

INSIDE

NEWS



USDA officials fear that staff shortages will let sick cows into the nation's food supply.

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ARTS



Sunday's "Agua for Nicaragua" concert will donate proceeds to water projects in Nicaragua.

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SPORTS



Three Major League Soccer franchises play in an exhibition at Cal Poly today and Sunday.

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ONLINE



Two music professors team up to create dreamy lyrical rhapsody in this online exclusive.

mustangdaily.net

TODAY'S WEATHER



Rainy
High 58°/Low 43°

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It's butterfly season

Brittney Clyde

MUSTANG DAILY

California is the only state in the nation that is home to what Cal Poly entomology professor emeritus Kingston Leong refers to as a "national treasure."

This phenomenon, the Pismo Beach Monarch Butterfly Grove, has been known to support up to 200,000 butterflies.

This particular colony is one of the largest in the nation, hosting an average of 25,000 butterflies per year over the last five years. In fact, most years Pismo Beach has had the largest collection of monarch butterflies in the United States.

Pismo Beach is not the only area along the California coast that is home to the butterflies though; Montaña de Oro, Los Osos and Morro Bay are other groves where the butterflies migrate.

Luckily, what was once kept secret by a select few in the 1940s is now open to all those who wish to gaze upon the thousands of beautiful orange and black monarch butterflies that flock to the grove each year. Gary Espiau, a volunteer docent for the grove, said that as time went on people realized the "importance of being knowledgeable in order to protect the species."

The monarchs that visit Pismo Beach are not ordinary butterflies; they have a life span of six months, as opposed to common monarchs who live only six weeks.

Though scientists aren't sure why the monarchs consistently return to the same spots along the Central Coast and Mexico, some speculate that the insects are equipped with genetic homing systems that lead them to their winter destination.

Leong said he believes that past studies which determined that there are two separate populations of butterflies (one that migrates to the California Coast after feeding on milkweed west of the Rocky Mountains, and one that migrates to Mexico after feeding on milkweed east of the Rocky Mountains) are actually wrong.

"I think there is a link," he said. "We have found that in the spring when



BRYAN BEILKE MUSTANG DAILY

Teeming numbers of monarch butterflies are now taking up residence in Pismo Beach.

they disperse we find them going over the Rocky Mountains."

Espiau said the butterflies start to arrive around October and come to the grove to avoid freezing to death. "It's the only insect that migrates to avoid freezing," he said. "They're tropical insects and can't stand cold temperatures for long periods of time so they choose a place like this."

Espiau describes the grove as an "oasis" and a "sanctuary" for three main reasons. First, "the butterflies are looking for a place that's got moisture to prevent dehydrating and the eucalyptus trees also provide wind protection," he explained. "There's also a meadow and stream where the fog will come in so

see Monarchs, page 2

Cyclists race through SLO



CORAL SNYDER MUSTANG DAILY

Onlookers showed up with ponchos and umbrellas to watch riders speed through downtown.

(Monterey) to San Luis Obispo. The length of the course is 135.3 miles and mostly composed of hilly terrain.

Yesterday's race began at 10 a.m. and the bikers were scheduled to finish between 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. However, due to the weather, they ended up finishing just after 5 p.m.

2006 Canadian road champion Rollin began the stage approximately 25 minutes out of the overall lead, but caught up to take the win as other riders faded due to the inclement weather conditions and illness.

Rollin, who is sponsored by Toyota-United, pulled away and rode alone in the final 15 miles of the competition.

Downtown San Luis Obispo was bustling with traffic, as there were road closures around Monterey, Chorro and Osos streets to accommodate the finish line of stage four of the tour.

The awards stage for the competition was located just past the finish line at the intersection

see Tour, page 2

Speaker warns Americans ignore foreign policy at own peril

Rachel Gellman

MUSTANG DAILY

"I genuinely believe that George W. Bush has supplied al-Qaida with more recruits than bin Laden himself," said As'ad AbuKhalil, a professor of political science at California State University, Stanislaus, who lectured to a packed classroom of Cal Poly students and community members Wednesday evening. Students for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (SJPME) sponsored the event.

"He's very knowledgeable. The guy spends pretty much all his time researching this stuff and blogging it online and he has a great blog, The Angry Arab News Service," said Marya Mikati, SJPME president and an architectural engineering senior. "So we felt he would do justice to speaking about Iraq."

AbuKhalil, born in Tyre, Lebanon received his bachelor's and master's degrees in political science from the American University of Beirut and his Ph.D. in comparative government from Georgetown University. Along with his position at Stanislaus, he is a visiting professor at UC Berkeley.

"Particularly since he speaks with students and works with students and cares about them a lot, we felt like he had a great perspective to bring on Iraq and the Middle East in general," said Ian Muir, vice president of SJPME and materials engineering senior.

AbuKhalil opened his lecture, "The Social Implications of the U.S. Occupation of Iraq and the Future of the Iraqi People," by commenting on Americans' lack of knowledge on Middle Eastern affairs, foreign affairs and world geography.

He issues a public opinion survey to students in every country he visits; France, Canada, Germany

see Occupation, page 2

Stage four is the longest stage of the tour stretching along U.S. Highway 1 from Seaside

Occupation

continued from page 1

and Britain all scored much higher than the United States on every question pertaining to foreign affairs.

AbuKhalil said people know that whatever happens in Mexico or Canada will not affect their lives, and noted that just five U.S. media correspondents are stationed in Canada.

The presidential election process thus far does not cover foreign policy much, in part because it is not what Americans want to hear, he said. Americans returned to voting on foreign policy the way they did prior to Sept. 11, 2001. The issue now is security, he said.

"You want America to be secure. The rest of the world can burn to hell. I mean more or less," he added.

AbuKhalil suggested other parts of the world are "burning" due to U.S. foreign policy.

Although the numbers vary, he said between 650,000 and 1 million Iraqi civilians were killed by U.S. troops throughout the Iraq war. The Bush administration says according to its own classified studies, a mere 50,000 Iraqi civilians were killed, he said.

"These are not surgical strikes like you hear. These are not video games. These are wars that inevitably kill innocent civilians," he said.

AbuKhalil noted that unless people read the newspaper scrupulously, they will continue to think that most attacks in the Middle East are Al Qaeda-related. The truth is civilians are killed by U.S. strikes in several countries, he said.

"Do you know that we are how many years into the Iraq war and U.S. fighter jets are still bombing bridges and towns in a country under occupation by the United States? How many people are paying attention to that?" he asked.

Muir said, "As he was saying, the Iraq story is kind of painted out of the news and I think students are particularly susceptible to that because if something doesn't grab their attention, they're not really going to be interested in it."

He pointed out that a majority of military attacks against U.S. troops in Iraq are by "Iraqi nationalists, Iraqi

religious, people who — and I know this offends the American feeling tremendously — people who do not find American occupation to be pleasurable," he said, while noting that just 4 or 5 percent of attacks are Al Qaeda-related.

Osama bin Laden is a popular figure on college campuses in Pakistan and other parts of the Middle East out of deep resentment toward the U.S., he said.

"This is the legacy of U.S. foreign policy. This Bush administration, after eight years, is going to leave us with a legacy of harm and damage and insecurity that is going to continue for years to come," AbuKhalil said, noting that current presidential candidates are not saying or doing enough about that.

He said many politicians listed chief goals for the war as eliminating weapons of mass destruction and establishing a democracy in Iraq that can be emulated around the region.

"When you look around the region, there are no takers," he said. "There are no people in the Middle East who are saying, 'please, we want to copy the Iraqi models.' We are dying to have daily car bombs, being shot at checkpoints by U.S. troops, we want to have a Grand Ayatollah running the country and we want to have foreign occupation."

"We ignore foreign policy at our own peril," he added, explaining that an absence of foreign discussion in the election is the public's fault because they continue to watch Britney Spears instead of international news.

"Our candidates will care about foreign policy if we care about it. If we start paying attention, they'll pay attention. But we don't pay attention and as a result we get candidates, and we get presidents whose only experience in foreign affairs is the fact that they've probably once or twice had a Chinese meal."

AbuKhalil held a 25-minute question-and-answer session following his lecture.

Biology junior James Tumalak said of the lecture, "Obviously as college students, we're tied up in our own lives. We want to get good grades, pay our tuition, put gas in our cars, eat our meals and just get through our day, but hearing things like this really opens your eyes and really makes you appreciate and critique the life we live."

Mardi Gras cost less than previous years

Brian McMullen

MUSTANG DAILY

The San Luis Obispo Police Department released the final cost for this year's Mardi Gras law enforcement efforts.

Police Captain Dan Blanke said the cost to the city of San Luis Obispo for officers and anti-Mardi Gras publicity was \$49,446, which is nearly half than last year's total.

The total does not include the help of California Highway Patrol and other allied law-enforcement agencies. Blanke said that these organizations' efforts are still covered by taxpayers' money, but are not billed to the city.

The cost was reduced because the number of deployed officers was scaled down to meet the nightly needs of Mardi Gras weekend. Friday night required 100 deployed officers, Saturday required 70, and Fat Tuesday required 13.

Blanke said police get a "good idea what the rest of the night will be like" from a quick tour of the city at around 11 p.m., then decide whether or not to send officers home.

