Poly's decision not to carry VISA. "It was eventually decided that in order to accept credit cards, we would need to charge a convenience fee."

When Cal Poly began discussions with credit card processors, they learned that credit card companies were unwilling to allow a convenience charge that was directly related to their merchant fees, Dignan said in his letter. VISA would allow only a "one size fits all" flat fee.

Currently, the University Cashier has a convenience fee schedule that starts at \$2 for payments up to \$100. The highest fee would be \$100 for payments over \$4,000. With VISA, all payments would include a \$20 fee regardless of the amount of the payment.

According to Dignan's letter, credit card companies insisted that the same fee structure be used for all credit cards on campus, which meant that "Cal Poly could not have a 'tiered' fee for some cards and a flat fee for others."

Nancy Reynolds, Cal Poly accounts assistant director, said the incentive to start carrying credit cards came from students asking for that convenience, especially before fall quarter while some students are out of town. However, Cal Poly could not justify the additional cost of carrying all credit cards, which would amount to thousands of dollars every year.

"While we would prefer to accept VISA also, we were not able to work out an arrangement that would allow us to do so," Dignan said in the letter.

Reynolds said that only a few students have complained about the school not carrying VISA; most haven't even realized that the option to use credit cards to pay school fees is currently available.

VISA is, however, accepted at other locations on campus, such as at El Corral Bookstore.

Hey Mr. DJ



DANIEL GONZALES/MUSTANG DAILY

Theodore Zeiss, an electrical engineering senior, works as a DJ for 91.3 KCPR, Cal Poly's student-run radio station. Below, Zeiss cues music for his Tuesday afternoon regular format show. Zeiss has been a DJ for two years. New student trainees were recently selected for this quarter and are allotted time every week to learn the workings of the station before taking on their own program.



County jail opens for public tour

By Larissa Van Beurden

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Imagine walking away from a party on a Friday night. Knowing you've had too much to drink, you decide to walk back to your apartment instead of drive, especially since it's only a short walk. Thinking everything's OK, you're surprised when a police officer pulls up and asks if you've been drinking. Although you're walking, he can still pick you up for public drunkenness and take you to the "drunk tank," located in the county jail.

Most people at this point would be scared out of their minds. But this Thursday, the sheriff's department is inviting the public to tour the jail to show people exactly what the jail process consists of and what the facilities look like.

The tour begins at 5:30 p.m. and will take approximately one hour. It will explain the history, correctional methodology and operational aspects of the facility.

see JAIL, page 2

Student blood drives a source of life

By Adrenna Benjamin

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The blood supply on the Central Coast is bleeding dry and more blood donors are needed throughout the year. Cal Poly is one of the largest contributors for the Tri Counties Blood Center and continues to be a big support.

The Block and Bridle Club from the College of Agriculture is holding a blood drive on Thursday in hopes of getting an increase in blood donors.

"The reason we're doing this is because we need to give back to the community," said Kelly Smith, an agriculture junior. "It helps save lives."

Smith, who is part of the Block and Bridle Club, will be volunteering her time to help with the blood drive.

"We are trying to have the blood drives three times a year," she said. "But so far this year, we will only have two."

The "bloodmobile," as Smith likes to call it, has been very successful in the past, but organizers would like more people to give blood.

Most people don't understand the need to maintain a safe and plentiful blood supply for community patients.

Mona Kleman, community relations representative for Tri Counties Blood Center, said the national average of blood donors is less than 5 percent.

Kleman also said the Central Coast average is between 5 to 10 percent, which is extremely low.

"Most of our donors are from Cal Poly," Kleman said. "We have different organizations who come to us and want to do the blood drives."

Kleman said there are a lot of organizations at Cal Poly that put on blood drives. Organizations such as fraternities and sororities, ROTC, Civil Engineering Club and the Block and Bridle Club help to spread awareness about the importance of donating blood.

"We need 150 pints a day for local hospitals," Kleman said. "And we don't meet that requirement on a daily bases. That is why we need more people to donate blood."

Kleman said not enough people are aware that the need for blood is so high. One of the main reasons people don't donate is because they believe others are doing it and there's no need for them to donate.

"There is more and more blood usage," Kleman said. "This area's population is growing, we have senior citizens who are having surgeries and need the blood, as well as accidents."

If people lose blood from surgery, get injured or if their bodies can't produce

see BLOOD, page 2



FILE PHOTO/MUSTANG DAILY

Carmen Rodriguez takes a blood sample from a student donor at a bone marrow drive on campus. Bone marrow and blood drives often come to Cal Poly, which is one of the largest sources of donors in the county.



TODAY'S SUN

Rise: 7:02 a.m. / Set: 5:31 p.m.

TODAY'S MOON

Rise: 11:05 a.m. / Set: 11:20 p.m.

TODAY'S TIDE

AT PORT SAN LUIS

High: 2:36 a.m. / 4.49 feet

Low: 9:13 a.m. / 2.01 feet

High: 2:33 p.m. / 3.19 feet

Low: 10:20 p.m. / 1.67 feet

5-DAY FORECAST



WEDNESDAY

High: 65° / Low: 35°



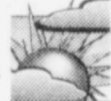
THURSDAY

High: 67° / Low: 38°



FRIDAY

High: 63° / Low: 40°



SATURDAY

High: 67° / Low: 46°



SUNDAY

High: 70° / Low: 47°

Mustang Daily ...

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BLOOD

continued from page 1

enough blood, there is only one place to turn to: volunteered blood donors.

Not only does Cal Poly have blood drives throughout the year, but it also has bone marrow drives given by Heart of America.

"We come to Cal Poly because we get invited by certain organizations," said Fran McDermott, manager of California operation for Heart of America. "We've also come together with blood drives."

