Starting Strong: Women's V-ball eyes NCAA tournament, 12
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Cal Grants get boost from Davis
By Carolyn Ficara

The Cal Grant program will no longer be turning away eligible students because of lack of funds.

Gov. Gray Davis signed legislation into law on Sept. 11. Senate Bill 103 requires $12 billion for universities, students, as well as graduating high school students and community college students. Part of the funds will go to incoming Cal Grants, and is available to students of both private and public universities. The rest will fund a Merit Scholarship program.

Beginning in 2001, incoming students with financial need who meet specific academic requirements will be able to receive the Cal Grant when attending the state's community colleges, California State Universities, Universities of California and qualifying private four-year universities.

These programs have almost reached a point of entitlement," said John Anderson, director of Financial Aid at Cal Poly. "This is an unprecedented move in the state."

Cal Grants are divided into Cal Grant A, which requires a minimum of a 3.0 GPA, and Cal Grant B for students with a 2.0 GPA.

By agreeing to raise around 2,000 students who receive Cal Grants at Cal Poly. Colleges in areas of lower incomes and private institutions will be more impacted, Anderson said.

Cal Poly students generally come from income brackets that are too high to receive Cal Grants. Anderson said that the increased programs could lead to an additional 150-200 Cal Poly students receiving Cal Grants next year.

Because of lack of funding, many students have been denied Cal Grants in the past.

According to a press release written by Cal Grant and Deborah Orne, over 26,000 college and university students in the state were turned down for financial aid last year.

Originally, the Cal Grant program for one year was estimated to cost $33 million. Anderson said now it is expected to be around $101 million.

The increase in cost is due to more students receiving grants, not to higher amounts given to individual students.

According to Anderson, Cal Poly students can receive up to $3,425 for a three-quarter school year, which is far more than the $2,000 that is the maximum awarded.

Editor's Note:
This article is the first in a series on issues related to student debt and finances.

By Jana Larson

Student loans: helpful aids or dangerous traps

Because of the accessibility of the Internet, many different options for scholarships, fellowships, loans and grants are available to students. For example, on the Cal Poly financial aid Web page, students can find URLs to search for scholarships.

"We try to list only those we feel provide accurate information at no cost to the student," said John Anderson, director of the Student Financial Aid Department. "There are many scholarship search programs out on the Internet for which a fee is charged.

"We have strong reservations about sites that require a fee, as often the same information is available free elsewhere," Anderson said.

"Nationally there have been some major scams operations involving scholarships search for a fee," .Anderson said.

FASTWEB Electronic Scholarship Search is the largest free scholarship search. After registering and filling out several forms, FASTWEB will return a list of matching award programs. Registering allows students to receive information on any new award programs that match the stated criteria.
Planning department honored
By Jayson Rowley
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The Cal Poly city and regional planning department received two awards at the American Planning Association’s Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the American Planning Association’s Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the American Planning Association’s Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the American Planning Assembly meeting in Nashville, Tenn., Friday, Sept. 22, 2000.

The awards were for the city and regional planning department’s excellence in planning.

The department is one of only four departments—out of 1,300 planning departments in the country—to win the award since 1997.

The city and regional planning department was named to the American Planning Association’s “10 Best Small Projects” list, the “American Planning Association’s Mid-Atlantic Chapter’s Best Planning Project” and the American Planning Association’s “Mid-Atlantic Chapter’s Best Planning Project” for the proposed Central Valley California Water Planning Project.

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Vistas from mountain peaks, sparkling blue waters, dark cool caves and cold granitic cliffs are some of the sensed experiences awaiting those who join a Poly Escapes excursion.

Choose from the varied selection of trips and enjoy a rejuvenating escape of fun and companionship for an evening, day, weekend or even a full week. The costs of the trips are very affordable for most student budgets, while some are even free. Simply step in the door of Poly Escapes in the University Union, say hi to the smiling volunteer and choose your adventure.

"We have for the students. It's really an awesome opportunity," said senior recreation administration major Will Hida, who is also a leader, advisor and volunteer for Poly Escapes.

Having students serve as group guides and instructors and encouraging ride sharing helps keep costs at a minimum. An example is $7 for a four-hour evening kayaking trip to Shell Beach, which includes the kayak and transportation. "The Shell Beach trip is really great. It has it all—camps, waters, rough waters. It's really for all levels of experience," Hida said.

