Alternative fuel to be showcased

Kimberly Masculine

Gas prices are on the rise, and the Central Coast is no exception to the sudden hike in prices at the pumps. More alternative fuels are hitting the market than ever before.

On Thursday, residents and students in the San Luis Obispo area will be able to see the vehicles and technology that can help cut down on gasoline bills. The Central Coast Clean Cities Coalition (C-5) is hosting an alternative fuel vehicle show as part of its Clean Cities Awareness Month calendar of events.

Gas prices are also starting to rise as the summer holiday season approaches. The sudden hike in prices at the pumps is a concern for drivers across the country.

Tuition sees 10 percent increase

Justin Pope

College tuition rose at a somewhat slower rate this year, climbing 10.5 percent at public four-year colleges and 6 percent at private ones, a study found.

State budget cuts have forced public colleges to pass on more of their costs to students in recent years.

The College Board reported Tuesday that the average tuition for in-state students at four-year public schools is $5,132 this year. Last year, tuition rose 13 percent, the first double-digit increase in a decade.

At private four-year colleges, tuition, room and board rose 6 percent to $27,556 this year, the College Board said.

Most students do not pay the full sticker price. If they were to get the same level of student aid as last year, those figures are not yet available, the average student would pay about $8,000 at a public four-year college this year.

Private loans for college increase

Justin Pope

Many students are finding it more difficult to finance their education as interest rates rise on private loans.

Private loan companies are responding to higher interest rates by offering more attractive terms. Some companies are lowering interest rates, while others are increasing loan limits.

Here are some of the changes:

- A new company, StudentLoanDirect, is offering a fixed-rate loan at 3.5 percent.
- SallieMae is raising its rates by 1.5 percentage points.
- Nelnet is increasing its loan limits.

A fresh perspective

History professor John Oriji is part of the Igbo people who mostly live in Southeast Nigeria

Melissa L. Dorcak

When history professor John Oriji was attending high school in Nigeria, he asked his principal what was the highest level of education. His principal told him it was a PhD.

"And from that time, I said that I must have a PhD," Oriji said.

Oriji came to the United States in 1972 to attend John Hopkins University in Baltimore. There he received his first master's degree. In 1977, he earned another master's and his PhD at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

Oriji then returned to Nigeria to teach and conduct research at the University of Nigeria. In Nigeria, he published two books and several articles dealing with the Igbo people and issues such as the slave trade, colonialism and global issues.

Oriji has enjoyed teaching and sharing his ideas with others since high school. "It is a way of making a contribution to society," Oriji said.

Oriji is a part of the Igbo people, which mostly live in Southeast Nigeria. He said the Igbo are among the most highly educated and can find them in all different professions.

He met his wife, Rita, in Nigeria and she has followed him during his studies. He has a son, Ugo, and a daughter Ndidi. Oriji is very proud of his home for a reception, complete with Nigerian food made by his wife.

In his spare time, Oriji enjoys traveling and listening to music. He listens to American classical and admitted that he also listens to his son's rap music. Oriji also enjoys West African music called High Life.

In 1998, Oriji became a U.S. citizen. "I've been living most of my adult life here. My wife is here, so I just felt it would be a good idea to stay put." That does not mean he has forgotten Nigeria.

Oriji explained that in Nigeria, people have great concern for their extended families. "There is a lot of hospitality," he said.

He tells his students, "In my own culture, every family needs to have a home in the village you're born, because it's a part of your room."
Vehicles continued from page 1
the event, is a member of C-5 and is
bringing the company’s SES generator
to the event for display.
“The SES generator is capable of
generating heat and energy for a home
and a fuel cell vehicle,” said Yu
LeBlanc from Jensen Communications.
The company will also showcase the
Toyota Highlander FCV prototype.
Jon Mangravet, president and CEO of
Stuart Energy, will be on hand to
talk about alternative fueling and
answer any questions.
“Stuart Energy believes that educa­
tional outreach is incredibly impor­
tant to consumers,” LeBlanc said. “The bot­
ttom line is to get the message out that
there are things people can do now.”

