Students tend to 60+ campus cats

By Bryan Dickerson

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 frantically 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 ev'ing 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 (CPCP) is under the leadership of Garrett Quindimil. 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 Quindimil’s program introduced the “Trap, Test, Vaccinate, See Cats” page 2
CATS
continued from page 1
Medicate, Alter and Release" techniques, developed by the National Feral Cat Resource Center.
Members of CPCP said there are currently around 60 cats on campus, 90 percent of which are spayed or neutered.
CPCP is funded by donations, an annual raffle and a semi-annual food drive. Volunteers put in the work hours to maintain the program.
Duties at CPCP include tending the feeding stations (there are 12 scattered around campus), capturing sick and injured cats for veterinary care, and spaying the feral ones — like Momma Cat. The tame cats are made available for adoption through the campus shelter. However, some members of the program often find it difficult to part with a cat, so they choose to adopt it.
When a litter of six kittens was displaced by campus construction, volunteer Gerti Bolivar found off-campus homes for all but two of the kittens, which she ended up keeping. They were two weeks old.
Bolivar recalls, "I had to bottle feed them every two hours. But eventually I just couldn't separate them. One would meow when the other one went down the hall. Now they're 16 years old."
Raker and his leadership styles and partnership, he said, "some from campus, some from the university."
Raker said that most of the transition to ownership, the program had a new base 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 feral 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 doms 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 guy 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."

CPTV
Friday & Saturday 8:30 p.m.
Sunday 12:00 p.m.
Channel 10

POLY calendar

* "Signatures in Dance - Orchesis Dance Company - Chumash Auditorium, 8 p.m.
* "Writer Speak" - Marisa Silver - Philips Hall in the Christopher Cohen Center, 7 p.m.

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
verses needed to be taken in the context of the entire book.
The discussion then turned political. Some people in the audience questioned bin Laden's ties to Islam and discussed whether the United States has the right to bomb areas in Afghanistan.
"The's what we wanted to talk about in the third presentation of the series," Kahn said in an interview after the discussion. "These are issues we should have discussed as a community sooner, immediately following Sept. 11."
The second presentation of the series is 7 p.m. Wednesday. It will cover the role of women in Muslim communities. Al-Musawi will present her point of view as a Muslim woman and scholar. Kahn will discuss how he, as a Muslim man, deals with women.
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 232 Foothill 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 was there for 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."

Weather WATCH

5-DAY FORECAST

SATURDAY
High: 71° / Low: 38°

SUNDAY
High: 73° / Low: 41°

MONDAY
High: 64° / Low: 43°

TUESDAY
High: 63° / Low: 40°

WEDNESDAY
High: 66° / Low: 38°

TODAY'S SUN
Rise: 6:56 a.m. / Set: 5:39 p.m.

TODAY'S MOON
Rise:4:35 a.m. / Set:2:25 p.m.

TODAY'S TIDE
Low: 12:48 a.m. / 2.70 feet
High: 6:59 a.m. / 5.75 feet

WEATHER
Low: 38° / High: 71°

High: 63° / Low: 40°

TODAY'S TIDE
Low: 12:48 a.m. / 2.70 feet
High: 6:59 a.m. / 5.75 feet
Low: 2:27 p.m. / 0.70 feet
High: 9:16 p.m. / 3.85 feet

VP
continued from page 1
senior position at this level."
Kelley said that the search process gave him the chance to meet many people at Cal Poly and become exposed to many of the issues.
"It was a very professional process that reflects well on the university and the leadership," he said. "I was particularly impressed with Dr. Baker and his leadership styles and abilities."
Baker said he based his decision on who would be the best fit for Cal Poly in regard to certain areas that are crucial to the university. "Kelley has a breadth of experience in areas of public and private partnership," he said, "some from working at the University of Maine and within the Ohio system."
Kelley said that most of the transitioning would occur after Kelley arrives, but he is already in frequent contact with Lebers.
"I don't have any doubts about the transition," Lebers said. "I have a highly capable staff which operates fairly independently."
He said Kelley should "take advantage of the strengths of the team," once he's settled in San Luis Obispo.
Kelley will be leaving his most recent job as the associate vice president for Finance and Administration at Georgia State University. Prior to that he served as chief financial officer at the University of Maine, and as vice president for Business and Finance at Kent State University in Ohio.
Three Marines were killed and five were injured during a training exercise when the vehicle they were riding in overturned, an 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.

