Mustangs 'a chargin': Sac State comes to Janssen Field for softball series, 8
Avoid the sting: Mustangs' chargin'

Friday, April 26, 2002

Lantern festival lights up UU
Lecture focuses on college student turned monk

Schedule changes not done on purpose

ASI candidates square off

ASIELECTION Chair Carlos Dill called it "right night."
However, the Associated Students Inc. president and vice president
candidate forum that was held Wednesday went off without a hitch.
At the forum, students were allowed to ask questions pertaining to
the candidates' campaign or any other issue to which they wanted
answers. Since this is the first elec-
tion under the new "light" system,
in which presidential candidates
campaign with a running mate,
much of the audience from the
area were directed to each team and not
individually.
"The event was really well," said
Angie Hacker, ASI president. "Since
the last election hasn't been pre-
time so far, the debate wasn't as
threat as it could have been." But
some audience questions were
certainly tougher than others.
When asked how they will
increase diversity on campus, presi-
dential candidate Meital Manzuri
said that the only way they can
increase diversity on campus is by
reaching out to the students.
"We have to reach out to the stu-
dent body to teach them that having
a diverse campus will make happy
students, and the only way to do that
is to educate them," said Manzuri,
a political science junior.
"The lack of diversity on campus
is because I came from a very
diverse city, I know how important
it is," said Ayers, a business junior.
"That is why Jake Parnell and I
are running for office — to change
the lack of diversity.
Candidates Andrew Hunt and
Leigh Love were also asked a difficult
question, but the questions pertained
to their VH (vertical and hori-
zontal integration for one student body)
campaign slogan. While some stu-
dents questioned if the campaign
was meant to deter freshmen from
extracurricular activities during their
first year at Cal Poly, Love denied
the implications.
"I think it is very important for
freshman students to get involved
with campus life, and VH will help
them do that," said Love, an

By Leslie Edwards
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

"The Lights of Asia" will shine
this weekend when the Eighth
Annual Lantern Festival concludes
Asian and Pacific Islander Month.
This year's festival, sponsored by
Chi Delta Theta, an Asian-interest
sorority, in conjunction with the
Multicultural Center and
Associated Students Inc., will be
held Saturday at the University
Union from 5 to 9 p.m. The festival
is free and open to the public. The
theme, "Lights of Asia," will be
reflected in the festive lights and
lanterns that will decorate the
University Union.
Angie Wong, member of Chi
Delta Theta and one of the coordi-
nators of the Lantern Festival, said
the evening is meant for everyone
to come and celebrate all Asian
and Pacific Islander cultures.
"The Lantern Festival is kind of
like an Open House, but for Asian
cultures," Wong said. "We expect
a pretty good turnout this year
because we have a lot of great per-
formers and a lot of people have
been inquiring about the event."
The Lantern Festival will feature
live performances, including mar-
tial arts demonstrations by Shorty
Ryo Kanate and a Taiko drum per-
fomance. The festival will also fea-
ture

By Justin Ruttkay
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Sometimes a student will register
for a class under a specific professor,
but once the quarter begins, the
student may find that a different
professor is teaching the class.
This is a common occurrence for
students at Cal Poly, at least for
some mechanical engineering stu-
dents, said Bill Clark, chairman of
the mechanical engineering depart-
ment. He said this happens because
the department was forced to
change the original schedule that
was sold in the bookstore.
"This problem is pretty common
because of having to have the
schedule made up so ahead of
time," Clark said. "I'm writing fall
quarter's schedule right now, but
there could be a bunch of changes
from now til then in who is avail-
able to teach." The problem with the
inconsistent schedule is often due to professors
going on leave or getting sick
during that quarter, he said. It is a
problem that happens often in the
bigger departments, he said.
"It is a problem that we recog-
nize," Clark said. "Trying to mini-
lize changes is the best thing we
can do."
Some students assume that
departments are trying to get them
into teachers' classes for which no
one ever wants to register. By
putting a reasonable easier profes-
sor, the students are dropped out of
their classes' schedules for which no
one ever wants to register. By
putting a reasonably easier profes-
sor on the class, students are
usually left out of their class.
see SCHEDULE, page 7

