Book parallels literature to spark student interest

Justin Fivella

Lost in a sea of intricate plot lines and unrecognizable words, many high school students give up on the great literary pieces of yesteryear because they simply can't understand them.

But two Cal Poly faculty members and one San Luis Obispo Office of Education employee look to break the trend with a book designed for English teachers that draws parallels between literary masterpieces and similar popular contemporary stories to teach students.

Anita Hernandez from Cal Poly's College of Education, Jeannine Richison of the Liberal Arts Department and Marcia Carter, a consultant from the San Luis Obispo County's Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program have joined together to produce the recently published "Theme-Sets for Secondary Students: How to Scaffold Core Literature."

With roots in the public school system, the authors designed the book to aid English teachers in dealing with different types of students. The book is geared toward students who are learning English as a second language, students with unique needs and those reading below grade level or with little interest in traditional literature, according to a press release.

“Our goal was for the book to be more theme-based in order to spark interest in the required literature, through modern novels or literature, that students are interested in,” Richison said.

The book was designed to be used in one of the political moves he made last fall, his proposed a $1-an-hour increase in the state’s minimum wage over two years.

Some Democrats have said it’s not enough. Others within the governor’s own party are angered that he proposed the increase at all, fearing it will hurt businesses. Whatever the proposal’s ultimate fate, the modest increase is likely to provide only a slight improvement to those living on the margins in the nation’s costliest state.

They’re targeting the November election.

The last boost came in 2002, when California’s minimum wage was increased by 50 cents an hour. The state’s businesses already are required to pay their employees more than the federal rate of $5.15 an hour, but less than other West Coast states. Oregon’s minimum wage is $7.25 an hour, while Washington’s is $7.35.

About 60 percent of workers earning within a dollar of the minimum wage in California are between the ages of 25 and 64 and work 35 or more hours a week, according to U.S. Census Bureau data.

Minimum wage hike would give marginal boost in costly California

Tom Chorneau

YUBA CITY, Calif. — It’s been almost two years since Kimberly Ward moved from North Carolina to California with her husband, yet finding a job that pays well enough to keep pace with the state’s high cost of living continues to be a struggle.

She’s had several jobs that paid $9 an hour — well above the state’s minimum wage of $6.75 an hour — but each was temporary. The sales jobs she has been seeking at a local mall in this suburb north of Sacramento aren’t likely to pay much more than the minimum wage.

“They should raise the minimum wage they should raise it a lot,” Ward said. “The cost of living here, compared to where I’m from — it’s ten times more.”

Ward could get at least part of her wish. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, in one of the political moves he announced after voters roundly rejected his special election agenda last fall, has proposed a $1-an-hour increase in the state’s minimum wage.

Schwarzenegger vetoed legislation last fall that would have boosted the minimum wage $1 an hour by July 2007 but also provided automatic increases to keep up with inflation.

Schwarzenegger vetoed legislation last fall that would have boosted the minimum wage $1 an hour by July 2007 but also provided automatic increases to keep up with inflation. The governor said he opposes a minimum wage deal that provides automatic bumps.

In his State of the State speech in January, however, he said the economy has improved enough that the state’s minimum wage needed to be increased over the next two years.

His office is trying to negotiate a compromise with the Legislature’s Democratic leaders. Meanwhile, a coalition of social service and labor groups is collecting signatures for an initiative that asks voters to increase the minimum wage $2 by 2009.

New law makes it illegal to throw out electronic waste

SACRAMENTO — A rule that took effect Thursday makes it illegal to toss used batteries, cellular phones, fluorescent lights and other household hazardous materials into the garbage.

The ban on so-called e-waste, instituted by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, requires consumers to take such material to local centers that are specially equipped to handle the potentially toxic agents they contain.

State law requires communities to establish some kind of household hazardous waste collection system.

The ban includes products that contain mercury or heavy metals, including all household batteries, mercury thermometers, paint, PCBs, answering machine radion and computer and television monitors.

The regulations are the most stringent in the country and are California’s implementation of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rules that ban the disposal of mercury and lead in landfills, said Mark Murray, executive director of Californians Against Waste, a nonprofit environmental research and advocacy group.

