Robbery suspect surrenders after standoff

Cal Poly Police find car leading to arrest

By Danielle Samaniego
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

An unarmed bank robbery led to a three-hour standoff at a residence near Murray and Broad streets in San Luis Obispo Thursday afternoon.

Police officers barricaded an estimated four-block radius between Chorro and Murray streets and Broad and Serrano streets after Mark Ward took refuge at 82 Broad Street around 11 a.m. Ward is the only suspect in the Westamerica Bank robbery.

The robbery took place around 10 a.m. Thursday at 145 Higuera St. The male suspect verbally coerced a teller to give him an unspecified amount of cash.

During an on-scene press conference, San Luis Police Chief James Gardiner said he had no idea if Thursday morning’s robbery was in connection with the previous three bank robberies in the county within the last two weeks.

The suspect vehicle was spotted on Chorro Street by Cal Poly Police Investigator Ray Bernet, who then notified city police.

“SLPD put out a Be on the lookout ‘I drove out to look around,’ said Bernet.

Two females were apprehended when police arrived at the car. One female tipped police officers to the Broad Street location where Ward was hiding, Gardiner said.

Officers chad in bulletproof jackets and an armed gun and then got weekly surrounded the house. Authorities were unsure whether or not Ward was armed at the time. At one time was tossed into the home after police broke a window to make communications. An unidentified ex-wife was brought to the scene to coerce Ward out of the house.

“This was not his residence, and we don’t know who it belongs to,” Gardiner said.

Ward surrendered and emerged from the home at approximately 3 p.m. Armed officers immediately led him to a nearby police vehicle. No one was injured during the standoff.

“I’m always happy when negotiations settle something without somebody getting hurt,” Gardiner said.

Along with the San Luis Police Department, the Cal Poly Police, FBI, Sheriff’s department and CHP collaborated to end the standoff.

“One of the good things about this county is that we do work together,” Gardiner said.

Frem Jareck, a Cal Poly business student, lives next door to the house where Ward hid. He was walking home when he discovered armed police officers and nego-

see ROBBERY, page 2

19-year-old dies in southbound Hwy. 1 accident near Poly

By Alexis Garbeff
MUSTANG DAILY NEWS EDITOR

A 19-year-old woman from Morro Bay died and three others were hospitalized Wednesday afternoon after their car rear-ended a vehicle turning left in the southbound fast lane of Highway 1.

CHP Officer Jolly Lingsford said a white Toyota Corolla rear-ended a Ford Ranger pick-up, which was stopped in the southbound fast lane to turn left onto Stenner Creek Road at around 2 p.m. The driver of the Corolla died at Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center. The three other passengers in the Corolla were injured. One male is in serious condition, and two others are in moderate condition. The woman in the Ford was not injured.

see ACCIDENT, page 2

Symposium brings employers to Poly

By Monica McHugh
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Those who are unemployed know that finding a job, let alone a career, can be a nightmare. Cal Poly’s Career Services made life a little easier for students Thursday by bringing 117 employers to the Rec Center for a giant career symposium.

“The career symposium is the best opportunity in an informal and welcoming atmosphere to meet employers for a variety of purposes, including job seeking, career exploration and contacts,” said Shel Burrell, associate director of Career Services and coordinator of the event.

The symposium brought employers, who were mostly Cal Poly alumni, representing
News

Bicyclist in stable condition after collision with van

By Karri Holden
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Two days after he was seriously injured in a bicycle accident, mechanical engineering senior Brandon Wahl is listed in stable condition at Sierra Vista Medical Center.

A van driven by computer science senior Kevin Kischik hit Wahl at the intersection of Fredericks and Kentucky streets as he rode to school Tuesday morning.

According to witnesses, Kischik swerved to avoid Wahl when the bicyclist ran the Kentucky Street signal, but neither could avoid the collision.

The accident left Wahl with several injuries, including a broken ankle and a head injury that causes him to drift in and out of consciousness.

"He is less and less unconscious as the time goes on," his mother Carol Wahl said Thursday. "Our hope is that he'll have a full recovery because every time we see him he's better." 

Carol Wahl
mother of Brandon Wahl

Dunstan said he asked her to talk to all his professors to make sure they knew about the accident.

"He's pretty stressed out about school right now," she said.

