Proposed referendum could increase student fees

Emily Logan, Mustang Daily

The Campus Fee Advisory Committee (CFAC) is considering a proposal to increase student Instructionally Related Activities (IRA) fees. If it is approved, the proposal will go to the ballot for students winter quarter.

The referendum would only affect non-athletics IRA programs, which include agriculture, art, exhibits, the solar car club, campus media, the Northridge Marching Band, and many others.

For several years a financial problem has been developing for Cal Poly’s program of non-athletics Instructionally Related Activities,” music department Chair William T. Spiller said. “In increases in the sources of funding have failed to keep up with increases.

The Instructionally Related Activities Advisory Committee (IRAC), comprised of administrators, faculty and students, will take a preliminary vote on the proposal before it is put in the hands of students. IRAAC’s primary function is to advise the president on the allocation of IRA fee revenues, according to the Web site.

The current non-athletics IRA fee is $6.94 per quarter for students. The proposed increase would be $10.00, making the quarterly fee for students $16.94. Spiller said the proposal contains no other phased increases.

“One-time funds from the state general fund and Cal Poly Academic Affairs have provided additional support for IRA activities recently, but this money is going away next year,” he said.

With the decrease in sources of funding, Spiller said net funds for the 2006-07 year would decrease by about $121,000.

Eight newly eligible programs were added in 2005-06, but the

Health Center to offer safe sex and contraception workshop

Jonathan Drake, Mustang Daily

Information about birth control and advice on medical choices regarding birth control methods are available at Cal Poly’s Health Center. Located in building 27 next to the Rec Center and Peer Health Education, the Health Center has a team specifically trained for sex information called EROS (Educational Resources on Sexuality).

This team has a workshop on Oct. 28 from 8:10 to 9:45 a.m. in the Christopher Cohen Center (building 6, room 124), which will focus on contraception and sexually transmitted infections.

“The workshops are more friendly to walk-ins getting information. It is kind of anonymous,” said earth science sophomore Steve Visosky, an assistant at the EROS office.

The EROS team is also available for sexual health information, located off campus at 705 Grade Ave. The office provides free and confidential information on condoms and other birth control methods, emergency contraception (the morning after pill), pregnancy tests and counseling, and HIV/STI checks and treatment.

Visitors can walk in and grab a free “Safer Sex Pack,” which includes 30 condoms and 2 flavored lubricants placed in a Chinese food takeout box.

Fire Department hires new chief

James Mellor, Mustang Daily

The San Luis Obispo Fire Department will operate under a new chief as of Tuesday, Nov. 1.

John Callahan, a former deputy chief of the Los Angeles City Fire Department, will be sworn in during the next City Council meeting.

Callahan will bring over 32 years of experience to his new position. As the commander of operations at Los Angeles City Fire Department, he acted as commander of the Fire Suppression and Rescue Bureau and oversaw disaster preparedness. He has also been directly involved in numerous emergency situations including the Northridge Earthquake in 1994, the Los Angeles fire storms in 1993 and the Rodney King riots in 1992.

“It’s a seasoned professional who’s seen it all and could teach us some new things here,” said City Administrative Officer Ken Hampian, who appointed Callahan.

Hampian also commented on Callahan’s strong background in emergency response and extensive involvement in running a fire department as reasons for hiring him.

“He came on top because of his extraordinary experience,” he said. In seeing Hurricane Katrina’s devastating aftermath, San Luis Obispo has adopted the nation’s high priority of disaster preparation. Having some-one as experienced as Callahan in that area will help with the community’s preparedness, Hampian added.

However, it doesn’t take an emergency situation for Callahan to interact with community. During his years as a chief in Los Angeles he formed a wellness program in partnership with Cal State Northridge’s kinesiology department. The program was designed to help older firefighters stay in shape and take care of their bodies.

Callahan said he is looking forward to moving to San Luis Obispo and establishing a relationship with both the community and Cal Poly.

“It’s a great city, not because it’s a sleepy little town,” Callahan said. “It’s got the energy and enthusiasm of 19,000 students, plus the number that go to Cal Poly sporting events.”
Refereendum
continued from page 1

number is usually more like two or three, said Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Undergraduate Education W. David Conn.

"The first to gain would be current programs, whose budgets have suffered a lot in the last 10 to 15 years," Spiller said. "Second to benefit will be those new programs which arise because some funding will be available for growth. IBA applicants receive a very rigorous review, so new programs will be held to the same level of accountability as current programs."

