Cal Poly celebrates life of deceased student

A memorial service was held for Spencer Wood, a Poly student who died last summer. Family and friends met in the Business Student Center Saturday to remember his life.

BRENNAN ANGEL
MUSTANG DAILY

Hayley Bramble
MUSTANG DAILY

Friends and family gathered Saturday at Cal Poly to remember Spencer Wood, a history and political science student who passed away during the summer. "He was a great friend, just a really nice guy and we will all miss him," said Rachel Solis, a former classmate.

Wood died in July after going out to a bar with friends after a concert. He went outside to make a phone call, but never came back. He was found the following afternoon by a passer-by in a shallow drainage wash near Avila Beach Road. The coroner's office later determined that Wood had fractured his skull and died from a hematoma.

"He was an amazing student and always asked the most interesting questions in class," said Tammy Cheng, who graduated last spring from Cal Poly. Cheng, a fellow history student, took the Soviet Russia class with Wood last year.

To inform students about the service, Spencer's younger sister, Stephanie Wood, posted a message on the Facebook Web site.

"I look forward to seeing you all January 20th to remember Spence and celebrate his beautiful life," she wrote.

Two other memorial services were held over the summer in his hometown of Newport Beach. This service gave those who knew him in San Luis Obispo a chance to say good-bye.

New local winery 'tangent' presents promising lineup

Poly women lose, men win against Big West rival UCSB

IN SPORTS, 8

IN SPOTLIGHT, 4

COMMING UP...

What: The Career Center and the Women's Center team up again for the next installment of "Coffee and Careers," an ongoing discussion about women in the workplace.

When: Tuesday, Jan. 23 at 11 a.m.

Where: The Women's Center, room 217 in the University Union.

For more info: Contact Elizabeth Lucas at (805) 822-5050.

What: Sit in on "An Evening with Garrison Keillor" when the humorist visits to share some anecdotes, as well as perform a few songs.

When: Wednesday, Jan. 24 at 8 p.m.

Where: Harmon Hall in the Christopher Cohan Center.

For more info: www.pacsl.org.

What: Learn more about the Peru and London study abroad options for summer 2007.

When: Thursday, Jan. 25 at 11 a.m. to noon.


What: Join Poly Escapes for a weekend of snow camping in Big Meadows, complete with snow shoes and time to play in the snow.

When: Friday, Jan. 26 to Sunday, Jan. 28.

Where: Big Meadows.

For more info: Call Poly Escapes at (805) 756-1287.
Freeze's ripple effects could cripple Central Valley economy

FRESNO, Calif. — The freeze that destroyed $1 billion in citrus crops earlier this month could have ripple effects that ravage the broader Central Valley economy.

Five consecutive nights of below-freezing temperatures starting Jan. 12 devastated citrus crops and severely damaged fields of strawberries, leafy greens, cabbages, celery, onions and nursery plants. The disaster prompted Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger last week to declare a state of emergency for the counties of Imperial, San Bernadino, San Diego, Santa Clara, Riverside, Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Tulare, Ventura and Stanislaus.

California's Central Valley was the hardest hit, and economists say the full impact won't be felt until the spring.

The deep freeze could cost thousands of people their jobs and drain hundreds of millions of dollars from the area's agriculture-intensive economy, local employers say. As many as one of every five workers in the Central Valley is directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture.

Pickers and truckers will be the first to feel the strain, followed by equipment dealers and manufacturers, restaurant owners and retailers. As fresh supplies dwindle in the next couple weeks, packing-houses will close down — maybe until new harvests in October or November.

Mark Gillette, managing partner of Gillette Citrus Inc. in Dinuba, which grows and packs oranges, usually employs packinghouse workers for 12-hour shifts in October or November.

This year, payroll will be a fraction of that; no one is working a 12-hour shift for at least six weeks, he said. The navel orange season usually ends in May.

"There's going to be some fruit, but there's going to be a lot less hours than they're used to," Gillette said. "It's tough. People are going to need help. It breaks my heart."

On Friday, Fresno County's Department of Agriculture issued a damage estimate of $92 million for citrus only, including $69 million to navel oranges, $6 million to lemons and $37 million to grapefruit, mandarins, tangerines and other citrus.

