Hey Poly, got climate change?

Jessica Ford
MUSTANG DAILY

The nation will focus on one thing Thursday: climate change solutions. Cal Poly will participate in the largest teach-in in national history, “Focus the Nation: Global Warning Solutions for America,” in an attempt to further discussion on climate change.

The daylong event, coordinated by the student organization Empower Poly Coalition, will consist of presentations, panel discussions, workshops and various other activities around campus to bring students, faculty and community members together on a common issue.

“Climate change, more than any other issue, is going to be affecting our generation... It’s up to us to put the proper public officials into office to make decisions to move us toward a clean, sustainable future,” said Chad Worth, co-director of Cal Poly’s “Focus the Nation” event and president of Empower Poly Coalition.

Cal Poly is one of more than 1,600 locations hosting “Focus the Nation” events across the nation, most of which are college campuses.

“The national goal of the event is to make climate change a make-or-break issue for the 2008 presidential candidates,” said Worth, an industrial engineering senior.

“Our job is to inform students and community members and get them excited, and have (climate change) be one of the deciding factors when they go to vote.”

The teach-in begins at 9 a.m. in Chumash Auditorium with a panel discussion titled “The Science of Global Warning.” There will be multiple events on campus occurring simultaneously throughout the day.

The eco-friendly band Blue Turtle Seduction will perform from 11 a.m. until noon in the University Union Plaza. The band’s sound equipment will be powered by a portable solar energy trailer from REC Solar Blue Turtle Seduction’s biodiesel tour bus will also be on display in front of Mott Gym as part of the alternative fuel vehicle show.

“Focus the Nation” includes a job fair and trade show in UU room 220 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. The job fair will feature “green” companies and organizations such as the San Luis Obispo Sustainability Group, REC Solar, the Sierra Club and The Environmental Center of San Luis Obispo (ECOSLO), among many others.

All-day events include a student art show related to sustainability and climate change solutions in the UU Plaza, an art installation by landscape architecture students on Dexter Lawn and a “Choose Your Future” voting event in the Chumash Auditorium.

see Focus, page 3

CFA says budget cutbacks worsen economic crisis

Patrick Barbieri
MUSTANG DAILY

“Educational cutbacks damage the economy” is the message the California Faculty Association is sending to college students and faculty amid Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger’s proposed budget cuts.

The CFA represents more than 23,000 faculty members currently employed by California State University systems.

If passed, Schwarzenegger’s proposed budget will decrease funding for education by 10 percent, translating to a $312 million cut for CSU schools and a 10 percent fee increase for students.

The end result for most schools will be limited enrollment, fewer faculty, overcrowded classrooms and a lack of resources.

“It’s a recipe for disaster,” said Kim Gerres, political science professor at CSU East Bay and vice president of the CFA, in a telephone conference.

“Making students pay more for less is not a solution to California’s budget deficit. It will only worsen the problem. CSUs graduate about 90,000 students per year. Delaying the future of these students will have a severe impact on the economy. There won’t be people to take on higher-level jobs. This is not a good business model.”

One primary concern is that many CSUs will lower the number of students accepted each year.

“The CSU mission is to accept the top one-third of all high school students into CSU schools,” said Lillian Taz, history professor at Cal State Los Angeles and CFA president in a telephone conference. “We’re at a point where we can’t deliver on that promise.”

The CFA equates the proposed budget cut to closing an entire CSU campus, since the decrease
McCain wins Florida GOP primary

Sources close to Giuliany say he may be ready to drop out and endorse McCain

David Espo

MIAMI — Sen. John McCain won a breakthrough triumph in the Florida primary Tuesday night, seizing the upper hand in the Republican presidential race ahead of next week's coast-to-coast contests and lining up a quick endorsement from soon-to-be-dropout Rudy Giulani.

"It shows one thing: I'm the conservative leader who can unite the party," McCain told The Associated Press after eating past former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney for his first-ever triumph in a primary open only to Republicans.

"We have a ways to go, but we're getting close" to the nomination, he added.

Romney, who has spent millions of dollars of his personal fortune to run for the White House, vowed to stay in the race.

"At a time like this, America needs a president in the White House who has actually had a job in the real economy," the former businessman told supporters in St. Petersburg.

