Despite qualms over timing, CSU execs get a pay hike

Michelle Locke
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Some California State University executives can look forward to fatter paycheck raises soon, much to the chagrin of faculty and students.

The 4 percent raises for 28 top-ranked employees were approved by the system's Board of Trustees, who wrapped up a two-day meeting in Long Beach Wednesday.

Leaders of the CSU, which with 400,000-plus students is the nation's largest, college-education system, say they need to be able to pay competitive salaries to draw top talent. Even with the raise, administrators say their executives will still be well below the market.

But faculty, who are stalled over timing, C.S.U. employees and students, who are looking at a possible 10 percent fee hike, aren't convinced.

"Stop ripping us off," Rosio Navarro, a student at Cal Poly Pomona, told trustees Wednesday. "Students should be a priority but lately you seem to be more concerned about taking care of your executive friends."

"We are tired and have had enough of your misplaced priorities," said Maggie Gomez, a student at CSU Dominguez Hills. She brought her five-month-old nephew along, telling trustees they were looking at "a

Kerry says he won't run for president in 2008

David Espo
ASSOCIATED PRESS


"We came close ... certainly close enough to be tempted to try again," the Massachusetts senator said, recalling his defeat.

There are powerful reasons to want to continue that fight now. But I have concluded this isn't the time for me to mount a presidential campaign," said Kerry.

His decision leaves a field of nine Democrats running or signaling their intention to do so, including Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New site rates professors, shows grades

Cassie Gaeto
MUSTANG DAILY

Students can see how teachers grade their classes thanks to the college information Web site Pick-A-Prof.com. The site allows students to research their professors through reviews and their grading history.

The site receives its information directly from a university's official records and reports the percentages of each letter grade a teacher has awarded in his or her classes.

Pick-A-Prof has only recently expanded to include the majority of California universities because of the UC Regent's and CSU system's opposition to turning over the grading records. In May 2006, the court deemed public information. The site also boasts about 10,000 student reviews on teachers and courses. Every review submitted is looked over by Pick-A-Prof employees prior to posting to ensure there is not any profanity or personal attacks.

Web site won their legal battle and the school systems were given a writ of mandate for refusing to disclose what the court deems public information.

Pick-A-Prof is the only Web site to make the teachers' records and information accessible to the students.

"I think that students are underestimated; they are there for the education," said Karen Bragg, director of university relations at Pick-A-Prof. "Students know that if they don't learn what they need to know in Spanish 101, then they won't be able to move on to the next level. They are not there for the easy A's."

The site should have about 10,000 student reviews on teachers and courses.

The site also boasts about 10,000 student reviews on teachers and courses. Every review submitted is looked over by Pick-A-Prof employees prior to posting to ensure there is not any profanity or personal attacks. This new network will rival the older professor-rating site Polyratings.com that has been posting Cal staff salaries for several years.

Pick-A-Prof employees prior to posting to ensure there is not any profanity or personal attacks. This new network will rival the older professor-rating site Polyratings.com that has been posting Cal

Faculty move into new housing complex

Janelle Eastridge
MUSTANG DAILY

After months of construction, challenges and much collaboration, the Bella Montaña residential community is finally starting to look less like an actual neighborhood.

Over the break, Cal Poly staff and faculty started the move-in process after the first completed phase of the three-part project. Bella Montaña, which has been under construction since May 2005, was designed as a way to make housing easily available and affordable to university staff and faculty. The project has proven to be successful, at least in the opinions of many of its new

see Kerry, page 2

see Salaries, page 3

see Housing, page 3

see Housing, page 3

see Housing, page 3
Finding ways to combat cold important during winter season

Laura Chapman
Digital News Editor • WEB EIC

LINCOLN, Neb. — It all starts simply enough: People feel a cough, or perhaps a sneeze, and selflessly thinking of others, they cover their mouths with their hands.

But it doesn’t end there. The germs hit their hands, pass to the door handle and then onto the hands of the next person to touch the door.

The vicious cycle continues as the next unsuspecting person is infected with the virus.

It’s cold season, and with it comes all of the usual symptoms. But there are ways of avoiding illness.

One way to prevent the spread of germs is by sneezing or coughing into one’s sleeve. In a video found on the University of Nebraska Health Center Web site called, “Why Don’t We Do it in Our Sleeves?” the key message is the importance of stopping germs in a place where it’s less likely to spread than on someone’s hands.

The video then explains that fabric catches hold of germs and they will stay in it until the garment can be cleaned in the wash.

Despite being a little bit on the goofy side, Jeremy Anderson, a mechanical engineering senior and health aid, said the video gets across the message while still being fun.

“It’s so corny,” Anderson said of the video, “but at least it’s entertaining to watch.”

One way to prevent spreading colds from one person to another is to make sure to wash your hands, said Kara Pozehl, a junior biochemistry major and president of the University Health Center Student Advisory Board.

“Before and after you eat, after you go out in public — wash your hands,” Pozehl said.

And contrary to popular belief, going outside in the cold doesn’t cause illness. Coming inside from the cold is what puts a person at greatest risk for getting a cold, Anderson said.

When a person is outside, the cold temperature lowers the body’s ability to fight germs, he said. After walking inside, the person is exposed to a number of germs, which tend to dwell indoors, where it is warmer.

“You body is more susceptible from the cold,” Anderson said.

Another factor making the body more likely to get ill is something most college students are well acquainted with — stress.

The immune system is weaker when a person is stressed, so it is important to make a point to take time to relax every day, Anderson said. This can mean managing time and organizing one’s daily routine.

“Basically anything that reduces stress is beneficial,” Anderson said.

Other tips to build up the immune system are drinking plenty of fluids, exercising and eating fruits and vegetables, Pozehl said.

“Generally, take care of yourself so your immune system is strong,” she said.

In the event that a person does get sick, the best thing to do is to get lots of rest and keep drinking fluids to stay moist, Anderson said.

Gargling salt water to clear a sore throat can also help, Anderson said.

And if a person doesn’t get better or if her or his symptoms worsen, he or she should go see a physician, he said.

Can’t get enough? Check out our su[do]ku © Puzzles by Pappocom

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.
Housing
continued from page 1

residents.

"I love its proximity to campus and town, and that we can still see the ocean of the big enough whole family," said Chris Clark, a computer science professor teaching his first quarter at Cal Poly.

The housing project is headed by the nonprofit, university-affiliated Cal Poly Housing Corporation (CPhC). Since 2001, the company has assumed responsibility for the development, housing of both faculty, staff members and students.

1. The Bella Montalina homes are located on 5.3 acres of land on the northwestern corner of Highland Drive and North Santa Rosa Street intersection. This makes commuting to school a 15-minute trek rather than a half-hour-long drive from one of San Luis Obispo's surrounding communities.

2. "I love walking to school! You can't beat that," said Seth Bush, a chemistry professor in his second year of teaching at Cal Poly.