Since 2004, the police department's increased Mardi Gras enforcement has cost taxpayers \$2 million.

Blanke said police don't want to see the riotous Mardi Gras behavior start all over again.

"We don't want to spend all that money and go through all that grief," he said, adding that the stepped-up enforcement was only supposed to last for three years. But in November, police became aware of a group on the popular social-networking Web site Facebook.com that called for a return of Mardi Gras. The group had 9,000 members at various universities.

He added that San Luis Obispo police monitored the website with the help of the University Police Department.

"People put stuff up on the Internet all the time; hopefully it won't grow legs," Blanke said, adding that Police Chief Deborah Linden, along with Cal Poly administrators, met with the students who created the Facebook group and showed them video of 2004's riots.

"They were legitimately like wow, we had no idea," he said, adding that the students were then cooperative in encouraging the group to abandon their Mardi Gras plans. However cooperative the students were, Blanke said that the police department still had to beef up enforcement because "you can't unring a bell."

Asked what the police department's plans are for next year, Blanke said, "Hopefully people won't rise up again. We'll just have to spend more of the taxpayer's money to keep it safe."

Monarchs

continued from page 1

they can get a drink of dew in the morning. A humid climate is also a must for the insects because they go into a dormant state called diapause, which is like semi-hibernation."

Visitors from all over the Central Coast come to view the insects and their unique style of shielding themselves from rain and keeping warm. The monarchs form dense clusters with each one hanging with its wing over the one below it to create a shingle effect.

Because of the clustering weight, butterflies are not easily dislodged by factors such as wind. Several large telescopes set up around the grove make the clusters easily visible.

Megan Conde, a visitor from Davis, was in awe of the vast amount of butterflies.

"Dude — I can't believe there are so many," she said. "I've never

seen anything like this before."

The monarchs will leave the grove soon, according to Espiau. He recommends visiting the site as soon as possible because "by the end of February, they're gone," he said.

Leong is currently working on trying to manage certain groves. "The conditions created by the trees and surrounding topography will no longer be suitable after the trees grow up, so the butterflies must try to find another place," he said. "But there isn't any other place, so it's very limited."

After the trees eventually degrade, Leong said that modification of the groves is needed.

"You have to plant more trees; it is called grove enhancement," he said. "It's a dynamic process that is the future for the aggregation of monarchs in California."

The grove is staffed with docents every day from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and talks about the butterflies are given at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Tour

continued from page 1

of Monterey and Osos. The winner received a 9-liter Pinot Noir wine from Windward Vineyard. The bottle was etched by local artist Candice Norcross.

Individuals watching the tour seemed to enjoy the hype in spite of the traffic and crowds and felt that it provided a positive representation of the area.

"It's a good place to have on the tour because people get to see the town and it brings a lot of people out," said general engineering freshman Brian Jackson.



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USDA inspectors say staff shortages threaten U.S. meat supply

Gillian Flaccus

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sometimes, government inspectors responsible for examining slaughterhouse cattle for mad cow disease and other ills are so short-staffed that they find themselves peering down from catwalks at hundreds of animals at once, looking for such telltale signs as droopy ears, stumbling gait and facial paralysis.

The ranks of inspectors are so thin that slaughterhouse workers often figure out when "surprise" visits are about to take place, and make sure they are on their best behavior.

These allegations were raised by former and current U.S. Department of Agriculture inspectors in the wake of the biggest beef recall in history — 143 million pounds from a California meatpacker accused of sending lame "downer" cows to slaughter.

The inspectors told The Associated Press that they fear chronic staff shortages in their ranks are allowing sick cows to get into the nation's food supply, endangering the public. According to USDA's own figures, the inspector ranks nationwide had vacancy rates of 10 percent or more in 2006-07.

"They're not covering all their bases. There's a possibility that something could go through because you don't have the manpower to check everything," said Lester Friedlander, a former USDA veterinary inspector at a plant in Wyalusing, Pa.

Amanda Eamich, a spokeswoman for the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, acknowledged that the department has been struggling to fill vacancies but denied the food supply is at risk.

"Every single animal must pass antemortem inspection before it's presented for slaughter, so only healthy animals are going to pass," she said.

"We do have continuous inspection at slaughter facilities."

Similarly, Janet Riley, a spokeswoman for the American Meat Institute, defended the meat-packing industry's safety record. "It is interesting to keep in mind how heavily regulated we are," she said. "Nobody has this level of inspection."

The current and former inspectors and other industry critics charged that the staff shortages are also resulting in the mistreatment of animals on the way to slaughter, and may have contributed to the recall announced earlier this week.

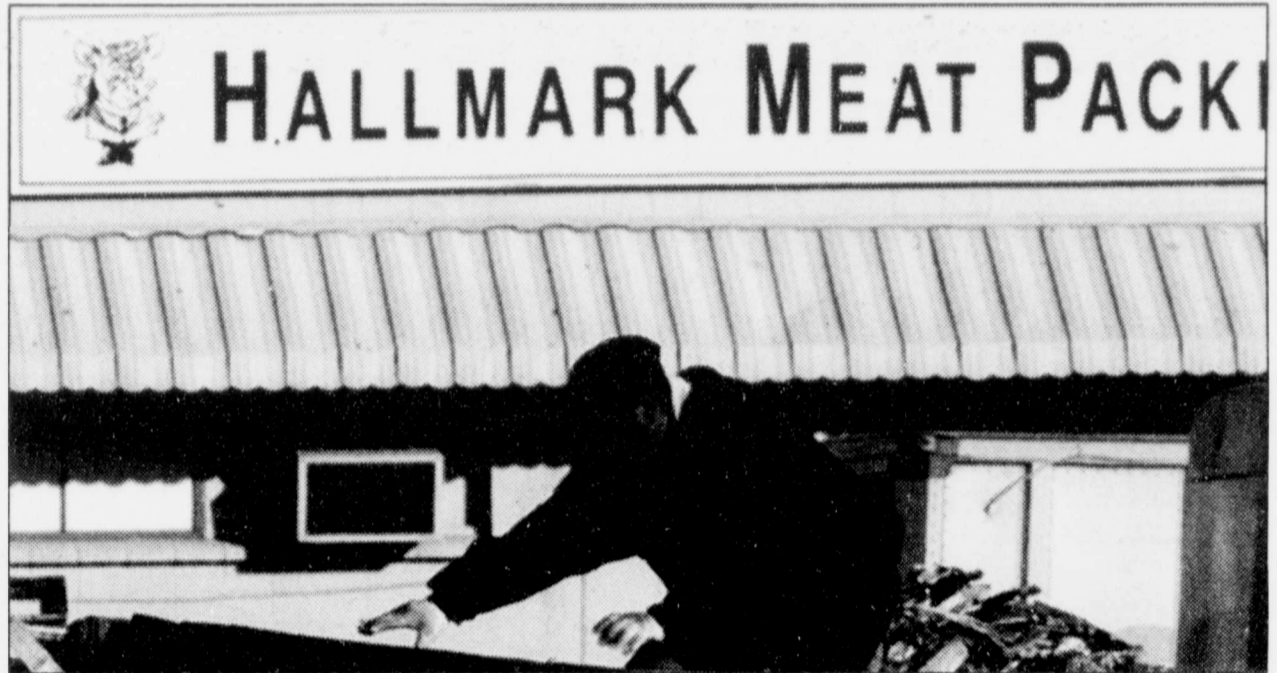
The USDA recalled the beef after the Humane Society of the United States released undercover video that showed slaughterhouse workers at the Chino-based Westland/Hallmark Meat Co. kicking and shoving sick and crippled cows and forcing them to stand with electric prods, forklifts and water hoses.

Wayne Pacelle, the Humane Society's president and chief executive, said the video was filmed over a six-week period last fall and all the abuse happened when USDA inspectors were not present.

"The inspection system obviously has enormous gaps if these routine abuses could happen," he said. "The inspector would show up and if there were downed animals, the workers would try to get them up before the inspectors got there."

Generally, downer cows — those too sickly to stand, even with coaxing — are banned from the food supply under federal regulations. Downer cows carry a higher risk of mad cow disease. And because sickly animals typically wallow in feces and have weakened immune systems, downer cows are more likely to carry E. coli and salmonella, too.

Veterinary inspector looks for such symptoms as an unsteady gait, swollen lymph nodes, sores and poor muscle tone.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A worker walks on top of cattle carcass scraps dropped into a parked truck at the Hallmark Meat Packing slaughterhouse in Chino, Calif.

Industry critics say the staff shortages are compounded by a change in USDA regulations in the late 1990s that gave slaughterhouses more responsibility for devising their own safety checklists and for reporting downer cows to the USDA when inspectors are not present.

That policy places slaughterhouses on an honor system that can lead to abuse in an industry that thrives on close attention to costs, said Stan Painter, chairman for the National Joint Council of Food Inspection Locals, which represents 6,000 inspectors nationwide.

"The fox is guarding its own henhouse," said Painter, who also works as a part-time inspector at hog and poultry packing plants in the South. "If you throw a three-pound chicken away, so what? But if you throw a cow away that's 300 pounds of meat, and you can't get any money out of it, that's a big issue."

Inspectors whose job is to make sure that the cattle are treated humanely said staff shortages mean they are forced to adopt routine hours for their checks, removing the element of surprise.