Murray said most states ban rechargeable batteries from household waste, and about a dozen have banned cathode ray tubes, the apparatus in computer monitors and older television screens, but he does not know of another ban that is so comprehensive.

E-waste often contains valuable materials such as copper, gold and zinc that can be recycled. Other heavy metals such as lead, mercury and cadmium can pose a threat to public health and the environment.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control said it initially will focus enforcement efforts on illegal dumping and serious violations involving large quantities of waste.

Starting July 1, any retailer that sells cell phones will also be required to keep pace with the state’s high cost of living. More than half of workers earning within a dollar of the minimum wage in California are between the ages of 25 and 64 and work 35 or more hours a week, according to U.S. Census Bureau data.

 Minimum wage hike would give marginal boost in costly California
Book

"curriculum and to also expand on topics by using themes that students from different cultural backgrounds would understand."

"Theme-sets combine a variety of books — sophisticated children's picture books, chapter books and highly acclaimed young-adult literature, as well as selections of poetry and non-fiction — to prepare students for more difficult reading. Activities are presented that use higher-level thinking skills and many of the best classroom practices supported by decades of educational research," Richison said in a press release.

Overcoming the cultural boundaries and deep-set traditions was an area of importance for the authors.

"Children's literature needs to change, there is a history of stereotypical literature and we are looking to authenticate the portrayals of blacks, Asians and all the different cultures," Hernandez said.

Expanding on the literary stereotypes, the authors included material from different cultures in order to broaden awareness.

"Right now there is a select basket of literature that is stereotypically considered good, and the only basket of literature that is the great European literature. We want to expand that," Richison said.

The idea for the book dates back to 2001 in an article in the "English Journal," but wasn't put into action until 2002. Over three years in the making, the book is a first of its kind to encapsulate many different theme-based methods.

The book's instructional methods were based on "Classrooms That Work," a book that highlighted the top nine methods of teaching based on over 1,200 different studies, Carter said.

Passionate about literature, the three ladies see this book as an opportunity to touch many students.

"Literature is both a window and a mirror, I look into it and I can see myself, yet I can use it as a window to see into them (the students)," Richison said.

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Technology

"I don't have anyone working for me at minimum wage — people can't live on that," he said.

But if the minimum wage does go up, he said he probably will be forced to give every employee a pay increase. When that happens, it will presumably raise prices on customers.

"What will happen is that we will raise our prices by a dollar and then our volume will go down," Vosburgh said.

"That's what happened last time. Raising the minimum wage should not lead to job losses or inflation because the increase would be relatively small and all businesses will be affected equally," said Michael Reich, an economist at the University of California, Berkeley's Institute of Industrial Relations.

"Individual business owners are looking at their books and their bottom-line. They are not thinking about this as across-the-board," he said. "All of their competitors will be covered, too. These are increases, small increases in cost, but they will be the same for everyone.

Reich studied the effects of San Francisco's boost in the minimum wage to $8.82 an hour two years ago. He found that restaurateurs in the city increased prices just 2.8 percent, while the number of servers actually grew.

Some restaurant owners, however, say a boost in the minimum wage is unnecessary because many of their employees already earn significantly more with tips.

"The tipped employees are people making the most money," said Jet Condie, president and chief executive of the California Restaurant Association, which opposes a minimum wage hike. "They are the ones that are earning minimum wage, but it's the tips that are actually working for. Many of them are already earning $20 per hour.

Condie said most of his members don't think it's fair to give those workers a boost when state law prohibits the tips from being shared with other workers who do not serve customers, such as cooks and dishwashers.

Whatever its final form, the minimum wage proposal is not likely to have a dramatic effect for workers or businesses in California, said Jack Kyser, chief economist for the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp.

"This issue has actually taken on a bigger profile than it really warrants," he said. "It's really a very small part of the work force that earns the minimum wage, but let's face it, it's time to raise it some.
WHO SAID THAT?

We should manage our fortunes as we do our health — enjoy it when good, be patient when it is bad, and never apply violent remedies except in an extreme necessity.

