Phil Fetzer's final lesson?

Some feel the professor's bid for tenure is imperiled. His plight, they feel, invokes larger questions about what aspiring Cal Poly faculty should consider a priority.

By John Hubbell

Dalton Echo in a Chair

"I guess I'd just think..."

Some tenure bids with a shrug.

"I guess I'd just think..."

to take this all in stride.

cal science professor likely a desire in Philip Fetzer

other tenure-track faculty,

months of his review process routinely teaching

his precarious situation.

"And so, like many other tenured-track faculty, Fetzer has spent the final months of his review process routinely teaching and tenuring in spite of his precarious situation.

"It's a calm that seemingly belies the weight of the verdict — which, by departmental regulations is to be rendered today — even while his department chair has characterized Fetzer's chances as "mixed."

Though he is a non-tenured faculty member who has been at the university a comparatively short while, the 50-year-old political science professor has maintained a high profile and, apparently, a loyal followin.

Fetzer is the founder of Cal Poly's Civil Rights Awareness Week, a blossoming annual event now in its fifth year. The event brought the late farmworkers' advocate Cesar Chavez here in 1992, and attracted noted civil rights lawyer Morris Dees in 1993.

"Yet Fetzer's very public contributions to the university community contribute to — but do not define — whether he'll receive tenure today. In fact, says some observer, they largely illustrate why he may be turned down."

To assess whether Fetzer will be allowed to remain here, his student supporters say, is to transcend the analytical, four-pronged formula that renders verdicts on tenure candidates. It's not, they allude, site the true trial of the turning tenure at Cal Poly. And its quizzical solution lies in what a candidate's personal or professional development; teaching ability; service to the university community; and other factors.

Soon after his arrival, he put into motion the beginnings of Civil Rights Awareness Week as he moved through a docket of Political Theory, American and California Government, Minority Group Politics and Constitutional Law classes. Off campus over the years, he taught extension courses / Daily 1993 file photo

Political science assistant professor Philip Fetzer has come to the end of his tenure procedure. Some feel his contributions to the university should outweigh any perceived shortcomings, and raise questions about the university's priorities. Above, fetzer stands outside the California Mens Colony, where he has taught extension classes / Daily 1993 file photo

For instance, Fetzer has maintained a habit of regularly teaching Constitutional Law classes. Off campus over the years, he taught extension courses at the California Mens Colony and continued involvement in Democratic party politics. And in time at Cal Poly, he became adviser to the Political Science Club and Voice XIII, a fledgling, periodic student news magazine.

"It's an unwise person," he said recently, "who would make any comment that would be misinterpreted by anyone."
TODAY'S WEATHER:
Partly cloudy
High: 74
Low: 54

TODAY
11:30 Hourly Rec Center events / 756-1366
Women's Program Candidate Forum *Susan Ford, Santa Lucia Hall Lounge, 3:30 p.m.
Movie Screening *"Como Agua Para Chocolate," Bishop's Lounge, 6:30 p.m.
WriterSpeak *Jane Hirshfield and Kim Addonizio, U.U. 204, 7 p.m.
ASI • Board of Directors meeting, U.U. 220, 7 p.m.
Thursdays
Chumash Auditorium, 6:30 p.m. / 756-2600
Women's Program Candidate Forum *Pat Harris, Santa Lucia Hall Lounge, 3:30 p.m.
Theater Performance • Benefit previews of "Nunsense," 682 Palm St., 8 p.m. / 543-0369

THURSDAY
Chumash Auditorium, 6:30 p.m. / 756-2600
Women's Program Candidate Forum *Pat Harris, Santa Lucia Hall Lounge, 3:30 p.m.
Theater Performance • Benefit previews of "Nunsense," 682 Palm St., 8 p.m. / 543-0369
Rally • "Take Back the Night," Chumash Auditorium, 6:30 p.m. / 756-2600

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HEALTH FAIR INCLUDES:

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- Health Information
- Body Fat Testing

Speakers all Day in U.U. 219 & 220

From page 1

FETZER: Dean lobbied to tenure the man who began Civil Rights Awareness Week

Mustang Daily:
After countless hours of service and literally hundreds of bylines, Mustang Daily Sports Editor Brad Hamilton is retiring. While we wish Brad the best of luck, we must find someone to fill his size 10 loafers.