Shell Beach is a small community just 15 minutes south on Highway 101, sharing the area with Pismo Beach. Buy an ice cream and take a walk on the long white beach or fish off the pier (a license is not required for fishing off public piers, but one is necessary for surf fishing).

"A popular trip is caving," Hida said. Three caving trips to Pismo are planned this quarter, for Sept. 27 and Oct. 5 and 6. The cost is only $6, including a barbecue in the evening.

The Pismo caves are one of three tunnel caves in the state. A tunnel cave is created by deep ravines or canyons collapsing on themselves. They are long tunnel-like caves and require crawling to explore. Pismo is just 45 minutes from San Luis Obispo. Take the Santa Margarita exit on northbound 101.

After trekking through the eeriness of the underworld, check out the old west saloon nearby. The Pismo Saloon is an outpost for those wanting to see something off the beaten path. A band of thieves met their demise near the saloon and their long ago bychic is immortalized in the photographs on the saloon walls.

If dreaming of some solitude and exercise, kayaks can be rented at Poly Escapes for the weekend for $20. Morro Bay is a fabulous place to go kayaking. Scenery includes harbor seals and otters swimming in the beautiful water.

"The trips are filling up fast," said senior landscape architecture Laurel Dunning, a student volunteer and rafting guide. "The free trips I think are already full, but there will be more." Sign ups are open until the trip is full. There are also pre-trip meetings for the longer trips, such as those to the American River or Mount Shasta. New trips are planned throughout the quarter. "Poly Escapes is just a fun place to hang out, too," Dunning said. "A lot of students come in to read the magazines and talk to friends."

Students are encouraged to participate in any of the trips Poly Escapes offers throughout the school year.

"These trips are a great way to meet friends," said Kinesiology senior Michelle Misakian. She often goes on trips to see something off the beaten path. A band of thieves met their demise near the saloon and their long ago bychic is immortalized in the photographs on the saloon walls.

"I think students only really know about Bishop's Peak and that can be a real disappointment," Misakian said. "The state parks program would be a nice change."

Several October activities include:

- "Biking trails in the park are excellent and free and especially good for those new to the area." - Ray Dunning.

- "These trips are a great way to meet friends. I went to Moving Mountain for a week before classes began, and it was the best trip I've ever been on," said materials engineering freshman Erin Gravois.

- Club meetings are held Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in room 220 of the University Union.

- "Our meetings are really like a little party—we hang out, eat cookies, hang out and have a lot of fun," Dunning said.

Hike venues include both beach and mountains

By Jordan Roberts

Are you looking for a little variety in your workout routine? San Luis Obispo's Department of Parks and Recreation recently released the October schedule for its Adventures with Nature program, which is a series of hikes and nature talks.

According to Rick Ray, the chief ranger of San Luis Obispo County District's Department of Parks and Recreation, the program started about 14 years ago and occurs year-round. The various activities take place at Morro Bay State Park, Morro Strand State Beach, Montana de Oro State Park and Pismo State Beach.

"Anyone with an interest in learning more about the area and our state parks in particular would enjoy this program," Ray said. "These activities are excellent and free and especially good for those new to the area."

Ray said all of the Adventures with Nature activities are led by state park decent, who are highly trained volunteers. He said participation in each activity varies with the season and the weather sometimes leave a handful of people and other times there are as many as 60 participants.

"Our programs offer an escape from the busy life," Ray said. "It's a way to get outdoors and learn about our natural surroundings."

Kinesiology senior Michelle Yamamoto said she is also interested in the Montana de Oro hikes.

"I like staying active and these hikes sound like a good way to work out," Yamamoto said. "Plus, you get to enjoy nature at the same time."

Animal science senior Kacie Misakian said she often goes on hikes at Bishop's Peak, but is ready for change.

"I think students only really know about Bishop's Peak and that can become so routine," Misakian said. "The state parks program would be a nice change."

Several October activities include:

- Shark Inlet to a Beach Picnic (Oct. 4-9 a.m.): Hike through the dunes to the beach via Shark Inlet. Learn about birds, Indian shell middens and native plants. The estuary is home to many shorebirds and waterfowl. Bring lunch and water. Meet at west end of Barre Drive (north of Sea Pines Golf Course).

- Two Peaks and a Creek (Oct. 5, 9 a.m.): Hike up the southern approach to Valencia Peak, then out to Onis Peak and return along Coy Creek. Bring water, snacks and lunch. Wear hiking boots. Meet at the parking lot at the south end of Pecho Road in Montana de Oro State Park.

