Cal Poly supports city in Mardi Gras efforts

Liz Soteros-McNamara
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly students opened their e-mail accounts Monday night and found a message from the university regarding Mardi Gras.

Vice President for Student Affairs Corniel Morton sent out an e-mail informing students that Cal Poly supports the city of San Luis Obispo's campaign for a quiet Mardi Gras weekend.

"Your responsible behavior during the Mardi Gras 2005 showed everyone that Cal Poly students care for this community, and for the safety of their own neighborhoods. We urge you to demonstrate that care, concern and responsible citizenship again this year," Morton said in the e-mail.

Morton commented on the e-mail and said, "The vast majority of students are respectful and want to represent the university positively."

Each year fewer students remember the incident on California and Foothill Boulevards in February 2004. In the two years since the riot that was broadcasted on CNN, many students who remember the event have graduated and new students are left wondering what actually happened.

"There was a riot?" asked Sham Kervilla, a business sophomore, when questioned if he had heard anything about Mardi Gras before coming to Cal Poly.

Even 2005's "Poly Gras" has slipped into an ancient past for some students.

Students who remember the riot can understand Cal Poly's endorsement of a Mardi Gras fire-free weekend.

"I'm in support of controlling Mardi Gras if that is what is best for the city," said Matt Hensch, a graphic communication junior, admired the display as he studied for a midterm next to one of the pieces Wednesday. By understanding the basic tactics for designs that hold strong structural capabilities, students become one step closer in their quest to some day design full-scale buildings.

Design on Dexter

Passing by Dexter Lawn recently, students may have noticed a variety of interesting structures scattered about. The display, a project the members of Professor Michael Betwicik advanced structural systems class took on, was designed to help students understand the complexity of full-scale buildings by creating smaller unconventional designs using strings. Befar Vistantion, a graphic communication junior, admired the display as he studied for a midterm next to one of the pieces Wednesday. By understanding the basic tactics for designs that hold strong structural capabilities, students become one step closer in their quest to some day design full-scale buildings.

House vote cuts federal student aid

Tyrese Dixon
MUSTANG DAILY

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — In a 214-212 vote, the U.S. House of Representatives voted Wednesday to pass a bill cutting $12 billion to the federal student loan program which means if President Bush signs the bill into law — as he is expected to — university students with federal loans may have to pay more to come to school.

The Budget Reconciliation Bill had already been approved by the Senate. Bush said in a statement he plans to sign the bill into law and will propose in next week's budget to continue the spending cuts.

The cut is the largest in the history of the federal loan programs, which fund student loans among other things, said Luke Swarthout, the higher education associate at the State PIRG for Higher Education.

If the president passes the bill, parents who take out federal student loans for their children will have to pay higher interest rates — including a 6 percent interest rate increase for parents.

"As I said last night, keeping America competitive requires us to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars," the president said in a statement on the House's passing of the bill.

But some think the bill will only feed the pockets of the wealthy because it includes a $70 billion tax cut.

"We call on President Bush to uphold the commitment to American economic competitiveness that he made in the State of the Union address by vetoing this bill and pushing for more affordable student loan policy," Swarthout said.

But the bill would direct some of the loan cut funds back to students through student grants in math, science and foreign language.

The bill would also lower student interest rates over the next five years in an attempt to even out the strain on students who take out loans by implementing a 6.8 percent cap for student interest rates. The current maximum interest rate is 8.25 percent.

Junior education major Michelle Rivas said she thinks the bill will only discourage poor students from going to college.

"I am really angry about this," said Rivas, who currently receives federal student loans. "I think it's stupid that they're implementing No Child Left Behind to improve people's chances of going to college when they can't even afford to go."

Rivas said it is discouraging for students who have no way to pay for college.

"The motivation factor isn't going to be there," Rivas said.
Study finds little difference in success between MBA, undergraduate degree

Tali Yahalom  

DAILY PENNSYLVANIAN (U. PENN)

PHILADELPHIA — An MBA degree may not provide much of a boost in getting to the top, according to a recent study. The study, conducted at Pace University’s Lubin School of Business, indicated that top business executives with an MBA are not necessarily more successful than their colleagues with only an undergraduate degree.

PACE professors Aron Gottesman and Matthew Morey put together a list of companies in the New York Stock Exchange and reviewed their CEO’s academic background. Gottesman and Morey analyzed the company’s performance over two years and found no significant difference in success rates between CEOs with graduate degrees and CEOs without.

