**LOCAL FIRE**

**Blaze hits GRADE**

"Accidental" fire consumes more than 160 acres of land on the northbound side of the Cuesta Grade; Cal Poly campus not at risk

**Story by Steve Hill**

**Photos by Spencer Marley**

A fire threatened one residence, which was burning on primarily steep, uninhabitable land.

**Banners fly high in UU Plaza**

Homecoming Week started with a banner contest in UU Plaza. Clubs decorated banners and hung them Monday to be judged on creativity, appearance, school spirit and representation of the theme "The Spirit of Cal Poly." Banners were hung on a first-come-first-serve basis, so club representatives had to be in the UU early to get a good spot.

Alpha Phi Omega earned 300 points for first place; Filipino Cultural Exchange earned 200 points for second place and Kappa Alpha Theta/Phi Sigma Kappa earned 100 points for third place. Every participating club earned 200 points. All banners will be moved to Mustang Stadium for the Homecoming football game Saturday.

For a current list of Homecoming spirit points, see page 2.

**Fires threaten Southland homes**

By Seth Hettena

SAN DIEGO — California's deadliest outbreak of fires in more than a decade has destroyed at least 1,100 homes, killed at least 13 people and consumed more than 400,000 acres stretching from the Mexican border to the suburbs northwest of Los Angeles.

"This will be the most expensive fire in California history, both in loss of property and the cost of fighting it," Dallas Jones, director of the state Office of Emergency Services, said in a telephone news conference Monday.

He said it could cost the state hundreds of millions of dollars.

Eight adults were being treated for burns and smoke inhalation at the University of California, San Diego, Medical Center. Two were in serious condition with burns over more than 50 percent of their bodies, spokeswoman Eileen Callahan said.

Managers of California's power grid estimated that 12,000 to 15,000 Southern California customers were without electricity because fires had damaged transmission lines.

The dry, hot Santa Ana winds that have fanned the flames began to ease Monday, raising hopes that overwhelmed firefighters could make progress with the help of reinforcements on their way from other Western states.

But the danger was still high.

President Bush designated the fire-stricken region a major disaster area, opening the door to grants, loans and other aid to residents and businesses in Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura counties.

"This is a devastating fire, and it's a dangerous fire. And we're prepared to help in any way we can," Bush said at the White House.

An estimated 150,000-acre fire that straddled
COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT EARNED ACCREDITATION

By Amanda Strachan

The Gal Poly Graphic Communication Department earned national accreditation, making it one of three programs to hold such a distinction.

The award also makes the department the 28th nationally recognized program offered at Cal Poly.

"The more accreditations, the higher the status of the university," said program offered at Cal Poly, "and the department will change a lot in the next few years," graphic communication professor Dave Fry summed up the graphic department's plight.

"This wind isn't helping at all," he said.

Winds of 10 to 15 mph out of the northwest were reported at the Grade just after 3 p.m. Highway 101 was closed intermittently during the morning hours, but only the far right lane of the northbound side remained closed for the rest of the day.

Air tankers circled overhead as the brush, smoke and flames towered on the hillside. Un利ken gathered in the brush, readying their equipment.

"(It) puts Cal Poly in a more professional perspective so that prospective employers will see our graduates as better qualified," professor Brian Lawler said.

James Suhlan, a district sales associate for Man Roland, a printing press manufacturer, was on campus conducting interviews and said the accreditation is impressive and beneficial to the university as a whole.

"It shows that the students are ready for the real world and companies get to know the school and want more," Suhlan said.

Students in the department expect to reap the benefits of participating in a nationally recognized program.

"It's too bad I'm leaving ... I expect the department to change a lot in the next few years," graphic communication senior Jessica Koehn said. "The students will have the opportunity to experience great things."

Professors expect to see improvements as well.

"The fact that we are accredited also means more companies will look at us as a good bed for their technology," Lawler said.

Printing Industries of Northern California and Printing Partners, two graphic communication organizations, report the program at Cal Poly, "represents one of the best-known programs of its kind in the nation and is the largest in the western United States... The graphic communication department faculty members are internationally known as professors, scholars, researchers, consultants and authors..." Levenson calls the accreditation "yet another milestone for a department that has been serving the graphic communication profession for nearly 60 years."
Virginia Beach, Va. — Weeks before the sniper attacks that terrifed the Washington area, John Allen Muhammad showed a cousin in Louisiana a rifle and claimed he was on a covert military operation, the cousin testified Monday at Muhammad's murder trial.

