Close but no cigar:
Baseball loses to San Jose State in extra innings, 8
Give credit: Mom’s need a special day, 4

High: 74° / Low: 53°
For extended weather forecast, see Daily Dose, 6

To our readers:
We asked for your votes, so here it is, the Best of Cal Poly. Our annual readers’ poll asked readers to vote in 24 categories ranging from best professor to best campus food.
In all categories, we are offering a little insight into the winner and in some cases, we have a second place listing as well. Many categories simply had too many second place winners to list them all.
Without further ado, here is the Best of Cal Poly ...

Best Professor
TIE — CHARISE CHENEY AND JAMES MUELLER

Every Friday, Professor James Mueller tells Cal Tech stories in his math classes.
Students love this break from the class and it gives Mueller a chance to tell his craziest stories from college days at California Institute of Technology.
"It’s fun and, at the same time, it’s very serious," said Christopher Penn, math junior.
Penn, along with many other students, thinks Mueller is the best professor at Cal Poly. Penn said Mueller’s generally good attitude and his lecture style are reasons for Penn’s high opinion of him.
"He’s really kind-hearted about it ... he’s humble when it comes to turning in homework," Penn said.
On Tuesday, Mueller brought a fiddle to his Math 418, partial differential equations class, Penn said. He played the fiddle because the class is studying the mathematics of music.
"We’re tangentially off just for fun to an area of math that says why certain music sounds like music," Penn said.
Professor Charise Cheney wasn’t just surprised that she was recognized for best professor, she was also amased that she was recognized for her style of dress.
"It’s definitely a surprise," she said.
"You know you’ve touched a student ... you realize that you’ve made some sort of influence."
Cheney finds the award especially surprising considering the subject matter of her course, Ethnic Studies 110.
"It’s great especially considering the topic that I teach being that it’s controversial," she said.
It was her excessive energy and her ability to relate to students that makes Cheney a surefire winner for best professor, said graduate student Amy Lohninger.
"By the end of the quarter we all loved her," she said. "She takes you around in some roundabout way to make you understand what she is saying."
see BEST OF CAL POLY, page 2

Above, ethnic studies professor, Charise Cheney, was voted as both one of Cal Poly’s best professors and Cal Poly’s best dressed professor.
Left, mathematics professor James Mueller was also voted as best professor. During a class on the mathematics of music, he demonstrated the concepts to his calculus class.
2nd place - Bowling

Best Slacker Course

BOWLING
For one unit a quarter and two hours a week, students sign up, eat pizza on Thurs. and bowl. Roll is taken through the computer when they sign in.
"It's a good slacker class because you don't even really have to go," said Ashley Erickson, nutrition freshman. "All you have to do is go and sit there. I never even met the teacher. But you get to meet people. It taught me the skills of bowling. I then became the best female bowler."
Best Club to Party With

TRIATHALON CLUB

While the triathlon team may have strenuous practices and lengthy competitions, they definitely know how to party.

"When we're not training, we get crazy," said Nicole Baggett, president of the 70-member club. Baggett said the team knows how to have a good time, especially at events like the recent Wildalaaii-triathlon.

Usually, the team parties the hardest after the really big banquets. Last week, the team had their banquet and Baggett said that many members of the team were not able to wake up early for their shifts the next morning.

But the team is not selective, they will party with anyone, even students who are not team members.

"All of our members are decent, fun people... all-around friends that we'll have for a lifetime," she said.

2nd place - Ski Club

Best Building for Rappelling

ARCHITECTURE BUILDING

Many people think the only climbing or rappelling on campus is at the climbing wall by the LUSU. The truth is quite the contrary.

Mike Busch, materials engineering senior, said he has rappelled in the architecture building four or five times. He explained that he had to jump off the railing and go down the center of the building. It's not as much the rappelling that he enjoys, though.

"Basically, the whole point of doing it is just for the fun of it. We went off the architecture building," he said.

And, there is the whole thrill of evading the police.

