Changes coming to Campus Dining

Coral Snyder

Students entering on-campus restaurants may notice old decorations and paint jobs being replaced with "under construction" signs. Through next fall, Campus Dining is changing everything from interior design and timeliness to improving the quality and variety of meals offered. Additionally, an overall focus on offering healthy choices and being eco-friendly will be incorporated into the new designs.

"We have to figure out who we’re serving and what they want. Students should have a strong voice," said director of Campus Dining Thomas Welton. Garden Grille began renovating its facilities and menu and will continue to do so throughout the year. The entire concept, from the ordering process to the kitchen and delivery of food, has been updated to reduce the previous 30-minute wait times, Welton said.

There has also been an effort to improve the quality of food served at Garden Grille. Every basic item such as the hamburger have received minor changes, such as adding spices to improve overall taste. "We made a good burger that you could get a lot faster than before," Welton said of the changes.

In the future, the restaurant will rotate a variety of different menu items and may have guest chefs come on advertised days to cook specialty items.

Additionally, a new walk-up dessert station will be added by September offering a variety of different choices as well as low-fat and non-fat alternatives. The interior design of Garden Grille is in the process of being updated to look more modern. Contemporary music will play in the restaurant and flat screen televisions might be installed in the future.

Students seemed to be aware of the changes in progress and look forward to the new design.

GREG SMITH MUSTANG DAILY

McCain, Obama win most SLO County votes

Brittney Clyde

McCain, Obama win most SLO County votes

McCain effectively sealed the Republican presidential nomination on Thursday as chief rival Mitt Romney suspended his faltering campaign. "I must now stand aside, for our party and our country," Romney told conservatives.

"If I fight on in my campaign, all the way to the convention, I would forestall the launch of a national campaign and make it more likely that Senator Clinton or Obama would win. And in this time of war, I simply cannot let my campaign be a part of adding a surren­
der to that," Romney told the Con­servative Political Action Conference in Washington.

Romney’s decision leaves McCain the top man standing in the GOP race, with Mike Huckabee and Texas Rcp. Ron Paul far behind in the delegate hunt. It was a remarkable turn­around for McCain, who some seven months ago was barely viable, out of cash and losing staff. The four-term Arizona senator, denied his party’s nomination in 2000, was poised to succeed George W. Bush as the GOP standard-bearer.

McCain and Romney spoke by phone after Romney’s speech, though no endorsement was requested or offered, according to a Republican offi­cial with knowledge of the conversa­
tion. Romney launched his campaign al­most a year ago in his native Michigan. The former Massachusetts governor and venture capitalist invested more than $40 million of his own money into the race, counted on early wins in Iowa and New Hampshire that never materialized and won just seven states on Super Tuesday, mostly small caucus states.

McCain took the big prizes of New York and California.

"This is not an easy decision for me, I hate to lose. My family, my friends and our supporters ... many of you right here in this room ... have given a great deal to get me where I have a shot at becoming president. If this were only about me, I would go on. But I entered this race because I love Ameri­ca," Romney said.

There were shouts of astonishment, with some moans and others yelling, "No, No." Romney responded, "You guys are great."

Mc Cain prevailed in most of the see Romney, page 4
Dining

continued from page 1

Dining... what is it about campus dining that gets us up before the sun to stand in line? And when it comes to ordering our meals, why do we have to wait all day for the campus dining staff to fill our plates?

Eric Horsma, an electrical engineering student, and Jordan Elkins, a mechanical engineering student, are part of the biodiesel club on campus. They are working on converting oil from used frying oil to biodiesel.

"We want to keep the integrity alive and not have to buy grease," Elkins said.

"It's an excellent technology and we can convert it on campus," Horsma said.

Elkins said that using biodiesel vehicles is an important step toward achieving sustainability as well as gaining independence from former oil and improving air quality.

"It's an excellent technology and we can make it work on campus. It is feasible economically and technologically," Elkins said.

Another element of the Fresh and Green initiatives is the use of biodiesel vehicles on campus. Presently, oil is sent to a company that converts it into energy that can be used to power these campus trucks. Eventually, the plan is that the entire process of converting the energy will be done on campus by students from the Cal Poly Biodiesel Club.

"We will provide oil to them and they can convert it on campus. We're really excited about it," Elkins said.

In order to give the biodiesel club the ability to convert oil on campus, it needs political support of other students, lab space and facilities, funding and more students to get involved in the process.

"We're in need of a good chemist or two," Horsma said. "Erin Veism, industrial engineering senior and biodiesel club president, said that using biodiesel vehicles is an important step toward achieving sustainability as well as gaining independence from former oil and improving air quality."

"It's an excellent technology and we can make it work on campus. It is feasible economically and technologically," Veism said.

Another element of the Fresh and Green initiative is offering healthy food choices on campus. This includes low-fat alternatives and more fruits and vegetables on campus. Many of the restaurants will also host brunches.

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All the Campus Dining facilities will focus on getting to know students by using methods such as having managers approach tables and personally interact with customers.

Restaurants will also incorporate or improve existing grab-and-go sections so students who are in a hurry can purchase food without having to wait in lines.

Many of the restaurants will also host live dining where food will be prepared for customers to see, like Backstage Pizza.

Campus Dining's main goal is to improve all aspects of dining so that students have a more positive experience.

"I don't think they should raise tuition to do it, but they could offer more variety, more registers and better quality food," said environmental management sophomore Jordan Elkins.

The Fresh and Green initiative at Cal Poly is focused on saving the environment as well as providing healthy choices for students on campus. Campus Dining recycles many of its products, is polystyrene-free and purchases most of its products within California and as much as possible locally.

One of the major parts of the campaign is the use of biodiesel vehicles on campus. Presently, oil is sent to a company that converts it into energy that can be used to power these campus trucks. Eventually, the plan is that the entire process of converting the energy will be done on campus by students from the Cal Poly Biodiesel Club.

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WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GAME SHOW?

Compiled and photographed by Rachel Gellman

"Jeopardy!" because it's one of the few game shows that is not based purely on luck but on intellect and you get good info-nuggets from it.
— Sammi Tran, business junior

"The Price is Right. I grew up watching it."
— Hector Pulido, civil engineering senior

"Wheel of Fortune" because there is so much risk in the game.
— Joey Terlizzi, general engineering freshman

"Jeopardy!" It makes me feel smart when I get a question right.
— Hannah Sailing, construction management junior

State Briefs

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger is releasing $211 million to improve deteriorating levees in Yuba, Sacramento and Sutter counties.