- Montana de Oro Bluff Nature Walk (Oct. 6, 9 a.m.): Take a pleasant hike along the Bluff Trail for magnificent views and likely looks at a variety of birds, plants and wildlife. Meet at Bluff Trailhead, 200 yards south of visitor center at Montana de Oro State Park.

For more information, contact Tom McCracken at 805-489-8494 or the Montana de Oro State Park at 805-772-2694.
Merced crime attract unwarranted attention

MERCED (AP) — A pitchfork-wielding suspect accused of slicing his mother's head off with a knife. The man asks how someone could kill his own mother. Others just ask about another gruesome front-page story in the local paper about a farming accident in which a man was ground up in a corn chopper and deputies had to identify him by his feet and shoes.

"I can't believe what's happening," said Alex C. Perez, a retired construction worker. "This is supposed to happen somewhere else."

Indeed, death struck Merced County — derived from the Spanish phrase for Our Lady of Mercy — in a most unusual way.

Until August, this agricultural 2,000-square-mile patch in California's Central Valley that is home to 200,000 people had not recorded a single homicide this year. In just over three weeks, however, authorities have found themselves at the University of California plans to build a campus here.

"Merced is not a bad place to live," said Assistant Sheriff Henry Strength. "We've had some bad luck."

Merced is not a bad place to live, said Assistant Sheriff Henry Strength. "We've had some bad luck."

Strength traces the county's notorious crimes to a bizarre kidnapping nearly two decades ago that put the county on the strong list of what's going on and what's in the consciousness.

A Merced boy named Steven Starnor became a local hero when he was the subject of a book and movie when he escaped from a child molester who kidnapped him seven years earlier. Starnor rescued a 5-year-old boy who had also been abducted. His tale took root in a rural town's already violent motorcycle accident in 1989.

"This story would not seem rele­vant if Starnor's brother had not been arrested accused of being the serial killer who stalked Yosemite last year, killing four women."

Gary Starnor's name is an endur­ ing stain on the county that will stick itself at "The Getaway to Yosemite."

He worked as a massage therapist outside the county at the time of the killings. Starnor — like Bruce and Largo — was raised in Merced County.

Two weeks ago, the 39-year-old pleaded guilty in federal court to murdering a nastar in the park and, under the plea, will be sentenced to life in prison.

He still faces a state trial for the killings of three Yosemite tourists who were murdered in a national park in the park, and under the plea, will be sentenced to life in prison.

Then he faces a state trial for the killings of three Yosemite tourists who were murdered in a national park in the park, and under the plea, will be sentenced to life in prison.

Bruce used on his pitchfork rampage, investigators thought they had an easy explanation: drugs. The pitchfork Starnor's family is well known for its metalmaking/hempotha­ mine trade.

Both are regular occurrences on primitive labs manufacturing the mind-altering upper known to trigger paranoia, psychosis and violence.

CFA
continued from page 1

nations stalled.

The mediator was appointed by the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) after talks went into a state of impasse in early July because the two parties could not come to a compromise.

A middle ground now appears to be fading further and further away as the negotiators move to "fact find­ ing," the last step before the CSU administrators may begin to impose work condition s on the faculty.

The/rs on issues under discussion, according to the CFA, are administrative accountability and the Faculty Merit Increase Program.

Accountability

Each year a certain amount of money is allocated in the state bud­ get for faculty increases. The CFA claims that some of that funding has not reached its intended recip­ ients.

First, since the 1991-92 school year, the CSU has been funded to increase faculty salaries by 27.8 per­ cent. According to the CFA, the actual amount those salaries were increased was less than 23 percent.

That difference would account for more than $2 million funding for the 1999-2000 school year alone, the CFA said.

There are other two areas where funds are not properly allocated after the CFA claims. The areas are in the Service Step Increases program and in the conversion of full-time post­itions to part-time positions.

Since 1991-92, almost 1,600 positions have been converted from full time to part time. The CFA estimates that this conversion has resulted in a savings of more than $25 million.

CFA What the CFA is requesting is from the CSU is an annual merit report. The contract says, "The merit pay increase is merit pay, or extra pay for work considered meritorious. How the merit pay is divided varies by college, but usually the way the money is divided is determined by the college."

