Today's weather: Sunny
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Friday, April 13, 2007

Online at www.mustangdaily.com

Legislator calls for penalties on gas-guzzling vehicles
Paul Rogers
The Daily Almanac (San Diego Voice & Press)

SAN JOSE — Call it the Robin Hood approach to global warming. California drivers who buy new Hummers, Ford Expeditions and other big vehicles that emit high levels of greenhouse gases would pay a fee of up to $2,500.

And drivers who buy more fuel-efficient cars, such as the Toyota Prius or Ford Focus, would receive rebates of up to $2,500, straight from the gas-guzzlers' pockets.

That's the provocative proposal from a Silicon Valley legislator whose "Clean Car Discount" bill is gaining momentum, sending car dealers into a tizzy and sparking passions among motorists.

It's the first time California has considered penalizing consumers to limit global warming, rather than just providing incentives, such as solar power rebates or special access to the carpool lane for hybrid vehicles.

"If we are going to effectively fight global warming, we are going have to find a way to get the cleaner cars on the road and the dirtier cars off the road," assemblyman Ira Ruskin, D-Los Altos, Calif., said. "We need to have both carrots and sticks."

Ruskin's bill, AB493, won approval of the Assembly Transportation Committee two weeks ago.

The bill has the backing of most see Vehicles, page 2

The annual Tomato Mania event will take place today and Saturday at the Poly Plant Shop, where 57 kinds of tomatoes will be sold.

COURTESY PHOTO

Poly Plant Shop calls out to tomato maniacs
Evan Rudd

Today marks the beginning of the Poly Plant Shop's Tomato Mania, a two-day event where nearly 3,000 tomatoes of 57 varieties will be sold to customers from throughout the Central Coast.

"It'll be a madhouse," said environmental horticulture science junior Alex Lehman. "The public goes kind of crazy about it. It's a huge deal."

Lehman is one of four students who organized the entire event and did everything from growing the tomatoes to publicizing.

The event will be successful because the heirloom tomatoes grown on campus are sweeter and bigger than the hybrid varieties sold at a typical grocery store, he said.

The process of growing the tomatoes began in early January when the team mixed the soil to plant the seeds. The most difficult part of the growing process was transplanting the plugs into larger pots, Lehman said.

"But once that was done, we just had to fertilize the pots, sit back and watch them grow," he said.

The most popular variety of tomato is a large, flavorful tomato called Murray Smith. This tomato only grows on the Central Coast, and was developed by Howard Brown, former dean of College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences, in honor of his friend, Murray Smith.

"This is the best crop we've ever had," said environmental horticulture science senior Krista Pansini. Other varieties include the Big Beef Hybrids — an

see Tomatoes, page 2

see Fraternity, page 2

Fraternity man
Cristina Albers

The Graduate was packed with college students and full of chants and cheers on Wednesday night in support of the 16 fraternity members vying for the annual title "Mr. Fraternity." Sorority Alpha Omicron Pi hosted the event to raise money for arthritis research.

Jen Marvin, business major and philanthropy chair of Alpha Omicron Pi, put together the event, hosted by Arvand Sabetian, Interfraternity Council president and civil engineering major, and Alpha Omicron Pi business senior Kristen Bantz.

Winners were chosen based on their scores in four categories, which were judged by a nine-person panel including the seven Panhellenic

 see Spotlight, 8

Funny guys bring 'A Night of Improv' to Poly

Expert on Robinson to speak on campus Monday

IN SPORTS, 8

IN SPOTLIGHT, 5

Above: The top five candidates for Mr. Fraternity stand together. Bottom right: Sevren Smith, a member of Delta Sigma Phi, is crowned Mr. Fraternity by Kristen Bantz. Bottom left: For the talent portion of the event, Jamie Hastings of Alpha Gamma Rho showed some skin.

NICK CAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY

Poly Plant Shop calls out to tomato maniacs
CDC says gonorrhea is drug-resistant

Daniel Yee
Science Editor

ATLANTA — The sexually transmitted disease gonorrhea is now among the "superbugs" resistant to common antibiotics, leading U.S. health officials to recommend wider use of a different class of drugs to avert a public health crisis.

The resistant form accounts for more than one in four gonorrhea cases among heterosexual men in a survey of 26 U.S. cities last year were drug-resistant. In 2001, only about 0.6 percent of gonorrhea cases among heterosexual men were drug-resistant. That leaves us with a single class of highly effective antibiotics," said Dr. John Douglas Jr., director of the CDC's division of STD prevention. Other experts called the situation perilous.