Most of the money — $138.5 million — goes to protect the Plumas Lake housing development south of Olivehurst, which is near the Feather River.

The governor says the levee improvements are needed to help prevent a Katrina-style disaster.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — More than 50 people have been charged in a massive childcare fraud ring operated in part by a federal prison inmate and his wife that bilked taxpayers out of at least $3 million, prosecutors said Thursday.

Los Angeles District Attorney Steve Cooley said the scam involved a former state employee who established six bogus childcare facilities under the name Home Sweet Home Daycare Inc.

VISA ALIA (AP) — A state board says a bullet train could make a stop between Fresno and Bakersfield, after all.

On Wednesday, the state High Speed Rail Authority reversed course and unanimously agreed to include a Visalia-area station in future route plans.

Station locations for the $40 billion rail are still uncertain, but leaders in the southern San Joaquin Valley say they're pleased to be included in future environmental planning.

The 700-mile system would link San Diego and San Francisco with trains running at top speeds of more than 200 mph.

STINSON BEACH (AP) — A Marin County man who was kicked off a gated beach enclave known as Seadrift has won the right to sunbathe there.

Douglass Rigg of Mill Valley was planning to relax at the northern end of Stinson Beach in the summer of 2006 when a guard ordered him to leave.

The 43-year-old architect sued the Seadrift Homeowners Association, claiming it of unlawfully banning the public from the beach.

Under a settlement reached last week, Rigg can hang out on the beach as long as he stays 60 feet from the rocks that protect Seadrift's multimillion dollar homes.

buck a beer... at the brew

tuesday nights, nine-close
LAN gunmen dead after killing three in home and SWAT officer

Thomas Watkins

Associated Press

A gunman killed three apparent relatives and a veteran SWAT officer and wounded another officer in the race before police shot him to death early Thursday in a house that erupted in flames during a long standoff.

Police Chief William Bratton said investigators going through the house afterward believed there may be an additional victim inside and "even at this stage of the game (we're) not certain how many victims we have.

Two other SWAT officers received minor fragment wounds in a barrage of gunfire, Bratton said.

There was no immediate explanation of what triggered the bloodbath in the modest Santa Fernandez Valley home, leading to the first line-of-duty death in the 41 years of the Los Angeles Police Department's elite SWAT team.

The unidentified gunman was killed about 11 hours after barricading himself in the house and telling police in a 911 call that he had killed three relatives, police said. Those three victims included two of his children.

The slain officer was Randall Simmons, 51, who left a wife and two children. His colleague James Veenstra, 53, who was in stable condition after surgery, said Assistant Chief Jim McDonnell Veenstra's wife is police captain.

"Today's a sad and tragic day here in the city of Los Angeles," said an emotional Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who revealed that both officers, 20 years veterans of SWAT, were "suggested to protect his children last night.

Veenstra had three hours of surgery at Northridge Medical Center to remove fragments of the bullet that passed through his lip and shattered his jaw, Dr. George Adamian said.

"There was significant splintering of the left part of his lower jaw, so he will require subsequent reconstructive surgery," the trauma surgeon said.

Veenstra's prognosis "should be very good," Adamian said, but he said the officer was fortunate because the bullet could have gone into his brain or brain stem.

"It could have been a fatal shot," he said.

Bratton said entering the home was a proper SWAT tactic.

"If there's a belief that a hostage is in danger, they will make entry to SWAT did what we would have expected them to do," the chief said.

A SWAT team surrounded the house minutes after the 911 call about 9 p.m. Wednesday. About three hours later, officers entered the one-story house and were met with a barrage of gunfire, authorities said.

Inside, they found two males dead and another who may have been alive, Assistant Chief Michael Moore said.

After the two officers were shot, police retreated with their shields down and the other person, who was pronounced dead outside.

Authorities then located family members of the gunman who asked him to surrender.

"Unfortunately the suspect had absolutely no contact with us, made no effort to surrender," Moore said.

Police called to the gunman over loudspeakers, said Mercy Spencer, 55, who lives across the street and was evacuated at about 1:30 a.m.

"They said... you need to answer the phone. We need to talk to you. I hear the phone ringing. Pick it up," Spencer said.

Romney continued from page 1

Super Tuesday states, moving closer to the numbers needed to officially win the nomination. Overall, McCain led with 707 delegates to 294 for Romney and 192 for Huckabee. It took him 1,191 to win the nomination at this summit's convention in St. Paul.

By suspending his campaign, Romney holds onto his delegates at least until the party convention this summer.

Romney claimed he was the true conservative in the race while McCain has been criticized by some on the right. McCain acknowledged the rocky relationship.

"It's an area that I believe I cannot succeed in this endeavor, nor can our party prevail over the challenge we will face from either Senator Clinton or Senator Obama, without the support of independents attracted to his self-styled conservative record," McCain said in prepared remarks to the same conference.

Romney acknowledged the obstacles to beating McCain.

"Of all the things, more 4 million people have given me their vote for president, that's of course, less than Senator McCain's 4.7 million, but quite a statement nonetheless. Eleven states have given us our nod, compared to his 13. Of course, because the shoe is turning, he's doing quite a bit with the number of delegates he's got," Romney said.

The Huckabee campaign said the former Arkansas governor would matter, "We still win the race and we're still competing for delegates, and today demonstrates how long and windy to the White House this is," said Chip Soteman, Huckabee's campaign manager.

Romney's departure from the race came almost a year after his formal entrance, when the Michigan native declared his candidacy on Feb. 12, 2007, at the Henry Ford Museum of Innovation in Dearborn, Mich.

Over the ensuing 12 months, Romney sought the support of a values-focused campaign, emphasizing his opposition to abortion, as well as his commitment to tax cuts and health insurance that would benefit middle-class families.

"We vowed to teach our children that before they have babies, they get married," he told voters at campaign events.

But he was dogged by charges of flip-flopping, a criticism that undercut him at the Michigan primary in March.

John Kerry in 2004. In seeking to unseat Sen. Edward M. Kennedy in 1994, Romney said he would be a better advocate for gay rights than his rival and he feared abortion rights.

Throughout his campaign, Romney was questioned by voters and the media about his Mormon faith. Hoping to assuage voters in New Hampshire, when McCain won the primary in part with the support of independents attracted to his self-styled maverick campaign.

Romney, who headed the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, tried to cast each defeat in competitive terms, saying his second-place finishes amount to "silver medals." He also highlighted the "gold" he won in between and in the title-winning Wolverine races.