"You are going down inside the building so you can't get caught and there are a lot of ways out of there if you do," Busch said.

2nd place - The Wall

Best R.A.

JOEL CHAPIN

Joel Chapin, architecture junior, said he became a Resident Adviser because he wanted to help incoming students get a good start at Cal Poly. Chapin supervises roughly 50 students in Yosemite Tower II and said, "I have no clue, honestly," when asked why he thinks he was voted R.A.

He might not know, but Heath Morrison, one of Chapin's residents and mechanical engineering sophomore said, "He's a really great guy, always there for us."

Morrison said he is deserving because of the way he approaches his job.

"It seems like he's more relaxed. He goes by the rules, but doesn't revel in punishing people. He's one of my good friends, and I will miss living with him."

Chapin said that even though being an R.A. takes up a lot of his time, he is glad he did it and will miss his residents.

Best Cal Poly Band

JESTER'S DEAD

It's only been four years since Jester's Dead entered the Cal Poly music scene, and they've quickly become one of San Luis Obispo's most popular bands.

"We have kind of a unique sound, it's a ska kind of metal," said Dan Ferster who plays the trombone. "We play to have a lot of fun."

The seven-member band is comprised of Cal Poly students, Brent Kelly, on guitar; singer Randy Olders, base player Max Mahon; drummer Austin Guzman; Joel Rolfe, on the saxophone and trumpet player Matthew Wedin. The band—which will release its third CD sometime next week—mainly plays at bars and parties in San Luis Obispo.

Ferster said that fun comment on how they like to rock out to the band's music and dance to it. The band also has good chemistry.

"We're all pretty good friends and we're pretty lucky we're not rock stars so we don't fight about being famous," Ferster said.

2nd place - Parking structure

Best Classroom

BUSINESS ROTUNDA

It goes by many names, the Rotunda, the 500, business lecture hall, and added to his list of identifiers for building 3, room 213 is Cal Poly's best classroom.

With a maximum capacity of 230, the circular auditorium is home to courses ranging from architecture history to survey of economics as well as countless evening guest lectures.

Jon Nogast, food science junior, said, "I love this building. The audio visual media in the room helped gain it this distinction."

"They have all the technology in there and, everyone was able to see the teacher," he said.

2nd place - Bidg. 10, room 126

Best Parking Lot

SLACK STREET

While the newly built parking structure may boast a plethora of parking spaces, it's the Slack St. parking lot that has students coming back for more.

"It's the most convenient to get everywhere," said Dana Richardson, graphic communications senior.

The lot, which has about 220 parking spaces, is located behind the Davidson Music Bldg., next to the track.

"Much like other lots at Cal Poly, the Slack Street parking lot is usually full, but this doesn't stop Richardson who usually tries to park there first."

One of the reasons for this is easy access, the parking lot is close to the Rec Center and the University Union.

"It's easier to get into and out of," Richardson said.

2nd place - Dexter lawn

Best Place to Nap

LIBRARY, 5TH FLOOR

This choice is almost destineering on the higher floors. Footsteps, wrapper crinkles, maybe even a light snore are all that break the peace. The fifth floor of the library is the best place on campus to take a nap, mainly because of the tranquility that is inherent in libraries the world over.

"It's so quiet," said civil engineering senior Eric Gansow, a fifth-floor studer. "There's hardly any noise. Every once in a while someone walks by."

The warm sunshine coming in on windows seats may have something to do with the peace-inducing atmosphere. Also, its top-floor status may leave most would-be talkers down on lower levels, leaving the highest to those dedicated to peace and quiet.

2nd place - Dexter lawn

Clockwise from far left:

Each quarter, students spend hundreds of dollars on just a few textbooks. No wonder it was voted best waste of money at Cal Poly.

Women's soccer player, Natalia Garcia, jumps to avoid a defender earlier this year.

Mathematics freshman Kelsey Pravecnic was caught napping Tuesday on the fifth floor of the Robert E. Kennedy Library.