With programs being added regularly, Spiller said the increase is necessary to sustain the existing and forthcoming programs.

"If the referendum doesn’t pass, a number of programs would see their budgets cut, others would most likely be eliminated, and it would be difficult to start up new IBA programs," Spiller said.

Conn said the fee increase would help IBA programs be financially stable for the future.

"Since Cal Poly has built its reputation in part on the level of participation of its students... we believe it is especially important at this university to maintain and possibly enhance an ongoing and financially secure IBA program," Conn said.

Both the CFAC and the IBAAC are co-chaired by the ASI president and have many student voting members. Focus groups have also been held to find out student reactions to the proposed fee raise.

To find out more information about the proposal and IBA programs in general, visit www.academics.calpoly.edu/IBA.

Fire
continued from page 1

"I look forward to working with the firefighters who are there now. They’ve been doing an excellent job so far and I look forward to helping them," Callahan said.

Callahan and his wife, Lynne, have been planning to move to San Luis Obispo for a while because of its surrounding beauty and close proximity to family.

“When the job became available I wasn’t looking for a job, but it was just too perfect," he said.

Callahan will acquire the position from current Battalion Chief Tom Zeuler, who has been acting as chief since Wolfgang Knabe left the department in June.

After working as the fire chief for three years, Knabe said he decided to leave the department when he received an offer from the Fullerton Fire Department for "better pay and better benefits, which enabled me to be closer to my family."

“I had a lot of anxiety (about leaving San Luis Obispo) because I love the community," Knabe said. "But I had a financial commitment to my family."
BALCO founder Conte gets eight months

David Kravets
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — Victor Conte was sentenced to eight months Tuesday as part of a plea deal for his role as mastermind behind a scheme to provide professional athletes with undetectable performance-enhancing drugs.

Conte, who will spend four months behind bars and three months in home confinement, started the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative after pleading guilty to money laundering and a steroid distribution charge; dozens of counts were dropped.

"The good news is we have a lot of grapes. The bad news is we have a lot of grapes," joked Steve Devitt, winemaker for敦煌 in the Napa Valley. 

Grapes from the 2005 harvest are starting their journey to the bottle, tumbling onto conveyor belts up and down California in a shining blur of vivid green and rich purple.

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- Career Fair (Chumash Auditorium) – October 13
- Information Session (The Sandwich Factory) – October 19, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- ISA Presentation (Building 3 – Room 113) – October 20, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- SHPE Presentation (Building 52 – Room 80) – October 20, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Resumes due to Mustang Jobs and www.deloitte.com – October 24
NEW YORK — Visitors to the Sept. 11 memorial museum could relive the 2001 terrorist attacks in an "immersive" area that surrounds them with pictures of the falling towers, the sounds of police sirens and the last words of some of those who died at the World Trade Center.

The first piece of steel to be hit by a hijacked jet — as well as lottery tickets and keys pulled from ground zero, and a contemplative area where visitors can leave personal messages — are among other proposed exhibits for the museum.

The plan, presented in public workshops over the past month, offers the first glimpse of an institution that is likely to become one of the country's most visited museums. The ideas are also likely to prompt sensitive questions of how to tell the story of Sept. 11.

Recently, a proposed Freedom Tower museum was removed from the space that had been reserved for it at ground zero, after the World Trade Center families and others bitterly complained that the museum could foster inappropriate debate about Sept. 11 at the site of the attacks.

The memorial museum would be built around the twin tower's footprints and a shiny wall that are the last remnants of the trade center. Visitors would view exhibits while descending to the footprints 70 feet below street level, and then walk up again.

"The idea is to move people from devastation to renewal to recovery," said museum planner Jeff Howard.

Howard, hired to develop exhibits by the Lower Manhattan Development Corp., the agency overseeing the rebuilding, said the museum would have an "iconic artifact" such as a large piece of steel from the trade center near the entrance. Family members who want to privately mourn their loved ones will be able to board an elevator directly to a separate room where victims' under­tied remains will be encased.

Employee ID cards, paper­ weights with the city skyline dominated by the twin towers and china from the Windows on the World restaurant would be part of a display about history and the importance of the trade center, Howard said.

The mementos would serve as "touchstones to..." to "immersive" memories of the places," he said.