The few.
We also need:
Two assistant managing editors, an arts editor, an opinion editor, an assistant sports editor and a design editor.

The proud.
If you’d like a shot, come to the informational meeting for incoming editors at 11 a.m. this Thursday during U.O. Hour. Meet at Mustang Daily and we’ll take it from there. The only requirement is two quarters of reporting experience — excepting the design editor, who doesn’t need any previous contact with the Daily.

The sleep-deprived.

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IS THIS HOW YOUR MECHANIC SIGNS HIS WORK

See FETZER, page 3
CRIME

From page 1

playgrounds to gain information on "burglary" criminals.

Nehme Abouzeid, 17, of Weymouth, Mass., called senators to "rate youth violence on a scale of 1 to 10." Jenna Thomas, 16, of Hardeeville, S.C., asked who would delegate the money to youth programs.

And Darnell Dalton, 13, of Bridgeport, wanted to know: "How will we make a difference by being here today?"

Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., gave the witnesses some blunt talk, telling them, "Young people don't vote and young people don't have political action committees. You don't have the same clout as voters and contributors, he said. But he suggested a way that young people can put the pressure on members of Congress. They should schedule meetings on juvenile crime in their communities and insist lawmakers attend, Wellstone said. He proposed a national day of forums, similar to environmental programs on "Earth Day.

Dodd said local programs have been hindered by the confusion of having 266 federal youth programs scattered among several agencies.

He said that problem would be fixed by a provision in the crime bill creating an agency that would function as a one-stop clearinghouse for federal grants to local youth programs.

And he added, "The best programs involve younger people to help shape and form the programs."

Sen. Howard M. Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, said he would rate juvenile violence 8 or 9 on a scale of 10 if measuring Congress' concern. But he added, "From the standpoint of (Congress) actually doing something about it, it's a 2 or 3. You can't pass a law and eliminate youth violence."

The senators also made pitches for community policing, for keeping guns from juveniles, arresting gang leaders and strengthening family relationships.

Attorney General Janet Reno, who makes a regular practice of appearing before congressional panels, insisted that she wait to testify until the youngsters finished their questions.

When her turn came, Reno said lawmakers have reached one of the "rare moments in history" when they can pass a bipartisan anti-crime bill that would combine prevention and punishment.

"We have an extraordinary opportunity in the next weeks to answer these young people," she said.

ASI: Board to discuss volleyball courts

From page 1

Stipicevich said. "In order to see good shows, it needs to be con-

tinually supported and sub-

sidized to see quality. Right now, the subsidy is very low."

The task force recommended seeking corporate sponsorship through senior projects, internships and marketing to increase funding for programming. The Board will discuss the recommendations Wednesday night and a vote is expected during dead week.

In other business slated for Wednesday night's AISI meeting:

Sand volleyball courts

A proposal to build $56,000 sand volleyball courts across from the Rec Center swimming pool met with some trepidation from AISI adviser Bob Walters, who said the project is ill-timed.

"Is this the right time for such a project?" he said. "This is a time when students are being asked to pay more and I really think timing should be considered. It's not necessarily prudent."

Assistant Vice President for Operations Steve Steinbacher also said the height of the fences --- which will keep non-students out of the courts --- has created some debate regarding aesthetics.

The original proposal called for a 10-foot black vinyl fence, but prices for 15- or 20-foot fences also have been sought. The taller fences are still within the allotted budget.

Steinbacher cited security reasons for the investigation of taller fences. But some board members are questioning the appearance and necessity of the project.

