Poly professor takes German ambassador post for Afghanistan

Tyler Wise
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly social sciences professor Maliha Zulfacar, a native of Afghanistan who has actively spent her summers aiding in the rebuilding of the country, has been appointed as an ambassador from Afghanistan. Zulfacar, who spends the academic year at Cal Poly teaching classes about global ethnic conflict and geopolitics, is the first woman to be appointed as an ambassador from Afghanistan.

"It is a great honor for me," Zulfacar said in a press release. "Having been the first woman appointed as an ambassador from Afghanistan gives me the opportunity to serve my country of birth and also to demonstrate that when Afghan women are given the chance for education, they too will be able to participate effectively in the reconstruction of the country."

In addition to becoming the first female ambassador of Afghanistan, Zulfacar, who was born and raised in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, was also the first female to leave the country to pursue a college education in the United States at the University of Cincinnati, Ohio in the mid 70s. After earning a degree in sociology in Cincinnati, Zulfacar briefly returned to Afghanistan to teach at Kabul University before fleeing the country to Germany after the Russian occupation of Afghanistan in 1979.

Living in Germany from 1979 to 1985, Zulfacar became fluent in German while attending the German Technical Institute at Braunschweig. In 1985 Zulfacar left Germany for the United States to raise her two children in California. Zulfacar joined the social sciences department at Cal Poly in 1988.

In 1993, Zulfacar returned to Germany to earn her doctorate in sociology from Paderborn University—her doctoral thesis compared and contrasted the experience of Afghan immigrants in both Germany and the United States.

After the U.S. occupation of Afghanistan in 2001, Zulfacar returned to her native country for the first time in 23 years and had been spending the summers teaching social sciences at Kabul University.

The city's bus system renewed its contract with Cal Poly for the next five years, but the university will ultimately pay 20 percent more than the previous contract's agreement because of increasing fuel rates, contract and maintenance costs.

Tyler Wise
MUSTANG DAILY

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University to pay more with new SLO Transit contract

Nicole Small
MUSTANG DAILY

Rest assured that the next parking ticket placed on your windshield goes to a great cause. The city of San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly negotiated another five-year contract to ensure that Cal Poly students can ride SLO Transit buses.

Cindy Campbell, associate director of the University Police Department, said students are able to ride for free because of money collected from citation fines. No tax dollars or tuition fees are used for paying the city Cal Poly will pay $322,000 for the first and second years of the agreement. By the third year an inflation factor of three percent was calculated into the costs, altogether Cal Poly's contribution will be $1,669,128. The end figure is 20 percent higher than the last agreement's figure due to the rising fuel rates, contract and maintenance costs.

Transit manager for the city of San Luis Obispo Austin O'Dell was happy the city council approved Cal Poly's subsidize agreement with the city because the deal enables every Cal Poly student, faculty member with a Cal Poly photo ID to ride SLO transit without any additional fare to be paid.

The only exception to the pre-paid service is when Severson decides to use the software as his personal use about two years ago. It was last year when Severson decided to use the software as his senior project.

"It came out of our own necessity at first," Severson said. "We were tired of reminding roommates to pay bills. From there it just evolved to what it is now." After finishing his senior project, his project adviser encouraged him to pursue the software because in the mid 90s, Severson and computer engineering junior Jonathan Kelly. The program is designed to split bills with roommates, manage multiple co-op accounts with a landlord and remind people to pay on time.

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Severson added. "But it's better because you can access it from everywhere. You can go on vacation and still see Bills, page 2
Congress passes Web poker ban

Eleazar David Melendez
COLUMBIA DAILY SPECTATOR (COLUMBIA U)

NEW YORK — The United States Senate passed a bill on Tuesday to end online poker as a legal means of gambling. The bill, which was introduced by Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, is illegal for credit card companies to transact with online casinos and certain gambling sites, effectively shutting them off from U.S. residents. The move comes amidst a national debate about the future of online gambling.