Despite this, Dunstan said Wahl's attitude has been admirable, especially since he was recently moved out of intensive care.

"He's in the best mood you can be in considering he's just lying in a hospital bed," Dunstan said. "But he really wants to get out of there."

Dunstan said there's the possibility Wahl will be released on Monday but that the results of a CAT scan need to be checked first.

El Corral cameras catch thieves

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

Two suspects caught on video tape were arrested Tuesday evening on burglary charges for attempting to steal $300 worth of textbooks from El Corral.

Heather Dawn Robinson and Paul Henry Miramontes were booked on burglary and conspiracy charges, both felonies. If convicted, they face a minimum of one year imprisonment in a state prison, Cal Poly Police Sgt. Steve Schroeder said.

After viewing Robinson and Miramontes on video tape, El Corral Bookstore Security detained the suspects until University Police arrived. The suspects were found with three computer notebooks totaling nearly $200, Schroeder said.

A third person, Joseph Anthony Miramontes, was arrested in a vehicle on campus after being detained for a traffic stop, police arrested Miramontes on a $500 warrant.

All three are local residents but are not registered students.

SYMPOSIUM continued from page 1

companies ranging from Mervyn's to industrial engineering senior Arrika Stevens said she benefited from the symposium as opposed to other jobs of feeling.

"We are like Cal Poly students because they know what they're doing and they're great at what they do." 

Doreen Chun
Department of Public Works Auditorium, but Burrell said the symposium outweighed the auditorium.

Because the symposium was a campuswide event, it was open to students of all majors, and with the support of Associated Students Inc., it was held in the Rec Center.

"We like Cal Poly students because they know what they're doing and they're great at what they do." 

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Source: U.S Census Bureau

Census Bureau aims to curb miscounting of college students

(U-WIRE) STANFORD, Calif. — In addition to minorities, the poor, the homeless, and children, college students are among the most underestimated individuals by census workers.

College students are particularly difficult to count because of their high mobility, as evidenced by the annual, transient nature of college life. Matthew Matthews added that Stanford has been the most difficult university to plan activities for in Santa Clara County. Difficulties in posting information on the campus and other forms of bureaucracy hinder outreach efforts.

Santa Clara government officials estimate that roughly 9.5 to 10 percent of the undercount in the last census originated in unincorporated county areas like Stanford. Because census figures are used to decide how federal funding is distributed, the county loses money for every student not counted.

Pacifica Bank. "But, I just work Fridays," he said. If convicted, Ward will be charged with a federal crime, according to Gardner. Further investigations will be handed over to the FBI in Santa Maria.

"The census bureau has told us the real issue is not the undercount of the dorm population but the students who are living off campus or in group settings. One person may not fill out the form for all the people living in the house," he said.

"I just wanted to get home for lunch," Jantzi said. Ironically, Jantzi works at the Westamerica Bank.

"But, I just work Fridays," he said. If convicted, Ward will be charged with a federal crime, according to Gardner. Further investigations will be handed over to the FBI in Santa Maria.

ACCIDENT continued from page 1

"The Toyota probably didn’t have a chance to brake. It didn’t leave a long trail of skid marks," Langford said.

Langford could not determine how fast the Corolla was traveling. CHP Officer Andrew Kenny said, "The person in the white Toyota Corolla had to be extracted with the jaws of life."

Kenny added that the amount of traffic on the 65-mph highway is becoming "heavier everyday."

The names of the victims could not be released.

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Students brave elements

Nine students endured wind, rain, and a little sunshine all in the name of adventure

By Kelly Hendricks
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

One group on campus didn’t let last weekend’s rainstorms ruin its fun. A group of nine Calif Poly students from Poly Escapes went on a backpacking trip to Point Reyes, located above San Francisco.

Three frequent monsoon-like conditions, the group spent Friday through Monday backpacking and camping in the wilderness.

“The trip went really well,” said Jamie Leffy, a business freshman and trip guide. “Point Reyes is probably one of the most beautiful places I’ve been to with Poly Escapes.”

The trip was headed by two leaders, Leffy and Michelle Zieidman, and two mentors, Amy Lobrisger and Steve Schuereman. Lobrisger and Schuereman are older students who were training the two young leaders.

The group’s days were filled mostly with hiking, mainly because they had a good distance to cover. They did, however, take time to stop and bask in sunsets and ocean views.