According to the California Energy
Commission’s Web site, the average
price for regular gas in California is
$2.40, which is 37 cents higher than
the national average.
Prices in the San Luis Obispo area
are upwards of $2.50.
“A lot of the added expenses at gas
pumps are because we are getting to
the point of exhausting fossil fuel sup­
plies,” LeBlanc said.
Gener said San Luis Obispo cur­
rently doesn’t have many alternative
fueling stations, but C-5 is trying to
change that.
“We are getting very close to being
labeled as a clean city and once we
have been designated a clean city, we
become eligible for grant funding,” she
said.
These grants can be used to build
more alternative fuel stations.

Tuition continued from page 1
ing students pay for college.
“Last year we reported that for the
last five years ending in 2002, grant aid
had grown more rapidly than loans,
and that was really encourag­
ning news,” said Sandy Baum, senior policy
analyst with the College Board, who
presented the findings at a news con­
dence in Washington. “Now, we real­
ly can’t say that anymore.”
For a student with aid above inflation
last year. Funding for Pell Grants, the primary support for
low-income students and a topic in the
presidential campaign, rose 10 per­
cent above inflation.

Loans through banks and other pri­
vate sources accounted for 16 percent
of education loans in 2003, compared
with 7 percent in 1996.
The study does not include credit
card debt, which as many as one-quar­
ter of college students may be relying
on to finance their education. There
has also been sharp growth in unsub­
sidized federal loans to students and
parents.
Baum said the standard student loan
debt, about $20,000, is reasonable for
college graduates given their increased
earning power. But she said poor stu­
dents, who do not benefit as much
from tax breaks that help wealthier
students, could be vulnerable if the
trend toward loans continues.

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**STATE NEWS**

**LOS ANGELES** — Deborah Gribbin, director of the J. Paul Getty Museum, has resigned after four years because of apparent differences with the trust that funds it. Gribbin, the latest to join top officials from the world-renowned museum, announced Monday that she would leave at the end of the month.

**NATIONAL NEWS**

**WASHINGTON** — Federal health officials said Tuesday that another 2.6 million doses of flu vaccine will be available in January to augment existing supplies as they sought to calm fears about a shortage.

One official said that vaccine manufacturer Aventis Pasteur told health officials from the world-renowned Getty Museum, has resigned after four years because of apparent differences with the trust that funds it.

**CHICAGO** — Two customs and border protection officers and 16 others, including four from produce another 2.6 million doses, for a total of 58 million doses. The Bush administration has been scurrying to shore up supplies of the vaccine in the wake of the shutdown of a British manufacturing plant that in the past has produced about half of the U.S. supply.

**WASHINGTON** — More than 47 million Americans will get a 2.7 percent increase in their Social Security checks starting in January, meaning an additional $25 per month for the typical retiree. But almost half of that gain will be sapped by a record increase in Medicare premiums.

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — Gunmen killed at least four Iraqi National Guardsmen soldiers and wounded 80 at a base north of Mosul, killing two Iraqi civilians and wounding three.

**PARIS** — Dressed in a Spider-Man suit and using no ropes or other equipment, a French urban climber scaled the 47-story headquarters of oil giant Total on Tuesday, his second Parisian climb in less than a month.

Alain Robert, 42, who has long called himself “Spiderman,” climbed the 414-foot building, located in the La Defense office park on the western edge of Paris, in just 25 minutes. After his ascent, Robert had to pay a visit to the local police station for his feat but was released without being charged or fined, he said later.

Robert, who is renowned for climbing without ropes or other equipment, has also scaled the Eiffel Tower and more than 30 skyscrapers around the world.

**DEFIANCE, Ohio** — Election officials knew something was wrong when they got voter registration cards for Mary Poppins, Dick Tracy, Michael Jordan and George Foreman.