$72,000 for a new copier

Second Edition is seeking approval of a new $72,000 color copier. Second Edition manager Calvin Rowland said the current color copier --- a Canon CJ10 --- is too slow and is causing customers to seek faster service elsewhere.

The University Executive Committee's budget for the copier is $30,000.

Rowland said the copier --- a Xerox Majesty-K --- offers many more options. He added that Xerox has offered to give Second Edition a $4,000 trade-in credit for the CJ10.

FETZER: Students concerned about tenure

From page 2

Fetzer has manifested over Fer-

zer's tenure proceeding, he said, not one student has formally ex-

pressed it to his department.

"We're not a bunch of old fogy's," he said. "We're doing our job. It's been a mixed recommenda-

tion and it's been a tough call.

Personal matters are never pleasant. (But I do believe that, in the end, fairness will prevail.)"

Does the department support campus ac-

tivist? In and of itself, whether Fet-

zer's accomplishment in founding Civil Rights Awareness week has won interdepartmental favor is also questionable.

Fetzer's student supporters say his crusade to bring a higher political consciousness to the university has come with little support from the Political Science Department. It's a criticism that has followed the department since the event began in 1988, and one its department chairs have consist-

ently denied.

While awaiting the outcome of his tenure proceeding, Fetzer declined to comment on the department's posture toward the

"I think it's wonderful for there to be a (faculty) lightning rod. If someone can do that and fulfill their professional obligations, great. The highest priority is teaching. But it's also true that we've made a commitment to profes-

sional development and growth. We are expected to be professionally ac-

tive."

Randal Cruikshanks

Department Chair

Political Science

event. But in a joint interview with Aguiniga in 1992 given to promote the week's activities, Fetzer said federal

See FETZER, page 5

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"We have 266 federal youth programs scattered among several agencies."
Another year, another fee hike

California State University students had better face the fact: the budget crisis has become worse, and fee increases are on the way. Again.

Not unlike the past five years, the CSU Board of Trustees has once again asked for a raise in student fees to help offset rising costs and lose some money coming in.

Despite a California law that says legislators can only raise fees by 10 percent each year, the trustees asked for a 24 percent increase this time. In past years, legislators have voted to override the law and hike fees at an average of up to 40 percent.

This year — an election year when educational voters could mean the gaining or losing of constituent support — legislators have been slow to act. It seems inevitable, however, that students are going to pay at least 24 percent more for next fall's courses.

One likes the idea of paying more, but we have to.

The California State University system — and indeed, Cal Poly — have fallen victim to years of budget reductions. In the past, Cal Poly has faced a 40 percent fee increase, and Home Economics and Engineering Technology departments were eliminated. We don't want to see that trend continue.

A fee increase of any sort is distasteful. But the trustees, the CSU chancellor and campus presidents have made it clear that they cannot continue to operate under such tight constraints. They, not unlike the students they serve, say they are tired of budget reductions. In the past, Cal Poly has faced a 40 percent fee increase, and Home Economics and Engineering Technology departments were eliminated.

Asking students to pay 24 percent more this year is too much. Let's take the 10 percent increase and get to class.

Will he or won't he? That's the question that many people are asking about the character Matt Felding on the prime-time soap "Melrose Place." 

In the season's finale, set to air on the Fox network May 18, Matt falls for the best man at a friend's wedding. The question calls for the men to exchange a passionate kiss.

The Fox network, which is currently reviewing the completed episode, has been the center of controversy regarding this kiss. The sponsors of the show, along with conservative Christians, have been calling for the scene to be omitted. And gay men, lesbians and other gay-friendly people have been asking that the scene remain. Whatever the decision, it is the first time that gay television characters have caused such an uproar.

Gay's on television are not a new thing. Since well before the famous Stonewall riots of 1969, gays have been on and off the news.

Traditionally, though, homosexuals have not made good sitcoms, dramas or TV movies. In the 1980s, several shows were to have gay characters. When these shows made it to the screen, the gay characters had become "confirmed bachelors," or merely artistic.