In response to the school's request, the CPhC broke ground on the project with high aims in mind.

"A big misconceived for new (or potentially new) faculty is moving here if they are not from the area, and especially if they are from out of state," said Jim Reinhardt, managing director of the corporation. "So far the project seems to be meeting our goals, with the ultimate goal being to meet the needs Cal Poly has concerning the recruitment and retention of faculty.

Pick-A-Prof
continued from page 1

Poly reviews since January 1999.

"In my opinion as an instructor, it's a little bit disheartening that anxiety more important than what you are going to learn," said English professor Sadie Hackett. "My students are clever, but they've made it about me. It makes me wonder what students have seen or read about me before they even enter the classroom.

The site, created in April 2000, is rapidly increasing in popularity with the addition of the California public school and because of its partnership with the facebook social network three months ago. Students with a facebook account can now direct the Pick-A-Prof site and select options through their privacy settings for their facebook timeline or view their class schedules. This option makes getting classes with friends as easy as viewing their profiles.

"If you are going to base all of your class decisions solely on what grades the teachers assign you, you are not going to get ahead. There is more to be said about how a professor teaches than the grades they award," said industrial engineering junior Eric Jaroff.

The number of universities included on the site is constantly growing, but not all U.S. campuses are on the site yet.

"We expanded based on student interest. A lot of time goes into expanding the site to connect with the students to make sure that the students will find it valuable," Bragg said.

With the social networking, scheduling/planning and teacher information Pick-A-Prof is a one-stop buying college textbooks. Users can search book titles to find price details from major book Web sites like Half.com and Amazon.com, to compare and get the best deal. Students looking to sell their books can also log on to find fellow students on their campus who wish to purchase, eliminating the book store middleman.

Salaries
continued from page 3

"But Reed said the work is not going to get ahead. There is more to be said about how a professor teaches than the grades they award," said industrial engineering junior Eric Jaroff.

The number of universities included on the site is constantly growing, but not all U.S. campuses are on the site yet.

"We expanded based on student interest. A lot of time goes into expanding the site to connect with the students to make sure that the students will find it valuable," Bragg said.

With the social networking, scheduling/planning and teacher information Pick-A-Prof is a one-stop buying college textbooks. Users can search book titles to find price details from major book Web sites like Half.com and Amazon.com, to compare and get the best deal. Students looking to sell their books can also log on to find fellow students on their campus who wish to purchase, eliminating the book store middleman.

So far the project seems to be meeting our goals, with the ultimate goal being to meet the needs Cal Poly has concerning the recruitment and retention of faculty.

—Jim Reinhardt
Managing director of the Cal Poly Housing Corporation

On May 30, five more buildings of 18 homes will be available, and nine final buildings of 30 homes will be completed by October. After its scheduled completion, the complex will continue to "diagnostically styled attached houses with different floor plans" spread out over 21 buildings.

One of the main draws and benefits of the project is its accessibility.

"The Bella Montalina Web site stated the prices for Phase I and II homes range between $322,000 and $396,000, well below the median San Luis Obispo County home price of $565,000 and median city price of $569,000 (prices as of October 2006). The prices vary according to floor plans, amenities and location. The fees for the final 30 homes will be released later this year.

This makes the "mortgage manageable on a one salary income," Bush said.

The financing of the homes — which appears to be mainly through Mid-State Bank & Trust — even allows for equity buildup, despite restrictions surrounding the selling prices of the houses, Reinhardt said.

Priority originally went first to faculty who have been here since before July 1, 2001, and then to newly hired employees. Now, this demand has been met, which means placement is now a first come, first served basis.

But with every living situation, things haven't been entirely perfect.

There are the party-loving students nearby who like to "enjoy the long weekend, like normal," as civil engineering professor Xi Shen put it. Then there was the mail system that had some kinks in it during the first couple of weeks, but has since been smoothed out. And there was also a surplus of recycling and garbage to be thrown out after people moved in.

Also, construction on U.S. Highway 1 — i.e. at the Highland Drive entrance to Cal Poly — has yet to be finished (due to permit delays in December), but has been more of an annoyance than a major issue.

"Overall we are very happy, and the feedback that we have been getting has been great. We're on track with the budget and with the construction, and happy with the design," Reinhardt said. "We haven't heard from the neighbors, so even they seem happy.

So far, it seems as though the quiet community of tan and olive-green houses, with its diverse mix of newly arrived staff and faculty members and their families, is a peaceful one.

Pick-A-Prof
continued from page 1

Poly reviews since January 1999.

"In my opinion as an instructor, it's a little bit disheartening that anxiety more important than what you are going to learn," said English professor Sadie Hackett. "My students are clever, but they've made it about me. It makes me wonder what students have seen or read about me before they even enter the classroom.

The site, created in April 2000, is rapidly increasing in popularity with the addition of the California public school and because of its partnership with the facebook social network three months ago. Students with a facebook account can now direct the Pick-A-Prof site and select options through their privacy settings for their facebook timeline or view their class schedules. This option makes getting classes with friends as easy as viewing their profiles.

"If you are going to base all of your class decisions solely on what grades the teachers assign you, you are not going to get ahead. There is more to be said about how a professor teaches than the grades they award," said industrial engineering junior Eric Jaroff.

The number of universities included on the site is constantly growing, but not all U.S. campuses are on the site yet.

"We expanded based on student interest. A lot of time goes into expanding the site to connect with the students to make sure that the students will find it valuable," Bragg said.

With the social networking, scheduling/planning and teacher information Pick-A-Prof is a one-stop buying college textbooks. Users can search book titles to find price details from major book Web sites like Half.com and Amazon.com, to compare and get the best deal. Students looking to sell their books can also log on to find fellow students on their campus who wish to purchase, eliminating the book store middleman.

Salaries
continued from page 3

"But Reed said the work is not going to get ahead. There is more to be said about how a professor teaches than the grades they award," said industrial engineering junior Eric Jaroff.

The number of universities included on the site is constantly growing, but not all U.S. campuses are on the site yet.

"We expanded based on student interest. A lot of time goes into expanding the site to connect with the students to make sure that the students will find it valuable," Bragg said.

With the social networking, scheduling/planning and teacher information Pick-A-Prof is a one-stop buying college textbooks. Users can search book titles to find price details from major book Web sites like Half.com and Amazon.com, to compare and get the best deal. Students looking to sell their books can also log on to find fellow students on their campus who wish to purchase, eliminating the book store middleman.

Salaries
continued from page 3

"But Reed said the work is not going to get ahead. There is more to be said about how a professor teaches than the grades they award," said industrial engineering junior Eric Jaroff.

The number of universities included on the site is constantly growing, but not all U.S. campuses are on the site yet.

"We expanded based on student interest. A lot of time goes into expanding the site to connect with the students to make sure that the students will find it valuable," Bragg said.