Nonetheless, Romney took a cue from Huckabee's win, as well as Obama's Iowa upset of Clinton, as a sign voters wanted change in Washington.

On the stump he reiterated his pledge to hark back to the theme he broached in Dearborn, that America's future, and that of its job creation, was dependent on innovation. His campaign also hung new banners reading, "Washington is Broken," as well as the simple declaration: "Romney wins.

Romney and McCain went head-to-head in the Jan. 15 Michigan primary, and Romney won, in part by highlighting of dedicated conservatives could beat the liberal senator. When McCain acknowledged what seemed to be obvious, that not all of Detroit's lost auto industry jobs would be recouped, Romney pounced.

He accused the senator of pessimism, outlining a $20 billion industry recovery package and telling audiences in economically ailing Michigan, "I will fight for every single job.

Romney also talked his stump speech to criticize McCain for stating that he was more familiar with foreign affairs and military matters than economic issues.

Highlighting his 25-year business career, he told audiences, "Senator McCain says the economy is not his strong suit; well, it is my strong suit.

As the calendar progressed, however, McCain picked up a big-ticket win in the Jan. 19 South Carolina primary. Romney instead focused on his victory in the Nevada caucuses the same day.

Ten days later, the two squared off again in the Florida primary, where McCain scored a major upset after winning endorsements from the state's two top elected Republicans Gov. Charlie Crist, a popular figure who had previously said he planned to remain neutral in the race, and Sen. Mel Martinez.

The following day, Giuliani dropped out of the race and endorsed McCain. A day later, popular California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger announced his endorsement of McCain, reiterating acoalition of Republican support behind the senator as he approached a Super Tuesday showdown with Romney.

Romney's final pitch was to label McCain a liberal like Clinton and Obama, a charge tantamount to heresy in the GOP. He was backed by conservative media voices like Rush Limbaugh and Ann Coulter.
With Olympics six months away, dirty air clouds Beijing’s prospects

Stephen Wade

With the Olympics six months away, air pollution is taking some heat off the glittering venues and the meticulous planning aimed at controlling every facet of Beijing Games.

Athletes and coaches are taking openly about the dirty air. Dozens of coaches are setting up training camps in Japan or South Korea. The powerful American swim teams is being held up for away in Singapore. There are plans to test facemasks — if not in competition, at least during training and leisure time.

Beijing has struggled to reduce the smoky mix of carbon, monoxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide that often blankets the city at a level five times higher than the World Health Organization’s safety standard.

“It’s not easy,” acknowledged Deng Yaping, the four-time Olympic gold medalist in table tennis and the deputy director of the Athletes’ Village, which will house 75,000 athletes and officials. “The environment is not easy. And it’s not short term that you can see.”

A member of the Communist Party and the government’s top advisory body, Deng said the pollution was a “world problem.” Like many Chinese, she pointed out that Olympics in Los Angeles and Atlanta were also preceded by pollution fears.

“I’m sure we will make every possible effort and create the environment for all the athletes,” added Deng, who was voted China’s top female athlete of the 20th century.

Officials aren’t saying how they’ll solve the problem when the games open Aug. 8. Factories will close, dust-suppressing construction will slow and more than a million vehicles are sure to be banned. The one-party state will surely mobilize in vast resources or risk a public relations disaster.

But not everybody is convinced, including the world’s greatest distance runner.

“If there are serious problems, of course … it’s better not to come,” Haile Gebreleslass designed on a visit this week to Beijing. “My priority is just to live and keep my health.”

The marathon world record holder said it’s possible he may skip the Olympics. If he comes, he’s undecided whether he’ll run the marathon or the 10,000 meters.

“They (organizers) are trying to do something. That’s OK,” he said. “The pollution is the most important thing. Actually, when we talk about the pollution, it’s not only during the Olympic Games. What about the people here? They are really suffering.”

Olympic tennis champion Justine Henin pulled out of a tournament in Beijing five months ago because the pollution aggravated her asthma, and she may avoid the games. Veronica Campbell-Brown of Jamaica, the defending Olympic 200-meter champion and world 100-meter champion, explained her strategy on a visit.

“Just stay away until it’s really time to start competing,” she said.

Iraqi start reconstruction of Samarra mosque

Kim Gammel

Iraqi and U.N. officials toured a bomb-damaged Shiite shrine in northern Iraq on Wednesday as workers took the first steps in a long-delayed reconstruction — nearly two years after the attack.

Crews in blue Jump suits and orange helmets picked through mounds of rubble spilling from the mosque in Samarra, about 60 miles north of Baghdad, which became the spark for a vicious cycle of sectarian violence after the Feb. 22, 2006, blast blamed on al-Qaida in Iraq.

Months of bloodletting between Shiite and Sunni extremists claimed tens of thousands of lives and lurchered Iraq dangerously close to civil war. A second bomb attack last year on June 13 toppled the twin minarets, prompting Syrian clerics to step up calls for the reconstruction of the Askariya shrine.

The complex contains the tombs of two 14th-century imams who were descendents of the Prophet Muhammad, and Shiites consider them as among his successors.

An entry for Iraq’s Shiite-led government, Haik al-Hikm, described the $16 million rebuilding effort as a symbol of national unity at a time when violence was on the rise in Iraq.

But the mjouj council Wednesday showed how quickly bloodshed can return.

Iraqi police reported at least 30 people killed or found dead around the country, including eight beheaded bodies found in Diya province north of the capital. It was one of the highest daily tolls in weeks — and included some U.S.-held Sunni fighters who have joined the battle against al-Qaida.

Gunmen ambushed a member of a so-called Awakening Council in Saladdin province, killing him and three bodyguards. The attack came hours after a roadside bomb struck an Awakening Council patrol in the same province, killing a former policeman.

In Samarra, workers cleaned tiles and welded metal bars as the delegation surveyed the site. Nearly three dozen checkpoints have been erected to protect the workers, who began the reconstruction project Monday.

“The situation is not easy. We know that there have been delays due to the security situation and preparations,” Mohammed Dhiyal, head of the Iraqi branch of the U.N. cultural agency UNESCO, told AP Television News. “It is not an ordinary building project.”

Men work to rebuild the holy Shiite shrine of Askariya in the city of Samarra, Iraq. The shrine was destroyed by a group of militants who planted explosives in February 2006.

International Briefs

NEW YORK (AP) — American and Italian authorities arrested dozens of people Thursday in a takeover of one of the world’s largest New York’s Gambino crime family also meant to cripple a trans-Atlantic drug trafficking operation run by the Mafia.

