Police say false alarms cost money

By Erica Tower

In light of two Cal Poly students who were reported missing, many people wonder what happens when missing students aren’t really missing at all. The University Police Department spends extra time, resources and money attempting to locate individuals, who in some instances, have simply forgotten to tell their roommates where they are going or when they will return. Twenty percent of funds comes from student fees.

According to a University Police news release, this process is quite taxing considering that dozens of police agencies and related organizations are often involved in the process. Regardless of the circumstances in which a person is reported missing, the case is prioritized above all other efforts that may be important.

"Last year alone, the Cal Poly Police Department investigated 22 ‘missing persons’ cases and two ‘attempt to locate’ cases, in which students who were supposed to check in with a roommate or parent failed to do so," said University Sgr. Steve Schroeder. "In the case of a missing person, it can cost over $1,000 in time, resources and working with investigation agencies to locate those people, when such a situation could have been prevented."

The University Police Department is funded by two sources. Approximately 80 percent of its money comes from the students. This year, 11 booths will be entered into a drawing for several prizes. Prizes will include free coupons for local stores and restaurants, such as Blockbuster.

see POLICE, page 2

For the better: Cal Poly baseball player improves his game. 8

Cheers! Should Disney allow alcohol? 4

High: 67° / Low: 48°

For extended weather forecast see Daily Dose 2

Considering the obstacles

Bikers who are forced to take obscure routes to get to their classes may be in for a treat.

Beginning April 2, bicyclists will be allowed to walk their bikes through a new "Walk Your Bike" zone. Currently, the area is designated "No Bikes."

"There was a safety issue on inner Perimeter Road – you had some pedestrian and bicycle collisions," said Deby Anderson, Commuter Services coordinator. "The bicyclists were racing down the hill at a high rate of speed."

About 10 years ago, the campus core was completely closed to bicyclists.

In the summer of 2000, the Bicycle Task Force was formed to encourage the use of bicycles as an alternative form of transportation in order to reduce campus traffic congestion and maintain clean air.

The task force is comprised of representatives from the University Police Department, Facilities Planning, faculty, staff and students.

"We want to make it as easy as possible for students to get to class, but we are encouraging them to please walk their bikes through the zone," Anderson said.

The "Walk Your Bike" zone is located in the campus core, which is bordered by inner Perimeter Road.

Currently the University Police Department is issuing warnings to bicyclists who fail to walk their bikes. This is part of a month-long effort by the department and the Bicycle Task Force to educate the Cal Poly community about the policy changes by posting new walk zone signs.

"Riding a bicycle isn’t safe in the area, but at the same time, we wanted to encourage students to use alternate modes of transportation," said Cindy Campbell, program manager at Public Safety Services.

see BICYCLE, page 6

New zone designations allow bikes to be walked

By Raul Vasquez

Bicyclists will be allowed to walk their bikes through a new “Walk Your Bike” zone.

The zone will take effect beginning April 2.

The fine for violations will be $25.

"We want to make it as easy as possible for students to get to class, but we are encouraging them to please walk their bikes through the zone,” Anderson said.

"By putting on a carnival, students can have fun while learning how to avoid some of the dangers associated with spring break.”

Christy Moutin Peer Health educator

Carnival offers tips on health

By Sonia Slutzki

After weeks of stress, tests, projects and finals, college students have usually turned to tension-free, week-long vacations to warm regions, surrounded by friends, parties and, most likely, alcohol. But after a week of carefree attitudes, reports on alcohol-related injuries and sexually transmitted infections dramatically increase, said Christy Moutin, a kinesiology senior and Peer Health educator.

In an attempt to promote safer ways of enjoying the break, Peer Health is presenting “Tropical Temptations – Spring Break Survival,” today and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the University Union Plaza.

The carnival includes 11 booths with games and information, covering everything from skin care and safe sex, to recipes for non-alcoholic drinks like “safe sex on the beach.”

"By putting on a carnival, students can have fun while learning how to avoid some of the dangers associated with spring break," Moutin said.

In previous years, Peer Health set up “Love Carefully Week” and “National Condom Day” during the week of Valentine’s Day. The events usually target safer sex, sexually transmitted infections and general sexuality issues. Students usually felt uncomfortable approaching the booths for information, Moutin said.

This year, Moutin came up with a different approach.

"We didn’t want to turn people away from the carnival with too much info," she said. "So we decided to include all kinds of spring break related things that would be fun and educational at the same time."