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Bill aims to restrict violent television

WASHINGTON (AP) — Television programs with graphic bloodshed or gratuitous violence could be banned from daytime viewing under a measure that passed the Senate Commerce Committee on Wednesday.

The bill, which limits such programming when children are likely to be watching, comes a week after federal regulators acknowledged the entertainment industry's marketing of violent, adult-rated products to young people.

Despite the industry's protests, violence is made accessible to children because it makes money, said Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., one of the sponsors of the bill. He had been pushing for a "safe harbor" of children's TV viewing rules for years.

"The industry, as in the past, continues to tell us that it understands and protects under the auspices of violence pays," they know it, and we know it," Hollings said.

Under the bill approved Wednesday, violent television shows could only be shown when children do not make up a significant portion of the audience or when the shows bear ratings that would allow parents to electronically block them.

Safe harbor hours normally run between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m., although the bill gives the Federal Communications Commission power to set the exact hours. The agency also would determine the definition of "violent programming."

The restrictions would only kick in, however, if an FCC study finds the violence on television, which enables parents to block out programs rated for violence, sex and crude language — is not effective in protecting children from explicit TV content.

The technology required by law in all new TV sets 13 inches and larger, works with encoded ratings displayed on shows to flag violent or sexual material. Broadcast and cable networks voluntarily choose to rate their programs.

Hollings, the ranking Democrat on the committee, doesn't think the system works and noted that Canada and other countries have done such things and the idea of blocking violent programming during hours when children are likely to be watching is "not a completely novel approach.

"It's a tried and true approach," he said.

A Federal Trade Commission report last week decried the "pervasiveness and aggressiveness of marketing directed to children. The FCC already has planned October hearings to examine the amount of sex and violence on television networks.

Despite the scrutiny on violence in the media, some lawmakers still expressed concern that such a measure would run afoul of the First Amendment.

"I just don't think we should start down the road of regulating content," said Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., who along with Sen. Max Cleland, D-Ga., voted against the bill. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., chairman of the committee, only voted "present" on the bill.

Hollings and programakers could still make whatever they want, they just couldn't show it whenever they want.

Brownback wanted to change Hollings' bill to allow the entertainment industry — including record companies, Internet content providers, movie studios, video game makers as well as television programakers — to develop a set of voluntary programming guidelines, but it was defeated on a procedural motion.

"Self-regulation by the entertainment industry is especially important considering the First Amendment protections that prohibit government regulation of content in most instances," the FTC's Chairman Robert Pitts said at a later hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The Supreme Court in May struck down a "safe harbor" law forcing many cable operators to restrict showing sexually oriented material to between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. However, the ruling only applies to cable systems, not the broadcast medium, Justice Anthony M. Kennedy noted in the decision.

NASA hacker to serve 75 days

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A 20-year-old Mission Viejo man who allegedly hacked into computers operated by NASA and such universities as Harvard, Stanford and Cornell, was arrested Thursday by federal authorities.

Jason Allen Diekmann, who authorities say used the online names Dirk Lord and Shadow Knight, hacked into "hundreds, maybe thousands" of computers around the country, said U.S. Attorney Alphonse Mayoakis.

Diekmann, who had been jailed in Orange County since Aug. 20 on unrelated state charges, was transferred to federal custody on Thursday.

He was charged with intentional unauthorized access of government computers, knowingly transmitting a program code and command that intentionally damages a computer and possession of unauthorized access devices, in violation of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act.

According to the affidavit, Diekmann allegedly hacked into were those used by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.

According to a federal affidavit, he used JPL computers to intercept electronic communications on JPL systems, launch attacks on other computer systems and run Internet chat software.

Using the software, authorities said, he went into Internet chat rooms and boasted about using the pilfered credit card numbers to make illegal purchases.

According to the affidavit, Diekmann admitted to investigators that he also hacked into computers at Stanford, Cornell, California State University at Fullerton and the University of California campuses in Los Angeles and San Diego.

Authorities say a Stanford system he broke into is used by NASA to control U.S. satellites. They added that, in all, Diekmann had accessed about two dozen computer systems, costing NASA and Stanford $17,200 to repair.

He eventually pleaded guilty to that charge and was sentenced to 75 days in jail.

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"Just flash your student id."
Today's issue: Technology in the classroom

Cell phones can save lives - let them ring

College students are busy. Classes, jobs, homework and group projects make it hard to spend any time at home. Important phone calls can be missed, and in the case of an emergency, how does someone get a hold of roaming college students such as ourselves? Cell phones are the solution.

