Students protest Gap, sweatshops

By April Pack
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The speech by a former leader of the Black Panther Party filled the Cohan Center Pavilion of the Performing Arts Center to standing room only. Elaine Brown spoke about race, the history of black inequality and her experiences in her former position.

"It is pretty amazing that in the year 2001, we are still talking about the Black Panthers," Brown said. "It just shows you how frightening the image of blacks taking power is.

"She said that America has made some strange decisions as a society. For one, Brown mentioned that prison guards are making more money than elementary school teachers. This is also a society where people with college degrees can't afford health care, she said.

"Why aren't you a millionaire?" Brown asked the audience. "Are you stupid, lazy, backward? What makes you so that you're not a millionaire?"

She said this is the question that people ask blacks all the time. People want to know what the problem is that causes blacks not to come up in the world, Brown said.

Charme Chenie, an ethnic studies professor, said, "I wasn't expecting the kind of analogies that were presented in terms of race and class. In spite of the protesting, she made an extremely valuable contribution to the kind of debate and discourse that we need at Cal Poly."

Chenie was referring to a few audience members who opposed some aspects of Brown's speech and asked her pointed questions. At least one person held signs.

Brown also said that people often do not want to have a dialogue about what is really wrong and that they don't want to address racism.

"If we're not really going to talk about what's wrong with America today in terms of racism, then we won't have a dialogue, and we will be pretending that we're talking about something we're not," she said.

Brown said that in order to understand what created the racist community of today, the history of blacks and how they came to this country must be discussed. She took the audience through hundreds of years of history, starting with the arrival of blacks through slavery. She highlighted several points such as the freeing of slaves after the Civil War, the "separate but equal" laws that were enacted, and the contributions of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1974. Brown became the first woman to chair the Black Panther Party.

"The organization's primary goal was the liberation of blacks, but we did not say that we were interested in our freedom and not yours," she said.

Brown said that the Black Panthers tried to create an environment for anyone who was oppressed, disenfranchised or isolated, contrary to most people's views that it was a terrorist organization. They began coalitions with several groups such as Chicanos, Asians, Native Americans, disabled people, women and gays. She said that the party was formed because members of the three-layer Bioremediation Symposium, organized by the Environmental Biotechnology Institute (EBI). The event brought scientists from parts of the United States and Europe. This year's emphasis was on bioremediation, the use of biological organisms to break down chemicals. This method of breaking down materials has a great advantage over previous methods of cleaning polluted areas, said Catherine Smith, research associate at EBI.

Rather than throwing all polluting dirt into a landfill, bioremediation is a process that cleans land and restores the natural ecosystem to its previous state, Smith said.

The symposium started on Thursday with a presentation by Patrick J. Scannan, founder of the pharmaceutical company XOMA Ltd. His discussion focused on the history and present status of biotechnology. On Friday, scientists, including Dr. Paul Lundegard, a principal scientist for Unocal Corp., gave presentations on the current strides made in the field of bioremediation. These presentations covered engineering methods of land cleanup and restoration methods used in other parts of the world.

Mycobacteria, microorganisms that cause diseases such as leprosy, and their help with breaking down oil particles, were also discussed.

On Friday morning was dominated by lectures on microbial bioremediation and their help in the restoration of environments. Phytoremediation is a form of bioremediation, which uses plants to absorb chemicals through their roots.
Professor speaks on nuclear fallout

By Sonia Slutzki

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Everyone who worked on developing the atomic bomb was doing something positive for the world, said Emeritus J. Stemglass, professor emeritus of radiation, physics, at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, during a presentation at the Cal Poly Business Rotunda Thursday.

"We thought we were going to be the saviors of mankind when we ran out of oil and coal," Stemglass said. "We all believed that no one would design a nuclear reactor where something would escape ... people make mistakes."

The audience, formed mostly by San Luis Obispo community members, received a full load of statistics and information indicating the negative health effects of radiation to which people are still exposed while living near a nuclear power plant. To begin the lecture, Stemglass gives a short history of how the world community slowly begins to recognize the effects of radiation on the human body. But by the time scientists found proof of direct correlations between radiation and birth defects, it was already too late, he said.