Visitors would have a choice of two ways to experience the events of Sept. 11, when hijacked jetlin­ers slammed into the towers, caus­ing their collapse and the deaths of 2,749 people.

One exhibit would focus on a fact-based account of the attack in New York, as well as the crashes of hijacked jets into the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field. The other, "immersive," experience would try to make visitors feel as if they were in the towers, with the sounds of sirens and even vocal mem­e­mories left on Sept. 11 by those who died. "The exhibit "is not necessarily appropriate for children," Howard said.

He said he was responding to advisers and family wishes that the attacks be recounted exactly as they happened.

"We are very, very concerned about revisionist history," said Charles Wolf, whose wife died at the trade center. "While we that lived through it are there, we want this thing nailed down in the next five years."

Wolf said he does not know yet whether he would like to go through the you-are-there exhibit. But he said it is important that the museum accurately depict the attacks.

Some family members favored the no-holds-barred look at the attacks, saying many people still do not grasp the devastation and horror of Sept. 11.

"You can't in any way, shape or form, sug­gest or curtail any of it," said Lee felpsi, who lost his firefighter son at the trade center. "What is probably 99.9 percent of the country didn't lose anybody there, except those who lost a little piece of America, and they need to understand what happened that day."

Other exhibits would focus on the aftermath, including the wall of missing-persons posters created in Union Square and pictures of neighborhoods covered in dust. Pieces of steel from ground zero would be displayed. Lottery tick­ets, keys, photographs and other mementos recovered from ground zero would also be there.

A separate room would allow visitors to "contribute one's own experience and impressions" by leaving written messages or draw­ings about Sept. 11, Howard said.

Another area of the museum will mark the spot where a bunch in a rented van exploded in a trade center parking garage in 1993, killing six people and injur­ing more than 1,000.

"The explosion" Howard said they may revive the plans after hearing more from the public. "These are evolving ideas that we will continue to discuss as we move forward," said LMDC president Sidney Silverman.

Conte continued from page 3

prison authorities I see.

a laboratory in Champaign, Ill., headed by Patrick Arnold, who known for introducing the steroid expected to get probation at a later sentencing date.

Franc isco has said the plea deals were for introducing the steroid

Chemical agents were not banned at the

Still, authorities are now taking

run record.

in 1998 when St. Louis Cardinals slugger Mark McGwire said he used it when breaking baseball's home run record.

The Cal Poly Housing Corporation's Annual Audit has been completed for FY 2004-05.

Copies are available to the Public at the Foundation Administration Building #15.
MIAMI — Tropical Storm Wilma strengthened into a hurricane Tuesday on a path that could threaten storm-battered Florida, tying the record for the most hurricanes in an Atlantic season.

Wilma is the 12th hurricane of the season, the same number reached in 1969, the highest since record-keeping began in 1851. At 2 p.m. EDT,Wilma had top sustained winds near 80 mph, or 6 mph above the threshold for a hurricane.

Long-range forecasts show Wilma could hit western Cuba or Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula before heading into the Gulf of Mexico by Friday. The storm could also spare those countries while passing through the Yucatan Channel. Either way, computer models showed Wilma turning northward and bearing down on Florida during the weekend.

It is forecast to become a Category 3 hurricane with winds exceeding 111 mph by Thursday, forecasters said.

"It does look like it poses a significant threat to Florida by the weekend. Of course, these are four- and five-day forecasts, so things can change," said Dan Brown, a meteorologist at the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

Seven hurricanes have hit or crossed close to Florida since August 2004, causing damage estimated at more than $30 billion and killing nearly 150 people. Wilma was on a path that could threaten coastal areas in the southwest part of the state hit by Hurricane Charley last year.

In Punta Gorda, which was devasted by Charley, there was little Tuesday of preparation for Wilma but Dawn Andrews, a worker at Deep Creek Florist, said she already had emergency supplies like bottled water and canned food. "It's got nowhere else to go with- out hurting somebody," Andrews, 35, said of Wilma. "I have a 7-year-old who's petrified just because of everybody's been on TV I can't even watch it when he's around."

Wilma entered the history books Monday, becoming the Atlantic hurricane season's 21st named storm before dawn, tying the record set in 1933 and exhausting the list of storm names.

At 2 p.m. Tuesday, Wilma's center was about 180 miles south of Grand Cayman, or about 540 miles south of Key West, Fla. It was moving west-northwest near 8 mph.