There's no question that the impacts to the San Joaquin Valley are significant and severe, said Bert Mason, professor and interim chairman of the Department of Agricultural Economics at California State University, Fresno.

"Citrus, which ranks just behind grapes as the Valley's most valuable fruit crop, brought in just over $1 billion of the region's $11.4 billion agricultural economy."

A 2002 study by Arizona State University showed the Valley's citrus industry directly contributes $825 million to the economy and employs about 12,000 workers.

The industry generates $1.6 billion in indirect economic benefit, with up to 25,000 workers relying on related economic activities.

As a last resort, use the Mustang Daily as a tissue. Say health lie with you...
Bush's State of the Union focuses on energy promises; action uncertain

H. Josef Hebert
ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON — A year after warning America of its addiction to oil, President Bush is expected to warn Congress of a new addiction: the nation's growing dependency on foreign oil.

Aides hint of a major pro-energy initiative in the State of the Union speech Tuesday night. Yet the president is expected to take a predictable path, urging expanded use of ethanol in gasoline, more research into cleaner burning coal and nuclear power and new domestic energy sources.

"He's going to talk about energy," said a senior Bush administration official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Bush is expected to call for a sharp increase in the use of renewable energy and conservation programs. But a vast majority of those programs are without funds, neither requested by the administration nor approved by Congress.

Bush has opened new federal lands for oil and gas drilling. Last month, Congress approved a large new area in the Gulf of Mexico to drill. This month, Bush lifted a longtime ban on oil and gas drilling in Alaska's Bristol Bay.

But even there, the administration risks an election-year backlash by seafood companies and environmental groups who oppose drilling.

"It is a political sure bet as ethanol march toward the polls in November," former Energy Department official Jamie Callahan points to a $450 million ethanol development in Iowa and the lowest was in Bakersfield, Calif., on the state's eastern plains.

California prices on average for regular grade was $2.52, nearly 14 cents around the nation over the past two weeks, narrowing a drop in crude oil prices.

The price of gas dropped nearly 14 cents around the nation over the past two weeks, narrowing a drop in crude oil prices. The national average for self-serve regular was $2.18 a gallon, industry analyst Trilby Lundberg said Sunday.

The average for mid-grade was $2.29, while premium was $2.40 a gallon, according to Lundberg's latest survey of 7,000 gas stations across the country.

California prices on average for regular grade was $2.52, down nearly 9 cents from two weeks ago. Among California cities surveyed, the highest price was in San Francisco at $2.62 and the lowest was in Madera at $2.44.

DENVER (AP) — The latest in a series of winter storms battered Colorado on Sunday, dumping several inches of snow and whipping up strong wind that created whiteout conditions on the state's eastern plains. Officials closed a long stretch of Interstate 70, from near Denver International Airport almost to the Kansas state line, because of high winds, blowing snow, poor visibility and ice.

NEW YORK (AP) — The man accused of kidnapping two Missouri boys and holding one of them for four years said life was good for him during that period, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Michael Devlin, 41, said his own parents, who live nearby, have not visited him since his arrest earlier this month, The New York Post reported.

The 41-year-old pizzeria owner is accused of taking 13-year-old Owen Wharton and the boy got off a school bus Jan. 8 in Beaufort, Mo., about 50 miles southwest of St. Louis.

State

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A 14-year-old girl was shot and killed by Hispanic gang members that police say were targeting blacks. A 14-year-old girl died after being hit by a stray bullet as two gang-bangers exchanged fire near her home.

A cop was wounded in a gun­ battle with a suspected gangster.

After another bloody run in America's gang capital, Los Angeles police and politicians are promising one of the toughest crackdowns on gangs in city history.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The dance flick "Stomp the Yard" remained in the box office for a second weekend, but a handful of small films were boosted by box office success at the Golden Globes.

The Fox Searchlight film "The Last King of Scotland" was the biggest beneficiary as the studio shuttered expanded the art house film from four theaters to 495, anticipating a good per­ formance at the Globes. The movie took in an estimated $1.18 million from Friday to Sunday.