With the social networking, scheduling/planning and teacher information Pick-A-Prof is a one-stop buying college textbooks. Users can search book titles to find price details from major book Web sites like Half.com and Amazon.com, to compare and get the best deal. Students looking to sell their books can also log on to find fellow students on their campus who wish to purchase, eliminating the book store middleman.

Salaries
continued from page 3

"But Reed said the work is not going to get ahead. There is more to be said about how a professor teaches than the grades they award," said industrial engineering junior Eric Jaroff.

The number of universities included on the site is constantly growing, but not all U.S. campuses are on the site yet.

"We expanded based on student interest. A lot of time goes into expanding the site to connect with the students to make sure that the students will find it valuable," Bragg said.

With the social networking, scheduling/planning and teacher information Pick-A-Prof is a one-stop buying college textbooks. Users can search book titles to find price details from major book Web sites like Half.com and Amazon.com, to compare and get the best deal. Students looking to sell their books can also log on to find fellow students on their campus who wish to purchase, eliminating the book store middleman.
Question of the day:

 Did you watch the State of the Union?

“No, I was too busy, but I’m for sure going to watch the highlights on ‘The Colbert Report.’”

“Yes, I watched part of it because my professor put it on in class.”

“I didn’t watch it because I had a midterm to study for and I went to Frog and Peach.”

“I didn’t because I don’t watch enough TV and I have night classes, but I’m going to look at it online.”

“Yes, because I think it’s important to know what’s going on in the world around you.”

-Spencer Waterman
city and regional planning freshman

-Alli Navellier
animal science freshman

-Michael Graves
kinesiology senior

-Emily Carlip
architectural engineering freshman

-Adam Wright
business senior
State briefs

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hospital staff did not properly clean medical instruments linked to last month's deadly bacterial outbreak at a medical center's neonatal intensive care unit, according to a report by state health regulators.

White Memorial Medical Center closed off its neonatal intensive care unit Dec. 4 following an outbreak of Pseudomonas aeruginosa that sickened five infants. Two of the babies are believed to have died as a result of the pathogen.

In a report released Tuesday, inspectors from the California Department of Health Services faulted hospital staff for not sterilizing laryngoscope blades, which are used to insert breathing tubes, in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.

EUREKA (AP) — A small earthquake struck off the Northern California coast near Humboldt County on Wednesday, but there were no reports of injury or damage.

The quake at 5:42 a.m. had a preliminary magnitude of 4.4 and was centered about 40 miles southwest of Eureka, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The Eureka Police Department received no calls about the quake, a police dispatcher said. The earthquake was not felt at police headquarters.

Calabasas company to market Jimi Hendrix energy drink

CALABASAS (AP) — A new energy drink doesn't promise you'll have the juice to play guitar like Jimi Hendrix after taking a sip, but it does hope to give you a "Liquid Experience.

Beverage Concepts, a new Calabasas-based company, recently announced it will launch a line of non-alcoholic drinks named for the title of Hendrix's breakthrough album, "Are You Experienced?"

The Liquid Experience drinks will debut in April, but the concept is already irking some fans of the former, who many in rock still consider the greatest guitarist of all time.

"To see his image and the beautiful feelings it has created during my lifetime cheapened by base advertising...is very disappointing to me," said bassist Michael Balzary, better known as Flea of the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Hendrix, whose career ended with his 1970 death from a drug overdose in London, has been licensed to many companies for products including baby clothing, an air freshener, lava lamp and a Christmas ornament.
Minimum wage bill faces tax break additions after vote to end debate fails

WASHINGTON — Democrats' promise of a quick increase in the minimum wage ran aground Wednesday in the Senate, where lawmakers are insisting it include new tax breaks for restaurants and other businesses that rely on low-pay workers.

On a 54-43 vote, Democrats lost an effort to advance a House-passed bill that would lift the pay floor from $5.15 to $7.25 an hour without any accompanying tax cut. Opponents of the tax cut needed 60 votes to prevail.

The vote sent a message to House Democrats and liberals in the Senate that only a hybrid tax and minimum wage package could succeed in the Senate. But any tax breaks in the bill would put the Senate on a collision course with the House, which is required by the Constitution to initiate tax measures.

In a separate vote, the Senate also effectively killed a modified line-item veto bill. The Republican-inspired measure would have permitted a president to pluck individual items out of spending bills and submit them to Congress for a vote.

Raising the minimum wage is one of the new Democratic Congress' top priorities. The wage floor has been unchanged for 10 years. Democrats and liberals in the Senate that only a hybrid tax and minimum wage package could succeed in the Senate. But any tax breaks in the bill would put the Senate on a collision course with the House, which is required by the Constitution to initiate tax measures.

In a separate vote, the Senate also effectively killed a modified line-item veto bill. The Republican-inspired measure would have permitted a president to pluck individual items out of spending bills and submit them to Congress for a vote.

Raising the minimum wage is one of the new Democratic Congress' top priorities. The wage floor has been unchanged for 10 years. Democrats and liberals in the Senate that only a hybrid tax and minimum wage package could succeed in the Senate. But any tax breaks in the bill would put the Senate on a collision course with the House, which is required by the Constitution to initiate tax measures.

In a separate vote, the Senate also effectively killed a modified line-item veto bill. The Republican-inspired measure would have permitted a president to pluck individual items out of spending bills and submit them to Congress for a vote. Democrats and liberals in the Senate that only a hybrid tax and minimum wage package could succeed in the Senate. But any tax breaks in the bill would put the Senate on a collision course with the House, which is required by the Constitution to initiate tax measures.

In a separate vote, the Senate also effectively killed a modified line-item veto bill. The Republican-inspired measure would have permitted a president to pluck individual items out of spending bills and submit them to Congress for a vote. Democrats and liberals in the Senate that only a hybrid tax and minimum wage package could succeed in the Senate. But any tax breaks in the bill would put the Senate on a collision course with the House, which is required by the Constitution to initiate tax measures.

In a separate vote, the Senate also effectively killed a modified line-item veto bill. The Republican-inspired measure would have permitted a president to pluck individual items out of spending bills and submit them to Congress for a vote. Democrats and liberals in the Senate that only a hybrid tax and minimum wage package could succeed in the Senate. But any tax breaks in the bill would put the Senate on a collision course with the House, which is required by the Constitution to initiate tax measures.
An idiot's guide to modern American television and more

Are TV shows getting smarter, or are we just getting dumber?
Or is it more dumb? Whatever.

Allison Baker
MUSTANG DAILY

As of late, popular television shows demand more than just an hour (or 12) of your day; they are increasingly requiring a viewer with an IQ more than 70. Sure, there still exists the brilliant pro-
gramming of MTV and the Home Shopping Network to close the gap, but these networks are beginning to cater to those formerly bored by formulaic sitcoms and soapish drama.

This generation, filled with college graduates, is smarter than the average couch potato. They have wants and needs independent of toilet humor and the sleazy and shallow realities of primetime. People enjoy watching these shows because they like solving the cases along at a time in front of an inanimate object.