The bill, which was pushed through by the Senate, is expected to go to President Bush for a signature. If signed, the law would ban all forms of online gambling, including poker, blackjack, and roulette. The bill also includes a provision that allows states to participate in the online gambling market if they choose to do so.

Critics of the bill argue that it would harm businesses and jobs in the United States. They also argue that it would create a black market for online gambling, which could lead to increased crime and corruption.

SLO Transit

SLO Transit would like to announce that bus service is available to all SLO County residents. The bus service is available to those who are 18 years old and over. The service is available Monday through Friday and on select weekends. The service is provided by the City of San Luis Obispo and the San Luis Obispo County Transportation Authority.

SLO Transit operates 16 routes throughout SLO County, including routes to Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo, and Arroyo Grande. The service is free to all riders, and there are no fares charged.

Ambassador

In a continued effort to support the Afghan community, the Afghan Educational Outreach Project has launched a new initiative, the Afghan Educational Outreach Program. The program aims to support Afghan students in the United States.

The program provides scholarships, mentorship, and other support services to Afghan students. The program is designed to help Afghan students succeed in the United States and to promote the Afghan community.

Under 21 and have no car? Car Rentals to ages 18 and up are now exclusively available through Enterprise Rent-a-car!

Enterprise Rent-a-car offers a wide range of car rental options for students under 21 with no car. The service is available on campus and at off-campus locations. The service is available Monday through Sunday and on select weekends.

For more information, please visit www.mustangdaily.net.
Question of the day:

If you could live in any time period, when would it be?

"Right now because women have a lot more choices than they did even in the '80s."
-Ryan Wood
materials engineering
senior

"The 1800s in Mexico so I could carry a pistola and wear a sombrero."
-Connor Bondlow
graphic communications
sophomore

"Now, because I really like technology and it's gotten better."
-Nicole Dishman
graphic communications
junior

"I would be a colonist because it was the beginning of our world and they drank a lot of tea."
-Greg Helton
materials engineering
senior

"The renaissance because that's when the crux of creativity and the foundation of music truly arose."

Housing slowdown results in widespread price declines

By Martin Crutsinger
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Housing prices, slumping after a five-year boom, are projected to decline in half of the nation's metropolitan areas, with the Northeast, Florida and California among the areas hardest hit.

The forecast by Moody's Economy.com, a private research firm, presents one of the starkest views yet of the slowing that has been gathering force in recent months.

The West Chester, Pa., forecasting firm projects that the median sales price for an existing home will decline in 2007 by 3.6 percent, which would be the first decline for an entire year in home prices since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The forecast is included in a 195-page report, "Housing at the Tipping Point," which The Associated Press obtained before its general release on Wednesday.

The report projected that 133 of the nation's 279 metropolitan areas would suffer price declines. That is quite a contrast from the past five years when low mortgage rates pushed sales to five consecutive annual records and prices in the hottest sales areas skyrocketed.

But this year, the once red-hot housing market has cooled significantly. Some analysts are worried that the slowdown could become so severe that it could drag the entire country into a recession, much as the bursting of the stock market bubble in 2000 led to the 2001 slump.

The housing report said the biggest percentage price decline will be in Danville, Ill., where prices have already fallen by 18.7 percent from the peak in the second quarter of 2005 to a low-point in the first three months of this year. That setback occurred because of layoffs in autos and other manufacturing industries, which depressed the local economy.

The second biggest decline is projected to occur in the Fort Myers, Fla., area, a fall of 18.6 percent from the peak in the final three months of last year to a low-point for prices that is projected to occur in the second quarter of 2007.

The 133 areas with slumping prices are concentrated in the states of California and Florida and the see Housing, page 4
International

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea triggered a global alarm on Tuesday by saying it will conduct a nuclear test, a key step in the manufacture of atomic bombs that it views as a deterrence against any U.S. attack. But the North also said it was committed to nuclear disarmament, suggesting a willingness to negotiate. The contradictory statement fits a North Korean pattern of staking out tensions on the Korean Peninsula, a Cold War flashpoint, in an attempt to win concessions such as economic aid.

