Fewer students report ethnicity on applications

By Danielle Samaniego
Mustang DAILY STAFF WRITER

More and more incoming students are choosing not to specify their ethnicity on their Cal Poly applications, threatening future tracking of ethnic trends on campus.

Last week, Cal Poly's Institutional Planning and Analysis office released the latest statistics revealing a substantial drop in the ethnicity specification category. The drop could pose demographic problems in the future if the trend continues.

"I don't know if it's something post-Prop. 209 or if it's by chance," said Bonnie Knapp, research and planning analyst. "We don't know the implications, but the change was so dramatic that we decided to note it.

An estimated 13.1 percent of entering Cal Poly this year marked the “ethnicity not specified” category on their entry applications compared to just 8 percent in 1998. Although the university no longer uses ethnicity for affirmative action purposes, Knapp said it is used to see how the demographics of the university compare to the demographics of California.

If this new trend continues, meeting federal reporting requirements will become more difficult. These requirements are needed by the U.S. Department of Education for allocating funding for programs such as the College Work-Study Program, state incentive and basic education opportunity grants, direct loans to students, and supplemental opportunity grants.

Knapp could not speculate how these programs will be affected financially if students continue to avoid choosing an ethnicity.

The Census Bureau, the National Science Foundation and most state education agencies depend heavily on annual full enrollment data for such uses as economic and financial planning and policy formulation.

Cal Poly ethnic studies professor Victor Valle said the reason why students are not marking their ethnicity is because of Proposition 209, which ended affirmative action in education.

Several students supported this idea.

"I think it's a big issue, and it's a big deal, but it's also not an issue, if you don't want to report your ethnicity, you don't have to," said senior new media student Jennifer Zijac.

According to Knapp, student ethnicity on the Cal Poly application is one of the most important statistics in the planning and policy formulation area.

"It is imperative for members of the board to come out and meet faculty so they can see us," Gould said. "Too often they just hear rumors about what we are thinking.

Issues of whether the graduation requirement should be reduced, the semester vs. quarter system debate, impact on faculty salaries were addressed at the meeting.

"When you see us in reality, you have a much better perception," Gould said. "Communication is always so important.

Discussion centered on whether the calendar of all CSUs should be changed to semester. Better utilization of current facilities and a need for federal revenue were among the reasons for the change. However, the trustees told the Academic Senate that the CSU chancellor was the driving force behind the discussed calendar change.

"The chancellor holds a great deal of weight with the Board of Trustees," Goldhabe said.

The faculty also demonstrated concerns to the trustees about whether the CSU board takes individual campuses into account or thinks of the CSUs as a whole. The faculty is concerned about whether some policies on other campuses, such as the semester system, will be implemented at Cal Poly.

"There is not a cookie-cutter answer to most of these issues," Gould said. "We will have to look at individual campuses."
Quilt conveys new message in each square

By Kathryn Tschumper
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Last year a concerned group of students came together over the women who have been hurt by acts of violence. Using the art form of quilting, the "RemEmber" committee wants to make something beautiful in an effort to spread awareness about sexual violence.

RemEmber, founded in 1998, is intended to commemorate victims and to educate women, which in turn may prevent future acts of violence.

"The quilt is designed to remember all those who have been victims and survivors of sexual assault," Susanne Kelley, adviser of Women's Programs at Cal Poly, said. "It also gives survivors, friends and family a positive outlet and an avenue for healing.

The quilt, which will be exhibited during RemEmber Week, is an educational tool and another way to make people think and realize that we need to make changes and end violence against women," Kelley said.

One- and off-campus volunteers will design and construct the quilt, and the size will depend on the number of participants. Each block designed must incorporate the red hand symbol, representing a commitment to stop sexual violence.

Everyone is encouraged to donate time and supplies to the project. "Volunteers don't have to be artistic or creative to make something that has value," said Denise Campbell, special assistant to the provost for University Initiatives.

Campbell said the workshops, which are being held this month during both Women's History Month and Black History Month, will teach participants how to quilt and offer assistance from experienced quilters who will be on hand to demonstrate techniques.

During the first workshop tonight, Campbell will conduct a presentation on how quilts have been used throughout history. She said patterned quilts have been used to give signals to run-away slaves on the underground railroad and also as vehicles for women to express their views on politics and social reform before they were given the right to vote.

"Constructing a quilt takes a lot of time. Over the years it will become really special to Cal Poly and hopefully will generate discussion," Erin Daran, adviser of the S.A.F.E. program at the Women's Center, said.

According to Daran, one in four college women has experienced rape or attempted rape, and the majority are sexually assaulted by people they are familiar with.

"The perpetrators aren't usually strangers jumping out of bushes but people we actually know," Daran said.

