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 Afghanistan's ambassador to Germany.

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 capitol, 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 1995, 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 US 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.

Students make bill-splitting easy

Ronnie Meehan

MUSTANG DAILY

Bills. No one likes them. They creep up, steal your money, and then do the same thing 30 days later. Throw some roommates into the equation and paying bills can get downright nasty.

Luckily, two Cal Poly students have developed a software program that will make paying bills easier. So the next time a buddy blows all his dough at the bars the day before rent is due he has no excuse.

Omnipense.com was created by two former roommates: business administration graduate Tom 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.

Kelly wrote a rudimentary software program for 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 last 30 days, he knew it worked," said Severson's senior project adviser and current College of Business assistant professor of management, Myleen Leary. "I knew there were people all over the country who could benefit from it, so there was definitely a market."

The two decided to test the market with their software and took out a $7,000 investment.

They are using various social networking Web sites like Facebook and MySpace to get the word out.

"I call it Quicken for college students," Severson added. "But it's better because you can access it from everywhere. You can go on vacation and still..."
Ambassador
continued from page 1
Since returning, not only had Zulfacar been working to rebuild the nation's higher education system, but she also had been actively encouraging Afghan women to pursue higher education at Kabul University and abroad.

In December of 2005, Zulfacar had also been instrumental in the creation of the Cal Poly Afghan Educational Outreach Project—a fund designed to aid the Afghan students who want to pursue an education in the United States. Though Zulfacar was not available for comment, her peers within the sociology department feel that Zulfacar was an excellent choice for the ambassadorial role.

"Professor Zulfacar is extremely committed to her work," said sociology professor Barbara Andre. "If the amount of effort she put into educating us all on Afghanistan goes into her new role, she is going to do quite well."

"It is no surprise that she would bring to her ambassadorial duties the same wisdom, insight and enterprising spirit that she has shown as a Cal Poly professor. We wish her the best of luck as she embarks for Germany."

Since her appointment as the ambassador of Afghanistan to Germany, Zulfacar had left Cal Poly on Sept. 1 for Afghanistan and then Berlin.

However, according to journalism department chair George Ramos, the social sciences department chair Barbara Mori said Tuesday morning during a CLA meeting that Zulfacar had not yet taken the position because the former Afghan ambassador to Germany has refused to relieve his post. Though Mori was not available for comment, two department chairs present at the meeting, who preferred their names not be disclosed, confirmed the statement.

SLO Transit
continued from page 1
vice is when students take an RTA bus, students ride for a discounted rate to head to places outside the community, such as Pismo.

"(The agreement) benefits students by offering a free form of alternative transportation to the high cost of campus parking," O'Dell said.

In fact, a daily parking pass was raised a dollar and is now $85 (that could be lunch). A parking pass will cost students $80 for the semester and $270 for all three quarters.

"It's a good partnership with the city because a lot of our students use the service," Campbell said.

In fact, according to data collected, over half of the SLO transit riders are Cal Poly students.

Every CSU campus must set aside some parking fees money should be spent, Campbell said. Cal Poly's administration decided to use the money toward funds that affect students the most: Transportation. By students taking advantage of the pre-paid bus fares, roads are less congested and better for the environment, reported O'Dell.

Campbell said Cal Poly spends more than what is required by the CSU system standards.

Other fund money is spent on bike lockers located all around campus and near the residence halls to encourage those with expensive bikes to consider alternative options besides driving to campus.

Aerospace engineering freshman Danielle Sanchez and civil engineering freshman Spencer Brown sat at the bus stop in front of the UU waiting to take the bus. Both have ridden the bus only a few times and prefer it over driving. Sanchez said she enjoyed the convenience of not being的同时 worry about having enough cash on her.

"It's nice because the whole area is dedicated towards catering to students," Brown said.

Both students were waiting for the bus and had no clue their transportation was truly free, not something added to their tuition cost.

"That's sweet," Sanchez said when she heard she was getting a free ride. Check out www.rideshare.org for a listing of routes and bus schedules.

KISS ME
I work at the Mustang Daily!