WASHINGTON — U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft has been put under investigation by a Senate committee for his handling of a disputed federal witnesses case.

The House and Senate have already hit a low point for prices, but the housing market is expected to get a floor on home prices.

The belief that the current economic slowdown is restraining inflation has helped push mortgage rates lower with the 30-year mortgage now at a six-month low of 6.31 percent, an improvement that is expected to help put a floor on housing's fall.

The report described the current environment as a "correction" and not a "crash" but it cautioned that there were downside risks that could make the slowdown more serious.

A big threat is that the fall in home prices could have a significant impact on consumer spending patterns. The so-called wealth effect pushed consumer spending higher during the housing boom as soaring home prices made homeowners feel more wealthy and thus more inclined to spend money. But falling home prices could have the reverse effect and depress consumer spending.

"We believe the housing downturn will weigh on the economic expansion this fall. But there are risks," Zandi said.

The slowdown in housing occurred as a result of a two-year campaign by the Federal Reserve to push interest rates higher as a way of slowing the economy enough to keep inflation under control.

The Fed has kept rates unchanged for the past two months and many economists believe the central bank has finished its rate hike as long as inflation pressures keep falling.

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Investors have gone from sending home sales and prices shooting higher to driving sales and prices lower.

Housing continued from page 3

Northeast corridor from southern Maine to just south of Washington, D.C., as well as boom areas of Nevada and Arizona and some depressed sections of the Midwest such as Detroit.

Of the areas with falling prices, 72 were forecast to hit their lowpoint by the end of this year with the rest seeing a trough for prices in 2007 or 2008. But even in areas which have already hit a lowpoint for prices, the rebound in prices is not expected to occur quickly.

"Prices are going to go down and stay down for awhile. It will take at least a couple of years to work off the excesses of the last decade," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com and the principal author of the report.

Not all parts of the country will experience price declines. The report said Texas, the Southeastern states other than Florida and much of the Midwest Farm Belt should be immune from price declines although price increases were expected to be modest.

The report said the most vulnerable areas for price declines were those regions where red-hot markers attracted speculators known as "flippers" who purchased homes in hopes of selling them fast for a quick profit.

"Housing's downturn has turned over more dramatic with the rapid flight of the flipper from the market," the report said. "These investors have gone from sending home sales and prices shooting higher to driving sales and prices lower.

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Carlos Mencia speaks his mind to students

Christina Casi  
MUSTANG DAILY

Shuffling feet, hilled voices and nervous laughter filled the Rec Center Sunday night as everyone waited for the show to start. One of the country’s most controversial comedians, Carlos Mencia was about to stand in front of the audience and prove that he did have the ability to make any kind of person laugh.

After four opening acts, including Carlos’ brother Joseph Mencia, Cristina Alonzo, Jo Koy and Brad Williams, Mencia finally came onto the stage with loud music and bright lights and lots of screaming from the audience. In the beginning of his skit, Mencia noted that people weren’t laughing at some of his jokes because they weren’t politically correct and suggested laughing anyway, which lightened the tone for the rest of the show.

“Political correctness destroys,” Mencia said. This was the main message of his show. “People don’t say what they feel anymore,” he said.

Recently, Mencia has become prominent and very controversial. He makes jokes about every kind of person ranging from Latinos to the handicapped and everyone in between. He goes by the motto every person is fair, mechanical engineering junior Erick Mencia said that laughter and feelings of guilt will be a better place,” he said.

Throughout the show he mentioned controversial topics. “My sides are still hurting,” said science junior Torie McGeehee. “Even though he uses racial jokes, he has good taste,” she said.

