Mardi Gras:
Annual parade draws estimated 20,000 people
By Amy Conley Daily Staff Writer

San Luis Obispo's picturesque, quiet downtown was the site of Saturday night's wild, raucous Mardi Gras parade. The estimated 20,000 spectators rocked and reveled with floats, scantily clad women and bands playing on moving flatbeds.

The festivities began with family fun on Garden Street. Craft vendors, English dancing and music and gumbo vendors brought people out at 10 a.m.

"I find this is the best day for sales, especially for crafts people," said Judy Graham, a vendor from Morro Bay.

Children... had their faces painted, bought colorful caps, made masks and tried on big, funny-looking hats. Little ones danced in the middle of the street to the Creole Syncopators while creating an ornate mask to complement her silver crown and black cape. "I like dressing up like this a lot," said queen Suzanne Jorgeson about the parade.

As people chomped on gumbo, the Mardi Gras king and queen, decked out in colorful finery, mingled among their loyal subjects at the Garden Street fair.

When queen Suzanne Jorgeson was asked about her favorite part of Mardi Gras, she said, "Making the costumes, going to the parties, eating the food, the parties, dressing up and the parties."

"Making the costumes, eating the food, the parties, dressing up and the parties."

Festivities continued with the parade, which started on time precisely at 5:31 p.m. Some highlights of the parade were the "Wet Dreams" float and mermen in drag, the kinky "Dreams" float and mermaids in drag, the kinky and bizarre-clad cast of the "Rocky Horror Picture Show," the Dilbert's Virtual Reality Band and the Viking-inspired float of the Mardi Gras king and queen.

"It's exciting — the action, the costumes, the wild floats, the virile men and the sexy women," said vendor Alison Kerns about the parade.

Some people took the party atmosphere too far and ended up dealing with local police officers. There were three injury accidents that resulted in DUI arrests.

"That's unusual. We usually get three a month, not three a night," Costa said.

O pinion
Christina Jamison seems to think so.

Is the U.U. anti-student?

High schoolers from around the state joined for the Xicano conference at Cal Poly this weekend.

"You are who you eat," said Kabir Gambhir, a mechanical engineering senior. "There's a lot of truth in that."

For Gambhir, the truth lies in eating organically. Like so many others opening their eyes to the world of natural, pesticide-free organic foods, Gambhir is becoming more conscious of what he is eating and how it affects his body.

"I try to eat organically because number one, it tastes better," Gambhir said. "And number two, it's better for you."

Gambhir follows a philosophy of yin and yang between the action, the costumes, the wild floats, the virile men and the sexy women."

"I try to eat organically because number one, it tastes better," Gambhir said. "And number two, it's better for you."

Gambhir follows a philosophy of yin and yang between the environment and the foods naturally found in it.

"It's more natural to eat foods that are akin to the environment you are in," Gambhir said. "Local organic foods help you to adapt to the environment you're in."

Gambhir is just one of many joining the organic food trend, which began in the 1980s. It is associated with the counterculture ideas of free spirits, respect for Mother Earth and loving one another. The growth of the health industry, coupled with the evolution of consumer interests in the bodily effects of diet and nutrition, the organic movement has taken flight according to Joe Montecalvo, food science and nutrition professor.

"We are in the midst of a health and wellness era," Montecalvo said. "As people are becoming educated in foods and the effects on the body, they are more concerned about what they eat."

Montecalvo serves on the National Organic Standards Board administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and various organic food processing and certification boards. He said the organic foods industry is "growing on a nationwide level of 30 percent, creating a substantial new market for food companies."

"Organic foods have reached mainstream appeal in the last five to 10 years, especially in California," Montecalvo said, adding that he occasionally eats organic foods.

California leads the rest of the country with respect to organic food products. The Golden State also accounts for 30 percent of the 300 certified organic vegetable producers in 15 major vegetable growing regions, according to a USDA survey.

In the San Luis Obispo area, eating organically is becoming more prevalent among Cal Poly students, families and senior citizens.

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TUESDAY

Career Services presents an Environmental Resource Fair Feb. 11, 7-9:30 p.m. at Sequoia and Muriel Residence Halls. For more information, call 756-5971 or 756-2615.

WEDNESDAY

The Newman Catholic Center presents an Ash Wednesday Mass at the Newman Catholic Center. For more information, call 756-1567.