Possibly the first time a gay character showed up in a prime-time show was back in 1971. Archie Bunker, the loud-mouthed curmudgeon from "All in the Family," discovered that a friend paying his in a gay relationship.

Shortly after that, in 1972, the TV movie "That Certain Summer" was released. The story is of a closeted gay man struggling to come to terms with his son after a divorce.

Then came a disappointing "Marcus Welby, MD" episode in 1978, in which the good doctor attempted to help gay man find a "cure" for his homosexuality.

These three shows broke new ground, starting a trend to include gay characters. "Dynasty's" Company ran for several years on the premise of a heterosexual man pretending to be gay so he could rent a cheap apartment with two women, and "Soap" featured the gay character Jodie Dallas.

Unfortunately, the Reagan era brought a virtual death to the portrayal of gays on television. Ironically, it would take the AIDS crisis to bring back positive portrayals of gays on television.

Among the first was the Emmy-award-winning TV movie "An Early Frost," showing a gay man dying of AIDS and how his family learns to cope with both his homosexuality and his illness.

This started a trend to show gays as part of a victim group. Many sitcoms showed episodes involving a gay character being the victim of intolerance or an intolerant person getting to know a gay person and finding out they are just like everyone else.

Now it seems to have suddenly "in vogue" as gays are shown in new episodes in "M*A*S*H," "Baywatch" and "Rosanne." Other shows that ran gay-themed episodes included "Hill Street Blues," "Quantum Leap," "Seinfeld," "Rose" and "Law and Order."

In 1992, "Melrose Place" premiered, featuring the gay social worker Matt Felding as one of the leading men.

Gay men and lesbians have come a long way in the last few years, from being perceived as people withurable mental illnesses to leading role-material. But with each gay-themed show that airs, studios face the wrath of sponsors and conservatives. In the last six months, three broadcasts have shown just how controversial this subject matter can be.

A lesbian kiss on the show "Rosanne," a gay couple buying furniture on an Ikea furniture commercial and a wedding between two gay characters on "Northern Exposure" all have faced resistance. When the season finale of "Melrose Place" airs on Wednesday, it too will do so in the face of a growing uproar.

Why the hue and the cry? It is partly that homosexuals exist in the United States. It is realistic for shows like "Rosanne" and "Melrose Place" to have gay characters in their casts.

The opponents to these programs claim that by showing gay men and lesbians on shows like "Rosanne," the networks are condoning homosexuality.

They are upset that someone might see such a positive portrayal and think that maybe it's "OK" to be gay.

Those who feel this way would force everyone to agree with their own values.

However, not everyone has the same set of values. Showing the existence of something does not necessitate a make a statement about that thing's inherent worth, and to say that television should only show things that everyone approves would make for extremely boring television.

Perhaps they are afraid that their children will see and suddenly choose to be gay. This is absurd. Seeing two women kiss, as in a recent "Rosanne" episode, is not going to cause anyone to "turn gay." While researchers do not yet understand the causes of homosexuality, they generally agree that one's orientation is determined before the age of 5. Seeing two women or two men kiss will not affect this.

Perhaps the reason these people are so upset has to do with their religious beliefs. Many people's beliefs include the condemnation of homosexuality. They say that gay people are sinful and of low moral character.

I say to these people that if they are looking for characters with good moral fiber, they certainly should not be watching "Melrose Place." It's a soap opera, after all. The only character that is not constantly jumping from bed to bed is the gay character. In fact, I feel it could be argued that Matt's character is the most morally upright one on the cast.

Finally, there are those who say they just do not enjoy watching such things as two men kissing. I've heard people call such things "icky" and "degenerating." What I don't understand is, if they don't enjoy watching things like that, why are they watching them? With television, one has the ultimate control over what one watches.

I am certain that I will not be the only person watching "Melrose Place" this Wednesday evening. I admit the only reason I started watching things like that was because it had a leading character who was gay. I was hoping that, for once, a gay character would be shown having real, three-dimensional lives.

