MxPx rocks the Rec Center Saturday

IN DIVERSIONS, 12

Playoff spot on the line for Cal Poly football

IN SPORTS, 6

TODAY’S WEATHER

High 82°
Low 46°

TRANS GENDER AWARENESS

Michael Mellof, Mustang Daily

As an end to Transgender Week, GLBU members cross-dress in celebration of Drag Night.

Students gender-bend to celebrate Transgender Day

Jennifer Boudevin, Mustang Daily

At least one transgender individual is murdered each month in the United States. Transgender Remembrance Day, officially on Sunday, serves to raise awareness of the violence against those who did not conform to gender norms, said Stephen Cohen, a program coordinator at Cal Poly Pride Alliance.

This week, the Pride Alliance and GLBU (Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals United) raised awareness about transgenderism with several events in observance of Transgender Remembrance Day.

“The word ‘transgender’ is a broad term that describes all people who feel that their anatomical sex does not match their gender identity, and/or whose appearance and behaviors do not conform to the societal roles expected of their sex,” Pride Alliance Coordinator Katrina Maksimuk said.

“Many transgendered people prefer to steer away from gender role extremes and adopt an androgynous behavioral style, including both masculinity and femininity into their appearance,” she added.

The wide spectrum of transgendered people includes male-to-female transsexuals and female-to-male transsexuals as well as crossdressers, drag kings and drag queens.

“Many do not believe in gender as a binary, but see a continuum of possibilities between the extremes of traditional masculinity and traditional femininity,” Maksimuk said.

New comparative ethnic studies major opens eyes to other cultures

James Meller, Mustang Daily

The new comparative ethnic studies major, which will be offered in fall 2008, has caused a lot of excitement among many Cal Poly students.

Theater sophomore Kebie Milligan said she will switch into the new major.

“To have a major that encompasses everything I love learning about, taught by the faculty, I think is so amazing,” Milligan said.

“That adds the elements of college together: self discovery, discovery of others and supportive faculty.”

According to Fanny Chavez, an industrial engineer and ethnic studies minor senior, the ethnic studies classes already offered by the department are popular and difficult to get.

“There’s an interest definitely on this campus,” Chavez said. Although Charise Cheney, the ethnic studies department chair, said she has personally spoken to less than 10 students who have shown interest in switching into the major, she said there won’t be any lack of demand to fill the spaces comparative ethnic studies is allowing.

Admissions during the first year of the program will be limited to 12 internal transfers from other majors at Cal Poly.

In fall 2007, 15 new students will be accepted into the major. There will be three spots for internal transfers, 10 spots for incoming freshmen and two spots for external transfers from other universities.

Starting in fall 2008 and continuing through fall 2010, each year the major will see 13 new students.

Soccer coach contract not renewed

SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

Cal Poly’s men’s soccer coach Wolfgang Gartner has coached his final game for the Mustangs, ending a 28-year career as head soccer coach at the school.

Cal Poly director of athletics Alison Cone announced Thursday that Gartner’s contract would not be renewed for the 2006 season.

“I felt it was time to move the program in a different direction,” Cone said in a sports information report on www.gopoly.com. “I appreciate and acknowledge the commitment and dedication to the university that Wolfgang has had for so many years.”

Cone added that Cal Poly will begin a national search for Gartner’s replacement.

Gartner’s team posted a 6-14 overall record this season and finished 1-9 in Big West Conference play, snapping a 10-game losing streak with two victories in the final week.

Gartner coached the Mustangs for 26 seasons, compiling a 223-221 record with 55 ties. After an 11-7-2 campaign in 1998, Cal Poly has won just 36 of 130 matches.

Karen Velie, Mustang Daily

Of 100 dinners at a campus banquet Wednesday, less than 20 left the dinner feeling satisfied.

At the Hunger Banquet, participants were randomly assigned to one of four social classes and received a meal that represented their assigned socio-economic standing. Four attendees were designated as upper-class, 11 in upper middle class, 28 as lower-middle class and 57 as lower class.

“These numbers represent the actual economic realities of today’s world,” political science senior Tyler Bolender said. “The dinner is a simulation that represents the inequality of the world’s food supply.”