Each student will be given a pass to participate in the carnival. Those who go through nine of the 11 booths will be entered into a drawing for several prizes.

see CARNIVAL, page 2

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see CARNIVAL, page 2
SANTIE, Calif. (AP) — The "angry young man" accused of killing two fellow students fired randomly and still had eight bullets in his gun when police cornered him in a school bathroom, investigators said Thursday.

Friends said the scruffy 15-year-old freshman accused in the nation's latest school shooting had said he couldn't tolerate being turned into a "Columbine," and tried to call the boy's father but didn't follow through.

No one has known to report the threats that preceded Monday's attack that also wounded 13 at Santana High.

During a news conference, authorities said the gunman could have been much worse if not for the swift action of a sheriff's deputy and an off-duty police officer who was on campus to register his child in the school.

When Williams surrendered, his 22-caliber revolver was fully loaded with eight rounds, its hammer cocked, investigators said. He came to school with as many as 40 rounds, investigators said.

"I do believe that if it had not been for the conduct of the people involved it would have been even worse," Sheriff Bill Kolender said.

The boy fired indiscriminately, sheriff's Lt. Jerry Lewis said. Most of the students hit were struck as they fled down a hallway between the school's library and administration office.

"The information we have from the evidence and the witnesses (is) that the suspect was firing randomly at anybody who was going by," Lewis said. "Any student who was going by he was shooting at." Authorities said the boy was cooperating in an interview but they could not shed further light on his possible motives.

Witnesses "all said he was mad at something. We don't know if he was mad at the school, mad at students, mad at his dad, mad at home," Lewis said. "He was an angry young man.

Although school was closed Tuesday, students, parents and others gathered outside to place flowers at a makeshift memorial site and grieve. The school is to reopen Wednesday to give students a chance to talk about the shooting.

One victim, 18-year-old Barry Gibson, was released from a hospital Tuesday. Gibson told reporters he had been hanging out with friends after school classes when he heard shooting coming from inside a nearby hallway.

"I pretty sure everyone, including myself, thought they were fireworks," Gibson said. "I didn't know what he was hobbled on or what he was up to at a community meeting.

During a counseling session at a church, an American Red Cross representative asked for a show of hands of people who had trouble sleeping the previous night. About a third of the 200 people indicated they did.

"You may just feel like your heart is beating all the time and you can't calm down," said Robert Boz, a Red Cross disaster mental health worker. "I want to reassure you that people do get through this.

As authorities dug into the case, they questioned how so many people could see the same signs and not act.

"That's going to be haunting me for a long time," said Chris Remolds, 29, who heard the shots and didn't report them.

Williams, held in a juvenile facility Tuesday, will be charged as an adult with murder, assault with a deadly weapon and gun possession, District Attorney Paul Pirug said.

The adult prosecution is mandatory under a ballot measure approved last year, and the boy could face multiple life terms. Arraignment is set for Wednesday.

Pirug said the gun belonged to Williams' father, Charles — a lab technician at the Naval Medical Center San Diego — since July. It had been stored in a locked cabinet, investigators said.

Authorities said they removed seven rifles, a computer, a plastic crate filled with papers and files, and about a half dozen bags filled with evidence from the Williams' apartment.

POLICE
continued from page 1
Cal Poly general fund, which is allocat- ed by state taxpayer dollars, while 25 percent comes from student fees, said Bob Dennis, interim vice president for Student Affairs.

"In cases where the person really isn't missing, this money could be better spent in other areas," Schroeder said. "It is common courtesy to let people know where you are so they don't worry that something has happened to you."

The University Police Department is stressing the importance of missing persons procedures after the two students who were reported missing by roommates Feb. 12 failed to return from a weekend camping trip.

After a two-week search and investiga- tion, Antrim Tucker, a mechanical engineering senior, and Israel Green, an industrial technology student, were found Feb. 25, when they were spotted by Skagit County authorities in Washington. Apparently, they failed to let family and friends know that they had extended their weekend trip.

University Police Chief Tony Aiells encourages Cal Poly students to assist the police department and other police agencies by giving a responsible friend or family member the following information if going somewhere outside of their normal routine:

- Where you are going
- Who you are with
- When you expect to return
- If your plans change
- Contact numbers where you can be reached.

The goal is not only to reduce the expenditure of resources, but to alleviate the unnecessary anxiety of friends, family and agencies involved in the investiga- tion, Aiells said in a news release.