Giuliani, the former New York mayor, ran third. It was his best showing of the campaign, but not nearly good enough for the one-time front-runner who decided to make his last stand in a state that is home to tens of thousands of transplanted New Yorkers. Several officials familiar with events said he intended to endorse McCain on Wednesday in California.

In remarks to supporters in Orlando, Giuliani referred to his candidacy repeatedly in the past tense — as though it were over. "We'll stay involved, and together we'll make sure that we'll do everything we can to hand our nation off to the next generation better than it was before," he said.

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee ran fourth in the primary but said supporters he would continue to campaign. Texas Rep. Ron Paul was fifth, and last.

Florida marked the end of one phase of the campaign, the last in a series of single-state contests that winnowed a once unwieldy field. The race goes national next week — McCain said it would be "the closest thing to a nationwide contest, but not the solution to our state's money problems."

The San Luis Obispo County Public Health department has implemented a quarantine for all sport-harvested bivalve shellfish from the Morris Bay Estuary following an approximate 20,000 gallons spill of untreated sewage into Chorro Creek from the California Meri's Colony.

The quarantine has been in effect since Jan. 27 and will last for the next two or three weeks, covering the entire Morris Bay area (from Morro Rock to the southern end of the bay). Consumption of contaminated shellfish could pose a serious health risk, and individuals should seek medical care if they think they’ve become sick from it.

Focus continued from page 1

The day will conclude with a globalization event featuring the CTA's 2008 statewide campaign, "Focus the Nation." The event has included having Cal Poly professors give the presentations, which have been supported by area businesses and the public.

"Focus the Nation" has gained support from more than 150 faculty members on campus. The support of professors ranges from devoting classes to Jan. 31 to global warming publications, participating in panel discussions and offering extra credit to students attending "Focus the Nation." The event also will be open to the public.

Bus continued from page 1

"It's a good location so people will stop by to find out more about political careers," business junior Darryn Young said.

Many students said they were attending the event because they felt that they were not informed about the issues of the different candidates and were hoping to learn more.

"We have a window of opportunity now, and so how are we in the work force going to use that?" said Kelly Anne Cheung.

However, CPA is imploring students and faculty to take action now to ensure that the budget as proposed does not become law later this year.

"We have a window of opportunity now, and so how are we in the work force going to use that?" said Kelly Anne Cheung.
**What celebrity news are you most tired of hearing about?**

Compiled and photographed by Britney Clyde

"Britney Spears and her baby-making sister."
— Jeremy Cleveland, business sophomore

"Britney Spears because it's overplayed, overdone, and they need to leave her alone so she can get her act together."
— Kelly Dziuba, biology junior

"It would probably have to be Britney Spears."
— Kate Cappe, animal science junior

"(My frat brothers and I are) tired of hearing about Oprah Winfrey."
— David Haas, crop science sophomore

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**State**

SACRAMENTO (AP) — A Michigan woman accused of soliciting for a hit man on the popular online bulletin board Craigslist will be returned to California to face charges.

Ann Marie Linscott, 49, of Rockford, Mich., will be extradited to Sacramento next week to face federal charges that she tried to get someone to kill the 56-year-old wife of her Crested Butte boyfriend.

FBI agents say Linscott posted a generic Craigslist advertisement for "freelance," and offered respondents $5,000 to be "silent assassins."

SACRAMENTO (AP) — A state assemblyman was unable to overcome auto industry opposition and has pulled a proposal that would have charged car buyers a fee for purchasing high-polluting vehicles.

Redwood City Democrat Ira Ruskin withdrew his bill Tuesday because he did not have the votes to pass it. It would have imposed a $2,500 surcharge on vehicles that spew the highest levels of greenhouse gases.

Ruskin and environmental groups had tried for more than a year to create a program giving incentives to Californians who buy cleaner cars, sport utility vehicles and pickup trucks.

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**National**

NEW YORK (AP) — An all-chocolate room was unveiled in Manhattan Tuesday — a pre-Valentine’s Day creation complete with furniture and artwork made of the sweet stuff.

"It’s the perfect bit of sin," said Ali Larter, star of TV’s "Heroes," of the Godiva chocolate "pearls" that are her private daily indulgence.