Waters seated the participants that represented the upper class at a linen-covered table complete with candlelight and crystal. Their table was guarded by students wearing camouflage military garb portraying the protection this portion of society is afforded.

Waters served the smallest group a steak dinner with soup, salad, roasted red potatoes and a dessert.

Banquet demonstrates world poverty, hunger
Transgender

Throughout the week, students may have seen the midriff display set up on Dexter Lawn in remembrance of those murdered.

Aliy training, a program that aims to eliminate heterosexism and homophobia on campus through education and awareness, was held on Tuesday as part of the week-long remembrance.

The program educates about LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered) individuals and their straight allies on what it's like to be LGBT and how it may affect one's educational experience.

"We define terms and offer suggestions on how to build a more inclusive vocabulary and create a more welcoming environment on campus," Cohen said.

"Participants are given a sticker for their office door, backpack, etc. that identifies them as an ally or designates a safer space for LGBT students.

Several trainings take place throughout the quarter, roughly once a month, with the next opportunity planned in February.

The week continued Wednesday night, with a dress-in-drag "Gender Bending Night" on campus, followed by a gender-bending dance fundraiser for TransCentralCoast at Tortilla Flats.

The peak of the week's events was the Remembrance Day Name Reading on Dexter Lawn Thursday.

"The Remembrance Day Name Reading is a memorial event where the names of murdered victims of anti-transgender hate crimes are read aloud, so we're reminded to keep fighting the prejudice and hate that has resulted in so many lost lives," Cohen said.

Nationally, the reading is in its seventh year. This is the second year it has been held at Cal Poly. More information, including the names of the murdered victims, can be found at www.gender.org/remembrance.

"Transgender 101," an opportunity to ask transgender panel members about their personal experiences, will be held from noon to 2 p.m. today, in room 216 in the University Union.

Hunger

continued from page 1

The 11 percent of the room designated as upper-middle class served themselves from a buffet stocked with hamburgers, garden burgers and French fries. They ate with plasticware at an institutional style table.

"The upper-middle class consume 70 percent of the world's grains," political science senior Jennifer Floyd said. "Overall, they live in a pleasant secure world."

The participants designated as lower-middle class, served themselves from a buffet that included tacos and rice. The students sat in chairs, but were not provided tables.

"This segment of society lives on the edge," Floyd said. "They often struggle to find food, water and shelter.""Floyd said. "They often struggle to find food, water and shelter."

The event was sponsored by Student Community Services, International Programs and Student World Assembly as part of International Education Week. Campus Dining donated the food and Student Community Services paid for the room rental.

All proceeds from the event were donated to the San Luis Obispo County Food Bank and Palos Verdes Without Borders.

Major

continued from page 1

admit three internal transfers, seven freshmen and five external transfers.

Some of Cherry's current students have expressed interest in trying to get the major before they graduate, but are finding themselves out of luck.

Since the major will not be offered until next fall, a few students who are currently enrolled as an ethnic studies minor will not be able to take all the required major courses to graduate on time. "In my specific situation, it's going to be a little too late for me," said business senior Adam Serafin, who added that he would have liked to pick up the major, but had the program been offered sooner. However, just having a minor in ethnic studies will benefit him as an individual and in his future career by making him a more well-rounded person, he said.

Erin Lutsko, a social science senior who is using a host of ethnic studies classes towards her degree concentration, has been waiting since she was a sophomore for the major to get approved. However, when she found out the major was not going to be available until fall 2006, Lutsko decided she couldn't switch majors because there wouldn't be a sufficient curriculum offered before she graduates. "The week continued Wednesday night, with a dress-in-drag "Gender Bending Night" on campus, followed by a gender-bending dance fundraiser for TransCentralCoast at Tortilla Flats.

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For more information, visit www.asi.calpoly.edu/government/

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"I think that, especially in the area we're in in a predominantly white community, not a lot of ethnicity, it will really help benefit the people in this community to study some things outside their area and bring some issues to light that maybe some people in this area don't even know are out there."