Charlene Anderson said she let Muhammad and fellow sniper suspect Lee Boyd Malvo stay in her Baton Rouge, La., home for a few days in late summer 2002.

Anderson said he asked her where he could buy bullets for the rifle, which he carried in a duffel bag and told her he was on an undercover mission, he said.

WASHINGTON — President Bush said Monday his staff is cooperating with an independent commission investigating the Sept. 11 attacks, but he stopped short of saying whether the White House would hand over top-level papers that may be subpoenaed.

"Those will be very sensitive documents," Bush said, adding that White House counsel Alberto Gonzales was working with Thomas Kean, chair of the commission, on this.

WASHINGTON — Millions of Americans may not get enough vitamin D, a nutrient important for strong bones, but a vitamin that glows ice in the winter, when the sun's rays are not intense enough to make the body synthesize it.

Already doctors are urging that breast-fed babies get vitamin D supplements to fend off a shocking return of rickets, a soft-bone disease, most people may not realize you have.

WASHINGTON — Twelve states and several Northeast cities announced plans Monday to try to block the Bush administration's changes to the Clean Air Act.

EPA's new rule makes it easier to upgrade utilities, refineries and other industrial facilities without installing additional pollution controls.

The rule, which was proposed last December and signed by EPA Administratororde, was made final on Monday. It will take effect in two months, and states have up to three years to comply.

EPA said in a statement it does not believe this rule will result in significant changes in emissions.

— Associated Press

Vitamin D helps bones absorb calcium, and rickets marks the worst early developing stage of deficiencies, scientists are increasing evidence that adults too may lack the nutrient, scientists are saying.

"I think we're gonna find a lot of people are lacking this," said Dr. Mark Holick, a Boston endocrinologist who is studying the issue.

WASHINGTON — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said for the first time Monday that Israel has no plans to kill Yasser Arafat, even as he accused the Palestinian leader of continuing to orchestrate attacks on civilians.

Sharon delivered his assessment as Israeli troops continued to begin providing services to an eight-settlement outpost in the West Bank.

The announcement drew another blow to the following U.S.-backed peace plan.

On Tuesday, the "road map" calls for a construction freeze in Israel and removal of outposts erected since 2001. Palestinians have complained that Israel is undermining the peace plan — but have also balked at the requirement that they dismantle militant groups.

BOGOTA, Colombia — Residents of Colombia's sprawling capital were bracing for a second day's worth of mortar and rocket fire.

A mortar exploded near a hospital and rocket fire greeted workers in cars on a city avenue.

Moscow — The dramatic arrest and jailing of the head of Russia's largest oil company, was seized by special forces at a Siberian air base.

Sunday, Vladimir Potanin, the billionaire head of the Yukos oil company, was seized by special forces at a Siberian airport, sent back to Moscow, charged with crimes including forgery, fraud and tax evasion and jailed in one of Russia's pre-trial detention units.

— Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Striking in rapid succession, suicide car bombers went on death Schwartz and the Red Cross headquarters and three police stations Monday, killing three dozen people and wounding more than 200 in the bloodiest day in Baghdad since the start of the U.S. occupation.

From north to south in this city of 5 million, the explosions over a 45-minute period left stretches of broken bodies, twisted wreckage and Iraqis smirred by an escalating underground war. The dead included a U.S. soldier, eight Iraqi policemen and at least 26 Iraqi civilians.

Iraqi and U.S. authorities in Baghdad blamed the coordinated quadruple blasts on foreign fanatics intent on targeting those they accuse of collaborating with U.S. forces. One captive would be wounded in a Syrian prison.

WASHINGTON — With top-level papers that may be subpoenaed, the Bush administration announced Monday over top-level papers that may be subpoenaed.

The announcement drew another blow to the following U.S.-backed peace plan.

On Tuesday, the "road map" calls for a construction freeze in Israel and removal of outposts erected since 2001. Palestinians have complained that Israel is undermining the peace plan — but have also balked at the requirement that they dismantle militant groups.

