Student starts Central Coast support group for disease

Joe Sargent
MUSTANG DAILY

The first support group meeting on the Central Coast for people suffering with Alopecia Areata, a disease that causes baldness, will be held Sunday at 2 p.m. at Sierra Vista Hospital’s auditorium.

Nearly 4.7 million Americans have Alopecia Areata, according to the National Alopecia Areata Foundation. Civil engineering senior Bonnie Lowry felt locals with the disease could use some support.

Lowry, 23, has had Alopecia since she was nine. “It took three months for all of my hair to fall out,” Lowry said. “For some people it only takes one week.”

Alopecia Areata, pronounced al-o-pe-see uh ree uh tuh, can strike a person at any age and has no known cure. It is an autoimmune disorder in which affected hair follicles are incorrectly attacked by a person’s own immune system.

Although a physical ailment, it is the emotional side of the disease that has the strongest effect. “We’re not going to die. There is a cure,” Lowry tells her story.

Bonnie Lowry

Emily Logan
MUSTANG DAILY

Kristyn Loy, a liberal studies major, enjoys her job and plans on teaching elementary school.

Children’s Center becomes accredited

Emily Logan
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly's ASI Children's Programs received accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The accreditation is a voluntary system to recognize the quality of childcare centers nationwide.

“The implications are that we have matched the highest quality standards that exist for our field,” said Tonya Iverson, director of ASI Children's Programs. “It means that we’re creating the best quality program that we know how to.”

Cal Poly's Children's Center provides services to about 130 children, from four months to six years old.

Accreditation is awarded based on a set of criteria, including interactions among teachers and children, curriculum, physical environment, health and safety, relationships among teachers and families, staff qualifications and development, administrative practices and nutrition and food service, Iverson said.

“You look at their criteria and estimate how well you match what they’re looking for,” Iverson said. From there, the center did a “self-study” and sent a report to NAEYC. The organization sent a representative to inspect the center and that person wrote another report that was sent to a group of experts to be evaluated.

“The parents, the center and the NAEYC have to agree (that the) Children's programs (are) accredited,” Iverson said.

Ben Bruce
turns running into a career

IN SPORTS, 8

Stewie stars in the new ‘Family Guy’

DVD

IN ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, September 30, 2005

MUSTANG DAILY

Stewie stars in the new ‘Family Guy’

DVD

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Friday, September 30, 2005

MUSTANG DAILY

Poly goes wireless

Jonathan Drake
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly has now gone wireless with Mustang Mobile Computing, a service that allows students to receive free wireless Internet access with any wireless enabled laptop from 160 access points spread across campus and in the residence halls.

Although a laptop’s wireless card will automatically pick up the signal while on campus, the network will not be accessible unless users register their computers.

Registering a computer is a simple process. On the first floor of building 14 is the Information Technology Services (ITS) support desk. Upon request, the support desk will issue an access number that is individual to each computer, called a MAC address (machine address control). This number will allow a laptop to access the network in “about a day,” according to the Johanna Madjedi, director of communications and computing services.

“The campus network started in the University Union and the Kennedy Library with at least four access points,” in 2001 said Madjedi. The network is not currently encrypted, so if users plan to send sensitive information over the wireless, “We’re not going to die. There is a cure,” Lowry tells her story.

Continuing Education receives $100,000 grant

Emily Logan
MUSTANG DAILY

The Bernard Osher Foundation awarded Cal Poly's Continuing Education program a $100,000 grant for the third consecutive year.

The grant will help fund the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, which is a branch of Continuing Education that offers programs primarily for people aged 50 and up who are retired or semi-retired, said John House, academic program administrator for Continuing Education.

“Cal Poly has this program in coordination with the Osher board and we develop courses that are of interest to people in the community,” he said. “The courses range from the academically rigorous to just fun.”

The 42 courses offered this fall include Lawyers and our Legal System, Driver’s Ed for Cyclists, Gardening for Victorians, Port San Luis Lighthouse Hike, Ghosts of the Sexual side of the disease that has the strongest effect. “We’re not going to die. There is a cure,” Lowry tells her story.