USDA numbers show anywhere between 10 and 12 percent of inspector and veterinarian positions at poultry, beef and pork slaughterhouses nationwide were vacant between October 2006 and September 2007. In some regions, including Colorado and Texas, a major beef-producing state, the rate hovered around 15 percent. In New York, vacancy rates hit nearly 22 percent last July.

To bolster its ranks, the department is offering big signing bonuses of at least \$2,500 to inspectors willing to relocate to 15 states. The agency has 7,800 inspectors covering 6,200 federally inspected establishments, 900 of which slaughter livestock.

THIS WEEK IN MUSTANG ATHLETICS

CAL POLY
BASKETBALL

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL VS. UC DAVIS

TONIGHT - 7 P.M.

VS. PACIFIC

SATURDAY - 7 P.M.



Toni Newman
Senior Guard

CAL POLY
SOFTBALL

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TENNIS

MEN'S TENNIS VS. SONOMA STATE
SATURDAY AT NOON
MUSTANG COURTS



Sarah Iwata
Senior DP

Admission is FREE for all Cal Poly Students

WORD ON THE STREET

"What junk food would you eat every day if you could?"

Compiled and photographed by Dustin Stone



"Cookies, because I like to bake them and I always have to eat them once they're done."

— Julianne Taylor, business freshman

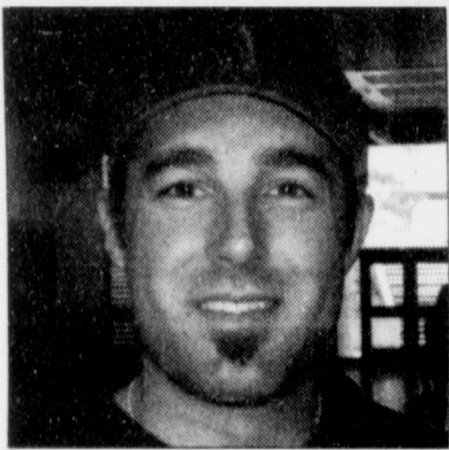
"Pizookie, because I'm from Northern California and it would give me a chance to make up for all the years I didn't know it existed."

— Criste Withem, recreation junior



"It would have to be Bali's frozen yogurt, because it just makes me happy."

— Max Havelka, animal science senior



"Probably ice cream, because I like it ... a lot."

— Derek Brown, recreation freshman



Briefs

State

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The University of California went to court Thursday to try to keep animal rights activists away from UCLA employees who say they have had their lives threatened because of their research on animals.

Three times since June 2006 Molotov cocktail-type devices have been left near the homes of faculty members who oversee or participate in research that involves animals, according to a statement from the University of California, Los Angeles.

ENCINITAS (AP) — Butts will be banned on beaches in Encinitas following a unanimous vote by the city council.

The San Diego County city joins at least 35 other coastal communities in California that have outlawed smoking at the beach.

The draft ordinance approved Wednesday would apply to 6 1/2 miles of beaches as well as 17 city parks, trails and outdoor eating areas.

DAVIS (AP) — An occupation at California's only tribal college has ended with the arrest of three self-described students.

About a dozen former students had been occupying the dorms and holding their own classes at D-Q University since 2005, when the college lost its accreditation and federal funding over financial and enrollment problems.

CARSON (AP) — A report of a man carrying an assault rifle prompted police to shut down the California State University, Dominguez Hills, campus Thursday morning before they learned the gunman was an ROTC student practicing with a fake rifle.

Police swarmed the sprawling campus 20 miles south of downtown Los Angeles shortly after 8 a.m. Some students and faculty fled and others locked themselves in buildings.

"We were just blindsided," said university spokeswoman Amy Bentley-Smith, who locked herself in her office. "Someone came in and said 'There's a gunman on campus. Lock all your doors.'"

National

WASHINGTON (AP) — Barack Obama won the Democrats Abroad global primary in results announced Thursday, giving him 11 straight victories in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

The Illinois senator won the primary in which Democrats living in other countries voted by Internet, mail and in person, according to results released by the Democrats Abroad, an organization sanctioned by the national party.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A cat who took a three-week cross-country ride to Arizona in a storage container is headed home to Florida.

Arizona Humane Society officials say the 2-year-old gray cat crawled into the locker in Pompano Beach, Fla., while a man loaded it for a move to Phoenix.

The container spent time in a Florida warehouse and on a semi-trailer before being delivered to a Phoenix facility.

A worker heard a cat meowing inside the container Tuesday

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. (AP) — A man who killed and dismembered his wife was sentenced Thursday to serve at least 50 years behind bars by a judge who called his actions "demonic."

Stephen Grant choked his wife, Tara, to death, then cut up her corpse in a machine shop. After the killing, he tearfully told reporters he wasn't involved in her disappearance.

"Stephen Grant is evil personified," Prosecutor Eric Smith said.

ATLANTA (AP) — Only about 1 in 4 Americans know the warning signs of a heart attack, U.S. health officials in Atlanta say.

Most are also unaware that the first thing to do is call 9-1-1. Doctors with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the level of public awareness is alarmingly low.

The warning signs include shortness of breath; pain in the chest, arms or shoulder; a feeling of weakness; and discomfort in the jaw, neck or back. Each year more than 900,000 Americans suffer a heart attack.

International

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Serb rioters broke into the U.S. Embassy Thursday and set fire to an office after a large protest against Kosovo's independence that drew an estimated 150,000 people.

Masked attackers broke into the building, which has been closed this week, and tried to throw furniture from an office. A blaze broke out but firefighters swiftly put out the flames.

Authorities drove armored jeeps down the street and fired tear gas to clear the crowd. The protesters dispersed into side streets where they continued clashing with authorities.

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — A ferryboat carrying more than 100 passengers collided with a barge loaded with fuel tanks and sank to the bottom of the Amazon River on Thursday, officials said. At least nine people died, and another 10 were missing and feared dead.

The Almirante Monteiro capsized at dawn near the isolated Brazilian town of Itacoatiara in the jungle state of Amazonas, state fire spokesman Lt. Clovis Araujo said.

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan's two main opposition parties announced Thursday they would form a new government together after their victory over President Pervez Musharraf's allies in elections this week.

The two leaders of the Pakistan People's Party of slain former premier Benazir Bhutto and the Pakistan Muslim League-N led by Nawaz Sharif made the announcement at a joint news conference after meeting in Islamabad.

"We have agreed on a common agenda. We will work together to form a government together in the center and in the provinces," Sharif said.

LONDON (AP) — An official says Britain helped the United States in a program to secretly transfer terrorism suspects across the world.

The official in London says British airports have been used in a program of so-called extraordinary rendition. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive counterterrorism work.