THURSDAY

The Physics Colloquium presents "The Dynamics of Bottle Fracture," with speaker Dr. Karl Runde who is from Physics Department at UC Santa Barbara. Feb. 13, 11 a.m. in building 52, room E45.

SATURDAY

Teacher Diversity presents a free Subtexte Teachers Workshop on Feb. 15, 9-3 p.m. in building 02, room 126-127. For more information, call 756-1567.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Cal Poly Arts Exhibit Program presents a student photography show in the Art and Design Photo Option Gallery on the first floor of the Kennedy Library Feb, 10-28. The show will feature work from Matthew Fondrick of San Luis Obispo County is recruiting volunteers to assist the University of California, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407. Advertising: 756-1143

Editorials: 756-7796

Fax: 756-6784

Submit items no later than Thursday for events occurring the following week. (Example: if it’s happening Tuesday, we need it the week before, on Thursday.) Due to excessive demand, not all items submitted in an Agenda deck can be printed. To guarantee publication, an advertisement must be purchased.

MUSTANG DAILY

Coverage of Cal Poly’s Women’s Week February 9th - 21st

Watch for continuing coverage of selected events including:

- African-American Women and Historical Construction of Black Nationalism lecture from 12-1 p.m. in Staff Dining rm. B.
- Asian Women in American Culture: Myths and Realities from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. in UU 219
- Civil Rights/Women’s Rights from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. in UU 219
- Mothers and Daughters: A conversation -- Balingan a Successful Career and A Family from 12-1 p.m. in UU 220.

For a list of all events pick up a program guide at Women’s Programs and Services in the University Union.

Xicano conference teaches culture, history to high school students

By Marie T. Garcia Daily Staff Writer

Students from across California were treated to a day of Mexican culture and history at the fourth annual Xicano Youth Conference held at Cal Poly Saturday. An estimated 400 high school students from cities such as Fresno and Ventura attended the all-day event that featured a keynote speaker, Artuce dancers and a hands-on workshop.

The conference was host by Movimiento Estudiantil Xicano de Aztlán, better known as MEKA.

"The main purpose is to bring together our people," said Arturo Rodriguez, architecture senior and MEKA member. "We want to expose them to issues they'll be facing, like assimilation, drugs and attending a university."

The conference's theme was "Education - The Seed of the Future." Among the sponsors were Mexican Heritage Services and Student Academic Services.

Academics, however, were not the sole focus of the conference. Rodriguez said that the students had 15 different workshops to choose from, ranging in topics like alternatives to incarceration to Mexican history.

Ana Cardenas, a senior at Arvin High School, attended the conference at Bakerfield, said she enjoyed the conference because it made her feel right at home. She said she learned about how to apply for financial aid and about the importance of seeking mentors.

"I think the conference was really critical about what was good and what was bad," Gonzalez said.

In addition to the conference, a segment of the conference featured a center for the arts performed by Xicano Teatro. One such parody was a comedy called "Lighter Shade of Brown Band Aid." In this commercial a man with a gash on his cheek puts the white band aid, which doesn't match his skin color, that he forced to wear because there is no alternative. To the rescue comes a politely correct band aid with a gash of his own color.

Though some conference-goers said they enjoyed the anti-white sentiment, event organizers said the conference's purpose was to educate, not to segregate.

"We are trying to teach these students that there is more history than what is taught in the classroom," said Solla Martinez, business freshman and Xicano Youth Conference secretary.

"The history they learn is not their history. There is another side to the story.

ORGANICS from page 1

At Questa Co-op, a local natural foods store, manager Debby Epokes has noticed a steady increase in the number of people frequenting the store. "Business has gone up," Epokes said. "More people who come here really care and are more educated in eating right." At Foods for the Family, another natural foods store, Tom Eras has seen a "continuous increase in business" as well. "The public is realizing the country is growing constantly," Eras said.

David Simpson, owner of House of Ital, a vegetarian catering company, has noticed the growth as well. "There is a definite increase in awareness of healthy food and food that tastes good," Simpson said.