And while those who have graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School’s undergraduate program earn almost as much money as MBA alumni, Wharton administrators still say that comparing the two programs is like comparing apples and oranges.

“An MBA can be invaluable to a student who wants to improve his (or) her business knowledge, but only a Wharton undergraduate alumni do just fine without ever going on for an MBA,” Barbara Hewitt, Wharton’s associate director of Career Services said.

Hewitt has compiled data that seems to coincide with the Pace study’s results. In her most recent survey, conducted in 1996 and 1997, she found that the average salary of a Wharton undergraduate alumna was $93,699 per year. For a graduate with an MBA, it was $95,132.

In addition, while 36.6 percent of undergraduate alumni went on to earn an MBA, 35.8 percent pursued careers with only a bachelor’s degree, Hewitt found.

Wharton undergraduates are offering explanations for the relatively small salary gap.

“Wharton seniors are not competing in the same job market as MBAs for the most part,” Wharton and engineering junior Daniel Panzer said. “Undergraduates go for analyst positions and they get on one track of advancement [while] MBAs go for associate positions,” he added.

Still, Gottesman and Morey acknowledge that the real variable in determining success is raw business acumen and the amount of natural talent an individual possesses.

Although having an MBA may not be the last word on success in business -- or even be a consideration for an undergraduate seeking a job -- Wharton officials still place a high worth on the school’s MBA program.

“I really believe that an MBA adds value above and beyond,” said Thomas Calel, director of MBA Admissions and Financial Aid. “It’s important to realize that nobody is saying that getting an MBA is going to make you successful. It’s what you do with your MBA that makes you successful.”

Study finds university graduates lack basic life skills

John Gunn  

DAILY MISSISSIPPI (U. MISSISSIPPI)

OXFORD, Miss. — A recent study done by CNN states that a degree from a four-year university doesn’t necessarily mean that graduates understand everyday life skills.

The study said more than 50 percent of four-year university graduates and at least 75 percent of two-year college graduates don’t have the basic knowledge to do things such as compare credit card interest rates or grasp the arguments in newspaper editorials.

“The study did say that most students at two- and four-year colleges showed intermediate skills and could complete tasks such as locating graphs or bank statements more difficult than they are designed to be.”

Mark Calloway, an Ole Miss education major from Oxford, Miss. The study did say that most students at two- and four-year colleges showed intermediate skills and could complete tasks such as locating graphs or bank statements more difficult than they are designed to be. Students did the worst on subjects containing math. Close to 20 percent of students who attend four-year colleges were found to have basic quantitative skills.

Basic was defined by the study as being able to do things such as estimate their car’s gas mileage, complete a life skills class where they would learn the key skills needed for everyday life,” the assistant to the dean for undergraduate programs at the University of Mississippi, Sue Hodge said.

The National Assessment of Adult Literacy was given in 2003 to a sample of 1,827 students at public and private schools.

The survey was focused on college students who were close to the requirements for their particular field of study and had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

The study can be found on CNN’s Web site.

WHO SAID THAT?

Dignity comes not from control, but from understanding who you are and taking your rightful place in the world.
— Real Live Preacher (Real Live Preacher weblog from May 1, 2005)

Most people would rather be certain they're miserable than risk being happy.
— Robert Anthony

Wordly Wise

Raconteur: One who excels in telling stories and anecdotes.

BREAKING NEWS
UPDATED AT THE SPEED OF COLLEGE LIFE
www.mustangdaily.net

Friday, February 3, 2006

W H O  S A I D  T H A T ?

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Name: Christy Greco • Year: senior
Hometown: Trabuco Canyon • Major: business

Favorites
Beer: Heineken
Song: "I Want You," by Third Eye Blind.
Pastime: Spending time with Mercedes.
TV Show: "Charmed"
Food: French fries
Bar: Black Sheep

If You Could ...
— go anywhere in the world, where would you go and why?
Italy, because of my heritage.
— meet anyone, who would it be and why?
Britney Spears, so I could tell her to get some class back.
— go to any concert, which and why?
The Honorary Title.

Other
Shout out: To my home girls at Corner and to Sampson and Jose at Tassajara.