Congress passes Web poker ban
Eleazar David Melendez
COLUMBIA DAILY SPECTATOR (COLUMBIA, SC)

NEW YORK — The United States Senate, serving hand to Internet poker enthusiasts early Saturday morning, when Republican leaders passed a bill that will make it virtually impossible for Americans to play poker online.

News of the ban, which was attached to a must-pass port security bill, drew immediate praise from anti-gambling groups, but infuriated players across the nation, and raised financial markets worldwide.

Under the proposed law, which was unexpectedly pushed through the Senate by Majority Leader Bill Frist, it is illegal for credit card companies or banks to transact with online casinos and certain gambling sites, effectively shutting them off from U.S. residents. Bet on horse racing, fantasy sports, and state lotteries will be exempt.

"Many players are simply out of a job," said Alvin Lu, a part-time professional poker player and performance poet based in Chicago who said he made $141,000 playing poker online last year. "The biggest site that I play at is going down," he said.

The chips were also down for online casino operators, who argue that their sites fill places like Costa Rica and Gibraltar, but do most of their business with American players. As investors from Singapore to New York called it "the end of the line" for the companies at stake, mass tens of billions of dollars in market value simply disappeared.

British operator PartyGaming, which owns the most popular poker room on the Internet, Party-Poker.com, said it would stop accepting money from its U.S. customers as soon as the bill was signed into law. So did 888 Holdings, which runs Pacific-Poker.com, the second biggest Internet poker room. Sportingbet, owner of Paradise-poker.com, said it would consider its options. Those three companies alone lost over 2.5 billion pounds (or about $4.9 billion) in market value: Monday on the London Stock Exchange.

Critics noted that the bill does not explain how American players with accounts in foreign online casinos can claim their cash after the ban becomes law. The bill gave 270 days to the U.S. Treasury and the Federal Reserve to decide how to enforce the law, something that certain observers said might be impossible.

"This happened really suddenly and seemed sort of an unexpected turn ... it is unclear what is going to happen," said junior Columbia student Mael Bredeche, president of the Columbia University Poker Society.

Bredeche said his group, which coordinates poker games on campus, had no activities planned this semester sponsored by online poker sites.

Among others, the NCAA has backed the ban, which extends to online sport betting, citing instances in which college players have been paid to throw important games.

White House spokeswoman Emily Lawrimore told Bloomberg News that President George W. Bush will sign the bill into law.

Bills
continued from page 1
see when you have bills due." Omnisense.com is user friendly. One only needs to go to the Web site and sign up for an account. After establishing the group and entering the names of each prospective bill payer, the bill amounts and due dates can be entered. The information is logged, and then split automatically per specific customizations. E-mail reminders to each person are sent out at least five days before the bills are due.

The plan to continue testing the market to see if they can find a lucrative niche. They hope to someday end check writing altogether by utilizing PayPal on the site, Severson said.

The basic service of the software is free. The premiere version is more advanced and currently available for free for two months at Omnisense.com, but once the two months are up it will be $20 per household a year.
Housing slowdown results in widespread price declines

**Martin Crutiniger**
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 housing slowdown 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 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

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see Housing, page 4
International

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea triggered 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 deterrent 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 flashing up tensions on the Korean Peninsula, a Cold War flashpoint, in an attempt to win concessions such as economic aid.

A spokesman for ENAC, Italy’s civil aviation authority, said it was committed to nuclear disarmament, suggesting a willingness to negotiate. The contradictory statement fits a North Korean pattern of flashing up tensions on the Korean Peninsula, a Cold War flashpoint, in an attempt to win concessions such as economic aid.

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Briefs

State

SANTA CRUZ (AP) — A $4,500 solar-powered trash can has been put to use in a pizza box and coffee cup in an effort to relieve the problem of overflowing Pacific Avenue trash cans. The experimental solar-powered garbage, tested in front of the El Palomar Restaurant, automatically compacts trash. City officials were enthusiastic about buying four permanent bulky trash receptacles.

Los Angeles (AP) — Stage mothers for a Rottweiler and other dogs have sued a company called Hollywood Paws for failing to turn their pooches into stars.