Organic farming is where it all begins. With the increase of interest in organic eating, conventional farming is being rivaled. Organic farming differs from conventional farming in that it focuses on the use of natural pesticides and fertilizers rather than synthetic chemical. Some forms of natural pesticides and fertilizers include compost, cover crops, insects, which eat the pests that destroy crops. Organic farming is healthier for the environment because the organic farmers and pests coexist. For example, the soil, said Christine Brunk, director of the Center for Alternative Agriculture.

"It's a matter of the land than a raper of the land," Seymour said, expressing his respect for the environment and organic farming. "We took a lot of the soil and brought in a commercial man with a gash on his cheek. For more information, call 544-6016 or 549-8999.

"That's not being a pest. That's being food producers," said Santa Ynez High School teacher Alfonso Gonzalez. "If you were white (and attended the conference) you had to be ashamed and I don't think that's good.

Gonzalez said he was happy students attended the conference because it instilled pride for their ancestry. When he returns to Santa Ynez High School, he said he will lead class discussions on the conference. He also said he believes the conference is important and think about the message of the Xicano Youth Conference.

"I think the conference was really critical about what was good and what was bad," Gonzalez said. In addition to the conference, a segment of the conference featured a center for the arts performed by Xicano Teatro. One such parody was a comedy called "Lighter Shade of Brown Band Aid." In this commercial a man with a gash on his cheek puts the white band aid, which doesn't match his skin color, that he forced to wear because there is no alternative. To the rescue comes a politely correct band aid with a gash of his own color.

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MUSTANG DAILY

Coverages of Cal Poly’s Women’s Week. 2000/01/10/97

MUSTANG DAILY
President Clinton
overhaul plan from

They said the IRS's continued troubles with a $4 billion comput­
er modernization program "has a
direct correlation to the abysmal
quality of the agency's service to
the nation's taxpayers."

The new computer "can't cope
with the complexities of the sys­
tem," said Rep. William Archer, R­
Texas, chairman of the House
Ways and Means Committee.

"It's not just the IRS. It's the
system that's got to be changed,
and we hope that he'll accommo­
date that," Archer said on CBS'
"Face the Nation."

Archer signed the letter along
with House Speaker Newt
Gingrich, House Majority Leader
Dick Armey, Senate Majority
Leader Trent Lott, Senate
Majority Whip Don Nickles and
Senate Finance Committee
See OVERHAUL, page 7

SPRINGFIELD - The federal
government has just said no
to a compromise in a lawsuit
seeking to prevent punishment
of doctors who recommend mari­
juana to patients.

"Doctors cannot evade the
First Amendment protects the
right of doctors and patients to
seek a medical judgment," Muller wrote
in his Jan. 30 decision.

"Forget all the nice things
McCaffrey's been saying about
medical marijuana in the physi­
cian's best medical judgment and
in the context of a bona fide
physician-patient relationship."

"AIDS - sued U.S. drug czar
McCaffrey's response, deliv­
ered Friday through Justice
Department attorney Kathleen
Muller, was blunt.

"Doctors cannot evade the
prohibitions of the Controlled
Substances Act by claiming that
they are merely providing their
patients with 'recommendations'.

Substances Act by claiming that
they are merely providing their
patients with 'recommendations'
in accordance with their best
medical judgment," Muller wrote
on Feb. 7.

Besides, she said, the govern­
ment can't agree to its dis­
cretion to bring criminal prose­
cutions, so compromise is unlike­
ly.
**Thro' the Door**

What will we do?

**RANDY DAVIS**

This summer found me wandering about in Africa. I enjoyed myself in a way that surprised even me. Sitting quietly with elephants, hitching alone back and forth between Botswana and Zimbabwe or simply sitting around a fire with friends close by and a lion's roar on the cool breeze are memories that drew me back to Africa and made it easy to take a teaching post in China for next year. Being away from America and our concerns was refreshing, and to this small boy, most exciting.

While holed up along the Zambezi River in Zambia, I enjoyed days of camaraderie, the like of which has eluded me since my youthful days. Zambia I enjoyed a few days of camaraderie, the character in an Arab ghetto today.

Since my return home Jonathon has taken a post in South Africa. He headed.

His words and then wonder where our country is headed. My complex friend sent these two quotes and I wrote of the "... emergence of civil vigilante groups (some say a front for fundamentalism)... committed to other clubs interested in displaying their achievements.

