Students tend to 60+ campus cats

By Bryan Dickerson
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

When Brad Gilbreath whistles, feral cats come running in a Pavlovian response, associating the tune with food.

For three days last year, Gilbreath watched helplessly as one of the cats kept retreating from the Cal Poly Cat Program feeding station that he tended. The cat, named Momma Cat, ended every attempt to eat by continually clawing at her mouth. Eventually, she grew visibly weak, so Gilbreath decided to use a pool-cleaning net to trap the feline.

“She’s real leery of people, and she kept evening the net,” said Gilbreath, an Integrated Technology Services lab support consultant at Cal Poly. “Finally she turned her back to me and I netted her. It was like capturing a bolt of lightning. But you could tell she was ill, you could smell the infection.”

Soon after the capture, Gilbreath and others whisked the cat off to the vet, who returned her three weeks later minus an abscessed tooth and her reproductive organs. She also now had a notch in her left ear.

The Cal Poly Cat Program (CPC) is the brainchild of Garrett Quindmi. For his senior project in 1992, he sought to solve the problem of the 400-plus feral cats roaming the campus.

The problem was that despite the constant removal of cats, the feline population held steady, fed by a constant stream of newly abandoned cats and kittens.

At the time, Cal Poly would call the local department of animal regulations, which trapped and euthanized the feral cats.

But Quindmi’s program introduced the “Trap, Test, Vaccinate, see CATS,” page 2

Newly appointed VP starts soon

By Cynthia Neff
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

As soon as Frank Levens, current vice president for Administration and Finance, announced his retirement last spring, a consultative committee was organized and a search firm hired to identify top candidates to fill the position.

After a six-month selection process, Lawrence R. Kelley was chosen to begin work on Feb. 25. Kelley, who is relocating to Cal Poly from Georgia State University, is currently transitioning into Lebens’ position as Lebens is transferring out of it.

Kelley will have to “provide strategic planning” in making major decisions concerning the reductions, including preparations for next year’s budget.

In an interview via e-mail, Kelley said that he is “confident in the ability of the people at Cal Poly, as we define problems and are creative in developing solutions.”

Executive Vice Provost and Chief Planning Officer Linda Dalton, who also chaired the consultative committee, said Kelley’s new position is a critical office.

“The vice president for Administration and Finance balances the budget and makes sure (Cal Poly) has no fiscal liabilities,” she said. “The president really depends on this vice president to be on top of Cal Poly’s financial affairs.”

Kelley will also be expected to provide overall leadership to the university and maintain strong relationships with the San Luis Obispo community and California State University’s central offices in Long Beach.

The consultative committee took these mandates into careful consideration throughout the selection process.

At Kearns, the hired search firm, identified approximately 60 possible candidates for the position, Dalton said. This number was then filtered down to several candidates, who participated in an interactive video interview. From that point, five people were selected to visit Cal Poly’s campus and go through a two-day interviewing process, she said. This process included meetings with the deans of each college, a student-leader meeting, an ASI luncheon, an open forum held just before Thanksgiving, and a key interview with President Baker.

“After all this, the committee put together a thorough memo describing each acceptable candidate’s strengths and weaknesses,” Dalton said. “Then the committee’s job is finished. It’s up to President Baker to make the final decision.”

The entire selection process cost the university $78,521, which included advertising, the video interview of semifinalists, on-campus interviews, candidates’ travel and lodging expenses, and the search consultant; said Mike Suen, associate vice president for Academic Personnel.

Dalton described the six-month process as “quite efficient for a see VP, page 2
CATS
continued from page 1
Bolivar recalls. "I had to bottle feed them every two hours. But eventually I just couldn't separate them. One would mourn when the other went down the hall. Now they're 12 years old." 

Edie Griffin-Shaw has been the program's director for six years. She also owns cats that she adopted from the program. Griffin-Shaw said the different campus departments often help the CPCP.

The English department developed the program's Web site; currently, a biology senior project monitors the felines to study the effect feral cats have on a community's ecosystem; and occasionally, animal science professor Jaymie Noland spays and neuters cats to give animal science majors first-hand experience.

A few years ago, a construction management senior project consisted of building a shed with cages and windows as a halfway house for campus cats. Located in a remote area of Cal Poly, the house served as the initial shelter until a larger one was found.