Unlike the blood drives, which are for nonprofit organizations and are free of charge to the donor, the bone marrow drives cost \$75 per donor.

"It costs money for each packet, therefore we also need to charge the volunteers," she said. "But we do full funding for minorities."

McDermott said minorities are underrepresented in the bone marrow registry and need more donors.

"We have a lot of Caucasian donors," she said. "But when it comes to Asians, Hispanics or African-Americans, we need a better chance for their match."

McDermott said every patient that comes along needs the same chance for bone marrow transplants, that's why they need a variety of different nationalities donating blood.

Anyone who is in good health, is at least 17 years old and weighs more than 110 pounds may donate blood and bone marrow.

The next blood drive, organized by the Block and Bridle Club, is Thursday in front of Bldg. 10. The blood drive will be between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. For more information, contact the Tri Counties Blood Center at 543-4290 or Heart of America at 1-800-366-6711.

JAIL

continued from page 1

Greg Slane, sheriff's department chief deputy, said the department is very open to the public and wants everyone to be able to come out and see what the sheriff's department actually does.

"We want the public to be well informed," Slane said. "We want them to see it's not really a dungeon in here."

The tour will take visitors through the entire jail operating system. This includes the safety cell, drunk tank, holding cell and female

jail. It will also take visitors through the entire booking system, from fingerprinting to release.

Slane said the tour would be especially beneficial to college students because of its educational aspects and its opportunity for career connections.

"Any opportunity to experience something you haven't in the past is a good educational opportunity," Slane said.

The San Luis Obispo County Jail was built in 1971. It has expanded numerous times over the years to accommodate the increasing inmate population.

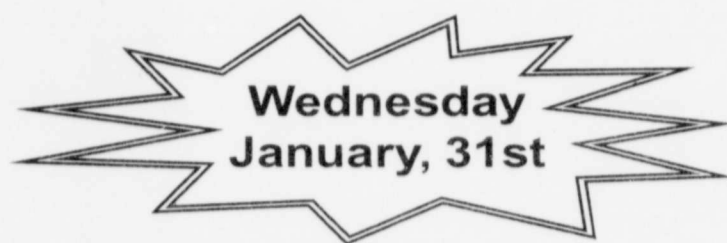
Sheriff Patrick Hedges encourages all those interested in meeting

"We want them [the public] to see it's not really a dungeon in here."

Greg Slane
chief deputy

the custody staff, observing jail operations and touring the facilities to take advantage of the opportunity.

To participate in the tour, make reservations by calling the sheriff's department at 781-4611 by noon on Jan. 31. Participants will be required to present photo identification on the day of the tour.



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- Thermal Vacuum Test Engineer
- Satellite Test Engineer
- Spacecraft Operations Engineer
- Spacecraft Structural Analysis Engineer
- Vibration Test Engineer

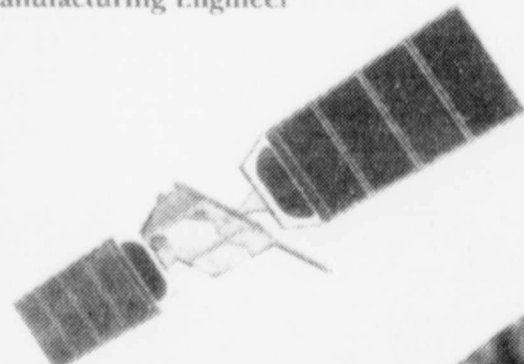
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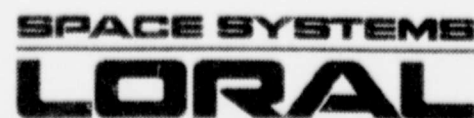
FINANCE

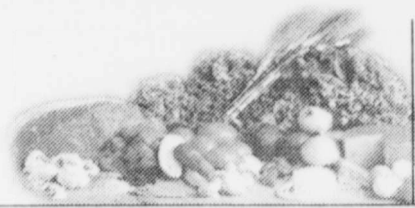
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Living Fit

A truly holey experience

By Janelle Foskett
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

She would make anonymous phone calls to local piercing locales with all sorts of questions. Every day it seemed there was a new rumor she wanted dismissed or a concern she faced.

"Is it true you can be paralyzed for life?" she asked once.

"What about losing all feeling in your tongue?" she asked another time.

This is the panic one Cal Poly student went through when wondering whether to get her tongue pierced – a question some students face: to be or not to be ... pierced, that is.

Whether it's a tongue or a nose,

college students seem to be caught up in the familiar fad of piercing.

Brandi Pinder, 22, pierces customers at Traditional Tattoo in San Luis Obispo. She thinks both men and women seem to enjoy changing their appearance a bit.

"People mainly do it for the looks," she said. "It's a small, non-permanent change that you can show off – but you can take it out, too."

Catheline Wright, 19, a civil engineering junior, had her tongue, belly button and nose pierced at Traditional Tattoo.

"I think it enhances style and beauty," she said. "It's like part of your clothes – an accessory."

The Association of Professional Piercers (APP) has detailed a list of things to look for when deciding where to get a piercing. Pinder said the APP is helpful for its recommendations and aftercare suggestions.

First, the APP encourages asking to see a shop's autoclave (sterilizer) and spore tests. A spore test determines if the store's sterilizers are working properly. About once a month, shops must send a sample from the autoclave off to a company, which tests it to see if all the bacteria has been killed. Traditional Tattoo uses an autoclave.

