Energy crisis on the table at discussion

By Laura Vega

In response to California’s current energy crisis, the San Luis Obispo Green Party is sponsoring two energy forums in San Luis Obispo.

The first forum, “Politics and Economics of Energy,” is scheduled for 7 p.m. today in the San Luis Obispo City/County Library community room.

Hank Apfellberg, a member of the San Luis Obispo Green Party, is one organizer of the event. Apfellberg said the idea for the forum came up at a recent retreat. Although two energy forums are scheduled, that number might increase to three or four.

Apfellberg, who recently retired as an instructor for Cal Poly’s graphic communication department, said that the two continued forums will be educational. The first event will focus on an introduction to the basics of energy to be added.

“We’re trying to go from education to action,” Apfellberg said. “We want to educate people about the real problems in California. We’ll look at what energy companies do to us and what they do for us.”

Clayton Whitt, co-director of Cal Poly’s Progressive Student Alliance (PSA), said the forums can provide valuable information for everyone.

“It’s important for the community to get a perspective on the current energy crisis,” said Whitt, a social science freshman. “So much has been happening, it’s hard to keep it all straight. I hope this event will get information to the energy consumer who is not in mainstream media.”

Rochelle Becker, president of The Unity Reform Network (TURN) is scheduled to speak at the first forum. TURN represents individual rate-payers and small businesses before the California Public Utilities Commission, California Energy Commission, and elected officials, according to the San Luis Obispo Green Party press release.

Doc Burnett, a Metro Bus resident and consultant in the electricity industry, will also speak at the event. Burnett previously worked as a supervisor at Pacific Gas & Electric, Apfellberg said.

The PSA recently filed for bankrupt­cy.

Steve Warden, top, an environmental engineering senior, and Christy Woodward, a food science and nutrition sophomore, try out the new Poly Escapes climbing wall Thursday. Festivities at the grand opening included free climbing and food.

Greek Week raises charity funds

By Jennifer Thomson

Greek Week survived rain, time changes, canceled and rescheduled events and stiff competition among the teams to raise an estimated $2,500 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The blood drive sponsored by the Tri-Countries Blood Bank was the biggest success of the week, said Mike Lederman, chair of Greek Week. “Turnout for the blood drive was the best it has ever been,” Lederman said.

During the two days the Tri-Countries Blood Bank van was on campus, 84 people donated blood. More donations are expected during the make-up session to be held at the Blood Bank Thursday and today. Lederman said that last year a total of 84 people donated during the assigned time and make-up sessions. Lederman said he hopes to reach 100 by the end of this week.

Cal Poly Greeks are expecting to donate an estimated $2,500 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The donation will include money from sponsors, a raffle that raised $140 or The Gay lip sync, money donated by the vice president for Student Affairs to host the week, and entry fees from each of the greek houses. The donation will be $500 more than was donated last year. Big events throughout the week were arm wrestling in the University Union, soccer, basketball and volleyball.

“The points between the houses were so close that it created a high level of competition throughout the week,” Lederman said.

Greek Week results

Fraternities:
1. Pi Kappa Alpha
2. Phi Delta Theta
3. Kappa Chi

Sororities:
1. Alpha Phi
2. Alpha Chi Omega
3. Alpha Omicron Pi

Teams:
1. Gray
2. Green
3. White

Estimated money raised for Make-A-Wish Foundation:
$2,500

New ‘sex’ bill will pass colleges offender data

By Adrena Benjamin

The identity of any registered sex offender who is employed or enrolled at any university in California will be public information by the year 2002.

A bill passed by the U.S. Congress last October, called HR 3244, would require all colleges and universities in the United States to provide information on registered sex offenders, according to www.cnn.com. Called the “sex bill,” state and federal government must decide for itself whether to implement the bill. California lawmakers decided to delay.

The California bill is called Assembly Bill 4. Assemblywoman Patricia Bates received unanimous support in the Assembly Public Safety committee, and Russell Lowey, legislative director for Bates.

The new law would provide $3.1 million grants for colleges over a five-year period to help prevent violent crimes against women. This money would be used for training administrators and campus security to identify potential situations of violent crime and how to respond. Lowey said.

“We’ve had three rapes on campus in the last two years,” said Tom Arby, chief of police at Cal Poly. “I believe that having this bill pass will make the campus safer.”

see OFFENDERS, page 6

Engineering seminar sparks business ideas

By Megan Munday

The colleges of engineering and business held a half-day entrepreneurial seminar Thursday morning in Cal Poly’s Advanced Technology Laboratory.