Jonathon wrote a while back that: "Big news in the world just outside our door —

**Christina Jamison**

is on display boosting their accomplishment.

Furthermore, in no way does the artwork presently adorn the U.U. walls resemble the students at Cal Poly. All of it was donated by outside artists. Works displayed in the gallery are not student-produced, either.

Therefore, I propose that students take back their U.U. By this, I mean that student clubs should demand to have their accomplishments displayed instead of the professional artwork now exhibited. The U.U. belongs to Cal Poly students, and it should reflect that ownership.

**Letters to the Editor**

Jonathon was objecting to the definition of state given by her professor. Probably more the fact that the professor said the teaching fathers were not political science majors.

The fact is, even if Laurenzas was mad about that, many words have different connotations and even different definitions in specialized fields than they do to the general public. In the areas of economics and business this is especially true. The definitions of the words we use in the classrooms are not the issue, the issue is are the instructors teaching real classes or using the class as a pulpit? I have had both types of teachers.

Some men of recent memory that have brought a lot of recognition to this school. However, nothing could all learn a lot from them.

Sure, maybe you start to think for yourself when your views get blasted, but how effective is it really? Most of us will just shut off and dismiss the guy as a typical right-wing/left-wing crackpot/extremist. This is not the best vehicle for motivation of inde­

pended thought. It just promotes a "we're right, they're wrong" mentality.

Our instructors are here to chal­

lenges that forced me to examine my beliefs and opinions of things. And if there is no challenge to my world view, chal­

lenges that forced me to examine my beliefs and opinions of things. And if there is no challenge to my world view, chal­

Let's get beyond this, stop insulting others who have different views.

Christian Jamison is a journalism freshman.
The Mustangs' next game is Tuesday against Fresno State at Fresno. They return home Wednesday to face Westmont College at 3 p.m. at Sinsheimer Park.

WOMEN from page 8

"All the matches were significant," Tam added. "They were a tough, intense team and we all played at a higher level."""

Ross said although his players didn't have their best games of tennis, each player was competitive and fought hard until the end of each match. According to Ross, So. 1 Karen Apra played a solid match, defeating a talented Kris Natica, 7-5, 8-3. He was especially pleased with Carly Kolb's and Natalie Grub's win. Kolb, who has had little practice time in the last week because of a bad knee, only gave up seven games in route to a 6-0, 6-2 victory.

"She's a great competitor and turns the intensity up even if she's not playing 100 percent," Ross said.

After a close first match, junior Natalie Grub won on a 7-6 (7-4), 6-2 victory over Dave Aylbe Hall.

"Natalie Grub played 'Grub' tennis," Ross said. "She fought hard and jerked her opponent all over the place."

In doubles play, Cal Poly won its top two doubles matches. Sevan Zenopian played with Kolb to win 8-1, while teammates Apra and Kim Westerman combined to win 8-5. The Mustangs concluded their weekend with a decisive 8-1 victory over Santa Clara, taking five of the six singles matches, and sending the visiting team into default going into doubles play.

After being down 4-1 in the first set, Apra settled down to defeat Tracy Colker 6-4, 6-3. Grubl seemed to break her opponent's spirit after a challenging 7-6 first set victory and easily won her second set 6-0. For the second time this weekend, Kolb shutout her opponent, 6-0, 6-0, giving up only two games in three matches. Tam and Westerman, playing the No. 3 and No. 5 matches, respectively, were victorious in their final matches of the weekend.

Ross was quick to point out that despite the lopsided victories, none of the wins came easy.

"All the teams this weekend were tough and real strong," he said. "We're going to have to be ready for next weekend's matches now."

Cal Poly will once again begin a three-day homestand this Friday, opening up against Portland University. Loyola Marymount will face the Mustangs Saturday, with Nevada-Reno coming on Sunday.

"It is a conference favorite and very strong with a lot of foreign players," Ross said. "We have a tough weekend ahead of us."
largest AIDS practice; Dr. Milton Estes, medical director of San Francisco's Forensic AIDS projects; and Dr. Arnold Leff of Santa Cruz, a deputy associate director for the White House drug abuse office during the Nixon administration.

San Francisco Deputy District Attorney Keith Vines is also a plaintiff. Vines, who heads the district attorney's psychiatric unit, has AIDS and smokes marijuana twice a week as an appetite stimulant.