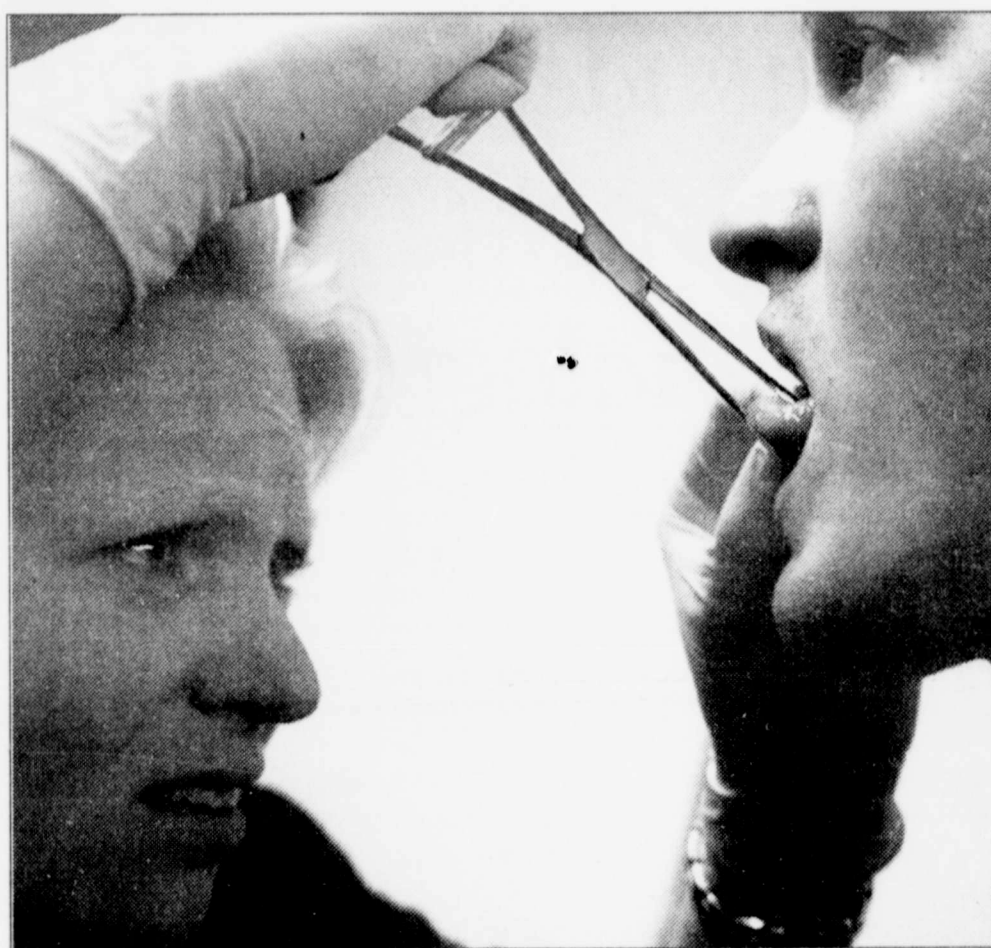
Second, it is absolutely necessary to make sure the shop uses single-use needles, advises the APP. Pinder said the needles should come from an individual package – not a needle that has been soaking in liquid. She said it is also important to see if the store uses a sharps container, a red biohazard unit, to dispose of used needles.

Third, the APP suggests making sure the shop does not perform body piercings with an ear-piercing gun. It is illegal in many states to use piercing guns anywhere but the earlobes. Traditional Tattoo uses needles for ear-piercing as well.

"You can't sterilize the guns at all," Pinder said. "Needles cause less trauma to the body, since guns are blunt and often inaccurate."

Fourth, it is important to check the shop's jewelry selection. According to the APP, as a general rule, jewelry no thinner than 14-gauge should be used below the neck.

"We only use hoops, because there is more space where bacteria can sit



AARON LAMBERT/MUSTANG DAILY

Paul Rhodes, a general engineering freshman, gets his tongue pierced by Brandi Pinder at Traditional Tattoo in San Luis Obispo.

with a barbell," Pinder said.

Fifth, the APP recommends asking if the shop has an aftercare sheet and a license to operate. Traditional Tattoo does give away aftercare sheets for both internal and external piercing, and it does have a license from the City of San Luis Obispo to operate.

Other suggestions from the APP include seeing if the shop is clean, talking to friends about their experiences, asking questions of the piercer, checking the age requirements and looking at the piercing rooms and set-up.

Pinder believes there are many misunderstandings about getting pierced.

"Mainly it's the rumors and the amount of pain," she said. "People think it hurts a lot and it doesn't."

She said there's usually a quick, sharp pinch that turns into a warm throb.

Cuesta College student Kyle Pope got his tongue pierced on Friday for the second time and said it didn't hurt.

"I like the way it feels when they pierce it," he said.

Pinder points out that there are some common sense things to be aware of after a piercing. She said it is very important to not touch a fresh piercing. She recognizes that it can be tempting to play with, but she said hands are really dirty and will only increase the likelihood of an infection.

For more information about getting pierced or aftercare, the APP has a list of suggestions at www.safepiercing.org.