The seminar was designed to generate interest among students interested in creating technology-based businesses and to promote ways to start these businesses.

The idea for the seminar came after Dennis Cagan, trustee, chairman and CEO of Santa Barbara Technology Incubation, was the fall 2000 commencement speaker for the colleges of engineering and business. He said he was shocked at how enthusiastic and creative the graduating students were.

“I started thinking and realized that there are plenty of places to go to learn about how to start a business, but there is no place to learn how to think up an idea for a business.” Cagan said. “I told an idea to get a group of people who had started their own businesses and get them to come talk to the students. And hopefully with all the examples, see BUSINESS, page 6
WASHINGTN (AP) — Jet Skis and other personal watercraft will be banned in all national parks and recreation areas after two more summer seasons under a settlement approved by a federal judge Thursday.

The gasoline-powered personal watercraft are already banned from 66 of the 87 parks, recreational areas and seashores where motorized boats are allowed throughout the nation.

Thursdays order by U.S. District Judge Gladys Kessler affects the remaining 21.

Kessler dismissed a challenge from watercraft manufacturers and vendors who were pressing for a new agreement negotiated last December by the Interior Department and the Bluewater Network, a San Francisco-based environmental group.

The Bush administration endorsed the accord. The Park Service agreed that unless it can prove the machines don't harm the environment on a site-by-site basis, each will be added to a list of Jet Ski-free zones by Sept. 15, 2002.

"This Jet Ski settlement is great news for the national parks," said Scott Smith, spokesman for the San Francisco-based Bluewater Network environmental group that had sued the National Park Service. "It will better protect the public by reducing noise, water, wildlife impacts and other noise from these noisy, smelly and dangerous machines.

"Last year, the Park Service banned Jet Skis from two-thirds of the national parks. That prompted Bluewater Network to bring a federal lawsuit to widen the ban to the remaining 21 parks and recreation areas. The Personal Watercraft Industry Association and the American Watercraft Association tried unsuccessfully to intervene. Manufacturers and owners have argued that personal watercraft polk less than larger boats, have no environmental impact whether they're motorized or not, and that the nation's 1.2 million watercraft owners have a right to use public waterways.

Montra Fontaine, the industry association's director, said Thursday she was disappointed but still expected to get Jet Skis, which cost an average of $17,000, protected from the rapidly advancing technology that cuts emissions and noise.

"We're not happy with the process, we believe we've been singled out," she said. "You can take a three-stroke outboard used in Jet Skis and they've reduced their hydrocarbon emissions by 75 percent and their noise by 72 percent."

If there is evidence that there is a substantial impact on the environment, then Jet Skis are there, they have the right to ban them," she said. "However, we believe that we will be able to pass any environmental assessment.

The 21 areas affected are:

—Glens Canyon National Recreation Area (Arizona, Utah)
—Lake Mead National Recreation Area (Arizona, Nevada)
—Haleakula National Park (Hawaii)
—Canyonlands National Recreation Area (colorado)
—Cumberland Island National Seashore (Georgia)
—Cape Lookout National Seashore (North Carolina)
—Cape Cod National Seashore (Massachusetts)
—Assateague Island National Seashore (Maryland, Virginia)

—Gateway National Recreation Area (New Jersey, New York)
—Gateway National Recreation Area (New Jersey)
—Gateway National Recreation Area (Oklahoma)
—Asotin National Recreation Area (Texas)
—Merrill National Recreation Area (Texas)
—Padre Island National Seashore (Texas)
—Big Ticket National Preserve (Texas)
—Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area (Washington)
—Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore (Michigan)
—Big Horn Canyon National Recreation Area (Montana)
—Green River National Seashore (New Jersey, Pennsylvania)
—Fire Island National Seashore (New York)
—Georgetown National Recreation Area (New York)
—Am pulled National Recreation Area (New York)
—Topa Topa National Recreation Area (Oklahoma)

— students to discuss compensation for its pilot, who is missing since the collision with China's Hainan where the crew was held at a military guesthouse. President Jiang Zemin, who is on a 12-day tour of Europe and imposed a citywide curfew on Chengdu during the 11-day standoff.

