Meet the ‘Roomies’
Poly student’s sitcom hits the big screen — in the business building
By Louise Attard
Mustang Daily

Life in the dorms may not always be like an episode of “Friends,” but a Cal Poly student has taken the idea and turned it into his own sitcom.

Computer science senior Ben Miskie has produced a show called “Roomies,” which centers on the entertaining lives of Cal Poly roommates. The first public screening of “Roomies” is Wednesday at 5 p.m. in the Business building, room 213.

“That was something I’ve been wanting to do for a long time,” Miskie said about producing his show. “It’s kind of like ‘Friends’ except it’s situated in the dorms with college students.”

Miskie got his start by taking Humanities 410 with Richard Simon, an English lecturer and head of the humanities department. In class Miskie learned about the plot and character similarities between “Friends” and Shakespeare’s play “Much Ado About Nothing.”

When the humanities department announced it would sponsor an independent study if any students were interested in producing a sitcom, Miskie jumped at the chance.

“We were able to support him. It was a student project. It was his idea,” Simon said. “Ben showed a lot of initiative.”

The department could only give Miskie $250 to put together a show, but Miskie was able to make the dollars stretch.

“We had to pay some money to rent out the Rec Center in one scene, so that was ten bucks,” he said.

Miskie also put in a lot of his own money, like when he bought a video camera. He borrowed a second camera from the multimedia center, but it did not pro-

duce the quality he wanted.

About 10 Cal Poly students worked as actors or behind the scenes and devoted

see ROOMIES, page 2

Volunteers plant trees in some unlikely places
By Britt Fekete
Mustang Daily

Many volunteers from Cal Poly, Cuesta College, local junior high schools, grade schools and the California Conservation Corps helped plant dozens of California-native trees last fall on the Central Coast.

Lionel Johnston, an advocate for planting native trees in the area, hopes to see as many or more volunteers this year. Johnston said November is the best time to plant native trees, including live oak, tan oak, sycamore, cottonwood, maple, box elder and alder.

Johnston said planting the native trees is cru-

cial to the future of local waterways, parks and open public spaces.

“It’s not about what you want growing in a few years, but what you want growing from now on,” he said.

Trees do more than just give off oxygen and look pretty. They save water in creeks by slowing down evaporation. They provide habitat for wildlife and provide food for all species. The strong, well-established and untempered roots of an oak even prevent erosion by holding top-soil in place.

This is different than that of a Eucalyptus

see TREES, page 3

Science prof holds classes in the park
Students bond, play volleyball during Friday class off campus
By Louise Attard
Mustang Daily

David Keeling, professor of chemistry and biochemistry, has found the perfect way to develop a better relationship with his students — play volleyball with them.

Keeling said he started playing volleyball with his students eight years ago. He was teaching summer school and noticed students had more free time in the summer months. Students were also less enthusiastic with class, so he tried to think of a way to make summer more fun.

“It was so successful and they liked it and I liked it,” Keeling said of that first quarter.

Now, Keeling plays volleyball with his students every quarter, at Santa Rosa Park.

Keeling said many people may see this sort of relationship with his students as unusual.

“There aren’t that many professors that do this kind of thing,” he said.

Keeling believes the informal student-teacher relationship outside the classroom has many benefits.

“It’s a chance to interact on a more even basis. In the classroom I (as the professor) have all the advantages,” he said. Students and professors get to know each other better and “become more comfortable around each other,” Keeling said.

“I end up writing more letters of recommendation for people,” he said.

“Shy people just don’t interact in the classroom. If they come out and play volleyball for a quarter or so, each

see PARK, page 3

Football flounders
Mustangs drops to 2-6 with loss to Portland State Saturday
Sports, back page

Men’s soccer
Injured Mustangs suffer through tough Big West loss
Sports, back page

Drifting dangerously
Poly pedestrians have the right of way, so don’t run them over
Opinion, page 5

Funny Man: Computer science senior Ben Miskie, center, created a single-episode sitcom based on the lives of three Cal Poly roommates. The idea came to him after attending a Humanities 410 class when he was given the opportunity to get a little university support for producing the show.

see ROOMIES, page 2

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ROOMIES continued from page 1

their own time without getting class credit or payment. Miskie recruited many of them by hanging out at the Cal Poly Theater when the main stage plays were having auditions.