But the rain did take its toll. Lobrisger said the group spent a lot of time setting up emergency shelters for protection from the rain and wind.

The stormy conditions also provided some entertaining close calls.

“The wind got so bad that it was blowing us over because our backpacks were acting like sails,” Lobrisger said. “We were on a cliff and one of the guys almost went over. He started bouncing on the edge and we all were saying to ourselves, ‘Uh-oh. Luckily, he eventually regained his balance.’”

Lobrisger said the trip cost $30 per person. The fee covered gas to and from Point Reyes, permits and paid for the three campsites and trail. Food was additional.

“The trip was a blast—really, really fun,” Lobrisger said. “When you get out in the elements, it’s a rush to tempt yourself. The rain wasn’t going to stop us.”

Poly Escapes has many trips, ranging from snow shoeing to ice climbing, planned for upcoming weekends. To get more details, contact Poly Escapes at 716-1287.

Wilderness academy helps build student self-esteem

FRENCH GULCH, Calif. (AP) - Sixteen-year-old Jake Mills had made a habit out of skipping school since kindergarten and he was one of the most beautiful places I've been to with Poly Escapes.”

“I'm a lot happier now, a lot more outgoing,” said Mills, who has been at NAWA for four months. “I've kind of started over.”

Mills is among about 32 students from all over California who study, live and play at the school. And “bond” isn't an adjective you’re likely to hear there.

When students aren’t in class, they’re scaling rocks, rappelling down cliffs or crawling through caves. It’s all a part of the plan to infuse self-confidence and motivation into teens who have been frustrated by the traditional educational system.

Formerly called the North American Wilderness Academy, the school serves seventh- and eighth-graders.

“Brian Rupnik, above, takes a break near a waterfall. Rupnik, Michelle Zieidman, and Will Wright, above left, get a little windblown.”

Though a few come to NAWA with high grades, most haven’t done well academically in the past, said Jason Hull, NAWA's director of admissions and marketing.

“If your son hasn't made it in public school since kindergarten and he's in 11th grade, he's probably not going to succeed in the 11th,” said Hull, who also directs NAWA’s wilderness and rescue programs and is a training officer for Shasta County Search and Rescue.

Each class has four to 11 students, which is ideal for teens who have spent years hiding in the back of a classroom, Hull said. After the school day ends at 4:30 p.m., students have dinner together and participate in activities that range from swimming to fly-fishing, before retiring to their dorms. Lights go out at 10 p.m.

The campus' philosophy follows the proverb, “I heard it and I forgot. I saw it and I remembered. I did it and I understood.”

The boarding school actually has three academic programs – the California Academy, which is in French Gulch; Academy USA, which features 16-day educational trips all over the world; and Snowboard USA near Lake Tahoe, where students train for snowboarding competitions while attending school. The students are registered with the U.S. Amateur Snowboarding Association.

Hull’s parents, Dave and Celia, had bought the camp when they were living in Whittier and started

Pine Meadows School for severely emotionally disturbed youth there in 1980. From 1988 to 1992, NAWA was a summer school. In fall 1992, the traveling program was founded and it took eight kids in a van all over the country, Hull said.

They closed Pine Meadows in June 1994 and opened the California Academy that fall. Snowboard USA opened the following fall in Mount Shasta (it moved to Tahoe two years later).

Dave Hull is the president and administrator of the school, his wife, who holds a doctoral degree in psychology, is the dean of students. NAWA also has an “Adventure Summer School,” which blends academics and outdoor activities.

Academy USA costs $21,980 per school year, and the other two programs are an additional $3,000. Some $80,000 in financial aid is awarded each year, and a typical financial aid package covers 75 percent of the school’s cost.

NAWA is accredited through the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

The curriculum is based on state standards and the academy also offers vocational education, including landscaping, culinary arts, wood shop and firefighting. Students spend one day each weekend doing community service or going on an outdoor excursion.

Wilderness activities heighten teens’ self-confidence, motivation, leadership skills and study habits, Hull said.

“Students agreed. "These little things can do so much for your self-esteem, like, ‘Wow, I just climbed that rock,’” said sophomore Heath Hall, 16, of Mill Valley.

Added Mills, “It’s a lot of stuff I wouldn’t go out and do on my own.”