They notified the Defiance County sheriff, who arrested Chad Staton on Monday on a felony charge of submitting phony voter registration forms. Investigators also were looking into allegations that he was paid $2,000 for each card.

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**BRUSSELS, Belgium** — The Coca-Cola Co. has agreed to change sales practices that helped it win roughly half of the soft drink market in Europe as part of a settlement of a long-running antitrust investigation by the European Union.

Coke’s biggest rival, PepsiCo Inc., applauded the deal, which was aimed at creating more competition in the $21 billion European soft drink market. Coke has roughly half the European market, compared with about 10 percent for Pepsi, N.Y.-based PepsiCo’s Pepsi-Cola unit. In the United States, Coke’s lead over Pepsi is smaller.

**BANGKOK, Thailand** — Myanmar’s prime minister was sacked Tuesday by his hardline army colleagues, clouding prospects for the freedom of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and for democracy in the military-led Southeast Asian nation.

Khin Nyunt was taken into custody late Monday and charged with corruption, according to officials in Thailand, who were the first to publicly break the news.

Based on a survey collected by Car Pulse Research of 152 randomly selected Catholic students with an error margin of ±5%.

**UNDER FOUR? OR UNDER NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH?**

79% of students never cause property damage due to drinking. The average CP student drinks less than 4 in a sitting.
Recent college grads long for the student life

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rustin Royal shows off his license plate and other items he has collected to accent his devotion to his alma mater, Saturday, at his Chicago apartment.

Martha Irvine

CHICAGO — Call it college nostalgia, those pangs felt by any number of young working-stiff-who-long-for-the-days-when-they-could-roll-out-of-bed-and-into-class-or-hang-with-friends-any-night-of-the-week-at-any-hour.

Rustin Royal knows all about the feeling, particularly at this time of year, when campus life and football season are well under way. It's what brings him to a Chicago bar that caters to his fellow University of Texas alums — w here they can sing "The Eyes of Texas" with unabashed enthusiasm and down a Shiner Bock, the beer they drank in college.

"It's a connection to your past — the expectations and accountability. All of those things are just a little bummer," says Maria Pendolino, who graduated from Binghamton University in New York and now works in the finance field.

"In college, I was a big fish in a little pond," she says. "Now I'm a fish in the ocean." Angela Yarbrough also has found frustrations with the new rules of post-college life. Sometimes, she says, she would like to raise her hand to disagree with her boss. She has learned that keeping quiet in the workplace is often best.

"You don't want to be the topic of the water cooler," said Yarbrough, a 21-year-old who graduated from St. Mary's University in San Antonio.

Some of her suggested topics: learning the difference between a 401(k) and an IRA; office politics; how to make friends at work; and how to maintain relationships and friendships after college.

It might sound like a bit much. And still lives in Minneapolis. He regularly takes the "scenic drive" through campus on his way to work and often organizes dinners and "breakfast club" reunions with former dorm mates who also live in town.

He has also decorated his apartment bathroom in Minnesota Gopher maroon and gold. It might sound like a bit much.
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Read the Mustang Daily and all your wildest dreams will come true

Market principles now used to rank colleges

Justin Pope

Critics of college rankings say universities aren’t like their sports teams. You cannot settle who is best with head-to-head competition on the playing field.

But in a new paper, a group of economists and statisticians begs to differ.

They lay out a system that ranks colleges on how they perform in one kind of head-to-head competition they claim says a lot about a school, and can be measured: the battle for students who are admitted to several colleges and have to choose among them.

While the U.S. News & World Report rankings use statistics like admission percentage, SAT scores and student-faculty ratios, critics say those figures are not necessarily much use to prospective students and that colleges can manipulate them.

In their proposal, the economists sidestep the tricky question of what makes a good college. Instead, they assume top high school students know best, and they simply report their choices. Of the students admitted to, say, both Brown and Penn, how many choose each place? It is the same principle in the Zagat restaurant guides: Don’t try to grade the food, just reveal whether a lot of people like it or not.