We are running out of options to treat this disease," said Douglas, who said there are "no new drugs for gonorrhea in the drug development pipeline.

Previously, CDC recommended against fluoroquinolones to treat drug-resistant gonorrhea among men who have sex with men and in certain states, including California and Hawaii where most of these cases were turning up.

Described by Douglas as a "very wily" disease, gonorrhea has worked its way through decades of other treatments, from sulfa drugs used in the 1930s and 1940s, to penicillin, which was used from the 1940s until the mid-1980s.

Gonorrhea, spread through sexual contact, is the second most commonly reported infectious disease in the United States, trailing only chlamydia, which the CDC says affects more than 2.1 million people yearly in the U.S.

The highest rates of infection are among sexually active teens, young adults and African-Americans. Because people don't have obvious symptoms, they can unknowingly spread it to others. And having it makes people more susceptible to HIV. Gonorrhea's spread is preventable through consistent and proper use of condoms, experts said.

Fraternity

continued from page 1

The top five contestants were chosen and asked, "What is the greatest lesson you have learned in life?" Answers varied from "be all you can be" to "never be scared of anything." In third place was Derek Sondove, business and science sophomore and member of Sigma Phi Epsilon. In second place was mechanical engineering junior of Sigma Nu.

The winner of this year's Mr. Fraternity was Severn Smith, who is currently switching majors and a member of Delta Sigma Phi, who brought some Hawaiian flavor to the stage when he played the ukulele. "I can't believe I actually did it, but I'm so happy I did it ... it was a blast and I had the chance to dance with my best friends," Smith said.

Contestant Collin Hamilton, industrial engineering senior and member of Delta Chi, summed up the evening with, "We're all here having a good time ... this is what it's all about."

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Vehicles

continued from page 1

major statewide environmental groups, which see it as one of their top priorities in 2007. And the measure received a substantial boot last week when it was endorsed by the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, a business organization that includes the major tech companies in Silicon Valley, including IBM, Google, Apple and Cisco.

"Forty percent of California's greenhouse gases are from transportation," said Carl Guardino, the group's CEO. "This is a market-driven approach to production and purchase of cleantech cars."

The bill would apply to new cars, pickups, minivans and sport utility vehicles, starting with 2011 models. Under the proposed rules, the state Air Resources Board each year would rank new car models by the pounds of carbon dioxide and other gases they emit that trap heat in the atmosphere.

About 25 percent of the vehicles in the middle would have no fee or rebate. But buyers of high-emission vehicles would pay a surcharge of $100 to $2,500, depending on the amount of emissions. People buying vehicles emitting few greenhouse gases would be handed rebates of $100 to $2,500.

Generally, cars that burn more gasoline emit more greenhouse gases. The amount of the fees and rebates would be posted on the car's sale sticker. Auto dealers would collect the money from buyers of gas-guzzlers and send it to the state Board of Equalization. Buyers of gas-sippers would be given a certificate from the dealer to mail to the state to receive their checks.

Tomatoes

continued from page 1

old-fashioned, colonial fruit weighing up to 1-pound and Golden Gem cherry tomatoes, which has a golden color with a rich, fruity bite.

Tomato Mania is one of Poly Plant Shop's biggest events along with winter poinsettia sales.

One-gallon containers can be purchased for $5.50, or for $20, and hanging baskets with three tomatoes and basil are $12. Check out the Poly Plant Shop's website at www.polyplantshop.com for a full list of varieties offered.

"Pansini is optimistic every variety will be a hit this year with the public. "Every college student needs to try these tomatoes," Pansini said.

The Poly Plant Shop is located in the Environmental Horticulture Building on Via Carta Road.

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Romney says Chicago would be ‘wonderful’ place to host 2016 Summer Games

Deanna Bellandi
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, who headed up the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City, says Chicago would be a “wonderful” place to host the Olympics.

Romney was careful not to take sides as Chicago and Los Angeles wait to learn Saturday which city the U.S. Olympic Committee will pick to be the American bidder for the 2016 Summer Games.

“I’m not going to be partisan in that battle,” he told reporters during a campaign visit.

Romney pledged to help whichever American bid city is chosen get the nod from the International Olympic Committee.

“Chicago is a great city. It’d be a wonderful place to host the Olympics,” he said. “We’re lucky to have two great cities in this final stage of the process.”