CARNIVAL
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Visit the Tech Center in El Corral Bookstore, or call (859) 756-5311 today!
Living Fit

Working out the details

By Michelle Hatfield
Mustang Daily Staff Writer

A healthier and better-targeted workout is just around the corner. Around the corner from the Rec Center, that is.

In building 43, the kinesiology tower, fitness assessments are offered to all Cal Poly students and faculty for $10 to $15.

The assessments test cardiovascular fitness, muscular fitness, body composition and flexibility.

"It's important for clients to get this information," said Morgan van Doom, kinesiology senior and exercise program director. "The assessments give a more complete outlook on a person's fitness level."

The point of the tests is to give people an idea of the types of exercise they should be doing to achieve whatever goal they have set, van Doom said. For people who want to lose weight, these tests will tell them what cardiovascular workouts they should be doing.

The results of the tests help the client and staff draw up a fitness plan, van Doom said.

The cardiovascular fitness test requires people to walk on a treadmill, ride a bike or use a Stairmaster for eight to 15 minutes to determine their sub-maximal estimation. The sub-maximal estimation is the point just before an individual is working at his or her hardest capacity, van Doom said.

The muscular fitness test is a weight and strength training assessment that lasts between 15 and 60 minutes. During the test, people are tested on grip strength, sit-ups and push-ups.

There are three different ways to measure body composition. Van Doom said the most accurate is the hydrostatic weighing, which measures the water displacement when a person enters a water tank. The skinfold test measures the diameter of skin thickness when it's folded using calipers. The least invasive of the three is the painless bioclectrical impedance analysis, van Doom said. For this test, an electric current is sent through the body, and body fat is measured based on the resistance met by the current.

"Body composition testing tells a person their overall fitness level," van Doom said. "It uses quantitative results to compare where you were and where you are."

The last test, flexibility, uses the sit-and-reach and universal goniometer tests to measure the range of motion in any joint in the body. The test is useful for people who are having problems with their joints or who just want to know their range of motion, van Doom said.

The tests are part of the Exercise Testing and Prescription Program. Body composition testing was originally the only assessment test offered by the program, but van Doom wanted to expand the services to include the other three assessments. This idea spiraled into a senior project for van Doom.

"I felt that body composition testing gives people only one aspect of fitness," he said.

Megan Thomas, a political science sophomore, had her body composition tested and said that she would encourage others to be tested.

"I would recommend this to everyone," she said. "It produces a lot of good information. It can't hurt to know about yourself."

The testing is open to Cal Poly students, faculty, staff and alumni only. Vin Doom said the reason for this is that he didn't want to infringe on other clubs in town that offer the same tests.

Van Doom especially encourages students from all majors, not just kinesiology students, to come in and get tested.

"Health and fitness is important to everybody," he said. "We want to reach everybody."

Testing is by appointment only 8 to 10 a.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. Mondays, 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays. A client information packet can be picked up in building 43, room 250. To make an appointment, call 756-6169.

Surya von Rosen, kinesiology senior, tests his body composition in a hydrostatic tank. This is just one method of testing body fat that is available in the Exercise Testing and Prescription Program.
Alcohol won’t taint Disney image

"The happiest place on earth" just became a little happier.

Disney's new California Adventure theme park opened Feb. 8 and will be the first Disney venue in Anaheim that will serve alcohol.

Some people say that alcohol doesn't belong in a Disney theme park because it runs Disney's image of innocence. Those people are wrong. The whole point of the California Adventure theme park is to replicate California experiences by making them aesthetically correct. In order to do that, Disney needs to be able to show all the diversity that California has to offer.

The Golden Winery attraction at the new California Adventure Park isn't just about drinking and selling alcohol. Guests at the new Disney park will be able to see historical films about the winemaking process, taste and purchase wines or enjoy a meal at a restaurant modeled after the Vineyard Room at Mondavi's Napa winery.

Because of the nature of the wine country exhibiton, it does not seem like serving alcohol would be gratuitous at all. Disney is merely trying to educate people about the state of California by replicating the true California experience. After all, the wine industry in the Golden State is just as important to California as Hollywood fame and beachfront amusement.

Although it may seem shocking to some that a Disney park will sell alcohol, it is not a new rule. The only Disney parks that don't allow alcohol are the Magic Kingdom parks: Disneyland in Anaheim and Disney World in Florida. Disney has always allowed alcoholic beverages to be sold in Epcot and Disney MGM Studios. This doesn't include all the parks that Disney has outside of the United States that have alcoholic beverages available on their premises.