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Movie guide

film	grade	cast & crew	the big picture
Atonement (R) 123 min.	A-	James McAvoy, Keira Knightley, Romola Garai, Saoirse Ronan, Vanessa Redgrave; directed by Joe Wright	Summary: When a girl accuses her sister's lover of a crime he did not commit, the couple's future together is threatened and the girl grows up seeking atonement for her actions. The Good: British acting at its best; Wright's cinematic beauty shines an uncanny experience. The Bad: May be too slow, depressing for some; editing problems from first to second act. <i>(Ryan Chartrand)</i>
Be Kind, Rewind (PG-13) 101 min.	—	Jack Black, Mos Def, Danny Glover, Mia Farrow, Melonie Diaz; directed by Michel Gondry	Summary: A paranoid Jack Black accidentally erases the tapes in a run-down New Jersey VHS rental store, forcing him and Mos Def to recreate zero-budget recreations of the destroyed movies. The Good: Written by Charlie Kaufman (same writer of "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind.") The Bad: Jack Black is still obnoxious and the customers' embrace of the rip off is a tad unrealistic. <i>(Metacritic.com)</i>
Charlie Bartlett (R) 97 min.	—	Anton Yelchin, Robert Downey; directed by Jon Poll	Summary: Savvy high school rebel Charlie Bartlett begins holding therapy sessions in the school bathroom and handing out prescription drugs like candy, becoming the high school hero. The Good: "Bueller?... Bueller?... Bueller?" The Bad: Don't we glorify prescription drug use enough? <i>(Metacritic.com)</i>
Definitely, Maybe (PG-13) 112 min.	—	Ryan Reynolds, Isla Fisher, Derek Luke, Abigail Breslin, Rachel Weisz, Elizabeth Banks; directed by Adam Brooks	Summary: A divorcee's daughter encourages him to explain his romantic failures to her. The daughter (Breslin) insists on helping him find her a new stepmom. Happy ending ensues. The Good: Isla Fisher shines as always. The Bad: The story hardly lends itself to romance or comedy. <i>(Metacritic.com)</i>
Fool's Gold (PG-13) 113 min.	B	Kate Hudson, Matthew McConaughey, Donald Sutherland; directed by Andy Tennant	Summary: A surf bum-turned-treasure-hunter (McConaughey) and his ex-wife (Hudson) embark on a Caribbean adventure in pursuit of the 18th-century Queen's Dowry, lost at sea in 1715. The Good: In its more exciting moments, the movie channels the classic pirate films of yesteryear. The Bad: An abundance of dumb jokes; the predictable storyline moves slowly in some parts. <i>(Sara Hamilton)</i>
Jumper (PG-13) 88 min.	D	Hayden Christensen, Jamie Bell, Rachel Bilson, Samuel L. Jackson, Diane Lane, Michael Rooker, Anna Sophia Robb; directed by Doug Liman	Summary: David Rice discovers his ability to teleport at a young age and spends his days traveling the world — until he finds himself and his crush in the middle of a war with anti-teleporters. The Good: The special effects at least keep the film moving at a fast pace. (Thank God.) The Bad: A clever idea lost in poor execution — to be expected of Christensen, but not Jackson. <i>(Kristen Marschall)</i>
No Country for Old Men (R) 122 min.	A	Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin, Woody Harrelson, Kelly Macdonald; directed by Ethan and Joel Coen	Summary: Evil is personified in Anton Chigurh (Bardem), a man set on hunting down Llewelyn Moss (Brolin) to recover stolen money. Chigurh is tracked by small-town sheriff Ed Tom Bell (Jones). The Good: Flawless acting; plot for both thought-provoking drama lovers and scary movie aficionados. The Bad: Some may not like the debatably appropriate ending. <i>(Brooke Robertson)</i>
Persepolis (PG-13) 95 min.	—	Chiara Mastroianni, Catherine Deneuve; directed by Vincent Paronnaud and Marjane Satrapi	Summary: An adaption of the graphic novel, the film paints a vivid portrait of Iran during the Islamic Revolution, as told through the eyes of 9-year-old Marjane. The Good: Cinematic poetry highlighting the power of resilience. The Bad: Story is familiar, slightly frightening images. <i>(Metacritic.com)</i>
The Spiderwick Chronicles (PG) 97 min.	—	Freddie Highmore, Mary-Louise Parker, Nick Nolte, Joan Plowright, David Strathairn, Seth Rogen; directed by Mark Waters	Summary: Three children dealing with the separation of their parents find that there's more to the world than what they see after opening a chest that leads them on a fantasy adventure. The Good: Entertaining for kids and adults alike. The Bad: Might be too scary for the little ones it's meant for. <i>(Metacritic.com)</i>
Step Up 2: The Streets (PG-13) 98 min.	—	Briana Evigan, Robert Hoffman, Will Kemp, Cassie Ventura, Adam G. Sevani, Telisha Shaw; directed by Jon M. Chu	Summary: Street dancer Andie (Evigan) enrolls at the elite Maryland School of Arts and struggles to fit in, until she competes in an underground dance competition with the popular Chase (Hoffman). The Good: Rihanna-worthy ending. The Bad: A bunch of clichés loosely bundled together. <i>(Metacritic.com)</i>
U2 3D (G) 85 min.	—	U2; directed by Mark Pellington and Catherine Owens	Summary: U2 gives the concert film genre a facelift through footage of their 2006 South American tour, billed as the first digital 3-D, multi-camera, real-time production. The Good: It's U2. The Bad: It's U2. <i>(Metacritic.com)</i>
Vantage Point (PG-13) 90 min.	—	Dennis Quaid, Matthew Fox; directed by Pete Travis	Summary: Eight strangers with eight different points of view struggle to unlock the puzzle behind an assassination on the president of the United States. The Good: Endlessly surprising and satisfying action thriller that doesn't ignore your intellect. The Bad: The pileup of conspiracy and gunplay at the end may leave your head spinning. <i>(Metacritic.com)</i>
27 Dresses (PG-13) 107 min.	A-	Katherine Heigl, James Marsden, Malin Akerman, Edward Burns, Melora Hardin, Judy Greer; directed by Anne Fletcher	Summary: A 27-time bridesmaid with the closet to prove it, Jane (Heigl) just can't get enough of weddings — until she has to plan her sister's wedding to the man she loves ... in three weeks. The Good: A quintessential, feel-good chick flick with clever dialogue and one hell of a wardrobe. The Bad: A bit cliché and a little too predictable. <i>(Kristen Marschall)</i>

FRIDAY SHOWTIMES

Fremont Theatre

U2-3D 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Hannah Montana & Miley Cyrus: Concert in 3D 2:45

Charlie Bartlett 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

Step Up 2: The Streets 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

Be Kind Rewind 2:25, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

Downtown Centre Cinema

Vantage Point 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:15

The Spiderwick Chronicles 2:40, 5:15, 8:00

Fool's Gold 2:10, 4:55, 7:40, 10:20

Atonement 3:55, 6:45

Jumper 1:30, 4:10, 6:30, 9:00, 10:30

Definitely, Maybe 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

Persepolis 1:40, 9:35

No Country For Old Men 2:05, 4:45, 7:25, 10:00

Palm Theatre

The Great Debaters 4:15

Into the Wild 8:00

Juno 4:15, 7:00, 9:15

There Will Be Blood 4:45, 8:00

Sunset Drive-In

Fool's Gold 7:00

27 Dresses 9:00



COURTESY PHOTO

Rademacher (above), a Fresno-based rock band that has been gaining national attention, is part of the four-band lineup for Sunday's "Agua for Nicaragua" benefit concert. Cal Poly's Engineers Without Borders club is hosting the event, and all proceeds will go toward water-treatment projects in Managua, Nicaragua.

Helping put agua in Nicaragua

Jessica Ford
 MUSTANG DAILY

With hopes of bringing clean, running water to those in need, the Engineers Without Borders (EWB) club on campus is sponsoring a benefit concert to raise funds for its work in Nicaragua.

Sunday's "Agua for Nicaragua" concert will feature four bands that have agreed to play free of charge.

The club is attempting to raise money for an upcoming project that involves going to a small village in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua, to create a reliable water source for village members.

"The poverty is really great over there (in Nicaragua) and usually the biggest thing is water. These villages don't have access to clean, running water," said mechanical engineering senior Daniel Silveira, an EWB member and benefit concert coordinator.

Kevin Toqe, a communications senior and acoustic artist, starts the show at 6 p.m. in Chumash Auditorium. Other performances include The Kicks, a reggae group comprised of Cal Poly graduates, the Fresno-based rock band Jellyfish Tree, and Rademacher, another rock band from Fresno, to close out the show.

Tickets for the event are \$7 in advance and \$9 at the door and can be purchased at Boo Boo Records.

EWB members finished a project this summer in Nicaragua that involved developing a water storage facility for a clinic in the village of Nueva Vida. The club was able to build water tanks to store excess water because the village does not have running water throughout the day; water is usually only available to the villagers between midnight and 6 a.m. The water tanks are now hooked up to the clinic and allow villagers to have access to water during the day.

"We try to find projects that will help the community as a whole," said civil engineering senior Otto Melara, an EWB member and public relations coordinator.

Silveira added, "We don't go over there to do the work for them — we do the work with them.

We educate them on how to use the material and the key is that these are developing communities. They are not able to grow as a community because they have to focus so much on getting the most bare necessity, which is water."

Club members stay five years with a certain community to ensure their work is truly serving the people. EWB plans on returning to the village of Nueva Vida this spring to assess the old project and make sure everything is running smoothly in the community.

"We go there; we use engineering to help them solve this problem and then we teach them how to use it and maintain it," Silveira said. "We stay in contact with them — it's a relationship. We don't just go and leave."

Cal Poly's EWB club is broken up into three teams — Nicaragua, Thailand and Southeast Asia — to better serve the developing communities in these areas.

The club begins by taking an exploratory trip to a given area, where club members evaluate the needs of various communities. Then there is an assessment trip after a project idea has been developed. The club figures out what is needed and how the details of the project will work out. Finally, an implementation trip begins the execution of the project.

The club relies heavily on grants, scholarships, sponsors and fundraising events like the benefit concert Sunday, because EWB members have to finance the projects themselves.

Melara said, "We try as hard as we can to get money from outside sources, but sometimes we are, of course, going to fall short of our target financial goal." In these cases, club members have to "pay out of their own pockets" to fulfill their plans.

All proceeds from the concert will benefit the efforts of the club and help support their work in Nicaragua.

In addition to the concert, T-shirts will be available for purchase along with a raffle sponsored by Three Ink Screen Printing, Starbucks, Planet Beach Tanning Salon and Trader Joe's.

ART WITH A KICK

ECHO Artspace's 'Black History is American History' pushes art to its limit

Jessica Ford
 MUSTANG DAILY

As I entered ECHO Artspace, James Brown's "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag" blasted from the DJ booth outside the warehouse space.

The "Black History is American History" exhibit was small, but artwork covered all possible wall space. After taking a quick glance around the room, I noticed the extreme age range of those in attendance; young and old were together in one room, appreciating one thing — art.

Artwork from both black and white artists was gathered together to celebrate Black History Month and to "push the cultural limits" of the Central Coast.

The exhibit, hosted by Patrick Germany and the Cultural Collective Group, displayed a variety of art mediums. Germany said he hoped the exhibit would help the Central Coast recognize that "this culture offers a lot on the positive side."

There was a couch in the corner of the room with a few children of multiple races crawling on it, unable to realize their impact on the future of the community. High school students as well as senior citizens were scattered throughout the room, admiring the artwork that lined the walls.

Local photographer Joe Schwartz sat at a table with his work on display next to him. At 94 years old, Schwartz has photographs documenting many decades of black history in America. His photographs were striking, especially with his motto of "seeking to capture the humanity within us."