— François de La Rochefoucauld (1613 - 1680)

My definition of an expert in any field is a person who knows enough about what's really going on to be scared.

— P.J. Plauger

Wordly Wise

Deus ex machina:
An agent who appears unexpectedly to solve an apparently insoluble difficulty.

BREAKING NEWS
UPDATED AT THE SPEED OF COLLEGE LIFE
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Name: Charis Chan • Year: freshman
Hometown: Castro Valley • Major: business

Favorites
Word: Awesome
Snack food: Cheese-Its
Colors: Green
Grocery store: Costco, free samples are the best.
Movie: "Zoolander"
Ninja Turtle: Michelangelo

If You Could...
— travel anywhere in the world, where would it be? Hawaii.
— star on a TV show, which show would it be? "Late Night with Conan O'Brien."
— meet anyone, who would it be? Will Ferrell

Either/Or
Veggies or fruit? Fruit
Apples or oranges? Oranges
Crunchy peanut butter or smooth? Uh, I only like Nutter Butters.
Gummy bears or gummy worms? Gummy bears

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Religious Directory

Your Guide To Places of Worship in the San Luis Obispo Community
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10:30 AM: College brunch/discussion on the theme "Freedom in Christ"
12:00 PM: Student worship service
6:30 PM: Contemporary Worship
7:00 PM: College fellowship
8:00 PM: College fellowship
9:00 PM: Contemporary Worship

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1:00 PM: College fellowship
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6:00 PM: College fellowship
8:00 PM: Contemporary Worship

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A new online star has been forming and it isn't Google

Anick Jesdanun
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — The Internet has a rising star whose name isn't Google.

Just over 2-years-old, MySpace now has 2 1/2 times the traffic of Google Inc., and it quickly eclipsed Friendster as the top social-networking site where users build larger and larger circles of friends.

Credit luck and acumen; MySpace learned from predecessors and figured out the right tools to package. And when its founders noticed heavy usage among musicians and fans, MySpace embraced that community with custom features.

"It's like being at a giant music conference 24 hours a day every day," said Greg Mcintosh, 27, guitarist for Ann Arbor, Mich.-based Great Lakes Myth Society.

College students, meanwhile, can rate their professors and find classmates or alumni. Others play games, view classified ads, send online party invitations or rate the brace on how "hot" they are.

Sure, none of these features are unique, but what's the point of going elsewhere if your friends are already on MySpace?

"I noticed a lot of my friends talking about it, so I went on it and signed up," said Magda Okrznówka, 24, a University of Toronto senior. "And I've really pressured my friends who don't have it to get it."

Instead of using e-mail and instant messaging, Oktarzowska keeps in touch with many friends simply by posting bulletins on her personal MySpace page, known as a profile. There, friends can send her a private message or post a public comment; they can see her photo album or read her Web journal, called a blog.

The free, ad-supported site has gotten so popular among teens — a quarter of its users are registered as minors — that parents, schools and law enforcement officials have taken notice, warning of sexual predators and other dangers.

Big media noticed, too. Last year, News Corp., the Australian media conglomerate controlled by Rupert Murdoch, bought MySpace's owner for $580 million in cash.

The U.S.-heavy site now wants to expand internationally and on wireless devices, and it is adding such features as video-sharing to become more like a Web portal.

"We want people to stay on MySpace," said Tom Anderson, its president. "We'll give them whatever they might want to do."

The development comes as the leading portal, Yahoo Inc., becomes more like MySpace, starting a social-networking service called 360 and buying content-sharing sites such as Flickr and Delicious.

MySpace, meanwhile, requires registration before viewing full profiles.

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**THE NEWS RECORD (CINCINNATI)**

CINCINNATI — "Firewall," Harrison Ford's newest cinematic attempt at captivating his eager, thrill-seeking fan base, opens today.

The film features Ford as computer security specialist Jack Stanfield. Jack's expertise of his own security system turns detrimental when Bill Cox (Paul Bettany) holds Jack's family hostage in their own home and forces Jack to collect $100 million from the very bank he works for.