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Disease
continued from page 1
nothing really wrong with us," Lowry said. "It is the emotional impact that hurts."
Looking at Lowry, you cannot tell she is bald. She wears a $4,000 hair prosthesis, which was custom made and looks completely natural, but not knowing who has the disease is part of the emotional problem. "There are people out there with the disease who are severely depressed because they think they are the only one," Lowry said. "You can't tell I have the disease. You don't know who has the disease."
The support group will be a place for people with the disease to meet and talk about their experiences with Alopecia. Since Lowry first announced the group, she has received calls from families as far away as Bakersfield saying they are coming. The support group is open to all ages but is only for people suffering from Alopecia and their families. For more information about the disease, go to www.naaf.org.

Children
continued from page 1
center meets the criteria," Iverson said.
Meeting the comprehensive criteria was a demanding job for the workers, but Iverson said they had been striving toward it for years. "Our center decided a couple of years ago that we wanted to become world famous," she said.
Not world famous in the Hollywood sense, she said, but the feeling that the interactions with the children and the parents create a world famous impression. "If you think of yourself as world famous, it changes your interactions," Iverson said. "(Workers) come to the center to give their very best every day and we hold ourselves accountable for that." Laura Callahan, a parent who has been sending her son to the Children's Center for years, said it is exemplary in many ways and it is not surprising that it has received the honor of accreditation.
"The Children's Center here has a unique approach to discipline and child care — more so than any other center that I've ever heard of," she said. "They're more child development oriented."
Callahan also commented that the center has great programs for parents as well as children. "I really appreciate that they offer a lot of parent education and parents are always welcome in the classroom," she said.
The NAEYC Web site notes that there are 10,000 NAEYC-accredited programs in the country. The program began in 1985 to help improve the quality of children's programs for families and professionals.
When centers are accredited, the workers vow to work to strengthen the program and commit to ongoing evaluation and improvement. The accreditation will last for five years.

Education
continued from page 1
Central Coast, Fossils and Geography of Nepomo, Parenting for Grandparents and many more. Dennis Parks, Cal Poly's Continuing Education dean, emphasized that the courses are offered at a minimal cost ($10 per class), making them accessible to the community.
"It think it bridges the gap between the university and the community in the sense that it provides one more access point for the people to come to the campus," he said.

Wireless
continued from page 1
less system, they should use some sort of encryption software. There are currently 6,258 registered laptops at Cal Poly, with 2,100 of those registered the first week of class. Aaron Abita, a network analyst for Cal Poly's Network Administration, said that most new registered users are probably freshmen. One of the limitations of wireless Internet on campus is that it is not 100% of your donation goes to the Salvation Army's Katrina relief effort. The pizza is on us!

Katrina Relief = Free Pizza
Donate $25 or more to help victims of Hurricane Katrina & Get a FREE Large 1-Topping Pizza Certificate!
Donate $50 - Get 2 FREE Pizzas! Donate $5,000 - Get 200 FREE Pizzas! You get the ideal.
Fundraiser runs through September, so give often & pile up the FREE PIZZAS — they're good all year long.

Dine-In Take-Out Groups Catering

Woodstock's Pizza
We Deliver!

Lunch · Dinner · (Late)

We Deliver!
Gambling potentially dangerous for college students

Chase Mitchell

The first-year student said he usually plays low-stakes games with his friends, but sometimes they organize tournaments, where as many as 20 people show up to play for pots as high as $300.

Kraus and his friends play Hold 'Em as much as possible — when they're not busy with school, that is. "It's been a little rough, just because classes and homework and stuff have been getting in the way," he said. "But over the summer we played every day.

Still, the organization says it's a good way to raise money to help people that might be a gateway for that, but as long as you keep it under control, it's not going to be a problem."

Kraus said he usually just sticks to friendly poker, adding that he prefers to steer clear of the Texas Hold 'Em tournaments that have been ubiquitous in some of Auburn's local bars lately.