The Gulf Coast was already but- tered this year by hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Dennis, while Emily hit Mexico. Areas devastated by Katrina will likely be spared by Wilma.
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"Is there always such a circus around you?"

It's 26, day two of the Rock En Seine Festival in Paris, France, and someone is about to die. Fans are lashing at fences, swaying dangerously with the groaning planks. Reporters are die. Fans are lunging at fences, with a soft resonance, in paradox words I've ever said to my hero.

Use for a Name, Me First and the Gimme Gimmes) but the newest member. Throughout the conference, he doesn't so much as exhale in steady recession.

Clearly, Grohl's the prize Fighter, and he'll do the talking. When I ask what each band member's favorite Foo song is, he replies, "In Your Honor" — it's my face, I love it. It's really powerful." The other musicians are cooed to answer, but they are elusive creatures; Hawkins cracks a joke about having to work with Grohl, as per contract, then they both adopt unidentifiable foreign accents and coo, "We ab coming to America, so whichever one you like."

Every press-savvy, Grohl deflects interest in his side projects. Most of the Stone Age, Bruce Springsteen and the Who. The Sun and more. The Sun is not hard, it's very hard," Hawkins, in his seat and, upon my encouragement to have a good show, looks up with tired eyes and sighs. They will — the Foo Fighters, sunset hour is poignant and precise, with a narcotic effect on most of the French sceneries, but Shiflett's invariable expression makes even more haunting on a megaphoned screen.

Maybe he doesn't like crepes. Regardless, the Foo's charisma still translated. When it comes to rock, they are arguably the reigning heavyweighters — and they're standing behind their man. For that day in Paris, and maybe for 10 more minutes, that's something worth fighting for.

Stacey Anderson is a journalism and music senior, KCBD DJ and February star Catch her Sunday from 7 to 8 p.m. and Monday from 2 to 4 p.m. on 91.3 FM. E-mail her at standre@csulbs.edu.

Jennifer Gongaware

SLO Brew is no longer. No more dim, candle-lined, bathroom with broken plumbing and a vacant upstairs on the weekends. With new owners and a fresh ambiance, the building has been transformed into Downtown Brew.

The previous owners are really good people, but they got tired after 18 years," assistant manager Natasha Williams said. "This building needs a lot of energy." The renovations took 10 to complete. All three of Downtown Brew's managers, including Williams, personally contributed manual labor to the project.

"We are not out to make money off these bands," Williams said. "Every dollar earned goes directly to the band." Larger acts will continue to perform as well, with the new owners working with Numbskull Productions to have all ages shows on Sundays and Mondays. O'Hagan said they are trying to leave the rest of the week for the 21 and over crowd in an effort to avoid the "awful cage" separation downstairs.

"The lounge area is a nice addition," Manager Jason O'Hagan said. "We put in around 14 hours a day sometimes more." Some of the tasks included installing new floors, a reworked sound system and clean, working bathrooms.

"I like the new feel of it," agribusiness senior Amy Wised said. "The lounge area is a nice addition." After a two-year absence, brewing has also returned to the building. Leading the operation is nationally recognized and award-winning Brewmaster Steve Courrier. He received several awards for his work with SLO Brew.

"When we have a brewmaster in the building, we have a leg up on other businesses," said O'Hagan. "Also, we have a guy who really good at it." In addition, with seven new plasma televisions and two projector screens, the upstairs has become a sports fan's paradise. Downtown Brew even purchased NFL Ticket and just about every other cable sports program. "If there's a game somebody wants, I'll do anything to get it." O'Hagan said. "I'll even order Pay-Per-View if I have to."

Downtown Brew is located at 1119 Garden St. View a list of upcoming shows and daily specials at downtownbrew.com.
Saddam trial will be test for Iraq’s new government

Hamza Hendawi
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Nearly two years after his capture, Saddam Hussein is finally facing trial for alleged crimes against fellow Iraqis. In some ways, Iraq also will be on trial, with the world watching to see whether in new ruling clan can rise above politics and prejudice and give the former dictator a fair hearing.

Saddam’s lawyer said Tuesday he would ask for a three-month adjournment at his client’s trial for a 1982 massacre, and challenge the court’s competence to hear the case. The trial was to begin on Wednesday.