WASHINGTON — Resident of Colombia's sprawling capital elected a former communist union leader as their mayor in municipal elections, giving a major boost to embattled left-wing politicians who have long been the target of intimidation and assassination attempts.

With 92 percent of ballots counted, Luis Edgar Garzon, the son of a cleaning woman, won 46 percent of the vote against 45 percent for the government-backed center-right candidate; Licciano, the nation's official election body said. Leciano conceded defeat.

WASHINGTON — Twelve states and several Northeast cities announced plans Monday to try to block the Bush administration's changes to the Clean Air Act.

EPA's new rule makes it easier to upgrade utilities, refineries and other industrial facilities without installing additional pollution controls.

The rule, which was proposed last December and signed by EPA Administratororde, was made final on Monday. It will take effect in two months, and states have up to three years to comply.

EPA said in a statement it does not believe this rule will result in significant changes in emissions.

— Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Striking in rapid succession, suicide car bombers went on death Schwartz and the Red Cross headquarters and three police stations Monday, killing three dozen people and wounding more than 200 in the bloodiest day in Baghdad since the start of the U.S. occupation.

From north to south in this city of 5 million, the explosions over a 45-minute period left stretches of broken bodies, twisted wreckage and Iraqis smirred by an escalating underground war. The dead included a U.S. soldier, eight Iraqi policemen and at least 26 Iraqi civilians.

Iraqi and U.S. authorities in Baghdad blamed the coordinated quadruple blasts on foreign fanatics intent on targeting those they accuse of collaborating with U.S. forces. One captive would be wounded in a Syrian prison.

WASHINGTON — With top-level papers that may be subpoenaed, the Bush administration announced Monday over top-level papers that may be subpoenaed.

The announcement drew another blow to the following U.S.-backed peace plan.

On Tuesday, the "road map" calls for a construction freeze in Israel and removal of outposts erected since 2001. Palestinians have complained that Israel is undermining the peace plan — but have also balked at the requirement that they dismantle militant groups.

WASHINGTON — Resident of Colombia's sprawling capital elected a former communist union leader as their mayor in municipal elections, giving a major boost to embattled left-wing politicians who have long been the target of intimidation and assassination attempts.

With 92 percent of ballots counted, Luis Edgar Garzon, the son of a cleaning woman, won 46 percent of the vote against 45 percent for the government-backed center-right candidate; Licciano, the nation's official election body said. Leciano conceded defeat.

WASHINGTON — Twelve states and several Northeast cities announced plans Monday to try to block the Bush administration's changes to the Clean Air Act.

EPA's new rule makes it easier to upgrade utilities, refineries and other industrial facilities without installing additional pollution controls.

The rule, which was proposed last December and signed by EPA Administratororde, was made final on Monday. It will take effect in two months, and states have up to three years to comply.

EPA said in a statement it does not believe this rule will result in significant changes in emissions.

— Associated Press

I WON FIRST PRIZE!!

In the Ray Scherr Business Plan Competition

You can too...

Business Concepts due: November 12, 2003

Business Plans due: January 30, 2004

Final Presentations and Award Reception: March 3, 2004

Attend Business Plan Workshops. Pizza and drinks included. Free and open to the public.

Wednesday 10/20/03, 6-9 p.m.
Building 12-203

Introduction to the Competition
William Pendergast, Professor, Orfalea College of Business

What Should a Business Plan Include?
Tom Levens, Director, Melhart Movers and Lecturer, Orfalea College of Business

Wednesday 11/12/03, 6-9 p.m.
Building 2-203

Protect Your Intellectual Property
Tom Levens, Partner, Simshheimer, Schiebelhut & Baggett

Creating A Financial Plan
Ray Johnson, President, Economic Vitality Center

Wednesday 12/03/03, 6-9 p.m.
Building 12-203

What Do Investors Want?
David Chessin, Managing Director, DJF Frontier

Legal Issues of Business Establishment, Employment and Contracts
June McVort, Partner, Simshheimer, Schiebelhut & Baggett

*First Prize: $4,000. All participants receive free copy of Business Plan Pro (Premier).