The world powers were caught up in the arms race, and the dream of a clean source of energy had sparked a strong desire to build nuclear power plants. Stemglass, who worked on developing nuclear technology, said that when scientists began working very diligently toward possible threats to the population and standards were being set by government, scientists made the biggest mistake of having all calculations on grown adults.

"All the calculations that the scientific community made about the risk to the population did not consider the great sensitivity of the early developing baby," he said. Things such as X-rays can be harmless to a grown adult. But research shows that the same doses of radiation on a pregnant woman can interfere with normal fetal development, leading to leukaemia, childhood cancer, and early death, Stemglass said.

A second mistake was made when national standards for safe levels of radiation were set based on the effects of the atomic bombs in Hiroshima, when the highest direct exposure to radiation occurred. According to data Stemglass presented Thursday, scientists believed there was a proportional or linear relationship between how much radiation the human body could be exposed to before the effects became negative.

But according to studies on Strontium-90, a by-product of nuclear reactors that is released by nuclear power plants, it is at the smallest doses that the curve describing the relationship between exposure and effects, shows up and stays at lower levels at the highest rates of exposure. "It is the few initial doses that do the greatest damage," he said. "And we now have new radiocative chemicals that are not natural..."

Strontium-90 in particular collects in the bone marrow affecting white-cell development, and consequently damaging the immune system, Stemglass said. That radioactive particle is the focus of Stemglass's study on an increase in the amount of radioactive material found in early teeth. The study, directed by the New York Based Radiation and Public Health Project, shows that there is a dramatic increase in the amount of Strontium-90 in babies living near nuclear reactors.

According to environmental reports, by Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power plants and other reactors, the levels of Strontium-90 released into the atmosphere are not measured. Stemglass said that measurements of Strontium-90 used to be squared up until the early 1980s, and later remarked that the requirement was amended a few years after Three Mile Island, the worst nuclear accident in American history.

To support his argument on the dangers of nuclear reactors, Stemglass showed health statistics in the areas of San Francisco and Santa Cruz, which are available to the public through the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov). The graphs showed an increase of cancer related deaths 10 years after the inauguration of a nuclear power plant in Santa Cruz and a dramatic decrease soon after the plant was closed in 1999.

"Do you know of a better therapy for treatment for breast cancer than shutting down a nuclear plant?" Stemglass asked. According to the data presented by Stemglass, signs of increasing levels of lung and breast cancer remained level through the 1950s and 1940s and only showed a dramatic increase as atmospheric testing of nuclear bombs and nuclear disasters began to take place.

At the end of the presentation, Stemglass invited parents to send their child's baby teeth for analysis. Information is available on the Web at www.radiation.org or by calling 1-800-382-7175. Stemglass has been a professor emeritus of radiation physics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine since 1967.

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courtesy of the Mustang Daily

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Why is the Krebs case still in the Daily?

Some people have been wondering why the trial of Rex Krebs has continually been placed in the front page of our recent papers. Some feel we are bringing too much light to such a tragic event. Others wonder if people are even still interested in the trial. And, there are those that don't even know what happened.

It is our editorial stance that reporting about the ongoing events in the Krebs case is not putting too much attention on the issue. We feel the campus community needs, and deserves, to know the outcomes in this very sad case. As journalists, we are obligated to maintain our objectivity and help our readers understand the process of Krebs being innocent until proven guilty.

It is also the opinion of Mustang Daily that this high-profile case is something that our readers care about. Much of our current community was around when two female college students disappeared, and it was discovered that they were murdered. They were also around when Rex Krebs was suspected and charged with the crime. It is that community that deserves to know the final outcome, and that community should care if the actually murderer is convicted.

As for people in our community who are coming into this situation at this point, it is still important to understand the implications of this case. Without continuing coverage, readers would never know if Krebs is convicted. And, this notion means a lot to the community. If people (as in a jury) believe Krebs to be innocent, the real murderer may very well still be at large. That is a huge safety risk to our community and a big reason to take interest.