Rivalry Game*  
#5 CP Football vs. UC Davis - 6 PM  
Mustang Memorial Stadium
#20 Women’s Volleyball vs. CS Fullerton - 7 PM - Mott Gym

Sunday
Women’s Soccer vs. Long Beach State - 1 PM  
Sports Complex

Admission is FREE for all students  
Visit GoPoly.com for more information on all Mustang Teams!  
Go Stangs!

BRENNAN ANGEL, MUSTANG DAILY

Carlos Mencia performed Sunday at Cal Poly’s Rec Center Sunday, bringing the crowd to laughs with his refusal to be politically correct.

Mencia was born Ned Mencia and his parents gave him to his aunt and uncle because they couldn’t have children of their own, he said in an interview with the San Jose Mercury News.

Mencia was the 17th out of 18 children and always “regarded family to be of the utmost importance,” according to his biography on his official Web site, www.carlosmencia.com. He attended California State University at Los Angeles but left to follow a career in comedy, according to his site. He released his first and only album called “Take a Joke America,” in 2000. In 2005, he began his show on Comedy Central called “Mind of Mencia.” The show has averaged 1.4 million viewers since its debut, according to his Web site. On the show, Mencia does sketches, videos and questioning people on the street. The motto for the show is “You think it, he says it.”

The students received the show on Sunday very well despite some controversial topics. “My sides are still hurting,” said mechanical engineering junior Erick Serrano. “I think he’s way funnier you just have to go with it.” he said. “He’s funny as hell,” said political science junior Torie McGeehee.

“Even though he uses race jokes, he has good taste,” she said. “At the end of the show, people waited in line to get pictures and autographs from Mencia.

Mencia knew what they feel anymore,” he said. “Say what you feel and the world will be a better place,” he said. "Everything is guilt now," said Mencia.

The show came to a close with Brad Williams, one of the opening acts who is also a dwarf, doing the Oompa Loompa dance from “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” and giving an audience member a lap dance.

Everything about the show was entertaining. Even when Mencia told jokes that were not necessarily “politically correct,” the audience roared with laughter. When the audience refrained from laughing at a joke Mencia knew was funny, he just proclaimed, “you all know you want to laugh,” and the whole room began to do it.

The critics may perceive Mencia’s humor as inappropriate, but there is no doubt that he has something worth listening to. Even the jokes about how it “sucks to be white in America today,” and hurricane Katrina got a huge reaction from the audience.

If there is any possibility to see this show, go see it. It will be the one day to laugh without regret or judgments. Everyone is equally allowed to find the jokes funny and no body takes it personally. At the end of the show, everyone comes out with a smile on their face and nothing to say but, “It was awesome.”
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gandhi's pacifism a good tool for today

I am writing to people about the importance of Oct. 2. On that day over a century ago, a man was born who led a fight to free a country from tyranny. His teachings and philosophy would later inspire others, such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Cesar Chavez, to stand up and fight against injustice. Gandhi didn't have guns or bullets, but with patience, tolerance, and will power. He was a simple old man, who wore nothing but a cloth over his waist and a cloth over his shoulder, who leaned over a staff as his only support.

His name was Mohandas Gandhi. And he led the earliest march to the Indian ocean, inspiring his followers in the heart of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Cesar Chavez, who followed the example and matched to their own goals, followed by thousands of followers. One doesn't have to be Indian to understand and implement the teachings of Gandhi. In a time when we are overenthusiastic about the use of violence, one would have to be a fool to ignore the power of it through King and Chavez. In a time when we are overeager to make decisions that affect our lives, one has to be a fool to ignore the fact that you have a choice and you have a chance. 