Cal Poly

Name: Christy Greco • Year: senior
Hometown: Trabuco Canyon • Major: business

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To advertise, contact Taiga at 756.1143 or e-mail advertising@mustangdaily.net

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Sundays @ 5 pm
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San Luis Obispo
805.543.7580
www.sloumc.com

Agape
San Luis Obispo
Sunday 8:45 am & 10:30 am
Wednesday 7:00 pm
(805) 541-0777
959 Lauter Lane
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Come Celebrate Life!

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Front Porch is for
The people of The United Methodist Church

I think of you every day.
Love always, God

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President to send Congress $439.3 billion defense budget

Lola C. Baldor
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Bush next week will request a $439.3 billion Defense Department budget for 2007, a nearly 5 percent increase over this year, according to senior Pentagon officials and documents obtained Thursday by The Associated Press.

The spending plan would include $84.2 billion for weapons programs, a nearly 8 percent increase, including billions of dollars for fighter jets, Navy ships, helicopters and unmanned aircraft. The total includes a substantial increase in weapons spending for the Army, which will get $166.8 billion in the 2007 budget, compared with $155 billion this year.

Senior defense officials provided the totals on condition of anonymity because the defense budget will not be publicly released until Monday. The figures did not include spending for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which the Bush administration said Thursday would total $120 billion for 2006.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld would not provide any details of the budget Thursday but called it appropriate, adding: "We have been able to find the important things that are needed. It is a sizable amount of money."

The budget proposal represents the fifth year in a row that spending on weapons has increased, after years of cutbacks during the 1990s.

It also provides funding for 42 Army Brigade Combat Teams as part of the ongoing effort to increase the number of combat units from 33. The expansion would allow soldiers to spend two years at their home station for every year they are deployed to a war front.

Overall, the Army would receive $111.6 billion, including $42.6 billion for personnel. The Army National Guard would receive about $35.35 billion for personnel, and the Army Reserves would receive $3.4 billion.

The documents say the budget plan will provide the funding needed to win the long war on terror, recruit and retain troops, and continue the transformation to a more agile fighting force for the 21st century.

The Army's key weapons programs, including the Future Combat System, will be funded at $2.2 billion, and the Army budget would buy nearly 3,100 more heavily armored Humvees. The budget also includes near-term efforts to design and purchase transport vehicles built by General Dynamics Land Systems.

Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., who announced Thursday, Rumsfeld said the Pentagon is learning to do more with less.

"We are finding ways to operate that department in ways that are considerably more efficient and more productive," Lugar, a "deliberate" doer, said. "We are getting much more for the dollar today than we were five years ago."

In other budget programs, the Air Force will receive about $2.2 billion for fighters this year — slashing the 2006 total nearly in half. The drop in funding, however, is actually a contract restructuring that will return that money — and more — over the long run by stretching out the program for an additional two years and buying four more planes.

Iran issue 'reaching a critical phase'

George John
ASSOCIATED PRESS

VIENNA, Austria — Iran threatened to retaliate Thursday in the face of almost certain referral to the U.N. Security Council of its nuclear activities, and the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency said the dispute was "reaching a critical phase.

Ahead of a decision by the IAEA's 35-nation board, U.S. and European delegates turned to behind-the-scenes diplomacy to build the broadest possible support for report­ ing Iran to the council over concerns it is seeking nuclear weapons.

Cuba, Venezuela, Syria and a few other nations at odds with Washington remained opposed. India was said to be leaning toward referring support.

Diplomats accredited to the meeting said backing for Iran had shrunk among the U.N. nuclear watchdog's board since Russia and China swung their support behind referral at an official meeting with the United States, France and Britain — the other three permanent council members — that started Monday.

"There is a solid majority in favor of reporting," Gregory L. Schulte, the chief U.S. delegate to the IAEA, told The Associated Press. "There's even a more solid majority after Monday."

State Department spokesman Sean McCormick said the number of nations expected to vote against reporting were in the "low to single digits."

Iran remained defiant. In a last-minute statement Monday, the Iranian nuclear negotiator told IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei that his country would "continue its efforts in favor of reporting," Gregory L. Schulte, the chief U.S. delegate to the IAEA, told The Associated Press. "There's even a more solid majority after Monday."

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Iranian lawmakers on Wednesday, issued a statement of "deep disapproval" of the U.S. "oppressive" actions and "unreasonable" demands.