Joshua Burnett, a computer science sophomore, plays the character Billy, an agriculture major who spends more time lusting after girls than studying for classes.

"He's the ladies' man of the group," he said.

Burnett also controlled the lighting and worked as co-editor. He auditioned for a part after he heard about "Roomies" from a flyer. At first, Miskie told him he was too young to play any of the roles, so Burnett settled for working as a member of the crew. But when the opening came for somebody to play Miskie's part, Burnett asked if he could step in.

"After much arguing he agreed to the deal," Burnett said.

Miskie said it would have been too stressful for him to write, produce, direct and act.

"Joshua did a pretty good job," he said. "It was very difficult controlling everybody and acting at the same time."

Burnett said producing the show was a "feat of perseverance. ... The only way it came together was by refusing to give up and working very hard," he said.

Miskie and his friend Gavin Hartley, an accounting senior, wrote the show in 1997. It took two weeks to shoot a single episode of "Roomies" last spring in the Palomar dorms at North Mountain dorm.

That worked out well because you had dorms that were separated only by a bathroom so people could intervie," he said.

Production wasn't without frustration and delays, Miskie said. On the first day of shooting the sitcom, a circuit breaker blew in the dorm rooms because too much equipment was plugged in.

Some of the story lines of the first episode include a guy who is interested in a girl but doesn't know she's a lesbian, and a guy who grows spinach in his room using a marijuana hydroponics set. Miskie said developing ideas to create a humorous sitcom came at random.

"I think it's funny," he said. "There are some parts that are crude but it flows together rather nicely."

Miskie took his sitcom to Warner Bros. to show his friend Michael Curtis, the executive producer of "Friends," and one of the writers. Miskie said Curtis was impressed with his first attempt to produce a sitcom.

"It was real happy that he watched it," he said.

Miskie met Curtis last year when he called Warner Bros. to try to get a "Friends" writer to speak at Simon's Humanities 410 class.

"They said 'We're very busy right now making the number one TV show, I don't think anybody can talk to you,'" Miskie said, so he settled for leaving the details with the secretary.

"Maybe one of the them will call you back but probably not," was the final comment he received, so Miskie was surprised when Curtis called him back a few weeks later. Miskie said he was interested in talking to the class and came to Cal Poly last month without asking for a fee.

"Then he took Gavin and me out to breakfast and paid," he said.

Miskie and Curtis still keep in contact via e-mail.

"He's the nicest guy I know," Miskie said. "He answers any questions I have about show business."

Last year, Curtis invited Miskie and Hartley to watch a live taping of "Friends." Miskie said the cast of "Friends," met Matt LeBlanc and called to all the writers. Miskie said he nearly bumped into Jennifer Aniston in a narrow hallway.

"She was sticking her hair out," he said. "I could have bumped into her but I didn't because I'm a gentleman."

Miskie said he hasn't yet decided whether he will make another episode of "Roomies."

"It takes a lot of work, it takes an enormous amount of time and I don't think it's everybody's job to put in the time again to do another show," he said.

Miskie said for his next project he would like to produce a comedy-variety show with skits, similar to "Saturday Night Live."

Being a success in the entertainment industry is his dream, Miskie said, admitting he's not really interested in his computer science major.

"I guess you could consider computer science like waiting tables for the film industry," he said.

Some of the cast and producers of "Roomies" will be at Wednesday's screening so students can ask questions and make comments.

"I would like to see a lot of people show up and maybe get students pumped up about starting their own type of sitcom shows," Miskie said.

"Everyone has some interests in being a success in the entertainment industry," Miskie said, "and this is a great example of what students can achieve at Cal Poly."

"I think anyone who's interested in a career in television ... or anyone who's interested in the kind of projects that you can do here(should attend the screening)," he said. "It's an impressive first start. Ben's on his way."