The authors — Caroline Hoxby and Christopher Avery of Harvard, Andrew Melnick of the University of Pennsylvania and Mark Glickman of Boston University — have been working on their model for years. Their most detailed results yet were published recently by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Here’s how it works: Imagine two students, one choosing between Stanford and Harvard, another among Stanford, Berkeley and Pomona. The statistical model views each one of those students as a “tournament” between the colleges involved; if Stanford “wins” either student, its ranking rises in relation to the schools it beat.

Colleges often compete against the same schools over and over, and may never compete against others. But with enough data, Stanford’s place in relation to all schools begins to emerge and the rankings take shape. The model, which resembles the one used to rank professional chess players, adjusts to balance out influencing factors such as a big financial aid offer from one school.

The authors offered a preliminary demonstration by tracking the college choices of 3,240 high-performing students from 396 high schools nationwide. They say that it works well for top schools but that more data is needed to improve their confidence in the rankings lower down.
Smile and Nod improv group dons a kilt

Tawny Grace
MONDAY DAILY

Smile and Nod, a student-run improvisational group on campus, recently returned from a three-week trip to Scotland where the team performed and learned from other improv groups from around the world.

"Improv is life," said Jeffrey Clinard, speech communication senior and Smile and Nod member. "People that can have conversations are improving.

Smile and Nod performers left for Edinburgh, Scotland in August to perform in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. The festival contained more than 700 productions of theater and dance, said Sarah Claspell, theater and business senior and co-manager of Smile and Nod.

"We went with 20 people and lived together in a six-bedroom house," Claspell said. "We spent 24 hours a day together. We became close as a team. Trust became intensified."

The team performed "We Smell Like America" every day for two weeks straight. When the team was not performing, members watched the other performances.

"We saw a lot of different sketch comedy and a lot of short form," Claspell said. "We took stuff (back with us) from the different improv group styles."

To cover the cost of the trip, the team raised money through donations, from members' parents and from past shows' profits.

Smile and Nod first began about seven years ago when a group of students from an improv class on campus decided to begin performing rather than just practicing, said Claspell.

Now, Smile and Nod holds two shows every Saturday night. The 8 p.m. show is a short-form comedy, and the 10 p.m. show is a long-form comedy.

The short-form comedy performances consist of nine performers on stage. There are two competing teams of four, Team Smile and Team Nod, and one referee.

"Short form is most like the television show "Whose Line is it Anyway?" where there are specific games and specific goals," Clinard said. The team asks the audience for multiple IDEAS and uses those suggestions to play a game until it switches to the next scene.

"It relies more on wit and puns, and it's a lot easier to do," Clinard said.

The long-form comedy shows consist of seven to nine performers on stage and no referee. At the beginning of each performance, the performers ask the audience for suggestions. From those suggestions, the entire show is created.

Clinard said being on the team gives him confidence in front of groups. It helps him think on his feet, and it makes it easier for him to write essays at the last minute.

"I definitely know that God has blessed me with the ability to be funny," Clinard said. "I can go make a group of people be happy on a regular basis."

Claspell has been on the team for four years. As co-manager, she is in charge of booking shows and facilitating meetings and rehearsals.

Nineteen students make up the team this year, and about 15 to 20 students try out each quarter.

see Improv, page 8
We want to know...

which local businesses are best for Cal Poly students' needs. Vote for your favorite business in each category and turn in the survey to the Mustang Daily for a chance to win gift certificates from your favorite restaurants and clothing stores.