The quilt may eventually be rotated around campus and displayed in different areas to make people aware of sexual assault and how it affects so many people.

Lori Curry, the outreach facilitator of Children's Center, said, "It would relieve a lot of frustration if students could just walk downstairs and drop off their child."

Lori Curry
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VITA
continued from page 1

quarter. "One of the things I get excited about is watching them from the beginning to the end. They really know what they're doing, and they not only have great tax skills, but they have great leadership skills as well," she said.

After the students received training in January, they were required to pass a test to continue participation. To ensure accuracy, the returns are reviewed by certified tax preparers before they are sent off.

"In the last nine years, we've probably had five people who have come back to us with an error," Cen said.

About 45 students volunteered last Wednesday, and Huber estimates that about 30 to 40 returns were filed.

Unfortunately, some returns don't go as smoothly as Huber's did. One team worked for four hours to finish one return. Another team handled a return. Another team handled a return. Another team handled a return. There were many other returns.

"I've done it myself the last two years," DeRouen said. "I just take it to the office and let them do it."

"You don't have that," said English freshman William Gottschalk. "I go to the office, fill it out, and they do what they want with it." Gottschalk's on Saturdays from 2 to 5 p.m.

"It's easy," joked DeRouen. "I've done it myself the last two years, and it's easy."

The service is offered at two locations. The San Luis Obisp site is at Broad and Tank Farm Road, in the Marketgoud next to First Bank of San Luis Obisp.

Until March 15, students can go to Marketgoud on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m. Students can also visit the Santa Maria site at the upper level of the mall near the Gottschalks on Saturdays from 2 to 5 p.m. Appointments are not needed at either location.

Students should bring their 1998 tax return and all 1999 tax documents.

"The client interaction is key," Huber said. "You have to interact with a client who isn't necessarily going to understand what you're talking about because they don't have much money (and would qualify)."

Most students agree that the service is a good idea, but they already have a set way of filing their taxes.

"Lacklily my dad does mine for me, but it's pretty cool for people who don't have that," said English freshman Nicki Geogoton. "It sounds like a good idea, especially since it's free."

Business freshman Bianca DeRouen said she has a friend volunteering for the VITA program. "I think I'm going to have him do it for me, just to make him feel important," joked DeRouen. "I've done it myself the last two years, and it's easy."

UCLA joins USC to oppose anti-gay marriage initiative

"Even if people don't support homosexuality, this proposition is a threat to justice everywhere."

Sarah Emerson
USC student

 aren't the same as yours," Ward said. "I don't like being thought of as a second-class citizen."

Knights, who is from Palmdale, has a strong record for being conservative and has both a brother and a son who are gay.

"I don't agree with the gay lifestyle," Knight told Times in August. "The thing I find objectionable about it is their sexual activity, and secondly that they're asking me to accept them and their lifestyle as normal. And it's not. I make a judgment, yeah, I think everybody should."

Levine said he does not know of any campus organizations that support the initiative and that the initiative is the Gay and Lesbian Law Union. Campus Democrats, Women's Student Assembly, Student Action Coalition, GLBTA and others.

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"If we make ethnicity a choice, then ethnicity is a very much a question of self-definition," he said.

Valle believes that ethnic categories such as "Hispanic" or "Asian" are too generalized, making the choices less desirable.

"Ethnic labels are always dynamic. They're always fluctuating," Valle said. "Ethnic labels and self-definitions are very much a question of self-definition." He said.

"If federal and state reporting patterns change," Knapp said, "we're going to follow along with that."

Valle suggested considering different methods regarding the ethnicity question.

"We could become more creative when we take this information from students," he said. "We could create other questions that produce a similar result, which don't racialize people but at the same time measure the legitimacy of inequality."

The latest Poly View statistics can be viewed at www.calpoly.edu/-instal/info_br/br_toc.html.
Be a positive example to young people

I remember sitting on my bed, my stomach bubbling, and my heart pounding this time until my father got home. I can still see that old Blue Honda Accord coming around the corner, pulling up in the driveway in front of my house.

I knew that once my father was in the house, it would only be a few minutes before he and I had a little one-on-one chat.

Yes, I'm sure everyone has been there: a bad report card in the mail, an account of your actions in class, a forged signature on a detention slip or teacher note, and last but not least, the phone call from Mr. Principal or Mrs. Teacher giving the old, "Your kid is not doing well in my class." I'd known this was due. I'd really need a lecture, or a speaking, or sometimes even a combination of the two. Then I'd sit there, either crying because of the pain or taking cries just to end it.

Sometimes those lectures hurt more than the actual spankings.

I know everyone has heard those famous lines out of their parent's mouth, "This is going to hurt me more than it hurts you," or the Palmarine Price-winning, "I'm only doing this because I love you.