With a cell phone nearby at all times, both scenarios described above can be avoided. The cell phone owner will know of any emergencies immediately and will certainly never miss an important phone call.

Consider this fictitious tale. A Cal Poly student named Selly lives at home in Los Osos with her grandmother and leaves early in the morning for school. She usually doesn't get home until after 10 p.m. While Selly is sitting through another History 315 lecture, her grandmother is suffering a mild heart attack at home. The soft ring of her cell phone causes a few students to glare in her direction, but the teacher continues his lecture. She hears her grandmother on the other end of the line in a panic and rushes out of the classroom to her grandmother's rescue.

Selly's cell phone saved the day. The obvious convenient need for cell phones is apparent in Selly's story. But there are still the anti-cell phone out there who are rigidly against cell phone use on campus. Are one or two rings of a phone during class really going to impair your learning abilities? I doubt it.

I have heard people say, "Why can't they just wait until they get home to talk on the phone?"

Cell phone users have their reasons. Some people work late, while others want to keep in touch with friends and family. Some people use cell phones strictly for business, while others use them for personal reasons. All are acceptable reasons.

Lastly, high school principals have been confiscating cellular phones. I agree with this tactic. High school students do not need to have cell phones at school. In the case of an emergency, high school students are easy to get a hold of. Attendance is taken every day, and the staff knows where every student is at all times on campus.

But college students are adults. We are constantly going to school, work and running errands. Some of us need to be able to take care of over-the-phone duties while getting other things done. Killing two birds with one stone, if you will.

With every new step technology takes, new crises are created. But why focus upon something as useful and handy as cell phones? Would the students who felt disrupted when Selly's cell phone rang be more understanding if they new the severity of her grandmother's situation? Probably.

The next time you are sitting in class and someone's cell phone rings, don't just shoot a dirty look in their direction. It could be a life or death situation.

At one time or another, everyone will wish they had a cell phone handy.

Jayson Rowley is a journalist senior and a Mustang Daily staff writer.

Cell phones disrupt class - shut them off

In a speech communication class I took last quarter, a woman actually left class to answer a call on her cell phone. The professor was good enough to sum up the entire class while the student was on the phone. I left that class impressed.

Later, while I was sitting in my statistics class the other day, there was a woman in the front of the room whose cell phone started ringing. She rushed through her backpack to turn the ringer off, and I rolled my eyes at her inconsideration for not turning it off in the first place. However, the professor continued to lecture, seemingly unhindered by the shrill interruption. Had either of these scenes occurred in a high school classroom, the cell phone would have been confiscated.

Professors have the option to confiscate cell phones that interrupt their classes, but then they would be treating us like children, rather than adults.

I worked for a public relations firm this past summer and went to a publicity seminar where speakers taught representatives from non-profit organizations how to do public relations. It was definitely a classroom setting, but in the business world. Public relations folks are busy people. They carry cell phones because someone always needs to get a hold of them. However, no one was asked to turn their cell phones off at the beginning of the seminar, they were just expected to do so out of common courtesy.

One cell phone did ring in the middle of a speaker's presentation, and the speaker politely asked the audience to check their cell phones and turn off the ringer. He didn't confiscate the phone that rang.

This is how a professor should handle a cell phone interruption. We are adults. We carry cell phones for work purposes and emergencies, as well as recreational use. Professors can and should expect us to act responsibly and courteously. That means turning off our cell phone ringers so that they don't interrupt a class.

If by accident we forget to turn off the ringer, politely ask us to turn it off. Those whose cell phones habitually interrupt class or who walk out of class to go talk on their phones deserve a more creative response to their rudeness. In these cases, the professor still shouldn't confiscate the cell phones. Instead, ask the student to share their conversation with the class or write a one-page report to be turned in at the next class period which highlights key points of the conversation. Requesting that a student leave class is a little harsh, but it would be effective in reminding a student to turn off their phone the next time, especially if it meant missing work that could not be turned in late.

Another option includes requiring a student to sign a contract that says they promise to turn off their cell phone, with failure to honor the contract resulting in some sort of consequence like a deduction in class points, for example. Understand that I'm only advocating that professors use these extreme measures if the same person's cell phone often interrupts class or if a person leaves class to talk on their phone.