The Slack Street parking lot was full Tuesday afternoon, typical for Cal Poly's best parking lot.

The "P" is seen here as from campus. The view while having sex there, is quite different, however.

Sheep have been a part of Cal Poly since 1903. Currently, sheep are grazing near upper Via Carta.

The following Mustang Daily staff contributed to these staff reports: news editor Karin Drerup, editor in chief Adam Jarman, opinion editor Ryan Miller, staff writer Aaron Lambert, managing editor Kirsten Osmun-Meinhard and arts and features editor Robin Nichols.
Biased research tries to straighten homosexuality

MUCH has been made recently of a "new" study by Dr. Robert Spitzer, a psychiatrist who claims gay and lesbian people can change their sexual orientation. Spitzer purported that 66 percent of gay men and 44 percent of lesbian women can attain "full heterosexual function" through therapy. This study, of course, was unscientific and politically motivated.

First, Spitzer did not use a random sample when choosing participants. According to The Associated Press, 66 percent of his subjects were referred from "ex-gay" ministries—organizations that do not either view homosexuality as a mental disorder. As any statistician will tell you, research is useless unless the sample has been randomly selected to constitute an unbiased population.

Also in question is the methodology used by Spitzer in gathering experimental data. Such research consisted of a single telephone interview with each subject, lasting less than an hour. This is in stark contrast to the research done by Dr. Ariel Shidlo and Mike Sullivan

Mike Sullivan

Dr. Michael Schroeder, who conducted multiple phone interviews with 10 percent of lesbian women, has been able to attain "full heterosexual function" through therapy. This study, of course, was unscientific and politically motivated.

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Mike Sullivan is a computer engineering junior. 

I hope everyone had a great Mother's Day. Some kids in New York weren't quite so lucky.

A private school in Manhattan has banned student celebrations of Mother's Day—and Father's Day, too, in the interest of fairness. The Rodolph Sholom Day School, which educates kids from age 2 through sixth grade, decided to ban the holidays because families in our society are now diverse and varied, according to a letter written by school director Cindi Samson. The school is affiliated with a Reform Jewish synagogue.

True, our society is becoming more diverse every day, but excuse me if I fail to see the connection to Mother's Day. There are other ways to protect the feelings of children raised by same-sex couples than by banning a holiday that has long been an American tradition. I can see how Mother's Day might remotely resemble something of a quandary for the same-sex parents at the school, one group of which was reportedly responsible for the school ban of the holidays. However, the banning of Mother's Day won't solve this problem.

Chances are children in these difficult situations will sooner or later need to know why their family situation isn't the norm; most families have a woman and a man and not two men. Banning the holiday is a short-term solution that will ultimately hurt the kids who are kept under the illusion that their situation is normal. The responsibility lies with the couples to let their children know the truth, not with the school to keep the kids in a bubble.

The larger issue, however, is that the school is forgetting that traditional families have rights, too. When I was little, I made a macaroni-covered pencil box for my mom, and I was so proud to give it to her. Similarly, when I called my mom this past Sunday, it was a good opportunity for her to tell me about everything she's done for me. But it seems this school director would tell me if I was just participating in a dangerous activity, as if I was raising same-sex parents for their lack of a mother figure.

I should have every right to celebrate Mother's Day, as should kids at school who choose to make an art project for their mothers. The premise behind Mother's Day is to honor your parents, which can just as easily be done by children of same-sex parents. It isn't worth it to rob mothers of their hard-earned pleasure just so that same-sex couples can continue to act irresponsibly by lying to the kids they're raising.

The Manhattan school also made the argument that there is no educational need for holidays at school in the first place. This point is much more valid, yet I still disagree. If the job of a school is truly to educate, students need to be educated on every topic—including holidays—unless we want our children to not be proud of our American culture. One of the things I liked most about elementary school was making Christmas ornaments. This was not an attempt by my school to show Christianity down my throat; it was just a fun activity. Making things for Mother's Day should be treated the same way, not banned altogether.