Nowadays some parents use this thing called "time-out." I'm in awe of parents who actually sit and see their parents ask their kid, "Hey Danny, you want a time-out?" (as the kid runs around yelling or asks mom to buy them a snack) or a pack of Bubble Yum bubble gum). I either laugh to myself or laugh out loud. I kind of wish that I saw a tree beside a snowman. Just one well and that solves the problem. Hey, whatever works.

What kills me is so spoiled, disrespectful teens aren't caring of their parent or guardian in public. I know you have seen it too. I mean plain, down and our silly kids talking back to their parents, telling them what to do and where to go. I'm sure! I've seen everything from little boys referring to women as female dogs to little girls trying to look and act way too old, way too soon.

Discipline must be taught to our little brothers and sisters at home. If you have little cousins and nephews, teach them the basics regarding their elders holding the door for someone walking behind them; saying "yes sir" or "yes ma'am" in some instances; communicating to friends without cursing or using foul language; respecting the opposite sex, having manners at the dinner table; knowing what's good from what's bad; knowing the concept of what a true friend is; being honest; and just treating everyone with good old-fashioned respect.

I appreciate the discipline I received from my parents. When I was younger, my father put a ban on me and my sisters that reads, "NO GAIN, NO GAIN!" This banner had so many meanings, and today I can appreciate those few words in so many different ways.

Dennis Johnson

Editorial

The following is an opinion piece written by a student of Mustang Daily. It is not necessarily reflective of the views of Mustang Daily. Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanities and length. Mustang Daily encourages comments on editorial policy and university affairs. Please limit length to 150 words. Mustang Daily will not necessarily reflect those of Mustang Daily.

Dennis Johnson

A journalism senior.

Letters to the editor

Drake needs to check facts

As faculty adviser for the Cal Poly College Republicans, I would like to clarify an issue raised by student Edward Drake in his letter to the editor. Mr. Drake states that the College Republicans received a large financial donation (see below) and "sounded around and gave that money to Blakely's opponent." Mr. Drake has been misinformed. The money the club received has been used for the club's free barbecues and the vote efforts.

Secondly, the editorial by Tamas Simon and the posters featuring Tamas' article on David Blakely have no affiliation whatsoever with the Cal Poly College Republicans. Tamas may be the club president, but it is very clear on all the materials that he is speaking as an individual, which is certainly his right.

Yesterday, Tamas Simon was contacted by the Mustang Daily and was told that an "anonymous tip" had been made regarding the donation by David Weyrich to the College Republicans. Our records are accurately on file with the County Clerk as requested by law, and this is all public information. Nonetheless, I was curious as to why anybody would be "digging dirt" on the club at this particular point in time.

When you request information from the County Clerk, you sign a log. A call to the County Clerk's office revealed that it was David Blakely himself who personally requested the financial records of the Cal Poly College Republicans. He could have saved himself a lot of Mission Impossible skullduggery by simply giving me a call. I would have told him what he wanted to know. I do not know if Mr. Blakely was the "most anonymous tipster" or whether Mr. Drake or others were acting on his behalf.

Regardless, it is unseemly and demeaning for a candidate to seek around trying to dug dirt on a student club simply because a member of that club had criticized him. Mr. Blakely keeps saying he is keeping to the high road and he's very quick to accuse others of "negative campaigning and dirty tricks." I hope he begins to practice what he preaches.

Laura Feberg

A psychology professor.

Baker is a good college CEO

In response to the many articles and opinions on President Baker's use of Associated Students Inc. funds, I believe he has done what is best for the future of Cal Poly. Dr. Baker is a visionary who makes decisions that will reach far beyond the transient student populations. I support Dr. Baker's decisions, and I believe in his leadership. He doesn't have time to "shump with students," as one article suggested, neither should he answer to students. If you want to talk to him, make an appointment. If it takes awhile because he has a busy schedule, understand that any CEO of any major corporation is not readily accessible. If you have a problem with this, then graduate in four years and forget all about this issue. Once we are working and dealing with the realities of our chosen professions, we will only vaguely remember this decision.

I have had the pleasure of talking with Dr. Baker "one on one." He cares about the welfare of students and the future of our university. I have seen him lagged and suffering from jet lag (Dr. Baker travels extensively to raise funds for the university). The years of fund raising and great responsibilities have been hard on him. I suggest we look at the big picture and share his vision. We will all make unfavorable decisions as supervisors, managers, design team leaders, etc. Where will this university be in 20 years? Yeah, I think about, not your problem. It's easy to throw stones at a passing truck from a freeway overpass.

Jerry Burge

A graduate student.
NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED WRITER TO SPEAK AT CAL POLY

By Adam Jarman
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Ernest Gaines didn't enter a public library until he was 16 years old. Since that 1949 introduction to literature, Gaines has become a nationallyacclaimed writer, Pulitzer Prize nominee, lecturer and role model to those facing adversity.