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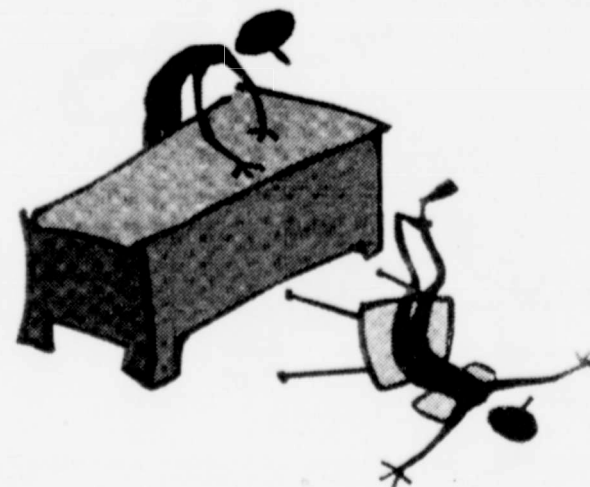
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Opinion

Allow ideas to stir thought, open dialogue

In case you are wondering about the inundation of theological bombardments enveloping our campus, there is an explanation. This week is Evangelism ("E") Week, sponsored by Campus Crusade for Christ. The basis for this movement is derived from the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19), in which Christ charges his followers to spread the knowledge they possess and see that Christianity reaches the far corners of the earth.

But there is a deeper meaning that hovers beneath this basic, yet bold, mission statement. The hope is that all of the posters, fliers, films and dialogue will stir at least a thought or two in the minds of Cal Poly students.

Whether your background is orthodox or atheist, Christian or Islamic, agnostic or apathetic, a little contemplation will only serve to further enhance your own self-actualization. If you don't relate to Christ's charge

Jenny Rosner

to his disciples, maybe philosophy is more up your alley. Let's look at Socrates. One of the many phrases that define his historic persona is "Know thyself." This command stems from the assertion that we can do nothing without first establishing our own stance on an issue. In order to impact others and produce results, we must first know our own platform and learn how to make our ideas appealing to others. But back to the issue at hand.

A fabulous jumping-off point for the age-old religious debate is evolution versus creation. I like the idea of a random chemical interaction billions of years ago that spontaneously and grandly made life. The Big Bang is a well-developed theory supported by countless, highly educated scientists. But take it one step further, beyond the mere facets of the theory. According to this explanation, what is our reason for being here?

If there is no Supreme Being that intentionally created each one of us, then we are left to our own devices to determine our life's purpose. There is no overarching blueprint for our existence, and, thus, no absolute right answer to any question relating to the afterlife, our souls, our consciences or the unbridgeable chasm between the most advanced animal and the most primitive human. If nothing is definitely right, that means that nothing we do is absolutely wrong either. Whew, what a relief!

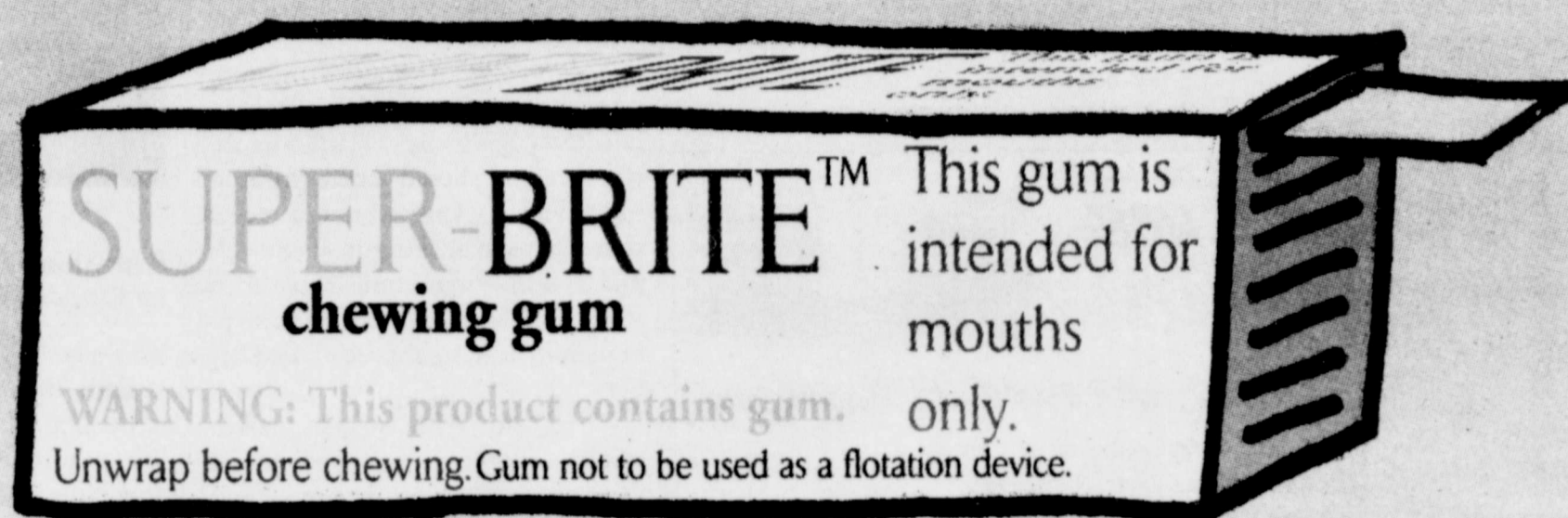
Conversely, if there is a God who created us with a bigger plan in mind, significantly more pressure is placed on us to make good choices and "stay the course" of our life's purpose. While this belief undoubtedly demands a higher standard and requires us to remain accountable to something higher than ourselves, does that necessarily mean that it is wrong? I understand that in today's society, whatever is easiest and feels good is often deemed the best and most popular route. But is this instant gratification, pleasure-seeking, self-centered, self-embiggening philosophy really the truth?

I am not asking you to subscribe to my personal doctrine, nor anyone else's for that matter. What I implore you to do is discover your own - not the answers that your parents have been drilling into your head since birth, not the lifestyle that your friends live, but your own personal belief system derived through your own self-examination. It need not revolve around this week's activities, nor should it end when the week is over. But it must take place. Your future depends on it.

Jenny Rosner is a political science senior.