Their conditions were not immediately available.

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 12 others injured at Camp Pendleton during training exercises.

Camp Pendleton is located 40 miles north of San Diego, and is home to more than 20,000 military and civilian personnel. Many of the servicemen stationed there were called to duty in Afghanistan.

Associated Press

Mustang Daily

**National Briefs**

**Middle East**

Nearly 500 people who were trapped in cars and a tunnel by a snow avalanche, a U.N. spokesman said Thursday.

Three of the dead suffocated inside the Salang Tunnel while the fourth died in a car buried by the snow outside as temperatures dropped to minus 40 degrees overnight, a spokesman said.

Rescuers had to battle winds up to 55 mph. A British-based mine clearing organization sent two bulldozers to help the rescuers dig out the cars and trucks. The teams were able to reach 15 trapped vehicles and about 100 people who were stranded inside the tunnel, the spokesman said.

Eighty-nine people suffering from frostbite and dehydration were evacuated to a field clinic, and seven who were in serious condition were flown to Kabul by helicopter.

**South America**

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — A male passenger was hit in the head with an ax by pilots and sub­ dued after he tried to force his way into the locked cockpit of a United Airlines flight halfway between Miami and Argentina on Thursday, airline officials said.

The Boeing 777 landed safely in Buenos Aires and the man was arrested, but airline officials said the man was a Ukrainian, but did not have details on his name or age.

The lead flight attendant and a passenger helped the pilots subdue the man. One of the panels on the cockpit door was blown out. Pilots hit the man with an ax that is normally kept in the cockpit for emergency.

The man suffered some injuries and was hospitalized. The Argentine airforce said the man approached with spindle-wielding.

The flight had 155 passengers, three pilots and 12 flight attendants.

**South America**

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — A male passenger was hit in the head with an ax by pilots and subdued after he tried to force his way into the locked cockpit of a United Airlines flight halfway between Miami and Argentina on Thursday, airline officials said.

The Boeing 777 landed safely in Buenos Aires and the man was arrested, but airline officials said the man was a Ukrainian, but did not have details on his name or age.

The lead flight attendant and a passenger helped the pilots subdue the man. One of the panels on the cockpit door was blown out. Pilots hit the man with an ax that is normally kept in the cockpit for emergency.

The man suffered some injuries and was hospitalized. The Argentine airforce said the man approached with spindle-wielding.

The flight had 155 passengers, three pilots and 12 flight attendants.

**South America**

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — A male passenger was hit in the head with an ax by pilots and subdued after he tried to force his way into the locked cockpit of a United Airlines flight halfway between Miami and Argentina on Thursday, airline officials said.

The Boeing 777 landed safely in Buenos Aires and the man was arrested, but airline officials said the man was a Ukrainian, but did not have details on his name or age.

The lead flight attendant and a passenger helped the pilots subdue the man. One of the panels on the cockpit door was blown out. Pilots hit the man with an ax that is normally kept in the cockpit for emergency.

The man suffered some injuries and was hospitalized. The Argentine airforce said the man approached with spindle-wielding.

The flight had 155 passengers, three pilots and 12 flight attendants.
Penn gives touching performance in "Sam"

Francisco, California (WRAL.com) — The latest big trend in American cinema is the movement of the written word of literature to the silver screen of film. While we have seen adaptations of novels like "The Lord of the Rings," "Harry Potter," and "The Da Vinci Code," the latest entry in this trend is Christopher Nolan's "Memento," a film that is a perfect example of this genre.

By Amber Hodge
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

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 the struggles of a disabled man and his need for love.

Similar to other movies that Nelson has worked on, such as "Corner, Corner," "Stepmom" and "The Story of Us," this film expresses the meaning of family relationships and the importance of those bonds.

Sam Dawson (Sean Penn) is a middle-aged man with the mental capacity of a 7-year-old. When his daughter is born, certain weekly traditions are started by him. These include "movie night" and "$90 Wednesday," and they are interrupted. He names his daughter Lucy Diamond, after the famous Beatles song.