Another wall contained the work of local black artist Chris Matthews, whose artwork was recently featured at Cloud 9, San Luis Obispo's local hookah lounge. Matthews is known for his graffiti art, especially the lunar landscapes he creates with aerosol sprays.

The exhibit also featured the work of Abbey Onikoyi, who is originally from Nigeria. His large, colorful paintings of African women popped against the black of the walls. Onikoyi owns the Spirits of Africa Gallery in downtown San Luis Obispo.

In the center of the ECHO Artspace were multiple columns that showed off the artwork of Kerry Sawyers who is known for her street urban artistic style. Sawyers also had the most unique work on display. Many of her pieces were painted on wooden boards and incorporated various other types of materials. One of her most striking works was a piece that said, "The whole world reminds me of music, and the music reminds me I'm free."

Sawyers had another unique creation that seemed to catch the attention of many visitors — a work that can only be described as "a painting with a kick." The painting was done on a wooden board with multiple cutouts of funky tennis shoes that appeared to be from magazines.

The art exhibit will be on display until the end of February. ECHO Artspace is located at 431 Leoni Drive in Grover Beach.

ECHO Artspace, the Cultural Collective Group and other local groups will host a Black History Month finale Feb. 28 at San Luis Obispo's Farmers' Market. The event begins at 6 p.m. and includes multiple musical performances.

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the defendaz never rest

Patrick Barbieri
MUSTANG DAILY

There's a movement happening on the Central Coast.

It's not social, cultural or musical — it's all of them combined, and it's coming to The Graduate this Saturday night in the form of local hip-hop group Public Defendaz.

Consisting of five guys from very different walks of life, the group uses its unique and fresh blend of hip-hop as a means to spread "people music" to the masses.

As its members claim, Public Defendaz makes "music for the people." Hip-hop, for them, is both a cultural influence and a way of life.

Members Taktical, Royal, Tha Oktapu\$, j4rd (pronounced J-ford) and Iyayl (pronounced Ee-yah-ye) da Cali Kid all hail from California, and each one brings a wide range of influences to the table. Rap, classic hip-hop, funk and soul all come together, forming a virtual gumbo of sounds that the group describes as "earth tones."

"We just make the music we like," Royal said. "All of us listen to our own genres of hip-hop, so we never stick to the same sound. Listening to our album is like listening to a compilation."

All members share mic duties, while three of the five (Taktical, j4rd and Iyayl) make the beats. Scanning through tracks off their album "Speedy Trials, Vol. 1," representa-

tions of almost any style of hip-hop can be found. Lyrics that deal with honest, thought-provoking topics are delivered diversely over beats ranging from bass-driven slappers to mellower, more intricately produced rhythms.

"Even though we're from different backgrounds, we're all spittin' for the same cause," Oktapu\$ said. "We all know reality and right from wrong, and we project that through our music but still keep it hip-hoppin'."

The Defendaz have opened for such high-profile acts as Slick Rick, Tech N9ne, Boot Camp Click and Andre Nickatina, among others. Along the way, the group has managed to gain a considerable fan base throughout the Central Coast.

Initially performing separately as friends, the group formed in 2006 out of a mutual love for music, friendship and collaboration.

"We all had the same vision — it's all about the music," Royal said. "It just came together the way it was supposed to."

"We have a deep appreciation for each others' talents," j4rd added. "I have a ridiculous amount of respect for these cats."

If you have to draw comparisons, the group strives for a "West Coast Dungeon Family sound," referring to the hip-hop musical collective that includes artists OutKast and Goodie Mob.

But the Defendaz's music defies modern tags and refuses to be pi-



Local hip-hop group Public Defendaz members are Taktical, Royal, Tha Oktapu\$, j4rd and Iyayl da Cali Kid. The group will bring its unique blend of the genre, which the group describes as "earth tones," to The Graduate Saturday night.

COURTESY PHOTO

geonholed, and the group credits this in part to living on the Central Coast.

"San Luis is one of those places a lot of people come to from outer areas," j4rd said. "Just like other places have done, it's developing its own sound."

Response to the group, especially its live performances, has been overwhelmingly positive, prompting the band to call itself and its fans a "movement."

"We started calling it that when we saw people singing along at shows," Oktapu\$ said.

"The movement is our message and our music," Taktical added. "But

it goes beyond that and includes our fans. Anyone can join our movement."

One benefit to having a larger group is that each member is able to rely on others' abilities, becoming almost entirely self-sufficient in the process. In addition to the music, group members handle most recording, photography and album design.

"There's a lot that goes into it," Iyayl said. "Almost everything is done within the group, but we owe a big thanks to our promoters, Numbskull Productions and J-Neal."

The group plans to release a second album later this year, and if the move-

ment continues, it'll also be touring California. But for now the group is content doing what it's doing the best it can, and hopefully expanding its following while doing it.

"We love everyone that supports us, the new fans and the ones that keep on comin' back to shows," Iyayl said.

"We're not tryin' to reach any certain crowd. If you dig it, you dig it," Oktapu\$ said. "That's why we call it 'people music.'"

To join the movement, check out Public Defendaz Saturday night at The Graduate or pick up their album at Cloud Nine Imports for \$5.

CAL POLY PRESENTS

THE MLS CENTRAL COAST SHOWCASE



Scheduled to appear (pictured L to R):
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Jaime Moreno (DC United), Ben Olsen (DC United)

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Mustang Daily

"It's the only movie reference I've understood in my whole life."

MUSTANG DAILY
OPINION/EDITORIAL

Friday, February 22, 2008

Editor in chief: Kristen Marschall
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www.mustangdaily.net

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------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------

Vote to make Cal Poly LEED-er

Yes, I know. We already cast our ballots on Feb. 5, but peel off that "I voted" sticker and make room for two more big votes.

The campus will vote on Feb. 27 and 28 whether or not to approve the Rec Center Expansion.

That's not all. The Green Campus interns collaborated with ASI to include an opinion poll where voters decide whether they want the Rec Center expansion to be LEED-certified. They also put together a video explaining why you should vote YES for LEED certification of the Rec Center, complete with interviews from professors, facilities employees, professionals and ASI President Brandon Souza. Find the video on YouTube.com by searching "LEED the Way."

What is LEED?

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System is a program of the United States Green Building Council, and, according to its Web site, is "a nationally recognized certification system to promote integrated, whole-building design practices in the building industry."

The LEED rating system and certification is integral to the recent green movement within the building industry. The framework that the LEED rating system offers helps support green building design and implementation. The program awards silver, gold and platinum plaques to buildings that implement sustainable features and earn a certain number of points. Think of it as a "green building Olympics" meets your English professor's grading rubric.

Although it varies depending on the type of building, the rating system typically includes six categories: Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, Indoor Environmental Quality and Innovation and Design Process. It lists strategies in each category and allots points accordingly.

Although the emphasis is on reducing a building's carbon emissions, other measures include providing views, implementing water conservation and reduction strategies to the building and exterior landscaping, and ensuring indoor air quality by prohibiting the use of chemicals (typically VOCs and formaldehyde) for indoor products, such as paints, furniture and carpets. That's pretty important while you're huffing and puffing on the treadmill.

So, that's LEED in a nutshell, and for those of you who are more familiar with LEED, I have to add that as an architecture student, I understand that it is not the end-all, be-all of green building. Good design requires a holistic approach and flexibility according to specific site, cli-

ent and climate requirements.

However, green building is not mainstream enough yet to not need rating systems and third-party certification within the industry, especially for large-scale, institutional projects such as this one.

Back to campus matters

For those of you who decide to vote in favor of the Rec Center expansion, let ASI know that LEED-certification should be required by voting YES in the opinion poll.

During the Tech Solutions 2: Architecture panel at the Focus the Nation event that rocked campus a few weeks ago, we all learned that buildings account for 36 percent of our country's total carbon emissions. So, reducing our buildings' energy consumption is a necessary component to our fight against climate change. Another important fact: requiring LEED certification will NOT raise the proposed \$65 student fee increase, which would become effective in 2011.

While we're talking about money matters, it is necessary to point out that case studies of LEED-certified buildings show long-term cost benefits, which will be beneficial for future ASI needs.

Focus the Nation got us talking about sustainability and solutions; now it's time to start taking action. With LEED-certification, the Rec Center expansion could be more than just a larger building that fits more exercise machines and doubles the square footage.

Just as we are reminded everyday of the global problems our generation faces, a LEED-certified building front and center on the main drag would give us all the opportunity to walk past a solution every day. Besides providing the tangible benefit for reducing our campus energy use, bringing us closer to the CSU-wide goal of 15 percent reduction of 2003-04 carbon emission levels by 2009-10, it can also serve as a symbol — for ourselves, the greater community, our future employers, and other universities — of our commitment to making tangible changes towards achieving overall sustainability on campus.

Do you want to be a student at a university that leads the way? Do you want to be a student at a university that focuses the nation's attention on climate change solutions? Do you want to be a student at a university that smells like cow pies? Ooh, tricky.

OK, serious again. Can you think of a reason why we shouldn't vote for a LEED-certified Rec Center expansion project? Neither can I. Vote YES Feb. 27 and 28.

Lucia Castello is an architecture senior, a regional coordinator for Empower Poly Coalition and columnist for the Mustang Daily.