"I don't like to do that," he said. "There are a lot of people that are not really good at it, and you don't really get a real prize or anything." For Kraus, it's all about the thrill. He said he just likes putting his money on the line and competing with his friends. That's not to say they don't take the game seriously. "I get really mad if I lose," Kraus said. "I might throw a chair or something."
Roberts sworn in as chief justice

Jesse J. Holland
ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON (AP) — John Roberts was sworn in as the 17th chief justice of the United States on Thursday, taking his oath at a White House ceremony attended by President Bush and other justices of the Supreme Court.

Bush said it was "a very meaningful and eventful day in the life of our nation" as almost 19 years to the day since the late Chief Justice William Rehnquist took his oath in the same room at the White House, the East Room.

The 50-year-old Roberts was sworn in a little more than three hours after he was confirmed by the Senate on a vote of 78-22. The oath was delivered by Justice John Paul Stevens, the court's senior member and acting chief justice since Rehnquist's death early this month.

"The Senate has confirmed a man with an astute mind and kind heart," Bush said. "All Americans can be confident that the 17th chief justice of the United States will be prudent in exercising judicial power, firm in defending judicial independence and above all a faithful guardian of the Constitution." Roberts spoke briefly, saying that

President Bush watches as Judge John Roberts is sworn in as the 17th Chief Justice of the United States in

President Bush watches as Judge John Roberts is sworn in as the 17th Chief Justice of the United States in

to my children's generation a charter of self-government as strong and as vibrant as the one that Chief Justice Rehnquist passed on to us."

"What Daniel Webster termed the miracle of our Constitution is not something that happens in every generation, but every generation in turn must accept the responsibility of supporting and defending the Constitution and bearing true faith and allegiance to it," Roberts said.

The audience included Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and White House counsel Harriet Miers, both of whom have been mentioned as candidates for the Supreme Court seat of retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Bush is expected to announce that nomination within days.

Roberts also took a separate oath during a private White House ceremony attended by the other justices and the chief justice's family.

A formal Supreme Court peroration was scheduled for Monday morning, before the opening of the term.

Federal judge orders release of Abu Ghraib prison photos

Larry Neumeister
ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK (AP) — Pictures of detainee abuse at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison must be released despite government claims that they could damage America's image, a federal judge ruled Thursday.

U.S. District Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein said terrorists in Iraq and Afghanistan have proven they "do not need pretexts for their barbarism."

The American Civil Liberties Union sought the release of 87 photographs and four videotapes as part of an October 2003 lawsuit demanding information on the treatment of detainees in U.S. custody and the transfer of prisoners to countries known to use torture. The ACLU contends that prisoner abuse is systemic.

MADD continued from page 3

ory of a California Highway Patrol officer telling her the drunken driver who killed her 13-year-old daughter probably would not receive a stiff penalty.

The driver was a repeat offender with a history of drunken driving arrests.

Inflated, she mounted a nationwide campaign that helped push Congress to set aside federal highway funds for anti-drunken driving efforts and then to pass legislation in 1984 to raise the federal minimum drinking age to 21.

By 2004, the most recent data available, the number of drunken driving deaths had dropped to nearly 17,000 a year and alcohol factored into about 40 percent of all deadly crashes.

The organization notes that the number of drunken driving deaths has made little downward movement in recent years. About 45 people are killed and nearly 7,000 people are injured daily because of drunken drivers.

Some have questioned MADD's directorate, Lightman, who parted ways with the organization in the mid-1980s, says MADD has failed to focus enough on its core mission.

"You don't hear about it any more and you don't hear the victims' stories any more," Lightman said in an interview.

MADD has targeted adults who like to have a glass of wine or pint of beer with dinner.

"They're seeking more and more to remain relevant to the debate and I think they are finding it more difficult," said John Doyle, executive director of the American Beverage Institute.

Wendy Hamilton, a past president of MADD, said the criticism is "absolutely false," and a way of distracting "from the real issue here that there are harms associated with drinking and driving."

With a $53 million annual budget, MADD is a nonprofit funded by individual contributions, government grants and corporate sponsors.

Broadcasting its agenda, the organization has targeted underage drinking and lobbied for stronger seat belt laws and the use of sobriety checkpoints.