Audrey Ghislain, mission core
**THE FACE OF CAL POLY**

Name: Aquila Rose  
Year: senior  
Hometown: Paso Robles  
Major: animal science

**Favorites**

- **Type of music:** R&B  
- **Movie:** "Braveheart"  
- **Food:** Red grapes  
- **Places:** Outdoors, in the sunshine

**If You Could ...**

- could hook up with any celebrity: Angelina Jolie, because of her recent U.N. award
- do something beyond your current capabilities: Put an end to the war in Iraq
- here is your chance to ask out any person at Cal Poly, are you going to take it: Michael Fernandez—a dope revolutionary
- shout out: My lovely lady bumps at 210 Grand

**MERCED**

AP—Overcrowding has created a "toughing door" at a Merced County jail, leading to the release of nearly 100 inmates a month, the sheriff said.

Sheriff Mark Pazin will ask county leaders to add space for 100 more inmates at the $46-bed John Littorraca jail, about 10 miles south of Merced.

"We're long overdue," Pazin said Wednesday. "It's gut-wrenching for these commanders to release the best of the worst."

"This is not going to happen overnight, but we're working behind," he added.

**WASHINGTON**

AP—An influential House Democrat who voted for the Iraq war called Thursday for the immediate withdrawal of US troops from Iraq, another sign of growing unease at Congress about the conflict. "It is time for a change in direction," said Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., one of Congress' most hawkish Democrats.

"Our military is suffering, the future of our country is at risk. We cannot continue on the present course. It is evident that continued military action in Iraq is not in the best interest of the United States of America, the Iraqi people or the Persian Gulf region."

**GYEONGJU, South Korea**

AP—President Bush took a hardline stance against North Korea on Thursday, saying the U.S. won't help the communist nation build a civilian nuclear reactor to produce electricity until it dismantles its nuclear weapons programs.

With the nuclear showdown with North Korea at an apparent impasse, Bush and South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun put the communist regime on notice that it would not be allowed to keep its nuclear weapons programs.

"A nuclear-armed North Korea will not be tolerated," Roh said through a translator.
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Men's Basketball vs UC San Diego
7 PM at Mott Gym  HOME OPENER

Women's Basketball vs CS Los Angeles
4:30 PM  HOME OPENER

Cal Poly Football vs Idaho State
6 PM at Mustang Stadium  COMPETING FOR
THE NCAA GREAT WEST PLAYOFF SPOT

Cal Poly Volleyball vs UC Davis
7 PM at Mott Gym  FINAL HOME GAME

Men's Basketball vs San Jose State
2 PM at Mott Gym
Playoffs or bust for Mustangs

Erick Smith

The football team’s regular season comes to a close tomorrow with senior night taking place before the Mustangs match-up against Idaho State in Mustang Stadium at 7 p.m.

This week, Cal Poly (7-3, 4-1 Great West) moved up two spots in the national rankings to No. 13 after defeating Southern Utah 20-10 last Saturday. The Mustangs galloped higher in the polls for the second time in as many weeks since falling to No. 10 after a loss to UC Davis in the “Horseshoe Classic” on Oct. 29.

Coming off two consecutive wins, the Mustangs look to finish the season on a winning note against the Bengals, a program which until last year held a four-game winning streak over the Mustangs. Cal Poly put the losses skid to an end with a 35-20 victory last season in Pocatello, Idaho.

In the 14 previous games, the Mustangs hold an 8-6 series advantage against Idaho State.

The two teams share five common opponents this season in Southern Utah, Eastern Washington, Montana State, Montana and Sacramento State. In those games, the Mustangs’ only loss came at the hands of Montana 27-36 while the Bengals lost to Montana 10-32 and Montana State 28-36.

Offensive redshirt freshmen have stepped up this season to make their presence felt as running back James Noble, quarterback Matt Brennan and wide receiver Ramires Barden are leading the way.

Noble has topped the 1,000-yard rushing mark and he did it while sitting out for games against Troy State and UC Davis. He currently has a 7.6-yard per carry average and a total of 1,057 yards. He has also reached the endzone six times.

Brennan averages 77.7 yards per game in six appearances this season having started half those games. He has amassed 466 yards, has thrown for three touchdowns and four interceptions.