Crime shows like "Law and Order" and "CSI" (with all of its illegal forensics) are a whole new breed of television shows. The ballistics, DNA evidence, interrogation techniques and good old-fashioned sleuthing to resolve cases before you can say "Who is Mariska Hargitay coming back from maternity leave?"

"When is Mariska Hargitay coming back from maternity leave?"

Steve Carell's Emmy-winning character Michael Scott would fall flat without his mistaken historical references and hilariously offensive racial and sexual comments. And shows like "The Daily Show" have somehow made politics seem more ridiculous than they already are. We are currently living in the era of the "smart comedy," and I don't see it going away soon.

With its growth in popularity and even greater accessibility to the public, the once shunned retarded children's show, "The Daily Show," and "The Colbert Report" have somehow made politics seem more ridiculous than they already are. We are currently living in the era of the "smart comedy," and I don't see it going away soon.

Bach's "most famous" cantatas. Jorstad credited Davies' expertise in helping the group overcome the difficulty with the Cantata. She also welcomes the chance to perform in the PAC: "It will be nice because of the acoustics, you don't have to force your voice," Jorstad said.

Tickets are on sale at the Performing Arts Ticket Office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Tickets are $10 for the general public and $8 for students and seniors. To order by phone, call ALO-ARTS (805-756-2787).

Global Wireless

Best Prices in Town!

Chocolate Phone $79.99 after $50 rebate
Samsung Phone $79.99 after $50 rebate

Free Accessories

With new two year agreement

595 Marsh St.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
805-594-1326
A capella group Take it SLO takes third place at UCSB

Cal Poly's a cappella group Take it SLO took third place in last weekend's International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella Quarterfinals, held at UC Santa Barbara. The group will not move onto the semi-final competition, but were happy with the outcome.

"It doesn't bother me at all that we didn't get to go on to West Coast Finals," said Nicolle MacDonald, business junior and student manager of the group. Honestly it was a really good experience for us; no one in the group has ever competed before.

Take it SLO actually tied for second, but ended up in third place after the subjective judging portion of the competition. UCLA's Staccatones performed a medley of "oldies" that was different from other groups that stuck to modern, popular music.

Their vocals were really tight because they just recorded a CD and they were ready to perform, MacDonald said. However, Take It SLO found this competition to be an opportunity to get its name into the a cappella community and will consider competing again next year.

For now, the group has been asked by the athletics department to perform at different sports events. Coming up, Take It SLO will be singing the national anthem on Wednesday, Feb. 14 at the men's basketball game against UC Santa Barbara.

"We are hoping to make it our own," said civil engineering junior Alicia Baratta. "We are looking to get some type of foundation and then go and make it our "poppy" style."

Baratta also mentioned that the group has started practicing for their upcoming performance as of Tuesday, working on the national anthem and new pieces that will be challenge the group because they lost many of their male vocalists.

"We lost a lot of our guys so we are having auditions to build up a whole new repertoire and, hopefully, by our next show, we'll have five new songs," MacDonald said.

Along with auditions for male singers, Take it SLO is also looking for tenors and beatboxers, since the group lost two members this past semester. Male vocalists, including beatboxers, help the group's tempo and make the songs more recognizable, Baratta said.

Music senior and beatboxer Scott Johnson is one of the members that will need to be replaced after he leaves the group in June.

"I've been beatboxing for at least four years, mostly for fun, but recently it's also to improve the sound of the group," Johnson said.

Johnson said that in the fall the group was lacking a vocal percussionist, and two friends in Take It Slo invited him to try out and he joined the group.

After competing as a member of the group since the fall and meeting in an underground a cappella group from another school, Johnson said he has enjoyed the experience.

"We were excited to be third in our first ICCA appearance, though we thought we earned higher," he said. "We'll keep doing the best we can."

With new singers emerging and old singers leaving, the upcoming auditions are important because the group has always had a low number of males.

In 2003, MacDonald auditioned with 40 to 50 other students, and she estimated 15 to 20 were men. The audition on Feb. 3 will be crucial for Take It SLO's male voice and they are hoping to receive people that stand out from the rest and can truly demonstrate their distinguishing qualities.

For more information, check out the Take It SLO Web site at www.takelsos.com for some samples of the Take it SLO songs, visit its MySpace account www.myspace.com/cptits, and be watching for the Take it SLO album "Survivor" by Destiny's Child, and medley of songs by '80s rock band Journey and Tom Petty's "Free Falling." Take it SLO has been running for the past five years and is open to all Cal Poly majors.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Forget the Oscars this year — it's all about the Razzie Awards

Leann Ray
THE ESSENTIAL ADMISSION

Oscar nominations were announced Tuesday, but many may have overlooked the more important nominations that were announced on Monday. That's right — the Razzies.

The 25th Annual Golden Raspberry Awards takes place on Feb. 24, the day before the Academy Awards. "Little Man," and "Sharon Stone's Lopsided Breasts" from what the Razzie's Web site refers to as "Basically, It Stinks, Too."

Although it's not an award to be proud of, will these actors be upset if they are beat by breasts? Haylie Duff will call her sister in tears. "We had speaking roles, and we lost to body parts," The Wayans brothers, on the other hand, will probably write a horrible movie in which Marlon actually plays both of Stone's breasts.

The best nomination is in the Worst Screen Couple category. Along with the Duff sisters and Wayans brothers are Sharon Stone's "Lopsided Breasts." Lindsay Lohan ("Just My Luck"), Kristanna Loken ("Bloodrayne") and Hilary and Haylie Duff ("Material Girls").

Lohan's goal may have been to win an Oscar in the next 10 years, but it seems she may be more like to win a Razzie. Starving, smoking and boozing into the late hours of the night don't add up to an Oscar nomination. Well, maybe. I'm not really an expert. Just felt the need to point out that Lohan is a lush.

The best nomination is in the Worst Screen Couple category. Along with the Duff sisters and Wayans brothers is "Sharon Stone's Lopsided Breasts." From what the Razzie's Web site refers to as "Basically, It Stinks, Too."

Although it's not an award to be proud of, will these actors be upset if they are beat by breasts? Haylie Duff will call her sister in tears. "We had speaking roles, and we lost to body parts," The Wayans brothers, on the other hand, will probably write a horrible movie in which Marlon actually plays both of Stone's breasts.

The best nomination is in the Worst Screen Couple category. Along with the Duff sisters and Wayans brothers is "Sharon Stone's Lopsided Breasts." From what the Razzie's Web site refers to as "Basically, It Stinks, Too."

Although it's not an award to be proud of, will these actors be upset if they are beat by breasts? Haylie Duff will call her sister in tears. "We had speaking roles, and we lost to body parts," The Wayans brothers, on the other hand, will probably write a horrible movie in which Marlon actually plays both of Stone's breasts.

The best nomination is in the Worst Screen Couple category. Along with the Duff sisters and Wayans brothers is "Sharon Stone's Lopsided Breasts." From what the Razzie's Web site refers to as "Basically, It Stinks, Too."