When Congress worked on a new federal transportation bill this year, MADD sought ways to encourage states to pass laws targeting repeat offenders and drivers with blood-alcohol levels of 0.15 percent, or about twice the legal limit.

Get Out of Your Dorm (because your roommate is...huh...there) and Get into a Tub!

Present this ad for Hot Tub Special!

$10.00 per person

Offered Monday-Thursday, Valid Thru October 31, 2005
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Forgot to pick up the Mustang Daily?
visit
www.mmustangdaily.net
for the day's top news
New DVD ‘giggy giggy’ good

Joe Sargent

Incest, racism, fart jokes and the story of a 4-year-old boy finding himself—a storyline that can only be found in "Family Guy." Tuesday, Sept. 27, marked the release of "Family Guy Presents: Stewie Griffin the Untold Story," a direct-to-DVD full-length film. The entire Griffin family and all the memorable characters from Quahog are accounted for, but baby Stewie is the star of the show. The plot stems around Stewie and a near-death experience, which leads him to alcohol, a road trip and more (not to give too much away). But just like the show, the plot’s not really the point.

The cut scenes and pop-culture references still illicit the most laughs, lumpooning everything from blockbuster videos to Walt Disney, with film and television references spanning from "The Family fridge" to "Lawrence of Arabia.

The Griffin family falls back into their old rolls with Louis as an on and off drunk, Peter as a full-time loud mouth drunk and Meg as the perpetual brunt of the family’s jokes. Chris is off-stage for most of the film, occasionally showing up for a laugh.

The chemistry between Stewie and Brian, the family dog, is perfect and helps the film move from one random irrelevant moment to the next.

The reality is this is not a feature film; it is three episodes of "Family Guy" strung together with one running plot to tie them all together. And creator Seth MacFarlane doesn’t try to hide this fact: he credits three different writers with writing three different sections of the film.

The cover of the DVD, however, may be a little misleading. The DVD boxart that is uncovered—well, it’s not. Obscenities are bleeped and Barbara Streisand’s nose is blurted out. There are a few extreme moments, but overall the film doesn’t cross any lines that the television show hasn’t already. And any "Family Guy" fan would know, crossing the line any further would be a difficult feat since the television show already pokerokes fun at every race, religion and creed known to man.

On first viewing, the film may seem long, but watch it again. This is one of those movies where the more you watch, the more jokes you get and the funnier it is.

Though the DVD is light on extras, there is a commentary track with MacFarlane that is funny, in depth, and fully explains why the film is split the way it is. It also includes previews of "American Dad" and of the upcoming "Family Guy DVD Volume Three."

If you love "Family Guy," you probably bought the DVD already. If you don’t like the "Family Guy," go back to watching your "Scooby-Doo" reruns. And if you’re curious about the "Family Guy," watch the show, then rent the DVD.

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Poly Poetry

End of ouroboros

The well fed who rest upon designer beds
Are not at war for divide and conquer, We don’t care and disregard, as snakes skin shed.

Administration deaf to words that are said
Mothers curdled cries, screams like thunder, Sce the well fed who rest upon designer beds.

Media useless, all backbones shed
Confused society, Kanye West’s blunder, They don’t care and disregard, as snakes skin shed.

Those homeless wet in south with no bread
Lenny will not drowned the elite but under, It won’t be The well fed who rest upon designer beds.

Brainwashed to believe our knowledge is stored
Left it Rights, Rights, Left to the same no weight why We don’t care and disregard, as snakes skin shed

And you in school, don’t worry your head
NITV, YTV, masked people in disguise who slumber, is We. Don’t care and disregard, as snakes skin shed.

— Jesse Over
Journalism senior

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Don’t make the chief mad ...
read the Mustang Daily!

Friday, September 30, 2005

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Symphony reaches ‘apex’

The San Luis Obispo Symphony will hold its 18th annual Autumn Apex concert at 5 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 2, at the Christopher Cohan Center.

The San Luis Obispo Symphony Guild will hold its annual fund raiser on Saturday to benefit local music programs.