And students said they have the utmost faith in their instructors.

“There’s no dude I’d feel safer on a rock with than this dude,” Mills said of Nieman Van Hooser, a wilderness instructor and mountain bike trip leader who led a recent rock-climbing trip.
The issue: Political character bashing

Stick to important issues

In kindergarten, we all learned that name calling was wrong. Our teachers patiently taught us, "If you don't have something nice to say about somebody, don't say anything at all." We even turned our lessons into rhymes that could be chanted when some bully picked on us on the playground: Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me.

This theme carried through high school and college, where we learned to criticize issues — not speakers or writers — in our critical thinking classes. We learned that ad hominem attacks, points made against the appearance or character of an opponent, were fallacies, poor arguments and signs of a weak thinker.

I wonder, then, if people who get involved with modern politics sleep through those classes. There is more to campaigning than the character bashing that seems to be so prevalent in our nation's political practices. From bashing President Clinton to dissecting David Blakely's character in columns and opinion letters printed in past issues of the Mustang Daily, character-based campaigns and arguments made against a candidate's opponents, and responses to allegations made by opponents and the media, instead of actual talk on important issues.

Money spent on making television commercials that portray a candidate's opponents as blood-thirsty wolves is money wasted. Such startling visual images and allegations of flaws in an opponent's character are effective for gut-level emotional appeal, but lack the substance that should be devoted to the weighty and public matter of politics.

Instead of spending time and resources investigating each other's pasts and creating cheesy commercials that portray ahashing campaigns say that our society has become shallow. When voters begin devoting their attention to the people instead of the issues, they are guilty of seeing only the surface of the issues.

Voters should care less about how many times a candidate may have done a certain drug in high school and more about what that candidate will actually do if elected or appointed. Since these candidates will most likely not be reliving their pasts in their newly appointed offices, it makes more sense to judge them on what they will actually be doing with the power they may hold.

The past does have a place, but instead of digging it up, candidates and supporters alike should acknowledge it, learn from it and move on. Campaigners should stop looking for weaknesses in everyone around them.

A candidate, and society as a whole, would benefit from efforts to focus on his or her own ideals and how to apply them to the future. Leave the name-calling for the bullies on the playground.

Ryan Miller is a journalism junior and a Mustang Daily staff writer.
Opinion

A new twist on locals' old downtown attitude

It has always puzzled me why the citizens of San Luis Obispo are against corporate America. They claim that by allowing large chain stores to open for business, the companies would "in essence, be invading the way of life that they value so much.

Their feelings were only too clear when they saw what happened on the downtown shopping experience a few years back. "They'll run the mom-and-pop stores out of business," they screamed. Apparently, these citizens have never set foot into a Carl's Jr. restaurant before.

but I do think there is a Local easter downtown that is seriously threatened by the production of a Western Bacon Cheeseburger close by. I'd love someone to blame on the restaurant in our immediate shopping area with them. Certainly not Big Sky or F. McCloud's or the dr. Daddy's. Maybe it's the Cheeseburger. That restaurant's lack of parking area will be really annoying to the locals. Not well, then, what's the problem?

I think the citizens of this town need to step back and take a step back. Look at what has been done with the downtown mall has become. It has become a prime example of how corporate America and our downtown mall can work together for the revitalization of a particular area. Apparently, to the opposition of this town, Carl's Jr. is entering into the Happy Stag log as an eye-sore, and see generic for the specialization of downtown — yet there lies the logical reasoning. Each downtown retailer has already established a niche in the marketplace. That right, the big-box retailers will never be able to capture the exquisite home furnishings, of Meridian, or the superior quality and serene environment of Linens or, or the mixture of new and unique shops that Groove Records.

Think of the tourists, and how they will react to the situation. They'll probably choose to eat at a locals eatery instead of Carl's Jr. Why? They can get Carl's Jr. at home, and they'd probably prefer to sample the local flavors of San Luis Obispo. The production of a fast-food outlet will only bring more variety to downtown.

Do you think all those individuals opposed to Carl's Jr. downtown should leave its future to the decisions of customers, and not the degraded locals.

Chris J. Campbell is a political science junior.

Proced with caution regarding Prop. 21

Letters to the editor

Prop. 22 is short but far from sweet

Editor, The 7 California voters will vote on Proposition 22. The measure is a surprisingly short and sweet 14 sentences, but a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California.