Holding down the Mustangs’ defense is senior defensive end Chris Goccong and junior linebacker Kyle Shorwell. They will have to contend with the Bengals’ dual rushing attack that has improved upon last season’s 70 yards per game average by nearly doubling the number to an average of 161.5 yards per game.

The Bengal’s running attack is led by Josh Barnett and Kevin Cornist. Both players have an equal amount of touches, 154, this season but Barnett has 840 yards and four touchdowns while Cornist has 712 yards and 13 touchdowns.

Idaho State’s sophomore quarterback Matt Hagler will also challenge a Mustang defense that has surrendered an average of 217 yards a game. Hagler has thrown for 1,820 yards and completed 153 of 273 passes. He has thrown more interceptions (14) than touchdowns (8) this season.

Wrapping up the regular season at home will mean 13 Mustangs will play their final regular season game with Cal Poly.

PHOTOS BY
SHEILA
SOBCHIK AND
MICHAEL
MULLADY
MUSTANG DAILY

Great West Football Conference Standings

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No. 13 Cal Poly
Conference: Great West
Record: 7-3, 4-1
Last week: Beat Southern Utah 20-10
Next week: Playoffs or bust

Idaho State
Conference: Big Sky
Record: 5-5, 3-4
Last week: Lost 42-28 to Northern Arizona
Next week: N/A
Karl Ivory is a former Cal Poly cornerback who finished up his eligibility last year. He has shed his helmet and pads for a pen and notebook as a special football analyst for the Mustang Daily. Here is what “Coach K” has to say about this week’s match-up.

Quick Recap: By land, air and defense, the Mustangs were able to overcome an early 10-0 deficit and score 20 unanswered points. The land attack was anchored by another 100-plus yard performance by James Noble and saw the Mustangs gain 257 in total. Meanwhile, Matt Brennan threw for a season-high 213 yards, connecting with Ramses “The Giant” Marden nine times for 104 yards to complete the air attack. The Mustangs followed that up with tenacious defensive play that saw nine sacks and two interceptions.

This week brings a familiar team that two years ago shattered any hopes of a playoff dream when Chris Peterson was stopped one-yard short on fourth and goal of a game-winning touchdown. This year is no different: same team, same situation. A win this Saturday will all but wrap up a playoff berth for the Mustangs.

Cal Poly offense vs. Idaho State defense
After two weeks straight of having over 400 yards of offense, it’s important to maintain that momentum. Even though Cal Poly had 470 yards, they were only able to score two touchdowns. If Cal Poly wants to go deep in the playoffs, they’re going to have to finish drives. Idaho State is giving up 20.0 points a game and at the bottom of the Big Sky Conference in pass defense, but at the top in rush defense, giving up 220 yards in the air and 100 yards on the ground, respectively.

Look for Noble to continue his onslaught on the ground with Brennan finding Marden a few times.

Cal Poly defense vs. Idaho offense
How do you top a nine-sack performance? Last week was a dominating performance by the defensive line. This week they will have to be just as dominant. Idaho State had 60 pass attempts last week and will probably need to do just that this week. The Bengals have nine touchdown passes with 18 interceptions, and that’s not exactly what you might call dangerous. So the pressure is once again on the secondary to prove that they can stop someone.

If Aaron Williams is healthy enough to play, that will make things a lot easier.

Look for the “Big Three” (Chris Gocong, Chris White and Matt Checherek) to rack up another nine sacks, which would force Idaho State into a lot of picks. Kyle Shotwell should have another big game and tick up 13-plus tackles. And I predict a score from the defense.

What’s that? It’s time for the secondary to step up while the linemen continue to dominate.

Coach “K” Predicts: Cal Poly wins 35-21

One final note: Congrats to all the seniors. It was an honor to play with you and it’s been even better watching you play this season. Stay together, and believe.

Musty wants YOU to VOTE!

The “Best For” Cal Poly edition is coming.

Print out a copy of your vote from our website and drop it by the Mustang Daily for a chance to win a $50 McLintock’s gift certificate!
Don't turn the page in reaction to what we are about to tell you. We love carbs! And so you too will learn to embrace the wonderful world of carbohydrates. There we said it, now was that a bit harsh? If you know the topic is a bit scary for some to talk about, let alone swallow, but with the millions of Atkins diet followers, someone needed to show some love for carbohydrates.