Organized by the Orfalea College of Business and the Cal Poly Entrepreneurship Club.

For more info or to register log-on to: www.trinitytechschool.com
or call toll-free 1-800-691-5014

TraTicSchool.com
Driving Down Your Cost of Driving.

Take Traffic School Now! Available Online 24/7
Dua Due Date Specialists: Rush & FedEx Available.

Cost
Quick, Easy
Low Price

For more info or to register log-on to: www.trafficschool.com
or call toll-free 1-800-691-5014

TrafficSchool.com
Driving Down Your Cost of Driving.
Smokehouse serves up BBQ flavor with worldly feel

By Tom McCauley

The owners of San Luis Obispo's J.D. Boone's Smokehouse are using Big Mama's barbecueing expertise to their advantage, and she's filming about it. Big Mama's not a person though. She's a 7-foot, 3,000-pound smoker.

For those summertime barbecue "masters" out there, a smoker is a slow cooking secondary heat source barbecue, where the meat is slowly cooked from an indirect heat source, sometimes up to 17 hours at a time.

"Big Mama will be one of the two keys to our success," co-owner Dan Harper said. "Boone is the other."

Boone Pendernest is a third generation connoisseur of the southern smoked food tradition who came to California after running enterprises across the South and, most recently, opening a successful smokehouse in Chicago.

"There are so many distinct traditions in the South," he said. "Whenever you end up, they're sure to tell you everyone else's style is not real barbecue. We found the secret to a great smokehouse is not remaining married to one style.

By using smoke to slow-cook the meat and adding distinct rubs and sauces, Pendernest has created what he labels an "equatorial" style of barbecue.

"People have been using these techniques to slow-cook meats around the world for years," he said. "You go all over, between the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, and you'll be sure to find slow-cookers.

We made El Salvadorian coleslaw yesterday," Harper said, "and today Boone's cooking up a Thai chicken recipe. He uses.

Before he could run down the list of ingredients, Boone interrupted: "Don't tell him everything," he said with a sly grin. "Let them come down and taste it for themselves."

Harper, who also owns and operates Cabo San Luis, said he wanted to duplicate that restaurant's successful strategy, incorporating his understanding of the local market area. "We use fresh food, good variety and good prices," he said. "Our clientele consists of families and professionals, as well as all the students in the area. We just want to provide a warm environment and a distinctive menu."

J.D. Boone's menu runs the gamut in barbecue foods, with menu items such as "Memphis dry rubbed pork ribs," "big ole' spicy beef ribs" and "dry rub smoked chicken," as well as daily specials. Menu items range in price between $5 and $14, with the average around $7.

The partners plan on offering free barbecue classes later on, but for now, their focus is on providing for their customers' hunger needs. "We will run out of items," Harper said. "It's intentional though. This is not a fast food joint where everything is cooked in three minutes or less. Time in the smoker is the only way Boone can achieve what he needs to do."

The smokehouse's partners decided to keep the restaurant under wraps until the entire operation was running smoothly. It opened its doors for dinner the Friday before homecoming. "You just can't rush perfection," Harper said. "We ran out of everything on the first day." Harper said. "But that's okay. You just can't rush perfection." J.D. Boone's Smokehouse, located at 885 Foothill Blvd., takes barbecuing to the next level with the use of Big Mama, a 3,000-pound smoker. The owners plan to offer lessons on becoming a barbecue expert as the restaurant gains its footing. "We made El Salvadorian coleslaw yesterday," Harper said, "and today Boone's cooking up a Thai chicken recipe. He uses.

Before he could run down the list of ingredients, Boone interrupted: "Don't tell him everything," he said with a sly grin. "Let them come down and taste it for themselves."

Harper, who also owns and operates Cabo San Luis, said he wanted to duplicate that restaurant's successful strategy, incorporating his understanding of the local market area. "We use fresh food, good variety and good prices," he said. "Our clientele consists of families and professionals, as well as all the students in the area. We just want to provide a warm environment and a distinctive menu."

J.D. Boone's menu runs the gamut in barbecue foods, with menu items such as "Memphis dry rubbed pork ribs," "big ole' spicy beef ribs" and "dry rub smoked chicken," as well as daily specials. Menu items range in price between $5 and $14, with the average around $7.