Most people know how to consume alcohol in a responsible way, and serving alcoholic beverages to people of legal age doesn't seem like it would hinder the Disney experience for anyone. After all, it's not like the new park is going to be a party haven. Serving alcohol is just a nice addition for adults to enjoy, and why shouldn't they be allowed to drink, anyway? Just because there is alcohol for sale in the park doesn't mean that people are going to get out of control. If someone does get out of control, however, park security will be there to take care of the problem. California Adventure has park policies relating to alcohol. There is no glass allowed in the park, so no one can walk around with alcohol in a glass. If someone buys alcohol in one of the restaurants, wineries or bars, they will have to put their drink in a plastic cup before they leave the area. Parents shouldn't worry about their kids seeing other adults with alcohol because it won't be noticeable.

Disney's new California Adventure theme park does allow alcoholic beverages to be sold. To some people that may seem non-Walt Disney-like, but it's nothing new for the Disney company. If people don't like the fact that alcohol is being sold at the new park, they can always go to the Magic Kingdoms where liquor is still taboo.

Letter policy

Columns, cartoons and letters reflect the views of their authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Mustang Daily.

Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanities and length. Please limit length to 350 words.

Mustang Daily encourages comments on editorial policy and university affairs. Letters should be typewritten and signed with major and class standing. Preference is given to e-mailed letters. They can be mailed, faxed, delivered or e-mailed to mustangdaily@hotmail.com. Do not send letters as an attachment. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.
What will Cal Poly be like after its next 10 years?

A lot of students and nowhere to live.

Meredith Rogers nutrition senior

It's going to be overcrowded because they keep over-enrolling.

Jennifer Rivior nutrition sophomore

I think people will still be wearing their Nikes and tennis. Not much is going to change.

Stephen Kempert mechanical engineering senior

Growth in engineering and architecture, and a transporter between classes.

Darin Richardson graphic communications senior

We've got a bus schedule to fit your class schedule!

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Stop looking for Martian life

The thin air provides little protection from radiation or sufocation. The dust storms destroy all visibility, and the temperature changes create an unbearable situation. No, this is not Fresno, it is the surface of Mars – the infamous red planet.

In a historic press conference on Aug. 7, 1997, NASA announced it had found a Martian meteorite four years prior. Although there were 11 otherCommentary entries like it, this particular meteorite was special.

NASA scientists pronounced that the meteorite provided evidence of ancient, fossilized microscopic life on Mars. Since this announcement, NASA has been openly researching the possibility that life once existed, and may still exist, on Mars.

It’s important to it is to find the most important and primitive of microorganisms living on Mars?

MarsNews.com, a Web site addressing Mars-related issues, tackles the potential implications: “If life on Mars is ever proven to exist (or have existed at some point in time), it would mean that the creation of life is not something that happens because of freak chance or divine influence, but in fact a probable occurrence given the right conditions.” Creationism aside, isn’t that what basic high school biology teaches students in study of evolution?

Despite what seems to be already understood scientific dogma, NASA seems determined to discover how far the reaches of life on Mars extend, past or present. However, in its attempts to study the elusive red planet, NASA is spending billions of dollars – much of which is wasted.

NASA recently lost the $125 million Mars Climate Orbiter and its companion, the $165 million Mars Polar Lander. Plus, two $29 million micro-probes attached to the lander’s spacecraft provided nothing but disappointment for scientists looking for new evidence. One of the spacecraft failed because of a simple math error.

Now NASA wants a chance to redeem itself for its failed missions. In April, NASA is scheduled to launch the Mars Odyssey, a cleverly named orbiter meant to survey the atmosphere and mineralogy. In 2003, when the alignment of the planets is right again, NASA will send twin rovers to the planet to study its surface. After this, at least four more missions are scheduled before 2011.

NASA estimates that this Mars exploration will cost $400 million to $450 million annually. These millions must come from somewhere – taxpayers.

Poring millions of dollars into the exploration of Mars at this time seems ridiculous. I understand the curiosity of scientists to know if an organism does exist elsewhere in our galaxy. However, these missions are costly and obviously not so reliable at the present time. These millions could be spent more wisely in education.

The problems here on Earth deserve attention before NASA uses more government money to develop million-dollar missions to Mars. After all, there are no Martian men, and scientists already understand the idea that life will flourish if certain elements are present. Plus, regardless of whether life once existed somewhere other than Earth, people probably won’t suddenly drop whatever beliefs or non-beliefs they have in a "god."