At the shelter, computer printouts of kittens in various still-life pictures are taped to the walls, while about fifteen cats play lounge and dart around a maze of old furniture, scratching posts and cages. At the time of this interview, John and Debbie Anderson, two Cal Poly employees, were playing with Oliver, a lively nine-month old, black-and-white, short hair cat that they were considering adopting.

"This is my second Cal Poly cat," Debbie Anderson said. "I always get cats from the shelter and now John deserves his own cat." 

CPCP found Oliver near the dorms and took him to a vet for vaccinations and de-worming. After the circulation of fliers around campus yielded no claims to ownership, the program had a new guest to give away.

"I named my first cat from the program Poly, and I think this one will get along with ours," Debbie Anderson said. "I would take everyone home if I had a big enough house."

News

Shahzad Khan, an architecture senior and president of the Muslim Student Association club, speaks about Islam on Wednesday. The discussion addressed the definition of Islam.

Islam
continued from page 1
A discussion of terrorism and resistance is on the agenda for the third meeting Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. Members on the panel will talk about Islam's definition of an act of self-defense and will address the quest to rid the world of terrorism.

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is located at 312 Football Blvd.

On Feb. 27, there will be a lecture, entitled "The Threat of Islam," at the Performing Arts Center, room 124, at 7 p.m. Abdul Malik, an activist and the spiritual director of Masjid Islam in Oakland, will discuss the issues of Islam in society today. Kahn said that Malik does a very active discussion with the audience.

"If you really hate his mom, he wants you to sit in the front row and tell him about it," Kahn said. "That's the kind of speaker he is."
Israeli tank operations on Gaza border.

Three Marines were killed, five injured in training exercise

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.—Three Marines were killed and five were injured during a training exercise when the vehicle they were riding in overturned, a U.S. Marine Corps spokesman said Thursday.

The injured men, ages 20 and 22, were taken to an Escondido hospital and are listed in fair condition. Two others were taken to the naval hospital on base. The fifth was taken to an area hospital.

The accident occurred at about 6:30 p.m. Wednesday during a "routine training exercise," the spokesman said.

The accident is under investigation.

The names of the Marines will be withheld until their families are notified.

Over the past three years, at least four other Marines have been killed and 10 others injured at Camp Pendleton during training exercises.

Camp Pendleton is located 40 miles north of San Diego, and is home to more than 60,000 military and civilian personnel. Many of the servicemen stationed there were called to duty in Afghanistan.

— Associated Press

Fugitives from Texas jail in custody after standoff

DALLAS—Two armed fugitives, Curtis Allen Gambill and Joshua Bagwell, turned themselves in peacefully Thursday after a 16-hour-long standoff with police.

Gambill and Bagwell escaped from a north Texas jail Jan. 28 with Cristhal Gale Soto and Charles Jordan.

A tip was received by the FBI that the four fugitives were at a gas station Wednesday night. Soto and Jordan were arrested when they went outside to make a phone call. Gambill and Bagwell were not immediately available. The unreported hostage was released before dawn.

FBI agent Richard Marques said the fugitives made no monetary demands, but they did discuss fishing, hunting and life in prison with negotiating agents. The fugitives asked only to speak to their relatives on the phone.

The four escaped from the Montaque County Jail when they used a homemade knife to overpower a prison guard.

Two burglaries and a car theft in Oklahoma have been linked to the fugitives since their arrest.

Gambill, 23, and Bagwell, 24, were convicted on the 1996 murder of a 16-year-old cheerleader and sentenced to life in prison.

Soto, 30, and Jordan, 22, are facing charges in connection with the deaths of an elderly couple on whose land they were living.

— ABC News

Man sentenced to stand with pig for two hours

CLEVELAND—Steven H. Thompson was sentenced to stand with a pig for two hours or spend three days in jail. The pig will stand with Thompson, who must have a sign that reads, "This is not a police officer."

Thompson, 28, was offered a plea bargain and pleaded guilty to one count of disorderly conduct and two counts of illegal assembly.

Every year in the United States, more than a million people develop skin cancer. But Thompson and his family were just two of the many people fear that the United States is a battlefield for a war with skin cancer.

The findings do not come as a surprise to dermatologists. Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer.

Skin tanning is the sun's natural response to damage ultraviolet rays given off by the sun and tanning devices.

The study was published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute and is one of several that strongly link the use of tanning lamps with skin cancer.