Though his life is altered by the birth of his daughter, nothing can prepare him for the heartbreak he feels when Sam is abandoned by the child's mother, leaving him with the responsibility of raising his daughter alone. The only help he has comes from a relative neighbor, played by Dianne Wiest, who forms a friendship with those who are his biggest support system. Instead of leaving Sam out of the weekly events because of his situation, they opt to bring Lucy along.

Played by the adorable 7-year-old Dakota Fanning, Lucy grows up and becomes more aware of her father's mental capacity. She understands that she's lucky, because her father is still around. She is so entwined in her work that she forgets that she has a family. As the friendship between Sam and Rita, played by Julianne Moore, bloom, Sam begins to become more aware of his life.

When he and his friend look for a lawyer in the phone book to get the child back, they find Rita Harrison, played by Michelle Pfeiffer. Pfeiffer delivers a knotty, schizophrenic performance that shows the ability to convey love just as Juliette Lewis and Giovanni Ribisi did in "The Other Sister."

Though the rapid pace of film may bother the audience, the roller coaster ride of emotions, outstanding acting and an excellent storyline bring out the humanity in what it's like to have a mental disability.

To understand mental retardation better, co-screenwriters Nelson and Kristine Johnson visited L.A. Goal, a non-profit organization that serves adults with developmental needs. There, Nelson and Johnson focused on a group of special children who have to bring a dose of reality to the script.

Attention to this sort of detail makes Penn remarkable as Sam. He delivers a performance that makes me feel like I've overlooked or even laughed about. I was not sure whether to cry or smile. I just know that I felt somewhat changed.

Never judge a book by its movie

By Evan Lerner
THE JUSTICE (BRANDEIS U.)
(U/WIRE) WALTHAM, Mass. — The latest big trend in the largely laughable contraception known as American cinema is the movement of the written word of literature to the silver screen of film.

You probably saw "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring," so you knew what I was talking about. "Lord of the Rings" is one chapter shy of Burgess' manifesto on a nightmare society. Kubrick ends this that comes to mind is "A Clockwork Orange," which is based on Anthony Burgess' dystopian nightmare society. Kubrick ends his film a chapter shy of Burgess' manuscript and thus totally changes the message of the work. Then, if you are surprised by these terms of events, it's probably because "A Clockwork Orange" the movie is much more like "Memento" than "A Clockwork Orange" the book.

And, here we have another problem: Great works of literature are being shuffling under the proverbial rug in our collective consciousness to make room for their film counterparts. This is not just a matter of more and better books, though. "A Clockwork Orange" the book is much more than just "A Clockwork Orange" the book.

Here is where film has a distinct advantage in conveying information. David Fincher's dark tone with its grinding modern sounds and bombastic beats. The more physical, the more visceral, the more unforgettable. The more visceral, the more unforgettable. The more visceral, the more unforgettable. The more visceral, the more unforgettable.

So, I suppose it's possible movie adaptations can be beneficial, as in this case at least it brought a fascinating story into light that very few people would have known about otherwise. Still, I'd rather not have Hollywood ravens picking over classic works in an attempt to make a profit on the story's pre-existing fame. The moral here, directors, is that you can come to a conclusion that just that Paladino's style would be better conveyed if it could come from multiple directions at once. Here is where film has a distinct advantage in conveying information. David Fincher's dark tone with its grinding modern sounds and bombastic beats. The more visceral, the more unforgettable. The more visceral, the more unforgettable.
'Slackers' falls short with same old humor

By Justin Ruttkay

Mustang Daily Staff Writer

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. Have (Devon Sawa, "Final Destination"), Sam (Jason Segel), and Jeff (Michael Maronna, "Adventures of Pete & Pete") are at the pinnacle of the cheating hierarchy at hitlden University. They have aced physics exams without even purchasing books and have been the source behind numerous fire drill set-offs at opportune times.

As the movie's trailer suggests, for these knuckleheads, higher education has reached a new low, and so have sleazy teen-movie comedies for that matter.

The three university screw-ups were on the brink of graduating with degrees in cheating, scheming, and slacking-off. Yet in the eyes of their professors, they were straight-A students, until "Cool Ethan," played by Jason Schwartzman ("Rushmore"), catches them in the act. Through repetitious acts of blackmail and debauchery, Dave is faced with the impossible task of setting up Cool Ethan with his dream girl, Angela. If he fails to do this, Ethan will, figuratively speaking, pull the pants down on the slackers' cheating shenanigans and get them all kicked out of school. A problem arises, though, when Dave begins to fall for Angela.