Iran has made such threats before. What was significant this time, however, was new warnings were in the form of a formal notification to the head of the IAEA.

As Thursday's meeting adjourned, European diplomats intensified efforts to widen support for a European draft resolution that calls for the IAEA to be brought before the council.

ElBaradei said there was a "window of opportunity to defuse the crisis, stressing that even if the issue is referred, the Security Council would have time to take up the issue before next month.

"We are reaching a critical phase but it is not a crisis," he said.

U.S. helicopter fires rockets into Baghdad's Sadr City; five U.S. troops killed in attacks

Siman Salaheddin
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A U.S. helicopter fired rockets into a crowded Shiite neighborhood of eastern Baghdad on Thursday, killing a young woman, after the aircraft was fired on, the U.S. command said. The military also said five U.S. troops died in separate attacks.

A roadside bomb killed three U.S. soldiers south of Baghdad on Thursday, while a fourth soldier died the same day from wounds sustained in a small-arms fire attack in the capital's southwestern district, the military said. A U.S. Marine was fatally wounded Wednesday during combat near the western city of Fallujah.

The deaths were the first among U.S. personnel since Jan. 28 and took the total of U.S. military fatalities to 2,247 since the war began in 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

Thursday's early morning attack in the vast eastern Baghdad area of Sadr City damaged several houses and cars, and both residents and Shiite politicians condemned the U.S. attack as revenge and provocation.

The U.S. military said the exchange of fire took place at about 1 a.m. as troops were pursuing a "known terrorist associated with Asad al-Sumad," a Sunni militant group that has claimed responsibility for suicide attacks and beheadings.

"As troops were leaving an area in a U.S. military helicopter, men on a nearby rooftop began firing at the aircraft," said military spokesman Sgt. Stacy Samon. "The helicopter returned fire with guns and rockets."

The military had no details on casualties, but Sadr City resident Abdul-Hussein Shanaoof said his 20-year-old daughter, Khlas Abdul- Hussein, was killed. Shanaoof was also wounded, along with another woman and a 2-year-old child.

Footage showed Shanaoof's house with a large hole blasted through its roof and rubble scattered inside.

"At night, the aircraft bombed this and that house. One girl died. The aircraft remained bombing until morning," a Sadr City resident, who declined to identified himself, told AP Television News.

U.S. soldiers detained two unidentified people before the attack made Sadr City, the power base of radical anti-U.S. Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

American forces have been recently holding up the neighborhood as a model of improving relations between the U.S. military and the Iraqi community.

Transport Minister Salam al- Maliki, an ally of al-Sadr, condemned the U.S. attack and demanded compensation for victims.

"These military operations aim at pressuring the supporters of the Shia movement, are considered provocative and represent a clear violation against the security situa­ tion in the country," al-Maliki told The Associated Press in the southern city of Basra.

In Baghdad, another Saddam supporter, Shiite lawmaker Falah Hashim Shamal, accused the U.S. of trying to "draw the Shia movement into a new fight to affect our partici­ pation in the political process." "The occupation is trying to shake the United Iraqi Alliance after their successful election results," said lawmaker Bahaa al-din al-Arjali, another al-Sadr supporter and a member of the alliance, the major Shiite bloc that fared best in the Dec. 15 parliamentary election.

The attack came as neither Saddam Hussein nor any of his seven co-defendants attended Thursday's session of the trial to protest the new chief judge, Raouf Abdul-Rahman. The eight are being accused of involvement in the 1982 killings of more than 140 Shiite Muslims in Dujail, north of Baghdad. The session lasted just under two hours and was adjourned until Feb. 13.

Saddam's defense team wants Abdul-Rahman to step down after accusing him of having a "personal feud" with the former leader because the judge was born in Haldiya, a Kurdish village by the Tigris River, the site of a reported poison gas attack allegedly ordered by Saddam in 1988. Some 5,000 Kurds were killed, including several of Abdul-Rahman's relatives.

U.S. and Iraqi authorities had hoped the trial would proceed smoothly and lead to a calming of Iraq's rampant insurgency, which is blamed in part on the decisions of the former president, Sunni Arab milit­ ants and opponents of the U.S.-led military presence.
The growth of the student choreographers and the performers is really the highlight of ‘Metamorphosis.’

—Maria Junco
director
HOMETOWN BUFFET: Why are you so good?