Too many warnings imply stupidity

When warning labels go to far:



In recent years, lawyers have been receiving more business due to an increase in lawsuits. This shows how greedy and stupid America has become.

It seems that every time a person's feelings get hurt, he or she sues. Or, if they slip on a wet sidewalk, they sue the owner of the nearest house, instead of chalking the fall up to bad weather.

The lawsuits are becoming so ridiculous and frequent that a group in Michigan has formed to stop lawsuit abuse. M-LAW, Michigan Lawsuit

Commentary

Abuse Watch, was established in 1997 to call attention to the effects of product-liability lawsuits.

Because of the fear of being sued, many companies are forced to consider any misuses of their products and warn consumers not to engage in dangerous misuses of these items.

M-LAW (www.mlaw.org) holds an annual contest "to reveal how lawsuits and fear of lawsuits have prompted warnings against even obvious misuses of products."

The contest, called "M-LAW's Wacky Warning Labels Contest," picks out warning labels that are "absolutely ridiculous."

This year's winning label warned: "Shin pads can not protect any part of the body they do not cover."

One of my favorite warnings was found on a toilet inside a public restroom: "Recycled flush water unsafe for drinking."

Another warning label that conjures up scary thoughts read, "This product (rotary tool) is not intended for use as a dental drill or in medical applications. Serious personal injury may result."

Now, these are just warnings. There are no reports of anyone actually doing any of these stupid things, but there have been several lawsuits that were based on such ridiculous grounds.

An inmate at a Michigan prison blamed the state for his flatulence and sued them over the food being served in the prison. Fortunately, he didn't win.

Another case involved a Michigan couple that sued the owners of a nearby business claiming that dust, noise and vibrations invaded their property and, therefore, were victims of trespassing. A jury actually ruled in their favor, but a Court of Appeals overturned the jury's verdict (while laughing at the couple). The Court of Appeals stated that noise, vibrations and dust are intangible objects and cannot be considered as trespassers.

Many people are just plain stupid. Did this couple actually think they would win the lawsuit? The sadder part is that a jury felt the lawsuit was warranted. If the dust and noise were bothering the couple, they could have moved. But that might take too much effort - as if going to court doesn't.

Many people might see the reason behind some of these warnings. I can't help but laugh at the idiot who needs to be told not to drive with his cardboard car sunshield in place. Or the person who is taking sleeping pills and was warned that the pills might cause

drowsiness. I might be wrong, but doesn't a person who needs to sleep want to be drowsy?

Companies like these have to watch out or they'll be sued for letting people fall asleep when they take sleeping pills.

The fact that there is a contest for silly labels shows that this country has become a breeding ground for idiots who don't have common sense. Excuse me, but someone who is stupid enough to use a drill tool as a dental drill deserves to be naturally selected out of here.

If I was stupid enough to drive my car with a car shield still on the dashboard, I would be ashamed to tell anyone, let alone be brave enough to sue the company.

Michelle Hatfield is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Letter policy

Columns, cartoons and letters reflect the views of their authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Mustang Daily.

Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanities and length. Please limit length to 350 words.

Mustang Daily encourages comments on editorial policy and university affairs. Letters should be typewritten and signed with major and class standing. Preference is given to e-mailed letters. They can be mailed, faxed, delivered or e-mailed to mustangdaily@hotmail.com.

Mustang DAILY

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"Ewww ... don't squeeze my gel pad."

Letter to the editor

Drinking is a serious issue

Editor,

I was reading Cameron Eidmann's letter ("Drinking laws serve no real purpose," Jan. 29) and was compelled to disagree. Without laws prohibiting drinking, our generation runs the risk of rapidly becoming more sex driven and brain dead than it already is. The laws are there to provide an incentive to change your lifestyle, and when the risk of drinking if you are underage involves tickets, impoundment or even imprisonment, we take alcohol a bit more seriously.

Parties are just mobs of intoxicated people stumbling around a room that is ridiculously too small to be comfortable. While the girls are sipping their beers, the guys are gulping and both are focusing on the opposite sex engaging in exclusive conversations that may or may not be remembered the next day. And in the morning, a few wake up with their fling of the night, a few next to the toilet and most with a throbbing headache. Is this morally acceptable?

To better assess the problem, we must look into the motivation behind the restrictions - why are there restrictions on anything? And the answer is simple. It is because we have undoubtedly proved to someone that we cannot handle the situation ourselves. Somewhere in our lives, we did something that directly or indirectly lowered their trust in us, and to prevent further problems, restrictions appeared. Can we honestly say that underage

drinking doesn't pose a threat to us?

I don't believe that minors who drink are completely wrong, but the law has every right to prohibit minors from consuming alcohol when 80 percent of rape involves alcohol, when 50 percent of automobile accidents involve alcohol and when those accidents are the number one cause of death for people ages 15 to 24. That's enough to scare the hell out of anyone in their right mind!

Your arguments are true. Not all consuming minors involve themselves in that type of conduct. I didn't! But what will it take to get you to realize that alcohol is a dangerous thing? Have you seen the ugly side of alcohol? I have a friend who recently almost died of alcohol poisoning. Doctors said that if he made it to the emergency room 10 minutes later, there would have been nothing they could have done!

So what is the solution? Prove that you, as a collective body, are responsible enough to handle alcohol and its effects. Stop drinking to get wasted in front of strangers who might take advantage of you. Stop drinking every weekend. Are you that dependent on alcohol that you can't go a weekend without it? Get a bunch of friends together and do something without the effects of alcohol impairing your ability to be yourself - just don't let alcohol control you or the people around you.

Brandon Silar is an architecture freshman.