Although it's not an award to be proud of, will these actors be upset if they are beat by breasts? Haylie Duff will call her sister in tears. "We had speaking roles, and we lost to body parts," The Wayans brothers, on the other hand, will probably write a horrible movie in which Marlon actually plays both of Stone's breasts.

The best nomination is in the Worst Screen Couple category. Along with the Duff sisters and Wayans brothers is "Sharon Stone's Lopsided Breasts." From what the Razzie's Web site refers to as "Basically, It Stinks, Too."

Although it's not an award to be proud of, will these actors be upset if they are beat by breasts? Haylie Duff will call her sister in tears. "We had speaking roles, and we lost to body parts," The Wayans brothers, on the other hand, will probably write a horrible movie in which Marlon actually plays both of Stone's breasts.

The best nomination is in the Worst Screen Couple category. Along with the Duff sisters and Wayans brothers is "Sharon Stone's Lopsided Breasts." From what the Razzie's Web site refers to as "Basically, It Stinks, Too."

Although it's not an award to be proud of, will these actors be upset if they are beat by breasts? Haylie Duff will call her sister in tears. "We had speaking roles, and we lost to body parts," The Wayans brothers, on the other hand, will probably write a horrible movie in which Marlon actually plays both of Stone's breasts.
P ranks: we love them because of the sheer joy that we get from disturbing the peace of our closest friends; and because of the legends we create to tell our grandchildren about the "things we used to do for fun.

Maybe we all didn't get to play the best pranks in the dorms because our RA's were sticklers, and maybe deep down, there's the little kid in all of us that just wants to mess with people. Whatever the reason, friendly prank my friends and I played on the neighbors turned into an all-out war.

This story is for people willing to go to great extremes to win the honor that inevitably comes with epic prank wars; to be victorious; to get ugly. You have to admit, you don't think of pranks as being sweet. In fact, our escape. It all started with some harmless donuts. Between half-eating the powdered donut and half-hucking them out of our friend's window, we obviously ran out of them.

That's when this harmless doughnut/four bomb war started to get ugly. You have to admit, you always wonder if there's going to be retaliation and that's the scary part.

There are some unspoken rules, like putting horse heads in your bed or dead hookers in your car. Other than the completely insane offenses, all is fair in love and war, and this was war.

Then my frantic roommate screamed at us because, apparently, smoke was billowing out everywhere. We went to see what really was going on, and there was smoke. The neighbors turned on the gas stove to get to that last man standing.

We went outside to offer assistance and immediately water balloons filled with shaving cream discharged. Turns out, a fog machine being set up in your kitchen is a good distraction and ploy to get your target out in the open. Really, what kind of sick people have fog machines? Aren't we all poor, starving college students?

So, naturally, we had to counter. That's when this harmless doughnut/four bomb war started to get ugly. You have to admit, you always wonder if there's going to be retaliation and that's the scary part.

There are some unspoken taboos, like putting horse heads in your bed or dead hookers in your car. Other than the completely insane offenses, all is fair in love and war, and this was war.

Then my frantic roommate screamed at us because, apparently, smoke was billowing out everywhere. We went to see what really was going on, and there was smoke. The neighbors turned on the gas stove to get to that last man standing.

We went outside to offer assistance and immediately water balloons filled with shaving cream discharged. Turns out, a fog machine being set up in your kitchen is a good distraction and ploy to get your target out in the open. Really, what kind of sick people have fog machines? Aren't we all poor, starving college students?

So, naturally, we had to counter. This time we were going to have to do for fun.

Jessica Greenwald Mustang Daily

This story is for people willing to go to great extremes to win the honor that inevitably comes with epic prank wars; to be victorious; to get ugly. You have to admit, you don't think of pranks as being sweet. In fact, our escape. It all started with some harmless donuts. Between half-eating the powdered donut and half-hucking them out of our friend's window, we obviously ran out of them.

That's when this harmless doughnut/four bomb war started to get ugly. You have to admit, you always wonder if there's going to be retaliation and that's the scary part.

There are some unspoken rules, like putting horse heads in your bed or dead hookers in your car. Other than the completely insane offenses, all is fair in love and war, and this was war.

Then my frantic roommate screamed at us because, apparently, smoke was billowing out everywhere. We went to see what really was going on, and there was smoke. The neighbors turned on the gas stove to get to that last man standing.

We went outside to offer assistance and immediately water balloons filled with shaving cream discharged. Turns out, a fog machine being set up in your kitchen is a good distraction and ploy to get your target out in the open. Really, what kind of sick people have fog machines? Aren't we all poor, starving college students?

So, naturally, we had to counter. This time we were going to have to
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wood's death a tragic accident, not alcohol related

The lack of consideration and professionalism displayed by the editorial staff was not only disrespectful, but absolutely disgusting. Reporting that Spencer's death was preventable was not only wrong, but an opinion that shows an inability for the Mustang Daily to research facts and report accurate news. Spencer's friends do not speculate his death was from a lack of sobriety. It was a tragic accident that broke the hearts of not only his entire family, but professors, employers, and friends he so lovingly touched.

To write such an outlandish, inappropriate, and repulsive article on the one-month anniversary of the death proves that writers of this paper have absolutely no class and no regard for reporting the sad and tragic loss of our dear Spencer. He was an amazing man and his loss will be felt by the students and the entire community that was the foundation of his memorial service, is highly respected, loved and dearly missed. The Mustang Daily didn't even write an obituary for Spencer, and thank God for that because who knows what skewed opinions would have been expressed. If the Mustang Daily wants to exercise in first amendment rights, go for it. But how dare they disregard the beautiful life Spencer Wood ful-filled. His death was confirmed to NOT be alcohol related because he died from head trauma and internal bleeding.

Would the writers of this article be proud to show it to his still mourning family?

The Mustang Daily should be ashamedly awkward and extremely embarrassed for their ghastly, iniquitous, terrible and immoral display of journalism.

Sarah Garibon
An English and psychology junior and Mustang Daily dating columnist.

Editorial a good wake-up call for students who drink

I wanted to thank you for the excellent job regarding student alcohol deaths. I've been at Cal Poly for 12 years and have seen far too many students die or suffer injuries as a result of alcohol and other drugs. The real danger is the abuse of alcohol is also related to sexual assaults, accidents, and academic performance and failure. Cal Poly does extensive programming in the attempt to reduce the high-risk behavior that occurs in this community.

I'm convinced that the best programming is peer-to-peer, and I think your editorial comments on this topic constitute just such an effort.

Martin Bragg
Director of Health and Counseling Services

March 3
MONDAY'S EDITORIAL

Monday's editorial meant to help not hurt

T

The Mustang Daily editorial staff prides itself in reporting and regrets any misrepresentations of Wood's character that the editorial may have caused.