On political matters, Romney said he supports President Bush’s policy in Iraq, but he acknowledged a “number of errors” over the last three years. He said the U.S. was “under prepared” for what happened after the collapse of Saddam Hussein’s government, had “under planned” for what occurred and had not effectively managed the war.

“We have helped contribute to the difficult position in which we find ourselves,” he said.

If the United States were to “withdraw precipitously” from Iraq, he said, it would be even riskier for the U.S. because a regional conflict could cause troops to have to return to a worse situation.

Romney criticized attempts by Congress to set a withdrawal date for troops in Iraq.

“I don’t believe that Congress should be trying to manage the war,” he said.

State

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A wind-driven wildfire damaged or destroyed several homes in the hills above Los Angeles as dangerous gusts swept dry Southern California, knocking out power to thousands and triggering a fatal highway pile-up in a blinding sandstorm.

Other fires erupted elsewhere.

About 200 firefighters and water-dropping helicopters battled a 35-acre blaze in the Beverly Glen area above the city of Beverly Hills, said Los Angeles Fire Department spokesman Ron Myers.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A two-year probe of a violent South Los Angeles street gang culminated Thursday with 22 arrests and seizures of drugs and guns in a series of raids over five hours that led to a neighborhood evacuation until tear gas drove a suspect out of a home.

Those arrested were reputed members and associates of the Neighborhood Crips, authorities said.

The gang members dealt in crack cocaine and counterfeit money, ATF Special Agent in Charge John A. Torres said at a police station news conference. “I don’t believe that Congress should be trying to manage the war,” he said.

State

NEW YORK (AP) — CBS fired Don Imus for his racist remarks on Thursday, the finale to a stunning fall for one of the nation’s most prominent broadcasters.

Imus was initially suspended for two weeks after he called the Rutgers women’s basketball team “nappy-headed hos” on the air last week. But outrage kept growing and advertisers kept bolting from his CBS radio show and its MSNBC simulcast, which was canceled Wednesday.

NEW YORK (AP) — Kurt Vonnegut, regarded by many critics as a key influence in shaping 20th-century American literature, died Wednesday at 84. He had suffered brain injuries after a recent fall at his Manhattan home, his wife, photographer Jill Krementz.

In books such as “Slaughterhouse-Five,” “Cat’s Cradle,” and “Hocus Pocus,” Vonnegut mixed the bitter and funny with a touch of the profound.

Vonnegut’s works contained elements of social commentary, science fiction and autobiography. Hours after his death, “Slaughterhouse-Five” had jumped to the top 10 on Amazon.com.

International

BAGHDAD (AP) — A suicide bomber slipped through the tightest security net in Baghdad and blew himself up in the midst of lawmakers having lunch in the parliament dining hall Thursday. U.S. officials said eight people, including parliament members, were killed in the deadliest-ever attack in the American-guarded Green Zone.

The stunning breach of security, on the same day that a massive bombing destroyed one of Baghdad’s main bridges, laid a cloud of heavy doubt about progress in the latest U.S.-Iraq bid to clamp off violence in the capital. The drive has put thousands of troops on the streets in a massive operation to round up militants and their weapons.

A news video camera captured the moment of the blast, about 2:30 p.m. — a flash and an orange ball of fire causing hundreds of troops on the streets in a massive operation to round up militants and their weapons. A news video camera captured the moment of the blast, about 2:30 p.m. — a flash and an orange ball of fire causing thousands of troops on the streets in a massive operation to round up militants and their weapons. A news video camera captured the moment of the blast, about 2:30 p.m. — a flash and an orange ball of fire causing thousands of troops on the streets in a massive operation to round up militants and their weapons. A news video camera captured the moment of the blast, about 2:30 p.m. — a flash and an orange ball of fire causing thousands of troops on the streets in a massive operation to round up militants and their weapons.
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Popular improv performers bring laughs to Cal Poly stage tonight

Amy Asman
MUSTANG DAILY

The job from hell — we've all had one. (Or at least we've laughed hysterically while listening to other people share their horror stories from "the real world.") Whether it's the babysitter who has to deal with sticky diapers and terror children, or the bartender who is forced to mop up drunk people's vomit, there are always demeaning and/or embarrassing jobs out in the world that need to get done.

For actor and comedian Ryan Stiles, the transition into the working world wasn't nearly as glamorous and exciting as people might think.

At the beginning of his career in the entertainment industry, Stiles was hired by the Coca Cola Co. to attend a televised tennis match... dressed up as a giant can of Coke.

"I really needed the cash. I had to wear a big wooden Coke can on my head. But about halfway through the match I decided I'd had enough, so I started to walk out," Stiles said. "I could feel things hitting me in the back of the head as I left.