MUSTANG DAILY

October 4, 2006

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Everyone was a Mustang, Maniac Saturday

Saturday's football game was by far the best football game I have ever attended at Cal Poly. And I want to thank each and every fan that came. YOU ROCKED. The stunning showdown in everyone standing the entire game surely brought tears to my eyes. The dancing to the music, breaking in breaks put a smile on my face that still remains to this day. I have been waiting six years to see a fan base this spirited. And now that it has reached its break point I find myself extremely excited. Imagine the possibilities... 3,000 thundering students cheering "Beat Davis." I cannot wait until this weekend, for I can only imagine how much crazier the game is going to be. So keep up the spir-it Cal Poly. And while you're at it, bring some of that energy to other great Cal Poly teams like our No. 20 volleyball and men's and women's soccer teams just to name a few. Here at Cal Poly, we do not only have some of the best teams in the nation, we have the best fans in the nation.

Sue Kirk
Civil engineering senior and Mustangs mascot

Reelect Arnold so he can sign your diploma

You might ask yourself, what are the rights reasons to support Arnold? It is because of his savage nature, entrepreneurial spirit, skilled acting, or the fact that his con-scious call him by first name? Though there are all great reasons, one undeniable truth applies specifically to students of the CSU. What sets Arnold apart is his underved post for no other reason than because he will sign your diploma. That's right folks, regard-ed that you graduate while Arnold governs, you will get his John Hancock right there on the bottom of your hard-earned shingle.

Call me immature. Call me an idiot. Heck, call me an outrage to the political process, but at least recognize the benefits. When interviewing for any job, even if your craftsmanship is vastly better qualified, you will have that ace up your sleeve, e.g., "Well sir, I don't have much experience," sure I never went to Harvard, but did Arnold Schwarzenegger sign the other guy's diploma? I don't think so! I'll take an office with a window please. See you Monday.

Surely your golden diploma and kick-ass-and-take-names atti-tude will give you the leg up, and the increased salary and personal satisfaction will offset both the possible free year of tuition for the contest winner and the slightly greater amount of money you paid for your education. If that's not enough, at least you can sell your diploma for $5 on e-Bay. Surly be a girly-man. Vote for Arnold. I know you want that autograph.

Joan M. Dunkon
Industrial technology senior

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It was a dark and stormy night with no lights in sight

What's afraid of the dark? The once popular Snick TV show turned scary nighttime tales has become more of a real-tivity for Cal Poly students who have to venture through the dark streets in and around campus after the sun goes down. The lack of lighting on cam-pus and in San Luis Obispo is a safety concern that has gone unaddressed for too long. Classes scheduled until 10 p.m., club meetings and late night library sessions combined with a bus system that stops running at 8:30 p.m., leaves hundreds if not thousands of students living off campus with no choice but to walk or bike after dark, often alone.

San Luis Obispo is a safe-city community to be sure, but that doesn't mean that crime is nonexistent. The University Police Department's campus crime statistics reported that 23 crimes took place on campus last year and an additional four took place nearby.

A list of safety guidelines that can be found at police_calpoly.edu/stay "stay on populated, well-lit streets" as its third recommendation to increased safety on the street. But following those wise words is nearly impossible when every route home is dark and deserted.

Take the student housing in and around Football Bowl for example. The most frequent-est route for campus goers is walk through the Health Center and down the hill towards Calpoly Boulevard. However, there is only one streetlight along the way. As one of the most frequently routes, one would think that officials would have installed better lighting by now. Thousand of students live within a mile of campus, most in that area, yet their well-being is ignored by the city and school.

In the meantime, if there is no choice but to walk home after dark, try to walk with friends and stay alert to your surrounding-s.

We encourage city and uni-versity officials to consider installing better lighting in and around campus for the safety of Cal Poly's students.

Staff editorials reflect the opinion of the Mustang Daily.

Got something to say?

Send a letter to the editor!

Submit your thoughts, opinions, rants and raves in 250 words or less to mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com

Dear Editor:

"The pushpin is a symbol of (ill the Obis- & more than a century ago, a man was born who led a fight to free a country from tyranny. His teachings and philosophy would later inspire others, such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Cesar Chavez, to stand up and fight against injustice. Gandhi didn't have guns or bullets, but with patience, tolerance, and will power. He was a simple old man, who wore nothing but a cloth over his waist and a cloth over his shoulder, who leaned over a staff as his only support.