In today's technological age, those of us who don't carry cell phones are a rarity. It's going to become more and more important for people to exercise cell phone etiquette. Professors and university employees should not confiscate cell phones, but they also should not have to deal with rude and inconsiderate behavior.

The solution - turn off your cell phone in class.

Kara Knutson is a journalism junior and a Mustang Daily staff writer.
World Youth Day unites millions in Rome

What do you get when two million religious nuts cram into a city-state about the size of downtown SLO? We’re talking about something bigger than Billy Graham or Benny Hinn Crusade. Something bigger than a Promise Keepers movement. I’m talking about World Youth Day 2000. I had the opportunity this summer to attend this glorious event and would like to reflect a bit on this momentous affair.

Every two years, the pope calls the Roman Catholic youth to a major city in the world for a five-day festival of worship, prayer and service. The meeting is dubbed “World Youth Day” and has been a success at every gathering.

This past World Youth Day was extra special for Pope John Paul II. The year 2000 is a Jubilee Year, something very dear to the Roman Catholic Church. It is a celebration that started in the 14th century and now occurs every 25 years.

Thus, with World Youth Day falling in the same year as the Jubilee, the occasion would be remembered forever. It was only appropriate for Rome, the glorious city that Sts. Peter and Paul Christianized, to be the host of the action.

Instead of telling the story of my experience at WYD 2000, I’d like to share what thoughts flood my mind when thinking about my time in Rome with “the Boss.”

First and foremost, two million Christians flying, driving, sailing and walking into Rome is a feat that has never been seen before. The love for Jesus, his church, and one another brought these pilgrims together. Two million believers from over 150 different nations! This can only remind me of the size and diversity of the Body of Christ.

The Roman Catholic Church is the only organized group that can boast of such harmonious diversity.

The church has one billion followers making it the largest faith in the world. No other religion, government, or social institution is as well represented by the world’s population as the church is. It is the fastest growing faith in Africa and East Asia and draws the majority of its members from Latin America, western Europe and the Pacific Islands.

If we take into account the various Protestant denominations and Eastern Orthodoxy, we see over one-third of the world’s population being Christian. (At the same time, I am reminded of my commitment to respect every religion and faith. People of ALL religions MUST be given respect and they possess every ounce of human dignity. There is truth in every form of faith in the world. To deny this is to dwell in ignorance.)

Pope Paul, at the age of 80, could not have been happier to receive the youth. He presided over a seven-hour reception on our first night in the Vatican. While listening to this man that evening and trying to understand the weight that he carries on his shoulders in and day out, I was left with the utmost devotion to him.

Pope Paul is one of the greatest popes ever to grace the Chair of St. Peter. He is the epitome of the Christian spirit. Pope Paul is and has been the safeguard for Christian orthodoxy providing Christ’s Church with the fullness of Jesus’ Truth.

I see St. Peter in Pope Paul, and know in my heart that he is filling the office of Peter as Christ desires. Pope Paul is the rock just as Peter was in Matthew 16:18-19, and the great shepherd that Peter was in John 21:15-17. The pope is the visible sign of unity for the Christian body just as God had promised he always would be (Isaiah 22:22-24; Matt 16:18-19, Luke 22:31-32).

The Roman Catholic Church stands for the union of all mankind with no exceptions. The perfect symbol of this stand was World Youth Day 2000 in Rome.

To close, I’d just like you to consider one thing. No matter if you are a person of faith or a non-believer, Christian or non-Christian, liberal or a humanist or enjoying living in your personal bubble, you know the Roman Catholic Church stands for the union of all mankind with no exceptions. The perfect symbol of this stand was World Youth Day 2000 in Rome.

Michael Deen is a philosophy junior.

Letter policy

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Mustang Daily encourages comments on editorial policy and university affairs. Letters should be typewritten or signed with major and class standing. Preference is given to e-mailed letters. They can be mailed, faxed, delivered or e-mailed to opinion@mustangdaily.calpoly.edu
Human interest stories enhance Olympics

Forget Survivor and Big Brother. America's television sets are time-traveling into a glorious past the last day of October. In a couple of hours, the Sydney games from almost anywhere in the world. The ancient Greeks would be amazed to see what has become of their former religious festival. They believed that athletics and competition pleased the spirits of the dead, and games were held every four years to honor their gods and appease these spirits. The first recorded games took place in 776 B.C. with only a foot race of 200 yards; drawing crowds of up to 40,000 spectators to the Stadium of Olympia (hence the name奥运会).