Our goal at Mustang Daily will always be to bring the campus community the most important news each day. Sometimes that news will be light and encouraging; often, it will not.

Have a question about campus? Ask Adam. E-mail him at adaman@mcpoly.edu.

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Genome research may lead to new discrimination

WASHINGTON (AP) - Mapping the human genome opens a new era for medical science — and a new frontier for potential discrimination.

New genetic research may make it possible to identify an individual's lifetime risk of cancer, heart attack and other diseases. Experts worry that this information could be used to discriminate in hiring, promotions or insurance.

Employers and insurers could save millions of dollars if they could use predictive genetics to identify in advance, then reject workers or policy applicants who are predisposed to develop chronic disease.

Thus, genetic discrimination could join the list of other forms of discrimination: racial, ethnic, age and sexual.

Genetic discrimination is drawing attention this week because of the first publication of the complete human genome map and sequence. Two versions, virtually identical, were compiled separately by an international public consortium and by a private company.

The journal Nature is publishing the work of the public consortium and the journal Science is publishing the sequence by Celera Genomics, a Rockville, Md., company.

Fear of such discrimination already is affecting how people view the medical revolution promised by mapping the human genome. A Time/CNN poll last summer found that 73 percent of 1,218 Americans surveyed did not want insurance companies to know their genetic code, and 84 percent wanted that information withheld from the government.

"There has been widespread fear that an individual's genetic information will be used against them," said Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn. "If we truly wish to improve quality of health care, we must begin taking steps to eliminate patency fears."

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission last week filed its first lawsuit challenging genetic discrimination.

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Mustang Daily
Go far back to find nation's 'simpler times'

Objective truth is downing in a swell of cultural relativism, and it seems that most people aren't even willing to notice, much less attempt to rescue. Sadly, it's not always this way. I often wish we could turn back the clock to a simpler time, when right was right, wrong was wrong, and nobody from either side issued apologies.

I'm not talking about a drastic rollback; maybe we could just go back to the early 1960s, when we knew that the president had noble intentions, and that America automatically chose the right side of history in whatever action it pursued. Our country was founded on those objective truths, and we must have some respect for them.

Then again, some dangerous ideas began to appear even in the '60s, maybe we should roll back the clock a little further, say, to the late 19th century.

Ethan Pratt (1894). At that time, a man named Martin Luther himself engaged in a noble fight against the evil Empire began, people began to doubt everything. We might have to turn the clock back all the way to Reconstruction, when we confirmed that every man's equality was self-evident, even if some men had a more self-evident equality than others.

It used to be so easy - there was no room for opinions that didn't concur with Christianity and the Constitution. And the so-called "acceptance" now demanded by every frivolous minority group used to show truth for what it always was: a chilling attempt to undermine the core values of true Americans. After all, God either exists or He does not. The Bible is either the word of God or it is not. How can one know the truth and still allow another citizen to live his life in opposition to these unavoidable realities?

You can't be a true believer while you allow your country to be sacked by heathens. After all, without the unimpeachable moral authority of objective truth, how can we know right from wrong? How can we be comforted in the face of danger if our salvation is not already secure? Surely we're not expected to derive such conclusions by ourselves; we obviously do not have the mental capacity.

It's nice to think of returning to simpler times, but since we cannot turn back the clock, we must find a new way to stem the many infection of cultural relativism now swelling on objective truth. Providentially, our direction is clear: Assume people always think correctly; emulate them when they do not. We can simply pretend all is right with the world until it actually becomes that way, for free thinkers are easily thwarted if right thinkers just ignore them. Remember our acronym and battle cry: "Assume, pretend, emasculate!"

Ethan Pratt is a physics senior.

More than 50 million people, including myself, use its services... for free. At first I thought it was too good to be true, but then I discovered the wonders of Napster - the online file-sharing service adored by broke college students everywhere. However, I soon realized it was too good to be true.

As of this summer, I will no longer be able to use Napster to scan my way into getting loads of music.