Mission

LINEN & UNIFORM SERVICE

Mission Linen Supply, one of the largest privately owned companies in the textile rental industry, will be conducting on-campus interviews on February 6, 2001 to find bright, hard working graduates for our management training program. Positions offer excellent growth opportunity and are available at locations throughout CA, AZ, NM and TX. Take a look at our listing on Mustang Job Link and sign up today!

EOE/AA

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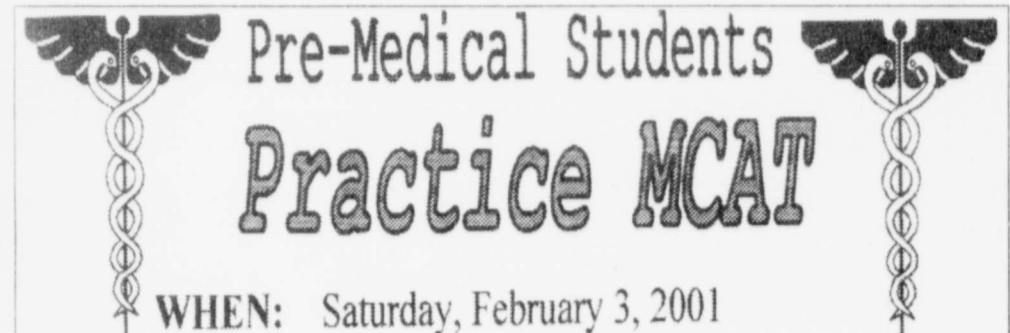
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Bomb scare closes college

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP) — Police say a photo lab clerk tipped them to a community college student who allegedly had dozens of pipe bombs, Molotov cocktails and other weapons stashed in his room at home and planned to use them in a "Columbine-style attack" on his school.

Al DeGuzman, 19, remained in Santa Clara County jail Tuesday charged with 30 counts of possession of an explosive device, 20 counts of possession of a firebomb, and two counts of possession of an illegal weapon — a sawed-off shotgun and a rifle.

Police closed De Anza College on Tuesday, believing DeGuzman planned to blow up the school. The 112-acre campus, with about 26,000 students, is 45 miles south of San Francisco.



**Pre-Medical Students
Practice MCAT**

WHEN: Saturday, February 3, 2001
8am - 4pm (approx.)

WHERE: Bldg.53 (Science North), Room 215

WHY: -prepare for MCAT
-faculty feedback on scores

COST: \$10.00

HOW: Sign up with the Health Professions Peer Advisors located on 1st floor of Fisher Science or Health Professions Office, Bldg 53, Room 219

LAST DAY TO SIGN UP: FRIDAY, Feb. 2ND !!!

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Knowledge/Skill Requirements:

Requires BSME or MSME. PC proficiency and strong communication skills are needed. Knowledge in fluid flow technology or pressure containment standards is essential. Skills in noise, erosion, cavitation, vibration, and controls are desirable.

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Responsibilities:

Generate/develop sales leads, formulate unique technical solutions using the company's skilled engineering and technology base for customer application requirements and create customized product proposals. Will develop a sales strategy for major projects and then monitor and coordinate the sales efforts.

Knowledge/Skill Requirements:

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Manufacturing Engineer

Responsibilities:

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Knowledge/Skill Requirements:

Requires BSME or BS in manufacturing engineering/production engineering, plus 4-6 years manufacturing engineering experience. Machine optimization, ability to write qualifications for capital expenditures and cost estimation for parts production are also desirable. Machine shop layout and planning, familiarity with tool design and machining processes related to metal removal are very desirable.

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FAN'S GUIDE

continued from page 8

meet, a weight class will be chosen to start with. From there, the matches will be wrestled in order, by weight class. The 10 weight classes are (in pounds): 125, 133, 141, 149, 157, 165, 174, 184, 197 and 285.

Matches consist of three periods. The first period is three minutes, while the second and third periods are two minutes each.

The match begins with two wrestlers standing, facing each other in the middle of the mat. This is the neutral position. Each wrestler attempts to score a takedown, worth two points, by taking the other wrestler down to the mat and gaining control of him.

At the beginning of the second

period, one wrestler is given the option of choosing neutral, bottom or top position. The other wrestler gets the choice in the third round. From the bottom position, there are two ways of scoring. An escape, which is worth one point, is scored when the bottom man gets to a neutral position. A reversal, worth two points, is scored when the bottom man is able to go from being the defensive wrestler to the offensive wrestler, in control of his opponent.

If the score is tied at the end of three periods, a one-minute overtime period is immediately wrestled, starting from the neutral position. If the score remains tied, a second overtime period is wrestled. The man who was the first to score an offensive point during the match is given the choice of top or bottom position. The bottom man has 30 seconds to escape or reverse to win. If he does not, the top

man wins.

The offensive (top) wrestler scores points by putting his opponent on his back. Holding the opponent's shoulders at a 45-degree angle to the mat for up to two seconds earns two points and five or more seconds earns three points. A pin is called when the offensive wrestler puts both of his opponent's shoulder blades against the mat for one and a half seconds.

Fans who come to watch a Cal Poly wrestling match can expect to get their money's worth with all the action in the 10 matches.

"They can expect to see a well-conditioned team throughout the lineup that's real competitive and fights for seven minutes," Cowell said.

Ryan Ballard is a former Cal Poly wrestler.

VOLLEYBALL

continued from page 8

neering senior and club president Joe Dietz said the players get together to play because they love the game.

"We pay to play the game because it is something that we enjoy doing," he said.

Dietz said the teammates are all close friends, which makes playing the game all the more enjoyable.

The team is a club sport that has been playing for seven years. The team receives a small amount of funding from Associated Students Inc., but most comes from the players, fund-raisers and donations.