On Wednesday, rioters broke win­

dows, looted stores and assailed at least one white motorist, who was dragged from her car. Others in the neighborhood came to the woman's aid. A police officer was shot, but his gunnuckel caught the bullet and he suffered only cuts but a bruise, the mayor said. No arrest was made in the shooting.

The unrest began in Over-the­Rhine; the next day, a Black section where Thomas lived, and spread to several other largely black neighbor­

hoods. Thomas was killed as he fled. Thursday morning, an officer trying to arrest him for failing to appear for traffic charges and traffic vio­

lations. Roach, 27, has been placed on leave. Roach has not commented, but his attorney said he feared for his life and safety.

Hamilton County Prosecutor Michael Allen said he will probably present his case and ask a grand jury to indict the officer by the end of the week.

The U.S. Justice Department and the U.S. attorney's office in Cincinnati on Wednesday joined the FBI in a civil rights investigation.

BEIJING (AP) — China declared victory Thursday in a showdown over a U.S. spy plane, but President Jiang Zemin insisted the incident over the plane's collision with a Chinese fighter jet is not "fully settled."

Both Washington and Beijing took stances on positions for a meeting next week to discuss the April 1 collision — during which China will bring up its demand the United States stop surveillance flights in its skies.

The talks Wednesday will deal with the investigation into the collision and the return of the U.S. Navy EP-3E, which remained in Chinese hands after its 24-member crew flew back to the United States on Thursday.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qian said China also might want to discuss compensation for its pilot, who is missing since the collision, and F-8 fighter jet, which splintered into the South China Sea. The crippled EP-3E made an emergency landing on China's Hainan island.

"This incident has not been fully settled. We hope that the U.S. side will adopt a serious attitude toward this incident and handle it properly," President Jiang Zemin, who is on a 12-day tour of Europe, told Finnish President Harri Holkeri of Finland that "all responsibilities for the incident lie with the U.S. side." Xinhua said.

State media declared that a letter sent Tuesday by the Bush administra­

News

U.S. crew returns home; China declares victory

The U.S. letter did not refer to an apology and repeated the American position that the collision was an accident. It also said Washington was "very sorry" the U.S. plane made an emergency landing without permission.

The letter was worked out in deli­
cate negotiations between the two sides, and, the state radio said, China allowed the crew to leave. State media also portrayed the set­

tlement as a personal triumph for Jiang. "This incident reflects the abil­

ity of Comrade Jiang Zemin ... to lead his people and resolve difficult problems," said the state-run newspaper Beijing Evening News.

Xinhua said Chinese military com­

manders supported the government's "correct polCiey."

Other media called on the Chinese people to rally around the govern­

ment. "The army is always ready, it's part of their anti-China behavior," said Zhang Yingbing, a mobile-phone newspaper for People's Daily.

But after a week of shrill U.S. rhetoric from the government, many experts said the 11-day standoff between China and the United States itself forced China to look at the larger issues the administration has to address.

"The Chinese are always saying, 'It's part of their anti-China behavior,"' said Zhang Yingbing, a mobile-phone newspaper for People's Daily.
Editor's note: The following is a short interview with journalism senior Matt Smart, who traveled to Prague over spring break, and excerpts from his journal.

Mustang Daily: Tell us about your trip.
Matt Smart: I traveled to Prague in the Czech Republic. I traveled within the city for seven days.

MD: Who did you travel with?
MS: My traveling partner was Father Paul. Paul is a pastor at a Catholic church on Catalina Island.

MD: What did you enjoy most about your trip?
MS: I really enjoyed taking pictures and walking through such an old city.

MD: What advice would you give to other college students who want to travel?
MS: Go for it. Make your travel arrangements early and travel during the off-season. I would also suggest going to offbeat points of interest within the city that you visit.

MD: How can people see more of your photos?
MS: They can go to my Web site, www.windmillideas.com. Click on 'Album.'

March 27, 2001

I am here now. It has been quite a journey so far.

We flew on the 6 p.m. flight yesterday via Air France to Paris. Then we flew to Prague. Prague is written in the top's Season.

We took Metro 12 to Malosratansk. Then Metro 22 to the castle. I received the dour tone of the grounds from Paul. He is a wealth of knowledge.

For lunch we headed down the Neruda walkway and I ate my first meal in Prague. The sun came out for the occasion. The colors on the buildings really come alive when the sunlight strikes their surfaces.

Lunch was garlic and red pepper pasty. Good and inexpensive. It cost me $2 and I had half a pint of a dark Czech beer.