Commentary

Napster recently settled one of its many lawsuits over copyright infringement by making a "strategic alliance" with German media giant Bertelsmann. The terms of the alliance require Napster to start charging for its services. Soon, Napster's new membership-based business model will cost users a monthly fee of $4.95. Each time a song is traded, artists, record labels and publishers will now get the compensation some believe they have been robbed of since Napster's debut.

When I first heard that Napster made some "deal" that would require me to start paying for my happily pirated music, I thought it was terrible. I'll just use another file-sharing service, like Gnutella or SpinFrenzyExchange. I was so content robbing the music industry of its hard-earned cash with a simple click of the mouse.

But then it hit me. If the record labels and artists are using Napster, what's to stop them from moving on to all file-sharing services! Just because Napster was the first to start marketing the file- swapping system doesn't mean it's the only one that will face the repercussions. Those other services will be hunted down and sealed as well. "Damn those copyright laws," they'll think.

Although I did enjoy "sharing" the free music, it really was too good to be true. Who's to say that artists shouldn't receive some compensation for millions of people trading their music around for free?

It's not like I have a guilty conscience for using Napster for so long, but I do think it's only fair that it end this way. Paying only $5 a month for access to tons of music is still far less than going out and buying all the CDs. Spending $18 on a CD to get those two songs I want seems ridiculous to me. Napster has always been convenient for this because I can pick and choose the songs I want. I can still do this now, and it still costs me far less than heading over to the Wheresites.

I'm sure there are people who think Napster sold out, but where else was it supposed to do? It is being sold by the biggest names in the music industry and could be shut down altogether. At least Napster is trying to stay alive so we can have the freedom to continue using its services - only now for a small price.

That small price isn't asking much, considering how much music we can get in return. It's a fair compromise for Napster, artists, record labels and the millions of people who should be happy it's still online. Not many things in life are free. Why should we expect music to be?
My initial impression of the XFL, a new extreme football league started by Vince McMahon, chairman of the World Wrestling Federation, was more than anticipated. The product, shown on the

Commentary

net-

at wrestling, is nothing more than minor-league football, featuring too many NFL rejects named after beer bottles and too many has-heen announcers. Coaches like Chicago's Ron Meyer. Mix in tacky stadium scenes dominated by tear-jerking cheerleaders and heavy-breathing announcers. The telecasts overreached interpreters with players void of any

original thoughts, including Las Vegas running back Rod Smart, who wore "He Hate Me" on the back of his jersey in place of his last name. The ball itself is not very good. The NFL doesn't have anything to worry about. Running back was garter mate,

though. In-your-face television production is fun and innovative, bringing a level of intimacy not previously thought possible in professional football. For the first time, viewers truly felt they were part of the action, thanks to an extraordinary number of cameras, two held by on-field cameramen in flak jackets and hockey helmets. As one of the teams was trying to stage a comeback, the running back was heard chanting, "Run the draw! Run the draw! That was cool. The XFL substitutes the traditional coin toss with a "free" at midfield to open the game. The Orlando Rage's Hannah Shood-Medien had been carried off the field with a dislocated shoulder after he and Chicago quarterback Daunte Culpepper collided while running and fighting for the football. This was another highlight of the game. In the end, it was three hours of jerking, chaotic television aimed at the lowest common denominator. Like it or not, in recent years our attention span has gotten shorter and shorter and schlock has gotten greater. According to the Nielsen ratings, 57 percent of the audience for last weekend's games was made up of 12- to 49-year-old males. This is precisely the target audience that Vince McMahon and the XFL are trying to cater to. You have to give them what they want. We must all stand up and raise our voices and tell Vince McMahon and the rest of corporate America that the XFL has no place in this society. The bar must be raised, and we must be less accepting of the amount of garbage on television. As long as there is a market for lowbrow pro-

products, there will be people willing to fork over $100 million to start the new league. It is time for us to say "enough is enough," and change the cultural level above the lowest common denominator. We must all take the blame for allowing the so-called "alternative" culture to become the norm in this country, but it is not too late to reverse the trend. It is time to expect more from popular culture, and from ourselves as well.