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We're afraid of the dark! The once popular Snick TV show turned scary nighttime tales has become more of a reality for Cal Poly students who have to venture through the dark streets in and around campus after the sun goes down. The lack of lighting on campus and in San Luis Obispo is a safety concern that has gone unaddressed for too long. Classes scheduled until 10 p.m., club meetings and late night library sessions combined with a bus system that stops running at 8:30 p.m., leaves hundreds if not thousands of students living off campus with no choice but to walk or bike after dark, often alone.

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Staff editorials reflect the opinion of the Mustang Daily.
Frankly

continued from page 8

plummeted to the ground. Older and wiser, I landed on my feet this time. We needed our coaches behind the blathers to find some seats saved for us by a few teammates who didn’t have enough money to pay the $5 fee at Wall. What’s this? We’re losing 7-3 at the half against Southern Utah.

I heard some vagrant boos after SUU blocked a Nick Coromelas pass and picked it up for a touch-

down — by the way, he’s our placekicker. The real punter is a Sophomore.

Thunderbirds 14, Mustangs 3. Who’s No. 5 team in the nation? Prepare yourselves for the dramatic climax.

We’ve learned everything from movies like “Remember the Titans,” “Waterboy,” “The Longest Yard” and, well, just about every football movie except “Friday Night Lights.” It’s that we always have late-game heroics in these types of stories.

First Mark Cordes dove on a Southern Utah fumble and quarterback Matt Brennan connected with the speedy Treidle Talke for a 36-yard touchdown. Chalk up a two-pointer conversion pass to Jon Hall and the Mustangs were suddenly down 14-11 with 12 minutes, 8 seconds remaining.

Then came “The Play.” Southern Utah knew who Brennan was targeting with a second-and-eight pass from the Thunderbirds’ 19-yard line — Barden.

Three defenders flocked to cover the 6-foot, 6-inch Barden as he slanted into the end zone. The ball hit his hands and flew into the air as a collective sigh hit the crowd.

The ball cannoned off a defender and right back into Barden’s hands. Cal Poly 18, Southern Utah 14.

Cal Poly is the No. 5 team in the nation and Southern Utah rode the Mustangs to the finish, but maybe middle linebacker Kyle Snowball was right as he celebrated on his way out of the stadium.

“This is our season,” he said repeatedly. That’s yet to be seen, but if Cal Poly shoes up that off, it’s a realistic possibility.

Society of Women Engineers

ASPIRE • ADVANCE • ACHIEVE

First meeting of the year

When: Tuesday, September 27, 6pm
Where: Coastal Auditorium
Who: Dean Lee is speaking
What: Free chicken dinner

Outstanding Student Section for the third year in a row!

Women and men are welcome to join

Visit swe.calpoly.edu for more information

SWE office:
• Who: Dean Lee is speaking
• Where: Chumash Auditorium
• When: Tuesday, September 27, 6pm

Carroll

continued from page 8

As a freshman in 2003, Carroll played in all 22 games, starting six. With eight goals and five assists, she was second on the Mustangs in scoring (21 points). She was second- on-the-left to become top scorer after posting game-winners against Washington State, Baylor, Long Beach State and U.C. Irvine.

A communication studies senior, Carroll is in her last season. Always wanting to attend Cal Poly, she was first discovered at a soccer camp during high school by her coach, Alex Crossen.

Ever since she started playing at age 7, Carroll has enjoyed two things — her passion for soccer and her friends.

“Most friends have always been on my soccer team,” she said.

Carroll is already preparing herself for life after soccer.

“It’s really sad. It’s always been a big part of my life,” she said.