There are homeless people here, malnourished elderly here and undereducated children here – not Mars. Before we dive into a never-ending attempt to study the other planets in our galaxy, we should focus our energies – and our money – on making this planet a better one.

Janelle Foskett is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Letter to the editor

If you condemn gays, watch your diet

Editor,

In his letter, Luke Cherry used the Bible to support his opposition to homosexuality, stating that homosexuality is an “abomination” (“Homosexuality is wrong,” Mar. 5). I’d like to set straight a couple of other such "abominations" that we as a society seem to be ignoring: eating shellfish and pork.

Lev. 11:7-10, we are told that "they are unclean to you" and that "they shall be an abomination unto you." Wow, that’s huge.

Also, being that homosexuality is the abomination that it is, I think we should make sure to apply the punishment that God has ordered: death (Lev. 20:13). Now, we need to be consistent here, so let’s make sure we apply this punishment to all the sins listed in Leviticus 20. These are adultery (Lev. 20:10), a man “who has sex with” a woman who is menstruating (Lev. 20:18) and a child who curses his mother or father (Lev. 20:9).

People committing these acts “shall surely be put to death.” I hope this allows us to become more enlightened as a society to recognize the inattainable and everlasting truth of the Bible.

In the meantime, please pass the bacon.

Bryce Kujala is a computer science junior.
BICYCLE
continued from page 1

It will continue to be illegal to ride a bicycle in the campus core, and violations will be subject to a $25 fine. The task force will also place bike racks throughout the zone wherever possible. According to a 1999 survey, approximately 7.5 percent of Cal Poly students rode a bike to school. For more information about the Bicycle Task Force, the new bicycle access to the campus core or other forms of alternative transportation, call Debi Anderson at 756-6692.

SANTA BARRABA (AP) — A university freshman pleaded innocent Tuesday to murder charges for allegedly running down five pedestrians with his car in Isla Vista, killing four people.

David Attias, 18, of Santa Monica stood without comment in an orange jailhouse jumpsuit as defense attorney Bob Sanger entered the plea on his behalf to all 11 felony counts, including four counts of murder. A hearing was set for March 26.

Attias was charged with running over five pedestrians on Feb. 23 in Isla Vista, the student community next to the University of California, Santa Barbara.

His father, television director Daniel Attias, and his mother attended Tuesday’s arraignment. Amateur videotape showed the younger Attias, a UCSB freshman, fleeing wildly as other students in the Isla Vista neighborhood tried to subdue him after he allegedly ran down and killed the pedestrians.

Sheriff’s Lt. Mike Burridge said Tuesday that drug and alcohol testing ordered by the CHP was still incomplete. Killed were Nicholas Shaw Bourdakis and Christopher Edward Divis, both 20 and UCSB students; Ruth Dasha Golda Levy, 20, a Santa Barbara City College student; and Elie Israel, 27, of San Francisco.

We have already had seven open forums and turnout had been low! This issue affects EVERY Cal Poly student! It is vital that you come, get educated, and use your voice. You have THREE more chances to get your voice heard. Questions? Call the ASI Student Govt Office at 756-1291 or come by UU 202, M-F, 8am-5pm.

Thursday, March 8: 11am — Bldg 52-E27

Remember, you must attend one of the sessions for your voice to be heard! This is your opportunity...your voice...USE IT!
THOMPSON continued from page 8

This year, the players have less pursuit of personal gain and more emphasis on accomplishing this by keeping up his strong defensive play and ultimately looking back ending with a solid year.

"If we win the next three games it will give the team the momentum that it needs to go into Regions," he said. "I have been more relaxed and have faith in God that all things will work out for me."

Thompson said that he had a slow start in his Cal Poly career, but his hard work has begun to pay off - he is never心想stinf dratted then in.

"This season, I just want to have a solid year. That should be enough. That should be my goal. That's all I need to do," he said. "I have Mustang Outlook to win the last three games.

Thompson said he hopes for a new attitude this season.

Things certainly have changed from last season for Thompson including his self confidence.

"This season, I just want to have a good time in my senior year," he said.

THOMPSON continued from page 8

"It's a privilege to be playing on this field on the account that it took so long to build."

-Phil Thompson Mustang outfielder

"Last weekend, the Mustangs played Loyola Marymount in a three-game series where Cal Poly picked up one victory. Thompson had hits in two of the games, extending his hitting streak to 16 games."

McCutcheon said that Beasley return as head coach next year.

But despite all those factors and his self-confidence, Thompson has never felt so confident. Cal Poly has to look off campus for its next men's basketball coach.