By Sara Howell
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Thomas Merton is the most
famous monk in American history,
and the most influential spiritual
writer of the 20th century, said Cal
Poly English professor and author
Robert "Larry" Inchausti last Tues-
day, during a lecture in Phillips
Hall.
The lecture was the first in an
annual series sponsored by the
Newman Catholic Center.
"The series intends to explore the
intellectual crossroads of philosophy
and theology," said Cal Poly English
professor John Humphrey. "Each year
we hope to bring a theologian or
philosopher in contemporary cul-
ture."
This time, the lecture was inspired
by the controversial books of
philosopher John Humphrey. "Each year
we hope to bring a theologian or
philosopher in contemporary cul-
ture."

By Christen Wegner
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

"I feel it is one of the best writers
about the college experience,"
Inchausti said. "He articulates
feelings of loneliness, meaninglessness,
relationships, religious doubts, and
family issues — all things experi-
enced by students today."
The lecture discussed Merton's
progressive ideas of interfaith dia-
logue and social justice. He was able
to draw upon his earlier life experi-
ences to interpret his faith and make
it applicable to real life. Inchausti
discussed how Merton was an
authentic true thinker and how he
lived his life as a prophet of spiritual
longing in a materialistic world.
The honesty and reality of
Merton's writings drew Inchausti
to his writing, he said.
Merton's teachings revolve

sees MONK, page 7
Students spread spirit at Special Olympics

By Theresa Ngo-Anh
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

An 8-year-old boy races down the track, striving for first place. However, he is not running. He races on his wheelchair. And once he crosses the finish line, Cal Poly students are there to cheer him on.

The 33rd Annual Special Olympics meet is coming to San Luis Obispo today, and Cal Poly students will be playing a prominent role in the day’s festivities.

Eric Dowlen, a recreation administration senior who currently has an internship with the Special Olympics, describes the day:

“About 200 athletes will be participating in this weekend’s event—a record number for the San Luis Obispo area,” Dowlen said.

The activities will be held at Morro Bay High School from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Dowlen’s internship focuses primarily on fund-raising for the Special Olympics.

“Special Olympics receives no government funding, so all funds come from the community,” she said.

While many people have heard of Special Olympics, not many have a clear understanding of just how extensive the event is.

“Most people think Special Olympics only has one big track event, but they do so many other activities,” said Cynthia Moret, a recreation administration lecturer.

The Special Olympics also hosts Winter Games and wheelchair training for the disabled.

Moyer is having her students participate in fund-raising activities for the Special Olympics. These activities include a “Tip-A-Cop” fund-raiser on May 4 and 15, when police officers act as waiters and all their tips go to Special Olympics.

“Students from the REC 210 class will be designing themes and decorating the San Luis Obispo Veteran’s Hall for the event,” Dowlen said. “Vendors from F McLintock’s and Mo’s Barbecue will be providing the food.”

All proceeds will go to the Torch Run that leads to the Special Olympic Summer Games in Long Beach this summer, Dowlen said.

There are approximately 200 volunteers this year, including members of Americorps, the Cal Poly greek system and recreation administration classes.

“There is a lot more group support from clubs on campus, especially the fraternities and sororities,” said Jody Watts, director for the local Special Olympics chapter.

Watty has worked for the Special Olympics for the last seven years and finds her job extremely rewarding.

“I grew up with someone who had a disability, and I like the idea of helping people to help themselves,” she said.

Watty said she attributes the amount of increased volunteers to two Cal Poly students, Bonnie Guerza and Lisa Yackzan.

“I just saw how much fun people had participating in Special Olympics and I wanted to help this great cause,” said Guerza, a journalism junior.

For Yackzan, being a part of the event is rewarding.

“I wanted to get involved because a lot of people stereotype us, and they don’t see thephilanthropic events we participate in,” said Yackzan, a speech communication junior.

“The area meet is a huge event that everyone can take part in.”

lanterns

continued from page 1

ture a traditional Chinese lion dance, Polynesian dancing, Filipina and Indian cultural dances, modern hip-hop dance routines, singing groups and much more.