At one point of law enforcement’s biggest moves against the mob in recent memory, a federal grand jury in New York accused 62 people of ties to the Gambinos and drugs, drug trafficking, robberies, extortions and other crimes dating back to the 1970s.

“We today are able to bring down to crimes from the past,” U.S. Attorney Benton Campbell said. “Today we seek justice for those men and their families and we make clear that those crimes and those victims are not forgotten.”

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP) — Lawyers for Osama bin Laden’s former driver asked a U.S. military tribunal to dismiss charges against him over alleging such offenses weren’t established to be war crimes at the time they were committed.

The attorneys for Salim Ahmed Hamdan, a Yemeni, asked to keep him from facing trial under a new tribunal system to prosecute terrorism suspects at Guantanamo Bay.

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Iran’s nuclear project has developed in its own version of an advanced centrifugal model designed to churn out enriched uranium much faster than its previous machines, diplomats and experts said Thursday.

They said that few of the IR-2 centrifuges were operating and that none appeared to be in its early phase, with the new machines rotating without processing any uranium gas.

More significant, the officials said, is the fact that Iran appears to have used know-how and equipment bought on the nuclear black market in combination with domestic ingenuity to overcome daunting technical difficulties and create highly advanced centrifuges.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Tobacco use killed 100 million people worldwide in the 20th century and could kill one billion people by 2050. Governments around the world collect more than $200 billion in tobacco taxes every year but spend less than 1 percent of that revenue on tobacco control, it was found.

“We hold in our hands the solution to the global tobacco epidemic but our actions are not consistent with the needs of men and women and children during this century,” WHO Director General Dr. Margaret Chan said in an introduction to the report. The WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic 2008 calls on all countries to dramatically increase efforts to prevent young people from starting to smoke, help smokers quit and protect non-smokers from exposure to second hand smoke.
Designers grapple with the look of a down economy

Samantha Critchell
Samantha Critchell

New York Fashion Week, that brainstorm ritual of luxury and excess, came this week at an odd time. Day after day, door predictions about the economy prompted warnings that consumer spending will be tightening this spring, not just in the face of the economic news. While some focused on go-anywhere basics and investment-worthy outerwear, others are working extra hard to find look-at-me trends or small doses of understated luxury that women might find worthy of their limited pocketbooks.

Michael Fink, fashion director at Saks Fifth Avenue, was focused on finding clothes women don't already have in their closets.

"No basics — that's my mantra. No basics," Fink said. "The whole industry is looking at things with a fine eye at price points, but as a luxury-branded store, we're still interested in luxury products."

On the runway so far this week, luxury has had a subdued presence in feather adornments, a little bit of fur, and beading sirn mettalic added things with a fine eye at price points, but as a luxury-branded store, we're still interested in luxury products.

"It doesn't look ostentatious. All that ridiculous bling and 'it' bags — there will be a shift," said Suze Yalof Schwartz, Glamour magazine's fashion editor at large. They want clothes that look expensive but not over the top.

"I think when there's sort of an economic downturn looming, at least men tend to be a bit more conservative and they want to return to tradition," said Perry Ellis creative director John Cirecchi.

"We believe the downward economic change will affect the already weak businesses, but improve the strong ones. We are the latter," Arria said.

"If fashion is any indication, concern about the economy hasn't reached a boiling point. "When the economy is good, hem lines go up. When the economy is bad, hemlines go down," said Cynthia Rowley.

Well, it's hard not to think of the economy when looking at all these expensive clothes, said Linda Wells, Allure magazine's fashion editor in chief. It's part of her job to find balance in the pages of her magazine between items readers aspire to have and those they can actually afford.

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"It doesn't look ostentatious. All that ridiculous bling and 'it' bags — there will be a shift away from that," she said.
Atonement (R) 123 min. A- Summary: When a girl accuses her sister’s lover of a crime he did not commit, the couple’s future together is threatened and the girl grows up seeking atonement for her actions.
The Good: British acting at its best; Wright’s cinematic beauty alms an uncanny experience.
The Bad: May be too slow, depressing for some; editing problems from first to second act.
The Bucket List (PG-13) 97 min. C Summary: Two terminally ill men, Edward (Nicholson) and Carter (Freeman), leave the hospital in hopes of completing their “Bucket List,” a list of things they wish to accomplish before they die.
The Good: The lovable characters and seasoned acting hold this film together.
The Bad: Major plot flaws and an over-the-top ending take away from the well-known cast.
Cloverfield (PG-13) 85 min. B+ Summary: When a monster the size of a skyscraper emerges from the ocean and wreaks havoc upon Manhattan, a robot (Stahl-David) and his crew must save the city before the city is completely destroyed.
The Good: A YouTube-ian account of fear in a visceral thrill ride that doesn’t end at the theater.
The Bad: As it is shot entirely handheld (think “Blair Witch Project”), you’re bound to get sick.
The Eye (PG-13) 97 min. [ ] Summary: Blind, accomplished Los Angeles-based violinist Sydney Wells (Alba) undergoes a double corneal transplant — a lifelong dream — to restore her eyesight. Unexplainable shadows and frightening images begin to haunt her though, and Sydney must figure out whether they are a simply a side effect of her surgery or part of a larger problem.
The Good: Snesse acting as a FINN Reginnan and his broken-down boat; Things turn around when he teams up with bil- lioneire Nigel Honeycutt (Sutherland) and reunites with Tess while competing with a friend-turned-foe in the hunt for Spanish treasure.
The Eye: As it is shot entirely handheld (think “Blair Witch Project”), you’re bound to get sick.
Fool’s Gold (PG-13) 113 min. [ ] Summary: Treasure hunter Ben “Finn” Finnegan (McConaughey) is struggling with his marriage to Tess Finnigan (Hudson) and his broken-down boat. Things turn around when he teams up with bil-lioneire Nigel Honeycutt (Sutherland) and reunites with Tess while competing with a friend-turned-foe in the hunt for Spanish treasure.
The Good: The plot has a lot of action and adventure.
The Bad: The special effects are somewhat lackluster.

Michael Clayton (R) 119 min. [ ] Summary: An in-house fixer at one of the largest law firms in New York, Clayton is burned out and happily hardy with his job or life in general. But his mounting debt has left him financially tied to his firm. Clayton faces the biggest challenge of his career and life, however, when a lawyer at the firm sabatages an important case.
The Good: Tied to the firm. Clayton faces the biggest challenge of his career and life, however, when a lawyer at the firm sabatages an important case.
The Bad: Maybe too stow, depressing for some; editing problems from first to second act.