More than a dozen pet owners contend the company collected tens of thousands of dollars but never delivered on promises to get auditions for their pets.

"I lost a lot of money," said Rachel Armstrong, owner of Golab the Rottweiler. Armstrong said she believed the company had the "cool" factor that would get her into music videos and paid nearly $2,000 to Hollywood Paws LLC for training.

All she got was a rejection from "The Tyra Banks Show."

The gunman who killed five girls in an Amish schoolroom confirmed to his wife during the siege that he molested two relatives 20 years ago when he was boy and was tormented by dreams of doing it again, authorities said Tuesday. Investigators also said that Charles Carl Roberts IV, 32, plotted his takeover of the school for at least a week and that the items he brought — including flexible plastic ties, symbols and lubricating jelly — suggest he may have been planning to sexually assault the Amish girls before mid-October.

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Carlos Mencia speaks his mind to students

Christina Casci
MUSTANG DAILY

Shuffling feet, hushed 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 set, 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 game.

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 “Mind of Mencia.” The show has averaged 1.4 million viewers since its debut, according to his Web site.

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 Tori McGhee. “Even though he uses race jokes, he has good taste,” she said.

Brad Williams, one of the opening acts who is also a dwarf, doing the Osirua 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 judgment. 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.”

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gandhi's pacifism a good tool for today

I am writing to discuss a people about the importance of Oct. 2. On that day over a century ago, a man known as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Cesar Chavez to stand up and fight against oppression; to fight without 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 shoulders, who leaned over a staff as a official. His name was Mohandas Gandhi. And he led the earliest march to the Indian ocean, imprinting his footsteps in the heart of Martin Luther King and Cesar Chavez, who followed the example and marched to their own goals, followed by thousands of followers. One doesn't have to be Indian to understand and implement the only weapon Gandhi had: truth and nonviolence. Every American in this country understands his example and has seen the power of it through King and Chavez. In a time when we are surrounded by violence and fear, and it is only that on this day we take the time to remember an older generation against the same obstacles when he took on an empire. Gandhi’s teachings never go out of style. He stood up against the test of time even after his death nearly 60 years ago. R. Rayadurg, mechanical engineering junior

Where has all the dating gone?

Dating is definitely on the decline. I mean people are just too afraid of being front or getting hurt! I think in order for someone to take on the role of finding someone or seeing if the “apple of their eye” feel the same, they have to out them. There needs to be a distinction between the just friends and

Many people suffer from the confusion of what hanging out actually means in terms of relationships between people. Everything can be easily worked out by communicating with people or taking on the age old ritual of dating. Most girls I know like the idea of dating. It is romantic and slower paced. It is also a lot less confusing. You know that that reason you are there is because you like someone and want to get to know them better.

Guys and girls need to be brave, take the first step and ask someone out. At least then you will know whether you have a chance or not.

Jenelle Howard, physics and mathematics junior

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 amazing crowd standing in the entire game nearly brought tears to my eyes. The dancing to the music, breaks in playing 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 in beautiful head 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 spirit—Cal Poly. And while you’re at it, bring some of that energy to other great Cal Poly teams like our No. 20 volleyball men’s and women’s soccer teams just to name a few. Here at Cal Poly, we do try 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 president

Reelect Arnold so he can sign your diploma

You might ask yourself, what are the right reasons to support Arnold? It is because of his savage nature, entrepreneurial skill, skilled acting, or the fact that his constituency call him by first name? Though these are all great reasons, one undeniable truth applies specifically to students of the CSU. Arnold Schwarzenegger has deserved post for no other reason than because he will sign your diploma. That’s right folks, proved that you graduate while Arnold governs, you will get his John Hancock right there on the bottom of your hard-earned diplomae.

Call me immature. Call me an idiot. Heck, call me an outrage to the political process, at least recognize the benefits. When interviewing for any job, even if your competition is vastly better qualified, you will have that as a tip, wear your sleeve, e.g., “Well sir, I don’t think so. I’ll take an office with a window please. See you Monday.”