Modern times have transformed this tradition with over 150 countries competing in a myriad of events. The reasons for competing still center on the same notions of honor, prestige and ambition, but the games now foster a certain harmony between nations. Only at the Olympics can representatives from any country like Romania stand equal with giants like Russia and the United States. It is a chance for all competitors to honor their country in a way that no other contest can. It is an opportunity that remains unshrunk by economic status or military might.

Yet, there have been complaints about the coverage of these Olympic events. Some viewers feel that they are being forced to see human-interest stories about the many competitors. Some complain there are too many introductions, commercials and commentaries taking the place of actual event coverage. Yet, finding the story behind these many different countries and cultures is an integral part of the Olympics. These athletes are not merely pawns being played by each country to see which country has the best athletes. They are individuals people, struggling and working to be the best in the world at what they do. They live the blood, sweat and tears cliché every day.

Russian gymnast Albert Nemov just won the gold medal for the men's all-around competition a few days ago, and there was a lengthy human-interest piece on the sacrifices he made to be at the games this year. He had to miss the birth of his first child while competing in Australia. "I now have a son," Nemov told NBC news. "That was a major motivation."

These kinds of stories are intended to warm the hearts of viewers and pique their interest in the games even more, not cause them to complain or change the channel. These stories provide a chance for viewers to step out of their ethnocentric worlds and identify with the people of other countries.

The Olympics are about so much more than swimming and soccer or gymnastics and basketball. The Olympics give the world a chance to concentrate on something positive rather than the dangers of war, hunger and poverty that usually consume the news. Viewers should enjoy these moments of goodwill while they last and try to learn something along the way.

Keri Christoffels is a journalism student and Mustang Daily staff writer.
**Sports**

**49ers vs. Cowboys: A battle of teams falling from power**

IRVING, Texas (AP) — How the mighty have fallen.

The memories stirred up when Dallas and San Francisco play are of six NFC championship games, including Dwight Clark's leaping catch in January 1982 that sent the 49ers to their first Super Bowl. Five of those games preceded Super Bowl titles for the two teams, three for the Cowboys and two for San Francisco.

The Cowboys and 49ers — who play Sunday for the first time in three years — have played in a combined 13 Super Bowls. San Francisco has won an NFL-record 16 division titles, just one more than Dallas' 15.

In the reality of a new decade, however, the 49ers (0-3) are far removed from their championship glory in the age of free agency and the salary cap.

Dallas (1-2) could be headed down the same road. The Cowboys have an aging roster and millions of dollars tied up in salaries for guys not even around — about $11.2 million of this year's $62.3 million salary cap is going to 64 retired, injured or otherwise absent players.

"I came into the league with a team that was worst in the NFL, and it's part of rebuilding something. Qualifications:

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e-mail: office@cadrc.calpoly.edu

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The Bobcats match the Mustangs record of 5-2 this year. In two games at Montana State this year, the Bobcats lost 23-14 to Humboldt State. The team also fell to Weber State 26-7. The Bobcats completed just nine first downs and rushed for only 105 yards.

"We match up pretty well. They're similar to us, they are a young team and struggling a bit also," Welsh said.

Looking not to repeat the performance at the Greezy game, Welsh says the team needs to improve its defense by slowing down some of the players and picking up a couple more picks. To improve the offense, the team needs to catch more balls and not drop as many.

Welsh says that his team is doing a great job picking up together and is looking forward to this game being a turning point for the season.

FOOTBALL
continued from page 12

The Mustangs belong to the Big West conference, one of the best in the country, Schlick said. "We're bearing, the teams were supposed to beat and beating other teams on top of that," Lowry said. The Mustangs played against Loyola Marymount University, University of Hawaii and Oregon State University, so the season is a little tougher than last year.

"We're a young team with a lot of height," Lowry said. "We have a lot of heart and passion to stop some winning streaks."

What Games? Many Americans tuning out television coverage

Summer Olympics Medal Count
(as of 5 p.m. Thursday)

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McCall, R-Ariz. "Atlanta was so much more real time," he said. But that doesn't seem to matter to the residents of Salt Lake City, home of the 2002 Winter Games, where television ratings have been going up steadily.