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ROOMIES

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**TREES**

continued from page 1

tree, which is common but not native to the Central Coast. The Eucalyptus has a lot of branches and leaves, but has small, shallow roots. Therefore, it does not succeed in preventing erosion.

Johnston said the lack of the native tree is the main reason most local waterways don't function properly. He said oak and cypress trees have thrown away, Johnston said planting the trees cost next to nothing.

In 1990, Johnston, a retired ironworker, began planting trees and giving them away. He said while working in North Hollywood he realized something bad had to be done about all the barren land and dying trees. He moved back to the Central Coast and has been planting trees ever since.

"When I worked in North Hollywood, I was hiking and saw all the mashing and bashing of the land. It had taken its toll on all the places I used to go," Johnston said.

"Since coming back to the Central Coast, Johnston has worked with ECOSSL and dozens of volunteers to plant native trees all over the Central Coast. During Farmer's Market on Thursday nights, ECOSSL sets up a booth to give out information on its tree giveaway programs."

Johnston said the existing non-native trees shouldn't be cut down, but native trees should be planted in between the other. Then, when the non-native trees become diseased and die, the oak will still be growing.

The reason so many non-native trees in the area die is because they are in the wrong climate (California has a Mediterranean climate) and the top soil does not have all the right nutrients that the trees need to flourish.

"Some (non-native) trees do OK," Johnston said. "But surviving and thriving are two different things." Another problem Johnston sees with most local landscaping is the process by which the trees are being planted. Not only are the wrong trees being planted, but when the native trees are planted they are first grown in nursery containers and then put into the ground.

This, Johnston said, inhibits their potential for becoming a healthy, strong tree.

The roots of native oaks are the most important part of the tree. The roots extend deep into the ground and reach a dependable level of moisture. The oak's first years are focused on establishing a deep, sustaining root system. Then, the greater foliage above the ground can flourish. This is why when oak grows straight from a seed or acorn they do not need to be watered more than a few times a year.

Native trees, on the other hand, need to be watered and fertilized almost on a daily basis. These still sometimes don't survive because the tree has been transplanted from the nursery soil to the ground.

"The planting of native trees is difficult to legislate," said Johnston. "It has to happen by consensus and education and making the materials available. The city can have a policy about this without forcing people to plant native trees. It is a modern thing for people to be divorced from the land. It is our responsibility to take care of this."


**PARK**

continued from page 1

week ten see them open up a little more," he said.

Keeling, who teaches quantitative analysis, said volleyball is a great game to play with people of mixed abilities.

"Good players and bad players can play together," he said. "It's a good game to play with both men and women. Football doesn't work as well."

Even though it's all fun, in some cases, sometimes play competitively.

"I always emphasize that we're playing to have a good time. It's silly to worry about who wins the volleyball game (but) the overall atmosphere is very relaxed," he said.

The turnout on Friday afternoon varies depending on the student class schedules.

"Some quarters there's a bigger turnout than others. Sometimes it rains more than others," he said.

Twelve is the ideal number of players, but it usually varies between six and 20 "so people just put on the sidelines talking, perhaps playing Frisbee," he said. On Friday more than twice turned up to play volleyball.

"This is the off season when there's some problems with afternoon volleyball, Keeling said. Students with late Friday classes aren't able to attend the early games that start around 4:30 p.m. When playing volleyball, Keeling said he and his students try to avoid talking about school.

"Most weeks we are very successful. We can play volleyball without talking chemistry," he said.

Other professors are often invited to play volleyball. Pegge Rice, assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry, has been playing volleyball on a regular basis since she started at CI two years ago. She said she plays volleyball for exercise and social interaction. Rice said volleyball is a great way to encourage students to talk to their professors during school hours.

"Our department, maybe more than others, is really friendly and really student oriented," she said. "Chemistry can be a really difficult subject."

While the students that play volleyball are usually regular, new students will often come. Kristin Beckley, a biochemistry sophomore, said Friday's game was the first time playing with Keeling and the other students.

"His level of student involvement is good," Beckley said.