No Country for Old Men (R) A Summary: A young girl grows up surrounded by a political firestorm and war in Iran. Her family sends her abroad to Europe where she becomes homesick for her country and family even though her home is not a safe place. This black-and-white animated film plays off the serious undertones in the film, yet the film is said to have a moving message.
The Good: Excellent special effects in the portrayal of combat deaths brought on by Rambo.
The Bad: Poor acting and a shallow plot; dull before Rambo’s massacre.

Persepolis (PG-13) 95 min. [ ] Summary: A young girl grows up surrounded by a political firestorm and war in Iran. Her family sends her abroad to Europe where she becomes homesick for her country and family even though her home is not a safe place. This black-and-white animated film plays off the serious undertones in the film, yet the film is said to have a moving message.
The Good: Excellent special effects in the portrayal of combat deaths brought on by Rambo.
The Bad: Poor acting and a shallow plot; dull before Rambo’s massacre.

Rambo (R) 93 min. A- Summary: Vietnam war veteran Rambo leads a band of mercenaries to rescue Christian activists being held captive by a genocidal Burmese military troop. A flawless one-man-army rampage ensues.
The Good: Excellent special effects in the portrayal of combat deaths brought on by Rambo.
The Bad: Poor acting and a shallow plot; dull before Rambo’s massacre.

Untraceable (R) 110 min. [ ] Summary: Special Agent Jennifer Marsh (Lane) investigates a tech-savvy Internet predator who displays his murders on his own Web site, where the number of hits the site gets determines the speed in which his victims die. The stakes become higher as the “untraceable” killer makes things personal.
The Good: Excellent special effects in the portrayal of combat deaths brought on by Rambo.
The Bad: Poor acting and a shallow plot; dull before Rambo’s massacre.

Vince Vaughn’s Wild West Comedy Show (R) 100 min. Summary: Vince Vaughn travels 30 cities in 30 days to perform 30 shows. This documentary contains stage performances and light-hearted moments along the road featuring comedians Ahmad Ahmed, John Caparulo, Bret Ernst, Sebastian Maniscalco and Peter Billingsley.
The Good: Comedian and actor Vince Vaughn travels 30 cities in 30 days to perform 30 shows. This documentary contains stage performances and light-hearted moments along the road featuring comedians Ahmad Ahmed, John Caparulo, Bret Ernst, Sebastian Maniscalco and Peter Billingsley.
The Bad: Excellent special effects in the portrayal of combat deaths brought on by Rambo.

27 Dresses (PG-13) 107 min. A- Summary: A 27-time bridesmaid with the closest to prove it, Jane (Hegy) just can’t get enough of weddings -- until she has to plan her sister’s wedding to the man she loves ... in three weeks.
The Good: A quintessential, feel-good chick flick with clever dialogue and one hell of a wardrobe.
The Bad: A bit cliché and a little too predictable.

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Movie Guide

FRIDAY SHOWTIMES

Downtown Centre Cinema
Fool’s Gold 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
Cloverfield 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:30
27 Dresses 1:45, 4:15, 6:50, 9:45
Atonement 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
Cloverfield 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:30
The Eye 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
Untraceable 1:20, 8:00, 10:30
The Bucket List 3:40, 8:20
No Country For Old Men 2:05, 4:45, 7:25, 10:00

Fremont Theatre
Vince Vaughn’s Wild West Comedy Show 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:05
Rambo 1:05, 4:55, 10:25
Persepolis 12:50, 3:05, 5:25, 7:40, 9:55
Michael Clayton 3:10, 7:50

Mind like a ‘Butterfly’

Sam Potter
DAILY UTAH CHRONICLE (UL CHRONICLE)

It’s become almost a running joke when a “disability” mov­ ies come along; it’s safe to snap some attention come Oscar time. The record holds true: films such as “Rain Man,” “The Sea Inside” and “My Left Foot” sucked in attentive like a Dyson vacuum.

Although the curiosity and passion that went into those fine films is undeniably exceptional, this re­ peating pattern can’t help but seem a little cliché.

The latest addition to the dis­ ability oeuvre, Julian Schnabel’s “The Diving Bell and the But­ terfly,” improves upon the genre’s conventions through the beauty of its acting and creative ap­ proach that take you right inside the mind of the victim. The film is adapted from the memoir of the same name written by former Elle magazine editor Jean-Dominique Bauby, who suffered a stroke in the prime of his life which left his entire body paralyzed save for his left eye.

The title for both Bauby’s nov­ el and the film is derived from his description of his experience as being trapped in a “diving bell,” or the metallic helmet worn by deep-sea divers. Bauby felt that he was trapped inside of his suit. In a see Butterfly, page 9
The Performing Arts Center will conduct experiences in alternative energy Sunday, when it hosts the critically acclaimed, highly dynamic Alley II dance company.

Alley II, an extension of the world-famous Alvin Alley American Dance Theater, provides some of America's most talented young dancers with the opportunity to tour and perfect their craft before beginning their professional careers.

"They're on a steady diet of touring and gaining important experiences," said Sylvia Waters, artistic director of Alley II. "They're young, and energetic, and the audience gets a tremendous sense of not only their presence but their talent as well."

"According to Peter Wilt, interim director of Cal Poly Arts, that reputation for youthful enthusiasm was the main reason the company was asked to perform at the PAC."

"We have had Alley II perform before and it was extremely successful," he said. "They are a group of very skilled dancers, and the things they can do with their bodies are amazing."

The event is scheduled as a part of Cal Poly's celebration of Black History Month. Alley was one of America's first prominent black choreographers. He was a pioneer in the advocacy of integrated dance companies and is considered one of the most influential figures in modern dance.

Alley created 79 ballets in his lifetime but never intended his company to be solely a showcase for his own work, in keeping with that vision, Alley II also features dances by some top emerging choreographers.

"We do a little bit of everything," Waters said of her company's repertoire. "I really try to do as much as we can to give a cross section of what Alley II represents. People come in not knowing what to expect, but I think that when they see the Alley company they understand. It has an impact on lives, it's life changing."

Alley II was initially scheduled for only one performance Sunday, but the high demand for seats made it necessary for the PAC to add a matinee. Waters said this is just an unusual occurrence on their current tour.