Unfortunately for the audience, this is the extent of depth they will find in "Slackers." The story, with its sad attempt at humor, is nothing that teen audiences haven't seen before.

The humor in the "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.

Even though Schwartzman's role adds credibility to the humor of this film, overall originality was "slack­ing." Schwartzman's character highly resembles his role in "Rushmore," as he portrays the same crazy and putridly nerdy student who is desperately in love with the girl he will never have. Besides the fact that he was much more crude and vulgar in "Slackers," I thought the characters were almost identical. 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 embarrass­ ing crudeness displayed throughout the movie. I definitely wouldn't take a female to see it. I would be too embarrassed.
New York City was once again in the media spotlight last weekend when it hosted the Global Economic Forum. Hundreds of politicians turned out to fight for influence in international big business. One hot topic was the involvement—or lack thereof—from the United States in giving monetary aid to poorer nations. One of this year’s standouts was U.S. Treasury Secretary Paul O’Neill and the dynamic duo of Bill Gates and Bono, the lead singer of U2.

Yes, the founder of Microsoft and a world-famous rock star have teamed up to create crusade for under-developed nations.

Now, I know what you are thinking: Bill Gates and Bono working for Third World debt relief?

That could be how I understand. That is what I thought.

Well, with some stretch of the imagination, I could see Gates becoming involved in such an economic-related issue, but I did have some problems taking Bono seriously.

Let’s face it: Being an international rock star takes a lot of time. There is song-writing to be done, appearances to be made, concerts to be played, not to mention the hours spent in the studio. On top of this, Bono has a family to tend to. But somewhere in the midst of this busy schedule, he manages to find time to travel to Third World countries and meet with diplomats to discuss what he has seen.

Needless to say, at first I was cynical of his involvement in the world political arena. But being the journalism student I am, I looked into it. I was pretty surprised when I began reading that it looks like Bono knows what he is talking about.

He is putting pressure on the United States to become more involved in the fight against Third World debt and the consequent decline of the spread of worldwide AIDS. Bono has compared the situation of underdeveloped African countries to that of post-War World II. Bono told the Irish Times, “Africa is in the same kind of vulnerable position as Europe was. I think it would be very smart for the West to invest in preventing the fires rather than putting them out, which will be a lot more expensive.”

His heart is in the right place and he seems to have enough time to travel to Third World countries and meet with diplomats to discuss what he has seen.

I have found in my study of the topic a much better and all-embracing definition given by Reu Clauss, a peace activist who 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 relationship to that “unconditionally non-dependent” client. This unconditional non-dependent does not necessarily have to be a God, just that it has to be something that can exist entirely separate from anything and everything else.

Most scientists would say that numerability is in that unconditioned non-dependent. Others would say that it is space itself or some all-embracing 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. This means it can be made by change. 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. There is no question that we can learn this code, and though in different cultures the code may be different in other places, it is still there. There are certain things that we automatically know are either right or wrong. Take Sept. 11 as an example. I think that you would hard pressed to find a single person on this campus who would not say that the terrorists did on that day was wrong, and that if they were up top with the United States, that they should have found another way to express that. I emphasize the word “should” because it implies that there is a higher standard of conduct to which both myself—a young American white male—and those men—middle-aged Muslim men—any held accountable. This code that holds us accountable is something that cannot, in turn, be accountable itself to something greater. Otherwise we would just step the step of accountability to the code of ethics.

In my point of all this is that, in saying “should,” just as Mr. Batson did when he stated that “Christianity should not be the only theistic viewpoint,” he instantly labeled himself as being religious due to the fact that he is appealing to some higher code in his reasoning. Even if his religious viewpoint is not my own, I would like to start off, in fact, by welcoming Mr. Batson to the world of religion. You see, though other’s claim to not practice or believe in any religion, the great majority of them are actually just as religious as any Jew, Christian, Mormon, Muslim, and Hindu.