Forest Whitaker was named best actor at the Golden Globes for his portrayal of Ugandan dictator Idi Amin. He also is considered a favorite for an acting Oscar.

BERKELEY (AP) — Armed tree sit­ ters have moved into a grove of oak trees on the country side of the University of California this week, without permission, to protest the university's plan to cut down a large oak on University of California this week, without permission, to protest the university's plan to cut down a large oak on University of California.

A political sure bet as ethanol has widespread bipartisan support. Among the first bills introduced in the new Democratic-run Senate calls for using 60 billion gallons of ethanol, 10 times current produc­ tion capacity, by 2030.

Two 2008 presidential hopefuls, Sens. Barack Obama of Illinois and Joe Biden of Delaware, are leading its co-sponsors.

Ethanol is "riding a big wave," this year, says Mark McMillan, a policy analyst at the Stanford Group. "The renewable fuels-ethanol juggernaut enjoys one of the most prized commodities in Washington — broad-based sup­ port and bipartisan political momentum.

But even there, the administra­ tion has been criticized for not liv­ ing up to the rhetoric.

In last year's State of the Union speech, Bush announced a goal to make a "new kind of ethanol prac­ tical and competitive within six years.

His administration followed within days with a budget calling for only a modest increase — about $29 million — for research into cellulosic ethanol development.

National

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP) — The price of gas dropped nearly 14 cents around the nation over the past two weeks, narrowing a drop in crude oil prices.

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The price of gas dropped nearly 14 cents around the nation over the past two weeks, narrowing a drop in crude oil prices.
We've got a newcomer in town. A brand new winery that could teach us all a lesson in diversifying our interests. This winery came from traditional roots dating back from 1973 when most original vine plantings in Edna Valley occurred. The mystery winery? Tangent, Baileyana's brand new sister company, which was established May 1st of last year.

So what makes it so special? Well for starters, the fact that it only encompasses traditional Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc, with unique to the area Albarino grapes and a special blend called Eclecticone. The Eclecticone includes a blend of Viognier, Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc, Riesling, Muscat Canelli and Albarino. Nearly all of the wines are estate grown, meaning they only come from the vineyards belonging to the winery. The Albarino is from Spain and is considered to be the premier white wine. It is grown primarily in the Northwest of Spain. Here in California, it is still an experimental varietal and lacks acreage. What is happening next year? Tangent is planning on planting 50 acres of this Albarino grape, making tangent the largest producer in California.

The look of tangent includes a sleek white and silver label and a silver foil screw cap. Yes, this is a new innovative high end wine featuring a screw cap. The aim? To make this wine convenient and approachable at all times and places. In my opinion, I found it extremely accessible and easy to serve. One step, from the refrigerator to the glass. Another perk, unlike some white wines that require enjoying it alone without food due to its amble supply of tannins (bitterness in wine) or high acidity structure and enjoyable fruit tones. Sitting down with friends to enjoy a light pasta, the Sauvignon Blanc was one of the few enjoyable white wines I've ever paired with food.

But don't start suggesting it to your parents down in San Diego. Tangent is not readily available in grocery stores around the state (yet is sold nationally). It is more of a restaurant wine, available now in local restaurants. Though, you may be able to buy tangent wines at Vons, Tarte Downtown, and at the Baileyana Tasting Room. Price points for this wine are between $12 and $20.

Another unique feature of the wine is the winemaker's approach to producing the wine. Christian Roguenant, the principal winemaker for both Baileyana as well as tangent, has a diverse background making wine from France, Germany, Argentina, and New Zealand. You might also recognize his name on campus if you are in the Viticulture program, as he consults wine projects here on campus. Roguenant uses all stainless steel tanks and includes very little or no oak barrels for fermentation. The result is a clean, true to varietal taste. In my quest for wines thus far, I have found that there are two sorts of wine you can buy. One is immediately unimpressive with little or no character and almost possesses a bland lack of personality. The other, is a surprise. This one has a uniqueness and gives you a peek through the looking glass into the winemaker's practices and true wishes for the wine. It tastes as though you would have tasted it from a tasting room, straight from the barrel to the bottle. I am very much pleased to say that my encounter with tangent very much encompasses the latter.