In addition, there will be a karaoke contest and other games to get the audience involved.

Cal Poly clubs and organizations, along with other businesses from Central Coast communities, will have booths set up at the UU to sell Asian delicacies and drinks, such as sushi and pearl tea beverages.

Local designers from Southern California will also be featured at the Lantern Festival. Black Lava and Tribal Pinoy will showcase their clothing lines in a fashion show and will also have a booth set up to sell their clothes.

“Their clothing lines are mainly geared toward Asian-Americans,” said Lorraine Magaus, also a member of Chi Delta Theta and coordinator for the Lantern Festival. “It’s a good way to show different talents of Asian-American designers.”

Traditionally, the Lantern Festival is celebrated in Chinese and Vietnamese culture as way of honoring the beauty of the moon.

“Asian Awareness Month is basically a month where we have events and speakers that highlight different Asian groups here in America,” said Mark Fabianot, director for the Multicultural Center. “The Lantern Festival is a way for the campus as a whole to come together and experience Asian-American life and culture.”

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Corrections:

In a story titled “Love, hate relationship with Shakespeare” in the April 18 edition of Mustang Daily, students Nate Cramton and Thomas Galvin were referred to as if they were involved in the production. They were not.

A story in the April 24 edition of Mustang Daily incorrectly identified a visiting group with the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication as the group that recommended that the journalism department not be accredited. Instead, it was a different committee of the ACEJMC in Chicago that made this recommendation. Also, the article stated that the psychology and journalism departments are the only ones in the College of Liberal Arts that are accredited. The art and design department is also accredited—by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.
New York blast injures 50
NEW YORK — Fifty people were injured when an explosion rocked a 10-story commercial building Thursday. At least three or four of the victims were in serious condition. They were sent to hospitals along with about 20 others who were critically injured. Facial and chest burns were among the injuries reported.

Plumbers were working in the basement of the building at 11:30 a.m. — the time of the explosion — but it is unknown whether the work being done was related to the blast. Law enforcement officials do not believe the incident was related to terrorism.

Windows along the block were blown out by the force of the explosion. Several people were injured by the flying glass. The facade of the building was also blown off. It was not immediately clear how much of the building's interior was damaged. Several nearby buildings were evacuated.

More than 100 firefighters were called to the scene.

— Associated Press and Reuters

Policy of sexual abstinence extended
WASHINGTON — The "abstinence only" program has been renewed by a House committee that turned back a Democratic attempt to let states who take designated money decide whether to include discussion of birth control methods. The committee voted 35-17 to extend the program for another five years.

States are not obligated to teach abstinence, said committee chairman Bobbins Tausin, R-Ill.

In the debate, Democrats highlighted programs in some states which emphasize abstinence as the best choice, and provide information on ways to prevent pregnancy and the spread of diseases.

The federal law bars discussion of the benefits of birth control and instructs programs to teach that any extra-marital sex has harmful consequences.

Only California has opted out of the federal program, said Rep. Henry Waxman, a democrat from California.

"A key rule on information is no way to solve a serious health problem," he said.

The committee also rejected a Democratic amendment that would require only medically accurate information be included in the programs.

The federal government provides abstinence-only programs with $50 million annually. Additional funds are given through grant programs.

— Associated Press

Death penalty may be declared unconstitutional
NEW YORK — U.S. District Judge Jed S. Rakoff said that he is ready to declare the federal death penalty unconstitutional unless the government can promptly provide an explanation as to why the number of condemned inmates that are later found innocent is so high.

The conclusion was outlined in an 11-page order in which he also said he may toss out the death penalty eligibility of two men charged in a drug and murder conspiracy.

The judge has set the final ruling for May 11. The government will be given the opportunity to present arguments on the subject before the ruling.

"If the court were compelled to decide the issue today, it would ... grant the defendants' motion to dismiss all death penalty aspects of this case on the ground that the federal death penalty statute is unconstitutional," Rakoff wrote in the report.

— Associated Press

International Briefs

Asia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Malaysia installed a new king Thursday. Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamailuddin is the country's 12th king, and participated in a ceremony that harked back to feudal times.