Khalil al-Dulaimi’s comments appeared to suggest that his defense strategy will focus instead on the broader question of the legitimacy and competence of a court set up under U.S. occupation in 2003. Iraq formally became a sovereign nation again in June 2004, but the United States continues to wield vast influence.

Saddam and seven senior members of his regime are facing charges that they ordered the killing in 1982 of nearly 150 people in the mainly Shiite village of Dujail north of Baghdad after a failed attempt on the former dictator’s life.

Only months after the trial was to begin on Wednesday, the session was postponed, with the world watching to see if the former dictator will be given a fair hearing.

Many Iraqis, especially members of the Shiite majority and Kurdish minority — the two communities most opposed by Saddam’s 23-year reign — have also been eagerly awaiting the chance to see the man who ruled with unquestioned and total power in the defendants’ dock.

However, some Shiites were sympathetic toward Saddam on the eve of his trial.

“Shiites want to see Saddam dead. Is it possible to have a fair trial for Saddam?” said Najm, a Shiite from Baghdad’s Sadr City neighborhood, one of his sect’s holiest cities in Iraq.

“Shiites are being killed in suicide bombings.”

Others, however, were happy about what they view as a chance for retribution.

Mohammed Najm, whose brother disappeared after he was taken away by Saddam’s police a decade ago, said he wants to see Saddam dead.

“1 don’t want to treat Saddam with kindness. He is not a human being.”

Khalil al-Dulaimi, a lawyer for two of the defendants, had argued that the court lacked authority to hear the charges against them in the Dujail case, but it is unclear whether it will now be carried out.

If Saddam is convicted, the men face the death penalty — by hanging.

Prosecutors are preparing other cases to bring to trial against Saddam and his officials — including for the Anfal Operation, a military crackdown on the Kurds in the late 1980s that killed some 180,000 people; the suppression of Kurdish and Shiite revolts in 1991; and the deaths of 5,000 Kurds in a 1988 poison gas attack on the village of Halabja.

If a death sentence is issued in the Dujail case, it is unclear whether it would be carried out regardless of whether Saddam is involved in other trials. He can appeal a Dujail verdict, but if a conviction and sentence are upheld, the sentence must be carried out within 30 days. A stay could be granted to allow other trials to proceed.

However, Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari, a Shiite who actively opposed Saddam’s rule during years in exile, showed his eagerness to see any sentence carried out.

“We are not trying to land on the moon here,” he said Monday. “It’s enough (to try Saddam) on Dujail and Anfal. The tribunal is just and open, he has a defense lawyer and the verdict will match the crime.”

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Jimmy Ellis

...founding the new GRE test

Jennifer Ellis

...to graduate students.

Justin Pope

...to graduating assistants have a direct influence on students, and just $400 at community colleges.

UC Davis may offer new genital warts vaccine, pending FDA approval

The physical toll of a four-hour exam is daunting," said Brandon Kim, a third-year philosophy student, who says it is likely he will take the exam in the future.

College students apply to most graduate-level programs each year to take the GRE General Test, which measures critical thinking, quantitative and verbal reasoning, and writing ability. Those who apply to the graduate admission Web site.

ETS also noted that a new program is also required to take GRE Subject Tests to prove proficiency in specific subjects, including sciences, English literature, mathematics, physics and psychology.

The GRE General Test is administered by ETS, which also administers the SAT and Advanced Placement subject exams. ETS.

UC Davis joins schools that have felt the squeeze as the number of applicants to graduate programs has increased. The number of graduate students has increased 25 percent in the past decade.

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The GRE General Test is administered by ETS, which also administers the SAT and Advanced Placement subject exams. ETS.
A community challenge

The perpetual challenge facing thousands of Cal Poly students, and even those of our colleagues who live, work and raise families in San Luis Obispo, is how we respect and co-exist with profound differences in our lifestyles. Students have drastically different routines, habits and perceptions of time.

Mix these two scenarios with a late-night gathering and a couple refreshments, and you have the setting for a family home with young children and parents who leave for work early in the morning. How do we respectfully co-exist with people and communities who teach and/or study it.

The fact is that city officials are concerned with preserving the health and safety of the public, and maintaining everyone's right to party all night just isn't a top priority. It is unfortunate that students are frequently targeted by the police, but we invested a bit more of our energy into avoiding these encounters, the outcome would be dramatically different. Here are a few tips for avoiding a run-in with the SLOPD and boosting your image with your neighbors.