Gaines, a San Francisco State graduate, will read from his current works at 7 tonight in the Cal Poly business lecture hall.

“We're incredibly fortunate that Ernest Gaines will speak at Cal Poly,” said Harry Hellenbrand, dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

Gaines has said that his determination to be a writer grew from that first time he entered the library in Vallejo, Calif. It wasn't just what he found there that inspired him, but what he could not find from significant African-American writers and their stories of an oppressed people.

Hellenbrand said Gaines filled this void. “He has the rarest of gifts: He knows how to invest the plight of the common people — in many cases, poor blacks in the rural south — with universal significance,” Hellenbrand said.

Gaines started work that year at age 16 on "Catherine Carmier," which became his first success when the novel was published in 1964. This was followed with a 1967 collection of short stories titled "Bloodline."

But, Gaines didn't become well-known until Cicely Tyson played the leading role in the television production of his "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman." Since then, both "A Gathering of Old Men" and "A Lesson Before Dying" have been recreated as television movies.

Most of Gaines' works take place in the segregated South of the '40s and '50s, a scene Gaines knows very well. He grew up the oldest of four children, living in former Louisiana plantation slave quarters during the '30s and '40s. A one-room elementary school, named church for the Sabbath, taught black children through the sixth grade; he went to seventh and eighth grades at a nearby Catholic school, but there was no high school for black children at that time in his hometown of Point Coupee Parish.

In 1948, Gaines came to California to attend high school, after which he went to community col-

see GAINES, page 8
Mike McCourt's 'Angela's Ashes' is the memoir of a young McCourt and his family, struggling to stay alive during the poverty-stricken '30s and '40s. The story leads us through the family's move from New York back to Ireland, the death of numerous children and their starvation and frustration. We are shown the alcoholism of his father (Robert Carlyle), constant unemployment and his habit of drinking away any money the family can use for food.

We are shown his mother, Angela (Emily Watson) undying devotion to her children and utter isolation from her unsuccessul husband. Every significant part of McCourt's life is recreated so we sit comfortably interested in our seats. Somewhat, the subtleties of his tragedies and triumphs are overlooked, and his passionate story seems shown and not told.

The movie, which uses voiceover narration, still fails to convey the lyrical language and energy that seemed to captivate book reviewers and readers. The film does have its sly moments, causing the audience to smile and let out a little laugh at the comic references made about the Irish Catholic way, the stubborn grandmother's comments or the cute things the little boys do. In the end, the viewer is left with the feeling that McCourt's sense of humor is lacking, and so is his personal touch. The movie is nicely cast with McCourt's character played by three different actors (Joe Brown, Ciaran Owens and Michael Legge) at different stages of his life. Perhaps the most remarkable performance is given by Watson, who sadlly and successfully portrays a mother's loyalty, strength and loneliness despite her hellish hardships. These characters do evoke a certain sympathy from viewers but never really reach out and pull us in. Viewers may not be bored by the story — just unmotivated.

The images created by cinematographer Michael Serers were effective in showing the rainy, dreary and fairly depressing pad­dle-filled town of Limerick, Ireland. The lack of coal for the stoves and the fire and food for the children is loud and clear. It is evident how uncomfortable this family's life was, but Parker's attempt to re­alistically convey their suffering just isn't dramatic enough. We want to get closer to the family and to feel deeply for them through their trou­bles, but we are kept back by a cer­tain distance in the writing. 'Angela's Ashes' is an honorable attempt at an adaptation, and the nostalgic account carefully captures the bitterness of McCourt's struggles, but not his heart.

Cowboys Junkies release rarities CD, start new indie label and Web site

(CWIRE) — For over a decade, the Cowboy Junkies have been consistently putting out emotionally rich music. On the heels of their latest release, "Framed, B-Sides and Shout, Sad Waltzes," the release of their own label, Latent Recordings, and the launching of their own Web site, the band is touring the Northwest.

Michael Timmons, guitarist and principle songwriter for the band, says that even after all of their years on the road, touring is still the most important thing they do.

"(Touring) keeps the hand very comfortable, it's a good format to work out new material." On this tour, Timmons says the band is working out some new mate­rial for their upcoming album. "We're carrying a lot of new songs with us; we'll be doing a lot of them at every show," Timmons says. "We haven't worked out new material live in a few years. We used to do that all the time. We wanted to get back to playing some things live before recording them."

Timmons assures fans that what they see on the site has been generated by them and not by a press agent. "If you go to that site, you're not dealing with a record agent or any intermediaries; you're dealing directly with us," he says. "We're very proud of it.