Syed Sirajuddin picked up and kissed the royal golden dagger that only he may touch. It is one of many symbols of privilege reserved for a class that has been shorn of any real power for quite some time.

The honorary king and queen will reside in the royal palace and hold the throne for five years.

Although National Transportation Safety Board chairman Marion Blakely said that, "there is no question that the train should have stopped," she stopped short of blaming human error and said that officials were continuing their investigation of the head-on crash.

Blakely said that the freight train was running at 48 mph when it ran the red light and hit the other train, which was stopped at the crossing. No problems were found with railroad signals, equipment or the tracks.

The freight train began braking about 2,100 feet before the crash, and was able to slow to 20 mph by the time it made impact with the commuter train, Blakely said. The commuter train was ordered to stop by a Metrolink engineer who saw the freight train coming.

Investigators are looking at personnel records and at factors that may have impacted their performance, Blakely said.

Robert Kube, 59, of Moreno Valley and Lawrence J. Sorenson, 48, of Riverside were killed in the crash.

— Associated Press

Truth behind Civil War female soldiers exposed

By Rachel Haskins

(U-WIRE) EMPIRIA, Kan. — There was total silence in the room as Jo moved from describing watching her father get killed to getting raped by her stepfather.

On Wednesday night, Joyce Thierer, history instructor and performer for Ride into History, performed a first-person narrative of Jo, a woman soldier dressed as a man, fighting in the Civil War. Thierer has been performing with Ride into History for 12 years, traveling all over the nation to share her characters.

Kim Comstock, vice president of Phi Alpha Theta, the honor history society, and a history graduate student, said the presentation was a good experience for all.

"Everyone needs to know the history of this country and this was a good way to learn about the Civil War and women's role in the Civil War that is interesting and fun," Comstock said.

Jo is the newest of Thierer's four characters, first appearing last August. During the Civil War, women were not allowed to fight, so many women dressed as men in order to serve their political beliefs. Jo is a character that is constantly being researched and added to. This aspect allows Thierer to personalize Jo for each of her audiences.

"She's a composite character of five women I have found that were in Kansas during the Civil War or that came back as veterans of the Civil War," Thierer said. "I found stories and pieced them together until I could create a plausible historical account that would keep people interested.

Thierer's interest in the topic of women fighting in the Civil War was sparked while she was in college.

"When I was an undergraduate, I was told by my professors that no women had fought in the Civil War, but I had read a book that said otherwise," Thierer said. "I am certainly not alone in my research, though. Numerous women historians have been studying this and it has been estimated that as many as 400, 600 and even 1,000 women fought as men during the war."

Scott Jones, a junior history education major, attended the presentation.

— WWOMEN, page 7
The Rock, as the King, ‘is the pits

By Andra Coberly

Friday, April 26, 2002

The Rock, as the King, ‘is the pits

Don’t count on ‘Murder By Numbers’ to entertain

By Sarah E. Thien

Friday, April 26, 2002

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Cinema

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"Changing Lanes" takes the road rage drama to a much deeper level, questioning people's ethics and examining human nature.

The film stars Ben Affleck as Gavin Banek, an up-and-coming Wall Street lawyer, who is about to become a partner at his father-in-law's firm. The main character is Samuel L. Jackson as Doyle Gibson, an insurance salesman and recovering alcoholic, who is in the middle of a heated custody battle with his wife. Both actors give phenomenal, believable performances. Gibson is on his way to meet his wife for their custody hearing when he and Banek collide on a busy freeway. Gibson tries to handle the accident "correctly" by exchanging insurance information; however, Banek refuses, writes him a blank check and leaves him in the middle of the freeway with a flat tire.

After he leaves Gibson stranded, Gibson finds a file that Banek dropped in the confusion of the accident, a file that Banek needs for his court proceedings that day. When Banek realizes that he has dropped the file, he pleads with Gibson to return the papers to him. Gibson, however, will not comply. He leaves him after the accident. This is when the mess and roller-coaster ride begins.