Britanny Ridley

People often view music as entertainment, talent or even a distraction, but Peggy Peterson saw music as an opportunity to change individual lives. Whether she provided a children with their first violin or an elder­ woman a concert for her 102nd birthday, Peterson, chairwoman of the Autumn Apex, changed the lives of the old, the young and the young at heart in San Luis Obispo County.

On Sunday, the San Luis Obispo Symphony Guild will continue Peterson’s 18-year tradition with its Autumn Apex concert, a fund raising event dedicated to supporting organizations such as San Luis Obispo Symphony, San Luis Obispo Youth Symphony, Central Coast Children’s Choir and numerous after­ school music education programs.

"There is no music education in schools anymore, so we are here to fill the gap," said Peggy Peterson, chairwoman of the Autumn Apex, added the television show hasn’t already. And any "Family Guy" fan would know, crossing the line any further would be a difficult feat since the television show already pokerokes fun at every race, religion and creed known to man.

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Journalism senior

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Don’t make the chief mad ...
read the Mustang Daily!

Friday, September 30, 2005
We're headed for an environmental crisis

Maco Carrillo Martine

OP/ED
6 Friday, September 30, 2005

The complex global warming issue boils down to how we choose to live and not live on this planet.

Global warming could be the facet of the environmental crisis that becomes the brick wall. The complex global warming issue boil down to how we choose to live and not live on this planet. Some of us remember the stories and songs we heard when we were young that revealed good and bad ways that humans can live. Too bad we only hear these stories for a few weeks when a storm like Hurricane Katrina hits.

We are beginning to witness, especially from those communities living in the polar regions of the earth, the rise of coastal cities and the outcome of fossil fuels is catching up to us.

The stories of polar bears pawning back and forth along the Alaskan coastline, waiting in vain for a large ice piece to live and not live on this planet.

The intensity of hurricanes concluded that the percentage of big storms — hurricanes that reach Category 4 or 5, with winds of at least 131 miles per hour — is on the rise.

In his call for rebuilding a bigger and better New Orleans, President Bush stated that Americans have never left our destiny to the whims of nature, and we will not start now.

How can someone responsible for the protection of a country not care for the whims of nature? I must know you could relate to a Category 4 hurricane as a whim.

But Bush did not sign the Kyoto Protocol because it would be detrimental to the U.S. economy, and the detriment of the environment is damaging to our economy and the entire planet.

In a recent anti-war rally, Harry said to truly know ourselves is to realize our destiny to the whims of nature, and how we perceived that we could be headed toward an energy disaster.

Do not let indifference be America’s downfall

Consuela Headrick

THE OAILY AZTEC (SAN DIEGO STATE U.)

SAN DIEGO — In recent months, I’ve noticed more people are compelled to trade in gas-guzzling vehicles for fuel-efficient ones. But now in the aftermath of the catastrophic duo of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the oil industry is left like a Category 4 hurricane as a whim.

It’s this warped mentality that paralyzes us from embracing the connection between global warming and the intensity of hurricanes.

If you don’t appreciate the strength of these hurricanes, consider that the energy generated by the swirling winds and water of Hurricane Katrina involved 10 times more energy than the average use of electricity in a year.

Another recent study supports the connection between global warming issues, and the intensity of hurricanes concluded that the percentage of big storms — hurricanes that reach Category 4 or 5, with winds of at least 131 miles per hour — is on the rise.

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Do not let indifference be America’s downfall.

The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring community. We appreciate your readership and are thankful for your careful reading. Please send your correction suggestions to mustangdaily@gmail.com

LETTER POLICY

Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanity and length. Letters, commentaries and cartoons do not represent the views of the Mustang Daily. Please limit length to 250 words.
Soccer

continued from page 8

Gauchos played each other this past weekend. The Gauchos were able to break the game open. USCB took the lead 2-1 after Becerra scored on an unassisted goal on a breakaway. Within 90 seconds, freshman midfielder Eric Avila collected his second goal of the season after hitting Becerra down the field. Becerra snuck through the entire Cal Poly defense to score an open-net shot. The goal was Becerra’s fifth and sixth goal of the season.