Unfortunately, I have been mostly disappointed. He is often the only one to make a point rather than being involved in the actual plot lines. Matt's romantic encounters with the main female have been few and far between.

Is one kiss too much to ask for? It might be if it's tolerance has its way.

* John A. Kusters Jr. is a computer science senior. "Melrose Place" is on at 9 p.m. tonight on cable channel 11.
FETZER: Scholarship vs. involvement at issue

From page 3

whelming enthusiasm" among his political science colleagues.

Cruikshanks denies that there is any disagreement at all among his political science colleagues and that his efforts are "always supported" by them.

"I just don't think they've always supported" the Ohio State event, notes political science professor don't dispute that there is a problem that they don't know about, they're probably putting a lot of weight into that. And it probably shouldn't be that way."

Though Smith said he's found difficulty in Fetzer's largely discussion-based classes, he said "the club, in general, wants him to have tenure." "I feel that," said Cruikshanks said Monday, "I think it's wonderful for there to be a (fundly) lighting role. If someone can do that and fulfill their professional obligations, great."

Yet some students who support Fetzer clearly feel it's hypocritical to expect Cal Poly professors to place a premium on teaching students only criticize instructors of lack of recognition in the Wiseman system. "Some professors" are writing books left and right," said Pacule. "That's not nearly (as) important. I had five professors as teachers. Out of those five, three I could go to and say, Here is my problem." "I've thought, Why would people want him to have tenure?" said Cruikshanks said Monday. "I think it's wonderful for there to be a (fundly) lighting red. If someone can do that and fulfill their professional obligations, great."

Another category of professional activity refers to the degree by which professors regularly publish research papers or write books — an area Cruikshanks flatly says Fetzer pales in, by comparison. "If you go to the library and compared his work with others, you'd find they're deficient," he said. "I've done some things, but not much.

Fetzer declined to respond to the characterization of his work. Nor would he comment on what can only be characterized as a rather bitter irony: the contribution he made to the university community through Civil Rights Awareness Week under his own auspices does not, in the strictest, most clinical sense, "count" toward helping him gain tenure, since the event isn't an outgrowth of the Political Science Department.

Last, there is that ambiguous fourth criterion — something which one student who has followed Fetzer's last two years here closely may be the true reason he may be denied tenure. "I know that whatever they're doing at Cal Poly is only one of the four important criteria used to determine tenure. And it's somewhere amid those other things, some say, where the professor is losing points."

Nendes agreed that scholarship should be a lesser priority. "I think one of his newer textbooks, authored by many Cal political science professors, left something to be desired."

"If we consider themselves more public figures of those three, I could go to and say, Here is my problem."

"Does Rights Week have better longevity?" Students inquired at the event Civil Rights Awareness Week has taken on an momentum of its own, and would now likely survive without Fetzer's coaching. "All the same, they'd rather attend a Cal Poly where scholarship and other factors take a back-seat to im-passioned dedication to students. To them, a contribution on one level clearly outweighs any absence on another."

"People say, When would they deny him tenure when he has a strong student following?" Pacule said Monday. "He can also be judged by his peers as an intellectual equal. And that's politics right there. In politics, she said, "it's just one giant sales pitch."

From page 8

able athletes they can get," he said.

Women's basketball Head Coach Jill Orrock wasn't surprised by the number. "I think the lack of ethnicity among student athletes is probably reflective of the community."

Possible recruits, Orrock said, may choose to remain in more urban and ethnically diverse areas like the Los Angeles Basin. "I tend to think people in L.A. think and past Ventura is Mars," she said.

This next year, the women's basketball team will look for a different look," she said of an incoming recruiting class which includes four minorities. "Within Cal Poly's coaching staff, consisting of 29 individuals — 22 are white (75.9 percent), four African Americans (13.8 percent), one is a Pacific Islander (3.4 percent), one is Native American (3.4 percent) and one individual is unknown."