The banning of Mother's Day by the Rodolph Sholom Day School hides intolerance for traditional families by calling it tolerance for non-traditional families. Mothers everywhere should be offended.

Matt Szabo is a journalism sophomore and Mustang Daily staff writer.

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 print the text in the body of the e-mail.

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Opinion

Mothers deserve a day despite opposition

"If the job of a school is truly to educate, students need to be educated on every topic—including holidays."
Environmental problems outlasted 1980s hype

It seems that our environment is in peril again, but this time it was really on the safe side.

Monday night, movie star Woody Harrelson gave a presentation on living eco-friendly. He restated a message that I haven’t heard in a long time: our world is getting more polluted and there is an alternative way of living.

I hope his message got across to the people who attended.

Everyone remembers that in the late 1980s and early 1990s, environmental issues were in the headlines all the time. If it wasn’t the potential problem of global warming, it was water pollution or overpopulation. By the end of the ’90s, those headlines began to fade and were replaced with the scare of a recession and the mantras of the Internet, but the problems didn’t fade.

Our forgetfulness is evident in the increase in sport utility vehicles on the streets today. In the late ’80s and early ’90s, the streets were filled with Broncos and Cadillacs. Now everything is an Explorer, Navigator or eight-plus-seater Excursion. No one really needs to move that many people on one trip, but still, people buy them, saying, “Out of sight, out of mind” to environmental issues. Unfortunately, like many times when we exercise this saying, the problem just grows.

Recently, the environment has been in the news again. This increase in air time devoted to eco-issues can partly be attributed to the new president, George W. Bush’s statement that he wanted to look into drilling in the Arctic National Park Refuge sparked controversy that many environmentalists were waiting to hear.

Don’t have a false sense of security.

As long as people are not aware of the problems, our environment is in danger of being destroyed.

Our role in global warming is still being disputed; it would be great to hear him talk about the 1-degree increase in world temperature, but what if we were?

We should reduce our carbon dioxide production, or at least be concerned about it. People underestimate the impact of simple things like carpooling and recycling.

We, as a population, should be more motivated in issues as big as the environment. These issues are not just for “tree huggers.”

The problem has not been resolved, nor will it be for a long time.

The United States and the world have skirted this issue enough. I want to see the skirt to be blown up like Marilyn Monroe’s white one in “Some Like it Hot.”

I totally believe in doing whatever it takes to get the message across to the population. Moreover, to an extent, I condone radicalism.

It’s a sad day in this journalist’s life when it takes movie stars to tell us to live. I don’t want to see Pauley Shore pleading for people to carpool and take care of themselves and the earth they live in, but if it will get people recycling, then bring it on.

Byron Samoyvo is an ecology and systematic biology senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Letter to the editor

Allergy sufferers wrinkle runny noses at column Editor.

In response to Ryan Miller’s opinion column “Bite the bullet”, May 14, I would like to say, “You shut up!” Who do you seriously think you are to condemn all allergy sufferers in San Luis Obispo? Consider yourself fortunate that you don’t have to live through the hell that most of us face on a day-to-day basis.

Coming from Los Angeles, I grew up breathing brown, smog-stricken air, and I never had a problem with allergies. It wasn’t until I came to San Luis Obispo with its bright blue skies and rolling green hills that I became infected with this hellish condition. Spring quarter of my freshman year I was assaulted with allergies and found out from a nurse in the health center that San Luis Obispo was in fact one of the worst places in California for allergies.

I am shocked that you had the audacity to call allergy sufferers lazy and weak. You really should watch what you write, because you don’t experience what we go through everyday. I have met one of these people who has to stuff their nose every five seconds in class, but I can’t help it. I’ve tried just about every method there is to relieve the misery, including all the fancy prescription drugs like Allegra, Claritin, Allecam and Naphazoline.