Banek is a selfish, naive young man caught up in a corrupt world. When he starts to doubt his life and his profession, his wife is there to reinforce his corrupt ways. Banek is somewhat naive to the consequences of his selfish actions and their effects on others. Amanda Peet plays Banek's wife. Her character helps Banek justify selling his soul, as she tells him that they chose their way of life on purpose. Peet plays the manipulative wife well, even though the role is limited.

Royer Michell ("Notting Hill") directs the film and does a great job of character development beginning in the opening scenes. Despite coming from two very different worlds, the men are faced with the same ethical questions and chaos. There are no good guys or bad guys in this movie, just characters with complicated lives. This leads the film to ask the questions: Are people inherently good and evil? Gibson believes people are inherently good, but his morals are pushed to the limit throughout the movie. Banek, however, chooses to base his philosophy of life on the merits of his superiors: "At the end of the day, I do more good than harm. What other studied person I got?"

"Changing Lanes" is first and foremost a study of the human condition. The ending is unexpected and doesn't cheat the viewer. It makes the audience question its own set of ethics, as the characters on the screen do the same. For those looking for a movie that will keep you thinking after you leave the theater, "Changing Lanes" is right on target.
Letters to the editor

Diversity is a front for racism
Editor,

Lately, significant attention has been paid to the diversity of racial diversity on campus. Everyone seems to agree that promoting racial diversity is a good thing - and why shouldn't it? The very term "racial diversity" seems to conjure up images of different colored people holding hands on a mountain top singing "We Are The World." Who could possibly be against this? Well, there is certainly nothing wrong with diversity. However, we should all be aware of the idea, which is so readily propounded by the Cal Poly administration, that racial diversity is something we should actively strive for if we ever hope to achieve academic excellence. This same attitude is often extended into business environments in the form of racial quotas. The danger behind this idea is that it is the assumption that persons of a certain race exhibit certain behavioral or ideological characteristics, which must be recognized and included if we truly want to enhance an educational or business environment. In a sense, we are saying that diversity of skin colors will mirror diversity of ideas. Unfortunately, I believe the belief that a person's skin color somehow determines one's ideology or behavior is the very essence of racism. Nobody thinks that white Americans think or act the same or even that they all have similar life experiences. So why do we think we should have that sort of assumption?

Robert R. Rice Jr. is a professor of integrated pest management.

Why not ban cars while we're at it
Editor,

The natural extension to professor DeVore's argument justifying the outlawing of skateboards and bicycles due to the fear of lawsuits is to ban cars since people are also injured in car accidents on campus. However, it is important that our society accepts automobile-caused injuries without question. Let's ban cars on campus — we'd all be safer and breathe cleaner air too.

Robert R. Rice Jr. is a professor of integrated pest management.

Badass skater calls for skateboard registration
Editor,

I just got pulled aside from my job making pizzas at Campus Market. Officer Lori Hashim threatened that the police may read my last letter to the editor "I'm a badass skater," April 19, and warned me not to know what you like.1 She informed me that "if we (the police) see you skateboarding and don't catch you, you will be charged under Article 141 for resisting arrest." I have skateboarded on campus every day since. Hashim represents the law, and the law does not allow skateboardig. But as James Medina ("Skateboarding rules should be re-evaluated," April 23) questioned, "...do skateboarding and bicycle restrictions really reflect society's rules?" I would like to believe that just by making the rules regarding personal transportation on campus.

Chris Ferrier is an industrial technology junior, Campus Market employee and in the band "I Tried."
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agribusiness junior and vice presiden
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every student knows what their ASI
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Martin, an environmental engineering
junior.

However, it was a different response
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whelmingly.

"I will get up and go to class," said
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"I want everyone to go to your
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around the idea of the "false self" and
the "real self." The "false self" consists of
the way we think other people per-
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battle of the two says Inchausti in his
cornerstone of his writings, Inchausti
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"His writings are beneficial to stu-
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based on 10 years of contemplation," Inchausti said. "That's worth consid-
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Merton's religious ideas did not
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all religions that bring people closer to
God, Inchausti said.

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performance for a similar reason. "It's
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Thierer said some people won't
believe women fought during the Civil
War until they see proof other-
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"Before World War I, they didn't
do body searches," Thierer said. "All
it took for a woman to become a man
was to put on pants. It was so socially
taboo for a woman to put on pants that
it just had to be a man."