Mick Beyer
WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS (NYU)

NEW YORK—As diversity, the average observations about the racial climate on campus partly look out the largest racial groups, white. A quick look through any area with a concentration of students actually reveals predominantly white, non-minority or racial groups. Yet, most of the time, comments and questions about the self-segregation are concerned with those less like the white minority, not like the environment and distancing ourselves from one another. These labels are just not as productive as "Asian American" or "black," it is not that we are trying to do so seems to be the gift of "diversity." We ask our students who do not come from diverse boundaries and have a diverse social group are not automatically less racist, but culturally aware or concerned about race relations. Similarly, there are interracial couples who have been kept apart, but not yet by the Ku Klux Klan. If we see them in that moment of power dynamics in a racialized hierarchy, but the reverse, a false sense of harmony, could conceal its continued existence. On a daily basis, most people think probably don't compel many students to discriminate or attack anyone, thus seeming to prove that we are not racist.

"The Race Implicit Association Test" is a visualization that 'empirically' racism and prejudice. Subjects are divided into groups, bridged gaps and all that Disney Channel shot. We think there are not certain that this is being analyzed as a fair representation of the negative effects of racial self-discipline and the like. As college students in the midst of this trend, we can pretend to be aware of race by getting the jokes and making them ourselves, all while never actually making any real connections to changing the bias for the humor about troubled race relations in the country we seek to build and run. The functional purpose of segregation has historically been to maintain power dynamics in a racialized hierarchy, but the reverse, a false sense of harmony, could conceal its continued existence. On a daily basis, most people think probably don't compel many students to discriminate or attack anyone, thus seeming to prove that we are not racist.

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 Commentary

Racism alive under veneer of diversity

Micko Beyer
WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS (NYU)

NEW YORK—As diversity, the average observations about the racial climate on campus partly look out the largest racial groups, white. A quick look through any area with a concentration of students actually reveals predominantly white, non-minority or racial groups. Yet, most of the time, comments and questions about the self-segregation are concerned with those less like the white minority, not like the environment and distancing ourselves from one another. These labels are just not as productive as "Asian American" or "black," it is not that we are trying to do so seems to be the gift of "diversity." We ask our students who do not come from diverse boundaries and have a diverse social group are not automatically less racist, but culturally aware or concerned about race relations. Similarly, there are interracial couples who have been kept apart, but not yet by the Ku Klux Klan. If we see them in that moment of power dynamics in a racialized hierarchy, but the reverse, a false sense of harmony, could conceal its continued existence. On a daily basis, most people think probably don't compel many students to discriminate or attack anyone, thus seeming to prove that we are not racist.

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Coach

continued from page 5

Steeler offense vs. Seattle defense

Who would believe a second-year quarterback could have his team in the Super Bowl? The Steelers come in with a well-balanced attack. The key is Roethlisberger. His ability to throw the ball in transition, as well as the Steelers secondary that comes in relaxing on average 224.4 yards in the air. Along with Steeler's ability to run the ball, it should be a long day for Seattle. Seattle's run-first line backer Lofa Tatupu comes in leading his team in tackles. Expect him to be all over field. The key for the Seahawks will be to hold the Steelers from getting ahead by more than 11 points. This side of the ball also favours the Steelers.

Basketball

continued from page 8

Dooly and Courtney Cameron, make a solid senior contribution. "They're huge to the team. We help them so much in our ability to stretch defenses with their three point shooting and they are team leaders," McMunnagh said.

This year, Henke has averaged over four points, three rebounds and three assists a game in twelve starts. In their biggest win of the year, Henke went off. She scored a career-high 21 points and added three assists with four steals. This win ended a seven-game home-winning streak for the Gauchos and was only the second time the women's team has won in Santa Barbara in the past 22 years.

Playing in all 17 games, Dooly has only one start and relies on her ability to make changes off the bench. With her limited time she still managed to rank sixth in the league in three-pointers made, and leads the Mustangs in three-point percentage. Cameron suffered a stress fracture in the beginning of the season and that forced her to miss almost half the season. But she has come back strong. In just 10 games this year, she is averaging six points a game with two rebounds.

Possibly the player with the most impact this year has been junior guard Jessica Eggleston. Averaging close to 13 points, five rebounds, two assists and two steals a game, she is having an all-conference year. She ranks sixth in the league in scoring and rebounding and accounts for a lot of second-chance points because of her two offensive rebounds per game.