"Nothing Better To Do Than Write" was very inspirational to me. I have always enjoyed writing and hope to one day publish a book. Vincent Grigsby's story demonstrates to young people that they too can accomplish things that seem out of reach. I applaud Grigsby and his accomplishments and hope to hear more of his books in the future.

— Stephanie Moore
Response to "Nothin' better to do' than write"

Now THIS is a humor column! Good job, James; this is so much better than "Why I Hate White People."

— Emma D.
Response to "All my pets are dead"

As ASI president in 2005-06 I

worked diligently to solidify the relationship between Cal Poly and CSSA and it is disappointing to see this recent development. While I support ASI's decision due to the new CSSA policy, it is important that Mr. Souza and the ASI Board of Directors do their best to ensure that Cal Poly's voice is still considered at the statewide policy level. This may mean sponsoring independent delegations to the Board of Trustees to express our disappointment in the new policy, and urge the decision to be reversed. CSSA needs to be more diligent in its efforts to represent all students regardless of dues-paying status — if it claims to represent all 400,000-plus students, it must entertain our voices in the debate. Otherwise its mission statement ought to be altered so that it only claims to represent the portion of students whose campuses actively pay dues.

— Tylor Middlestadt
Response to "Cal Poly withdraws from CSSA"

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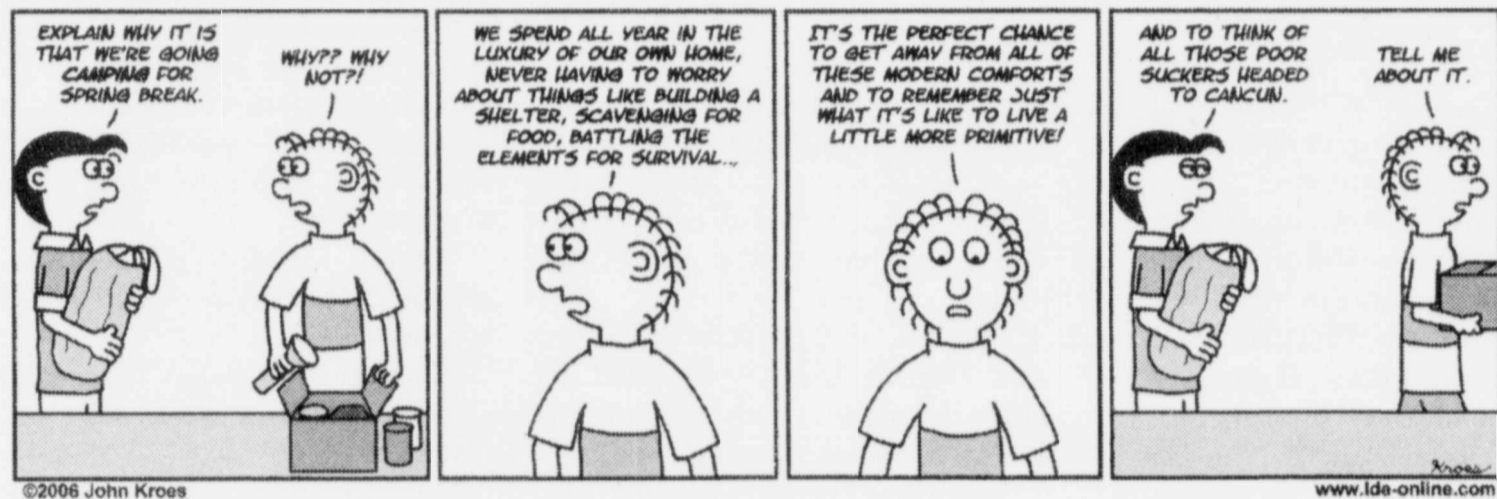
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COMICS & GAMES

Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



Last Ditch Effort by John Kroes



Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton



The New York Times Crossword

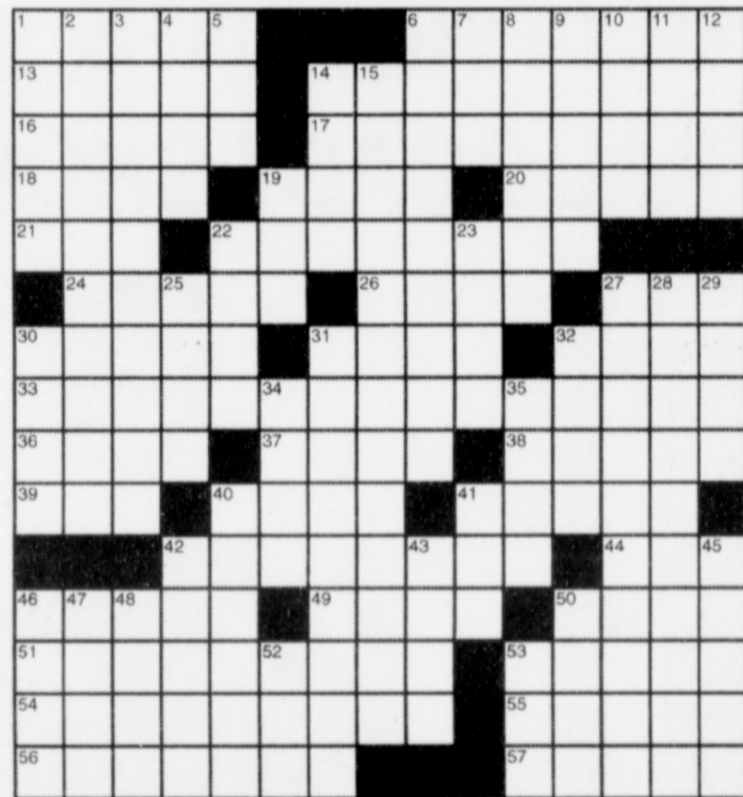
Edited by Will Shortz No. 0111

- Across**
- 1 Kind of year
 - 6 Fed up with
 - 13 It can be scary to go under this
 - 14 Key
 - 16 How some ashes are scattered
 - 17 GQ figure
 - 18 Detente
 - 19 Dried out
 - 20 Sound of contempt
 - 21 Indication of feigned fright
 - 22 They act on impulses
 - 24 Like smooth-running engines
 - 26 Black birds
 - 27 Airport uniform abbr.
 - 30 Mathematician famous for his incompleteness theorems
 - 31 Pasta choice
 - 32 One guarded in a soccer game
 - 33 What you take when you do the right thing
 - 36 Co-worker of Dilbert
 - 37 Start of the Boy Scout Oath
 - 38 Innovative chair designer
 - 39 Innovative
 - 40 Natural fluid containers
 - 41 Backyard Jul. 4 event
 - 42 Decision time
 - 44 Fill-in
 - 46 "Bummer"
 - 49 Shortened word on a yellow street sign
 - 50 It follows Shevat

- 51 "Win some, lose some"
- 53 Historic capital of Scotland
- 54 Concerning
- 55 "Outta sight!"
- 56 "Outta sight!"
- 57 ___ Landing (Philadelphia area)

Down

- 1 Pass superficially (over)
- 2 Free
- 3 Ditsy waitress player on "Mad About You"
- 4 Rough estimate
- 5 "Guilty," in a Latin legal phrase
- 6 Exchange of thoughts?
- 7 Burn up
- 8 Name of 11 ancient kings
- 9 Some collars
- 10 "White Flag" singer, 2003
- 11 Recovered from
- 12 Believed
- 14 Sign
- 15 Transition to a heliocentric model of the universe, e.g.
- 19 Late rocker Barrett
- 22 Auction
- 23 Draft



Puzzle by Mike Nothnagel

- 25 Nut cracker, perhaps
- 27 Negative sign
- 28 Requirement
- 29 They make connections
- 30 Fed
- 31 Sunburn preventer
- 32 Really take off
- 34 Winter coat?
- 35 Moon unit?
- 40 Minds
- 41 Drive nuts
- 42 Some sisters
- 43 ___ cat
- 45 Practices
- 46 Toiletry brand introduced in 1977
- 47 Nail-biter's cry
- 48 Loud outburst
- 50 Long
- 52 Moon unit
- 53 Bribe

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



su | do | ku

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Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

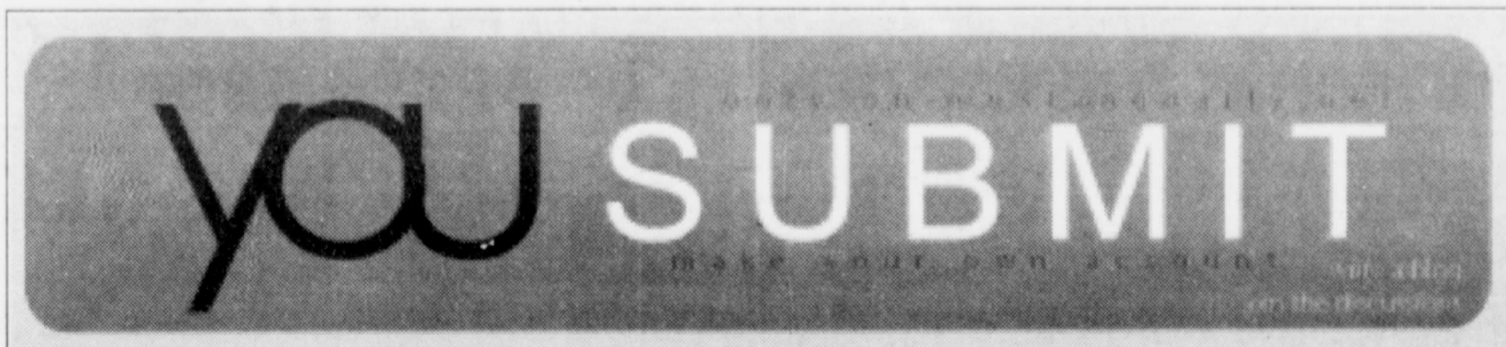


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Central Coast Roller Derby hosts first match of year

Angela Marie Watkins
MUSTANG DAILY

Yank on your leggings and lace up your skates — it's roller derby season.