Chemistry senior Paul Wallace has been playing for three years. He said Keeling would offer students to play volleyball after tests and "every class session he would write it up on the board."

"I think when they serve they use their first names and you get to talk to them and learn what their interests are outside of chemistry," he said.

Leslie Stewart, a biochemistry senior, hasn't had Keeling as a professor for two years but still comes to play volleyball about once a month. Stewart is also the vice president of the Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society, for which Keeling is a faculty adviser. Stewart said she wouldn't call the students' relationship with Keeling unusual, just different.
Points of privacy

Editor: The Office of Academic Records would like to provide clarification for comments made in last week's Editorial. November's Nominated "Privacy Disguises" limits access to information," which appeared on Oct. 30, 1998.

Students at Cal Poly have the option of protecting "Locator Information" (name, local address and phone number, email address and major) or "Directory Information" (name, local address and phone number, email address, major degree and inside received, weight and height of athletic team members). The recent previous educational institution attended, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, dates of attendance, place of birth and photograph. Both of these options result in the student not being included in the ASI Directory and the online Cal Poly Directory. Neither of these options result in a student being excluded from a class list. Updates to privacy options can be made at Mustanginfo - http://www.mus­ tampinfo.calpoly.edu or at the Records Office, MCS 1272, rather than the ASI Business Office.

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Thomas L. Zuur is a registrar for the Office of Academic Records.

Halloween is for the kids

Editor: Rachel Roberson's article on the evils of Halloween was spectacular. Bravo, Rachel. I have not seen the like. The United Church of Retarded Fanatical Christians is hunting highly of crack for communion on Sundays! My lord, woman! You have a gift.

For those who didn't read Ms. Roberson's article, it made very clear that the celebration of Halloween should come to a halt because its origins come from Satan worshipers, witches and Devils. These terrible people of old killed people, terrorized women, and sacrificed virgins (but only after banging the medieval beauty senseless). Oh, the horror! The shame! Geet, obviously any group that has a history of torturing innocent people and killing them for the sake of religion or fear of a god should be ignored. Wait a minute! That would include the long tradition of Christians killing in the name of saving souls and ridding the world of witches. Never mind then.

What's that, a holiday that is somehow in conjunction with Satan? I think it's great. I think a holiday that acknowledges, and even celebrates, man's mortality and tendency to "sin" (especially when girls are running around in French maid and naughty cat costumes. Gross!!!) is very cool. Why does a Bible-thumper like you care, especially if you are only going to have a pious attitude? Heaven forbid we have one cool holiday that doesn't revolve around God or Jesus. Everybody knows Easter is lame anyway.

That last point is moot, and I only made it because I wanted to point out that Easter is lame. Any normal person, meaning those who have matured beyond the mindset of the New Testament, realizes that Halloween has nothing to do with Satan or witches. One might point out that the modern witch is more devoted to the modern Christian Fanatics' sensibilities? I say lay off this great holiday, or I'll cast a spell on your papist-pumped ass. Personally, I'm going as a dead disco queen, and one of my roommates is going as an amish-ly. The other two are going as a virgin and a Devil.

David Wagner is a graphic design junior who was raised by a pack of wolves.

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This seems to me a much more deviant way to pay one's respect to a god than sending cash to the pope or to Billy Graham.

But I digress. The point is, Halloween is a great holiday that has little to do with Satan or sacrific­ing women of 18th century England; but, about having a great time with friends and family. My family has always celebrated Halloween together in a joyful orgy of sex and blood drinking. I mean, costumes and candy. Is the little girl who is dressing as a balle­ trina or even a witch really offensive to the modern Christian Fanatics' sensibilities? I say lay off this great holiday, or I'll cast a spell on your papist-pumped ass. Personally, I'm going as a dead disco queen, and one of my roommates is going as an amish-ly. The other two are going as a virgin and a Devil.