"If you go to that site, you're not dealing with a record agent or any intermediaries; you're dealing directly with us," he says. "We're very proud of it."

Timmons welcomes the exchange of bootlegged concert tapes on the Web site and thinks most other bands would as well.

"Mostly I think it's the record labels that squelch (bootlegging)," see JUNKIES, page 8

By Jillian Wienda

‘Ashes’ film lacks McCourt's powerful voice and emotion

"Angela's Ashes" is the memoir of a young McCourt and his family, struggling to stay alive during the poverty-stricken '30s and '40s. The story leads us through the family's move from New York back to Ireland, the death of numerous children and their starvation and frustra­tion. We are shown the alcoholism of his father (Robert Carlyle), constant unemployment and his habit of drinking away any money the family can use for food.

The novel, written about Frank McCourt's life, is recreated as we sit deeply for them through their trou­bles, but we are kept back by a cer­tain distance in the writing. 'Angela's Ashes' is an honorable attempt at an adaptation, and the nostalgic account carefully captures the bitterness of McCourt's struggles, but not his heart.
Santa Barbara International Film Festival honors big stars, showcases foreign films

By Kirsten Orsini-Meinhard

Santa Barbara will transform into a hub of movie talent with the start of the 15th annual International Film Festival, running March 2 -24. Dubbed "Gateway to Hollywood," the festival mixes the works of rising filmmakers with old Hollywood stars when their films grace the screens of Santa Barbara theaters during the 11-day event.

This year's festival honors Anthony Hopkins and Whoopi Goldberg for their extensive and tireless work in the film industry, said Lloyd Rivers, director of promotions. Both actors will be present when their films, "The Remains of the Day," starring Hopkins, and "Scarfies" from New Zealand, are shown.

Other films from the United States include "The Price of Glory," a children's film that explores the story of a World War II veteran. Among the international films, "Recent Memories" from Argentina and "My Day," starring Hopkins, will be featured.

"This is not only a film festival, but an event that gives recognition to the best films and directors," said Andrea Sanchez, the festival's assistant director. "It's a huge benefit for the artists who are represented."

Tickets can be purchased in advance for $7.50 or at the door. For questions e-mail the festival at info@sbfilmfestival.org.

"Raise the Red Lanterns," a Chinese film screening at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival, explores the oppressive Chinese society. The festival brings rarely seen foreign films to the United States.

By Terri Holden

"I picked these songs mainly because they're interesting tunes that are not particularly mainstream," Barthal said. "It's really a lot of improvisation."
Timmons says. "I think if you ask most bands, they'd say they're happy to have people record shows, that what they're trying to do is get their music around." 

Timmons also dismisses record company concerns about bootlegging. "The old record company position is that if a fan buys a bootleg, that he's not going to put that money towards buying an official album, and that's wrong," Timmons says. "People that are into it hard enough to actually want to get hold of a bootleg are definitely big enough fans that every couple of years they're going to go out and buy your record."

The other big way that the group is working independently of record companies is by rebuilding their own label, Latent Recordings. Timmons hopes that soon they will be able to release work from other artists on the label as well.

There are pros and cons to working on an independent label. "The obvious pro is that there's absolutely no one else you have to battle with," Timmons says. "You're in complete control of what you do. The bad thing is that it's a world run by huge corporations, and you can't compete on their label. More and more, these corporations are closing down the avenues which you use to get to your audience."

Even while they're working hard to provide avenues for themselves and other artists to work independent of big record companies, the Cowboy Junkies are still working on new material. "We're recording (our next album) kind of piece meal," Timmons says. "We come off the road, and we go into the studio for a week or so. As for when we'll release it, we're not sure. At this point, we probably won't release it until early next year, after Christmas."

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**GAINES continued from page 5**

lege and served in the U.S. Army before finding his way to San Francisco State. After earning a degree there, he was awarded a Wallace Stegner Fellowship in Creative Writing to study at Stanford University. Subsequent honors include a 1971 Guggenheim Fellowship and 1993 MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. "A Lesson Before Dying" was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and won the National Book Critics Circle 1993 Best Fiction Award. It was also selected for Oprah Winfrey's Book Club in October 1997. "He is, without doubt, one of the most important writers of historical and social fiction in America since WW II," Hellenbrand said.

Gaines currently lives in Lafayette, La., where he teaches each fall at the University of Louisiana in his lifetime position of Writer-in-Residence. Tonight's program is sponsored by Cal Poly WriteSpeak, the College of Liberal Arts, the Black Student Union and the Black Faculty and Staff Association.

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**JUNKIES continued from page 6**

"The old record company position is that if a fan buys a bootleg, that he's not going to buy your record."