Tickets for the 7 p.m. performance are sold out, but seats are still available for the 3 p.m. matinee. Students are encouraged to attend, and $6 student rush tickets will be available at the door for the matinee show.
Mathieu Amalric (left) stars in "The Diving Bell and Butterfly," the true story of Elle director Jean-Dominique Bauby after a stroke leaves him almost completely paralyzed.

Butterfly
continued from page 7

When physical and speech therapy prove to bring about lit­
tle improvement, Bauby develops a system of communica­tion with the help of a devoted nurse. The system involves Bauby’s spelling out the sentences he wants to say by having the nurse read through the alphabet and Bauby’s blink­
ing to indicate the correct letter. A painstaking process at first, the two soon become quite proficient.

As the film progresses, Schne­ba demotes from the first person to an omniscient point of view, allowing us to ob­serve Bauby’s facial reactions (or lack thereof) in his interactions with his family and delving into Bauby’s vast landscape of dreams, desires and memories.

After a period of grieving, Bauby moves through a grieving process, begin­ning with denial and anger, then coming to grips with his situa­tion and making the hard decision to turn his experience into a book and hire a "transla­tor" to put his thoughts on pa­per. Watching Bauby’s struggle to break through the prison of his body to commu­nicate with the outside world is as intensely fas­cinating as any story of the triumph of the human spirit and among the most moving films I’ve seen before.

Beecham’s inspired direction received an Oscar nomination, an accolade that is validated from the disabled Bauby’s point of view. Acclaimed cinematographer and Spielberg go-to guy Janusz Kaminski (“Schindler’s List,” “Saving Private Ryan”) uses a wide variety of odd lenses, focus­ ing tricks and dreamy lighting to convey the surreal experience of waking up to a horrible new way of life. We hear Bauby’s thoughts in voice-over throughout the film and experience the discoveries and realizations of his new sphere of existence just as he would.

These scenes are frighteningly realistic, particularly for anyone having undergone a similar expe­rience. Schneba’s deft touch with these scenes creates a cinematic experience like no other I’ve seen before.

Though most of my functions are paralyzed, there are two that thank­fully are not: my imagination and my memory." We are shown fragments of Bauby’s past life in flashbacks, culminating with the experience that ultimately put him in the “diving bell.” These segments were particu­larly moving, not because of the sadness of Bauby’s loss, but because they re­minded me of how important it is to appreci­ate our human minds. The gifts of imagination, creativity and memory are in­valuable, and might be our most prized pos­sessions.

“The Diving Bell and the But­terfly” is an inspirational and ul­timately hopeful film about the uncanny ability of the human mind to triumph over seemingly hopeless odds. If the film falters at all, it’s in its length. At nearly two hours, the scenes come in a monotonous and slightly tedious pacing, bouncing from Bauby spell­ling out words, to friends and fam­ily, to some distant memory, to the progression of his book. Although visually striking and containing profound symbols and statements about humanity, the film would have benefited from some judi­cious snipping. However, the ex­perience ultimately is as satisfying as any story of the triumph of the human spirit and among the most creative I’ve seen.

Mathieu Amalric (left) stars in "The Diving Bell and Butterfly," the true story of Elle director Jean-Dominique Bauby after a stroke leaves him almost completely paralyzed.

Marlize van Romburg

Still sizzling from the success of last year’s com­petition, the Cal Poly Balloon Dance Club is hosting its annual Mustang Ball dance com­petition Saturday. The dance floor is expected to heat up with both first-time, certified and seasoned talent as the event has now expanded to six different levels of com­petitions, ranging from newcomer to open-level. For most of the newcomers, it’ll be their first time competing or performing before a large crowd.

Dancers from more than 20 collegiate teams and studios from across the nation have been invited to come and show what they’ve got on the dance floor, in everything from Salsa and the Hustle to Waltz and Foxtrot. As before, the competition is open to all amateur dancers and will have dances in Interna­tional Standard and Latin, and American Smooth and Rhythm. Top Mustang Ball couples will have the chance to compete for $500 in scholarships.

The Mustang Ball — or the Cal Poly Balloon DanceSport Competition — was started last year by Christopher Ellwood, a 2003 Cal Poly alum who began ball­room dancing while going to school. Now graduated and working at a local software company, Ellwood still advises the club and continues to organize the Mustang Ball.

He said that while many schools host ball­room competitions, Cal Poly’s is unique in that it’s the only one on the Central Coast, and has dancers from both Northern and Southern California competing.

“We’ve made it possible to meet in the middle,” Ellwood said. “Before we had to travel over 200 miles for a competition.”

Dancers will walk, swing, cha-cha and tango their way through the daytime ses­sion of the competition, only to heat up the floor in the evening with nightclub dances like the Salsa, Merengue and Hustle.

Cal Poly’s first Mustang Ball, held last February, had 159 dancers competing in 65 separate dance events, as a crowd of several hundred turned out to watch. This year, Ell­wood said there’s been a 25 percent increase in the number of entries; 98 couples are currently signed up to compete in 69 separate entries.

Those dancers will be judged on several cri­teria, the most important being timing and tech­nique. Ellwood said judges also look for couples who have a good connection with each other and who have a good connection with each other and understand what the particular dance is all about.

Like many of the competitors, Ellwood said he became hooked on ballroom dancing after taking a few lessons from the club.

Business senior Danielle Santari, who’s been dancing since junior high, will be dancing with Ell­wood in the advanced category.

Santari, a club officer, said she’s most looking forward to getting out on the floor to dance the Salsa. “It’s faster, and it’s fun,” she said. “It makes you get out there and move.”

Local dancer Hallie Scott performed in last year’s ball as a newcomer, but is looking to dance in both the bronze and silver categories this year. She said her favorite dance is the Tango, because “you get to be dramatic...it’s a good artistic expression.”

Johnathon Jordan, an industrial engineering se­nior, will compete with Scott tomorrow, and agreed that ballroom is a form of self-expression.

“Whenever I get out there on the dance floor, I feel like I’m really free to be myself,” he said, add­ing that it’s the “first, flirtations” Cha-Cha that he most enjoys dancing.

“Ballroom dancing is its own culture,” Jordan said. “There’s an instant connection when you meet other dancers.”

In addition to the competition, professional dancers Leonidas and Aliona Proskurov will get out on the floor and perform a five-dance Latin showcase at the end of the night.

Saturday’s competition will go from noon to 10 p.m. in Chumash Auditorium, and spectators are welcome. Admission is $5 for the general public or free with a valid Cal Poly ID.
THIS WEEK IN MUSTANG ATHLETICS

MEN’S BASKETBALL VS. UC IRVINE TONIGHT - 7 P.M.
MEN’S HOOPS VS. CS FULLERTON SATURDAY - 7 P.M.