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Page dimensions: 1064.2x1608.0

O Mustang Daily

4 Tuesday, November 3, 1998

LETTERS
Poor persecuted Christians
Editor:

I am shocked, amazed and completely stupified. Joe Demers has managed to take the senseless and tragic murder of Matthew Shepard and use it into an exposé on the persecution of Christians in modern-day America. Poor Joe. It must be terribly difficult being a Christian these days. I can't imagine how ostracized you must feel and the hatred you must encounter every day. I am so ashamed. I have been blind to your plight. Perhaps we should have a Christianity awareness week on campus in order to open the doors of communication between the student body and the Christian majority.

He wrote: "Next time you think of some persecuted group of people, who are insulted, stereotyped and have so much more than homosexuals. Think keenly into your own heart. We should have a Christianity awareness week on campus in order to open the doors of communication between the student body and the Christian majority." I'd like to thank you for that bit of wisdom. I'm sure I am amused and completely stupefied, Joe. These terrible people of old killed people, terrorized women, and sacrificed virgins (but only after banging the medieval beauty senseless). Oh, the horror! The shame! Geet, obviously any group that has a history of torturing innocent people and killing them for the sake of religion or fear of a god should be ignored. Wait a minute! That would include the long tradition of Christians killing in the name of saving souls and ridding the world of witches. Never mind then.

What's that, a holiday that is somehow in conjunction with Satan? I think it's great. I think a holiday that acknowledges, and even celebrates, man's mortality and tendency to "sin" (especially when girls are running around in French maid and naughty cat costumes. Gross!!!) is very cool. Why does a Bible-thumper like you care, especially if you are only going to have a pious attitude? Heaven forbid we have one cool holiday that doesn't revolve around God or Jesus. Everybody knows Easter is lame anyway.

That last point is moot, and I only made it because I wanted to point out that Easter is lame. Any normal person, meaning those who have matured beyond the mindset of the New Testament, realizes that Halloween has nothing to do with Satan or witches. One might point out that the modern witch is more interested in worship in the form of a peaceful interaction with nature than with flirting with Beelzebub. This seems to me a much more deviant way to pay one's respect to a god than sending cash to the pope or to Billy Graham.

But I digress. The point is, Halloween is a great holiday that has little to do with Satan or sacrificing women of 18th century England; but, about having a great time with friends and family. My family has always celebrated Halloween together in a joyful orgy of sex and blood drinking. I mean, costumes and candy. Is the little girl who is dressing as a ballerina or even a witch really offensive to the modern Christian Fanatics' sensibilities? I say lay off this great holiday, or I'll cast a spell on your papist-pumped ass. Personally, I'm going as a dead disco queen, and one of my roommates is going as an amish-ly. The other two are going as a virgin and a Devil.

David Wagner is a graphic design junior who was raised by a pack of wolves.

Letter policy

Columns, cartoons and let­ ters reflect the views of their authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Mustang Daily. Mustang Daily encourages comments on editorial policy and university affairs, but letters should be typewritten, double­ spaced, signed, include a phone number, major and class standing. They can be mailed, faxed, delivered or e­mailed to opin­ ion@mustangdaily.calpoly.edu. Shorter letters will be given preference. Letters over 400 words are discouraged.
Pedestrians face unnecessary peril when crossing the pavement

Life can be very daunting for a pedestrian. It's not the roads we fear, but the people who drive on them.

As a pedestrian, I find that people who drive can be very inconsiderate. The roads are designed not just for the use of cars, but for bicyclists and pedestrians. Crossing the road causes the most frustration between pedestrians and drivers, especially when we jaywalk. I admit, I am a jaywalker. I jaywalk when cars are zooming by on busy streets and when I'm alone on a deserted street I jaywalk when there are no traffic lights and at intersections.

Don't get me wrong. I know it's a bad habit to cross at an intersection when the "Don't Walk" signal is showing me to wait. But I can't help it, especially at the California Performimg Arts Center one day when a group of about five cars zoomed by while I stepped off the curb. One by one, none of them stopped. I sometimes think that is their way of paying pedestrians back for always darting in front of them. Fair enough.

A few times, I was almost hit by cars while crossing the street. But it was not only my irresponsibility that got me in those near-hit situations, it was the drivers, too.