Editorial: Effect the opinion of the Mustang Daily editorial staff.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Wood: a brilliant, charming and incredible friend

T

rying to verbalize the meaning, influence, and joyous reign Spencer had upon my life does not serve him merely enough justice. But a pathology report was inconstantly. This means that we will never know whether or not his final was attributed to alcohol. A front page article on Monday accurately appreciated the cause of death, which was a fractured skull and hematoma, which he suffered when he fell.

The editors acknowledge that the illustration that ran simultaneously with the report was not drawn to Wood's death was in no way preventable. Had the editors actually read any document of merit, such as the autopsy report, they would have known that cause of his death was head trauma and internal bleeding. Spencer was walking down a hill, an unlit, pitch black area, where they slipped, fell and hit the soft area of the head behind his ear on a rock. Doctors explained this event as a “free accident” and that it was in no way related to alcohol consumption. The toxicology report shows that his blood alcohol level was not significant enough to support a lethal dose.

A detective on this case explained to me that a completely sober person with 20/20 vision at night could have just as easily slipped and fell down the same hill. He further stated that when Spencer hit the head, he hit a "sweet spot." He could have fallen down that same hill 100 times without being able to reproduce the one fatal blow that he received. Please tell me Wood, what part of this actual story makes his death preventable, because I fail to see how to prevent a free accident, and am appalled that the editors of the Mustang Daily would have the audacity to say so.

As a staff, we would therefore like to urge them to be wary of following the example their editors made it sound as if Wood's death can also serve as a lesson.

The Mustang Daily did see a copy of the autopsy report. However, reporters from any media outlet were unable to contact Ms. Hall, the last line states that, "Wood's death was in no way preventable. Had the editors actually read any document of merit, such as the autopsy report, they would have known that its cause was head trauma and internal bleeding. Spencer was walking down a hill, an unlit, pitch black area, where they slipped, fell and hit the soft area of the head behind his ear on a rock. Doctors explained this event as a "free accident" and that it was in no way related to alcohol consumption. The toxicology report shows that his blood alcohol level was not significant enough to support a lethal dose."

A detective on this case explained to me that a completely sober person with 20/20 vision at night could have just as easily slipped and fell down the same hill. He further stated that when Spencer hit the head, he hit a "sweet spot." He could have fallen down that same hill 100 times without being able to reproduce the one fatal blow that he received. Please tell me Wood, what part of this actual story makes his death preventable, because I fail to see how to prevent a free accident, and am appalled that the editors of the Mustang Daily would have the audacity to say so.

As a staff, we would therefore like to urge them to be wary of following the example their editors made it sound as if Wood's death can also serve as a lesson.
For Americans, stress leads to ultimate comfort: sweats

A n ever-increasing fashion trend (if it can even be called such) seems to be sweeping the nation. Instead of actually trying to appear presentable, young people across this great nation of ours opt to keep those oh-so-loved sweats on wherever they go.

No matter the week or month, weeks sweats are at their zenith. With the stress of making the grade — not meeting the fashion police demands — my guess is that this campus will have a 1-to-10 sweats-to-jeans ratio. (Unless you are like my roommate last quarter who would ask us to keep our jeans on during final week waiting for the professor. Most of my classmates were there, and naturally, we all ran out of class later than usual.)

Let me clarify first; I love wearing sweats. I just don’t want to wear them to class. As a matter of fact, I don’t want to wear them outside the classroom. Likewise, I don’t want to wear them outside the home. My friends and I have jokingly referred to this to the "sweats downtown" (aka wearing sweatshirts outside of the home).

The purpose of these items is comfort, but not in the kissy-face, ratty, over-a-dinner-of-tortilla-Espanola, my roommate and I revealed this increasingly popular trend among Americans has made our Spanish senora blush. "Oh, Dios mio!" she exclaimed. After recovering from her initial shock, she began to argue with us why no one should ever wear these comfort clothes outside the home or gym.

To Spaniards, wearing Richard Simmons-styled workout gear or Victoria's Secret Pink label sweats outside the home is on par with donning a leopard print g-string. And yet, it seems, are people so obsessed with buying school-ticketing or sports-inspired goodies.

Bookstores across the nation make big bucks hawking sweat-shirts, sweat-shorts, T-shirts, you name it, encrusted with their school's emblem. Trust me, as a former bookstore employee, I know from experience that people will spend hundreds upon hundreds of dollars on these (sometimes wardrobe) items for the entire family. At the university I attended in Barcelona, I never saw anyone ever buy one of the index cards or clothing options (a T-shirt or sweatshirt, both with graphics of course)...

It struck me as I reflected on this fairly superficial topic that these minor cultural differences could reflect deeper social issues as well. For one, a desire to throw on a well-worn pair of sweats as I plow through stressful amounts of home work. Yet the very notions sweats embody (i.e. free time, comfort, lack of stress, etc.) seem harder to abandon.

In contrast, in Europe I never wore my sweats and pajamas outside the apartment, but my life was considerably less stressful. And, from what I observed and saw of Spaniards, they really did appear less stressed and much more passionate about life.

For Americans, stress leads to ultimate comfort: sweats.
Israeli president defiantly rejects rape charges, says he won't step down unless indicted

Ravi Nessman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Shaking with fury, Israeli President Moshe Katsav rebuffed growing calls for his resignation Wednesday, saying accusations he committed rape and other crimes were "poisonous, horrible lies" that were part of a broad conspiracy against him.

Katsav asked parliament to temporarily suspend him from office while he fought to clear his name. But momentum was building for lawmakers to open unprecedented impeachment proceedings against the president, and top officials, including Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, urged Katsav to step down instead.

"Under these circumstances, there is no doubt in my mind that the president cannot continue to fulfill his position and he must leave the president's residence," Olmert said.

Impeachment requires a three-fourths majority in parliament, and analysts said that might be difficult to achieve. In contrast, a majority in a parliamentary committee could approve Katsav's request to stand down temporarily.

The presidency, a mainly ceremonial role, was traditionally filled by statesmen and national heroes who were expected to serve as the moral light of the country. Accusations that Katsav used his position to force himself on female employees have infuriated Israelis.

At a stormy, nationally televised speech at his official residence Wednesday night, Katsav professed his innocence and accused the police and media of working together to bring him down, using terms like "witch hunt" and "McCarrnism." He angrily pounded the podium and his voice cracked during a rambling diatribe that lasted nearly an hour.

"Don't believe the libel, the defamation, the lies. There is only one truth ... I am the target of one of the worst attacks in the history of the state of Israel," Katsav said, gesturing with a pointed finger, pounding on the podium and shouting at a reporter. He pledged to "fight to my last breath, even if it means a world war, to clear my name.

He refused to answer questions from reporters in his first appearance before them since the scandal broke six months ago.

Katsav, 64, who took office in 2000, faces allegations from at least 20 women who say he used his position to rape, assault or abuse of power and other charges.

Katsav "should not be waging the battle to prove his innocence from the president's office," Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, who also serves as acting justice minister, said in a statement.