Obviously, Stiles has come a long way from his days of pretending to be a giant can of soda. Audiences from all over the United States and England tuned in to watch and laugh as he cooked up crazy comedic antics as a cast member of "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" and Lewis Kinikini on "The Drew Carey Show," for which he received an Emmy nomination.

Although ABC canceled both shows in the past three years, Stiles has continued to work in the industry as a performing and manager of his own improv theatre UpFront in Bellingham, Wash.

"I need to get on stage every once in a while or else I'd get a little nutty," Stiles said.

He and former "Whose Line..." cast members Greg Proops, Chip Esten and Jeff Davis bring their own comedy show "A Night of Improv" to the Performing Arts Center tonight at 7 p.m.

"I need to get on stage every once in a while or else I'd get a little nutty."

—Ryan Stiles
Actor and comedian

Get ready for some hilarious acting 'Stiles'

He also said that they won't be using props or performing anything that has them standing in one place because the cast wants to use as much of the stage as possible.

"(The show) has a different feel than 'Whose Line.' We have more fun because we're allowed to do what we do best, and we're live," he said.

Performing in front of an audience is something new for Stiles who got his start doing stand-up comedy in the late 1970s.

"I dropped out of high school and started doing stand-up in strip clubs," he said.

Today, Stiles is most comfortable on stage so I don't pull anything. And I think Chip reads a book right up until he goes on," he said.

However, it's Stiles' naturally relaxed, down-to-earth attitude that gains the most respect and admiration from fellow improvisers.

"He appears to be so comfortable on stage and he looks like he's having a lot of fun," said history junior and Cal Poly Smile and Nod improv troop member Kelsi Copeland.

"He's just so quick and he never appears to be frazzled, even when he has something unexpected thrown at him. You can never tell if he's passing to think of something. And he has great stage presence.

Despite his popularity on television and on stage, Stiles prefers a quieter lifestyle.

"I'm not much of a party guy," he said, adding that he prefers spending time with his wife and three children at their lakeside home in Washington.

"You have to get away from (Hollywood) once in a while...you have to do something you really enjoy," he said.

Even though Stiles said he appreciated his success in Hollywood, it's not a life he plans to rely on.

"I'd take money over fame any day because you can't pay the rent with fame. You can't say 'Hey, don't you know who I am?' to your landlord," he said.

Stiles' success is forced to mop up drunken people's vomit, there are always demeaning or embarrassing jobs out in the world that need to get done.

For actor and comedian Ryan Stiles, the transition into the working world wasn't nearly as glamorous and exciting as people might think.

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—Ryan Stiles
Actor and comedian

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Assistant Spotlight editor: Amy Asman
Thailand: Where  F-kings elephants roam

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A suggestion. Lanes dividers are there for decoration. Seat belts? Don't make me laugh. Speeding through downtown Bangkok at paralyzing speed on a motorized tricycle is an experience that can only be described as "What the f-?" You think driving drunk is scary? Try putting your life in the hands of a tuk-tuk driver. You don't know fear. "No, I would not look like my books", he was saying. "Keep your eyes on the road, for the love of God." Is that an elephant on the street? Yes, it is an elephant on the f-king street. Where am I? Being accosted by prostitutes

America: land of outsourcing

I'll start out by saying that I did not outsource this article. However, the editor that had to place this opinion article is not the one that today outourced it to me.

Have I just stumbled upon an all-inclusive American tradition? Most likely I'd say yes.

It seems like outsourcing is as American as you can get. We do it all the time as college students. Need to add more sources to that research paper due soon? Outsource it to someone in a foreign country for a fraction of the cost. However, the editor that had to place this opinion article is not the one that today outourced it to me.

Rutger's women's basketball team "harp-headed hoos" as entertainment. Furthermore, I feel that only another person in a social position of power and privilege could say that it was "probably pretty funny at the time!" What time? Two hundred years ago? No, it's never been funny for someone in a position of power to degrade a minority. Is our media spending too much attention on this story? Perhaps. But, I still don't believe that people have the right to keep quiet about things so that The New York Times can have a "provocative" front page. I think it would have been far more interesting and persuasive if Mr. Bush had said those remarks so that the media would divert attention from the fact that he is building a war in Iraq. Now that's a juicy bite.