“We found our forwards in the second half and created some chances,” UCSC coach Tim von Stein said.

Cal Poly got a chance to retaliate off a free kick the 85th minute, but came up short when Venegas rifled his shot off the post. Senior midfielder/defender Justin Woodard got the rebound, but his path back was wide. Venegas and Woodard led the Mustangs in shots with three and two respectively.

“It doesn’t matter when you go (Cal Poly), it’s always like this,” Von Stein said. “It’s a hard team to play against. They’re very physical and competitive.”

The Gauchos, last season’s NCAA championship runners-up, have consistently proven to be fierce competitors for the Mustangs, who are now 8-13 against UCSI.

“This is a tough team,” Garner said. “They’re notorious for being the most physical team in America. They pushed us at home and we didn’t answer that.”

The Gauchos outshot Cal Poly 12-18. Coupe collected six saves for the Mustangs, while Gauchos goalie Kyle Reynolds had one.

Runners

continued from page 8

and is able to contribute still to our team,” Bruce said.

Bruce said he is interested in possibly coaching later on. He graduated in June with a bachelor’s degree in kinesiology with an emphasis in physical education.

“I’m kind of taking a look at the behind the scenes with the coaches,” Bruce said. “It helps me because I have a group to train with and it helps the team because it’s one more person to help the team work out.”

According to Crawford, Vesey has moved to Santa Monica where she is trying to start a career in advertising while still fulfilling her passion for running.

Vesey was a two-time All-American athlete while running for Cal Poly. She placed seventh in the 3,000-meter steeple chase at the 2005 NCAA Championships.

Vesey finished second in the 800-meter at the NCAA Championships.

She was also named Big West Male Track Athlete of 2005. In addition, Bruce competed in the U.S. Olympic trials in 2004.

Weekend sports report

Women’s Soccer

The Mustangs (6-1-3) will host the Saint Mary’s Gaels (7-3-1) at Mustang Stadium on Friday at 7 p.m. After last weekend’s loss to Santa Clara and to Idaho in the Big West tourney, the Mustangs dropped to the No. 23 spot in the NCAA/ADIDAS poll.

However, they remained in the No. 24 position in the Soccerbuzz ranking. On Sunday, the Mustangs host the UC Davis Aggies (3-4-2) at Mustang Stadium at 1 p.m. “I think our team is starting to come around and find its groove,” coach Alex Cruizer said.

Volleyball

The Mustangs (8-3) will host the UC Irvine Anteaters (6-7) at McKinnon Gym on Friday. Last Saturday, the Mustangs contributed to the UC Santa Barbara Gauchos’ game by being streak by defeating them 3-1. This Friday’s match will be the first Big West Conference game for the Anteaters and Cal Poly’s second. On Saturday, the Mustangs will host Long Beach State’s 4ers (10-3) at McKinnon Gym at 1 p.m. The 4ers have won four consecutive games over Cal Poly since the 2003 season.

This is sure to be a great match up.

Diaries

continued from page 8

energized boost from our fan
gives us a huge advantage that we do not take lightly. We can pack
Mont Gym the same way I
remember it being when Poly’s
volleyball team was ranked No. 1
in the nation. It is a good time and
while I am biased, I think it is
great to watch. So, thanks again
to everyone who became the “7th
player” and I hope you felt like
you shared in the win. There will
be more to come with your sup-
port! Finally, I will see you all at
our other sporting events when our
season is done. What a great
place to go to school!

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Men's soccer falls short of upset bid

James Mellor
MUSTANG DIARIES

The Cal Poly men's soccer team fell to No. 10 UC Santa Barbara 3-1 in its Big West opener at Mustang Stadium.

The Mustangs (4-5-0, 0-1) came out strong and battled against the Gauchos for the majority of the match. However, during a short stint in the second half, UCSB (5-2-1, 2-0) capitalized on some Cal Poly mishaps and broke the match open.

"We played outstanding, but we fell behind on a mistake," Cal Poly coach Wolfgang Gartner said. "We had our chances too... They got their opportunities, they took them, and they won... That's the difference between the teams.'