"I'm an Olympics fanatic. I've been watching it religiously. We've been staying up until 2 or 3 in the morning," Rob Harrison said. "Even my 4-year-old steps up with us. He's fanatic about the sailing boats."
Football looks for first win vs. Montana State

By Megan Shearn
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Coming off a 53-3 loss on the road to the No. 10 ranked Montana Grizzlies, Cal Poly’s football team hopes to use their aggression this weekend to defeat the state’s other team, the Montana State Bobcats.

“I hope they take that frustration out on Montana State and get the ball rolling,” freshman tailback Raj Thompson said.

Thompson rushed for 58 yards of the 195 yards mustered by the Mustang offense. It’s no secret that the Mustangs have been struggling with road games. The Mustangs are 0-2 after a loss to Sacramento State to begin the season.

Since defeating Montana State in November 1997, the Mustangs have lost 11 of its last 14 road games. The last win on the road came last season at Saint Mary’s.

The Mustangs have done well against the Bobcats in the past, winning both at home and on the road against them.

The all-time series is tied at 4-4 between Cal Poly and Montana State, but Cal Poly has won the last two including a 40-37 win last year on Mustang Stadium and a 20-19 win the previous year in Bozeman.

“We have the will to win. I think it’s going to come down to who wants it more,” Thompson said.

Thompson redshirted for the Mustangs in 1999 and rushed for 25 yards and two touchdowns in a shortened game during the spring. The freshman has 112 yards rushing on 31 carries in two games while junior quarterback Seth Burford has completed 19 of 41 passes for 230 yards without an interception.

Burford was injured and left the Griz game in the second half with a cut on his chin. Burford transferred from Idaho State and set out in 1999. He was named CIAA Independent “Newcomer to Watch” by Street and Smith’s 2000 preview issue, lie passed for 1,641 yards in two seasons for Idaho State.

“Burford is a model for the rest of the team. When he gets bumped around he still says ‘let’s go, let’s get it done,’” head coach Larry Welsh said.

Welsh says that it is forecasted to snow this weekend in Montana.

“Last time we played it was 15 (degrees) below,” he said.

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See FOOTBALL, page 11

Junior linebacker Ron Cooper already has eight tackles for the Mustangs through two games.

Volleyball faces Big West powers Long Beach, Pacific

By Victoria Walsh
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Cal Poly’s women’s volleyball team has two early season tests as they face Long Beach State and Pacific as they work towards returning to the NCAA tournament.

With nine returnees and four new transfers, head coach Steve Schlick is confident the team’s skill level is comparable to or better than last season’s team.

“We compete well against the tough teams and we have a good balance between everyone,” Schlick said.

New to the team are Kristen Seyal, a 5-foot-8-inch defensive specialist and freshman from Menlo Park.

The Mustangs are running off a strong season last year with a record of 20-9, having beaten UCSB and performed well against University of the Pacific and Cal State Long Beach, both Final Four teams in last year’s NCAA tournament.

Cal Poly plays against UOP on Friday and Cal State Long Beach on Saturday in Mott Gym. Both matches begin at 7 p.m.

“Pacific had a great recruiting class,” Schlick said. “They are a quality team. Long Beach has a lot of returnees and they are healthy as well. They are one of the best teams in the country.”

Co-captain Sarah Lowry, a 5-foot-11-inch setter, said one of the team’s goals is to beat the top three teams in its league and to make the NCAA tournament.

“We want to go off last year’s season to help push us through this season,” Lowry said. “Another goal is to beat Santa Barbara again, beat Long Beach and Pacific, see VOLLEYBALL, page 11

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Steve Schlick
women’s volleyball head coach

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See FOOTBALL, page 11

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Volleyball players prepare to make it to the NCAA tournament.

Scores

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Briefs

Shirt giveaway at Saturday’s volleyball game

Cal Poly Athletics will be giving out T-shirts to the first 250 fans at Saturday’s volleyball game against #5 Long Beach State.

The shirts will feature the new marks that were unveiled at the end of August.

This is the first of many giveaways throughout the year to promote Cal Poly’s new logos.

Schedule

FRIDAY

- Women’s volleyball vs. Pacific  
  • at Mott Gym
  • at 7 p.m.

- Men’s soccer vs. UNLV  
  • at UNLV
  • at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

- Football vs. Montana State  
  • at Montana State
  • at 12:35 p.m.

- Women’s volleyball vs. Long Beach State  
  • at Mott Gym
  • at 7 p.m.