But seemingly simple sentence lies the key to an extremely dangerous Pandora's box of legal and civil rights issues. Let us not fool you. Proposition 22 is addressing gay marriage. Its purpose is to limit the definition of marriage to one same-sex marriage.

California law, however, has no provisions for gay marriage. Section 300 of the California Family Code reads "Marriage is a personal relation arising out of a civil contract between a man and a woman." Those 17 words sound pretty fundamental, don't they?

Proposition 22 doesn't say anything different from what California law currently says, it certainly doesn't add anything to the law books, except more ink.

The main purpose of Proposition 22's purpose is a springboard for future legislation and court rulings that would distinguish California's fundamental rights.

In other states, similar laws, which were same-sex marriage or the "gay lifestyle" have been used to limit hospitalization, visitation, health insurance and inheritance rights.

Nancy E. Kapp is a political science sophomore.

Prop. 22 is not scare tactic

Editor, I would like to respond to the misrepresentations of Tim Riley ("Proposition 22 is simple," Feb. 17). The University of Pittsburgh is currently arguing that Pennsylvania's anti-marriage law forbids equal treatment of heterosexual employees in the area of dependent health-care benefits (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, April 28, 1999, pg. A-17).

FACT: An Idaho judge has refused to allow a lesbian to adopt her partner's child because of the state's enactment of an anti-marriage law similar to the Knight Initiative (Los Angeles Times, March 25, 1999, pg. A-8).

FACT: An Idaho county attorney has announced that domestic-partner health-care benefits cannot be provided to county employees in same-sex partnerships (The Idaho Statesman Review, April 7, 1999, B3).

These examples show that the Knight Initiative will indeed affect the rights given to couples in same-sex relationships. It sure doesn't look like "scare tactic" campaigning to me.

Riley also stated, "Proposition 22 is not hatred or discrimination toward any person or their family." I would like to know what he would call it when I am denied the same rights as anyone else in this state and when I am unable to know who he would call it when who I am not recognized by the state of California. Even if your religion doesn't approve of my love for someone, please don't make the laws of MY state say the same thing. Why should words in a belief system influence the decisions of the state of California? It's not fair and it's not right. I'm not asking for special rights. I'm asking for equal rights.

In order to vote against Proposition 22, you don't even have to believe in equality and freedom, two basic American values.

Mitch, Chris, Morgan, Paul are officers of Gay and Lesbian United and Karen and Carrie are of the National Organization of Women.

Republicans do care about important issues

This letter is in response to Greg Kinser's untitled comment to Proposition 21 ("The California political recipe," Feb. 14). In his letter, Kinser characterized the Republican Party as being "hostile to children and poverty.

While, I do agree, we do see in current political issues to show that Republicans do have an agenda to address the working poor, like those modern-day Job Chases, and Bush and McCain support expanding the Children's Health Insurance Program, and policies that help impoverished families. For instance, Republicans support school vouchers (which are embraced by impoverished families) to give poor children an opportunity at equality in education. Gore and Bradley oppose vouchers. And recently in California, Gov. Davis rejected Republican proposals to slash college tuitions to increase their availability across economic lines. He also approved less money for education than Republican legislators had requested.

McCain and Bush are the only candidates true to supporting an anti-choice stance to the anti-choice voters.

There are thousands of soldiers who fight for our country but still don't have the right to marry the one they love forable for their families.

Kennedy's letter is a surprisingly critical stance against Republican law-and-order philosophy. I agree that some of these laws are too harsh on drug users and small-time drug dealers. But "Three Strikes" legislation, putting more police on the streets, and Mayor Giuliani-style policing have made our streets safer.

In order to vote against Proposition 22, you don't even have to believe in equality and freedom, two basic American values.

Carrie Carden is an ecology senior.

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Popular Mexican cantina offers great food

A favorite haunt for local residents and a popular tourist choice, Old Juan's Cantina offers a traditional Mexican meal in a casual environment that reflects the ambiance of an old Mexican cantina.