Within a couple of years they're going to go out and listen to the radio, and hear about the music. "Another thing that gets to me is, that it's a world run by huge corporations, that it's a world run by huge corporations, and you can't compete on their label. More and more, these corporations are closing down the avenues which you use to get to your audience."

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**Making a difference has always been a matter of applying yourself. Here's where to apply.**
Letters to the editor

Why put trust in God? Editor,

I am not a Christian. Neither am I a Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu, Jain, Zoroastrian, Jew, Taoist, neo-Pagan or Wiccan. Don't get me wrong, I find religious belief interesting from a psychological, historical, mythological point of view. Moreover, I respect the proponents of such systems of belief so long as I respect the beliefs of others.

Consequently, when someone thinks he or she has THE answer, to the exclusion of all other possible answers, I get annoyed. Hence, Barnaby Hughes' recent commentary 'Make In God we trust' have significance" (Feb. 8) annoys me.

The tone of this divinite treatise is presumptuous arrogant even though Hughes admits that his God is not partial to such sentiment; In any case, even if I allow that Hughes is changed without the aid of God, without changed their lives because of God. Certainly, with reference to divine worship, it still remains the case that he is addressing the non-believing reader along with the faithful. In that case, I challenge him to dig deeper. Give me a reason, Hughes, to do as you do. Pious exhortations alone will not suffice.

You may interpret that you have given someone like me reasons to see your light. You tell me that countless AA members have changed their lives because of God. Certainly. Why put trust in God?

Consequently, when someone thinks he or she has THE answer, to the exclusion of all other possible answers, I get annoyed. Hence, when someone pithily suggests, "You may even have some success, but it will be nothing compared to the kind of success that you can achieve with God as your guide," as Hughes does, I get annoyed.

Ron McCorrie is a philosophy senior.

Don't ride through life on 'Who you know' philosophy Editor,

When I read Evan Sim's letter about local students deserving priority admission and praise "for putting up with non-locals" (Feb. 9), I couldn't help but respond. As a student who moved here five years ago from the Central Valley, I've heard all the gripes and complaints from locals about us foreigners.

Sim's has every right to support a policy that entitles priority admission to locals. If there was a policy that entitled 5-4 journalism seniors who like chocolate-chip-cookie-dough ice cream and Harry Connick Jr. to priority admission, I'd be excited at first. However, I'd be ashamed to support such a policy for the same reason I don't support affirmative action even though I am a minority. An ethnicity, ice-cream preference or zip code shouldn't dictate the student's importance.

Sim argues that it's perfectly acceptable to capitalize on the phrase, "It's not what you know, it's who you know" to get by because that's how the real world works. If Sims lives by that end, then there is nothing wrong about getting an education. Why not use your personal contacts to get by in the world, because what you're learning apparently doesn't matter? Besides, Cal Poly's word on campus constitutes a "local." How many present-day residents can claim their ancestors settled to San Luis Obispo County during Manifest Destiny? And what part of California is considered "local"? Even though I grew up two and a half hours away from here, that seems close to San Luis Obispo when someone from Guam looks at a map.

If local students have a greater respect for the town, then the many complaints from the locals about not having enough to do in this area refute that argument. Many locals aspire to move to the big cities even though Sims thinks the big cities "suck."

I think the biggest argument Sims overlooked is how much locals actually contribute to this area. San Luis Obispo's economy would wither without nonlocals. Many jobs for the locals' parents wouldn't even exist. And without nonlocals, Cal Poly's enrollment would drop fast that priority registration wouldn't even be necessary. Cal Poly wouldn't be so popular because in today's world of cutthroat nonlocals that helps keep this school thriving.

Nanette Pietroforte is a journalism senior.

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models through dealers like Dodge, Porsche and Corvette, Duncan said the Viper she drove in the Rolex 24 was worth roughly $320,000.

"Just to finish is a huge feat," Duncan said.

"Out of the 82 cars that started the race, only 30 finished. Though her team placed sixth, it was the first non-factory sponsored team to finish. Three teams in the top five were also driving Vipers, but drove them with the advantage of sponsorship by Dodge. Duncan's team operated on about one-fourth of the other Viper teams' budgets.

Racing is an Duncan's blood. Her dad took her to her first NASCAR race when she was 9 years old. It was at Sears Point Raceway near San Francisco and it was when Duncan knew what she wanted to do when she grew up. "I was totally hooked on the speed and the adrenaline," Duncan said.

At the age of 16, she went to racing school and began racing a Mazda RX-7. 1999 was the inaugural year for the Women's Global GT Series through which Duncan got involved in the American Lemans series. The Lemans series prepared her for various aspects of racing life, including physical and mental testing and breakdowns as part of preparation for being in the media spotlight.

Duncan was one of the top seven women invited to race in the series. She won one pole and qualified on the pole at Laguna Seca.