Here, they were dripping off the chandeliers above the dining table, which was a sea of stars, truffles and crescents — all chocolate, of course, under glass.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The number of chinook salmon returning to California’s Central Valley has reached a near-record low, pointing to an "unprecedented collapse" that could lead to severe restrictions on West Coast salmon fishing this year, according to federal fishery regulators.

The sharp drop in chinook, or "king," salmon returning from the Pacific Ocean to spawn in the Sacramento River and its tributaries this past fall is part of broader decline in wild salmon runs in rivers across the West.

The population dropped more than 88 percent from its all-time high five years ago, according to an internal memo sent to members of the Pacific Fishery Management Council and obtained by The Associated Press.

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message brought to you by Cal Poly Students based on a survey of Cal Poly students
**Celebritynews**

**Getting help**

Barbra Streisand says she has been contacted by Bneyi Spears' manager and "very good friend," Sam Lufti, who says the pop singer has seen a psychiatrist.

Lufti told the 26-year-old pop star "is suffering from what he describes as mental issues which are manageable," Walters said Monday on ABC's "The View."

"He said that she has been to a psychiatrist, and that she is, in summary, sort of in good condition," said Walters, a co-host on the ABC daytime talk show.

**Autopsy still unhelpful**

Los Angeles County authorities say an autopsy on Brando's estate said the 49-year-old died from pneumonia.

**First of its kind**

Tom Cruise is the first on the list to get Ducati's new- world "first o f its kind" motorcycle.

Tom Cruise, who is a well-known

Tongue drop could replace needles for flu vaccination

Relief may be on the way for all those youngsters trembling at the thought of another needle jab. One day the flu vaccine may simply be placed under the tongue.

Korean researchers say the new vaccine worked in mice, avoiding not only the painful prick but also the discomfort some people feel from the inhaled vaccine.

The team led by Dr. Mi-Na Kweon of the International Vaccine Institute in Seoul reported their findings in Monday's online edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Better ways of delivering vaccine have long been under study, ranging from orally to inhaled, but all seem to have drawbacks.

Now, Kweon and colleagues say, two doses of influenza vaccine under the tongue of mice primed the animals' immune system to fight off what would otherwise have been a deadly dose of flu.

Next, they are turning their attention to people, to see if the under-the-tongue vaccine also prompts a strong immune response.

Plicasing a couple of drops of liquid under the tongue may seem counterintuitive, but that's just what you would normally put into a world tour anywhere. Sunday, Page 64, said the intense rehearsing the band did for the Dec. 10 concert at London's O2 Arena.

The band's three surviving members — Page, singer Robert Plant and bassist-keyboardist John Paul Jones — were joined at the sold-out benefit show by the late John Bonham's son Jason on drums.

**International Briefs**

GUANGZHOU, China (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of migrant workers desperate to get home for the New Year shivered in the cold under a sea of umbrellas outside train stations Tuesday, as the worst winter storms in half a century paralyzed China.

One of the world's biggest annual mass movements of humanity — a record 176.8 million people, more than the population of Brazil — were expected to travel by train for the holiday, according to railway officials estimates.

Most of those stranded at train stations were migrant workers trying to leave the booming southern Guangdong province — often called the world's factory floor because it makes everything from Honda sedans to Apple iPods and Nike sneakers.

PORT-AL-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — It was lunchtime in one of Haiti's worst drought-stricken areas, and Dumas was eating mud.

With food prices rising, Haiti's poorest can only afford even a daily plate of rice, and some take desperate measures to fill their bellies during the heat.

Charlene, 16 with a 1-month-old son, has come to rely on a traditional Haitian soup made from bread gourds, cookies made of dried yellow dirt from the country's central plateau.

The food has long been prized by pregnant women and children here as an artichoke and source of calcium.
Spoiler warning: The following contains important plot details.

“What would you do if you only had one more day?” read the front cover of “The Amazing Spider-Man” No. 544, the first of a four-part storyline that revamped the superhero’s life.

To answer the question, if fans value the character of Peter Parker, reading that very storyline would not be included on their list of things to do.

The crossover, which concluded in December and is still settling into the acceptance of nerds everywhere with the ease of an Atari being crammed into a pocket protector, was the final arc of writer J. Michael Straczynski’s seven-year tenure penning the series to pleasantly refreshing plateaus of newfound sophistication.