- Notify your neighbors in advance if you are planning a large gathering. Include your phone number so they can call you instead of the police if it gets too loud.
- Be a responsible host and make sure that the backyard is kept quiet during late-night hours. Unfortunately, your patio is probably next to their bedroom window.
- Don't be afraid to put an end to a gathering that has gotten out of control. A rumor that the police are on their way should do, but be sure that folks get home safely.
- It's not about us versus them — it's about a community working together.

Both sides need to be more understanding and tolerant, but my sense is that unless students make the first move to show that we're genuinely interested in enhancing our community and respecting our fellow residents, it's unlikely that we'll get the respect we deserve. This is our community challenge — are we ready for the task?

Tyler Middlestadt is the ASI president and a Mustang Daily columnist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A perfect duo

We need a wonderful discipline, and I have great respect for those who teach and/or study it. However, does Cal Poly really need a master's degree program in the discipline?

All the information I have gleaned from various news sources suggests that the nation's most desperate need is for more well-trained scientists and engineers. Cal Poly should concentrate on attracting and graduating more students in these areas. To the extent that we attract additional students here to study history, there will be less ability to continue to do so.

We considered one years ago and decided there were too many other places that could offer students a better experience.

Jay Devore
Professor and chair department of statistics

A perfect duo

A perfect duo

A perfect duo

A perfect duo

A perfect duo

A perfect duo

A perfect duo
**Men's soccer falls to UC Davis**

Buffy Burke  
**SPORTS**

Cal Poly men's soccer lost to UC Davis 1-0 Friday evening. Cal Poly's defense was kept busy by an aggressive Davis offense. This began with Davis Ahmad Halili's shot on goal, which was deflected by Cal Poly goalkeeper Jeremy Coupee. Cal Poly's defense attempted to force the forward to the outside of the field but were unable to execute. Halili, along with Davis midfielder Mariano Arna and Juan Hernandez, continued to make shots but were unsuccessful in the first half.

In the second half, Davis midfielder Nicholas Lind scored in the 73rd minute. Cal Poly was unable to recover, despite attempts by midfielders Moses Venegas and Abdul Scott. Davis head coach Dwayne Shaffer credited the win to preparation.

"Playing at Cal Poly is always tough because Wolfgang (Gartner) gets his men organized to play on a narrow field with the speed up front," Shaffer said. "We knew that was going to be a big factor based on our experience from last year."

UC Davis improved to 5-5-2 on the season with the win. Cal Poly then lost at UC Riverside 2-2 on Sunday, falling to 0-5 in Big West play. Cal Poly played the second half a man down after K.J. Leschen received a red card in the first minute of the second half.

The Mustangs' Chris Markwardt scored the first goal of the match off a header in the 59th minute. The lead wouldn't stand for long as the Highlanders scored eight minutes later on an own goal. Kyle Ochoa scored in the final minute of the match off a header in the 59th minute.

Frankly continued from page 12

There will be much hype surrounding the football game between No. 3 Cal Poly and No. 10 Montana this week, and rightfully so. But there's another big game brewing on the horizon that will be bated closer to home this weekend.

The lead wouldn't stand for long as the Highlanders scored eight minutes later on an own goal. Kyle Ochoa scored in the final minute of the match off a header in the 59th minute. The lead wouldn't stand for long as the Highlanders scored eight minutes later on an own goal. Kyle Ochoa scored in the final minute of the match off a header in the 59th minute.

Though neither Cal Poly nor UC Santa Barbara currently grace the volleyball national rankings, this weekend's game has all the makings of a timeless classic.

What's more, this is a geographic rivalry. Just two hours of coastline separate San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara. The rivalry might not possess the same fervor of Duke-North Carolina basketball, but it's still a big game on the schedule, and you can bet the Gauchos will be out in full force.

This game is also significant to the conference standings. If the Mustangs win, they will seize the last realistic chance to win the conference. For Santa Barbara, it's a game of relief and some breathing room at the top of the standings (though Long Beach will still sit at the helm). Cal Poly is radically out of contention if they lose on Saturday.

To be quite frank, this game is shaping up to be one of the most important games in the last two decades of Cal Poly volleyball, since the glory days in the early '90s when Cal Poly was the mecca of collegiate volleyball.

