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.

SPENCER MARLEY/MUSTANG DAILY

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

He said it would 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.

MUSTANG DAILY

A firefighter with the California Youth Authority looks on as flames spread on the hillside of the Cuesta Grade. As of 9 p.m. Monday, the fire was 50 percent contained, and California Department of Forestry officials expected the blaze to be fully extinguished by this evening.
**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTY CREWS RESPOND TO THE FIRE ON QUESTA GRACIE WEEKEND MORNING.**

**SPENCER MARLEY/MUSTANG DAILY**

California Department of Forestry crews respond to the fire on Cuesta Grade Monday morning, burning along the southbound side of the freeway, some areas in awe, others taking excitedly on cell phones. The helicopters and planes that dropped water onto the flames were a crucial part of the containment effort, since the terrain is not made for easy human access.

"We can't get crew in... it will hit it really hard with the air support," Ballard said.

The only injury reported was sustained by a California Highway Patrol officer.

Ballard said containment and cleanup would not be a speedy process. "We'll have crews working this fire well into tomorrow and the next couple of days," he said.

Ballard said later crews were making good progress.

"We're looking at full containment by 6 p.m. tomorrow," he said. "We're getting a real good line around it."

**WILDFIRES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

the Los Angeles-Ventura county line, was moving slowly toward millions of dollar mansions in a gated community in Los Angeles' Chatsworth.

Maurice Greene, a sprinter who won a gold medal at the 2000 Olympics, evacuated his 6,000-square-foot wooden home inside the gates. "You can see some of the flames coming over the hill," he told KCBS- TV. "We have to put it in God's hands. That's all we can do."

Firefighters mounted a major challenge to the fire fight, hoping to take advantage of the wind break. Police were sent to patrolled hillsides. Ascens is expected in the fire and "we don't want any copycats or sightseers," the mayor said.

The Simi Valley fire could reach the Pacific Ocean, California Department of Forestry battalion chief Thomas Foley said.

"Worst case scenario, and that's the Simi fire, this fire could spread to the west across Los Angeles County to Rocky Peak and into Malibu," Foley said Monday during the conference call with reporters.

**TIDE FORECAST**

Sunrise/Sunset: 6:20 a.m. / sets 5:52 p.m.

Tides:

- high N/A: 10:59 p.m. 6.42 feet
- low: 4:40 a.m.: 2.50 feet
- 6:34 p.m.: 0.94 feet

**LOCAL WEATHER**

**5-DAY FORECAST**

TODAY:

- high: 86° / low 49°

WEDNESDAY:

- high: 71° / low 44°

THURSDAY:

- high: 66° / low 39°

FRIDAY:

- high: 57° / low 35°

SATURDAY:

- high: 56° / low 33°

By Amanda Strachan

**GRC DEPARTMENT EARNS ACCREDITATION**

The Cal 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 26th nationally recognized program offered at Cal Poly.

"It's more accreditation, the high- est status of the universe," said graphic communication department head Harvey Levenson.

Graphic communication assistant professor Penny Osmond headed the process that took more than a year and a half. Earning accreditation involved the evaluation of the department in 14 areas, including administration, financial support, faculty, curriculum, internship and graduate placement.

"As a department, we strive to find the right formulas for success," Osmond said. "By receiving the accreditation, we've found that our efforts are paying off."

Those efforts earned the department a five-year accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Collegiate Graphic Communications and a formal acknowledgment.

The ACCGC recognized the department as having a program that promotes and advances the technology and profession of graphic communications. (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 communications senior Jessica K鸫hen 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 bet for their technology," Lawler said.

Printing Industries of Northern California and Print Buyers Group, two graphic communication organizations, report the program at Cal Poly, "presents 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."

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Virginia Beach, Va. — Weeks before the sniper attacks that terrorized 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 her cousin and fellow sniper suspect Lee Boyd Malvo stayed in her Baton Rouge, La., home for a few days in late summer 2002.

Anderson said he asked where he could buy bullets for the rifle, which he carried in a duffel bag and told her he was on an undercover mission, block the Bush administration's changes to the Clean Air Act.

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.

"These are very sensitive documents," Bush said, adding that White House counsel Alberto Gonzales was working with Thomas Kean, chair- man of the commission, on this.

WASHINGTON — Millions of Americans may not get enough vitamin D, a nutrient important for strong bones. It's a finding that glosses over the winter, when the sun's rays are not fierce enough in most of the country to help bodies make the sunshine vitamin.

Already doctors are urging that breast-fed babies get vitamin D supplements, to fend off a shocking round of rickets, a soft bone disease, most often seen in children, that was thought eliminated decades ago. With increasing evidence that adults too may lack the vitamin, scientists are debating whether it is time to pump up everybody's level of vitamin D.