But “One More Day” unraveled much of that work.

So upsetting are the painfully epochal tales that, of 15,355 respondents to a recent Newsarama forum poll asking “Brand New Day: What’d ya think?”, 66 percent answered, “ARRRRGGGH HHHH !!! Worst. Thing. Ever.” Another 17 percent voted for, “Not a happy camper today. Gonna keep reading, but I don’t think I like this at all.”

Of course, readers weren’t the only ones dismayed at the implications of the tragedy.

Even Straczynski himself, apparently at a loss with what was primarily Marvel editor-in-chief Joe Quesada’s vision, said there was a “lot” he didn’t like and at one point wanted his name removed from the final two issues he was associated with.

The first half of “One More Day,” made up of “The Amazing Spider-Man” No. 544 and “Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man” No. 24, are relatively harmless, seeming to calmly wind down the fallout from Marvel’s “Civil War,” which led to Spider-Man revealing his identity to the public, resulting in Aunt May taking a bullet that was meant for him.

It’s in part three, “The Sensational Spider-Man (Vol. 2)” No. 41, that the Spider-Man, or more importantly — the Peter Parker — we all knew and loved begins to be butchered.

It starts innocently and interestingly enough, though, pulling the curtain on a cast of mysterious characters Peter briefly comes across. At the beginning, he talks with a young girl we were introduced to on the final page of part two. The perplexing, red-headed child, whose mischievous smirk and piercing emerald eyes evoke images of a possessed Regan MacNeil, eventually stops in her tracks and snaps at Peter, “And what if I never grow up? You know what your problem is? You’re selfish! ...You’re selfish and you’re self-involved and you always put...”

Marvel took beloved Peter Parker down a dark, horribly written path in the latest installment of “The Amazing Spider-Man” (No. 544).

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‘Kitsuné Maison 5’: pretentious dance-pop (that will make you want to wiggle and jiggle like Jell-O)

OK, guys, so I might be a bit of a fan of Kitsuné Records, and if that makes me one of those clueless, indie-dance-pop sleazebags, I don’t even care. I don’t even care. Because I just listened to their new compilation, “Kitsuné Maison 5,” and it’s absolutely the fanciest one they’ve done so far! It is in the spirit of this fanciness that I write this wildly review.

Kitsuné’s newest season compilation features a hodgepodge of artists on the spectrum from marginally obscure to probably-discounted even-exist-in-the-utopian-niche-knows-a-Hand-That-Are-Well-Known-to-Hipsters. However, just like you, the unassuming public, that every track on this album is sold like a cloud. A cloud that been moving.

The label collects these tracks, which is an assortment of new songs and previously unreleased re-make/ analogue versions, to make up a moody 5-boss like your secret overweight neighbor Marine does with her 17 cats. All of these cats are splintering and trying to escape her sweaty clothes, and moids — meant to have been collected by the buoyant, thrilling sounds of synths and electronics and key-boards, and strings, and sometimes singing and sometimes not, but most definitely FANs DANS.

The album begins with a not very good track from Fischer, comprised of one part Fischer and one part Spoonser, and who took forever to come out with new music. That my good lord, it was worth the wait. “The Best Revenge” is the perfect blend of droggy bass, poppy synth lines, and horns that fanciest of all instruments you can put your hands on.

A few other highlights of the album start with a new track from David Siger, a decade-attached Y of a kid from London. The way he arranges those blips and blots just makes me want to wiggle like a free for all and in the worst way, MIA makes an appearance, as well in the form of a blistering remix of “XRI” that is all high-pitched synths and electronic drums, at like, eight million beats per minute.

One of my favorite tracks on this compilation is “Let’s Make Out,” a song long-winded and fancied, curated by a group of boys who ask the question, “Does It Offend You? Yeah.” (That’s also their band name). Not only do they have some really fancied keyboards in there, but they also have keys keys made of keys. (Death From Above 1979). And some fancy drums, too. Sound like it does, on top of dim- mony, as the vocals grow, “Let’s make out.” Yet make out! Let’s make out! Let’s make out! Let’s make out! Let’s make out.