The two-mile long Salang Tunnel is the main route for aid shipments from north to south.

— Associated Press

Filipinos say U.S. presence may play on anti-American feelings, fuel rebel support

Glenda Gloria

Philippine journalist

"The arrival of U.S. troops plays into the anti-American sentiment of a lot of ideologues who otherwise would be against the Abu Sayyaf."

By Philip P. Pan

THE WASHINGTON POST

(WIRE) ZAMBOANGA, Philippines — One recent morning, as U.S. troops were arriving in this garrison city to help Philippines soldiers fight a band of Islamic rebels known as the Abu Sayyaf, a spokesman for the group called a radio station here with a message for the Americans.

"For more than 300 years now, the Muslims in the southern Philippines have faced and fought numerous invaders, foreign and local," he said. "Praise be to Allah, (the invaders) were not fully successful in their version of the Crusades."

Speaking quickly over a crackling phone line, he recalled the brutal pacification campaigns that the U.S. military conducted in the Philippines a century ago, killing thousands of Muslims who resisted U.S. rule. He said, this time "you will be the losers."

There's growing concern among local Muslims, government officials and residents that the Abu Sayyaf will drag the U.S. military into a prolonged conflict and gain support by reciting its members, as righteous Muslim warriors resisting foreign Christian oppressors.

U.S. and Philippine officials say the 650 U.S. soldiers arriving here won't engage in combat and will only train, advise and support their Philippine counterparts. But if the Abu Sayyaf manages to kill or capture even a few Americans, many people fear that the United States will respond with an all-out assault and provoke a backlash in these largely Muslim islands of the southern Philippines.

The police and these islands once sympathized with the Abu Sayyaf and its mission to establish an independent Islamic state. But support for the group fell sharply after the rebels became more interested in kidnapping foreigners and wealthy Filipinos for large ransoms.

"The arrival of U.S. troops plays into the anti-American sentiment of a lot of ideologues who otherwise would be against the Abu Sayyaf," Glenda Gloria, a Philippine journalist, told an American reporter. "The American soldiers get into combat, there's a risk the political landscape could change."

When U.S. soldiers ventured into the jungles of Basulan island this month, they'll be chasing an enemy that's eluded the Philippine military for years, still enjoys local support and sometimes hides in territories controlled by other Muslim rebels who have pledged to cease-fire with the government.

The return of U.S. troops to a nation with a long history of subjugation by foreign armies has triggered a political uproar in Manila, and U.S. and Philippine officials say they must sign an agreement on what U.S. soldiers can do on the battlefield.

U.S. military officials said their troops are wanted to assist in efforts to defeat the Abu Sayyaf, which the U.S. government says has ties to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

"There is no question that Abu Sayyaf is an enemy who could become injured or killed if the Philippine element is attacked," said Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster, commander of the U.S. forces. "But the mission needs to be accomplished in support of our allies."

Fewer than 50 members of the Special Forces will join Philippine troops in the jungles, or about two U.S. soldiers for every 100 Philippine soldiers.

They'll be permitted to fire only in self-defense and will be supervised by Philippine commanders.

Local officials say the move will be a success.
Penn gives touching performance in "Sam"

By Amber Hodge

...the roller coaster ride of emotions, outstanding acting and excellent storyline bring out the humanity in what it is like to have a mental disability.

For those who ever called anyone a "retarded" or referred to something as "retarded" in a joking matter, they may choose different words after seeing "I Am Sam." This Jesse Nelson film is more than a movie about a man fighting for the custody of his daughter. It reveals how the system can be broken and the role of a parent figure. Sean Penn, the father Sam, is highly remarkable and he puts in the foster care of Randy (Laura Dern).

When Sam and his friends look for a lawyer in the phone book to get the child back, they find Rita Harrison, played by Michelle Pfeiffer. This non-profit organization that serves adults with developmental needs. There, Nelson and Johnson focused on parents with special needs to bring a dose of reality to the script. Attention to this sort of detail makes Penn remarkable as Sam. He has overcome or even laughed about. I was not sure whether to cry or smile. I just knew that I left somewhat changed.

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

By Evan Lerner

THE JUSTICE (BRANDON U.)