Raul Vasquez is a journalism student and Mustang Daily staff writer.
SOUZA continued from page 1

celebrity sign autographs for Valentine's Day.

Kay Huebner, owner of Crazy Joe's, said the thing that boosted him the most about hosting the event in his store was the benefit for the women's shelters, since he owns a women's clothing store.

"The station contacted me originally," Huebner said. "We were a good fit demographically for Josh and for the shelters."

Huebner said that between having Josh there for the girls and ongoing proceeds to go on to the shelters, it was a lot of fun.

"Maybe next time we would have the TV station pay for the photographs instead of the girls," Huebner said. "But a lot of the girls were nervous or afraid to go up to Josh."

The girl may have been nervous, but Souza was able to win her way into their hearts.

"I love doing this," Souza said. "It makes people happy, and knowing that they walk away feeling good makes me want to do this even more."

Souza said he doesn't like people who are in the spotlight and don't use it to do a good cause.

"I get so mad seeing celebrities who make millions of dollars and don't give anything back," Souza said. If someone wants to pay $5 for a picture, Souza said, he would rather do it for a good cause, like the women's shelters.

"I had a grandma who was a bat­
tended woman," Souza said. "That's my reason for doing this charity, and it means a lot to me."

Souza said his managers don't like

him doing so many charities because they want him to be in Los Angeles shooting commercials.

"I'm currently in L.A.," Souza said. "I have a lot of projects going on, like after this event I'll be going to Fresno on Feb. 13 at the IMAX theaters doing a Valentine's picture session to benefit the Girl Scouts." Souza will also meet with VHI executives on Wednesday after the Girl Scout session to do a top 10 video countdown.

"After 'Big Brother,' Souza was determined to put his modelling and acting skills to use.

"I have been auditioning for com­
cerns, such as Taco Bell," Souza said. "I'm also getting a film role on an HBO move called 'Trapped.'

Souza will play a high school foot­
ball player in the HBO movie special. "One of the things that I'm proud of is I'm getting my own television show," Souza said. Souza said it is an Internet show that is broadcast live with video streams and will have special guests. It's called 'Youthradio.com,' and it mostly appeals to college students.

Souza will host the show on Saturdays from 4 to 6 p.m.

"On my first show I'm having Relatives from the 'Real World' in Hawaii come in," Souza said. "I think it will be a lot of fun."

With new things surrounding Souza, he is not willing to show off the new money he won.

"I haven't really bought anything with the money," Souza said. "I've paid my student loans and bought a few new clothes."

Souza said he still wants to come back to finish school and get his degree in civil engineering.

"I don't know when I'll be coming back yet," Souza said. "I'm really busy right now with all the traveling."

SYMPOSIUM continued from page 1

roots with the help of fungi. The symposium ended on Saturday with a field trip to the Guadalupe dunes. Kirts said the field was a local to one biology student took last year. At the dunes, students were shown cleanup methods implemented on the polluted dunes. For example, rows of cottonwood trees were planted above polluted sand. The

Guadalupe dunes site is being treated for soil pollution, including the contamination of the water table beneath it.

The symposium was a gathering of scientists who met with the idea of fixing the environment. With polluted areas like the Guadalupe dunes and Avila Beach, this symposium was beneficial for the community and scientists working in the area, Kirts said.

"If anything else, just meeting all these experts I wouldn't have met otherwise," Kirts said.

GAP continued from page 1

who is really getting hurt, the com­
pany or the poor workers?"

Another customer was overheard

saying, "Why are they promoting Everyone uses sweatshops."

"We just want to get the people

into their hearts. It's good for the com­
pany -- awareness of the situa­tions in Saipan and reform of Gap labor practices."

The protesters' flyers mentioned that Gap refuses to join 18 other retailers in settling a lawsuit with the factory workers for "indentured sla­

vage." The lawsuit would require indi­

vidual monitoring of factories and payments to garment workers whose rights were violated.