Another. Maison 5, close to the Victorian Blues, remixes of Covers. To Cut A Long Story Short, you can buy the album on Bandcamp. Flipping through its cover, you can find out that the band is made up of approximately 120 other people. Annoying.

Be that as it may, not taking in the specifics of the music, I always find myself looking forward to something more than what I have. I am always looking forward to something more than what I have. I am always looking forward to something more than what I have. I am always looking forward to something more than what I have. I am always looking forward to something more than what I have. It’s the kind of thing that makes me want to cry, or maybe smile. Probably both at the same time, a sort of wistful smile. A smile that sounds out the album quite nicely, I think.

Asher J. Elizabeth Blake is a graphic designer extraordinaire and self-proclaimed Director of Baristas and Hugging at Kitsuné. She is an archetypical hipster, indie-danee-o f a fan o f Kitsu­­nês Mais­­on 5, and it’s pop sleizetwats, I iton’t e ven care.

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continued from page 5

your pain at the center of the uni­

...the character development and a rightful send-off

from Straczynski, Quadrat, and company also sim­

necessarily, offensive decisions in hoping Peter choose his aunt over his

whether the new, retconned, "back-to-bas­

sics" approach was devised of true conviction

the character, or merely an attempt

him next. And that, after all, is what a good comic book

should be for.

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Mission Accomplished Part II: The Surge

Thinking Cap
by Patrick Molnar

Republicans have been crowing recently about the "progress" we've been making in Iraq as a result of the surge. At his final State of the Union Address (thank God), the president said that the policy has "achieved results few of us could have imagined" and that people like John McCain said that Iraq has been "utterly transformed" because of the surge. Now, I have heard a lot of lies and disingenuous drivel about Iraq from Republicans over the last several years (WMDs, Mission Accomplished, etc.), but this surge-making "progress" argument is reaching a startlingly new level of bullshit.

I am sure Republicans will now claim that anti-war people like me are living in a state of denial, especially since numbers show a reduction in violence and casualties in Baghdad. According to the military, violent deaths in Iraq are down approximately 50 percent, to 800 deaths per month, from a few months ago, when Iraq was averaging 1,600 deaths.

However, these violent death counts underrepresent the true number of casualties caused by violence in Iraq, because they don't include the deaths resulting from Iraq's crumbling infrastructure, which has deteriorated from the fighting.

Even with the surge-making "progress," more than 60 percent of Iraqis still lack access to adequate water supplies, while hundreds of thousands are suffering from malnutrition. However, not only are Iraqis dying from a lack of food and water as a result of all the violence, but Iraqis are also dying from shortages of medicines, poor medical care, and disease outbreaks from poor sanitation. None of these Iraqis are included in the violence casualty counts, even though violence is what continues to degrade their quality of life.

However, even if we assume these violent death statistics are an accurate portrayal of the "progress" in Iraq, we cannot attribute this reduction in hostilities directly to the surge. August 2007 saw a ceasefire called by radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, and considering his high-ranking status amongst the Shiite militias in Iraq, the decision certainly contributed to the drop-off in violence. This view of Sadr's influence is even shared by General David Petraeus, who told the Christian Science Monitor that the ceasefire had a noticeable impact on some of Baghdad's most violent areas.

As the fact that a radical Shiite cleric like Sadr has as much power in Iraq as our military wasn't bad enough, there is also the disturbing trend of whom the U.S. is arming to help re-

duce the violence in Iraq.

According to the New York Times, for the past several months, the U.S. has been arming and supporting Sunni militia groups to fight extremist Sunnis in Iraq (such as al-Quada). The problem with these Sunni militia groups, collectively known as the Awakening, is that many of them are comprised of the same insurgents who fought against Americans earlier in the war, and are very little keeping them from switching their allegiances again. This fragile situation can be summed up by First Sgt. Richard Miers of the Army's Third Infantry Division when he states, "We're paying them not to blow us up. It looks good right now, but what happens when the money stops?"

Furthermore, despite their opposition to al-Quada, the New York Times reports that most Awakening members feel even more alienated from Iraq's Shiite central government led by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who has openly stated that he plans to force fully disarm the Sunni militias once they finish eliminating al-Quada from Iraq.