Drivers are getting lazy. Once you get your license, you are forgetting all the rules mom and dad taught you. For example, some drivers are not indicating when they make a left or right turn. After looking to the right and left, how is the pedestrian supposed to know you are turning into the lane they are crossing? So somebody has to stop and let the other pass first.

It always confuses me who should go first: the pedestrian who has first dibs, unless they wave the other direction, or the driver who is holding up traffic. In my experience, the pedestrian usually has first dibs, unless they wave the driver to go through.

As a pedestrian, you can get some cool stuff on the roads. I've seen about three good curbats on the side of the road (no tires yet) and a Steamboat with the word "Free" posted on it. By the afternoon somebody had nabbed it.

Pedestrians also have to put up with lots of noise, not just from car engines but from car stereo. For a good three seconds, drivers get to share with pedestrians their loud music. I don't really mind this, but I would recommend some student doing a senior project on deafness among Cal Poly students some day.

Bicyclists can be just as bad as drivers, especially when they make use of the pavement and not the bike lane. Often I've seen bike riders on the pavement slowly approaching a distance. It's like playing chicken - who will move off to the side first.

Like drivers, pedestrians are just trying to get to their destination as quickly and safely as possible. It's a daily battle to use our share of the roads. Just remember that we do have to share.

Louise Attard is a Mustang Daily staff writer and a journalism junior.

Internet: www.rayjobs.com • E-mail: resume@rayjobs.com
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PLAHELPA (AP) — The head of the baseball umpires' union is suing on charges of sexual harassment by an employee of the company he runs.

In a lawsuit filed Friday in U.S. District Court, Geppie Wils, alleged Richie Phillips pressed her for sexual favors from 1995-1997 while she was an employee of Pilot Air Freight, Inc., in Lincon, Delaware County.

Phillips, the CEO and president of Pilot, said he never made any advances toward Wils. "There is absolutely no factual basis to any of these allegations," he told The Philadelphia Inquirer in Saturday's editions.

Wils, of Berrvny, filed complaints in October 1997 with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, the lawsuit said.

Phillips said both agencies investigated but found no merit to her complaints. Officials at both commissions said they do not release information on such complaints.

Phillips rebuffed Phillips and complained to other Pilot executives about his behavior, according to the suit. In September 1996, she was transferred from her job as human resources director to a lesser position, the suit said.

Phillips said Wils refused to pay her for the decrease in her salary as well as next week's name.

"I have to give credit to the guys on the bench," Fens said. "We had good players coming in doing a good job for us."

According to Fens, the team is facing the rest of the season one game at a time. They come up against the University of California, Los Angeles this Friday.

"Our destiny is in our hands," Fens said.

Phillips sued for harassment

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The head of the baseball umpires' union is being sued on charges of sexual harassment by an employee of the company he runs.

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Women's soccer lose, 1-0

By Thrisa Thorn

The Cal Poly women's soccer team suffered a disappointing loss against Fresno State on Sunday night. The game's final score was 1-0.

According to head coach Alex Crozier, when the goal was scored the Mustangs were playing mostly on the other team's half of the field. Crozier called the loss very disappointing. "No one really stepped up and made it happen. No one really stood out for us," Crozier said. "We had played well enough to win and we didn't".

Crozier said the team has had the same type of problem several other times this year, including during the game against University of Pacific, and most of the other games the team has lost or tied.

According to Crozier, the team really needed the win against Fresno. They are through with regular season play and the loss hurt their chances for a spot in the playoffs. They will receive word by Sunday night.

ONE STEP AHEAD: Fresno State beat Cal Poly to the ball and to the goal.

Prizes offered were an 8x10 glossy of Mark and Brian, Turkey or Beef jerky, a Campus Market Mug, and a bottle of pepsi, just to name a few. Anyone could see that stepping up to the Grand Opening celebration meant only good opportunities for easy winning.

At times the line at the prize wheel grew out as the lines inside bulged for food and drawing entry forms.

One thing that didn't go unnoticed was the amount of free samples for the different areas of food.