But it’s not over yet. She still plans to play in women’s leagues, and wherever she can “as long as my body can hold up,” she said.
SPORTS

Carroll a leader for Cal Poly women's soccer team

Kelsey Carroll tops the Mustangs with 20 shots in 11 games.
Liza Manion
MUSTANG DAILY

Senior forward Kelsey Carroll is among the Cal Poly women's soccer team's leaders in nearly every category this season.

But her impressive statistics and individual accomplishments have not taken away from her dedication.

For Carroll, team success is most important.

"I've done well, but when the team's not doing well, it makes me think I'm not doing as well as I could be," Carroll said.

Through 11 games for Cal Poly (6-6-5), Carroll is second on the team in goals (4), tied for second in assists (2), second in points (10), fifth in shots (20), second in shots on goal (12) and first in game-winners (two).

"In the game against UC Davis last Friday, Carroll had one assist and Carroll was 3-0 against an Aggie team that left with a 7-2 record.

"We played really, really well," Carroll said of the UC Davis contest.

"Everyone worked hard for each other.

On Sunday, the Mustangs lost to Sacramento State in double overtime, 2-1. It was a frustrating game for the team, but Carroll thinks it has helped them grow.

"More losses this year helped us to examine ourselves," Carroll said.

Carroll's top running mate this season has been sophomore forward Ashley Vallis, who leads the team in goals (five), points (11), shots on goal (13) and second in shots (17).

Last season started off very strong, she said, but the Big West Conference season did not go so well.

"In 2005, Cal Poly finished 10-5-4 overall but just 2-4-1 in conference play. It marked the first time since 2001 the Mustangs had missed the NCAA tournament.

It seems that this year the lessons are being learned early on.

Construction at Alex G. Spanos Stadium has prevented the team from playing at its usual location, but the change has not seemed to slow them down.

Cal Poly has won four of five home games at the Sports Complex.

"It kind of feels like our own stadium," Carroll said of the Sports Complex.

"It's more of a soccer field," said Carroll, page 7.

UC Davis ticket plan set

Poly will hold 1,000 more general admission tickets for students to attend the rivalry football game.

Sports Editor: Trician And
Assistant Sports Editor: Frank Strand

UC Davis ticket plan set

POLY will hold 1,000 more general admission tickets for students to attend the rivalry football game.

Due to the outstanding student response at last weekend's football game, Cal Poly Athletics will hold for students 1,000 more general admission tickets for Saturday's Great West Football Conference game against UC Davis.

Kickoff on Mustang Memorial Field at Alex G. Spanos Stadium for "The Horseshoe Classic" is set for 6 p.m.

A total of 3,100 tickets have been set aside. Cal Poly students with valid Cal Poly ID cards will be admitted to the game beginning at 4:45 p.m.

Should the full allotment of tickets not be distributed within 15 minutes after kickoff, they will be sold to the general public.

Reserved seat tickets are sold out.

Cal Poly is 4-1 on the season and won its Great West opener last weekend with a come-from-behind 18-14 triumph over Southern Utah.

Big Hurt puts hurt on Twins

Frank Thomas blasts two homers, including the clincher, to lead Oakland past Minnesota in Game 1 of the ALDS.

Dave Campbell
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barry Zito, Frank Thomas and the Oakland Athletics proved it was possible to beat Johan Santana — even without a career playoff-best 14 strikeouts from the AL's most prized pitcher.

Zito kept Minnesota off balance with his big curveball. Thomas hit two huge home runs and the Athletics defeated the Twins and their ace 3-2 Tuesday in the opener of their first-round AL playoff series.

"First blood, I think, means a lot — especially when you're playing on the road," Zito said.

Zito quieted the Twins and their fans at the noisy, quirky ballpark for eight innings. He gave up four hits, three walks and one run and struck out one.

Oakland emerged in excellent shape after beating Santana, who was 16-0 over a span of 23 regular-season starts in which the Twins won every time since Aug. 1, 2005.