Sandy your golden diploma and kick-ass-and-take-names attitude 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 or $10. Be a gutsy man. Vote for Arnold. I know you want that autobiography.

Jace M. Dunand
Industrial technology senior

STAFF EDITORIAL

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

W ho’s afraid of the dark? The once popular Snick TV show with its 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 unsung 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 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 tells “stay on populated, well-lit streets” as its third recommendation to increase 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 Boulevard for example. The most frequent paths to campus past the Health Center and down the hill towards California Boulevard. However, there is only one streetlight along the way. As one of the most frequently used routes, one would think that officials would have installed better lighting by now. Thousands 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 surroundings. We encourage city and university officials to consider installing better lighting in and around campus for the safety of Cal Poly’s students.

Staff editors reflect the opinion of the Mustang Daily.

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Frankly
continued from page 8
plummeted to the ground. Older and wiser, I landed on my feet this time. We needed our coach behind the blathers to find some seats saved for us by a few teammates who didn't have enough height to get over the fence at War. What's this? We're losing 7-3 at the halfway against Southern Utah?

I heard some vague boos before SUU blocked a Nick C?oromelas punt and picked it up for a touch-

southern Utah tumble and quarter-
back Matt Breiman connected with the speedy Treidale Talver for a 36-
yard touchdown. Chalk up a two-point 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 Breiman was targeting with his sec-
ond-and-eight pass from the Thunderbirds' 19-yard line —

Barden. Three defenders flocked to cover

the 6-foot, 6-inch Barden as he slant-
ed into the end zone. The ball hit his hands and stone into the air as a col-
llective aghh 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. 3 team in the nation and Southern Utah rode the Mustangs to the finish, but maybe middle linebacker Kyle Storwalt 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 shows up that offens, it's a realistic possibility.

Society of Women Engineers

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First meeting of the year

When: Tuesday, September 27, 6pm

Where: Champions Auditorium

Who: Dean is speaking

What: Free chicken dinner

Outstanding women's group in the Community for the year in a row!

Women and men are welcome to join

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SPORTS

Franky Speaking

Wednesday, October 4, 2006

UC Davis ticket plan set

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

SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

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, 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.

UC Davis is 3-2 on the season and at 1-1 in conference play.

The Mustangs have lost to UC Irvine and San Francisco, scoring a total of 17 points in the two games, but Cal Poly is riding a four-game winning streak.

The Mustangs are averaging 26.5 points per game compared to 13.7 for UC Davis.

The Bulldogs lead the all-time series with an 18-15 edge, but the Mustangs have won the last three meetings.

UC Davis has not defeated Cal Poly since Oct. 7, 1989.

Cal Poly senior forward Kelsey Carroll (28) has four goals, two assists and leads the Mustangs (6-5-4) with 20 shots through 11 games. Cal Poly hosts UC Irvine at 7 p.m. Friday and Long Beach State at 1 p.m. Sunday.

MUSTANG DAILY

Frank Stranzl SENIOR STAFF WRITER

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 dream 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. Laughs and tears, a team that snatches victory from the jaws of defeat at the last minute, a few people crammed in a Dodge Neon. What more could one ask for?

The journey began at halftime on the lawn outside the business building. Some track teammates and I had just finished cleaning 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 huge freshmen and a sophomore, were left to watch the game themselves. We were down-right scared for them.

As soon as our coach gave us reprieve, 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 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 tears at bay as we bolted at a set of fast walk along the path for our gateway to destiny.

We arrived at the back of the scoreboard and all that was left in our way was a measly chain link fence. My disdain for climbing anything dates back to the fourth grade when my baseball coach warned me not to climb that fence. He said not to because it might fall, and I climbed that fence, you might fall and break a bone," my coach said.

His words echoed in my head as I climbed to the top, swung my legs over and jumped. My body touched that fence, but it was my shoelace that did it. I fractured my wrist — nothing serious.

Back to the story at hand.

As I climbed this fence I actually didn't even think about that freakish childhood incident.

I climbed to the top, swung my legs over and jumped, but my jean pocket caught in the fence and I fell...