Mr. Batson quoted the definition of religion given by Webster’s Dictionary as a support for his claim, but I would put put right—though it might be a bit presumptuous—that this is just not a good definition of religion because it is too limiting. There is nothing that we had to do to mention the hours spent in the studio. On top of this, Bono has a family to tend to. But somewhere in the midst of this busy schedule, he manages to find time to travel to Third World countries and meet with diplomats to discuss what he has seen.

Next, we had the College Republicans a.k.a. Brent Vann and their “pro-American” rallies. Now that was fun.

For one, it seems to accept that anything and everything else. The United States needs is the knowledge of the good, true, and beautiful in order to temper our own selfishness and make the life of this world better.

Let us dedicate ourselves to that and say a prayer for our country and our people.

Daniel J. Gutierrez is a civil engineering junior.

NEW

Letter policy

Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, proficiency and length. Please limit length to 250 words. Letters must include full name, phone number, major and class in letter.

By mail:

Letters to the Editor
Building 26, Room 226
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
CA 93407

By fax:

(805) 756-6784

By e-mail:
mustangdaily@hotmail.com
Letters must come from a Cal Poly student, professor or employee.

Attention:

If you have submitted letters in the past few days without the above information your letter will not be printed when you submit it in the correct format.
Afghan-Americans elected to help rebuild homeland

By Mary Beth Sheridan

The Springfield, Va., retiree served interviews, February 22nd. Call 1-800-279-3019.

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 last weekend at a downtown World Bank 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 10 members of the "Afghan-American Electoral College," organizers said.

"It was wonderful. For the first time in our history! Even in Afghanistan, we had never had elections," said Nabil Muskray, 51, a Fairfax County, Va., 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 World Bank 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 10 members of the "Afghan-American Electoral College," organizers said.

They handed their campaign leaflets, Increasingly being courted by their homelands because of the billions of dollars they send home. Hamid Karzai, the new interim Afghan leader, recently appealed to Afghan exiles (in a speech at Georgetown University) to come home. "You are the ones who are trained -- the academics, the professionals," he said.

The 10 delegates are all from Afghan immigrants to represent the 40 Afghan immigrant representatives.

Nonetheless, the election generated a birth-of-the-nation enthusiasm -- even if the ballot was palatable 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, Va., 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, Va.

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, Ariana Afghanistan Media, whose programs are shown on cable in the Washington, D.C., area. Ballots were numbered and authenticated by election officials. And the observer team monitored the counting.

The 10 delegates are all from Afghan communities in the United States, including 100 Afghans and Afghans with experience in government and various professions are located here. So, professionally, these people can really contribute" to their homelands, said Jams Mahomadi, 61, one of the new delegates, explaining the importance of the Afghan-American council.

Just consider his own experience: The Springfield, Va., 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 how the defeat of the radical Taliban rulers has galvanized the Afghan community in the United States. The Washington area has one of the nation's largest concentrations of Afghan-Americans, and organizers said they had expected about 500 immigrants to turn out for the vote. But so many came that some waited hours to cast their ballots.

The election was held since U.S. immigrants are communicating increasing about their.

Afghan-Americans had incorporated the finest traditions of democracy in their election. The candidates were interviewed by an Afghan TV station, Ariana Afghanistan Media, whose programs are shown on cable in the Washington, D.C., area. Ballots were numbered and authenticated by election officials. And the observer team monitored the counting.

The 10 delegates are all from Afghan communities in the United States, including 100 Afghans and Afghans with experience in government and various professions are located here. So, professionally, these people can really contribute" to their homelands, said Jams Mahomadi, 61, one of the new delegates, explaining the importance of the Afghan-American council.

Just consider his own experience: The Springfield, Va., 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 how the defeat of the radical Taliban rulers has galvanized the Afghan community in the United States. The Washington area has one of the nation's largest concentrations of Afghan-Americans, and organizers said they had expected about 500 immigrants to turn out for the vote. But so many came that some waited hours to cast their ballots.

The election was held since U.S. immigrants are communicating increasing about their.

Afghan-Americans had incorporated the finest traditions of democracy in their election. The candidates were interviewed by an Afghan TV station, Ariana Afghanistan Media, whose programs are shown on cable in the Washington, D.C., area. Ballots were numbered and authenticated by election officials. And the observer team monitored the counting.