The ongoing religious hostility between Sunni militias and the Shiite central government in Iraq is also contributing to Iraq's political dinasty. So far, Iraq's government has yet to pass major laws that would redistribute oil revenue throughout the country, return low-level Baathists to power, or even hold elections for local positions.

As far as I am concerned, this political gridlock is the death nail for any talk of "progress" the surge has brought to Iraq, because, according to the Bush administration, the whole point of the surge was to give the Iraqi government time and "breathing space" to reach political reconciliation. Consequently, without any uniform Iraqi government policy in place, any hopes of a stable Iraq disappear as they will continue to argue and fight.

This sentiment is shared by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, who recently stated that "military security gains may not endure without economic rebuilding and better governance."

Ultimately, to boisterously claim that the surge has worked is once again premature and false. Sadly, by any measures or metrics, there are very few signs of "progress" in Iraq. By digging even a bit below the surface, we can see that the hypocrisies, which are employed (arming our former enemies) while relying on the whims of radical Shi­ite clerics and tolerating a military gridlock, weakens Iraq only further.

Patrick Molnar is a business junior and a Mustang Daily lib­eral columnist.
Ah, equality... doesn't the word make you feel all fuzzy inside? Equality is one of those things we know to be inherently right, something we should stand up for. Equality is typically equated with civil rights paradigms and movements, things typically associated with liberals. However, since I joined the Republican Party, I've met more people that are willing to stand up for equality than I ever did while a registered Democrat (*shudder*). Equality in this country would mean that all our citizens would be treated equally. However, sometimes equality and diversity are mixed up. As of 2005, Cal Poly was about 65 percent white. This is a problem to those who would like a wider mixture of cultures. Diversity's about people's minds and backgrounds, not just their ethnicities. People seem to strive so much for physical diversity that they forget that equality's more important.

A liberal's answer to a lack of diversity on campus is affirmative action. That's where somebody with a lower grade point average and fewer extracurricular activities gets preferential treatment because they can't be described as Caucasian. This kind of policy was ruled illegal by the Supreme Court in 2003 against the University of Michigan, which had used an admissions point system that granted extra points to minorities.

The legal alternatives are programs that increase equal opportunity. Since the 1980s, Cal Poly has had community outreach programs in which students go to low-income schools and talk to kids about college. These programs are great; they open kids' eyes to all of their options. The legal alternatives are programs that increase equal opportunity.

The government should not sacrifice equal treatment of their citizens for reporting his own fraternity. My son, Brian Gillis, died at the hands of fraternity hazing advocates of my fraternity feel that equality's more important. The government should not sacrifice equal treatment of their citizens because that leads to a much more dangerous kind of equality: socialism.

Don't you want to stand up for it?

Jennifer Gilmore is a microbiology senior and a Mustang Daily conservative columnist.

Diversity is about people's minds and backgrounds, not just their ethnicities.

It says here that you listen to Boy George. Is that true?
Basketball

continued from page 12

Junior guard Traci Clark and junior forward Titus Shelton hit key free throws down the stretch to regain the lead for Cal Poly. Pacific kept it close for the final minutes, but four consecutive free throws in the last minute of play by junior guard Chaz Thomas sealed the victory for the Mustangs as they improved to 8-11 overall and 3-4 in the Big West Conference. Meanwhile, Pacific fell to 14-6 overall and 5-2 in the Big West. Clark added 14 for the Mustangs and Vance and senior forward Matt Hanson scored 12 and 11 points, respectively. Hanson hit a crucial 3-pointer in the last minute of play from the top of the arc to strengthen Cal Poly’s lead.

All-Star

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McGrady never should have led the guards in the poll. An injury-plagued season on a mediocre Rockets team that plays at the same level whether he is in the lineup or not should not warrant fan appreciation. Many of the fans that vote over and over for players like McGrady are just living in the past. All they remember is his earth-shattering dunk in the game. Despite that, he is not more deserving of the spot than players like Chris Paul, Steve Nash, Baron Davis and Brandon Roy, who are all more important to their teams. A solution to the voting problem is to take a page out of the MLB book. Make the NBA All-Star Game worth something valuable — home-court advantage in the Finals, to be specific. This starter selection could even become a chess game of sorts in which fans of Eastern Conference teams might make player selections such as Chauncey Billups, a veteran Finals MVP, and Richard Hamilton, who both are much better outside shooters than All-Star runners-up Jason Kidd and Dwyane Wade. Similarly, in the West, fans might actually try to outvote China and pick Marcus Camby instead of Yao Ming, which would boost team defense. The possibilities are endless, and one thing is for sure — the “fan’s game” could become the first All-Star Game that is actually special to watch.
Top of his class