Her racing skill has landed Duncan in various racing magazines and on the front page of USA Today's sports section.

Juggling racing and academics is a major feat in itself, but Duncan isn't letting one interfere with the other. "I mass, on average, three weeks per quarter," Duncan said. She is currently enrolled in 11 units and hopes to graduate next fall.

Duncan's ultimate goal is to compete in the NASCAR Winston Cup Series. That means driving stock cars and adjusting from a road track to an oval track. "It's going to be hard to get into NASCAR because it's a good-old-boy system," she said. Thus far there has never been a successful female competitor in NASCAR.

"A lot of girls I know who race prefer an open wheel (formula car)," Duncan said, though she prefers to drive stock and sports cars. "I like having fenders and doors," she said.

Duncan is able to apply principles she is learning at Cal Poly to her passion. "It totally helps me to know about dynamics, motion and physics. It helps to be able to understand what the car is doing and why. "If I can't make it as a driver, I'd like to be an engineer for a race team."

At the age of 21, Allison Duncan is already fast on her way to success in the auto-racing world.
Big West shakeup

Northridge and Riverside in, New Mexico State out

By Joe Nolan
MUSTANG DAILY MANAGING EDITOR

Cal State Northridge and UC Riverside accepted invitations to join the Big West beginning July 1, 2001, the Big West Conference announced Wednesday.

In a telephone press conference, Long Beach State President Robert Maxson, chair of the Big West Conference Board of Directors, also announced that New Mexico State and North Texas will be leaving the conference at the culmination of spring quarter athletics. They will join the University of Nevada, which will also be leaving the Big West after this year. Boise State will leave the conference after the 2001-2002 season.

The two new additions follow the decision that Big West has been pushing for, a California-based conference with an emphasis on similar sports. Before, the main difference was some programs offered forthcoming while other sports did not.

"I think the move makes us more competitive," said John McCarthy, Cal Poly Athletic Director. "Big West football has always been such an important role in television contracts and Bowl games, but it wasn't one that the whole conference was concerned with. Now we can focus on men's and women's basketball, volleyball, baseball and softball; sports that all of the schools have a chance at.

The Big West will also emphasize its rivalry. With UC Irvine, Cal State Fullerton, UC Santa Barbara and Long Beach State, there's a lot of potential for games in the Big West.

It was also announced that the Big West men's and women's basketball tournaments will be held in the Anaheim Convention Center starting in 2001. It is a three-year contract

defeat of University of Pacific last week scoring 14 points, four assists and three steals.

"I saw a lot of excellent penetrator, and he's got great size," Cal Poly head coach Jeff Schneider said. "You've got to get in between him and the basket. We'll use the press and rotate our guards to guard him."

The Mustangs plan to run a full-court press defense from the start of the game in order to force quick turnovers and avoid the slow downs that have plagued the team.

"We haven't been starting quickly enough," Schneider said. "We're going to be pressing early in the game to try to prevent the slow start.

Irvine's game plan is to keep playing their style and try to avoid getting into a shotout with the dangerous Mustang offense.

"We don't really see this as a must-win game," Irvine head coach Pat Cory said. "We just try to improve every week, and lately we've played well. We just haven't gotten many wins.

Schneider also hopes that the insertion of forward James Grace III and guard Mark Campbell into the starting lineup will help balance the team. This allows forward David Farrell said the conference will be

BASKETBALL
continued from page 12

Thu 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Fri 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sat 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

By Dan Connolly/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Chris Bjorklund leads the Mustangs, averaging 19.6 points a game.

Rebounding continues to be a focal point for the Mustangs. Schneider said the key is having that number contribute on the boards. Both teams have struggled rebounding this season, with the Mustangs getting outrebounded by more than four boards a game and the Anteliers losing the battle by two.

"We'll get our rebounds around the basket," Schneider said. "But our perimeter players have to make the difference (on the boards)."

At least these two teams can make their free throws. The game features two of the top three free-throw shooting teams in the Big West. Irvine leads the conference at 74 percent and Cal Poly ranks third at 72 percent.

The game starts at 7 p.m. in Mott Gym.

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"Green's an excellent penetrator, and he's got great size," Cal Poly head coach Jeff Schneider said. "You've got to get in between him and the basket. We'll use the press and rotate our guards to guard him."

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Schneider also hopes that the insertion of forward James Grace III and guard Mark Campbell into the starting lineup will help balance the team. This allows forward David Farrell said the conference will be current with all of the teams.

Farrell said the conference will be

"I'll take the role that's best for the team," Henry said. "Once I get in the game, I've got to hit my open looks and make them fall." Cal Poly holds a definite advantage over the Anteliers in Mott Gym. Irvine has never beaten the Mustangs on the road, and trails Cal Poly in their all-time series 7-5.