Old Juan's is at Highway 1 and Pier Avenue in Oceano Beach, the gateway to the Ocean Dunes State Vehicular Recreational area. A lot of people are still unaware of the location and its proximity to recreational opportunities like surfing, swimming, surf-fishing, camping, hiking, and off-roading. The entrance to Oceano Dunes is just down the street at the end of Pier Avenue where one can drive right out onto the sand and, with the right equipment, all over the dunes trails. Many park visitors use Old Juan's as a place to re-fuel the body with the best Mexican food in the county and cool off with a Gold Tequila Margarita. (In truth, Old Juan's offers a number of Tequilas and fruit flavors to choose from, as well as a 48 oz. Jumbo Margarita!)

Tequila Margarita. (In truth, Old Juan's offers a number of Tequilas and fruit flavors to choose from, as well as a 48 oz. Jumbo Margarita!)

Old Juan's Cantina is very fortunate to have a consistently strong following of regulars. Many of the regulars visit every week and have dined at Old Juan's for the past twenty years.

Newcomers, however, may be under the impression that Old Juan's Cantina is a new concept. Both cases are true. The current chef/owner purchased Carl's Spanish Seas Restaurant back in the mid '70s and has been running it ever since. Although Spanish Seas had a good reputation and enjoyed strong customer support, the desire to renovate Spanish Seas and transform it into a rustic "cantina" started right from the beginning.

A fire nearly gutted the building in November of 1995, and it was not until the spring of 1995 that the restaurant re-opened with its new digs and new name. The fifteen months of rebuilding after the devastating fire was a trying time for customers and staff members. Customers still talk about making do without the restaurant. Loyal staff members can recall the transition from serving food to tearing down walls (ever seen a foodserver wield a saw??) The resulting sophisticated, yet rustic, ambiance along with the palate-pleasing offerings have made the restaurant/cantina an even greater success.

As a matter of fact, the public overwhelmingly Old Juan's right from the first day it re-opened, even though the restaurant was unadvertised. The staff hoped to keep it a relative secret in order to get used to the new place, but apparently a lot of locals wanted to get used to it as well.

Old Juan's Cantina has a variety of Mexican dishes and a Sunday Ranchero Breakfast from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The majority of entrées range from $7.99 to $12.99, perfect for a students' budget.

Old Juan's Cantina can be reached at 489-5660.
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SPORTS
continued from page 8

Sports

first two games but we just knew we were a better team than them. We stepped up our game as a whole, and didn't just lay down and take it." Fincher Terra Blankenbecler grabbed the Mustang tournament to up her record to 4-1. She now has 21 strikeouts in 23 1/3 innings. For tournament performance, freshman Holly Ballard earned the title of Big West Softball Player of the Week. Ballard hit .214 with runners in scoring position, bringing in seven runs during the five games. She leads the team so far with a .452 average (14 hits) and 11 RBI. Ballard said her college success is both overwhelming and surprising. "I really didn't think I was going to get (the title) since it was my first tournament," Ballard said. "It was an honor." She said the team has about a 25 percent chance of making and maintaining the UCSC tournament. "We were frustrated with ourselves (after the first two games), but the last three games pumped us up for this tournament," Ballard said. "As long as we stay focused and relaxed, we'll be able to do it." The Mustangs will face Iowa State on Friday before playing San Diego State and Paradia on Saturday. They will play the Aggies again on Sunday. "We are, as a whole, going to improve on our first two days and focus on that intensity level," Haley said. "We can't sit on that comfort zone, especially if we come off the first day with a win." While the Mustangs continue to battle quality teams, junior Casey Poet said she is fighting a mental battle of her own. Poet, who injured her right shoulder toward the end of last year, has yet to play this season. "I want to play so bad," the third baseman said. "It makes you realize how much you take things for granted. I really thought I gave everything all the time, but now with just a few things I am going to appreciate the game so much more when I come back." With our staff ready to answer the question, Poet admits to trying to speed up the healing process at first. Now, she said, she's taking it one day at a time. "My doctor said it would take a little longer than we thought, and not to worry about making a deadline; I just can't push it," she said. "I am about 60 percent right now. My hitting is coming along, but I have to work on stretching out my back. The hardest part is picking up the ball and bat, and then having to put them down again." Despite the setback, Poet is able to continue her leadership role on the field. "The team is doing so good," she said. "I know if they don't take it all in. I am not going to be able to do it." The Mustangs took one of four games in the UCSC Easton Invitational last weekend and plan to come out with a strong finish this year. "Iowa State will be a good team to go after," Haley said. "We really don't have a rivalry with any of them, we just need to have a good weekend and keep the level of play up."
New life for Mustang wrestlers

By Christian von Treskow
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Cal Poly wrestlers must put a tough season behind them this weekend as UC Davis to compete in the Pac-10 Championships. The Mustangs' lackluster 3-6 conference record is irrelevant. The tournament's results are the sole deciding factor on who will travel to the NCAA tournament next month.