Vitamin D helps bones absorb calcium, and ticks the worst deficiency, specialists told a recent National Institutes of Health meeting to assess the issue.

WASHINGTON — Twelve states and several Northeast cities sued the Environmental Protection Agency on 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 administrator in August, 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 sent on death for "collaborators," Pakistan's 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 street corners of broken bodies, twisted wreckage and Iraqis unnerve 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 fighters intent on targeting those they accuse of collaborating with U.S. forces. One captive would be bomber was said to carry a Syrian passport.

JERUSALEM — 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 Israel confirmed plans to begin providing services to eight settlement outposts in the West Bank.

The announcement dealt another blow to the faltering U.S.-backed peace plan.

That plan, known as the "road map" calls for a construction freeze in Israeli settlements 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 illegal groups.

Bogota, Colombia — Residents 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 Eduardo Garzón, the son of a cleaning woman, took 46 percent of the vote against 4 percent for the government-backed center-right candidate, Luis León, the nation's official election body said. León conceded defeat.

— Associated Press

Moscow — The dramatic arrest and jailing of the head of Russia's largest oil company could seriously impede the sprawling country's efforts to restore its economy, the U.S. ambassador and a prominent economist said Sunday.

The comments came a day after Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the billionaire headman of 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

ORLANDO, Ore. (AP) — White athletes shelled legal responsibility for various medical emergencies but Ortiz refused, saying the chart presented "very poor examples" that were unlikely, unrealistic and "very simplistic.

U.S. District Judge Dennis Hubel, who is hearing the Ortiz case, has instructed Ortiz to respond to McGuinness's objections and asked the Justice attorney repeatedly objected to Ortiz's comments about the hypothesis between male and female human brains.

Ortiz said female brains are smaller than male brains, which means female brains contain fewer cells. When compared, the two brains have different reception patterns and different forms of the distribution of functions.

— University Wire

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — While attorneys argued over legal responsibility for various medical emergencies but Ortiz refused, saying the chart presented "very poor examples" that were unlikely, unrealistic and "very simplistic.

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— University Wire

Army doctor testifies medical response depends on depot

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— University Wire


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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 barbecuing expertise to their advantage, and she's talking 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 Pendernast 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. "Wherever you end up, they're sure to tell you everyone else's style is not real barbecue. I've found the secret to a great smokehouse is not remaining married to one style.

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

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

We made El Salvadorian coleslaw yesterday," Harper said, "and today Boone's cooking up a Thai chicken recipe. He uses 6.

Before he could run down the list of ingredients, Boone interrupted. "Don't tell him everything," he said with a shy 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 price," 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 $8.

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 recipe. He uses...

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
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Cal Poly has many different food outlets to satisfy a wide variety of palettes. Craving a saucy, cheesy slice of pizza? Go to Backstage. In the mood for a sandwich made to order? Hit up the Sandwich Factory. There’s also Lucy’s Juice, Campus Market, the plethora of munchies at The Avenue and the ever-so-popular freshman haven VG’s.

But has it dawned on most places on campus, your biggest advice when visiting places that serve all-you-can-eat portions is to walk around and plan your meal … “I 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

Krya Romanolo said. Romanolo will visit campus to finish up her student teaching and said most of the time she can pick up something that’s not too heavy or fattening. “If I really want something that’s more filling, I’ll grab a salad from The Avenue,” Romanolo said. “It also go for low-fat dressing and include some kind of protein, like chicken or a side of tuna.”

Susan 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 freezers 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.
Opinion

Letters to the editor

'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 exclaims in her title: A racist. After a brief explanation of the game, a regulation of a CNAN article published on Oct. 9, Amanda goes on to assume the game creator's race based on one piece of information: his photo. She knows nothing about him yet, she confidently assumes he is of Asian descent and attempts to deliver an astune 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," "Hipjpopoly," "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 poke fun at all races. Ms. Hipp goes on to say that being from the hood is something that people have no control over. Tinto minions aside, I ask you this: If the game of "Ghettopoly" (which has been placed) on blacks that live in underprivileged neighborhoods—is really so bad, why are you not also decrying the evils of black artists who brag they are from the hood, or the rap of F.L.M.P., or that they "were" strapped with cabbie 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 root of all that evil 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 exploiting their ghetto heritage? What if Mr. Chang was instead black? Would this be such an issue? If you do your homework you see that this game was cleverly made to depict the exact likeness of rappers. 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 wrong. We are a wonderful capitalist economy and these are both in demand.

S simmer down and when your two orders of "Ghettopoly" come next week I'll invite you all over to play.

Jason Raiser is an economics junior.

Sex column not worthy 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 controversial sex column? Hardly. The editors definitely stood behind their decision to keep printing the sex column written by a student that advocates exploiting and objectifying freshmen women to the point of harming them is contemptible behavior. Mustang Daily is not doing anything radical or controversial by putting juvenile sexism in print. It is harder to keep from the public eye.