The game starts at 7 p.m. in Mott Gym.

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Sports

12 Thursday, February 10, 2000

Do-or-die time for Mustangs

By Matt Sterling

MUSTANG DAILY ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Mired in a five-game losing streak, the men's basketball team needs nothing less than a victory against UC Irvine tonight to keep hopes of a trip to the Big West Conference Tournament alive.

Despite starting Big West play 1-7, the Mustangs are only two games behind Cal State Fullerton for the final playoff spot. Irvine comes into the game with a 2-6 league record but features one of the more talented players in the Big West, guard Jerry Green.

Green, last season's Big West freshman of the year, is avera-
ging 17.7 points per game, putting him sixth in the Big West in scoring. He played a huge role in Irvine's

see BASKETBALL, page 11

Tiger Woods: golf super hero

All right, so you still wear Batman underwear and sleep in your Green Lantern bed sheets, but it's time to move on. Grow up, please. Forget Flash Gordon, and stop playing with your Spiderman action figure in the bathtub. Get over it. Tiger Woods is the newest and coolest super hero around.

It's obviously he's getting, as Matchbox 20 would say, a funky high off this yellow sun. But lately, Woods has been insane. He's just won a 3.5 million payday super hero

see ARNS, page 10

Cal Poly's speed racer

By Teresa Wilson

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Cal Poly mechanical engineering senior Allison Duncan can be seen cruising around town in a little 1970s MGB. It's sports in appearance, but not exactly built for speed. Her second car is built for speed.

Duncan drives a sports car. A racing sports car. And she drives it really fast.

"It was awesome," Duncan said after she and her team placed sixth in the Rolex 24 at Daytona, Fla., Feb. 3 to 4. The 24-hour event is touted as "the world's greatest sports car race."

As a member of an international team of drivers, Duncan was the only woman on her team and the youngest of only three women out of all 120 competitors in the event.

Duncan spent two days prior to the race getting to know her teammates who came from England, South Africa and Italy, and the course on which they would be racing in a Dodge Viper GT.

During the race, the team was able to drive an hour at a time before needing to refuel and change tires. Duncan said members took two-hour shifts so the other drivers had a chance to sleep. Duncan admitted to being too wired with adrenaline to sleep much and only got about two hours during the entire race.

As a major event in the world of sports car racing, Duncan shared the track with hundreds of world-class racers, including Wayne Taylor and Ron Fellows. At the age of 75, actor Paul Newman was the oldest racer to compete.

"I was told I was walking around with a 'deer in the headlight' look," she said. Driving speeds in excess of 190 mph in a car with 700 horsepower coupled with the atmosphere and the caliber of the competition made it "definitely an experience of a lifetime."

One of the draws of sports car racing is that the cars driven are supposedly available to the public as street cars. Duncan's MGB is one such car. According to her, the only reason she can legally drive it is because "it's owned by a friend."

Despite the potential to drive fast and the excitement of sharing the track with some of the world's best racers, the team was not particularly successful. They finished sixth.

Sports Trivia

Yesterday's Answer:

Jackie Slater was the former Los Angeles/St. Louis Ram who has played more games than any other offensive lineman. Congrats Fred Friedman!

Today's Question:

Fran Tarkenton played quarterback for Minnesota and which other NFL franchise?

Scores

WRESTLING
Cal Poly 9
Fresno State 28

Briefs

49ers release Lee Woodall

SANTA CLARA, (AP) — Two-time Pro Bowl linebacker Lee Woodall and defensive end Marvin Washington were released Wednesday and the departure of Pro Bowl safety Tim McDonald appears imminent. All part of the San Francisco 49ers efforts to reduce their bloated player payroll.

By letting Woodall and Washington go, the 49ers saved about $1 million against the cap. The 49ers remain about $13.5 million over the projected $62.5 million salary cap. The team must be in compliance with the payroll limit by midnight EST Thursday. Failure to abide by the cap limit could result in an NFL-imposed $1 million-per-day fine.

see DUNCAN, page 10

Senior Allison Duncan celebrates a second place finish at Laguna Seca. 

see ARNS, page 10

Schedule

TONIGHT
• Men's basketball vs. UC Irvine
  • in Mott Gym
  • 7 p.m.

FRIDAY
• Baseball vs. San Jose State
  • at San Jose
  • 2 p.m.
• Women's basketball vs. Long Beach State
  • at Long Beach
  • 7:30 p.m.
• Wrestling vs. San Francisco State
  • in Mott Gym
  • 6 p.m.
• Wrestling vs. Stanford
  • in Mott Gym
  • 7 p.m.

SATURDAY
• Men's basketball vs. Cal State Fullerton
  • in Mott Gym
  • 7 p.m.