But never fear, toward the story's end, Jack begins to beat Bill Cox at his own game:

"I'm not an action hero," said in a phone interview. "I do thrillers, with action in them." Ford, 63, has starred in a great many thrillers. "Firewall," however, doesn't necessarily have the psychological component necessary to be a thriller.

The film features this "non-action" hero finding off-gunmen half his age, walking along the edge of a high-rise building, running a man over in a car and escaping the same car before it explodes, beating a man to death and crashing through windows in the midst of his several fight scenes throughout the movie. Sounds like an action hero, doesn't it?

Whatever director Richard Loncraine's objectives were in making this movie, he missed his mark, big time. Cliché one-liners and predictability make this movie a bore to watch. And to see this from Harrison, it hurts.

"I look for something that has a chance to be a good movie; it's that simple," said Ford on how he selects his roles in movies.

If that is the case, what was he thinking with this one?

The film script could have been rewritten as a comedy and probably retained a little more dignity than it has at present. Of course, it would have to be written without Jack's wife (Virginia Madsen) getting punched in the face and a murder attempt on his son — but it's still a thought.

Bettany's British accent and his motley crew of bank robbers have "flaws" written all over them. In fact, Bettany and his team of criminals offer some of the only comic relief for the entire movie as it stands.

One almost has to root for the bad guys in "Firewall." They attempt to pull off a heist to steal $100 million from a man who has everything a mansion, a stay-at-home wife who looks to be 20 years younger than him, two kids and an important job working for a successful, Seattle-based bank.

Who wouldn't want to see that guy in a life-threatening predicament? But in true Hollywood fashion, that guy still comes out on top. Bettany, not typically known for playing a villain, wasn't a bad choice for the part. His dialogue, however, wasn't particularly strong. Then again, no one's dialogue was strong in this film.

"We (makers of 'Firewall') are asking the viewer to believe that this is real," said Bettany in a phone interview. "I want to give people a good ride in the movie."

He sure gave people a ride alright, but to say it was a good run would be pushing it.

To top it all, the movie ends with a slow motion shot of Jack and his family walking up a hill to reunite with their lost dog. There are mountains and a lake in the background. Gross.
T
t the other day, the Two Clady Gents were sauntering around campus when they were approached by a female freshman girl who asked, "What is good?" They asked, "What is good?" "Oh, don't be funny, Dan. Bobo replied. "No," the teller girl said. "I mean Jesus." "Well," Mike said, "probably Jesus." "Then we suggest you attend one of the Crusade meetings," the Two Clady Gents told. So, faithfully Mustang Daily reader, the Two Clady Gents crashed that God party. But we didn't realize how surprised we really were.

The Two Clady Gents assumed that the breadth of our religious knowledge would prepare us for this momentous event. In the past few months, we have read about Sikhs, Puritans, Scientologists and very strict Catholics. In one case, all of these religions were unattainable to our classy ways. To study up on our latest attempt at religion, Christianity, we sat down with a young female who went by the name "Jesus." "You know Jesus, right?" asked Mike. "If He's Me, Margaret," by Judy Blume. We assumed Margaret finds God in her life, but soon after, we realized how unprepared we were.

We arrived promptly at 8 o'clock that Wednesday night at the Chumash Auditorium. Two friendly Christians welcomed us in and assured us that we were at the right place, that we were at the right place, and that we should attend their next meeting of "Christians together." We were further perturbed when Mike was ushered to reveal a one-of-a-kind "God is pretty cool, but Franklin rocks!" T-shirt. By the looks of the things, the night was headed downhill.

However, the rest of the evening was quite entertaining. Ozzie Smith, Cal Poly alumus, gave a humorous look into how he has become a baseball player by reading the novel "Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret," by Judy Blume. We assumed growth and universities have a duty to prepare us in all areas of life, not just the hard sciences. We know the Greeks be one of the best, most intelligent, advanced civilizations ever known, and while science/math were math important disciplines of their life, theater was just as important and was in fact, a duty. Shouldn't we take a hint from men like Aristotles and Socrates and bring some life back into the arts? What is the arts department? We are a polytechnic school. We are known for our excellence in engineering/science/math, and bring some life back into the arts. It is an important aspect for us as students.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**From the arts department: Show us the money**