The lovely ladies of Central Coast Roller Derby host their season opener at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Skate Mor skating rink in Paso Robles. The match will be between The Heart Breakers and The Home Wreckers.

This is the first match of the year for the organization that formed only two years ago.

Both teams are made up of members of the CCRD, but that doesn't mean they're going to go easy on one another.

This is the third time CCRD teams have played each other aside from practice scrimmages, and the organization is having the match to entertain fans and give CCRD's traveling team some more practice before skating head-on into the 2008 season.

So far, CCRD's traveling team has six matches scheduled for its nine-month season against a variety of California roller derby leagues, but has already set its sights on one foe in particular, Angel City Derby Girls.

CCRD faced ACDG in 2006 and was defeated by more than 80 points, said team manager and traveling team member Berta the Hurta.

Overall, CCRD has lost to ACDG three times.

"(The first time) we really thought we were really good and we all went there with our ego pumped up, and when we got there they showed us the floor every chance they got," Hurta said.

"We'd really like to have a win with them."

Veteran jammer (the speedy position that earns points) Wonder Roller already has high expectations this season.

"I just like to continue improving my game and get my points up and work on being more effective in the pack," Roller said. "I feel like I miss some opportunities because there's so much going on. I just want to work on getting our team strong, getting strong together and really just kicking ass — it's fun to win."

"We just now started to know how each other skate and CCRD is known for being heavy hitters — we can really be a force," she added.

Rookie blocker (a skater in a pack trying to slow down rival jammers and push forward their own) Sub Miss has similar goals.

"My biggest goal this year is to build endurance, to skate longer, harder and faster," Miss said.

However, CCRD also has several large off-the-rink goals.

"We want to give to charity," Hurta said. "Each year we've given \$5,000, plus time. This year we'd really like to see that increase."

The organization is also looking to receive Women's Flat Track Derby Association certification and will begin asking rivals to write letters of recommendation to the WFTDA board of directors to expedite the process. Hurta said CCRD hopes to be certified by December.

Tickets for Saturday's match are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door — youths get in free. All proceeds go to Big Brothers and Big Sisters of San Luis Obispo.

Baseball

continued from page 12

"The game moves pretty fast when you don't have experience with college baseball. The experience the team has should pay dividends this year."

"A number of players that performed well last year are back and improved," he added.

Lee cites centerfielder Logan Schafer, third baseman Brent Morel and starting pitcher Eric Massingham as leaders.

Among Cal Poly's strengths are starting pitching and defense, while lack of depth in the bullpen is a concern, Lee said.

Another concern is an injury to first baseman Adam Buschini, who hit .294 and had a .978 fielding percentage in 2007. He's currently recovering from Tommy John surgery.

Sophomore starting pitcher Matt Leonard is also out with an injury. Both players are expected to miss the season.

"It's tough since they're good players, but we'll just have to carry on without them," Massingham said.

Massingham (3-1, 4.17 ERA in 2007) is expected to anchor the starting pitching staff as the Friday starter.

Because of Leonard's injury, junior Derrick Saito is expected to pitch Saturdays, with sophomore Steven Fischback pitching Sundays.

Returning position players include Schafer and catcher/first baseman Wes Dorrell (.303 batting av-

erage in 2007), both All-Big West Conference Second Team selections in 2007.

Other veterans expected to make an impact include senior second baseman Pat Pezet (.279 and 30 RBI), sophomore shortstop Kyle Smith (.279, 33 RBI) and Morel (.333 and 17 doubles).

The 2008 Preseason Big West Coaches Poll picked Cal Poly to earn third place in the Big West, behind Long Beach State and Cal State Fullerton.

Though Lee thinks Cal Poly could take the title, he cites the schedule as a significant obstacle.

"We had the sixth-toughest schedule last year, and this year it's even harder," he said.

Regarding the Mustangs' postseason prospects, he said, "Obviously it's our goal. But until you play outside competition it's hard to say."

Having practiced for about a half-year, though, they won't be unprepared.

"We've been at it since September," Schafer said. "We worked hard all fall, practicing hitting and pitching and playing scrimmages."

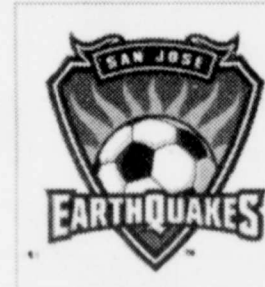
Morel says the practice and experience will help in realizing a Big West title.

"I think that this is the best team we've had since I've been here at Cal Poly," he said.

The Mustangs begin their hunt for the Big West crown at 4:30 p.m. at Alabama.

Their first home game will be at 6 p.m. March 11 against UC Santa Barbara.

CAL POLY PRESENTS THE MLS CENTRAL COAST SHOWCASE



Scheduled to appear (pictured L to R):
Joe Cannon (San Jose), Frankie Hedjuk (Columbus),
Jaime Moreno (DC United), Ben Olsen (DC United)

FRIDAY, FEB. 22 - SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES VS. COLUMBUS CREW - 7 P.M.
SUNDAY, FEB. 24 - SJ EARTHQUAKES VS. D.C. UNITED - 1 P.M.
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COURTESY PHOTO

D.C. United forward Jaime Moreno, right, is the MLS' all-time leading scorer. He and D.C. will take the pitch against San Jose at 1 p.m. Sunday at Cal Poly.

MLS

continued from page 12

Spanos Stadium became an increasingly viable MLS venue Oct. 17, 2007, when 7,143 fans witnessed Cal Poly's 2-1 win over defending national champion UC Santa Barbara, shattering the school's attendance record by several thousands.

Cal Poly sophomore defender Jeremy Cleveland hopes the turnout will rival the record.

"I hope it's a big turnout because the games will for sure be good," he said. "It's been highly publicized, but whether people go is up in the air."

The Mustangs' David Zamora, a Freshman All-American last season, said he too has been looking forward to the games for quite some time.

"It's going to be great," he said. "Soccer is becoming really big in the U.S. and I hope everyone enjoys the showcase."

Cleveland said he thinks Columbus has a good chance of winning.

"Columbus has a lot of young players," he said, adding he played club soccer with one of the Crew's players.

Reed agreed Columbus is loaded with talent.

"Columbus has established itself as a thing to be reckoned with over in the Eastern Conference," Reed said. "I'm sure San Jose is really eager to find out how they're doing so far, and how far they need to go to compete in the MLS again."

Reed said he hopes the showcase will get "the 10-, 11- and 12-year-old kids to tell their parents that they want to go see more pro soccer games."

The goal of the showcase is to "make the average fan a fanatic, and make somebody who wasn't super into soccer beforehand, really excited about soccer," Reed said. "We want to keep the energy up for soccer long after these are done."

Tickets can be purchased at GoPoly.com, by phone at 756-5806 or by visiting the Cal Poly Athletics ticket office near the Cal Poly Rec Center.

Cal Poly rugby club team takes on UC Santa Barbara tonight

Cassandra Carlson
MUSTANG DAILY

The recreation field lights will blaze tonight, lighting the north side of campus as a long traditional rivalry ensues.

Trent Yackzan, a wing for the Cal Poly rugby club team, says the Mustangs couldn't be more ecstatic to play UC Santa Barbara.

"We are excited to play under the lights," Yackzan said. "It adds a different dynamic because we usually play during the day."

Cal Poly (4-1) beat UCSB (0-1) last fall, but this will be the first time they face in league play this season.

"(UC) Santa Barbara is in for a beating," said Cal Poly openside flanker Jesse Dundon. "We are all fired up. Santa Barbara always fosters a good rivalry."

The Mustangs' first, second and third teams are comprised of about 50 players total.

"We have guys that start and guys that come in at half time," Mustangs loose tight prop Gabe Escalera said. "We are a pretty well rounded team; we don't have a big, flashy player who will just run all over the place. We are very team-oriented."

The Mustangs' training has included participat-

ing in yoga sessions at the crack of dawn at Bikram Yoga SLO, where players perform poses in a heated room of 105 degrees.

"Yoga helps with flexibility," Escalera explained. "In rugby, your body goes through a lot of different positions that are not natural. But having to do (yoga) for 90 minutes helps you maintain focus, kind of like a rugby game."

Although Cal Poly lost to San Diego State (3-0) last week, 29-26, the Mustangs seem to be staying optimistic.

"We came out flat and made mistakes, and when you make mistakes against a good team, it costs," Escalera said. "We made all kinds of mistakes, especially mistakes in judgment."