The partners plan on offering free barbecue classes later on, but for now, their focus is on providing for their customers' hunger needs. "We will run out of items," Harper said. "It's intentional though. This is not a fast food joint where everything is cooked in three minutes or less. Time in the smoker is the only way Boone can achieve what he needs to do."

The smokehouse's partners decided to keep the restaurant under wraps until the entire operation was running smoothly. It opened its doors for dinner the Friday before homecoming. "You just can't rush perfection," Harper said. "We ran out of everything on the first day." Harper said. "But that's okay. You just can't rush perfection." J.D. Boone's Smokehouse, located at 885 Foothill Blvd., takes barbecuing to the next level with the use of Big Mama, a 3,000-pound smoker. The owners plan to offer lessons on becoming a barbecue expert as the restaurant gains its footing.
Health conscious on campus? Have no fear

* Keeping a healthy diet really depends on individual student’s food choices

By Amanda Hippe

Cal Poly has many different food outlets to satisfy a wide variety of palates. Craving a saucey, cheesy slice of pizza? Go to Backstage. In the mood for a sandwich? Hop up the Sandwich Factory. There’s also Lucy’s Juice, Campus Market, the plethora of munchies at The Avenue and the ever-so-popular freshmen haven VG’s. But has it dawned on the student consumer as to how healthy these meals are? The answer is simple. Any of the campus eateries can satisfy a healthy fix — it’s just a matter of what is chosen to fill the belly.

“1 think students can make some good choices at most places on campus. My biggest advice when visiting places that serve all-you-can-eat portions is to walk around and plan your meal …”

Susan Swadener

food science and nutrition professor

Kya Romanolo said. “I also opt for low-fat dressing and include some kind of protein, like chicken or a side of tuna.”

Swadener, a food science and nutrition professor, agrees that it is up to the students to decide what to put in front of them. “I think students can make some good choices at most places on campus,” Swadener said. “My biggest advice when visiting places that serve all-you-can-eat portions is to walk around and plan your meal before filling your plate with the first few items that look good.”

Swadener said every campus dining outlet has some type of healthy alternative. “At Backstage Pizza there is a salad bar with lots of veggies and low-fat dressings,” Swadener said. “There is also the option of getting veggie pizza instead of pepperoni.”

She stresses the fact that it is up to the consumer whether they are going to pick French fries over a side of rice and vegetables at The Avenue. Alan Cushman, associate director of Campus Dining, agrees that everywhere on campus offers a healthy variety of food. He mentioned places like The Avenue, Lighthouse and VG Café, where students can get fresh fruit, cottage cheese, veggie entrees and other low-fat solutions.

“Campus Market has the greatest variety of products on their shelves and in their refrigerators and freezes for students to choose from,” Cushman said. He said Campus Dining uses all their resources when planning and preparing what they serve on campus.

“Campus Dining is market driven, and we respond to our customers’ needs and desires,” Cushman said. “We utilize our student advisory committee, our Campus Dining advisory committee, e-mail and suggestion boards that encourage direct feedback from our customers.”

On Monday, Swadener and the Peer Health Nutrition Team are taking a field/dinner trip to the Lighthouse to evaluate the nutritional value of what is served.

“If students want further help with healthy meal planning, they can come into Peer Health and see a nutrition team health educator,” Swadener said.

Have no fear when eating on campus, there are people looking out for healthy alternatives.
Letters to the editor

Opinion

"Ghettopoly" is an example of parody

Editor,

In response to "Ghettopoly" takes stereotypes too far (Oct. 22), I find it interesting that in her column regarding the alleged racism of a game, one which she has obviously never played, Amanda Hipp accuses herself as a racist. After a brief explanation of the game, a regulation of a CNN article published on Oct. 9, Amanda goes on to assume the game creator’s race based on one piece of information: her graphic heritage. She knows nothing about the creators, yet she confidently assumes he is of Asian descent and attempts to deliver an asinine rhetorical question to prove a point.

She fails.