San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan said last week that he would support last week that he would support decision making, and the quality of our productions can be improved. According to Whiteford, the proposal for the new major was forwarded to the Academic Senate, which recommended approval this past fall quarter. The next step, scheduled for March, is for the CSU Board of Trustees to review the academic master plan, which includes all current and proposed majors. If the CSU board likes the proposal, they will pass it to the chancellor's office for a more detailed review. The chancellor will check to see if there is demand for theater majors in the industry and make a decision whether or not to devote resources to the program.

The last major to be accepted at Cal Poly was psychology in 1994, as a spinoff of the human development major.

We're looking for people who look at this glass and say: "There's gotta be other glasses of water."

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TOMORROW'S THE DAY!
With all that's going on this month, don't forget to mark your calendar to meet with us and learn first hand about our challenges and rewards. You could soon be joining the ranks of recent Cal Poly grads who are now members of the Andersen Consulting team.

Information Session
Tuesday, February 11th
7:00pm - 10:00pm
The Forum on March
751 Marsh Street
San Luis Obispo

For more information, visit us on the Internet at: http://www.ac.com

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**MUSTANG DAILY**

OVERHAUL from page 3

Chairman William Roth.

Clinton has agreed that the IRS needs to manage the tax sys­
tem better but has rejected GOP proposals for a flat tax or for
replacing income tax with a national sales tax.

Jack Kemp, Bob Dole's running mate on the last fall's losing
Republican ticket and a potential presidential candidate in 2000,
said on NBC's "Meet the Press" the country should "get rid of the IRS
as we know it. We need tax reform in America so that working class
families can get true, permanent tax relief and we can get this econ­
omy growing again."

Republicans also took issue Sunday with Clinton's plans to cut
taxes by $88 billion as part of his blueprint for balancing the budget
by 2002.

Clinton's tax cuts provide a $500-a-child tax relief, tax breaks
for college students and an elimi­
nation of capital gains taxes for most people who sell their homes.

This "taps too targeted and too small," Senate Budget Committee
Chairman Pete Domenici, R-N.M.,
said on CNN's "Late Edition."

Archer too said the president's suggestions didn't go far enough.

Republicans are working about

twice as much in tax relief, and

who bigger the number the better," he

The administration's point man

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1997**

pay for their proposed tax cuts.

"We are willing to listen," Raines

said, "and we think the American

people want us to work out an agreeement here in a professional

manner."  

Clinton travels Tuesday to Capitol Hill to meet with leaders from both parties with the objec­
tive of getting budget talks in motion and working out other com­
mon legislative goals.

Domenici said that in addition to the level of tax cuts, Republicans are unhappy with

Clinton's plan because it leaves 75 percent of the savings that must be made until the last two years of the six-year budget-balancing period. It also does little to address the long-term problems of Medicare and other entitlement programs, Domenici said.

**Classified Advertising**

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**MISTER BOFFO**

by Joe Martin

**CITIZEN DOG**

by MARK O'HARE

**IN THE BLEACHERS**

By Steve Moore
Men's basketball snaps losing streak

Glad to be back in home-court territory. That's the general consensus among the men's basketball players. After four games on the road — which were split in two for a quick make-up home match against Cal State Hayward — Cal Poly returned home last weekend to start off a five-game homestand with matches against Boise State and University of Idaho.

• Men's Basketball

The Boise State Broncos added one more loss onto the Mustangs' two-game losing streak Thursday night, with a 73-66 victory. But two days later Cal Poly (11-12) pulled itself together to beat University of Idaho by 21 points, 72-51, to get back on the winning track.

Guard Mike Wozniak said he is glad the team is back to adding notches into the Mustangs' win column.

"It is good to get back on the winning track," Wozniak said. "I knew we were going to win both matches before we even stepped on the court." Larson added that he hopes the team can build off the win over Idaho and carry it into this week's games against Long Beach State and University of Pacific.

Wozniak and Larson were two players who may have stolen the limelight in Mott Gym this weekend from the rest of the team.

Against Boise State, Wozniak sank all six of his free throws, had three steals and led the team with 21 points. In the first half alone, Wozniak had 17 points. The next leading scorer on the team was forward Damien Levesque with 14 points.

Despite such a high game personally, Wozniak was just glad to get back in the winner's circle.