We took Metro 22 back to the hotel. I walked into an internet cafe to email family and friends.

After a nap, I made my way to Wenceslows Square, stopping at a bookseller looking for setting books (no luck). I walked around the whole city. It is very New York. Cars circle within the square. There is a huge metronome. The metronome has taken the place of an enormous statue of Stalin that was taken down in the '60s.

We ate at Plzenska Francovska. It was excellent. I am enjoying myself. I am tired now and will catch up on sleep.

March 28, 2001

Praga is the New York of middle Europe, with history.

I started the day with a large breakfast in the Hotel Petr. This hotel is nice. I am staying on the fourth floor. My bed is near the window with German style bedding. A sheet like a towel surrounds a futon pad and a comforter is used to keep the sleeper warm. Our room has a television with CNN and a telephone.

We are located on the west side of town near the Charles Bridge. Our hotel is across the street from Kinskyho Zahrad. "Zahrada" is the Czech word for garden.

It is still winter here. Spring has not yet begun to bring flowers or buds to the trees. I hope the colors will observe the pace of life around them.

March 29, 2001

I woke without the alarm and showered.

After I saw the Infant of Prague, which is really small and made of wax, I went to another shrine. This shrine is much different and definitely not religious. I went to John Lennon's wall. I learned from a homeless man that in August traveling hippies come and sleep and hang out around the wall. During this time the wall is given a makeover. Right now there are only a smattering of paintings. Lots of little words of wisdom such as "If you have nothing to teach the world, truth and nonviolence are as old as hills."

From there we headed to Slavia's for lunch. Pictures of President Havel, Hillary Rodham Clinton and Mauderne Alligons are discreetly placed behind the grand piano near the best seats in the restaurant.

We took Metro 21 back to the hotel. I walked to an internet cafe to check my email and friends.

After a nap, I made my way to Wenceslows Square, stopping at a bookseller looking for setting books (no luck). I walked around the whole city. It is very New York. Cars circle within the square. There is a huge metronome. The metronome has taken the place of an enormous statue of Stalin that was taken down in the '60s.

We ate at Plzenska Francovska. It was excellent. I am enjoying myself. I am tired now and will catch up on sleep.

March 30, 2001

Yesterday morning I went to an internet cafe to check out what kind of movies Higgins makes. This is unbelievable. Paul had no idea what kind of films this Higgins makes. I asked Paul more than once and he said that he did not know. Paul had his doctorate in film theory, which is probably why he was given Higgins' name.

This is too funny. Higgins is a producer of pornographic films. I was incredulous when I learned this. I had to hold my tongue when we all met for brunch. Higgins has reservations every Sunday for brunch at the Bellevue. The New York Times has this to say about the Bellevue: "An elegant atmosphere, excellent food and knowledgeable wait staff ... clearly the forefront of the contemporary scene in Prague."

What a great trip. I had just enough time to see all that I could ever want to see in Prague. It is nice to see a place where the world wars of this past century did not destroy the architecture.

Landscapes opening in Bay Area! Landscapes seeks graduating Cal Poly students with E.H. or L.A. degrees. Immediate opening for landscape designers and landscape assistant supervisors. Great pay, health, phone, 401k. Call Tim at (650) 851-2793.

Elections

ASI Elections are coming May 2 and 3. Get ready to vote at any of the following locations:

- Rec Center
- UU Plaza
- Fisher Science
- Ag Bridge
- Dexter Lawn

Mustang Daily

Mustang Daily: We put out! 5 times a week.
This week’s issue: A Poly Royal by any other name...

In March 1971, a group of Cal Poly students studying in Florence, Italy, risked the possibility of weeks in an Italian prison to hang a banner made out of bedsheets from the leaning tower of Pisa. Those bedsheets, in eight-foot-high letters, read: “Poly Royal ’71.” This is only the tip of the iceberg when describing how the spirit of pride associated with Poly Royal has been upheld over the years. For over 50 years, Poly Royal was a deeply ingrained Cal Poly tradition. Students got two days off from school, clubs made enough money in one weekend to finance their operations for the entire year, and most of Cal Poly’s former students remember Poly Royal with pride.