Gabriel Kaprielian
Assistant sports editor

STAFF COMMENTARY

I decided to use the rice terraces as a giant staircase. Fine feet? OK, ten feet? Why not. Fifteen feet? Just around in Thailand. Halfway down the paddies, a rice farmer stopped me. "You see that?" he asked, pointing to a hut about 50 yards away. "That's a hut in California!" I approached the hut and took a seat on the porch as the farmer started to sing. Tell anyone over here that you are from California, and they start to sing it. It's bad. I feel like The Eagles.

The Thai hill tribes are different from the tribes in modern Thailand. They are more hospitable, that is if even possible. They served us coffee that they grow in the hills and had dressed in traditional clothing. For the best coffee I had ever had. The best coffee in the world, I dare say.

We continued our trek down the trail. The tribesmen performed traditional songs and dance for us, and we returned the favor. We ate. We drank. We laughed. As the sun set over the rice paddies, it had to be said. I looked around at my newfound friends. "Not everyone in California!" I was thinking.

The Thai government in places like Thailand, there is virtually no accountability for the military. They are using your tax dollars to do their work.

Some of those contractors are in Iran thanks to political connections. It is a fact that Vice President Dick Cheney used to work for Halliburton, and according to a "60 Minutes" report, the CEO of Blackwater USA, a security firm, made political donations to President Bush.

However, when private contractors are attacked for their involvement in the military, many have detailed what the state of contractors is in a war zone like Iraq.

Outsourcing can help a company reduce operating costs if the company complies with the laws. And they are using your tax dollars to do their work.

Tell us out!
Robinson

continued from page 8

has been made, but there's still much ground to cover, Hopper said, citing the controversy surrounding Don Imus' racially-charged remarks about the Rutgers women's basketball team as an example.

"The Enduring Legacy of Jackie Robinson" presentation is now open to both Cal Poly students and the general public. For more information, call (805) 756-2341.

Baseball

continued from page 4

the Big West at 11-10 and qualified for the NCAA sub-regional at Malibu, losing to UCLA and Missouri, both by a single run. The Anteaters, who brought back baseball in 2002 after a nine-year hiatus, have qualified for the postseason seven times in 28 seasons (twice since moving to Division I in 1976). UC Irvine, ranked No. 17 by Baseball America and No. 20 by Collegiate Baseball Newspaper this week, lost in its season-opening series at Cal but has won every series since.
Poly baseball team to enter bulk of Big West schedule

After going 5-1 against the bottom two teams in the Big West Conference standings, the Mustangs visit nationally ranked UC Irvine this weekend.

SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

Cal Poly on a roller-coaster ride in recent weeks, continues Big West Conference play this weekend by visiting No. 17/20 UC Irvine for a three-game baseball series at Anteater Ballpark.

First pitch Friday and Saturday is set for 6 p.m. and Sunday's contest will start at 1 p.m.

The Mustangs lost their first five games of the 2007 season, then won 10 of 12 before Loyola Marymount dowed Cal Poly's momentum with a sweep in Baggett Stadium.

After Cal Poly swept UNLV in Las Vegas, the Mustangs were swept by top-10 teams Rice and Oregon State before opening Big West play with a three-game series sweep at Pacific two weeks ago and taking two of three games against Cal State Northridge last weekend in Baggett Stadium.

UC Irvine returns 17 lettermen, including six position starters and seven pitchers off a team that went 36-24 a year ago, finished third in see Baseball, page 7

shown in 1948, Jackie Robinson will be the topic of discussion Monday when baseball historian Jules Tygiel visits Cal Poly for a speech commemorating the 60th anniversary of Robinson's breaking the color barrier in Major League Baseball.

Jules Tygiel, "an eminent, pioneering historian of baseball," as history professor Matthew Hopper described him, will present "The Enduring Legacy of Jackie Robinson" Monday from 12:10 to 1 p.m. in Chumash Auditorium to commemorate the event.

"He's the historian on Robinson," Hopper said. "I really thought that he would have been booked by NPR or NBC News or something, but he has agreed to come here on the actual anniversary of Jackie Robinson's integration. We're really excited about it.

Robinson had ties to Cal Poly. He lived on campus for roughly six months beginning in 1946, according to "Jackie Robinson: A Biography," by Arnold Rampersad. Robinson lived at Cal Poly because of a scholarship tied to the National Youth Administration facility in Atascadero. He was assistant athletic director for N YA, which provided jobs and job training to people between 16 and 25 years of age.

Tygiel, author of "Baseball's Great Experiment: Jackie Robinson and His Legacy and Pastime: Baseball as History," currently teaches American history — including a course entitled "The Literature of Baseball" — at San Francisco State University.