Strengthen before the team can win. The players believe. And now it's my turn. I'm jumping on the bandwagon. It's time to see Cal Poly for what it is: a blossoming volleyball program on the verge of Midwestern and unlikely comeback.

Would I travel two hours to watch this? I don't think so. But to see one of the most important games of the past two decades of Cal Poly volleyball, the answer is yes.

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No. 3 football fresh off bye week

Garrett Leight
MONTANA DAILY

Coming off its bye week and a dominating win against No. 16/17 ranked North Dakota State (4-2-1 Great West), the No. 3 Cal Poly (5-1, 3-0 Great West) football team looks forward to its next match-up Saturday against No. 9/10 Montana (4-2-2, 2-1 Big Sky) in Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

The No. 3 ranking is the highest the Mustangs have been ranked in Division I-AA. Last season the Mustangs were ranked as high as No. 5.

"Saturday's game is the most important game of the year so far for our game this week," head coach Rich Ellerson said. "Just like our game against North Dakota State was the most important game of the year at that time, because it's all that we can control.

The Mustangs have won five straight and are well on their way to defending their first Great West Football Conference championship with a 3-0 start in conference play this year. The Mustangs lone loss was at the hands of the Division I-A Troy University Trojans (2-4-1, 1-1 Sun Belt) in the first weekend of play.

In the Mustangs bye week, the team moved up six spots in both The Sports Network and ESPN/USA Today polls. The No. 3 ranking is the highest in Cal Poly football history.

"We don't pay attention to any of the ranking," assistant coach Gene McKeehan said. Ellerson added that although the high ranking is rewarding, it has no impact on what the team has to do to win week in and week out.

When the Mustangs take on the Grizzlies this Saturday they will be looking to thwart the team that has had much success against the Mustangs, winning all nine meetings the two teams have had since 1969. In the last five meetings since 1994, Montana, Mont., the Grizzlies have outscored the Mustangs 299-31.

However, under Ellerson, the Mustangs have given the Grizzlies much closer battles, yet still falling short in three meetings. The Grizzlies won the 2003 game 17-14 with a score late in the fourth quarter.

"We're not going to play hard because it's Montana but because we love to play the game," Ellerson said. "We don't treat this any different than any other game."

The Grizzlies lost earlier in the season to the Oregon Ducks (6-1, 3-1 Pac-10) and suffered a loss last weekend to Eastern Washington (4-2, 3-1 Big Sky). Last weekend's loss snapped the Grizzlies 16-game home winning streak.

The toughest part about this team is their venue environment," Ellerson said. "It's a loud stadium and their fans know when to make noise; if we can manage the noise we'll be alright."

The Mustangs are led this year by senior defensive end Chris Goceng, who was runner up in the 10th annual online voting for the Cal Poly Athletics Hall of Fame.

Beau Finato & Co. travel to No. 10 Montana on Saturday for a key non-conference game.

Frank Stranzel
SPORTS EDITOR

Would I travel two hours to watch a volleyball match? The old me would say, "You're joking, right?"

But that was before I witnessed Cal Poly's upset win over UC Santa Barbara on Sept. 24 at Most Gym. Since then, I've had a change of heart.

Whether it was the effortless, yet booming spikes of Vanessa Gilliam, the spirited and dynamic defense of Kristin Jackson or the casual but competitive nature of the team, I was drawn in.

After the game I asked Cal Poly's head coach Jon Stevenson if his team had a chance to win the Big West. Stevenson's response was much what I expected it to be. He was humble and realistic, though he cited the win as a landmark victory for the blossoming program, he disdained that either Long Beach State or UC Santa Barbara would be the champion this year.

And let's face it, Stevenson's assessment was probably right...at least for the moment. The Mustangs had a successful non-conference campaign, but lacked wins over big-name programs. Not to mention the team won just five matches last year. Who could have expected Cal Poly would be one game behind Gauchos with less than half of the season remaining?

Stevenson may have been wary of answering my question wholeheartedly at the beginning of the season, but he now talks of Saturday's game as a key game for the Mustangs. Stevenson thinks the team has a shot at beating the Gauchos again, and he thinks the team can beat the Big West next year, not three years down the line, but now.

There is something about this team, something that sparks an interest. This is a special team, a special story. Whether or not the team wins-out and, in doing so, earns the program's first conference title since 1984, this team will be remembered as successful.

And that brings us to this weekend...