Cal Poly Athletics Director John McCutcheon said there are no ethnicity quotas for athletes, but the athletic program tries to be as representative of California as possible.

"We try to ... seek out all groups in the state in our recruiting practices," McCutcheon said.

The 1992 California census showed the state's population to be 69.9 percent white, 7.4 percent African American, Chicano and Hispanics at 25.8 percent, Asians and Pacific Islanders combined for 9.6 percent, Native Americans totaled .8 percent and "others" made up 13.2 percent.

While the Cal Poly Athletic Department barely shows a 20 percent minority rate, one conference rival, Cal Poly Pomona, displays much of an ethnic balance. According to Cal Poly Pomona's Sports Information Center, Blay and Pomona has a total of 215 athletes. Of those athletes, 120 are white (56 percent). Nineteen percent are African-American, about 15 percent are Hispanic and 7 percent are Asian. Student athletes who said they were Native-American, Filipino and Indian combined to equal 3 percent.

Although numbers for student-athletes in the total CSU system were unavailable, in 1992 there were 347,093 students enrolled. Nearly 60 percent of these students are white. Asians compose 13.7 percent of the population, 8.4 percent of students said they were African-American.

Student-athletes at the national level were 56,146. Whites made up 67.9 percent, African-Americans totaled 25.4 percent, Chicano and Hispanics combined for 2.1 percent, Asians totaled 1 percent, Native Americans made up 3 percent and "others" composed 3.4 percent.

Quick Roundup

Poly men's singles player eliminated

Cal Poly's lone remaining man's tennis player has been eliminated in the third round of the NCAA Division I Championships in Kansas City, Mo.

Junior Dane McKeeley fell to Abilene Christian's Kyle Scott, 6-2, 6-0, in his second-round match. Freshman Rafael Huerta and senior Marc Olivier played a second-round match Thursday and Friday which was unavailable of press time.

Olivier was named National Division II Senior of the Year and Huerta was named National Division III Freshman of the Year at the annual men's tennis banquet.

DIVERSITY: Poly's number of minority athletes dips below national average

Student-athletes at the national level were 56,146. Whites made up 67.9 percent, African-Americans totaled 25.4 percent, Chicano and Hispanics combined for 2.1 percent, Asians totaled 1 percent, Native Americans made up 3 percent and "others" composed 3.4 percent.

• Daily Sports Editor Brad Hamilton and Assistant Sports Editor Troy Peterson contributed to this report.

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MUSTANG DAILY

June 16, 1994

ROBINSON: Baseball great broke race barriers

From page 8

rest of the world."

Curry, an African-American, looked up to Robinson.

"He was important to me to

look at," Curry said. "A lot of

people say Jackie Robinson was

their hero." Cal Poly Football Coach

Andre Patterson said he is grate­

ful to Robinson, Muhammad Ali

and Hank Aaron.

"These people paid the price
to give me the opportunity to do

what I am doing today," Patter­

son said.

Daily Sports Editor Brad

Hamilton contributed to this

report.

CLASSIFIED

HAMILTON: Series targeted at ethnic diversity within Cal Poly's athletics

From page 8

Even though Cowell's com­

ments might not appear racist to

an outsider, there is a problem if a

minority thinks that is the case.

Hearing about occasional issues of racism feeling iso­

lated on the court or out on the

field and with the topic of ethnic
diversity in the minds of many students
courtesy of a new ethnic studies minor, the Daily felt it

time to look at the Athletic

Department's diversity.

Over the next three days, the "Team Colors" series takes a look

at the number of minority students

on the 1993-94 and 1994-95 rosters of the sports programs at Cal Poly.

It compares them to the numbers for the university as a whole, as

well as the numbers from the CSU, the nation and another CSU campus.

The numbers were hard to find.

For numerous reasons
given, universities did not dis­

close their ethnic diversity of their programs. Cal Poly Athletics

Department officials said they

simply didn't keep those records because they have no reason to.