Drop off location:
Mustang Daily office, Graphic Arts Building 26, Room 226
OR Vote Online: www.mustangdaily.net

Deadline:
November 15th, 5 pm

Best Sushi  Best Surf Shop  Best Keg Deal  Best Craft Store  Best Grocery Store
Best Coffee House  Best Happy Hour  Best Boutique  Best Pizza  Best Bike Shop
Remembering Elliott Smith

There wasn't much to see that year at the Academy Awards. Nineteen ninety-eight was dominated by Kate Winslet's breasts and Leonardo DiCaprio's bangs, and "Titanic" was already sailing past the competitors. A disappointing ceremony? Yes, for the other movies nominated. Yes, for the energetic hordes of pubescent girls waiting for a glimpse of DiCaprio. Yes, for anyone who (rightly) felt that one more "report of Colin Done's" "My Heart Will Go On" would cause the fiercest, comparatively blissful apocalypse. "The long peacock parade rang with congratulations for a formula that had brought a few tears and a lot of gold.

Then Elliott Smith took the stage. A relative unknown in the circle as it's just broken through, he received polite, polite applause that paled in comparison to his fellow Best Original Song nominees. Hatched slightly over his microphone, wearing a luminous white shirt that gleamed like a halo, he pecked through his dark hair and strummed through "Miss Misery" (from "Good Will Hunting"). He never took his eyes off some unwavering point in the distance; He just stared ahead under heavy lids, working through his haunting song as if the glittery strangers were gone, and he was all alone.

Smith lost that night, and he never regained the mainstream celebrity of those few choruses. In underground circles, though, he was heralded as an indie rock icon, a man who traveled the difficult segue from punk (with Heatmiser) to pop (solo) and emerged glorious in his sadness and the beauty it contained. "Nesea in the Hay," one of his most famous songs, brimmed with the misery of his heroin addiction. He formed his career by crying out without ever showing tears; his lyrics were thoughtful, flowing and never self-serving. His music was magnificent in its ease; chords melted together into catchy tapestries that his breathy voice, so like his idol George Harrison's, floated over. His music was logic without predictability: light, choral, hopeless, achingly sincere.

And he's gone.

Elliott Smith died a year ago Thursday — Oct. 21, 2003, at age 34. The cause, a single stab wound to the chest, was initially deduced as suicide; Now, with inconclusive coroner reports, his death remains as miserable a mystery as the motives for such a desperate end. His life had seemed to be on the up. He was completing his next album, From a Basement on the Hill, and had reportedly kicked the drug habits that plagued him. His sudden death was mourned as a great loss — and lamented by critics as a tragedy that seemed incomprehensible. "Who loved and needed him?"

Why did this man feel so lost after sharing so much with so many people? How shallow it is to want that tortured, unrequited, unloveable, unempathetic spark. Like a candle with a few wicks, he couldn't keep burning. And that's a lot.

Stacey Anderson is a journalism and music junior and KCPR DJ. Catch her Mondays from 3 to 5 p.m. on 91.3 FM or e-mail her at staceyanderson@mustangdaily.net.

Improv

continued from page 6

The team also looks for students who create less of a one-person show. They can't go up there and deny their teammates. "It's about relationships," Claspell said. "People can't go up there and do their own thing. They can't go up there and deny someone. It's like a soccer player touching the ball in the middle of a game. You don't have to be funny. You have to be coherent and a good listener."

The members of the improv team have to trust each other on stage, and they learn to trust each other by hanging out on and off stage. Claspell said it is interesting finding chemistry with the other people on the team, if he knows someone well, she understands how that person works and thinks on stage.

"I get to go hang out with 20 of my best friends, and they are hilarious," Claspell said. "Because we have to trust each other, it's just inherent that we get as close as we do."

Practice lasts two to three hours every Sunday for the short-form comedy and at least two hours a week for the long-form comedy. During practice, the performers talk about the show the night before and practice different games.

"The best way we learn is by performing," Claspell said. The 8 p.m. show costs $5, and the 10 p.m. shows is $3. Shows take place in building 45 room 212 and run until Nov. 6. Reservations can be made on the Smile and Nod Web site at www.smileandnod.org.

Landscape architecture senior and Smile and Nod member Scott Neiman performs with the rest of the group onstage at the festival.

Download of the day

Outkast
"Hey Ya!"

This underground track comes from one half of hip hop/funk's best kept secret, Outkast. It's a great mix of beats, crazy lyrics, and just overall fun. You'll probably have a hard time trying to find this song, but it sure is worth it.