This year, the Open House Committee has decided to “present” their version of Poly Royal. Allow me to share with you an actual excerpt from the Cal Poly Centennial Celebration Web site: “All members of the public are invited to visit campus during our open house celebration of the rich Poly Royal tradition.” Further reading on the Web site divulges the fact that Saturday is the only day “all members of the public” are invited to visit. During the “colleges of Agriculture and Natural Resources,” the public was allowed to share in the festivities all weekend.

Another excerpt from the Web site states that “the open house committee wants to bring back all those great memories and sense of school pride that Poly Royal holds for so many alumni. What better way to accomplish this goal than to feature the Cal Poly Centennial Celebration Concert, which will highlight being the West Coast premiere of Requiem by Norwegian composer Friggis Higdas. The official Open House Web site describes a “musical setting of the Catholic mass for the dead.” Eat your heart out Santana! If that doesn’t say schmaltz pride, I don’t know what does.

The next major event is the “annual open house/golf tournament” at the Avila Beach Resort. What this has to do with Cal Poly and its programs I don’t know, but the thought of an assemblage of parents and administrators in Bermuda shorts playing golf is almost enough to make any red-blooded college student rupture with enthusiasm.

In keeping with true bureaucratic spirit, the weekend will end with “Poly Royal Festival.” Those community members and alumni who remember Poly Royal are excited about this year’s event. Many have become reminiscent of the spirit and tradition of Poly Royal when they attended events and parties, and created much of the mayhem that Mark Grass created last year when students from University of Santa Barbara and Chico State attended.

The format of Poly Royal in the past was not as structured as it is this year. Only admitted students are invited to visit the campus Friday, April 20. Community members, as well as other visitors, are invited to attend the rest of the weekend’s events.

Those community members and alumni who remember Poly Royal are excited about this year’s event. Many have become reminiscent of the spirit and tradition of Poly Royal when students, faculty and the community came together to celebrate a great institution.

Montrose was unable to attend that first Poly Royal he planned, because of the debt he owed to the university during the depression. Alumni like Montrose have created a university that breathes life into the community in which it resides. Perhaps Poly Royal this year will re-live the old tradition and keep the legacy of Cal Poly alive.

Jennifer Thomson is a journalism sophomore and Mustang Daily staff writer.
Opinion

Children are not commodities to be bought online

A British couple paid $12,000 for a pair of twin girls who they found through an Internet broker who had previously placed the girls with another family in the United States. A judge in Birmingham, England, ordered that the pair of U.S.-born twins remain in temporary custody of social services.

The laws and rules governing adoption vary from country to country and from state to state. A trans-atlantic tug-of-war over American-born twins is an issue that skyrocketed the nation. Alan and Judith Kilshaw of northern Wales met thousands of dollars to a San Diego-based service, whose representative has since disappeared, according to an article at cnn.com. A couple in California is claiming they paid the same broker for the twins before the Kilshaws. In the latest twist, a Missouri judge has awarded temporary custody of the babies to their biological father.

Unfortunately, while the majority of agencies, organizations and individuals follow the law and observe ethical practices, all do not. And more and more frequently, in the press and in the courts, we see people paying the price for taking the shortcut to adoption. It is wrong to treat children who don't have a place to live as merchandise that anyone can buy or trade through the Internet.

Enter "adoption" into a common Internet search engine and within moments dozens of organizations pop up, listed under "Business and Economy," subcategor

gory "Shopping and Service." Presumably, this is how the Bush administration and itsish policy wonk.

QuarkXPress, have a solid foundation in news writing, possess

but the president's office have the same effect. They look same at time, with any glaring errors of judgment. But then you realize that only one paragraph outlines the $1.2 billion in funds dedicated to renewable energy described as oil and gas (which, for those keeping score at home, are not renewable) and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. A fact that is allotted slightly more than one paragraph is that clean coal, which isn't that clean, will get about $2 billion in the next 10 years. On top of all this, the U.S. Budget does not compare previous years' funding to current levels nor do they lay out how goals are to be met or say why certain programs will exist, and it is this whole lot of context there. The reader is supposed to accept these numbers without any question, without with which to understand them.

It's this lack of context that links an advertisement for the Sierra Club to the 2002 budget for the United States of America. Both of these documents were written to support a certain point of view, but they fail to give the reader any complete information. This may further the goals of the Sierra Club or the office of the president or whomever else you can find as an example, but it does little else except muddy the picture for the rest of us. We are left to piece together the truth bit by bit, given only snippets of truth even by reputable agencies.