Tangent is available for purchase directly from the Baileyana Tasting Room located at 5828 Orcutt Rd, San Luis Obispo. They are also online at www.tangentwines.com

Lauren Jeter is a 2005 wine and viticulture graduate and is pursuing a master's degree in ag business.

Feel free to submit any recommendations, anecdotes, favorite wines or recipes to laurenjeter@gmail.com.
Muscat Daily

24

continued from page 4

reason I bring up "24" besides the
show's extensive bad-weather, man-
crush on Jack Bauer. And I bet you
can guess the reason simply by look-
ing at the words floating above this
article. That's right — the music!

Much of the genius of "24" rests
not just in its acting or plot twists, but in
its ability to make viewers ridicu-
ously tense for an entire hour every
week through the use of music.

In high school, my "24"-watching
friends and I had an ongoing joke
that one night, we would buy the
soundtrack to the show, pop it in a
and just drive around Lancaster
County really fast making sharp turns
like those in the show. We also
weren't very cool.

I bring this up, though, to suggest
how powerful music can truly be in
other mediums — the impact of music
television in movies cannot be
overstated. What would the end of
"24" have been like if that theme
song had been performed by, say,
"Friends" instead of Celine Dion?

Oddly enough, probably a lot less
annoying. Nonetheless, the power
of music in visual media is undeniable.

But with "24," music plays a differ-
ent role. The show uses music not as
an opening credits — but rather as an
"Friends"-like sing-along with the
tune. And I bet you
would buy the

music is an understruc-
ture that pushes even the
more relaxed moments to high-pitch
tension.

The music isn't full of memorable
melodies. You won't be humming
"24" tunes on the bus the next day as
they're composed of terse, short blats
of swelling strings and computerized
beeps. The music is extremely unset-
tling, and if I were to actually listen to
it while walking around campus, I'd
be a much less relaxed person. So
much less relaxed that I'd probably
run everywhere.

But as much as music adds an ex-
tra slab of tension to "24," it also takes
away from the realism in the show
that has based on pretending to be
based in reality. Real government
agents don't have orchestras, or guns
holding boom boxes, following them
around all day. But somehow, we just
accept that Jack Bauer uses the day
with some omnipresent string sec-
tion playing at all times. It is a clear
artistic conceit in a faux-real
world.

But nip that as I may, without
"24" music, I can't imagine the

show reaching the nail-biting,
water-hodgepodge levels of
Tension that it does with every
episode. Somehow, the music that so
obviously isn't a part of real life adds
to our imagined notion of how real-
istic the show is.

It's a brilliant manipulation of our
perception of reality: By anchoring
the show with a ticking clock and
real-world issues, "24" seems closer
to home than any of that reality-TV
terror that VH1 pumps out by the
minute. Even with constant the-
aurics and heart-pumping music,
"24" seems more realistic than
"Survivor" ever could.

So thank you music for, once
again, making the world a better
place. And also, thank you, Jack
Bauer, for kicking enough ass for
the 15.7 million people. That's a lot
of us.

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of us.

Nicole Sciotto

"Queen" conquers all at movie
theaters and in Hollywood

For news and resources of interest to college educators and students, visit nytimes.com/college.
STAFF EDITORIAL

The Mustang Daily doesn’t want to write your obituary

When the Mustang Daily reported the death of Cal Poly senior Spencer Wood, 22, in July, it was one of the most difficult stories the staff had to write in the past year. Articles on student deaths are always tragic, but Wood’s death particularly struck because it was preventable.

Wood had been drinking with friends at a bar in Avila Beach after a concert and stepped outside to take a phone call. Friends speculate that he lost of sobriety most likely caused him to fall down a shallow drainage wash, which is where his body was discovered the next afternoon.

Wood was supposed to graduate this end of the quarter. The history and political science student was interested again on Saturday in a memorial service on campus. While his life should be celebrated, his death can also serve as a lesson. Every year, approximately 700 college students die from alcohol-related deaths, according to MSNBC.