Have a suggestion for the Download of the Day?

e-mail us at artsandculture@mustangdaily.net

I know you secretly have a song you want everyone to hear. No song is too bizarre, too obscure or too ridiculous. My children, let your voice be heard!

Landmark architecture senior and Smile and Nod member Scott Neiman performs with the rest of the group onstage at the festival.

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Local elections carry more weight

Sensors, in a way, make me think that the most important thing we have to do in this election is to get out and vote. A vote for me is not the only vote you can cast. In this election, I know that many students will be keeping this a secret to most people. Essentially POWER is a battle for attention. The idea of having 12 rotating years stay at Cal Poly just got extended to 5 years. It's a great school and all, but it's also very expensive.

I care so much about this upcoming election that I'm going to bring it up here today and talk about why you need to vote. The last election for City Council, one candidate lost by 11 votes. I dare you to examine your conscience and make a decision for the future of this city and we have the power to make our voices heard.

In a community where students comprise roughly 40 percent of the population, don’t you think it is relatively important that we speak up? I care so much about this upcoming election that I'm going to bring it up here today and talk about why you need to vote. The last election for City Council, one candidate lost by 11 votes. I dare you to examine your conscience and make a decision for the future of this city and we have the power to make our voices heard.

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Man pleads guilty to grave robbing, corpse abuse

Jef Barnard | Associate Press

MEDFORD, Ore. — Former insurance agent Jack Harelson pleaded guilty Tuesday to abusing the mummified corpses of two Indian children that police found in his garage, where he had hidden them after dragging up their ancient graves in the Nevada desert in the 1990s.

Standing tightlipped in green jail coveralls and plastic sandals, Harelson, 64, answered only, “Yes,” when asked by Jackson County Circuit Judge Lorenzo Mejia if he wanted to plead guilty to two counts of abuse of a corpse.

Prompted by his defense lawyer, Harelson acknowledged that he had treated the corpses in a manner not accepted by the norms of society. He made no mention of how the skulls came to be separated from the rest of the corpses, or where they have been in the years since his 1995 arrest on charges he robbed Indian graves of artifacts.

Harelson still faces trial on charges alleging he tried to pay an undercover police informant $10,000 in opals to kill the police detective and judge who sent him to jail in 1996, and two business partners who put investigators on his trail.

Jury selection was scheduled to begin Wednesday in Jackson County Circuit Court on the remaining charges of criminal conspiracy to commit aggravated murder, attempted murder, solicitation to commit murder and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Jackson County Deputy District Attorney Timothy Barnack said he hoped to win a sentence of 10 to 20 years in prison if Harelson is convicted of the remaining charges.

By pleading guilty to abuse of a corpse, Harelson has avoided the inclusion in the rest of his trial of emotional testimony or evidence about the skulls of the two mummified children being separated from the rest of the remains.

Prosecutors, however, are expected to present tape-recorded conversations between Harelson and the undercover police informant he allegedly paid to kill four people.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

ASi STUDENT DIRECTORY

Each year, Associated Students, Inc., produces a Student Directory that is made available to all students, faculty and staff at Cal Poly.

The ASI Student Directory provides a listing of all students attending Cal Poly. This listing includes name, phone, e-mail address and major for each student on campus. Anyone who does not wish to have his/her personal information included in the directory should access "Student Directory Information Restrictions" and choose "PROTECTED" for your "Locator Information" status to prevent inclusion in the ASI Student Directory.

If you wish to restrict publication of your personal information, do so no later than November 12, 2004.
It just keeps getting better: Football is No. 5

The Mustangs move up three spots in both polls and receive a first-place vote after extending their winning streak

Brian Lambdin

Cal Poly's run at national prominence has been nothing short of amazing. The Mustangs stamped out a 6-0 record and now, a top five national ranking. The results that came out Monday moved Cal Poly all the way up to No. 5 in the ESPN/USA Today poll of Division I-AA teams. This, by far, is the highest Cal Poly has ever been ranked at such a high level.