Objectivity is a lost art, and yes, I realize the irony in an opinion columnist writing this. But whereas I get paid to spout off, agencies that work toward creating better public policy have a greater responsibility to give the rest of us the whole story. Trying to create a coherent government using only various parts of the story will only result in failure, because no one knows enough of anything to create sound policy.

Public policy suffers in this environment because it leaves the average person (and elected representatives as well) working overtime to the point of burnout, educating themselves on virtually everything they hear. When it takes fund- and effort to fix the bighted mess. And I know that the Sierra Club and the president just want to increase their presence in government, whether it be at the cost of public confidence or not.

Yet we all complain about how government doesn't work. Maybe if we could stop pushing our own agendas, we could actually create a decent government. I realize that's a foreign concept, and probably unconstitutional, so I'll stop there.

Adrenna Benjamin is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Various groups muddy truth with own interests

The problem with politics isn't that the information isn't accessible. There's plenty of information out there. The Bush administration uploaded several documents of its

Proposal of your management plan to:

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 mustang.daily@hotmail.com. Do not send letters as an attachment. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.

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Mustang DAILY

The search is on for an editor in chief to serve the 2001-02 academic year.

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The ideal candidate will have a working knowledge of QuarkXPress, have a solid foundation in news writing, possess refined news judgment and be able to handle multiple tasks in a diverse and fast-paced environment.

To apply

Submit a cover letter, resume and proposal of your management plan to: Adam Jaraman, editor in chief Mustang Daily Building 26, Room 226

All application materials are due by 5 p.m. APRIL 30, 2001

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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 mustang.daily@hotmail.com. Do not send letters as an attachment. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.
UC regent proposes initiative to stop collecting racial data

SACRAMENTO (AP) — A man behind the 1996 voter-approved initiative that banned most state affirmative action programs wants to pass another initiative to stop the state from collecting racial information.

Word Community's American Civil Rights Coalition was given permission this month to start collecting the 1.2 million signatures needed to get the proposed initiative on the March 2002 ballot. The signature-collecting campaign is expected to cost $2 million.

Compper, University of California regent, said the state has no need for such race data.

"You can't discriminate, you can't give preferential treatment, so why would we have to worry about collecting that data," he said at a press conference Wednesday.

The initiative, if passed by voters, could complicate the way the state makes population estimates because different races have different life expectancies, said state finance spokesman Sandy Horton.

UC spokesman Brad Hayward said the university is required by federal law to collect racial information on its students. Although it is not required by law, the university also collects information from those seeking admission.

Under the 1996 racial preferences ban, reserving spots for minority students is illegal.

"I don't want to worry about collecting that data," he said. "I also want to ask, how does it affect the quality of the students?"
The Titans hosted the Miami Dolphins in a battle of division champions in the first Sunday night game of the season on Sept. 9. Miami meets the AFC West champion Oakland Raiders the following week.

"It will be tough night from the start, playing the Titans and Raiders, who both won their divisions last season," said Dolphins coach Dave Wannstedt.

The Ravens, who set an NFL record for fewest points allowed, will play the New England Patriots this Thursday night. The Patriots are 4-0 in season openers. They will also play on Monday night against NFC East rival Philadelphia on Oct. 22 and at Minnesota on Nov. 19 in a rematch of last season's NFC title game.

"Our recent wins help with our confidence — we now know we can score and come back from any deficit," Blankenhecker said. "We are all behind them right now."

That part of the Mustangs’ success is in the chemistry, which she says the team has achieved from the beginning.

"I have only been on one other team in my life like this, where we only have a four or five game winning streak," Price said. "I think we are really holding our own against them.

Friday’s doubleheader is at noon and 2 p.m., and Saturday’s game starts at noon. All games will be played at Mustang Field.

"We obviously need to pitch better," said Price. "We’re going to have to start pitching earlier in the season or we have a bright future in Cal Poly softball.

"The Mustangs had one practice yesterday before leaving for its series against Northridge. The team will return on Sunday to prepare for the first game of a doubleheader against Stanford on April 16. Stanford is ranked third by the USA Today Top 25 Poll Monday, with a 17-3 overall record.

"Ranking don’t mean anything to us," Price said. "We just want to prove that we are capable of winning on our own.

Starters, including myself, need to put together a good six or seven -inning start.

Pitching is also on the minds of responsibility for what happens on the mound. Smitheran said. "Things will get better once we start doing that. Starters, including myself, need to put together a good six -or seven -inning start.