A major obstacle the Mustangs must overcome are injuries plaguing three of the team's freshmen wrestlers. Gregg Herrenson, wresting in the 197-pound weight class, and 157-pound wrestler Josh Blagg will both likely sit out due to knee and neck injuries, respectively. Nate Knutson, wrestling at 184 pounds, is also questionable with a neck injury.

While a banged-up Cal Poly roster will hurt chances for a team championship, it doesn't influence the ability of individual wrestlers to qualify for the NCAA Championships. Senior James Gross is the only returner from last year's team to accomplish this feat.

This year, several Mustang wrestlers are contenders to capture an NCAA birth. Sophomore Steve Strange (174 pounds) enters Davis with a 14-11 overall record that included a 16-match winning streak between January and February. The Hickson native is the holder of the national record for most high school wins, and it comes as no surprise that he wins the Pac-12 tournament as another chance to prove himself.

"I just want to do the best I can. I want to peak that day and not regret anything," Strange said. "I feel good enough to win it."

Another Mustang poised to make a run at the title is junior Jesse Reta. The 149-pound grappler has won eight straight dual matches entering the tournament, including 15 of his last 16. He remains confident a title is in reach.

"There is no question I should see SOFTBALL, page 7

Mustangs play host to No. 10 Gauchos

By Christian von Treskow
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

A David vs. Goliath matchup will take place in Mott Gym tonight when the Mustangs face the No. 10 ranked UC Santa Barbara women's basketball team. The Gauchos are riding a 19-game winning streak and have already secured a Big West Tournament birth.

The Mustangs currently sit in fifth place in the conference's Western Division. In order to advance to the Big West Tournament, Cal Poly must win three of its next four games, and fourth-place UC Irvine must lose its remaining four games.

Mustang head coach Faith Mimnaugh said she believes the scenario is possible. "It is certainly possible. If you look at the people Irvine has to play, I don't think they have a locked position yet," Mimnaugh said.

A loss to the Gauchos would put the Mustangs in a three-game, must-win situation. They would have to defeat New Mexico State at home Sunday and then win both road trips at UC Irvine and CSU Fullerton to round out regular-season play.

Mimnaugh likes her team's chances to win three straight should the situation become necessary. She believes the team matches up well with New Mexico State and Fullerton, and thinks the key matchup will be the March 2 game vs. Irvine. "If we're able to beat New Mexico State, the big deal will be to beat Irvine at Irvine. We got a good shot at beating Fullerton in the last game," Mimnaugh said. "If all that happens and Irvine loses to who we think they will, we'll go."

While the Mustangs hope for possible scenarios, one thing remains constant: Tonight's game against bitter rival Santa Barbara will be tough. If the Mustangs hope to keep the game close, they will have to shut down the Gauchos.

The Mustangs have found success despite the absence of their top returning player, Kasey Poet, left. see BASKETBALL, page 7

Softball building on successful start

By Melissa McFarland
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Striking focused and energetic seems to be the key directives for the Mustangs to keep up their successful start this weekend at the UCSB tournament.

At 7-2, they're coming off a tough University of Nevada, Las Vegas tournament where they finished 3-2. After losing the first two, UNLV Classic games — one to nationally ranked Nebraska 9-1 and the other to UNLV 7-4 — the Mustangs quickly powered back. The next day they beat Florida International 5-4 and Portland State 8-0. Success came again on day three, with a 7-2 win over Southern Utah.

"We weren't on the field for two weeks because of the rain, and so the scores

Player High

Cal Poly

UC Santa Barbara

VOLLEYBALL

69

79

Scores

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Which Houston Rocket was the first NBA player to have 200 blocks and 200 steals in the same season?

Please submit sports trivia answers to sports@mustangdaily.calpoly.edu. Please include your name. The first correct answer received via e-mail will be printed in the next issue of the paper.

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