Since the days of fast diets like Atkins and South Beach, many people have been avoiding carbohydrates like the plague. Carbohydrates are nutrients in foods that provide energy in the form of sugar for our bodies. In foods, they exist in two forms as simple and complex carbohydrates. Simple carbohydrates are easily and quickly digested in the body and identified by their sweet taste. Also known as sugars, simple carbohydrates are found in many processed foods such as cookies and cakes and anything that has added sugar.

The second group is complex carbohydrates. These carbohydrates are mostly starches and whole grains, they are pleasant to taste, but are not instantly sweet. Foods in this group are typically high in fiber, including the germ and bran of the grain kernel. They take the body longer to digest and help you feel full. They are found in whole grains or whole grain products such as whole wheat bread, brown rice and veggies.

So now that we have a handle on what carbs are, let's talk about why many of you are still frantically running away from the bread aisle at the grocery store. Could it be that you are terrified of putting on a pound with every carb you eat? That's okay! You're not alone! Eating carbs will not make you any fatter than will overindulging in any other particular food. Any other reasons, you ask? Well, because you need energy, that's why. But wait, there's more! Carbohydrates are the preferred fuel of your body's muscles and your brain needs them every day.

Carbs are no longer a four-letter word

Middletown has a good point

As much as I may have disliked his predecessor's agenda and as much as I may dislike this one's seeming reticence about said agenda, and even as much as I may be pained by his likely run weekly in the Middletown Daily, the guy has a point. We do have a driving problem. I live a few doors away from Franklin and I have a surprising number of neighbors with Cal Poly parking permits hanging from their rearview mirrors. Who knows, maybe all those people are handi­cap­ped and need the reliability and independ­ence an automobile pro­vides, but if so, the evidence suggest­ing that contingency is, well, elusive. I guess I I really know about the matter is that if I raced against myself, the race on a bicycle would definitely last me longer than in a car. And then there's that obvious monetary advantage to a bicycle too.

Rishon Seiden
Arts & entertainment editor

Students need more parking, not alternative has­ses

I'm writing in response to ASI president Taylor Middletown's com­mentary about alternative transpor­tation solving parking prob­lem on campus. Middletown's stance against building a parking structure and or new parking lot, along with not making cheaper parking permit prices, is ridiculous. Paying $255 a year to circle a parking lot searching for a space is outrageous. I agree with Middletown that rid­ing your bike or taking the bus is definitely cheaper, but it is not always the most efficient or reason­able means of getting to school. Take the students who have to work between classes. The bus schedule is not going to correspond to their work schedule or job location. Also, riding a bike is out of the question. If you are lazy, if work or residence is too far from campus. Plus with winter upon us, fewer and fewer students will resort to the bicycle with the heavy Central Coast rains and early sun­sets. This will make the parking lots even more crowded.

Tyler may want the student body to conform to the way he would like things to be. But seeing as he is the ASI president, it seems he should try to be more in touch with the needs of the students he represents. If it is a nice day I'll ride my bike to school. However when it rains I am going to want a parking space for the $255 permit I paid for.

Michael Macela
Director and agricultural engineering supplement

Dear Scott Nordholm,

The following text is taken from a transcript of Osama Bin Laden's videos he sent just before the 2004 election. Enjoy. Oh, and please don't share your ideas or opinions anymore. The world will be a better place without them.

BIN LADEN (THROUGH TRANSLATOR): "When America allowed the heads to RGB Lebanon, the sixth American fleet helped to kick the ass. And during that difficult time many feelings went through me, which was difficult for me, but it has resulted in creating a feeling of rejection of oppression and to try to take revenge against the oppressors. And as a result of seeing these towns, destroyed towns in Lebanon, I started to think, and thought to destroy towns in America, too, so that they may taste what we have tasted and as they have killed our children and women." Did you get that Scott? I think what Osama was trying to say is that he disregarded of our involvement in the Israeli vs. Palestine and Israeli vs. Lebanon conflicts, and not because "we're successful, because we treat women with dignity, and most importantly because we support democracy in the face of oppression all over the world." If you were cor­rect in your assumptions, which you aren't, I'd hate to see the terrorist backlash if we were to allow gays to get married. I'm sure they just despise gays. But I say that I am glad you treat women with dignity, because that isn't a quality you find too often in our own society. I-1-2-3, and we do let them vote, but that is just to keep them from taking off their headscarves.