The numbers found were var­

anted a story.

The other stories that will run

in this series include topics such as the comparisons between a

minority and non-minority stu­

dent and minority and non-minority student teams.

It is the Daily's hope the series

will inform people of what ethnic diversity exists at Cal Poly

and perhaps raise issues that

need to be addressed.

* Brad Hamilton is Daily Sports

Editor

ADVERTISE IN MUSTANG DAILY CLASSIFIEDS. CALL 773-1143
Diversity strikes out
Whites represent 80 percent in athletics

By Lisa M. Hansen
Daily Staff Writer

A Mustang Daily informal survey of sport media guides and coach interviews uncovered that Cal Poly's Athletics Department is less ethnically diverse than the university's total student population.

Statistics for fall quarter 1993 show that 60.1 percent of all students at Cal Poly are white. The number of non-white students has doubled in the last 10 years to its current rate of 33.4 percent, according to Polyview, a newsletter that publishes enrollment statistics at Cal Poly. The college does not have ethnicity records for 6.5 percent of the students.

Student athletes listed in media guides or identified by coaches numbered 362. Of these student-athletes, whites composed 306 (86.1 percent). African-Americans made up 29 (7.6 percent), Chicanos and Hispanics totaled 26 (7.3 percent) and Asians numbered nine (2.4 percent). Others included four Pacific Islanders (1.0 percent), three Native Americans (0.8 percent), two Filipinos (0.5 percent).

Cal Poly football Head Coach Andre Patterson said he was surprised by the numbers disclosed in the Daily survey but said it is understandable.

Patterson said the academic standards of the school attract some minority students while the lack of diversity in the community may be unattractive to high-profile minority students.

"It's a tough sale for minorities just because it isn't a minority community," he said.

Patterson added that the numbers don't bother him because he believes the coaches aren't looking at the ethnicity of potential recruits.

"(The coaches) are just trying to get the best pos..." See DIVERSITY, page 5

Brad HAMILTON
No Goal

Series hopes to confront racism

Donnie Miller took to the mat just like any of his teammates. He jogged in place a little bit, jumped up and down and got to the blood flowing, and feinted some of the wrestling moves he was about to engage upon his opponent.

But there was one thing different Miller did notice. "Wrestle smart," the coach yelled.

"I have to admit I have a basic offense ... but I remember I was the only person he said it to," Miller, an African-American, said.

"You should have done better. You’re stronger and quicker," the coach used to tell me," Miller added.

He said that perhaps this shows that unconstructive of the coach subscribed to the stereotype that African-Americans are quicker and stronger athletes but aren’t smarter athletes.

Wrestling Head Coach Lennis Cowell said he says those words to all the wrestlers.

"When a wrestler is in a close match — like 2-1 — I always point to my temple and say think smart," Cowell said.

The wrestling coach also said he always tells wrestlers they could do better to motivate them to improve.

"I even tell Jake (Gaier) that," Cowell added. Gaier is a two-time PAC-10 Champion.

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Robertson's image fades; impact remains strong

By Valeska Bailey
Daily Staff Writer

The memory of Jackie Robinson, who broke the color barrier — the first African-American to play in Major League Baseball, continues to fade.

But for some aspiring minority athletes, the impact of the four-year period presented more opportunities, and that was the way the whole country was," said Cal State Los Angeles Assistant Baseball Coach R.C. Curry.

Curry, who coaches an all-minority basketball team the Mustangs compete against, is glad times have changed a lot since the late 1940s.

"Blacks are given a lot more opportunities," Curry said. "It is a lot different now.

Cal Poly Track and Field Co-Director Brooks Johnson said Robinson and other minority legends during that era presented minorities a sense of accomplishment but at a cost.

"We vicariously lived through (Robinson's) success," Johnson said. "In a lot of ways it was a milestone, but it also laid the groundwork for a milestone around our necks. The idea is that blacks are doing well athletically, then that means all is well with the..."

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