The team has open practices every Tuesday and Thursday in Mott Gym from 7:30 to 11:00 p.m.

VIOLATIONS

continued from page 8

receiver for Florida State University, sat out two games early in the season after pleading guilty to theft charges. Warrick was allowed to return in time to help lead his team to a national championship.

A nationwide debate over whether colleges should recruit and offer scholarships to athletes with criminal records was ignited in 1995 by a case involving Allen Iverson, a basketball player for Georgetown University and current star of the Philadelphia 76ers. Iverson served four months out of a five-year prison term for his role in a brawl before being given conditional clemency by the governor of Virginia.

Isaac Johnson, a high school quarterback with three previous felony convictions, was sentenced to four years probation and 60 days in county jail for beating and robbing a pizza deliverer. The judge in the case didn't want Johnson to lose his scholarship to college, so he gave him a lighter sentence. Were it not for his star athlete status, would he have received this gift?

The schools themselves are making more progress making student-athletes accountable for their actions than the NCAA. A slew of star football players were suspended this year from bowl games by their schools for various infractions.

The NCAA needs to take a moment to reflect on what it stands for. Is college athletics simply a training ground for the professional ranks? Or is the NCAA committed to molding student-athletes who can be looked at as model citizens in the community? Until the NCAA decides to become more consistent in doling out penalties, student-athletes will continue taking their chances, breaking the rules and hoping to not get caught.

Ryan Ballard is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer. E-mail him with comments at rballard@calpoly.edu.

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A fan's guide to Cal Poly wrestling

By Ryan Ballard
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Wrestling can be fast-paced, exciting and suspenseful. Like most sports, though, it has its share of intricacies. For fans at their first match, things can appear very confusing.

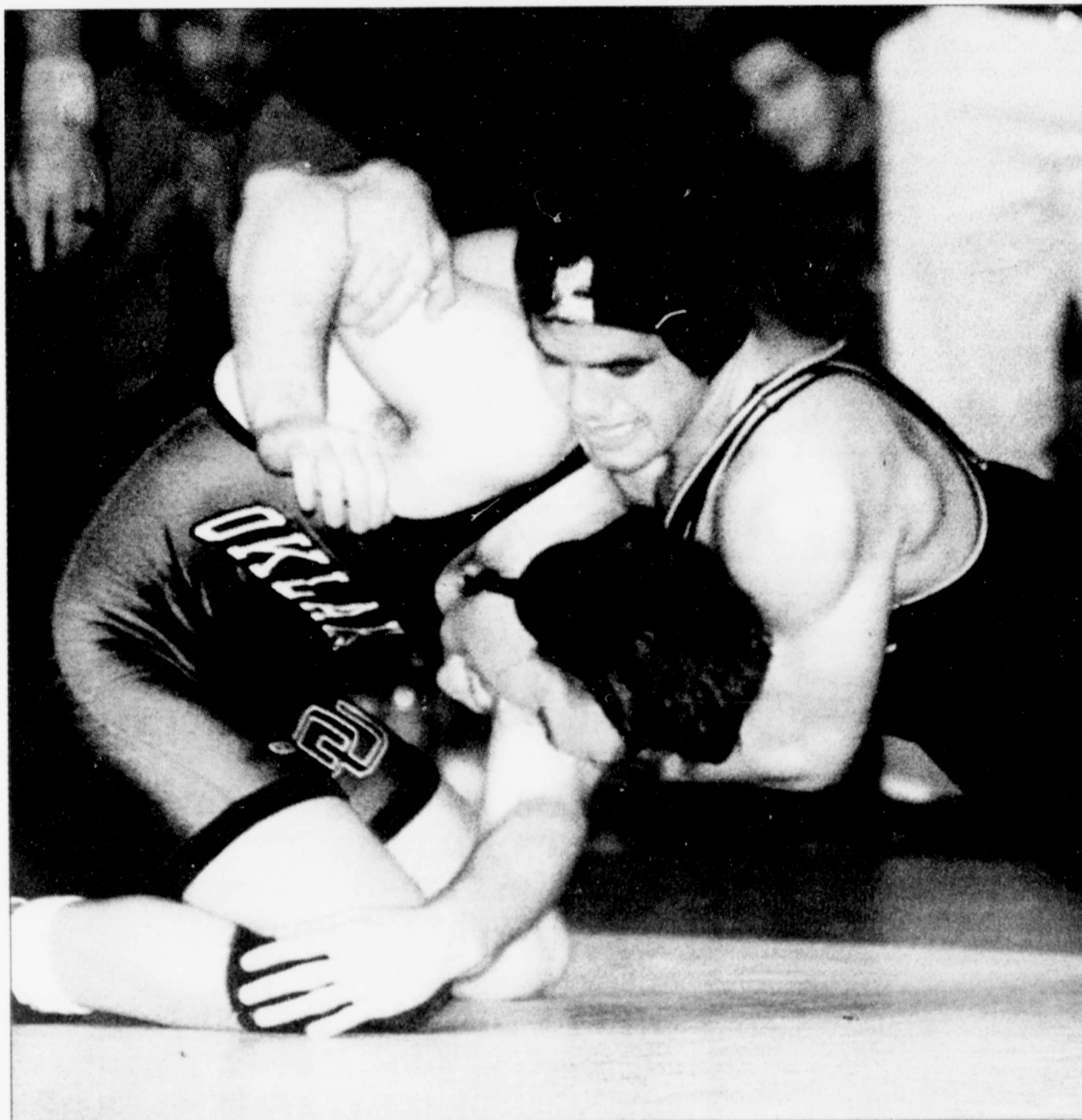
"If a person comes, they'll get hooked," said head wrestling coach Lennis Cowell. "It's the kind of sport that hooks people immediately, but a lot of people don't understand it, so they never see it to begin with."