She also fails to mention that "Ghettopoly" is, in fact, the first of many games, each targeting a specific stereotype. These other games include: "Hoodopoly," "HipHopopoly," "Thugopoly" and "Redneckopoly." To everyone except Amanda, it is apparent that this is just an example of parody—a concept on firm legal ground. Mr. Chang does not seek to attack one race but to point at all races. Ms. Hipp goes on to say that being from the hood is something that people have no control over. True minions aside, I ask you this: "If this game is a stereotype which (has been placed) on blacks that live in undervalued neighborhoods—is really so bad, why are you not also decrying the evil of white artists who brag they are from the hood, that they are a EML or that they (were) strapped wit guns when you were coddled wit cabbage patch?"

Keith Wilcox is a computer science senior.

"Ghettopoly" depicts rapper lifestyles

Editor,

Amanda Hipp obviously didn’t put much thought into her article about "Ghettopoly." ("Ghettopoly" takes stereotypes too far Oct. 22) Sure, it’s easy to say Mr. Chang is the racist of all racists as far as racism goes but think beyond it. Is "Ghettopoly" any more vile and outrageous than the hip-hop scene today with many black rappers promoting their graphic heritage? What if Mr. Chang was instead black? Would this be such an issue? If you do your home work you see that this game was cleverly made to depict the exact likeness that rappers glorify. I’m not calling for an end to the hip hop garbage that is being recorded these days, nor do I believe that "Ghettopoly" is in the worst. We are a wonderful capitalist econ omy and these are both in demand.

Simmer down and when my two orders of "Ghettopoly" come next week I’ll invite you all over to play!

Jason Raiser is an economics junior.

Sex column not worth of controversy

Editor,

Is Mustang Daily’s decision to run an entire issue about sexual assault on Oct. 22 an apology to the campus community for their commercial sex column? Harfle, the editor deftly stood behind their decision to keep printing the sex column written by a student that advocates exploiting and objectifying freshmen women. (In addition to writing both copy anyway.)

As Mustang Daily’s issue on sexual assault pointed out, freshmen women are the most vulnerable demographic for sexual assault on a college campus. With that in mind, it is easy to see why so many...

SPooky story submissions

It was an unsuccessful Halloween night in San Luis Obispo...

Emiish this spooky story in 300 words or less, and it may be printed on the Oct. 31 Halloween edition of Mustang Daily. Submit entries to mustangdaily@hotmail.com and include your full name, major and class standing.

Barry Hayes is a political science senior and Mustang Daily columnist.
New channel hopes to cash in

By Lynn Elber

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Creators of the Casino and Gambling Television network are betting that a national interest in gambling will translate into a desire to watch it on TV.

The new network is scheduled to launch in 2004 as a digital cable and satellite channel with shows such as "Wanna Hand?" with poker expert offering tips on the game. "Talk 'til Dawn," a tour of nightlife spots in Las Vegas. Monday and other gambling destinations.

The number of Americans who bet represents a vast potential audience, said David Hawk, co-founder. More than 30 million Americans made more than 100 million visits to casinos last year, Hawk said, citing research conducted for the American Gaming Association.

Other "niche" channels, such as the Golf Channel, have succeeded with a smaller pool to draw from. Hawk said, citing 25 million people visited golf courses last year, half the number of casino-goers, he said.

The new channel will target the young male crowd, age 21 to 34, which is valuable to advertisers, and Nickolas J. Rhodes, the network's president and chief executive officer.

Television has been dealing out an increasing number of gambling-themed shows, including "Travel Channel's" series on the World Poker Tour and the upcoming "Celebrity Poker Showdown" on Bravo.

Still, it remains to be seen whether gambling shows will be successful. "That's the ultimate question," said Bill Carroll, an analyst for Katz Television, a media buying firm. "The marketplace will determine if there really is a need for any of these digital channels that are specially targeted.

The network is negotiating carriage deals. The goal is to reach 1 million homes initially and be in at least 20 million homes in four years.
By Kimberly Thomson
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Five feet, 11 inches isn’t tall for a football player, but what social science senior and Cal Poly punter Gilbert Rocha lacks in height, he compensates with skill.

Rocha is a two-time Division I-AA Independents Player of the Week winner this season, with an additional honorable mention nod.

"It was well-deserved," head coach Rich Ellerson said. "He is really doing a nice job this season."