While all of these inaccuracies, both ours and others, are out there supporting the other teams and taking it all in stride. Their job isn't always easy, so just remember they are doing the best they can with the resources they have.

Lauren Bennett is a soil science junior and third year member of the Cal Poly Stunt Team.

Letter policy

Letters become the property of the Mustang Daily. Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, proficiency and word length. Letters, commentaries and cartoons do not represent the views of the Mustang Daily. Please limit length to 250 words. Letters should include the writer's full name, phone number, major and class standing.

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By fax: (805) 756-6784

By e-mail: mustangdaily@hotmail.com

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Attention: Your letter will not be printed unless you submit it in the correct format.

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"It takes a strong man to wear purple."
New channel hopes to cash in

By Lynn Elber

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Creation of the Casino and Gaming 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 "Wining Hand," with poker expert offering tips on the game, "Chuck 'n' Dave," a tour of night spots in Las Vegas, Monaco and other gambling destinations.

The number of Americans who bet represents a vast potential audience, said David Hawk, co-founder of the network. 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. "About 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, said Nickolas J. Bhodos, 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 1.5 million homes initially and be in at least 20 million homes in four years.

---

**Crossword**

**ACROSS**
1. Wheelchair-accessible route
6. Either end of a gate
10. Is in the red
14. Love, in Roma
15. Sublime lesson
16. *The* Falad
19. Homer
20. Become lively, with "out"
22. Calligrapher's need
25. Poet's "The ... Not Taken"
27. Scro
28. Become extinct, with "out"
29. St. Francis of Assisi
33. Prefly with natal
35. Prefer with natal
39. University of Iceland
40. University of
41. University of
42. *The* Falad
43. Easy out
45. Beer buyers' needs, for short
47. Gas, to a Brit
50. Explode
51. Yale students since 1869
54. Needing some knowledge
55. For a "jolly good fellow"
56. Get free
59. Gamma
60. Facing precedent
61. Homer
63. "A Death in the Family" author
66. "Charles Dickens"
67. Electrical cabling

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

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A foot above the rest

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 attitude.

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’ football 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 Rocha at a young age."

"Tug 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 Rocha at a young age."

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

"I am 5'11" and 215lbs, the coaches rank me as a 3rd team punter," he said. "I have a strong punting leg, and I can really kick it."

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"Gilbert Rocha is tougher than your average kicker: he used to be an offensive lineman."

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 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 can still kick it to the title of captain last week."

"I was named one of five captains for the Mustangs on the Thunderbirds’ style of play."

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Ellerson commended the honor, expressing the rarity of the occasion. "I have never had a punter elected captain," Ellerson said. "The respect of your peers is something you hold dear."

"Rocha is impressed with his progress in football. He has noticed his improvements in just this season alone."

"I can handle the pressure better, and I am more consistent," Rocha said.

"He is as good as I’ve ever seen at keeping the opponent on a long field," Ellerson said. "He has a knack for it."

"Rocha said he owes a lot of his success to his teammates and that they didn’t get the credit they deserve."

"Those guys block for me, I couldn’t do it without them."

Although Rocha has dreamed of one day trying out for the NFL, he is not committed to the idea. "I will try out and see where it takes me," he said.

However, if the NFL doesn’t pan out, he plans to become a police officer. But for now he is focused on doing well this season, his last at Cal Poly.

"We will see how things line up at the end of the season," Rocha said.

Cal Poly Football: Good bye?

• Weary team gets chance to rest heading into Homecoming game Saturday

By Graham Womack
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Seven games through the sea- son, a battle with Southern Utah, a push, Cal Poly football team is enjoying something special: 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.

"I was glad to rest for us," linebacker Ray Thompson said. "We played six, seven games. It’s time we got 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 1-3 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 an emotional boost, coming into a rest week with a victory. Now the challenge will be holding that."

Coach Rich Ellerson said even with the week off, times haven’t been carefree for Cal Poly students, as many players have faced midterms 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 Dave Brown.

Full practices resumed before Friday, when the Mustangs practiced in full 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 assault 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 didn’t practice in the week leading up to that.

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

Cal Poly leads at ITA

By Michael Marquez
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The Cal Poly women’s tennis team competed this past weekend for the third time this season at the 2003 Omni Hotels ITA Northwest Regional Championships at Stanford University. The Mustangs, the 2002 NCAA Big West champions competed against 16 teams in the individual tournament.

Shellei Lewis led the team by making it to the third round of the main draw, winning the first round in the main draw, senior Kate Romm battled back in the consolation bracket, making it to the fourth round.

Freshman Carol Erickson and sophomores Chelsea Thompson and Kristen Grady all lost in second round matches.

Sophomores Kelly Nelson and Samantha Waller were both defeated in the first rounds of both the main and consolation draws.