Third of parliament's 120 lawmakers — 10 more than required — signed a motion to begin impeachment proceedings, and nearly 70 have already said they would vote to remove Katsav, according to the office of lawmaker Zehava Galon, who initiated the drive. In a speech Monday, she said the support of 90 legislators would require the support of 90 legislators.

In an effort to blunt the protests, Katsav asked parliament on Wednesday to grant him a leave of absence, which could last up to three months.

Minister of Public Security Avi Dichter brushed off Katsav's suggestion, saying he "must not cling to the post, not even for a few months.

A parliamentary committee will meet Thursday to discuss the request, but committee members appeared to be leaning toward recommending impeachment.

Resignation or impeachment would deprive Katsav of his presidential immunity. The 61-year-old Katsav's seven-year term is to end this summer. If he leaves office early, parliamentary speaker Dalia Itzik will become acting president until parliament chooses a replacement.

Moritz Ben Zaken, who heads the political party Yisrael Beiteinu, said Tuesday that he plans to indict him instead. But the president, who was born in Iran, was defiant and implied the charges against him were motivated by racism against Israelis of Middle Eastern origin, who have traditionally been marginalized here.

His wife, Gila, sat softly crying in the audience.

"I am the target of one of the worst attacks in the history of the state of Israel," Moshe Katsav, President of Israel

We cater at your location or cater at ours!

Club Banquets | Fraternity/Sorority Formals & Dances | Department Award Dinners

Discover us at www.cateringunlimited.com | 805.782.8070

---

International briefs

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Four of the five Americans killed when a U.S. security company's helicopter crashed in a dangerous Sunni neighborhood in central Baghdad were shot execution style in the back the head, Iraqi and U.S. officials said Wednesday.

A senior Iraqi military official said a machine gunner downed the helicopter, but a U.S. military official in Washington said there were no indications that the aircraft, owned by Blackwater USA, had been shot out of the sky. Two Sunni insurgent groups, separately, claimed responsibility for the crash.

N'DJAMENA, Chad (AP) — A hijacker seized a Sudanese passenger plane carrying 103 people on Wednesday and forced the pilot at gunpoint to fly to the Chadian capital, N'Djamena, where he surrendered, officials said.

Saif Omer, Air West airline's managing director, said the man walked out of the Boeing 737 after it landed in Chad and said he wanted asylum in Britain. No one was injured, Omer said.

"The passengers were unaware that the plane had been hijacked," Omer told The Associated Press.

---

* Rock & Roll Hair

We specialize in Modern Hair Color & Cutting Techniques

973 E Foothill Blvd. Ste 107

Walking distance from Cal Poly

Mon-Fri: 10am - 7pm
Sat: 10am - 5pm

---

BOOK YOUR SPRING BREAK TRIP NOW

Sample fares From Santa Barbara to:
San Francisco $151
Denver $202
Washington $278

Sample fares From Los Angeles to:
Paris $256
Rome $274
Seoul $609

Student Universe

---

Associated Press

An Associated Press employee was among the passengers aboard a Sudanese passenger plane hijacked Wednesday by a man who took control of the aircraft and forced the pilot to fly to Chad, an official said.

The Associated Press employee, who could not be identified, was one of the 100 passengers on the hijacked plane. The hijacker, identified as Saif Omer, was taken to Chad to seek asylum, said Omer, the airline's managing director.

"He was a Sudanese national," said Omer, who declined to comment further.

The hijacker, identified as Saif Omer, 30, was taken to Chad to seek asylum, said Omer, the airline's managing director.

"He was a Sudanese national," said Omer, who declined to comment further.

The hijacker told the airline's management that he wanted to return to Britain, where he had lived and worked, Omer said. But it was not clear whether the hijacker was taken to Chad to seek asylum or was taken as a hostage.

"I cannot comment on the details of the case," said Omer, who declined to comment further.

The Associated Press employee aboard the hijacked plane was among more than 100 passengers on board, Omer said. The hijacker told the airline's management that he wanted to return to Britain, where he had lived and worked, Omer said. But it was not clear whether the hijacker was taken to Chad to seek asylum or was taken as a hostage.

"I cannot comment on the details of the case," said Omer, who declined to comment further.

The hijacker told the airline's management that he wanted to return to Britain, where he had lived and worked, Omer said. But it was not clear whether the hijacker was taken to Chad to seek asylum or was taken as a hostage.

"I cannot comment on the details of the case," said Omer, who declined to comment further.
Sidney Crosby and Alexander Ovechkin combined for only one goal.

Stephen Hawkins
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sidney Crosby and Alex Ovechkin will have to wait to dominate an All-Star game. The young sensations will surely get their chance.

This night belonged to one of the NHL's old stars.

Colorado's Joe Sakic, making his 12th All-Star appearance, had four assists to lead the Western Conference to 12-9 victory Wednesday night.

Well-traveled Yvan Perreault of Phoenix, Columbus' Rick Nash, Minnesota's Brian Rolston and Martin Havlat of Chicago each had two goals for the West squad.

Daniel Briere, one of three starters for Eastern Conference-leading Buffalo, had a goal and four assists and was selected the MVP.

The league's first midseason showcase since 2004 was a high-scoring affair featuring post-lockout rules and new streamlined uniforms designed, in part, to make the players faster.

Crosby and Ovechkin started on the same line and played most of the game together for the Eastern Conference, but just never could get into the flow. Ovechkin's goal in the second period was the only point he scored, but he was compared to Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux.

The 19-year-old Crosby of the Pittburgh Penguins, who was the top vote-getter for the All-Star game, leads the NHL in scoring with 72 points. Ovechkin, the 21-year-old Moscow native who was Rookie of the Year last season has 65 points for Washington, his 29 goals just one shy of the league lead.

Boston defenseman Zdeno Chara, at 6-foot-9 the tallest player in NHL history, scored two goals for the East squad.

Neither Crosby or Ovechkin were in the NHL when the last All-Star game was played, before the lockout and then the Olympics last year put the game on the shelf. They were among 20 first-time All-Stars.

Sakic, who has spent his entire 18-year career with the Colorado-Quebec franchise, was the MVP of the last All-Star game when he scored three goals and the most tenured All-Star this season.

His hat-trick wasn't enough for the Western Conference in a 6-4 loss, only the second of 16 All-Star games since 1986 in which 10 or fewer goals were scored. The goal-fest Wednesday night might still come short of the 2001 game when the North American squad beat the World team 14-1.

This time, Sakic was playing set-up man. He assisted on consecutive goals less than a minute apart midway through the second period that put the West ahead to stay at 7-5. Those were among four goals in a 4 1/2-minute stretch against New Jersey goalie Martin Brodeur, who allowed six goals in 16 shots he faced during the second period.

Sakic's four assists pushed his All-Star total to 16, surpassing Mark Messier's record 14 in 15 games. Sakic moved into third on the list of All-Star points with 22, one behind only Gretzky (25) and Lemieux (23).