Leonard Bessemer
Art and design editor

Soccer success depends on fans, too

Is everyone on the men's soccer team not a Cal Poly fan? One critical opinion on our terrible coach Wolfgang (and yes I say "our" because he is a representative of Cal Poly of which I am affiliated) and Mr. Weid gets a little rise up. First of Mr. Boggis' letter was an attack on the coach and not the play­ers. I know the players work extremely hard every day, training and conditioning as well as attending school, but your dismal record (8-14-10 conference) does not show any justice to your effort. Cal Poly has posted a pitiful 12-7-3 record in conference play losing the Big West in 2001, hadn't had a winning season since 1998 (barely), has never made the playoffs, and hasn't made the playoffs since 1995. The common denominator through all of these terrible seasons has been one person: Wolfgang Marguerre. Maybe you could beat an intramural team even though you had a better record than Cal Poly has had in 30 straight rough seasons. Secondly, implying that Mr. Boggis is not a Cal Poly fan is not true. Wolfgang (and yes I say "our" because he is a representative of Cal Poly) is not a fan loyal enough to take the time to take action for his discon­tent because he cares about the team. If Cal Poly gets more fans going to games like Mr. Boggis, things might change so the men's soccer program won't experience these same seasons again.

Jason Shapiro
Arts & entertainment editor
It's the glue that's Crazy, Not Me

Deep inside intestines lined with freedom crimes, she's reaching in.

Searches far and wide for nothing at all; shaking hands where pad met lead.

A breath she took, one that you can't hold.

Pretty pain it don't feel good, but she made you feel again.

She made you feel again.

The curves are smooth with a jagged edge.

Breathing faws on segafads.

She stuck to you.

— Seth Kallman
Construction management junior
Mountains provide challenge and inspiration

Cal Poly Symphony celebrates the fall season at Harman Hall

Jennifer Boudevin

The halls of San Luis Obispo will be alive with the sound of music as the Cal Poly Symphony celebrates the music of its fall concert.

The symphony begins in 2005-06 season at 8 p.m. this Saturday with a performance entitled "Inspired" in Mountains in Harman Hall in the Performing Arts Center's Christopher Cohen Center.

Led by symphony director David Arrivée, the symphony will perform "Fanfare" from La Peri, by Paul Dukas, Symphony No. 2, Beethoven. The "Fanfare" piece offers an opportunity to showcase the symphony's brass component, "I learned to highlight (the brass) section of the composition because they often play such a supporting role in symphonic repertoires," Arrivée said.

The latter two pieces are both highly imaginative musical responses to nature, he explained, and celebrate both composers' affinities for the natural world.

Mastering the complicated pieces was no easy task for the symphony, but Arrivée has confidence in their upcoming performance.

"I think they've done a great job rising to the challenges of both pieces," he said. "After all, tackling difficult repertoire and expanding one's sense of musical styles is highly rewarding, and that's what the symphony is all about."

— DAVID ARRIVEE
Cal Poly Symphony Director

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Don’t ‘Panic,’ MxPx rocks

Mariana Mendes

Don’t know what MxPx stands for? Well, that means one of two things: you’re not a fan or you’re not looking hard enough. Either way, don’t ask Mike, Tom or Yuri—they’ve been asked the question thousands of times. Instead, save your breath for something like “You guys rock” or “One more song” chants because the Bremerton, Wash, trio is making its way down to Cal Poly’s Recreation Center tomorrow.

Promoting their newest album “Panic,” which hit stores over the summer, bassist and lead singer Mike Herrera, guitarist Tom Wiceniewski and drummer Yuri Ruley have been on the road since early October for their “Panic with a K Tour” accompanied by Relient K and Rufio.