"The main reason to bring someone else in is for recruiting purposes."

To a potential recruit, Cal Poly's attendance conference with 123 RPI (measure of strength of schedule) rating out of 319 schools and the possibility of playing someone else in is for recruiting purposes.

"Be a top level assistant."

"Be a great coach."

"Be a good person."

"Be a good guy."
Chances paying dividends

Outfielder Philip Thompson has adjusted his hitting approach from last season and improved his game

By Byron Samayo

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Philip Thompson wraps his wrists every day. He started doing it for good luck, but now it has become routine. It seems to be working, though, for this Cal Poly outfielder who started the season on a tear after finishing last season with lower than expected statistics.

Thompson attributes his success with the Cal Poly baseball team this season to a change in strategy and his hands.

"Last year, I started taking a lot of strikes," he said. "But Head Coach Ritch Price understood and told me to go back this year and be more aggressive." Thompson, a kinesiology senior, has played right field for the Mustangs. Hailing from Palomar Junior College, he tied for in-league home runs as a team, the Tigers (10-2 and 17-10 overall) hit 41.8 percent of their shots. The championship game is set for Saturday in Anaheim.

This season, he is batting .326 with nine RBI's, which is second on the team.

Another positive change this year for Thompson has been getting to play in the Mustangs' new home, Baggett Stadium.

"It's a privilege to be playing on this field on the account that it took so long to build," he said. "The other senior players and I didn't think we were going to see the completion of this project.

The stadium was supposed to be built before Thompson arrived in 1999, however, it wasn't opened until this January.

Ultimately, the team's new lineup has been the most helpful with the success of this San Diego-area native.

"This year the team has tons of new and young players," he said. "The new and old players gel well.

He explained that this year there has been zero controversy among the players.

see THOMPSON, page 7

Women's hoops faces Pacific in first round

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

The women's basketball team will be facing a familiar foe when they tip off the Big West tournament this afternoon in Anaheim. The Mustangs will face the University of Pacific Tigers, a team that has defeated Cal Poly twice this season.

Pacific is led by all-conference forward Selena Ho, who averages 15.5 points a game. The 5-foot-5 junior is second in the conference in scoring and shooting 40.2 percent, including 41.4 percent from beyond the arc.

On Saturday, Ho lit up a lackluster Mustang backcourt for 18 points on five-of-seven shooting as the Tigers defeated the Mustangs for the second time this season.

Senior Millie Kimpton is the other Tiger averaging double figures. The 6-1 forward is good for 13 points a game.

As a team, the Tigers (10-4 and 17-10 overall) shot 41.8 percent from the floor, while the Mustangs (11-16 and 5-9) hit 36.8 percent of their shots.

Sophomore Caroline Roulres, (10.2 ppg) leads the Mustangs offensively. The 6-foot-2 forward is coming off her best game of the season and will likely be the center of attention on the offensive end.

Defending champison UC Santa Barbara (12-2 and 19-8) enters the tournament as the No. 1 seed.

The championship game is scheduled for Saturday at 1 p.m.

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Men's basketball faces critical coaching decision

After the tumultuous ride that has been the 2001-02 men's basketball season, nothing would be better for the program than upsetting the conference's top team and making a little noise in the Big West Conference Tournament, which begins Thursday.

But to predict a Cal Poly upset of No. 1 seed UC Irvine, you would have to be foolishly optimistic or just not paying attention all season.

Led by Big West Player of the Year Jerry Green, the Anteaters are enjoying their finest season in recent memory and are expecting nothing less than a conference championship.

The Mustangs, on the other hand, slide into the tourney fresh off a chumpng by Utah State on national television.

So logically assuming the Mustangs season ends Thursday night, the next order of business is to decide if Cal Poly will bring interim head coach Kevin Bromley back on a permanent basis.

When his predecessor, Jeff Schneider, resigned in mid-August, Bromley quietly stepped into his first head coaching position. The task of turning around the season was a large one to place on a first-year Division I coach, and it definitely hasn't worked out like many had hoped.

But very little, if any, of the blame belongs to Bromley.

This is a team, even when Brandon Beeson was healthy, was at best eight players deep. And the poor defense consistently displayed was a byproduct of Jeff Schneider's system. Any wrinkles Bromley added, such as the 1-1-3 defense, cannot be analized based on half a season.

Bromley is also so well respected by his players that the day Schneider resigned, the Mustangs' all-time leading scorer Chris Byrskland told me he would recommend to Athletic Director John