The Mustangs are currently riding a seven-game winning streak counting last year's season final win. Also, the team has won 10 of its last 11 dating back to last season.

Cal Poly received one first-place vote and is one of only three undefeated teams in Division I-AA. The Mustangs climbed over Western Kentucky, New Hampshire and Wofford in order to get to the No. 5 spot.

And finally, the quarterback controversy has been solved. At least for the meantime.

After weeks of stating that he liked all three of his quarterbacks, coach Rich Ellerson has named Anthony Garnett his starter. As long as he performs well, he will keep the starting position, Ellerson said.

Garnett, a red shirt from last year, sat out much of the beginning of the year with a back injury. Garnett solidified his hold on the job once he recovered and got a chance to start the last two games.

The offense exploded under Garnett on Saturday, something it hadn't really done all year.

"We have always fed off the defense," Garnett said. "It was nice to keep them off the field."

Garnett looked a lot better in his second start, something he attributed to the game pace and that he was able to make better decisions and better reads.

He also attributed his success to the team.

"The offensive line is great, great receivers make great quarterbacks and without the running game the pass wouldn't be opened up," Garnett said.

The offensive line deserves credit for the yardage the offense has produced. The group has given up just two sacks total this year. The line has also paved the way on the ground, helping the Mustangs average 211.5 yards per game.

"The offensive line is playing the best it has since I have been here," Ellerson said. He also commented positively on the blocking of his wide receivers.

With the recent offensive problems before Sunday, it might have seemed reasonable to say there was pressure on the offense to perform, but Garnett didn't feel any.

"Just as long as we kept the ball out of the other team's hands we were OK, and pressure-wise we didn't have a problem," Garnett said.

Another factor that has limited the offense this year is turnovers.

see Football, page 11

Ex-volleyball athlete and captain offer different takes on team struggles

Erica Drummond

The Cal Poly women's volleyball team is caught in an ugly rut. After losing Friday's game to Long Beach State, they fell to UC Irvine Saturday, their tenth straight loss of the season.

The Mustangs are now 0-9 in the Big West conference and 2-16 overall, caught in the midst of one of their worst losing streaks to date.

While many matches turn into just narrow losses, the team has come up surprisingly weak in certain categories such as low hitting averages, low blocks and a mountain of errors.

"It's so frustrating," said Margaret Donoghue, history senior and team captain. "We had such high expectations for the season and there's no denying that it's hard coming into the locker room after losing three straight games again."

While the results have been disappointing, Donoghue's encouraged to work on what she feels are relatively minuscule problems for the team.

"It's really just small details that need help," she said.

"Just a couple more digs each game, a couple more kills. It's totally within reason."

However, Vanessa Gilliam a business senior who decided to leave the team a month ago, said she feels it will not be that easy for her former teammates to turn this season around.

"You have to do something drastic to change the problem," Gilliam said. "I know they're capable of winning, but I don't think they know what to change."

Gilliam said she knows the team has tried various drastic changes.

This season a no-drinking policy was implemented. The team members who are 21 or older agreed to this policy in order to help the team.

A 24-hour 'dry-period' was enforced before any practice or game. If it became known that a player drank within this time, they would be suspended from playing.

"Sometimes we've put in eight-hour days," Donoghue said. "It's more than most teams."

Donoghue said that she thinks the team's hard work will soon pay off.

"I look at my team and I know that each one wants to win more than anything," she said. "When we come back to practice after a tough weekend of losses, the fire is still in us and we don't throw up our hands. We come with the hope that next weekend will be the weekend."

This Friday the Mustangs will play UC Riverside at 7 p.m. Donoghue said yesterday that the team has been busy preparing different tactics.

"UCR has a unique offense, so we're practicing a lot on how to prevent that," she said. "We have full intentions of winning."

A win Friday night would be the first win since mid-September.