Punting as far as 63 yards with an average hang time of about four seconds, he has come a long way since his childhood days of kicking his older brothers’ fix-it ball around their Stockton neighborhood.

"My brother would always get mad at me because after a couple weeks the ball would be flat," Rocha said. "Four of his brothers played football, generating an interest in Stockton at a young age.

Rocha has played football since his freshman year at Linden High School in Stockton. Although Rocha played offensive lineman in high school, he switched to punter at Sonoma Delta College, fearing that his size would interfere with his ability.

"I knew I would have a better chance of being a good punter," he said.

Converting from offensive line to punter was a tradeoff. Size no longer mattered but consistency did. There is a lot of pressure associated with punting. Games can be won or lost. The fate of the game is in his hands. Rocha tries not to let this bother him, he said.

"I try to keep a cool head under pressure," he said.

He said he knows what he has to do, and he does it. "As a coach you really appreciate having someone like Gilbert that you trust," Ellerson said of the crunch time between the third and fourth down. "He is the right guy.

Ellerson said his kicks have become much more consistent and he is able to manage the field pressure very well.

"The number of punts he has put inside the 20 yard line this year is really remarkable," Ellerson said. "He is able to kick to virtually the same yard line each time earned him the title of captain last week."

"I was named one of five captains on the special teams," Rocha said. "I was pretty honored because I was voted on by my peers."

Ellerson commended the honor, expressing the rarity of the occasion.

"I have never had a punter elected by my peers," he said.

Gilbert Rocha is tougher than your average kicker: he used to be a football player.

Rocha has dreamed of being a gixxl punter, "he said. "I think it helps us," Fipp said. "He is as good as I’ve ever seen at getting the ball on the special teams," Rocha said. "I was pretty honored because I was voted on by my peers."

Ellerson commended the honor, expressing the rarity of the occasion.

"I have never had a punter elected by my peers," he said.

Weary team gets chance to rest heading into Homecoming game Saturday
By Graham Womack
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Seven games through the sea­son, said a bumbling push, Cal Poly football team is enjoying something remarkable: a week off.

Coming off the 54-10 win over the unranked Saint Mary’s Gaels (0-7) Oct. 18, the Mustangs are in the midst of their only bye week this season.

Idle until Saturday’s home game against the Southern Utah Thunderbirds, the Mustangs face a down time that could bring many things.

"It is a good red period for us," linebacker Raj Thompson said. "We played six, seven games. It’s time we get a break.

Before beating Saint Mary’s, Cal Poly spent three weeks on the road, losing to top-25 opponents Northern Arizona, Montana and Akron.

As these losses followed a 3-0 start, the win over the Gaels aided the Mustangs going into the bye week, defensive coordinator Dave Fipp said.

"I think it helps us," Fipp said. "It gives us an emotional boost, coming into a rest week with a victory. The challenge will be to put this behind us."

Coach Rich Ellerson said even with the week off, times haven’t been carefree for Cal Poly students, as many players have faced midterm exams in class.

Last week featured lighter practices for the team. Players had Monday and Tuesday off. On Wednesday and Thursday, the team lifted weights, a regular bye week event, linebacker coach David Brown.

Full practices resumed because team pictures Thursday. Young players got more practice time Friday.

This week, after a weekend off, the Mustangs practiced in full pads Monday. They will do so today, followed by work in shoulder pads and helmets on Wednesday and Thursday and walk-throughs at Mustang Stadium on Friday, before facing Southern Utah.

The past few days have also featured sessions designed to educate the Mustangs on the Thunderbirds’ style of play.

The Mustangs watched Southern Utah film last week. Unlike Saint Mary’s, a team that ran the ball, Southern Utah is known for having an air-based attack with an older quarterback. Hence, Cal Poly players could be forced to adjust their defense from last weekend.

"I just gotta get my mind ready for the pass," Thompson said.

Senior Chris Peterson said the week of missed practice has helped him rejuvenate. The senior quarterback took over half the snaps in the Saint Mary’s win, but sat injured the week before against Akron and did not practice in the week leading up to that.

"The couple days we had off before we started practice again was really good," Peterson said. "I feel like I’m getting a lot better going into this week."