FRIDAY - 7 P.M. - MOTT GYM
SENIOR NIGHT

Admission is FREE for all Cal Poly Students.

Only 1 in 10 students from low-income communities will graduate from college.

TEACH FOR CHANGING THIS.

FINAL APPLICATION DEADLINE:
Friday, February 15

Tomorrow's mission: a night of great music

Britney Clyde
MUSTANG DAILY

Picture a candlelit chateau in Vienna during the 1700s, filled with aristocrats who have come from all over to listen to enchanting music composed by Mozart in a tiny chamber room. This is the setting that Bill Johnson, director of bands, wants audience members to sense when they attend Saturday's 8 p.m. concert, "A Night at the Mission." The event has been going on for at least 10 years, but this year Johnson said it was "a smaller concert in which chamber groups would perform." The concert will be in Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa downtown San Luis Obispo, and will be attended by members of Cal Poly's finest student ensembles, excluding the wind ensemble. Johnson said everyone would be surrounded by sound no matter where they sit. Because there are such great acoustics at the mission, McKinney said everyone would be surrounded by sound no matter where they sit.

Tickets are $8 for students and seniors and $10 for the general public. They and can be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office.

"If you're playing by yourself and you get lost, no one is there to help you. That's a real amazing feeling of independence," Johnson agrees with McKinney that there is a certain appeal to smaller performance groups. "For me, it's a chance to improve my playing as well as really be able to form a good, small, effective team of people who know the ins and outs of each other," he said. "(The players) know when to come in, how to attack, how to do dynamics, changes and follow each other very well because there is no conductor for the small groups.

"This is his fourth year playing with the wind quintet," Johnson said. "I think the students this year have taken a great interest in chamber music. Traditionally in music history, chamber music was performed in a living room — but not the typical living room of today. It would be in a huge estate or castle where people would gather together for musical and social events. Sometimes the entertainment was background music, other times it was a smaller concert in which chamber groups would perform." What he enjoys the smaller groups like the wind quintet. "This year our groups are really strong, much stronger than they were in the past," he said. "I think the students know when to come in, how to attack, how to do dynamics, changes and follow each other very well because there is no conductor for the small groups."

"Audiences can expect a wide variety of music to be played at the mission, McKinney said. There will be "contemporary music written in the 20th century as well as robust classical compositions performed by the brass ensemble," he added. Because there are such great acoustics at the mission, McKinney said everyone would be surrounded by sound no matter where they sit.

Tickets are $8 for students and seniors and $10 for the general public. They and can be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office.
One challenge facing every industry and business is the ability to "go green," becoming more environmentally sustainable. Many of the world's largest companies (including Wal-Mart, Toyota and Goldman Sachs) are changing their business models due to changing consumer demand, preparation for government regulation, and, most of all, because it makes long-term financial sense.

As a polytechnic school, we have an obligation to society to produce graduates who are able to tackle 21st century problems, such as sustainability. Cal Poly is uniquely positioned to accomplish sustainability curriculum objectives and reduce its own ecological footprint by using campus as a living laboratory for sustainable technologies and processes.

Here are just two (of many) projects that would create a more sustainable Cal Poly and provide unique educational opportunities for students today:

**Campus Biodiesel**

Some students may have noticed the three Campus Dining trucks labeled with the "Powered by Biodiesel, Making Your French Fries Work Harder" logos. Pretty cool, right? Actually, the trucks aren't running off your french fries yet, but rather a B20 fuel (20 percent biodiesel) purchased from a local fuel vendor. They will be soon, though.

Cal Poly Biodiesel now has five senior projects and a multidisciplinary team working to complete the reactor by spring. The student leaders of the project are now looking to university partners to help them institutionalize the processor and the use of biodiesel on campus.

**Campus composting**

Composting is another waste loop students are working to close on campus. Campus Dining kitchens compost approximately 1,500 pounds a day from kitchen scraps in roughly a year. This organic matter is collected and trucked out to the Cal Poly Organic Farm where it is composted in large earth tubs, then used as an organic fertilizer. Amazing! In an effort to become even more sustainable, Campus Dining has been increasing the amount of compostable containers and foodware around campus.

The problem here is that these products are disposed of in the trash where it is unlikely they will actually compost. (In order to compost, you need air, water, heat and rotation of the material.)

Although that is better than non-compostable products, this process is still far from being "zero waste."

Here's where the students come in.

Cal Poly's Zero Waste Club is currently performing feasibility studies and building campus support to create infrastructure to effectively collect and compost organic waste on campus. The more waste we divert from the landfill not only reduces our ecological footprint but saves money too. Imagine a compost bin being paired with every trash can and recycling bin! Let me assure you, this is by no means an easy task financially, logistically or environmentally. This is a project that requires leadership and collaboration from many levels on campus.

So here's the million-dollar question: Cal Poly students are constantly thinking of new creative ideas to make Cal Poly more sustainable using skills learned in the classroom and Cal Poly is always trying to find new ways to reduce costs, educate students and become greener. How do we bridge this gap, you ask? We need an Office of Sustainability.

Many leading universities across the country, including Stanford, Yale, University of North Carolina and University of Florida, have created this office to facilitate change on campus by connecting academia with facilities. The ability to use campus as a living laboratory meets academic learning objectives and facilities' energy and waste reduction goals at the same time.

An Office of Sustainability at Cal Poly could also assist in sustainability curriculum development, energy and sustainability policy, and fundraising for campus projects.

In order to prepare students for the critical challenges facing humanity in the 21st century, sustainability must become more than a buzzword. The ability to use campus as a living laboratory meets academic learning objectives and facilities' energy and waste reduction goals at the same time.

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BUT THERE ARE ONLY
A FEW GIRLS
WHO KNEW
I ALREADY GOT
THEIR PHONE NUMBERS.

THEY DON'T CALL ME
LARRY THE SONIC
WRECKO FOR NOTHING

THEY WANT ME TO DO THE
SEQUEL, BUT THIS SCRIPT IS
GARAGE!!! MAYBE I SHOULD DO
SOME THEATER OR A SMALL
INDEPENDENT FILM STILL, THE
MONEY'S REALLY GOOD...

Optimus Prime's Hollywood Dilemma
Softball

continued from page 16

games this season will be against teams that made the NCAA Tournament last year.

“This is the schedule we really want,” said Cal Poly head coach Jenny Condon. “It only prepares us better for what we want to accomplish.”