Many Cal Poly students party with alcohol on weekends to loosen up, but many may not realize the damage several drinks can have on their bodies. Excessive alcohol consumption kills about 75,000 people every year in the United States, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Cal Poly has seen its share of alcohol-related deaths over the years and we’re certainly to come in the next 10 years. But what if that next death was you? What if you drank one too many drinks next weekend? Your friends would have to read about how you died in the Mustang Daily. Your classmates would have to write in your empty desk in class. Your parents would have to come clear out your apartment.

Binge drinking doesn’t always lead to death though. Among underage college students, 50,000 have experienced alcohol-related date rape and another 430,000 have been assaulted by another student who had been drinking, according to stopalcohobuse.gov.

Of course students drink in college and they always will, but the Mustang Daily encourages you to practice a little moderation the next time you pour yourself a drink. The mutual goal of understanding and reconciliation is to be reached, describing the context for reasons for why certain feelings arise is absolutely necessary.

That can’t be done throwing descriptive emotionally loaded words around; it can’t advance the dialogue further than “I’m([insert elaborate synonym for ‘disappointed’]).” In these types of conflicts, sufficient cause has to be established before or immediately after expressing the feeling, otherwise the person on the other end believes he or she is being attacked for no reason. Emotion is for emphasis, in life and argument.

With that said, the Jan. 18 dating column covered a lot of ground. Carbone’s “be as bluntly clear as possible” is sound. However, given the generic, overly used thought structure and vocabulary of males, I think we as a gender deserve some more credit, because an enhanced verbal skill specialization in emotional expression can communicate nothing without foresight and clear, definite reasoning.

Christopher Dean Sahms, Philosophy sophomore

POLITICAL COLUMN

Let the swiftheadting of Barack Obama begin

Now that Illinois Senator Barack Obama is running for president, many conservative groups have taken it upon themselves to “educate” you about his past, before you get a chance to. The most ominous of these efforts to scare Sen. Obama is the “Let us Remain Alert” movement appearing on several conservative Web sites, message boards and e-mails.

Apparently, conservatives are worried over the fact that when Obama was 6 years old he spent a year at a Madrassas, a Muslim religious school, the implication being that he was somehow a Muslim Manchurian Candidate. However, this ignorance isn’t just limited to radical bloggers as surprisingly Fox News has gotten in on the act.

Last Friday, Fox and Friends did a “biographical” piece on Obama’s past, which focused solely on the Madrassas issue, overlooking the fact that Obama is a Christian and has been a member of Chicago’s Trinity United Church of Christ since 1988.

In fact, Fox News even titled the segment: “Barack’s Background: Past History or Madrassas Matters?” Immediately after the segment, co-host, Steve Doocy, claimed that all these madrassas “teach this Wahhabism, which pretty much means us,” and actually asked: “Was Wah­ habism on Obama’s cur­ riculum back then?”

If that weren’t bad enough, Fox then took a call from a screened viewer who said: “I think a Muslim would be fine in the presi­ dency, but not Obama.”

Fortunately, right before the commercial the other co-host, Gretchen Carlson clarified the station’s position on the Muslimummatters: “We want to be clear, too, that this isn’t all Muslims, of course, we would only be concerned about the kind that want to blow us up!” Well said, Gretchen. At least someone here is keeping Fox stupid and igno­ rant...I mean “fair and balanced.”

Sadly, as bad as this Obama incident was on Fox, this was not the first time conservatives have questioned the integrity of a politician due to his Muslim background. During the Nov. 14 edition of his CNN Headline News program, Glenn Beck interviewed Newt Gingrich editor: Jennifer Hahn

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Enhanced verbal communication means nothing without reason

The verbal facility to better communicate emotion does well for exhibiting passions passion­ ately and that’s important. But, if, that mutual goal of understanding and reconciliation is to be reached, describing the context for reasons for why certain feelings arise is absolutely necessary.

That can’t be done throwing descriptive emotionally loaded words around; it can’t advance the dialogue further than “I’m([insert elaborate synonym for ‘disappointed’]).” In these types of conflicts, sufficient cause has to be established before or immediately after expressing the feeling, otherwise the person on the other end believes he or she is being attacked for no reason. Emotion is for emphasis, in life and argument.