Part of Jo's character came from
a letter Thierer found at the Kansas
State Historical Society. "The letter
talked about a man who went away to
fight in the Civil War — and fought bravely — but ended up with an arm
wound," Thierer said. "He was on the
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military blouse, they found a breast.
"She ended up dying from the ampu-
tation, and there was no female name
to go with the body."

Jones said he enjoyed the first-person
perspective the presenters gave.

"I thought it was good because it
was very believable," Jones said. "It
was very like the story instead of just
telling it."

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Merton could be considered a con-
tradiction; he was both a man of the
past and the future.

"Maybe one of the most important
things you can do is go to a monk's
propositional ideas are why he is so
influential, Inchausti said.

"His life was a paradox," he said.
"He was a Catholic monk who accept-
ed and studied many different world
religions. He was a world-famous her-
mit."

Sister Mary Pat White, associate
director of the Newman Catholic
Center, said Merton strove to bring
together the similarities of different
world religions.

"He was a Jesuit to a "Junk Zen" in
the sense preferred, but will train. Must
concessions. Up to 40 hours per
week, including nights and weekends.
Mentioned are $2,750-3500* for summer.
Otherwise, $2,000-3,000*.

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CPTV
By Theresa Ngo-Anh

For any other team, finishing fifth or sixth might be a devastating finish. But for a couple of sophomores, even having a place is a success.

The Cal Poly men and women's golf teams competed in the Big West Championships on April 22 and 23, with the men coming in sixth and the women placing fifth at the Serrano Country Club in El Dorado Hills, Calif. Yet in both teams' second year in NCAA play, the golfers chose to focus on the high points of the season instead of the negatives.

"We felt good," said freshman Grant McMillan. "We had a limited roster but we were confident with the scores we put up during the year, that we could place well."

Head coach Scott Cartwright noted the team's improved play.

"We played a lot better than the year before," he said. "Next year, we'll have everybody back. We're progressing and look forward to next year."

The men's team was ranked seventh in the Big West conference before entering the championship and finished in sixth place. The men, finished sixth after a final round 297, with a score of 888 for the tournament. Junior. Aaron Dobolshimer posted a final round of 72 to finish the two-day, three-round tournament in a tie for sixth place.

Coehrer was excited to play in the Big West Championship this year.

"I didn't even expect to play in a tournament all year," Cartwright said. "That stepped up for the team and put us on decent scores."

He also pointed out the limited roster that the team brought to the tournament, which team members stated as a positive.

"We had eight teams this tournament, with eight different line-ups," Coehrer said. "We never had the same five playing at a tournament at once."

The women's team finished in fifth place after shooting 507 in the final round.

"As a team, we had the lowest score for the final round," said senior Megan Boss.

Freshman Rebecca Norris led the team with a total score of 238, and came in 11th on the list.

"I've been struggling with my putting all year, but it finally came together," Norris said.

Now that the season has concluded, both teams hope to get more players on the green.

"We've been doing a lot of recruiting for the women's team," Norris said. "Next year, we hope to get five new players next year."

Team members mentioned one primary reason that all Cal Poly players love golf.

"Great golf is a great perk," Boss said. "We get to play at nice courses and have practice privileges as well."

"If an athlete is the best of the best... then why keep him shackled down playing against inferior competition?"

Hornsby come to town on Friday
By Bridgette Vanherweg

The Cal Poly softball team is looking to pull off a series of home wins this weekend against Big West rival Sacramento State.

With the season entering the homestretch, players spoke about the constant process of working out kinks in the team's play.

"We're working on putting a complete game together," said senior infielder Kasey Poert. "All season, we've been really inconsistent. Sometimes our offense does great, and other times our defense is flawless but we don't score."

The Mustangs' only prior meeting with the Hornets this year resulted in a Cal Poly eight-inning, two-run victory. Senior third baseman Jackie Wayland scored the first RBI at the top of the eighth, while junior first baseman Holly Ballard drove in the second score to crush the Hornets 2-0 in the last game of the UCSC tournament in February.