See WOMEN page 5

Tennis teams sweep weekend

By Kylee Karcheman Daily Staff Writer

The Cal Poly men's tennis team took to the courts Saturday beating Westmont College, 4-3, and Azusa Pacific, 7-0.

• Men's tennis

"I knew we were going to win both matches before we went out onto the court," said Tony Pirciuta, No. 2 singles and No. 1 doubles player. "But, the teams we played were better than I thought they were going to be, Westmont especially." Head coach Chris Eppright thought the Mustangs came out really flat in doubles and didn't play as well as they normally do, allowing Westmont to win in the doubles point.

"In singles we jousted pretty quick in three, four, five and six positions and beat them really easily in those spots, which was nice," Eppright said.

He added that Westmont's top two players performed well. Last year, Westmont's No. 2 player, Riva Dalhiva beat Cal Poly's No. 1 singles and doubles player, for the only loss of the match. This time Dalhiva beat Pirciuta, 6-4, 6-7, 5-7.

The rest of the team fared better, however: No. 3 singles player Jason Meyers won 6-1, 6-2; Alex Reyes, No. 4 singles player, won 6-0, 6-1; No. 5 singles player Brett Masi won 6-3, 6-0 and Nadare Izadi, at No. 6, won 6-0, 6-1.

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Mustang baseball takes two of three from Torreros

By Jennifer Cornelius Daily Sports Editor

As the saying in baseball goes, good pitching stops good hitting. This weekend's series between Cal Poly and the University of San Diego (USD) is a perfect example of strong pitching stopping solid hitting.

• Baseball

The Mustangs took two of three from the Torreros this past weekend to bring their season record to 6-1.

On Sunday, Ken Delan pitched seven innings, giving up one run on five hits to bring his season record to 2-0.

On Saturday, the Mustangs were on the other end of a great pitching performance, one by USD's Bart Miadich. Miadich gave up two hits in eight innings, with one walk and eight strikeouts. He held the Mustangs hitless through four and one-third innings. RJ Radler broke up the no-hitter with a single to left-centerfield. Friday afternoon, sophomore Mike Zirelli put a damper on USD's first game of the season with eight innings of shutout baseball.

Sunday's game was highlighted by Delan's pitching performance, but the offense also came alive in the 5-1 win. The Mustangs scored two runs early off of USD lefty Kevin Boese. Radler had two doubles and two RBIs for the Mustangs. The Torreros' lone run came in the seventh inning on a homerun by catcher Tony Betancourt.

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Wrestling

By Kylee Karcheman Daily Staff Writer

No. 6 singles player Nadare Izadi concentrates on the ball during one of his two victories this past weekend over Westmont and Azusa Pacific.

This was probably one of the more pathetic displays of tennis I have ever seen!"

• Chris Magyar

Men's tennis player on his match against Westmont

MUSTANG DAILY

By Leslie Mesi Daily Staff Writer

Consistency and aggressiveness were just two of the ingredients that gave the women's tennis team a winning recipe this weekend, and it swept all three of its opponents, bringing its overall record to 4-0.

• Women's tennis

Cal Poly opened up its weekend of winning on Friday, dominating Cal State Northridge, 9-0. Because his team is suffering from a few injuries and illnesses, head coach Rob Rios knew that each player would have to move her level of play up a notch to defeat the Matsadors.

"They fought hard and I was pleased with their positive attitudes," Rios said. "Even though the match was decided after singles they never gave up in doubles.

The Mustangs streak continued Saturday morning when they defeated U.C. Davis, 6-3. Donna Tam, playing at No. 2 singles, came out big in her third set to defeat Davis' Jessica Lowe, 6-1, 4-6, 6-3. Before the end of Tam's match, the Mustangs were up 3-2.

"Donna's win was important because it put us up 4-2," Rios said. "She fought hard, kept the intensity up, and took some of the pressure off, going into doubles.

Tams said all of the other matches were just as important.

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Daily photo by Kellie Korhonen

Mustang guard Mike Wozniak had 22 points in Cal Poly's 73-66 loss to Boise State on Thursday at Mott Gym.

Daily photo by Drew Kuhner

Wozniak was forward Damien Levesque with 14 points. Despite such a high game personally, Wozniak was just glad to get back in the winner's circle.