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Christopher Dean Sahms, Philosophy sophomore

Got something to say?

Send a letter to the editor.

All letters must be 250 words or less and may be edited for grammar, style and spelling.

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Volume LX, No. 17

Send your opinions

with your name, address and phone number to:
mastangdailyopinion@gmail.com
Manning came back right, and proving that one good offensive line means another, his 2-point conversion was too much for the Vikings.

The rest of the game was lackluster, back-and-forth, and Manning was no different. The Pats answered with an 80-yard kickoff return by Ellis Hobbs, who was credited four yards from the back of Yard 21 to Brady. Gaffney awarded the score to Gaffney after ruling he was fouled out of the back of the end zone by an Indy defender.

After that drive, Manning could be seen on the sideline, nursing a sore thumb. But he wasn't coming out.

The teams traded field goals, and Patriots kicker Stephen Gostkowski put New England ahead 34-31 on a 34-yarder with 3:49 left. After a touchback, it was time for Manning's drive: 11 yards to Reggie Wayne, 32 yards to Bryant Fletcher, a scary 53-yarder to Wayne, who nearly lost the ball but snatched it back.

A roughing-the-passer call gave Indy the ball at the 11, then Manning handed off three more times to Addai for the last 11 yards — showing that, yes, maybe it really is about something more than the quarterback.

Or maybe not.

This one was Manning at his best. He was the first round-draft pick of 1998, considered a prototypical, can't-miss guy despite the fact that he could never win the big one in Tennessee, falling to archival Florida three times where the Volts had been good enough to win it all.

He was 0-2 in the playoffs against New England, and his story line all week was what a break the Colts got to get the Patriots at home, and what a sentimental feeling it would be to finally knock off the team that bedeviled them most.

Manning, concealed during the week, could hear the clock ticking as his career entered its prime, especially as the disappointment mounted.

His teammates protected him, saying:

"Point, a free throw by USC (10-8, 4-1 Big West). But that point set the precedence for the remaining time.

The Mustangs finished the game 16 for 24 on free throws. But that was just the beginning to the low. Cal Poly freshman guard Ashley Stewart said.

"We also had to keep the ball away from Jenny Green but their guards penetrated a lot," Stewart said.

Cal Poly junior forward Nicole Yarwasky said, "It came down to making layups and free throws. We weren't finishing our layups. And it was their pressure and their height.

Cal Poly will be at home for its next three games, starting against Pacific at 7 p.m. Thursday.
Colts win thriller, will meet Bears in Super Bowl XLI

Indianapolis is in the Super Bowl for the first time since the 1970 season and Chicago for the first time since 1985.

Eddie Pells
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A comeback, a drive, a legacy. And, yes — finally — Peyton Manning gets to Super Bowl trip. So does Tony Dungy.

Football's most prolific quarterback put on a show for the ages Sunday, rallying the Indianapolis Colts from 18 points down and doing it with a winning score in a wildly entertaining 38-34 victory over the New England Patriots.

In nine years in the league, Manning has never played in a game like this AFC championship contest. He threw for 349 yards and one touchdown and brought his team back from a 21-3 deficit, the biggest comeback in conference title-game history.

Joseph Addai capped Manning's late drive with the winning score, a 3-yard run with 1 minute left to help the Colts (15-4) complete the rally and send Dungy to his first Super Bowl — and a very special one.

The Colts coach will face the Chicago Bears and his good friend Lovie Smith in Miami in two weeks. Together, they are the first black coaches to make the Super Bowl in 41 years.

After Indy's last touchdown, Manning was on the sideline, his head down — he couldn't bear to watch. New England's Tom Brady — he of the three Super Bowl rings — threw an interception to Marlin Jackson and the RCA Dome crowd went wild. One kneel down later and Manning ripped off his helmet to celebrate.

Not only was it a win for Manning, the All-Pro, All-Everything son of Archie, it was a riveting, back-and-forth showcase of two of the NFL's best teams, best quarterbacks.