“I’ve been looking forward to this tour since the beginning of the Warped Tour,” he said. “The shows have been awesome and obviously, it’s been fun to hang out with Relient K and Rufio.”

It’s particularly weird — a good word — for MxPx to share the stage with Ohio band Relient K.

“The guys from Relient K, they’ve been fans of our band for a really long time so it’s kind of funny. They’ll ask us questions like, ‘Hey man, I don’t mean to bug you, but ... And it’ll be questions that they’ve always wanted answers to for a long time,” Ruley said, laughing. “It’s an interesting position to be where you’re not even 30 years old and there’s people that are like, ‘Ah man, you guys are so great.’”

Then again, after nearly 14 years as a band, co-headlining with fan-turned-tour-buddies who remember listening to “Chick Magnet” and “Responsibility” during fourth period was bound to happen.

But concert-goers be warned the band’s age is just a number.

Ruley, who mentioned MxPx just passed its “13th birthday,” said that though they’ve played numerous concerts — big and small — the band always strives to be “not too stuffy. So one thing’s for sure, MxPx is expecting fans to scream, sing and scream some more.

“We’ve incorporated a lot more audience participation through some of our ‘classic’ songs so there’s a couple of parts in the set that’s heavily dependent upon the audience,” he said. “The crowd can kind of make or break (the concert).”

And throughout the tour, Ruley said this technique has paid off.

“People have come up to us after shows and tell us ‘It’s so awesome’ and that it makes a big difference. And it really does because you don’t want to go to a show where you’re basically listening to a CD live and have the guys in the band never say a word. You want to feel some personal interaction,” he said. “And we’ve always done that, but I think we’re just understanding how much more important it is now that it ever has been for us.”

As Ruley explained, “Panic” is comparable to the band’s older albums such as “Life in General” (1997, Tooth and Nail) and “Slowly Going the Way of the Buffalo” (1998, Tooth and Nail).

“Basically, we kind of went back to the way we used to make records, which was really fast — get in the studio, with the songs pretty much done and just get some passed-out-out of the instruments and go,” Ruley said.

Before, on some of our records, we’d spend months and months, taking them and after a while that becomes a drag. ‘We lost sight of the end product’ and you just go out of your mind, so we thought this perfect cop record.”

So for MxPx, it was all about going back to the basics. For instance, Ruley said there were a couple of songs that were literally written and recorded on the spot.

“A couple of the songs that were harder, and when it was appropriate, like ‘Get Me Out’ and ‘The Darkest Places,’ those were banged out in one shot,” Ruley said.

The band even experimented with its recording style.

“The one song ‘Get Me Out,’ Mike had this cheap mic that he just held in his hand ... (so) the mic kinda popped and the vocals had differing volumes,” he said.

Ruley admitted, however, that the band dubbed extra tracks on a few of their more poppy songs like “Wrecking Hotel Rooms,” but emphasized they didn’t do anything outrageous.

“The cool thing about doing a record that way, when you go to play the songs live, they’re very natural,” he said. “In the past, songs where we did a lot of extra stuff on it and then tried to incorporate that in a live set, it was kinda awkward ... With ‘Panic’ it’s very natural; the songs are easy to translate live, which is cool.”

Speaking of translation, however, Ruley said listeners shouldn’t expect to find any answers in many of the songs on “Panic.”

“I think we’re living in a time right now where people are asking a lot of questions like, ‘What’s going on with the world? And what’s love? And life?’ So I think it was really easy to draw from the world climate politically right now, and in the past couple of years,” Ruley said. “There’s a lot of songs that ask: What happens? What do we do with the lives that we’ve given? And a lot of the questions just go unanswered.”

What can be answered, however, is what diehard fans are wondering: Will year 14 be MxPx’s last?

“I don’t think so,” he said. “We’ve been doing it so long it’s hard to think of the end! I mean, I’ll come some day, but right now we’re really just focusing on getting out and getting this record heard around the world ... That’s what we are, a live band — we just like to get out and play.”

MxPx is taking its “Panic with a K Tour” to Cal Poly’s Recreation Center tomorrow.

The all-ages show begins at 7 p.m. and features bands Relient K and Rufio.