Even though it was a sizable loss, the Mustangs, halfway through league play, have already beaten UCLA, Arizona State and Arizona.

They're slated to play UC San Diego, Long Beach State and Penn State later this quarter and will most likely have a rematch with Arizona for a second seed in the playoffs.

"We're hoping — no, we're planning — on going to the playoffs this April in New Mexico," Escalera said.

The game starts at 7 p.m.

Softball

continued from page 12

giving percentage (.636).

"While our start has been less than ideal, half of our schedule has been played against nationally ranked opponents and some of the top teams in the country," Condon said. "Still, the Mustang Classic provides an opportunity to size up some good competition and make up some lost ground in

bettering our record."

Cal Poly has compiled a 96-63 record at Bob Jansen Field, the Mustangs' home since its inaugural game in March 2001.

They'll have their work cut out for them, however, as Cal freshman Sanoek Kekahuna is second in the Pac-10 Conference in RBI (19) this season and is on an eight-game hitting streak.

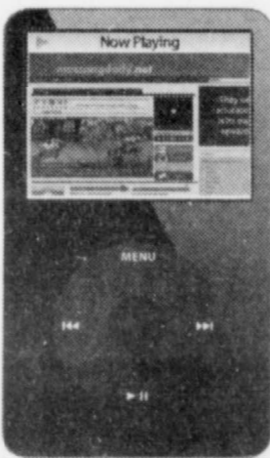
Santa Clara also features a formidable pitcher in Kaitlyn Rauschnot, who struck out five and threw more than 140 pitch-

es in Santa Clara's loss to Cal on Wednesday.

The first game of the Mustang Classic begins at 9 a.m., with Alabama-Birmingham facing Sacramento State.

Cal Poly's first game is at 4:30 p.m. against Cal. Afterward, the Mustangs take on Santa Clara at 7 p.m. before challenging Sacramento State and Alabama-Birmingham at 4:30 and 7 p.m. Saturday.

Its last contest is against Cal at 11 a.m. Sunday.



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Major League Soccer arrives at Cal Poly

San Jose Earthquakes, D.C. United, Columbus Crew play in exhibition at Alex G. Spanos Stadium today and Sunday

Brittney Clyde
MUSTANG DAILY

Finally, the world's most popular sport is gaining momentum in the United States, and now, in San Luis Obispo, as three Major League Soccer franchises will participate in the MLS Central Coast Showcase tonight through Sunday at Alex G. Spanos Stadium.

"Right now in the community, Cal Poly athletics is the highest form of youth sports, so to have pro teams come in gives them a glimpse of a higher level," said Cal Poly men's soccer team assistant coach Brian Reed. "The kids that have gotten to know Cal Poly soccer have a chance to see another level of the sport so hopefully it can give them something to shoot for."

In the first of a pair of MLS preseason contests, the San Jose Earthquakes will take on the Columbus Crew at 7 p.m. The Earthquakes will challenge D.C. United at 1 p.m. Sunday.

Perhaps the most renowned talent that will be featured is that of D.C.

"They have established themselves as a powerhouse in the MLS," Reed said. "They're a consistently good team."

A charter member of MLS, United won league championships in 1996, 1997, 1999 and 2004. The franchise recently garnered international attention upon signing Argentine midfielder Marcelo Gallardo, a former World Cup starter who played in France a season ago.

Gallardo, who played for Argentina in the 1998 and 2002 World Cups, is D.C.'s first high-profile player signed beyond MLS sal-

ary limits — allowed through the same exception that permitted English star midfielder David Beckham to join the Los Angeles Galaxy.

United also boasts Jaime Moreno of Bolivia, MLS' all-time leading scorer, who also has two World Cup tours on his résumé, and Brazilian Luciano Emilio, the 2007 MLS Golden Boot winner.

The Earthquakes have returned to MLS play after a two-year hiatus. Key to their attempt at a resurgence ought to be Joe Cannon, a two-time MLS Goalkeeper of the Year.

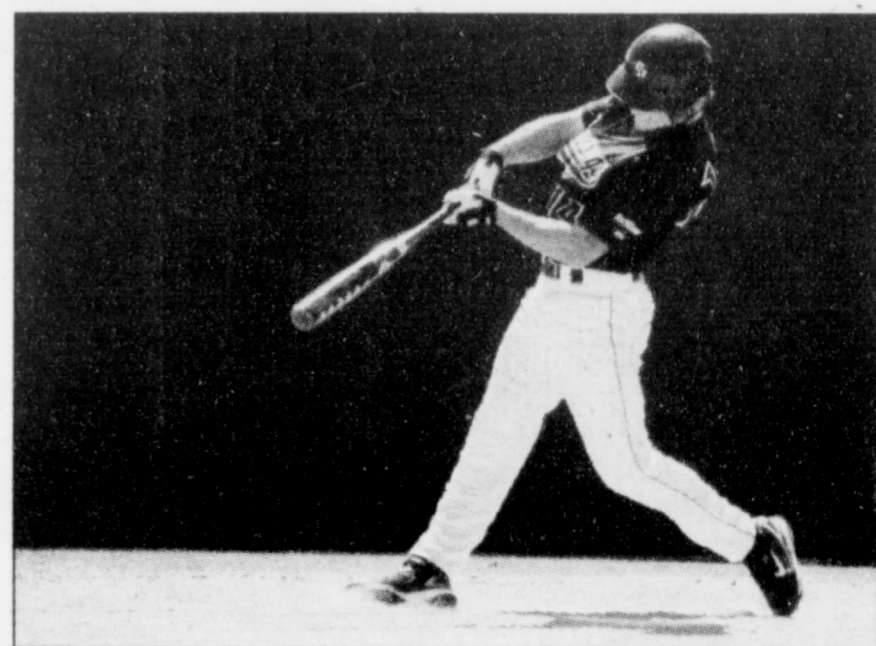
San Jose opened its season with a pair of exhibitions against the Houston Dynamo, losing the first 1-0 and ending the second with a scoreless tie.

Cal Poly, which finished third in the Big West Conference last season, scrimmaged the Earthquakes Wednesday night, falling 1-0 on a Takayuki Suzuki 56th-minute score. Two hours prior to each MLS game, the Mustangs will have an intra-squad scrimmage.

"The boys have been working on their strength and conditioning programs and it's fun for them because now they can get out and play some games again," Reed said in light of Cal Poly not having played a game since Nov. 16. "So I know they're really dying to get back in the stadium."

see MLS, page 11

baseball preview



GRAIG MANTLE MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly junior centerfielder Logan Schafer, an All-Big West Second Teamer last season, hit .335 with 34 RBI in 2007.

Matured Mustangs open season on road

Cal Poly brings back all but four players from last year's squad that finished 19-8

Rachel Glas
MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal Poly baseball team returns older and wiser this season. In 2007, the Mustangs fielded an almost entirely new team, including four freshman position players and one freshman pitcher.

But this year is different. "We're quite a bit more experienced now," Cal Poly head coach Larry Lee said.

The Mustangs lost just four players from last season in outfielder Grant Desme, des-

ignated hitter Bryan Kepner, starting pitcher Thomas Eager and closer Evan Reed.

Seven position players and five starting pitchers are back this year.

Lee hopes their experience will translate into a strong start. Though the team ended the year with a record of 34-24, a slow beginning stretch in which it went 13-16 kept it out of the postseason.

"Last year we kind of got off to a slow start," he said.

see Baseball, page 10

Poly softball team hosts annual Mustang Classic

Aaron Gaudette
MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal Poly softball team will host its annual Mustang Classic tournament this weekend in a round-robin format through which the Mustangs will welcome a quartet of teams.

"It's always great to host the Mustang Classic tournament," said Cal Poly head coach Jenny Condon. "It's a good opportunity for the community to come out and get excited about supporting the team, and it's nice because the players don't have to travel and get to sleep in their own beds."

Coming to Cal Poly are Cal (7-5), Santa Clara (0-10), Sacramento State (1-3) and Alabama-Birmingham (8-5).

The Mustangs view the tournament as a good opportunity to continue the fruitful series against Santa Clara and Sacramento State, and also to even the score against Cal. They've never faced Alabama-Birmingham.

"It's exciting to have a team like Cal, which is a good team from a good conference, involved in the tournament," Condon said. "All of these teams will be a good test for our players, and this will further allow us to learn where we're at and how we compare."

Cal Poly (2-8) was off to a rough start, but wasn't without its fair share of individual victories boosting team morale.

Somewhat of a surprise is Cal Poly's leading hitter, Stephanie Correia, a freshman catcher who boasts team highs in batting average (.367), hits (11) and RBI (seven). She also owns a .467 slugging percentage and a .457 on-base percentage, as well as three multi-hit games.

Another standout is junior shortstop Melissa Pura, who was named Jan. 30 to the USA Softball National Collegiate Player of the Year Award Watch List. She ranks among the top 10 conference players in a number of categories, and also leads the team in on-base percentage (.571) and slug-

see Softball, page 11

Women's basketball team loses for seventh time in nine games



GREG SMITH MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly junior forward Megan Harrison shoots over UC Davis senior forward Heather Bates on Thursday night at Mott Gym. The Aggies won 53-47, although the Mustangs remained in fourth place in the Big West Conference, as fifth-place Pacific and sixth-place Cal State Fullerton also lost Thursday.