Oncoming traffic on Higuera Street was encountered with signs mentioning the price of corn and the weekly wage of a factory worker, which were separated by $4. Some driv­
ers would nod and others seemed to avoid eye contact with the protesters. Customers seemed slightly both­

ened by the protesters at the front door.

It wasn't so

You're just making me feel so much better, just knowing that you're there for me."

As the protest continued, a few

protesters began to chant and continued to pass out their flyers with pictures of sweatshops and working conditions. "I want to make sure that it's under­

stood that this isn't a boycott," McGowan said. "This is just a way to bring awareness to the people of the community -- awareness of the situa­tions in Saipan and reform of Gap labor practices."

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UPSET
continued from page 8

The four-time defending Big West champions shot the ball well from the field (.522 percent, 24-46) of their shots, Cal Poly was a bit cooler from the field, shooting 43.4 percent (23-53).

On paper, the Mustangs were told they didn't have a chance. "I heard the Santa Barbara radio stations saying that on paper. Cal Poly was 43.4 percent (23-53). But on paper, the Mustangs were like champs," said Mustangs coach Faith Mimnaugh. "I told our team that paper doesn't win high games, people do. Our kids went out and played like champs."

The Gauchos were led by five in the opening seven minutes, but the Mustangs battled back from behind the arc -- sinking four of 10 from downtown in the half -- and never trailed again.

Cal Poly turned the ball over eight times in the first eight minutes before O'Connor's three-point play sparked the next 12-2 run and brought the Mustang bench to its feet with 4:05 remaining in the half.

Following the fifth tie of the game, the Mustangs scored the next nine points and took their biggest lead of the half, 37-28, two minutes before the break. Baker, the Mustangs' 15th-fooled wayward at the buzzer gave Cal Poly a 39-31 lead into the locker room.

"They did a lot of things that are needed to do to win the game," said Mustang head coach Mark French.

"They were prepared and executed their game plan. We weren't prepared and didn't play very hard. That's the responsibility of the coaching staff as well as the players," Mimnaugh said.

The Mustangs ran into foul trouble in the second half. Baker, Jenkins and O'Conor were all with three fouls from the first three minutes. The Mustangs were only down by 15 points at halftime.

"The first quarter killed us," said Senior forward Nicole West. "They came out in the second half and didn't play very hard. We made costly turnovers," said Brian Milne, a Santa Barbara native.

"I had a quick foul that took me out of the game. We're only shifting 29 percent," said West.

"We made costly turnovers, and didn't get loose balls and defensive rebounds, and making silly turnovers," said Mimnaugh.

"They were prepared and didn't play very hard. That's the responsibility of the coaching staff as well as the players," Mimnaugh said.

"The Gauchos were also successful with their 3-point shots in the first half, shooting 60 percent (3 for 5). Cal Poly made 11 (18 percent) in the first period.

Cal Poly led only once, when Scott scored the first two points of the game.

"It was a beautiful sight, given the recent lack of support over the last few months. Mott Mania had been sucked into a downward spiral thanks to the ill-timed resignation of sweet-talking head basketball coach Jeff Schneider, coupled with a painful seven straight losses in the Big West.

"It was a beautiful sight, given the recent lack of support over the last few months. Mott Mania had been sucked into a downward spiral thanks to the ill-timed resignation of sweet-talking head basketball coach Jeff Schneider, coupled with a painful seven straight losses in the Big West.

"When you have those kind of fans behind you, it just brings everybody's level up. That can happen here. If we get everybody crazy, putting on green and jumping up and down and chanting, that would be perfect," said Brian Milne, a journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

E-mail him at brian@milne.com.

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"They came out in the second half and cut our lead immediately," Williams said.

"But in the end, the Mustangs didn't have enough time to turn their comeback into a win. We made costly turnovers, and didn't play very hard. That's the responsibility of the coaching staff as well as the players," Mimnaugh said.

"It could've been a lot worse when we're only shooting 29 percent," Williams said.

"The Mustangs were successful with their 3-point shots in the first half, shooting 60 percent (3 for 5). Cal Poly made 11 (18 percent) in the first period.