Senior Chad Mendes stays grounded in the present while dominating his competition

Raiza Canelon
MUSTANG DAILY

For being the No. 1 wrestler in the country in his weight class, 141 pounds, Chad Mendes sure hasn’t let it go to his head. The Cal Poly senior from Hanford is modest about his accomplishments but proud he earned the top spot.

“My family is really supportive of everything I do. My mom and dad keep me updated on the rankings and letting me know what’s up,” Mendes said.

It has been 28 years since a Cal Poly wrestler earned the national No. 1 slot, when Scott Heatton and Rick Word topped the polls for most of 1979-80. Mendes has fought his way to the top this season, boasting a 19-0 record.

“It’s exciting, and it’s cool that it’s all over the Internet, but it’s just rankings and I could lose a match at any time,” Mendes said. “It’s important not to get too caught up with rankings, but that I do well for myself.”

Mendes started wrestling at the age of 5, when his dad started to teach him the sport. Mendes said he was a hyperactive child, and wrestling was a way to curb his energy and put it toward good use.

“My dad was a wrestler, and he thought that if I was doing one sport I would get better at it,” he said.

By the time he reached high school, Mendes had won a few state titles and he knew that wrestling would always be a part of his life.

“Wrestling is a feeling you can’t describe unless you’ve done it, being able to dominate and not only use your physical strengths but mental as well. It’s man vs. man,” Mendes says.

The Mustangs coaching staff was the reason Mendes chose to compete at Cal Poly. One of the coaches who has greatly impacted Mendes’ wrestling career is assistant coach Sammie Henson, who recently helped train ultimate martial arts (MMA) or cage fighting.

“Sammie and like we are a big family and we get along,” Mendes said.

Mendes said his family is very supportive of every endeavor he chooses to be a part of. The organization that lands him a spot will sell a lot of tickets.

“Have your coach and family put a plan together and do it step-by-step just keep your eye on the goal and try not to let distractions like partying get to you,” he said. “Stay focused.”

Mustangs topple Tigers in conference play

Cal Poly’s hot early shooting, stout defense in the clutch lead to second win at Pacific since 1947

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

A poor free-throw percentage has plagued the Cal Poly men’s basketball team this season, but on Monday night, the Mustangs shot 92.9 percent from the line (26 of 28) en route to a 69-64 victory over Pacific.

In his fourth starting role at Cal Poly, sophomore guard Lorenzo Keeler dropped 15 points to lead the Mustangs to just their second win in 20 games at the Alex G. Spanos Center in Stockton.

The Mustangs opened the contest on a 15-3 surge and held the Tigers to one field goal until the 12:55 mark. Senior forward Dreshawn Vincent’s first-half points led the Mustangs on a 21-8 run to end the half.

Although the Mustangs handled the halftime buzzer (41- 25), a 26-5 Tiger run in the second half kept things interesting.

The game was tied at 44 with 12:08 left and the Tigers regained their second brief lead of the game with 10 minutes left to play. The only other Tiger lead occurred when Pacific’s sophomore forward Joe Ford hit the game-opening jump shot 20 seconds into the contest.

Associated Press

Tracy McGrady almost earned a starting spot in the All-Star Game despite a subpar season thus far.

A break from ‘the fans’ game’

Dmitry Risk
ON THE BEAT

Which is worse than a defenseless NBA All-Star Game at the APBNF Pre Bowl where nobody hits hard or an NHL All-Star Game that goes unchecked? Fan ballots.

Last Thursday, the starters for the NBA All-Star Game were announced and the results were not congruent with this season’s statistics. Allen Iverson made a late rally to beat Tracy McGrady by 10,410 votes for the last starting guard spot in the Western Conference. This came almost a week after McGrady said, “If it was my choice, I would select another guy to participate in my spot because I see other guards that are having outstanding seasons.” So it appears that fans finally made a right decision in voting. Well, almost.

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The GIVE
and GO

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