Baseball
continued from page 16
(2004) and Oregon State (2006). Oregon State is one of several Pac-10 opponents for the Mustangs this season.

"We're trying to upgrade our schedule each year," Lee said. "You want to sink or swim. ... To get at the level we want to get to, you have to go head-to-head with the best competition."

Cal Poly won seven of its first eight games against top-25 teams in the Baseball America poll last season but finished 7-6 in that category.

As for what he wants made out about his young bench in its opening series of 2007, Lee said he does not want his players to try to do too much.

"Let the other team make the mistakes," he said. "Our team was a young and inconsistent, but we've been throwing against our own bats for the past couple weeks, so it's hard to get a true read."

The Mustangs will try to improve 11-2 in season openers since moving to the Division I level in 1994.
Poly softball team picked second by coaches in Big West preseason poll

The Mustangs, who will pursue their third consecutive Top Three finish in the conference, return 13 letterwinners.

SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

Owing to the success and stability that head coach Jenny Condon has brought to the Cal Poly softball program during the last two seasons, the

...continued from page 16

home.

I spent last week singing the praises of Tony Dungy and how the Panthers would crush Indianapolis. Well, Peyton Manning proved me wrong when he was finally able to hang onto the win and a big game. It was a great game coming down to the end, but the Colts just outplayed the Panthers. When the clock strikes zero, both teams usually meet to shake hands, even in this heated rivalry.

Condon, whose Mustangs finished 27-23 in 2(K)6, leading the league in conference's more offensive aggressive clubs in 2006, leading the league with 69 stolen bases and placing second in batting average (.282), runs (253) and total bases (534).

Cal Poly's 13 returning letterwinners accounted for 83 percent of the Mustangs' stolen base and run total in 2006, 79 percent of the hits, 78 percent of the extra-base hits and total bases.
Mustang women’s indoor track team goes to UNM invite

Cal Poly is coming off the Dempsey Indoor Preview meet, at which senior Sharon Day was second in the high jump.

Brittany Ridley

The Cal Poly women’s indoor track and field team will attend the University of New Mexico Invitational, its first big event of the season, on Friday and Saturday.

Danielle Ayers-Stamper and Sharon Day will compete against some great veterans,” Crawford said.

The Mustangs then visit the University of New Mexico track and field team will attend its first big event of the season on Friday and Saturday.

Ayers-Stamper will compete at the Seattle Indoor Preview meet in Seattle on March 17.

Ayers-Stamper and Sharon Day also participated in the Dempsey Indoor Preview meet in Seattle on Jan. 13 in order to prepare for this weekend’s event, Hoyt said. Day finished second in the high jump in Seattle.

Ayers-Stamper will compete this weekend in the pentathlon and Day in the high jump, Cal Poly head coach Terry Crawford said.

Results from this weekend’s invitational will help determine whether the two athletes qualify for nationals in Arkansas in March.

Approximately 20 team members will participate this weekend, Crawford said.

Hoyt said the tournaments are “the foreseen the team having a very successful season.”

“I think it will be a great year,” Hoyt said. “We have a lot of young, enthusiastic athletes and some great veterans.”

Cal Poly returns to Seattle for the Husky Invitational from Feb. 5 to 10 before battling Hawaii in a meet on the same track a day later. The Mustangs then visit the Northern Arizona Invite on Feb. 17.

The Mustangs begin their campaign for a fourth straight winning season against the No. 46 Toreros on 2 p.m. Friday.

Tristan Aird

When the Cal Poly baseball team opens the season at the University of San Diego on Friday, it will do so with a new pitching coach.

Head coach Larry Lee announced Monday at a weekly athletics department press conference that former Cal Poly pitcher Jason Kelly had been hired to replace Jerry Weinstein, who resigned earlier this month after five seasons to become manager of the Colorado Rockies.

“He sees things just like I do,” Lee said of Kelly. “It’s a real good fit for our program.”

As the pitching coach at Chico State, Kelly helped the Wildcats reach the Division II College World Series each of the last two years. He was an administrative assistant at Cal Poly in 2004 and previously an assistant coach for both Cuesta College (2003) and the San Luis Obispo Blues (2002-03).

Kelly was 3-1 with a 7.91 ERA while at Cal Poly in 1999 before he redshirted (2000) and transferred to Cuesta (2001) and then Missouri Valley College (2002).

Cal Poly will open its quest for a fourth straight winning season when its three-game nonconference series against San Diego begins at 2 p.m. Friday at Cunningham Stadium. The Toreros are ranked 46th in Collegiate Baseball Newspaper’s preseason poll, in which Cal Poly is unranked but received an undeciphered number of votes.

The Mustangs are coming off a 29-27 season after which they lost six players to the Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft and two more who signed free-agent deals. Cal Poly has lost seven juniors early to the draft in the last two years.

In fact, the Mustangs will have almost a brand new team. They must replace:

• All three starting pitchers and their closer.
• Five of their eight position starters.
• Sixty-six percent of their at-bats, 65 percent of their runs scored and 69 percent of their RBI accounted for by players last season who are no longer with the program.

Still, Lee is confident that a talented crop of freshmen can make a quick transition to the Division I level. Cal Poly’s recruiting class was ranked by Collegiate Baseball Newspaper in October at the 20th-best in the country.

At the forefront of that group is shortstop Kyle Smith, who hit .481 with eight home runs and 42 RBI at Buchanan High in Clovis last year.

Lee said Smith, who will lead off, “could be one of the top hitters on the West Coast.”

“Our shortstop, Kyle Smith, is as good as anybody,” Lee said. “Total baseball guy.”

At this point, Cal Poly’s lineup consists of either Adam Buschini or Wes Dorell at first base, Pat Petrzi or Brett Morel at second, Smith at shortstop, Morel or Buschini at third, Luke Yoder or Adam Melker in left field, Logan Schafer in center and Grant Desme in right. Joshua Thomas or Dorell will start at catcher with either Bryan Keplar or Quentin Cate as the designated hitter.

The No. 1 starter for the Mustangs will likely be sophomore right-hander D.J. Mauldin, followed in the rotation by freshman southpaw Matt Leonard and sophomore right-hander Thomas Eager. Mauldin and Eager combined for three wins and fanned 35 batters in 50 1/3 innings last year. The closer could be junior right-hander Marc Nehrig.

As was the case last year, Cal Poly has a notably difficult schedule. The Mustangs faced the 10th-toughest schedule in the nation last season, according to Boyd’sWorld.com.

Things only ramped up this sea- son, as Cal Poly plays three of the last four College World Series champions in Rice (gates), Big West Conference for Cal State Fullerton see Baseball, page 14

Above, Cal Poly sophomore infielder Adam Buschini — shown as a freshman — hit .266 and drove in 10 runs last season. Below, junior right fielder Grant Desme — shown as a sophomore infielder — batted .287 with eight home runs and 33 RBI in 2006.