(U:WIRE) WALTHAM, Mass. - The biggest trend in American cinema is the movement of the written word of a tome of events, it's probably because "A Clockwork Orange," which is based on the short story "Memento Mori" by brother Jonathan Nolan. This is the secret behind not only film adapters but also the movie. The book was not good (in fact, it's actually a good example to start out with, because I think Peter Jackson did a good (it ga

Commentary

Great works of literature are being shoved under the proverbial rug in our collective consciousness to make room for their film counterparts. This is rarely the case, however, I rarely conclude. Even a short book is just too far too long to be acted out. Jackson was able to squeak by this problem only because much of Tolkien's writing was visually descriptive, and thus could be, and was, conveyed by adroit location, costume, and special effects choices. Nevertheless, dialogue and plot were still trimmed. While I was disappointed to lose out on such beautiful and complex character development though the dialogue, Jackson's purging of the story was actually appropriate for the movie transition.

This is rarely the case, however, I rarely conclude. Even a short book is just too far too long to be acted out. Jackson was able to squeak by this problem only because much of Tolkien's writing was visually descriptive, and thus could be, and was, conveyed by adroit location, costume, and special effects choices. Nevertheless, dialogue and plot were still trimmed. While I was disappointed to lose out on such beautiful and complex character development though the dialogue, Jackson's purging of the story was actually appropriate for the movie transition.

Which brings me to the only true exception of the rule of not turning books into films. "Fight Club." Chuck Palahniuk delivers an emotionally gripping set of characters and ideas. He also delivers a literary, schizophrenic plot that does not always function as words on a page. This is not to say the book was not good (in fact, it's actually a good example), but it could benefit from a director who is as much a master of the short story as Palahniuk is a master of the short story.
Everyone knows the pain of being stranded alone indoors, studying for a mid-term, while your roommates are enjoying a night on the town. What Cal Poly student wouldn't crave the easy way out of this predicament? But then again, would all students buy into a seemingly brilliant scheme that promised perfect grades with no studying, essentially throwing personal integrity out the window?

This is the moral predicament with which the characters in the film "Slackers" are presented. Unlike most college students though, they all choose the faulty path.

The theme of this movie is an obvious one. "Slackers" relies too heavily on teen sex, raging hormones and an otherwise gross sense of humor. If it weren't for Schwartzman's character, the movie would be a complete bust.

Unfortunately, his new role wasn't nearly as clever as his role in "Rushmore." The entire film was just too cliché: guy meets girl, guy tries to score a date with girl, guy falls in love with girl after their first date. Then they throw in scenes portraying idiotic guys pulling unrealistic scams to try and prove their coolness almost as an afterthought.

In the end, I could have gotten more laughs out of a 10-minute episode of "The Simpsons" than in 90 minutes of "Slackers." I think I actually left the movie with fewer brain cells than I had before I saw it. The few chuckles I did have were eventually ruined by the embarrassing crudeness displayed throughout the movie. I definitely wouldn't take a female to see it. I would be too embarrassed.
Opinion

Letters to the editor

Some definitions of religion include atheism

I am writing this in response to Steven Batson’s letter in which he claimed that atheism is not a religion, as defined by the Student Body of Cal Poly. He stated that religion is a belief in two things: 1) something “unconditionally non-dependent,” (something that is divine) and 2) how to stand in proper relation to that “unconditionally non-dependent” element. Though he said that non-dependent necessity does not necessarily have to be a God, I think that we all need to agree on something that exists outside of anything else.

Most scientists would say that numbers are in that unconditioned category, and that there are many others that are also unconditioned. Others would say that it is space itself or some all-encompassing energy, or life force (a la The Force in “Star Wars”) or even simple logic. Whatever it may be, there is something out there to which nothing can be detached, and which would be impossible to be made by change anything. So whatever this unconditioned non-dependent is, it existed before the universe as we know it came to be, and therefore, our entire universe came forth from it. And from that universe or from the divinity itself came the earth and everything on it, including humans.

Something all humans have in common, though, is an instinctual conscience or code of ethics that we are born with, which is the base of all of our ethics and what wealthy governments could accomplish.

His reason for the Gates partnership, upon further investigation, is ingenious. Because Gates has been able to get the exposure he desires for his cause, Drop the Debt, and Gates, who just announced that he is giving $50 million to Harvard because of AIDS, has coverage wherever he goes. It is a match made in media heaven - the stuffy billionaire meets rebel rocker and they find a common fight.