I'm not going to take this anywhere. Russell Lewis Business administration student

Morgan, 250 words aren't enough

Questions: If you were to succeed and bring God's laws to all, and achieve your "Christian utopia," what would Jesus do for a "Movie Night?" we're right back where we started. An unreliable, slow system that often goes down for entire days. This is unacceptable. We paid for the system with our tuition and taxes and we pay the salaries of the people running it. We need to stop letting these people think we can get away with it. Tell CBO Tim Kearns (kearns@calpoly.edu) that you're upset. Tell ITS Application Management Director Dave Ross (dross@calpoly.edu) that you're not going to take it. You can even find their phone numbers in the Cal Poly directory. They are accountable to us and they need to be reminded that we are not going to take this anymore. Ms. Blume, Ms. Blume, Ms. Blume, Ms. Blume.

**Submit your thoughts, opinions, or ideas in 500 words or less to mustangdaily@gmail.com**

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Mustang Daily is a "designated student publication." Student editors have full authority to make all content decisions without censorship or advance approval.
The New York Times Crossword
Edited by Will Shortz
No. 1230

ACROSS
1 Where one might be called (5)
2 Engages in (10)
3 Sugar and salt, commonly (7)
4 It's just above a (5)
5 Engages in (8)
6 Like some (8)
7 Wildlife refuge (9)
8 Place for a (10)
9 Intensely excited (11)
10 Engages in (7)
11 Arraignment of (15)
12 Service (9)
13 聯合 (2)
14 Director Demme (9)
15 American (6)
16 Director (5)
17 自由 (2)
18 Extraordinary (9)
19 青少年 (2)
20 Batik, jewelry, calligraphy (7)
21 猫 (2)
22 'The (4)
23 言語 (2)
24 Bank abbr (4)
25 Sandman, in a dream (5)
26 代 (1)
27 'Wives and... (4)
28 装饰 (2)
29 30 Pan of a sultry (5)
30 窗 (1)

DOWN
1 Ray extension (8)
2 Stranded. (9)
3 As You Like It (4)
4 Director (5)
5 Lord's Prayer (9)
6 Science (5)
7 Long-distance (10)
8 One way to (5)
9 ______profit (6)
10 ______sample (6)
11 ______warmed (6)
12 ______pitched (6)
13 ______amused (6)
14 ______inadequate (6)
15 ______success (6)
16 ______untraceable (6)
17 ______unlighted (6)
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE
26 Harley-Davidson 7 6 9 6 5 6
27 Almost nine 7 6 9 6 5 6
28 George who 7 6 9 6 5 6
29 Blows up 7 6 9 6 5 6
30 Up 7 6 9 6 5 6

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CLASSIFIED

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CAMP WAYNE FOR GIRLS - Children's sleep-away camp, Northern Pennsylvania (R.F. 7:47/13/06) If you love children and want a caring, fun environment we need Directors and Instructors for: Tennis, Swimming (W.S.I), Cross Country, Cheerleading, Drama, High & Low Ropes, Team Sports, Waterskiing, Sailing, Painting, Drawing, Ceramics, Silkscreen, Printmaking, Ballroom Dancing. Admissions & Financial Aid, Photography, Sculpture, Guitar, Aerobics, Self-Defense, Video Production, Administrative/Office (21-36 cont.).

HELP WANTED
GREAT COLLEGE JOB! Interested in working in a peaceful but busy environment? Have marketing interest? Computer skills, able to multi-task, professional, retail? Show us your love of benefits to working at the spa! Must be able to work any of the above and some Sundays. Approx. 20 hrs/wk available. Some side work to help owner or clients. 5815 Traffic Way Atascadero (805) 464-0129.

FEMALE EXOTIC DANCERS wanted 3,120 per hour 6 hrs minimum. No experience required. Work around your own schedule! (805) 348-3241 or (888) 744-4437.

HELP WANTED
ANNOUNCEMENTS
Benjamin Cotrell to help raise money for Progenia victims. Downtown Brewing Co. in SLO February 15, 2006.