Crowning with the 60th anniversary of the integration of Major League Baseball, the event will act as a way to honor this monumental component of American history.

Sixty years ago, baseball, like many areas of American life, was racially segregated, designating black players to the confines of Negro leagues. Only whites were offered opportunities to make it to the majors.

But all that changed April 15, 1947, when Robinson joined the Brooklyn Dodgers. With this seemingly simple event, he became the first player to cross the emblematic color barrier, enduring much discrimination in the process.

Robinson was specifically chosen because of his ability to overcome this discrimination, his steadfast determination and playing skills.

Now, though, the landmark event is often overlooked.

"It's very easy for people to forget how very recently and how very real segregation was in American life," Hopper said. "Even like this help us to reflect on how far we've come and how far we still have to go.

It is easy to see where progress Robinson, page 7

This weekend in Cal Poly Athletics

Baseball — Cal Poly at UC Irvine: 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 1 p.m. Sunday (all games broadcast on 1280 AM)

Softball — Cal Poly at Cal State Northridge: Noon and 2 p.m. Saturday, noon Sunday

Men's Tennis — UC Riverside at Cal Poly: 9 a.m. Saturday, UC Irvine at Cal Poly: 1 p.m. Sunday

Women's Tennis — Santa Clara at Cal Poly: Noon Saturday

Track and Field: Cal Poly at Jackie Joyner-Kersee/Rafer Johnson Invitational at UCLA: 10 a.m. Friday, Mt. San Antonio College Invitational in Walnut: 10 a.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Poly lacrosse club teams to host regular-season finales this weekend

Rachelle Santucci

Both the Cal Poly men's and women's lacrosse teams will be playing their final games of the regular season this weekend when USC, Michigan and Santa Barbara come to the Sports Complex.

"They should be great games," junior Jackie Pugh said. "University of Michigan is who we played in the championships last year, so we're excited for them to come over here.

The women have gone undefeated for 13 games this season and are hoping to win their seventh Western Women's Lacrosse National championship in a row.

"We've won every championship since it started; we're the only one on the trophy," Pugh said.

With a record of 10-4 so far this season, the men's team is currently ranked first in Division A Central of the Western Collegiate Lacrosse League and 16th in the national league, the U.S. Lacrosse Intercollegiate Associates.

"We feel pretty good," junior Seth Kweller said. "We've been going strong and just getting ready for playoffs.

The Mustangs will be playing USC in their final game on Saturday at 2 p.m. USC is currently ranked fifth in Division A Los Angeles with a record of 6-7.

"It's an important game for us to enter into the post season," junior Mark Gouin said.

The women will be playing two games this weekend, first against Michigan on Saturday at 11 a.m. and then against UCSC on Sunday at 11 a.m.

"We just don't get that excited," she said.

Keller added: "We'd love to have support. Come watch us finish our season strong."

Mustang softball team to continue best season since '97 at CSUN

Backed by the second-best conference start in program history, the Cal Poly softball team (30-9, 6-0 Big West Conference) opens a three-game series at Cal State Northridge (13-16, 1-5) with a doubleheader at noon Saturday.

Cal Poly swept UNLV in Las Vegas, the Mustangs were swept by top-10 teams Rice and Oregon State before opening Big West play with a three-game series sweep at Pacific two weeks ago and taking two of three games against Cal State Northridge last weekend in Baggett Stadium.

UC Irvine returns 17 lettermen, including six position starters and seven pitchers off a team that went 36-24 a year ago, finished third in see Baseball, page 7

Madator Diamond at noon Sunday.

A three-game sweep of Long Beach State from April 6 to 7 earned Cal Poly the program's third 30-win season since transitioning to the Division I level in 1995 and the second such campaign in the last three years.

The LBSU sweep also helped Cal Poly surpass last season's total of 27. With at least 15 games remaining in the 2007 campaign, Cal Poly has an excellent look at establishing new single-season program records in three categories: most victories, fewest losses and winning percentage.

The 1997 Mustangs hold the single-season records with a 37-17 record and the 2005 Cal Poly squad can tie for the fewest losses (35-16) and winning percentage (.686). Cal Poly trails only the 1997 Division II champions for the best record in program history after 39 contests by just a single game.

When the NCAA debuted its initial Division I statistical rankings Tuesday, Cal Poly senior center fielder Lisa Modglin found herself as one of the most represented players in the country.

Modglin enters this week's series at Cal State Northridge as the nation's top batting average leader (.480).