College wrestling has its own distinct style and set of rules that differ from other kinds of wrestling. Wrestling takes place on a mat, not a ring, and the athletes do not wear costumes.

"I think a lot of people believe that what they see on TV in professional wrestling is what they're going to see here and they don't understand the concept of NCAA wrestling," Cowell said.

In a dual meet, two schools compete against each other. Ten individual matches are wrestled, with the winner of the match scoring points for his team. The team receives three points when its wrestler scores up to seven points more than his opponent. Four team points are awarded for a margin of victory eight to 14 points, five points for a victory of 15 points and six points for a pin.

At the beginning of a dual see FAN'S GUIDE, page 7



FILE PHOTO/MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly's Chuck Sandlin holds Oklahoma's Nick Curcio in a match Jan. 14 in Mott Gym. Sandlin was one of two Mustangs, along with Cedric Heymon, to defeat their opponents in the meet.

NCAA needs consistency for punishments

The NCAA has a serious consistency problem when punishing student-athletes.

Are some student-athletes made examples of while others are shielded by their star status or their institution's reputation? The case of J.R. Plienis seems to prove that. Plienis wrestled for the University of Nebraska for three years. Following coaching changes before this season, Plienis decided to transfer to Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania. Before he had a chance to compete for Lock

Haven, **Ryan Ballard** world

came from the NCAA that he was ineligible to participate in NCAA competition due to gambling violations while at Nebraska.

The NCAA strictly prohibits gambling on any intercollegiate or professional sport by its athletes. In late 1998, over the course of six weeks, Plienis bet on approximately 35 college and professional football games, and soon found himself \$500 in debt. His parents didn't have the money to lend to him, so Plienis borrowed the money from Nebraska head coach Tim Neumann. Plienis repaid the money to Neumann two months later.

When Nebraska officials found out about the activity, Plienis was given the impression he would sit out a few matches and take a class on gambling as his penalty. Why did Nebraska wait until two years after the incident occurred, after Plienis had transferred, to notify the NCAA of the infraction? While Plienis knows what he did was wrong, he's positive that if he had stayed at Nebraska, he would still be wrestling.

For years there has been a growing trend toward allowing student-athletes to receive punishments inversely proportional to the need their team has for them. A third-string forward at a Div. II school is much more likely to be suspended for NCAA violations than an All-American forward who leads his team to the Final Four.

In 1999, Peter Warrick, a wide

Men's volleyball plays host to league tourney

By Candice Conti
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The Cal Poly men's volleyball team is off to a 17-10 start this season, and expectations are high for the rest of the season.

The team defeated USC in an away game last Saturday, 3-1.

The team's most successful season was in 1997, when they took second place at the Collegiate Cup Nationals, giving the team a No. 2 ranking at the end of the season.

Coach John Park said the team finished No. 22 in the nation last year

and this year he thinks they will do even better because of the wide variety of players on the team.

"This year is looking pretty good because there is a good nucleus of experienced players and new comers," he said.

Park said this week is going to be big for the volleyball team. They will be playing three home games at

the Rec Center, and hosting the Northern California Collegiate Volleyball League (NCCVL) tournament on Sunday, which brings all teams in the league together to play at Cal Poly.

To kick off the week, the team will play Div. III UC Santa Cruz on Wednesday night. Friday night, the team will go up against Sacramento State, who is ranked in the top 10 in the nation, and Saturday night they will play the No. 5 team in the nation, Fresno State.

Chris Buell, a computer science junior and one of the veterans on the

team, said Fresno State is the team's biggest rival, but he's optimistic that the team will beat them this year.

"Fresno State is definitely a good team and it's scary to play them," Buell said. "But this year we have a good chance of beating them because our team is getting better."

Buell said the whole team is really excited about the upcoming game with Fresno State on Saturday.

Although the team likes to win, there are other reasons why the players get together. Architecture engi-

► The team has a home tournament this weekend at the Rec Center.

► Saturday night they play their biggest rival, Fresno State.

see VOLLEYBALL, page 7

see VIOLATIONS, page 7

SPORTS BAR	Sports Trivia	Club Schedule	Division I Schedule
	<p>Yesterday's Answer:</p> <p>Jerry West made the most free throws in a single NBA season.</p> <p>Congrats Mike Voong!</p> <p>Today's Question:</p> <p>Who won the first NIT tournament?</p>	<p>FRIDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men's volleyball vs. Sacramento State Rec Center • 7 p.m. <p>SATURDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women's lacrosse vs. UC San Diego Sports Complex • 12 p.m. Men's lacrosse vs. UCLA Sports Complex • 1 p.m. <p>SUNDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men's volleyball at NCCVL Tournament Rec Center • 8 a.m. Women's lacrosse vs. UCSB (Div. I) Sports Complex • 12 p.m. Women's lacrosse vs. UCSB (Div. II) Sports Complex • 2 p.m. 	<p>WEDNESDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men's basketball vs. Pacific in Mott Gym • 7 p.m. <p>FRIDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women's basketball vs. Long Beach State at Long Beach • 7:30 p.m. Baseball vs. University of San Diego at Baggett Stadium • 5 p.m. Swimming vs. UC Irvine at Mott Pool • 11 a.m. <p>SATURDAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men's basketball vs. Idaho at Idaho • 7 p.m. Baseball vs. University of San Diego at Baggett Stadium • 1 p.m.
	<p>Please submit sports trivia answer to: mrsterli@calpoly.edu</p> <p>Please include your name. The first correct answer received via e-mail will be printed in the next issue of the paper.</p>		