The man who has built a career with such songs as “Sunday Bloody Sunday” about the fighting in Northern Ireland. “Prize (in the name of love)” about the war of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and “War” has found another issue to bring to the forefront of pop culture. And whether you believe his intelligence on the subject or not, at least he is doing something. Unlike many rock stars, he has an understanding of the problem and is lending his name and fame to an issue that needs it. For that he deserves to be taken seriously, even if he happens to show up to a diplomatic forum wearing giant blue wrap-around sunglasses.

Malia Spencer is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

New intersection

Friday, February 8, 2002

Janelle Foskett, Robin Nichols

Managing editors

Michelle Hatfield

news editor

Cheri Drinan

opinion editor

Eric Tower

arts & entertainment editor

Karen Lamberti

photo editor

Jennifer Hanson, Cynthia Neff, Brad Parker

copy editors

Andrew Erickson

layout designer

Eric Henderson, Crystal Myers

assistant photo editors

Sonia Slutzki

editor in chief

Michelle Hatfield

news editor

Cheri Drinan

opinion editor

Eric Tower

arts & entertainment editor

Karen Lamberti

photo editor

Jennifer Hanson, Cynthia Neff, Brad Parker

copy editors

Andrew Erickson

layout designer

Eric Henderson, Crystal Myers

assistant photo editors

Sonia Slutzki

editor in chief

Michelle Hatfield

news editor

Cheri Drinan

opinion editor

Eric Tower

arts & entertainment editor

Karen Lamberti

photo editor

Jennifer Hanson, Cynthia Neff, Brad Parker

copy editors

Andrew Erickson

layout designer

Eric Henderson, Crystal Myers

assistant photo editors

Sonia Slutzki

editor in chief

Michelle Hatfield

news editor

Cheri Drinan

opinion editor

Eric Tower

arts & entertainment editor

Karen Lamberti

photo editor

Jennifer Hanson, Cynthia Neff, Brad Parker

copy editors

Andrew Erickson

layout designer

Eric Henderson, Crystal Myers

assistant photo editors

Sonia Slutzki

editor in chief

Michelle Hatfield

news editor

Cheri Drinan

opinion editor

Eric Tower

arts & entertainment editor

Karen Lamberti

photo editor

Jennifer Hanson, Cynthia Neff, Brad Parker

copy editors

Andrew Erickson

layout designer

Eric Henderson, Crystal Myers

assistant photo editors

Morgan Daily

Letters to the editor

My point in all of this is that, in saying his claim, he is ignoring the number of students of this country who would not say that what he has written is accurate. I think that you would find yourself taken seriously, even if he happens to show up to a diplomatic forum wearing giant blue wrap-around sunglasses.
Afghan-Americans elected to help rebuild homeland

By Mary Beth Sheridan
The Washington Post

(NEW YORK) The Afghan-American Electoral College, set to convene in about six months to choose 10 delegates, whose names will be of help for their country, a Fairfax County, Virginia, resident who won a place on a new national council to represent Afghan immigrants and help rebuild their homeland.

Nearly 1,500 Afghan immigrants cast ballots last weekend at a downtown Washington, D.C., auditorium to choose 10 delegates, whose names were announced this week. Similar elections are being held in three other parts of the country to choose the 30 remaining members of the "Afghan-American Electoral College," organizers said. An announcement is planned this week to coordinate aid from Americans to Afghanistan, lobby the U.S. government and send representatives to Afghanistan's loya jirga, or grand council, set to convene in about six months to choose a transitional government.

A large number of educated Afghans and Afghans with experience in government and in various professions are located here. So, professionally, these people can really contribute" to their homeland, said Joma Mohamadi, one of the new delegates, explaining the importance of the Afghan-American council.

Just consider his own experience: The Springfield, Virginia, retiree served as minister of water and energy in Afghanistan in the mid-1970s and later worked at the World Bank.

Sunday's election was a sign of the desire of Afghans to be part in a Washington election this year. They handed in their campaign leaflets, increasing their numbers only 40 to now numbers only 40 to 100 fighters.

The election was held since U.S. immigration officials communicated an increasing number of students and academics, the professionals, he said.

The role of the new council in Afghanistan politics is unclear. A spokesman for the Embassy of Afghanistan, Tom Lauria, was unaware of the elections being held in Washington, New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco to choose the 40 Afghan immigrant representatives.

Nonetheless, the election generated a birth-of-the-nation enthusiasm that was palpable as the ballots were being counted.