The 10 delegates are all from Afghan communities in the United States, including 100 Afghans and Afghans with experience in government and various professions are located here. So, professionally, these people can really contribute" to their homelands, said Jams Mahomadi, 61, one of the new delegates, explaining the importance of the Afghan-American council.

Just consider his own experience: The Springfield, Va., 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 how the defeat of the radical Taliban rulers has galvanized the Afghan community in the United States. The Washington area has one of the nation's largest concentrations of Afghan-Americans, and organizers said they had expected about 500 immigrants to turn out for the vote. But so many came that some waited hours to cast their ballots.
Sports

Mustangs hungry for Tiger rematch

By Renee Shadforth
MUSTANG DIARY: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9

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

The Mustangs, with a record of 12-7, 6-5 (before Thursday night), hope to perpetuate that drive against the University of the Pacific Tigers (14-6, 6-4) at Mott Gym on Saturday night.

The crucial game 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 11-8.

"Then Vinnie (Dennis) get into a little 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 are a tough team to play against.

The Tigers have a 3-0 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 have met their preseason goal to protect their home court, something that hasn't been 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 to the game, the better," said Cal Poly senior forward Brandon Beeson. He added that his fifth year on the Call Poly team has been the best experience he has ever had.

In the game and out of the game, 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 a lot of post play," said Vinnie. "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 Mustangs have Demetrious Jackson, who shot 20 points before the half against Cal State Northridge last weekend, and Maurice McLemore, who has the team's highest points-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 typical of Pacific.

"We've been playing against the Tigers really well," Bromley said. "That's why I don't feel like we can rely on three-point shooting at this time. We need to get that basketball inside the lane."

Bromley said he is confident that his team will play hard, with intensity and togetherness.

"There are no egos on this team. They all just want to win basketball games."

Men's basketball head coach Kevin Bromley directs his players during a practice at Mott Gym. The Mustangs look to continue their home court success this Saturday against Pacific.

Softball ready to 'roundup' opponents

By Bridgette Vanherweg
MUSTANG DIARY: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9

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 Southwestern Missouri 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.

"We have high expectations really high, because we lost only two people last year, and are returning our entire starting lineup," said 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.

"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 are 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.

"Competition will bring out the team's strongest and weakest aspects, Boyer said.

"The team this year is very motivated and worked extremely hard. We are all anxious to compete against someone other than our selves," 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 play an important role on our success," she said. "We've got five pitchers, all of whom are very, very solid.

"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, Blankenbeker 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 our biggest goal."

With a combined 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 scholastic support," Poet said. "Thanks for the fans who support us all the time.

"We are all anxious to compete against someone other than ourselves," Boyer said. "We've got five pitchers, all of whom are very, very solid."

One of those pitchers is senior Terra Blankenbeker, 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."

"The team really benefits from scholastic support," Poet said. "Those are the fans who support us all the time."

Wrestling team heads for match at Oregon

Cal Poly (7-9 overall, 4-3 Pac-10), which finished second in the California Collegiate Invitational at San Francisco State last Saturday and beat Cal State Bakersfield 25-16 in a dual meet Tuesday, hits the road again Saturday to wrestle Oregon in a Pacific Conference dual meet at Eugene, Ore.

Three nationally ranked wrestlers will lead Cal Poly into the match. Mustang 141-pounder Cedric Harmon is ranked 25-8 on the year and ranked fourth in Intermat Wrestling. Teammate Steve Strange (29-6) is ranked 16th at 174 pounds, while David Shenk (11-5) is ranked 18th at 197.

Shenk has missed about a month of action due to an injured back.

Mustang champions in the California Collegiate Invitational at San Francisco State last Saturday include Haymon at 141, Barrios at 165, Strange at 174 and Wallace at 285. Dan Leahy was second at 285 while Nathaniel Ybarra was runner-up at 133. Third-place finishers included 174-pounder Brett Schumann and Sandlin at 184. Forresti came forth at 184.

Strange and Sandlin posted major decisions to lead Cal Poly to its win over Cal State Bakersfield. The Mustangs beat the Roadrunners for the second straight year after a long drought.

Cal State Bakersfield has a 20-12-1 lead in its series with the Mustangs.

Next week, Cal Poly will wrestle in dual meets at Fresno State on Wednesday and at home against UC Davis on Saturday.