It was anything but by-the-book, and that started becoming obvious when New England left guard Logan Mankins opened the scoring by getting his hand on a handoff between Brady and Laurence Maroney that squirted into the Indy end zone midway through the first quarter.

It got worse from there for the Colts, who couldn't seem to get over the hump of a 10-yard touchdown that would stick with the sideline to the sideline that Paterno corner- back Asante Samuel snatched in the end zone for a 21-3 lead.

Then, the game plan changed because it had to, and see Colts, page 7

UCSB women's hoops

The Mustangs lost for the ninth time in their last 10 games (68-62) all-time against the Gauchos.

Amanda Retzer
MONTAUK TIMES

In the first of a four-game home stand, the Cal Poly women's basketball team fell 68-62 to Big West Conference rival UC Santa Barbara in Mott Gym on Saturday night.

The visiting Gauchos were a few steps ahead most of the game and the Mustangs only managed to break ahead once at 14-13. It was a hot-shoe, however, as UCSB pushed forward and maintained a small lead into the half, 33-31.

Coming back into the game with a second-half vengeance, Cal Poly (5-12, 1-4 Big West) powered ahead into its biggest lead of the game at 56-44 with 12 minutes to go, led by junior shooting guard Toni Newman. She scored 11 of her 12 points in the second half.

After the 12-point lead, Cal Poly couldn't quite hold on as its lead slowly diminished. Layups and free throws popped up everywhere for the Gauchos' offense, getting them back in the game at 61-61 with about six minutes left.

UCSB outscored the Mustangs 14-12 the rest of the game and set to the Mustangs or LMU in their last game this season.

UCSB won at UC Santa Barbara for the first time since 1998 and just the second time since 1959.

SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

Sophomore guard Trae Clark scored a season-high 19 points, one shy of his career high, as Cal Poly won at UC Santa Barbara for only the second time since 1959, beating the Gauchos 71-61 in a Big West Conference men's basketball game Saturday night before 3,748 at the Thunderdome.

Clark, who had scored 12 points in each of his last two games, hit six of his nine field-goal attempts and all four free throws as the Mustangs snapped a 10-game road losing streak, won their third straight overall and improved to 9-8 on the season and 2-3 in Big West games.

UC Santa Barbara, which has lost three of its last four, falling to 11-6 overall and 3-2 in the Big West, was led by senior guard Alex Harris with 19 points, though he made just four of 16 floor shots. Junior forward Cher Estelle added 12 points and senior guard Cecil Brown contributed 10 points.

Prior to Saturday night, Cal Poly had beaten UC Santa Barbara only once in the last 48 years in Santa Barbara, a 68-66 win on Jan. 22, 1998. Since a 75-59 Mustang win at UC Santa Barbara on Feb. 21, 1999, the Gauchos had beaten Cal Poly 35 times in 46 meetings overall, including 21-1 mark at home.

Senior forward Tyler McGinn added 14 points for Cal Poly, with three straight doubles and four triples, and the 11th this season, sophomore center Titans Shelton added 12 points and 10 rebounds in putting out in the final minute of play.

Cal Poly turned the ball over a season-low 10 times in the first half while forcing 12 Gauchos miscues.

Brown's basket with 15:20 to go in the first half gave UC Santa Barbara its last lead at 10-9. Cal Poly went on a 6-0 run to take the lead for good as McGinn hit a 3-pointer and a free throw and Shelton added a layup to fuel the rally.

The Mustangs led by nine points on four occasions later in the first half, including a 37-28 advantage at the break, and opened up a 15-point cushion at 51-36 with 13:56 to go in the game. A layup by Dredowane vacated the early superhero.

Cal Poly scored 46 percent of its floor shots compared to 36.7 percent for UC Santa Barbara. Neither shot well from 3-point range. Cal Poly was 2 for 22 in the second half and finished 8 for 28 for the game and the Gauchos were 8 for 29 on all seven of their trey attempts in the first half and ended up 4 for 18.

Steve Kalpine grabbed six boards for the Mustangs.

Cal Poly plays two more Big West games on the road next week, visiting Pacific on Thursday and Cal State Northridge on Saturday. Both games tip off at 7 p.m.