Last year, the Mustangs took two wins from the Hornets in a three-game conference series. Cal Poly scored two runs and surrendered one to Sac State in the first game of the doubleheader, but fell by two in the second. The next day, Cal Poly bounced back to sting the Hornets 6-3.

"We need to continue to work hard to keep our game sharp," said Cal Poly head coach Lisa Beyer.

The Mustangs, 22-23 for the season and 5-10 in conference play, currently sit sixth in the conference, followed by Sac State at seventh.

As of late, winning victories haven't been in the stars for the Mustangs. The team has failed to finish its opponents and win a series, while earning split-doubleheaders at best.

Last Saturday, the Mustangs gave up the first game of a doubleheader to the Santa Clara Broncos by a score of 4-0, followed by a 4-1 win. Sophomore infielder Romi Sportey collected two of the Mustangs' three hits in the 4-0 loss. In the second game, sophomore pitcher Jamie Gelbart earned her sixth win of the season as she shut out the Broncos on seven hits.

The Mustangs split their last home doubleheader with Cal State Northridge two weeks ago, only to lose the third game of that series Sunday with a run-off, 9-3.

"If we play well this weekend, we're up for a three-way tie for fourth place in the conference," Poert said.

In the other dugout, the Hornets, 15-27 overall and 4-11 in conference, are coming off a seven-game losing streak after surrendering 41 runs and scoring only six.

No. 1 slugger Carly Cooper leads the Hornets with a season-high 15 RBI, while Jilian Bivert leads in runs, triples, doubles, hits and steals.

Columnist says it's time for kids to cash in and for us to let them play

Every year, the sports world experiences the same debates regarding underclassmen in professional sports. People argue that an athlete should have to go to college before turning pro, or that an age minimum should be established in the professional ranks.

Those ideas are completely ludicrous. If an athlete has both the physical and mental ability to compete at the professional level, he or she should be able to stay in school or in college and play in professional sports.

Those ideas are completely ludicrous. If an athlete has both the physical and mental ability to compete at the professional level, he or she should be able to stay in school or in college and play in professional sports.

The real issue is not whether or not an athlete should stay in school so that they can have something to fall back on in case they suffer a career-ending injury or if things just don't work out in the pros. That logic is flawed. It should be the other way around.

College and high school athletes are who are able and willing to play at the top level should do just that and not let anything slow them down. Then if they get hurt, they could always go back and get an education.

I'm not saying that every talented high schooler should drop out of school and solely focus on their athletics. But if an athlete is the best of the best after high school or a year or two of college, then why keep him shackled down playing against inferior competition?

It's not so secret that some athletes use economic reasoning when they decide to skip school and enter the professional ranks. That action is often perceived in a negative manner, and rightfully so, but we should also commend some athletes for that. Many athletes grow up in poor and unsafe neighborhoods and often times their only hope of getting out of the ghetto is athletics. So in order to move him-self and his family into a safer home, the athlete sacrifices his final years of college eligibility and declares himself eligible for his sport's draft. It is an unselfish act in such that worth critici-zing.

Every kid dreams of making the big leagues. Whether it's fantasizing about being up in the World Series or a chance of winning it in the bottom of the ninth, or at the free throw line in a tied game with no time left in the second overtime, every kid who plays sports wants to be the one to get the big hit or make that winning shot. If we think that kid should go to college before going pro, then we are only prolonging an accomplishment of a lifelong dream.

The only logical argument that a person can make regarding an athlete to stay in school is that it hurts the college game for a player to skip his remaining year(s) of eligibility. College basketball, for example, would benefit if the likes of Drew Gooden, Chris Wilcox, Caron Butler and Jamaal Tinsley decided to stay another year. As a college basketball fan, I would love to see those guys stay another year or two, but it's not up to me.

The athletes are the ones who make that decision and we can't fault them for doing what's best for them. The fact is some of the best athletes of all time skipped a few college years. Michael Jordan and Tiger Woods, for example, both left college after two years. Wayne Gretzky, the Great One himself, didn't even go to college. In fact, he made his professional debut as a 17-year-old. So how can we fault athletes for leaving school early if they are just trying to follow in the footsteps of their heroes?