LOS T AND FOUND
REWARD for Lost Robotic Cat. Sandwich board (831) 869-8768. Reward for Lost Cannon Powershot Digital Camera at Matt's L.T. Call Beth @ (775) 544-2672.

HOMES FOR SALE
Free list of all houses and condos for sale in SLO. Cal Nepal Real Estate 545-3900 or email steve@thenonaes.com.
Let the Turin Games begin

The Opening Ceremonies will be televised tonight at 8 p.m. on NBC as the 2006 Winter Olympics kicks off in Turin, Italy.

Brian Friedman
SPORTS EDITOR

Turkey, Italy – Chris Witty has been to the Olympics before, both summer and winter, and has won medals of all colors. What's different about these games for the celebrated speedskater, though, is what she will be carrying — and what she won't be carrying.

On Friday night, she will lead the U.S. team into the opening ceremony of the Turin Games, proudly bearing the U.S. flag. She is no longer burdened, however, by the 20-year-old secret that she was sexually abused as a child.

After she competed in Salt Lake City in 2002 and underwent therapy, Witty went public with an account of how a trusted neighbor in suburban Milwaukee had abused her, starting at age 4 and continuing until she was 11 — and her subsequent feelings of guilt, an inability to trust people, awkwardness as a teenager, and serious depression.

Revealing the truth and talking about it openly — even though it sometimes makes adults "squirm in their chairs a little bit" — has changed her and helped other victims, she said.

"I enjoy everything about life right now — everything. I'm just really happy. I'm able to enjoy everything. I'm not depressed all the time and I'm not worried about anything, about myself or my appearance or things like that," she said.

"Now I just feel so much more comfortable in my skin because I feel like I'm able to really tell everybody who I am and where I'm coming from and why I am the way I am. I'm just a different person today than I was even four years ago."

The five-time Olympian, chosen by her teammates for the honor of flag-bearer, won gold while setting a world record in the 1,000 meters at Salt Lake City. She won silver and bronze medals at the 1998 Nagano Olympics. She also competed in Lillehammer, Norway, in 1994.

She is expected to race in the 500, 1,000 and 1,500 in Turin, and is one of the medal favorites in the 1,500.

"Just to be part of this team is an honor, but to lead them is amazing," Witty said.

She also was in the 2004 Sydney Olympics, competing in track cycling — becoming the ninth U.S. athlete to compete in both summer and winter games.

Tennis Takes On Tritons

Home has never sounded better for the men's tennis team. After three consecutive road matches, all losses, the Mustangs should be happy to have a little reprieve on Saturday when they take on UC San Diego at 1:30 at Cal Poly's tennis courts near the track. The Tritons are also seeking their first win of the new year after being blown out by UC Riverside and San Diego State in its only two matches of 2006.

Mustangs Host UC Riverside

The Cal Poly women's basketball team looks to rebound from a loss to UC Santa Barbara on Saturday with a Big West contest against the Highlanders Sunday afternoon in Mott Gym. The Mustangs defeated the Highlanders by a resounding 53-10 score in the teams' previous meeting this season. Five Mustangs scored in double figures in that game, led by Megan Harrison’s 15. Tip-off is scheduled for 4 p.m.

Wrestling

Gators, Cardinal To Visit Poly

Cal Poly wrestling will try and snap a five-match losing streak on Saturday. The Mustangs will battle San Francisco State at 6 p.m. and will also wrestle against Stanford in a Pac-10 match at 7:30 p.m. in Mott Gym.

The Mustangs fell to Fresno State on Tuesday. Despite a major decision victory by TJ Ferguson (157) and a near win for Chris Angle (177), the Bulldogs overcame Cal Poly 26-19. However, most of Cal Poly's top wrestlers were held out of competition for various reasons. Darrell Vasquez, Chad Mendes, Ryan Hailey and Co. did not compete.

Baseball

'Stangs Down British Columbia

The Mustangs defeated the Highlanders by a resounding 57-10. However, most of Cal Poly's top wrestlers were held out of competition for various reasons. Darrell Vasquez, Chad Mendes, Ryan Hailey and Co. did not compete.

Tennis

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