The Gauchos scored first during the 12th minute. Senior forward Ivan Becerra intercepted a short pass, dribbled through the Cal Poly defense and found senior forward Jonathan Davis streaking towards the goal. Davis slipped by Mustang goalie Jeremy Coupe, who was outside the box, and netted his fourth goal of the season.

Cal Poly responded just over two minutes later when a UCSB foul led to a Mustang free kick. Sophomore midfielder Nikhil Erelbach chipped a short pass of the mark to senior Mores Venegas, who drilled in his third goal of the season to tie the game 1-1.

Combat between the teams continued for the remainder of the half, but the match was still tied at the 45-minute mark. UCSB threatened to score early in the second half when a

Bruce and Vessey sign contract with ASICS

Emily Rancer
MUSTANG DIARIES

Recent graduates Ben Bruce and Maggie Vessey, both track stars, have decided to take their running to the next level and make a living as professional athletes. Bruce and Vessey are both sponsored by ASICS and have begun running professionally.

"It's like turning pro for any athlete," said Brian Thurmond, Cal Poly's media relations director. "It gives you an opportunity to continue in something you love while getting paid for it."

Bruce competed in Rhode Island earlier this month, where he placed 10th out of 32 runners in the U.S. 5k National Championships. He will be running next in Alabama in November.

"With running, you don't hear about it as much because with the NBA or NFL, you hear about people getting drafted," Bruce said. "With running, after your last collegiate race, you just wait to hear from companies."

According to Bruce, many restrictions are placed on athletes when they compete in college. But by turning pro, many new opportunities become available. "Once you're pro, you can take stuff if you win prize money from races," Bruce said. "Running for Asics, they give you all the equipment and shoes and apparel as well as they pay you."

Bruce's agent, Bob Wood, used to represent cross country coach Mark Conover in the 1980s. Wood said he chose to represent Bruce because, "He's got a good range of distance."

But being a good runner wasn’t enough for the Wood.

"He's a good kid," he said. "You don't want jerks and he's a good person. That was a factor for me." Professional runners like Bruce and Vessey usually run between 10 and 30 races annually. Asics asks them to participate in certain competitions while still giving the runners some freedom to choose when and when to run.

"It's a combination of what that company would like them to do and that athlete putting together their own schedule," said Terry Crawford, Cal Poly's track and field coach.

In addition to running professionally, Bruce is studying at Cal Poly to earn his teaching credential. He has also become a graduate assistant to the cross country team.

"These track athletes, while running professionally, can work in their chosen specialty," Crawford said. "Ben is getting a teaching credential as well as his running."

Student-assistant coach Ben Bruce works out with his former teammates Tuesday at the sports complex.

Anyway, the point is that volleyball matches were a major social-entertainment/sporting event back then and some of the all-time greats who are still around—Sandy Aughtinsh, Marie Salyer, Claudia Hennemard—were bringing national acclaim to Poly. Fast forward twenty years to my interview last February and I told the hiring committee that I believe we can get that energy and pride back here with a great volleyball program. Last Saturday, against Santa Barbara confirmed that it is happening. I am so grateful to all of those who showed up and I am equally excited about the future of the program.

So, the new women's volleyball coach at Cal Poly, I want to express my genuine appreciation for the support of our student body, our administrators, fellow coaches, and the band who were among the near 1,200 people who showed up to see our girls beat the dreaded Gauchos. It was so much fun and I can tell you all that it was a major personal goal that I did not expect to happen so fast.

We are just starting to get this going, and by no means do we think we can compare to those great teams who have worn the Green and Gold for Poly over the years. But we work hard every day to be a source of pride for all of you. It is hard to understand how much all the student-athletes at Poly invest in their preparation to compete. I can tell you that it means a ton to see people come out to support Poly. We need you again! As we go into this important weekend of conference play against UC Irvine (Friday at 7:00 p.m.) and Long Beach State (Saturday at 7:00 p.m.), I urge the student body to come support our volleyball team. You people make a huge difference! A raucous and see Runners, page 7