Santana led the league in ERA, strikeouts and innings, and tied for the AL high in wins.

"Santana's probably going to win another Cy Young," A's first baseman Nick Swisher said. "For us to overcome the noise and all that stuff and win against him is something special.

Minnesota rookie Boof Bonser will start against Esteban Loaiza in Game 2 Wednesday afternoon. A season-ending elbow injury to All-Star Francisco Liriano and right-hander Bud Radke's shaky shoulder have left the rotation looking a little thin. This is a team that was a whoop- ing 10 1/2 games behind Detroit on Aug. 7, though, before overtaking the Tigers to win the AL Central division on the final day. Comebacks are nothing new for them.

"Same as we've been doing all year," said first baseman Justin Morneau, who went 0- for-4. "Everybody's going to say we're on the ropes, but we don't believe that.

Thomas went 3-for-4, homering in the ninth off Jose Contreras. The 38-year-old became the oldest player to have a multihomer game in postseason history, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

"It was a big day," Thomas said. "I'm just happy to win this first game, because this is a tough place to win ballgames."

Closer Huston Street gave one back after a leadoff triple by Michael Cuddyer was lost in the ceiling by rightfielder Milton Bradley. Torii Hunter drove in Cuddyer with a groundout, but Rondell White — who doubled in the fifth and homered in the seventh — flied out to center to end the game.

"This team's pretty resilient," catcher Joe Mauer said, the major league batting leader who went 0- 0-for-3 with a walk. "We've dealt with coming from behind before. We're not going to quit until it's done."

The stadium was filled, of course, with 55,542 fans waving those white Homer Hankies and roaring every time Santana so much as made a move on the field in the minutes before the game.

But one out after Thomas homered in the second, Jay Payton singled and Marco Scutaro smacked a two-out double down the left-field line to give Oakland an early 2-0 edge.

Zito ran it with a 2-1, no-hitting Minnesota through 4 2-3 innings and only twice letting a runner get past second base. The left-hander with the big leg kick and even bigger curveball consistently kept the Twins from hitting their sweet spot.

"Everybody's aware of it, but Zito's in the same category as Santana," Street said.

Santana went eight innings and finished with a career playoff-best eight strikeouts.

Sports Editor: Trician And
Assistant Sports Editor: Frank Strand

Franky Speaking

Just your average trip to a Cal Poly football game — or was it?

This story has all the makings of the greatest tale ever told — a boy's dreams come crashing down, but some quick thinking and a wacky plan add some comic relief before the boy conquers an arch-enemy and becomes a man. Laugh and tears, a team that snatches victory from the jaws of defeat and some people crammed in a Dodge Neon. What more could you ask for?

The journey began at halftime on the lawn outside the business building. Some track teammates and I had just finished cleanup duties from the pre-game barbecue — track athletes have to work at the same barbecue to help raise money for the program — and the freshmen ditched us.

A second junior and a sophomore, were left to watch the game themselves. We were down- right nervous.

As soon as our coach gave us reprimise, we charged toward the entrance, passing numerous fans watching the game from a lawn outside the stadium. I looked at them, then I looked to the front entrance and there it was, the line from hell.

A few dozen anxious and frustrat­ ed students stood between us and the game. At first we thought we were doomed — stood in line with my roommate hoping that halftime would mean people leaving.

The end of the line seemed literally to be the end of the line for our quest to see this Cal Poly football game. Our dreams were on the line, our hopes cast asunder as tears welled up in our eyes. Then came the phone call.

"Hey Frank, we're hopping the fence. Get over here quick!"

A glint of hope kept the team at bay as we booted at a sort of fast walk toward our gateway to destiny.

We arrived at the back of the scoreboard and all that was left in our way was a mealy chain link fence. My disdain for climbing anything except stairs was rewarded, our hopes cast asunder as tears welled up in our eyes. Then came the phone call.

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