"This is a gift to Afghans in Afghanistan. They can take this model and implement it there," said Hamed Etebar, 29, of Annandale, Virginia, a computer scientist on the observer team that watched the vote-counting Monday and Tuesday nights in a smoke-filled room at the Afghan Restaurant on Jefferson Davis Highway in Alexandria, Virginia.

He noted that the Afghan-Americans had incorporated the finest traditions of democracy in their election. The candidates were interviewed by an Afghan TV station, a national database of Afghan-Americans and their experience so they could be tapped for reconstruction projects. They are very anxious to go back and help for their country, a country torn apart by war, said Etemadi, of Alexandria.

Nearly 1,500 Afghan immigrants cast ballots in the D.C. area recently to choose delegates to an "Afghan-American Electoral College," which is to coordinate aid from Americans to Afghanistan and help choose a transitional government. From left, Nasernaw Abi, Hamed Etebar, Mohammad Faryar and Sayed Ahmad Alami take part in the vote count.

The election was held since U.S. immigration officials communicated an increasing number of students and academics, the professionals, he said.

The role of the new council in Afghanistan politics is unclear. A spokesman for the Embassy of Afghanistan, Tom Lauria, was unaware of the elections being held in Washington, New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco to choose the 40 Afghan immigrant representatives.

Nonetheless, the election generated a birth-of-the-nation enthusiasm that was palpable as the ballots were being counted.

"This is a gift to Afghans in Afghanistan. They can take this model and implement it there," said Hamed Etebar, 29, of Annandale, Virginia, a computer scientist on the observer team that watched the vote-counting Monday and Tuesday nights in a smoke-filled room at the Afghan Restaurant on Jefferson Davis Highway in Alexandria, Virginia.

He noted that the Afghan-Americans had incorporated the finest traditions of democracy in their election. The candidates were interviewed by an Afghan TV station, a national database of Afghan-Americans and their experience so they could be tapped for reconstruction projects. They are very anxious to go back and help for their country, a country torn apart by war, said Etemadi, of Alexandria.

Nearly 1,500 Afghan immigrants cast ballots in the D.C. area recently to choose delegates to an "Afghan-American Electoral College," which is to coordinate aid from Americans to Afghanistan and help choose a transitional government. From left, Nasernaw Abi, Hamed Etebar, Mohammad Faryar and Sayed Ahmad Alami take part in the vote count.

Nearly 1,500 Afghan immigrants cast ballots in the D.C. area recently to choose delegates to an "Afghan-American Electoral College," which is to coordinate aid from Americans to Afghanistan and help choose a transitional government. From left, Nasernaw Abi, Hamed Etebar, Mohammad Faryar and Sayed Ahmad Alami take part in the vote count.

Nearly 1,500 Afghan immigrants cast ballots in the D.C. area recently to choose delegates to an "Afghan-American Electoral College," which is to coordinate aid from Americans to Afghanistan and help choose a transitional government. From left, Nasernaw Abi, Hamed Etebar, Mohammad Faryar and Sayed Ahmad Alami take part in the vote count.

Nearly 1,500 Afghan immigrants cast ballots in the D.C. area recently to choose delegates to an "Afghan-American Electoral College," which is to coordinate aid from Americans to Afghanistan and help choose a transitional government. From left, Nasernaw Abi, Hamed Etebar, Mohammad Faryar and Sayed Ahmad Alami take part in the vote count.
**Sports**

**Mustangs hungry for Tiger rematch**

By Renee Shadforth  
Mustang Daily Staff Writer

It has been five years since the Cal Poly men’s basketball team has had the conference play momentum it has right now.

The Mustangs, with a record of 12-7, 6-3 (before Thursday night), hope to continue that drive against the University of the Pacific Tigers (14-6, 6-4) at Mott Gym on Saturday night.

The crucial match will match up fifth-place Cal Poly with fourth-place Pacific, which is coming off of a three-game winning streak at home.

The last time the teams met, Cal Poly suffered a 54-70 loss, even though the Mustangs began that game leading 19-11.

"Then Varnie (Dennis) got into a tiny foul trouble, which hurt us," said Mustang head coach Kevin Bromley. "They ended up having a seven-point lead on us at the half, and in the second half we couldn’t make a shot. They’re a tough team to play on home turf.