The Campus Market has been sailing smoothly for a few weeks now. Grand Opening aside, come in and check out the new atmosphere and food.
SPORTS

SPORTS BAR

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER
Sam Travis holds the record for most career PGA victories with 81.

CONGRATS CAROLYN THOMAS!

TODAY'S QUESTION
Who leads the Cal Poly football team in interceptions this season?

Please submit answer to: jmolan@polydm.calpoly.edu

Please include your name.

BRIEFS

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) — Three Kentucky players will sit out the Wildcats' first four games, including two regular-season games, under suspensions announced Monday by coach Tubby Smith.

The suspension of forward Murray Ashworth, guard Jason Hogon and center Jamal Magloire had been expected since June, when Smith said all three would be punished for misdeeds off the court. Smith waited until the day before the Wildcats' exhibition opener to announce the details.

"I think they were relieved it wasn't worse," Smith said of the players' reaction when he gave them the news Monday.

"I'm not surprised," said Hogon, who pleaded guilty to driving under the influence in May. "It's what I expected... I wanted to come back when I'm ready, move on and look forward to getting on with the season."

All the games to be missed are at home: Tuesday against Louisville, where the Wildcats play Kartsas today; then Dec. 29 against Indiana; Dec. 30 against Mercer.

The suspensions will be over before the Wildcats play in the Puerto Rico Shootout on Thanksgiving weekend. They have December games against Kansas, Mami, Indiana, Maryland, Duke and Georgia Tech.

Smith said Anthony will miss additional games because of academic problems and will not be allowed to travel to any first-semester road games that would cause him to miss class.

Although Smith did not list the games Anthony will miss, they could include the Puerto Rico tournament and trips to Chicago, where the Wildcats play Kansas in the Great Lakes, and Louisville, where Kentucky plays Indiana.

SPORTS

If you have refs and a clear winner, you just might be a sport

Daylight savings time must have taken more than an hour away from us this month. It appears it took away all common sense from the producers over at ESPN. At least, that's what I have to keep telling myself since tuning in last Sundaay night and finding cheerleading on America's favorite sports channel.

I know this called sport has been and always will be. But what makes me turn away was when I flipped to ESPN2 and found Magic: The Gathering Pro-Championship. It's bad enough that I can't watch any Lakers games right now, but ESPN is now showing the knife by airing crap like this. These are not sports. So what makes things like this not qualify as sports?

I believe there are four categories a person can compete in. In the top are sports, followed by leisure activities (a subset of sports, competitions and then games). A sport is any sort of head-to-head competition that has a clear winner, meaning the victor is the individual or team at the end of a game that has scored the most points or crossed the line first. There are referees to regulate but no judges involved. Soccer, basketball, baseball, football, tennis, swimming, hockey, rugby, volleyball and even ultimate disc are all sports.

Under sports fall leisure activities. Leisure activities are those that are considered sports but don't exactly require enough physical exertion to make the grade. As a friend said to me, leisure activities are anything you can do while holding your beer or while smoking a cigarette. Leisure activities have no age limit and don't discriminate when it comes to weight or sex. Bowling, billiards, lawn darts, housemates and golf all fall under this category.

Following close behind sports are competitions. Judges are the deciding factor in this category. Judges introduce bias and can change the outcome of a competition, especially the German judges in the Olympics — in a sport, this can't happen. (Some calls may be questionable, but not every single one of them.)

The one activity that stands on the line between sports and competitions is boxing. When the outcome of a match is determined by points, then it is a competition. But, when someone is knocked out, it becomes a sport. Got it?

Other competitions include gymnastics, driving, wrestling, ice skating, skateboarding, in-line skating and yoga.

On the disadvantage side of sports are games. This is where all the "gamers" come into play. Games are anything you can do sitting down. Chess, checkers, poker, table-tennis, Dangereous & Dragons and, yes, Magic: The Gathering, are all games.

Where do the players of games fall? According to Smith, anywhere in the spectrum. Everyone thinks the activity they participate in is a sport and it's hard to blame them, because the lines have become fuzzy over the years. No one knows who is what anymore. I say let the real sports air on the sports channels and leave the rest for public access or ESPN2.