McMunnagh hopes the team will continue its success in the second half of conference play and end on a high note before the Big West tournament. If the team stays aggressive on both ends of the floor, the Mustangs could sweep the Gauchos this season. The game tips off at 2 p.m. in Mont Gym with the men's game to follow.

**The New York Times Crossword**

Edited by Will Shortz

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**SPORTS**

**MISSON GRILL**

MONDAY

**RETURN OF CAL POLY NIGHT**

TUESDAY

**DOWNTOWN NIGHT**

WEDNESDAY

**WINE MAKER NIGHT**

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

**HAPPY HOUR 2-4PM**

**LUNETTE SHOE CLEANSE**

**SUNDAY**

**SUPERBOWL SUNDAY**

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**CLASSIFIED**

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**SPORTS BALK**

WITH BRAD Check out Brad Applin's latest column at www.mustangdaily.net

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Senior leadership shines through

Matt Norton

With the strong play of its seniors, the emergence of Sparkle Anderson and Jessica Eggleston and a new fast-paced offense, the women's basketball team looks to assume sole possession of second place in the Big West with another win against rival UC Santa Barbara on Saturday.

"I love being able to coach a group of players that can push the ball on offense and never give up on defense," coach Faith Minnegaard said.

The Mustang women are definitely going out to get the ball this year. They are forcing a conference-high 14 steals per game, which correlates on the offensive end with over 15 assists each game. Junior point guard Sparkle Anderson has a lot to do with that newfound success.

"In my opinion she (Anderson) is the best point guard in the league," Minnegaard said.

Anderson is second on the team in steals with two a game, and tops the Big West in assists at over 15 a game. Leading the offense, Anderson has helped Cal Poly become the No. 1 scoring offense in the league. With only two players averaging over nine points a game, this revamped offense has seen contributions from almost all of its players.

"We found a style that works for us," senior forward Sarah Grieve said.

A major part of that style is their intimidating interior defense. Grieve is sixth in the league in blocks with one and a half a game. She has already doubled her block average from last year, but do not let her unassuming height fool you. At six-foot-two-inches, Grieve recognized herself as being undersized.

"I may not be as tall as other centers in the league, but I try and make guards think twice about coming into the paint," she said.

Grieve, along with Michelle Henke, Jennifer Stovkalper was Cal Poly's leading scorer with 14 points in the team's previous meeting with a Rommel Mansower in Davis last week. The Aggies surprised the Mustangs in the team's previous meeting with a 16-point victory. Derek Stockalper was Cal Poly's leading scorer with 14.

The Mustangs defense has helped Cal Poly become the No. 1 scoring defense in the league. Anderson is second on the team in steals with two a game, and tops the Big West in assists at over 15 a game. Leading the offense, Anderson has helped Cal Poly become the No. 1 scoring offense in the league. With only two players averaging over nine points a game, this revamped offense has seen contributions from almost all of its players.

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Saturday
Women's basketball:
Cal Poly vs. UC Santa Barbara, 2 p.m.
Men's: Cal Poly vs. UC Davis, 4:30 p.m.
Mott Gym

Super Bowl XL: Seattle vs. Pittsburgh

Coach "K" is a former Cal Poly football player who has turned his pads for a pen and paper as a Mustang Daily football analyst. This week's guest commentary gives Coach "K" a chance to offer his expert advice for the biggest game of the year, the Super Bowl.

In the world of football there is no bigger stage than the Super Bowl. This year, some people would like to compare this game to the traditional David vs. Goliath, and nobody is going Seattle a fighting chance. But both teams have to go through some tough competition to get there. Many would've called Indianapolis Goliath, had they made it to the Super Bowl, and this year's David knocked Peyton Manning and the Colts off their pedestal earlier this season. Imagine if Jerome Bettis' fumble was picked up and run back for a touchdown, or the Denver Broncos actually showed up for the AFC title game — we wouldn't even be thinking of the Steelers as Goliath as they would be sitting at home watching the game on TV.

The Seattle Seahawks have not been without a few big playoff games themselves. Going into the NFC championship game, they had the task of stopping the high-powered offense of Jack Delhomme and Steve Smith of the Carolina Panthers. Snap back to a week prior when the league's MVP was

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