"It was a beautiful sight, given the recent lack of support over the last few months."
Sports

Mustang Daily

Wrestling wins eighth straight meet

By Brian Milne

The Cal Poly wrestling team added two more victories to its impressive eight-match dual meet win streak this weekend, defeating Stanford and Montana State on Saturday night, Cal Poly won seven of 10 dual matches en route to a 26-9 victory. After the Cardinal opened up with a victory at 141 pounds, Cal Poly won seven of the next eight matches.

The Mustangs faced a much closer match Friday night as they squared off against Montana State. Montana State is one of the strongest teams in Division II wrestling.

Junior Cedric Harmon’s pin of Scott Mertz secured the victory for Cal Poly, giving them an eight-point advantage with one match to go. Before that match, the teams split their first eight matches.

The two victories give the Mustangs an overall record of 9-6, and 3-3 in the Pac-10.

Cal Poly closes out the regular season against Cal State Fullerton at Mott Gym Thursday night at 7 p.m. After that, the Mustangs will head to Oregon for the Pac-10 Championships Feb. 25 and 26.

Road unkind to men’s basketball

Cal Poly falls to UCSB, snaps winning streak

By Michelle Hatfield

GOLETA - After Thursday night’s upset win of Long Beach State, the Mustangs knew they couldn’t have a letdown as they traveled to Santa Barbara to face the Gauchos.

But that letdown happened in the first half, when Cal Poly shot 29 percent and fell victim to a hot-shooting Gauchos offense, leading to a 99-88 loss on Saturday night.

After being down 15 points at halftime, the Mustangs closed the gap to two points with a combination of stifling defense and an outburst of great shooting.

The biggest UCSB lead was 22 points, but Cal Poly closed the gap at 72-75 with five minutes left.

The rally included a series of threes, including forward James次 Goux’s 3-pointer and a layup and dunk by forward Chris Bjorklund.

The crowd of 3,872 at the Thunderdome was surprisingly silent as the Mustangs clawed their way back into the game.

Guard Jamaral Scott drives around a Gauchos defender Saturday night. Scott led the Mustangs with 21 points and three assists.

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WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

The hardwood is still recovering from last week’s events. Originally, it was the men’s basketball team, humbled by fans after beating up on Long Beach State on Thursday in front of almost 3,000 Mott mansion, not to mention a regional Fox Sports West 2 television audience.

“Don’t remember being on a roll like that here,” Bjorklund told reporters following the post-game ceremonies. “I can’t even describe what it’s like having your hands on the court and having that response and the fans joining it.”

On Friday, the lady Mustangs got in on the action with the biggest win in the program’s history and the first over Big West adversary Santa Barbara since 1983.

Most of the Mustangs were 1 or 2 years old the last time Cal Poly chalked up a “W” over the Gauchos. And head coach Faith Minnich was still breaking the ankles of opposing point guards at Loyola University in Illinois.

“That was the best crowd we’ve ever had,” Bjorklund said of the season-high 1,012, which began panning in Mott Gym early Friday night. “After watching the guys’ game on Thursday, we were so excited to come back over here. They made it happen for us.”

But there’s still plenty of work to be done. The 30-22-west game was barely a third half for the women’s game – one of the biggest roadies of the year – and the noon vacancy sign flashed through the first half of the men’s game.

Luckily, this year’s football coach Rich Ellerson helped pull the plug with a team meeting in section 7 Thursday, filling the seats of green

Rebirth of Mustang basketball

Team captains Chris Bjorklund and Kassidy Baker had never seen anything like it, and neither had Mott Gym.

Marietta mobbed the Mustangs at midcourt for the second straight night, capturing the home floor into a March Madness-type mob fit.

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Sports Trivia

Yesterday’s Answer:
The Harlem Globetrotters’ theme song is “Sweet Georgia Brown.”

Congrats Tommy Rao!

Today’s Question:
Who won the NBA’s first Slam Dunk competition?

Please submit sports trivia answer to mustangdaily@calpoly.edu.

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