I think I speak for all allergy sufferers when I say that we are offended by the column you wrote in Mustang Daily. You supposedly had allergies at one time in your life so you should know how it feels. Next time save yourself the humiliation and find out the real truth about the issue before writing such a ludicrous article.

Mark Edgington is a business administration sophomore.
Strange positions

Actor and activist Woody Harrelson spoke at the Rec Center Monday night as part of his Simple Organic Living tour. Tuesday morning, he lead a group of students in yoga on the business lawn.

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But after switching from first base to his usual third base, Wilson committed a critical error as part of the Spartans seven-run eighth inning comeback.

Wilson was able to redeem himself in the bottom of the ninth when he hit his second home run of the game, which tied the game and sent it to extra innings.

"I just tried to put it (the error) out of my mind," he said. "I just looked at it like another at bat and tried to focus."

The Mustangs knew that a chance at the playoffs was no longer a possibility because the team was mired in an eighth-game losing streak. The Mustangs are forced to deal with that dilemma for the third game of the season.

"When you're a Division I player, you respect the game you play every day," Wilson said. "A lot of clubs at this point in time have shut it down by now, but these guys are continuing to be an everyday we're playing."

Cal Poly will conclude its season this weekend against UC Santa Barbara. The games will be Friday at 2 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m. in Santa Barbara.

**Baseball**

continued from page 8

mustang daily

**Announcements**

Dancing at Lughnasa

May 17-19

May 24-26

8 p.m.

Cal Poly Theater

Find out how students have made a difference. The Center for Community Voluntarism and Service Learning invites you to attend the President's Service Awards on Wed. May 23rd at the PAC Lobby from 2:30-4:30 pm. More info call 756-5834.

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**Sports**

Continued from page 8

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continued from page 8

Mustang Daily

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Night of the Mustang honors athletes

By Evan Gastaldo
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

After a year of kicking, batting, wrestling, volleyball, tacking and running, Cal Poly athletes will be rewarded for their efforts tonight at Night of the Mustang, Cal Poly Athletics' 19th annual awards banquet.

Instead of each team having its own awards banquet, they are all combined into one, said Jason Sullivan, assistant director of Sports Information.

Frank Nolan, speech communications professor, will emcee the event. The male and female Athlete of the Year will be named, as well as the male and female Scholar Athlete of the Year. Other accomplishments will also be recognized during the night. Club sports, since they do not compete at the Division I level, are not included in the event.

"It is recognizing and highlighting some accomplishments by the team and by individuals," Sullivan said.

The announcement of the Athlete of the Year awards is the climax of the night, Sullivan said. Each coach nominates one member of his or her team for Athlete of the Year. A panel of coaches and administrators then chooses the two recipients.

"It rewards individuals who have gone above and beyond and excelled during this past year," Sullivan said. "It's hard to single out individuals in a team sport, so it's very difficult."

This year's banquet will have a hard time topping last year's, he added. One of last year's two male Athletes of the Year, Karon Crowcroft, posed to his girlfriend onstage while accepting his award.

"It blew everyone away," Sullivan said. "There's no way we can top that.

Scholar athlete awards are a way to recognize individuals who have done well in the classroom as well as in their sport. Each year, the Big West Conference selects a male and female Scholar Athlete of the Year for each school in the conference. In addition, Academic All-Conference selections will be presented. These athletes are selected from the entire district, not just the Big West Conference.

This year, one of the Scholar Athletes of the Year awards will be presented by the dean of the recipient's college, said Alison Come, senior associate athletic director.

"It's very neat to have (the dean) give the award," she said.

Awarding scholar athletes is important because it shows the many qualities that a successful Cal Poly athlete must have, Come said.

"To be a student at Cal Poly you have to be smart, organized and goal-oriented. Knowing this, Academic All-Conference awards are a way to recognize it individually. This year, the Mustangs have 15 Academic All-Conference selections - the highest total in Cal Poly history."

Jacob Jackson is a journalism freshman. Please submit sports trivia answers to sportstrivia@mustangdaily.com.