"The key to the remaining games is knowing our role in the conference standings."

The Rams, who lost in the wild card round to New Orleans last season after winning Super Bowl XXXIV, play one Monday night game at home against Tampa Bay on Nov. 26 and two on the road vs. Detroit on Oct. 7 and New Orleans in Dec. 17.

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Sports

Softball plans to ride momentum

By Megan Munday
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The Cal Poly softball team is looking to continue its four-game winning streak this weekend as it travels to UC State Northridge for a three-game Big West Conference series.

The Mustangs came back from an eight-game losing streak with a three-game series sweep over UC Santa Barbara last weekend and a single game win over UC Riverside last Monday.

“Our wins against UCSB were important for us and helped with our confidence,” said head coach Lisa Boyer. “As long as we press forward and focus on the things we are doing right, we will do well this weekend.”

Cal Poly is 1-6 in Big West play and 16-20 overall. The Mustangs’ ERA is 2.78 and batting average is .242 this season. Northridge is 6-3 in Big West play and 22-19 overall. The Matadors’ team ERA is 2.31 and batting average is .292.

“On paper, our teams are very similar,” Boyer said. “This series is a big one for us given our conference standings.”

Northridge currently sits in fourth place in the conference. USA Today’s Top 25 Poll ranked the Matadors No. 25 last week, but this week they dropped to No. 26.

Cal Poly is currently sixth in conference.

see SOFTBALL, page 7

Non-conference UC Riverside on tap for Mustangs

By Ryan Ballard
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Uneven roads beware – a steamroller is on campus.

The Cal Poly baseball team has started to pick up momentum after beginning the Big West season by taking two out of three games from Cal State Northridge last weekend. Add to that an 11-1 shellacking of Bethany College on Wednesday for the second week in a row, and Cal Poly is beginning to put together the pieces to a solid season.

The Mustangs improved their record to 22-12 with their win over Bethany. Six Mustang pitchers combined to hold the Bruins to one run on four hits. The offense was led by junior designated hitter Matt Milavec and junior shortstop Chris Hagenon, who each drove in two runs.

Next for Cal Poly is a three-game series this weekend with UC Riverside. Even though the games are non-conference, the Mustangs are not overlooking the Highlanders. Winning the series is still important.

“These games are important in the big picture,” said Cal Poly head coach Ritch Price. “The more wins you get at the Division I level, the better your opportunities are of making the playoffs. It’s important that we go there and find a way to see BASEBALL, page 7

Right fielder Chalon Tietje rounds third base last Sunday against Northridge.

Top 25 Poll ranked the Mustangs No. 16-20 overall. The Mustangs’ ERA is 2.11 and batting average is .244 this season. Northridge is 6-3 in Big West play and 21-19 overall. The Matadors’ team ERA is 2.27 and batting average is .292.

see SCHEDULE, page 7

NFL schedule released by league office

NEW YORK (AP) - The Denver Broncos will play the opening Monday Night Football game for the fourth straight year, but this one will be at a new stadium.

The 2001 NFL schedule was released by the league office on Thursday. The defending Super Bowl champion Baltimore Ravens, the NFC champion New York Giants and the Super Bowl teams the previous season - the St. Louis Rams and Tennessee Titans - will each appear on "Monday Night Football" three times.

Traditionally, the defending Super Bowl champions are given the Monday night stage, but the Ravens will have to wait until week two when they host the NFC Central champion Minnesota Vikings on Sept. 17. Baltimore begins its season at home against the Chicago Bears on Sept. 9.

The Broncos will open Invesco Field when they host the Giants in the first Monday game of the 2001 season on Sept. 10. They become the first AFC team to open a season on Monday night four years in a row.

The Dallas Cowboys hold the record with five straight opening Monday night appearances from 1982-86. The Giants played in four consecutive opening Monday night games.

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San Francisco 49ers 2001 Schedule

9/9 Atlanta
9/16 @ New Orleans
9/23 St. Louis
10/1 @ NY Jets
10/8 @ Carolina
10/14 @ Atlanta
10/21 Bye
10/28 @ Chicago
11/4 Detroit
11/11 New Orleans
11/18 @ Carolina
11/25 @ Indianapolis
12/2 Buffalo
12/9 @ St. Louis
12/16 Miami
12/22 Philadelphia
12/30 @ Dallas