The Tigers have a 5-2 conference record at home, but the Mustangs hope to capitalize on the Tigers weaker play on the road (1-4).

The Mustangs have an 8-1 record at Mott Gym this season. So far, they’ve met their preseason goal to protect their home court, something the series of teams haven’t done in a couple of years.

UC Santa Barbara has been the only team to beat the Mustangs at home.

The team attributes much of its homecourt success to the crowds that show up at Mott Gym.

"The more energy the crowd brings, the better things we do," said Call Poly senior forward Brandon Beeson. He added that his fifth and final season at Poly has been the best experience he has ever had.

In the game or not, the Mustangs are in for an especially physical match. Bromley’s fear is that his team won’t have enough bodies to defend on the post.

"When Dennis gets into foul trouble, we have a tough time because he gives us up a lot of rebounding," he said. "Our front line started out really big, but with Phillip Johnson being ineligible, we could run into some trouble there. Pacific is a big, strong and very physical team."

Pacific’s legitimate threats on the inside are Mike Hahn (6’7”, 220 pounds) and Ross Mills (6’10”, 260 pounds). On the outside, the Tigers have Demetrius Jackson, who shot 20 points before the half against Cal State Northridge last weekend, and Maurice McLemore, who has the team’s highest point-per-game average at 12.6.

Despite differences in size, Mustang forward David Henry (6’8”, 220 pounds) is optimistic. "We’ve been playing against guys who are 250 to 260 pounds all season long," he said. "Sometimes we play real well against those guys. We just need to step it up."

The Tigers play a soft, man-to-man defense, Bromley said, which is repeatable. Mustangs look to continue their home court success this Saturday against Pacific.

**Softball ready to ‘roundup’ opponents**

By Bridgette Vanherweg  
Mustang Daily Staff Writer

With the softball season about to begin, the Mustangs hope to "roundup" a few wins this weekend.

The Cal Poly softball team opens the 2002 season this weekend, hosting five other teams in the Mustang Roundup. The tournament includes Santa Clara, UC Santa Barbara, Colorado State, Southern Utah and Western Michigan State.

With six games each scheduled for Friday and Saturday, and three on Sunday, the Mustangs will get a chance to find out what the season will bring.

Teams expectations are really high, because we lost only two people last year, and are returning our entire infield and senior infielder Kasey Poet. "The team has been practicing since the third day of school in the fall, and after our scrimmage against Bakersfield three weeks ago, we’ve practiced 15 straight days.

"Poet has been on the team for five years, after red-shirting one year with a shoulder injury.

"The team’s attitude is totally different from last year," Poet said. "This may sound cliché, but in the past, we were playing not to lose. This is the first team who is playing to win, rather than playing safe."

In finishing last season with a 28-29 record, nine starters are returning, including five seniors.

The team definitely made a big jump last season, and we hope to improve on that," said senior outfielder Christie Wells. "We’re so anxious to pick up where we left off."

Head coach Lisa Boyer is also looking forward to a strong season.

"We’ve set both high and realistic expectations," she said. "We’re very excited about the entire season, and very confident to achieve a great deal of success as long as we remain focused on a day-to-day basis."

"The team this year is very motivated and worked extremely hard. We are all anxious to compete against someone other than oursevles," Boyer said.

In general, Boyer seems satisfied when she looks in her dugout.

"In general, we are very balanced and have a lot of depth this year, which will ultimately allow us to play against someone other than oursevles," she said.

"We’ve got five pitchers, all who are very, very solid."

One of those pitchers is senior Terra Blankenbecker, who noted the team’s improved staff.

"We have a lot of depth," she said. "Knowing what it’s like to be out there, I know the situation, so I won’t be nervous. All my pitches are more consistent."

"Overall, Blankenbecker likes what she sees on the field."

"We have a talented team and we will have a strong season," she said. "Going to the playoffs is probably my team’s biggest goal."

"With a good combination of speed and power, according to Boyer, the team has what it needs to make the playoffs. Poet also accredited the students and fans who follow the games and provide much appreciated support for the Mustangs.

"The team really benefits from school spirit coming from a lot of fans," Poet said. "We play so much better when we have fans. It makes a big difference.

"It’s great to have the first tournament at home to draw the fans," senior outfielder Nicole Dambry said. "We want to get people engaged in softball. It’s just a matter of initially bringing people to the game, to see what it’s all about."