Healing that endeavor will be Iwata, who is coming off one of the best offensive seasons in Cal Poly history, in which she batted .364 with 10 home runs, 34 runs and 48 RBIs on her way to being named to the All-Big West First Team. The campaign led to her being named with 49 others to the USA Southall Watch First for National Collegiate Player of the Year.

We are very deep, which makes it a little more difficult,” Condon said. “But it’s comforting, knowing we have the players to fill in when we need them.”

Joe Cannon said. “We are all capable of dominating a game.” Peña said. “But it’s comforting knowing we have the players to fill in when we need them.”

The pitching is boosted by a potent lineup, the Mustangs have a deep pitching staff that boasts four top-of-the-rotation starters. Kezner, who had 11 complete games and three shutouts last year, is joined by Maiden, who went 13-4 with a 2.40 ERA and 60 strikeouts, sophomore Helen Peña, who went 9-4 with a 1.78 ERA and 48 strikeouts and freshman Ania Cahn.

Peña, who was third in the conference in ERA, describes the situation as “healthy competition” and says the split between left-handers and right-handers, combined with their different styles, means each pitcher brings something unique to the circle.

“We are all capable of dominating a game,” Peña said. “But it’s comforting knowing we have the players to fill in when we need them.”

The Mustangs’ first home action begins with the Mustang Classic, which they open against Cal at 4:30 p.m. Feb. 22.

Wrestling

continued from page 16

the conference in both wins and pins.

Overall, Stanford (11-3, 4-2 Pac-10) boasts nine winners and 500 or better.

“We’re really looking forward to it,” Malanda said. “As a team we’re really excited for a chance to win the championship. We’ve been training hard for every tournament, let alone the Pac-10. It’s time for us to seize the title.”

The Mustangs finished fourth last year in the Pac-10, with seven individual placers.

After wresting at Cal State Bakersfield, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State in the next two weeks, Cal Poly will head to the conference championships, held in Eugene, Ore. March 2 to 3.
Vindicated

Friday, February 8, 2008

www.mustangdaily.net

MUSTANG DAILY

SPORTS

roundup

Women's tennis team opens Big West play

The Cal Poly women's tennis team will play in its first Big West Conference dual matches of the season this weekend, visiting UC Irvine at 11 a.m. Saturday and Cal State Fullerton at 10 a.m. Sunday.

"It's going to be really competitive against those two teams," Mustangs head coach Hugh Bream said. "The Big West is probably the fifth-toughest conference of the 31 conferences. It's obviously very meaningful!"

Cal Poly 2-0 hasn't played this week after a four-match losing streak.

In spite of the losses, the Mustangs' doubles tandem of Brittany Blacklow and Steffi Wong is ranked No. 22 and has a 3-2 dual record. In singles, Diane Filip is 4-1.

"The break couldn't have come at a better time for us," Bream said.

"We went to Oregon in good health but came back a little beat-up. We've taken this time to get healthy and do quality training before going into this weekend."

UC Irvine (0-2) enters the weekend ranked No. 36, while Cal Poly is 0-2-0, respectively. Cal State Fullerton is unranked.

A match against UC Irvine will be the first conference showing for both teams. Cal State Fullerton, meanwhile, lost to No. 36 Long Beach State 7-0 last Friday.

"We've been getting better consistently," Bream said. "The schedule we have played has really prepared us for entering the Big West Conference."

Men's tennis team falls at Pepperdine

The Cal Poly men's tennis team lost its second match of the spring season Thursday, falling 5-2 to No. 21 Pepperdine.

In singles, Cal Poly's Robert Fos edged Brian Brohan 6-4, 4-6, 7-5, and Drew Jacobs also earned a win for the Mustangs (3-2), topping Johannes deVilliers 7-5, 6-4.

Fox and Darrys Young lost their first dual match of the season opening up short against James Lenka and No. 13 Basim Bedda 8-3.

Cal Poly played at San Diego at 12:30 p.m. Saturday.

Women's basketball team stays in third place

The Cal Poly women's basketball team toppled UC Irvine 84-65 Thursday night to stay in third place in the Big West Conference.

It was the second victory in six games for the Mustangs (9-3, 6-3 Big West), who swept the Anteaters (6-7, 2-7) this season.

Cal Poly vanquished Cal State Fullerton at 5 p.m. Saturday. Cal State Fullerton (7-14, 4-5) now sits in sixth place, still 72-63 to first-place UC Santa Barbara (14-6, 9-0) on Thursday.

Argue-De Farrant and Donovan anchored the rally.

Aaron Gundette is a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily sports columnist.
Pura, pitching lead Mustangs into season

Kory Harbeck

Coming off the most successful season in program history, the Cal Poly softball team has set the bar high. Higher still are the expectations the team has for itself.

The season begins at 3:30 p.m. against No. 2 Texas A&M, in the Mustangs travel to Palm Springs to take part in the Cathedral City Kickoff tournament.

In their second game, they’ll take on San Diego State at 6 p.m. Before the weekend is over, Cal Poly will also face No. 20 Oregon, New Mexico State, and last year’s national runner-up, No. 6 Tennessee.

Cal Poly captured its first Big West Conference title and made its first Division I post-season appearance a season ago. The Mustangs’ confidence reflects a broader, done-that attitude.

“We know what kind of team we are, and who we want to be, and where we want to be in May,” said junior shortstop Melissa Pura. “That championship gives us a kind of feel-good, we-can-do-this confidence.”

However, the Mustangs, predicted to repeat as Big West First Team, are taking nothing for granted. Every player repeatedly issues a similar phrase, emphasizing they have to go out and play their game no matter the opponent. They’ll need such an attitude, as 26 of their 48 games on Cal Poly’s schedule against teams that played in the NCAA Tournament last season.

Cal Poly junior guard Trae Clark and the rest of the Mustangs edged UC Irvine 57-56 at Mott Gym on Thursday night. For a complete recap of their Big West Conference win, go online to mustangdaily.net.

Mustangs scrap way to narrow win over UC Irvine

Patrick Barbieri

The Stanford wrestling team has won more this year than it has in three decades, but it’s still got something to prove against Cal Poly in a Pac-10 dual at 7 p.m. in Mott Gym.

Cal Poly, on the other hand, is looking to add momentum as it heads into the season. Second baseman Stephanie Tam, above, and third baseman Cristen Lee, both juniors, combined for just 10 errors in 220 opportunities during Cal Poly’s banner season in 2007.

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