Student apathy in light of youth vote

Jennifer Hall

Voter apathy, especially among young voters, has been the focus of many campaigns to the past.

In the 2004 presidential election, less than half of the 18- to 29-year-old citizens in the U.S. voted, according to youngvoterstrategies.com.

"It's a large issue. My biggest thing in politics is voter turnout," industrial engineering junior Connor Johnston said. "In 2004, our age group had a 41 percent voter turnout. Some people think that's good, but under 50 percent is unacceptable.

Cal Poly students differ as to whether they believe apathy exists among students on campus.

"It's not so much apathy but inaction," said Erica Janeff, an industrial engineering senior and Cal Poly Democrats Club president. "I think the difference is that we're young and the habit hasn't been developed yet."

However, Christine Chiappe, a social sciences senior and Cal Poly College Republican president, thinks students may just not like the candidates.

"Some people are disgruntled by what there is to offer," she said. "It's a combo lack of information and understanding and being unhappy with the choices."

Conversely, modern languages and literature sophomore Molly McFarland believes students don't really care because they have more important things to do.

"The truth is we're in a bubble. College is the time to do your work and party. It's just not common knowledge to really know about what's going on all over the world," she said.

However, as the chapter coordinator for Students for Barack Obama, McFarland thinks students could have an immense impact if they got involved.

"People don't think it affects them, but it will someday, and in 25 years it's going to suck," she said. "You have to fight for this stuff now and I feel like college is the perfect time to do it."

In fact, young voters do think this election will have an impact on their future. A total of 377 students were selected to complete a standard survey inquiring about voting habits, party affiliations and political interest. And you might be a bit surprised by what we found. (Turn to page 5 for a survey breakdown or go to mustangdaily.net for a more complete, interactive multimedia version.)

More importantly, we wanted to look beyond the stereotypes. We've all heard the stigma that Cal Poly is a conservative campus and that students are largely apathetic, but our reporters looked beyond the stereotypes and statistics. They talked to the people who make politics a substantial part of their daily lives, whether it's a job, a volunteer position or simply a passion. They even spoke with local and state politicians who got their start here at Cal Poly.

Though the 377 students surveyed and those interviewed represent only a fraction of the student body, that fraction had something to say. And that's the first step.
Wednesday, February 13th
5pm-8pm

Wear your PJ's and receive a 30% discount on all:

- Regular priced Cal Poly clothing & gifts
- General reading & reference books
- Seasonal promotional gifts including:
  - Valentines
  - Greeting cards
  - Stationery
  - Gift wrap
  - Stuffed animals
- Student supplies including:
  - Art
  - Office
  - School

*Does not include: Textbooks & Courseware, Computer Department, Photo Department, Sale items, Special Orders, Rainbow Sandals, Hard Back Bestsellers, Magazines, Food & Beverages and Health & Beauty*

www.elcorralbookstore.com
What issue is most important to you in 2008 elections?

Compiled and photographed by Rachel Gellman

The economy, I have fears of the recession.

— Tyler Piper, finance junior

“Health care and education because capitalist America squashes the middle class.”

— Luke Johnson, history senior

“Just that the president is intelligent.”

— Molly Tavelia, biology senior

“Getting out of Iraq, I have brothers who may have to enlist as a last resort and I definitely don’t want them over there, and I have friends there right now.”

— Erica Orvis, wine and viticulture junior

Former Poly student to advocate for students if elected in June

Coral Snyder

While the college lifestyle allows many students to pass by politics and local issues without voice or notice, the upcoming June 3 election of the Fifth District County Supervisor may have a great impact on the lives of students.

Debbie Arnold, a former Cal Poly student, will be vying for the position against incumbent candidate Jim Patterson. The position encompasses authority over Atascadero, Santa Margarita, Creston, Carina Plains and parts of San Luis Obispo, including Cal Poly and surrounding areas.

“If elected supervisor, I would welcome student input, and I would stress that the future is yours and the government will be what you make it,” Arnold said.

Arnold is a resident of Paso and a member of a ranching family within the county, though she was raised in the Bay Area and graduated from high school in San Jose.

Afterward, Arnold attended Cal Poly in 1973 as an animal science major, but decided to pursue an associate of arts degree in early childhood education from Cuesta College.

With her degree, she owned and operated an Atascadero preschool until she became a legislative assistant to the former County Supervisor Mike Ryan. In 2004, Arnold became an aide for Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee until she left in 2007 to run for office. She is also currently a member of the Santa Margarita Area Advisory Committee.

“Working with Supervisor Ryan, I learned a lot about county government and processes and working with constituents. Working with Blakeslee, I learned how to use the legislative process and how to work with state and federal government to benefit the people of San Luis Obispo County,” Arnold said.

She also said that Blakeslee helped her learn about problem-solving issues and consensus building.

She has many overall goals for the fifth district as a whole as well as specific goals to help students who live in San Luis Obispo.

Her overall issues include focusing on safety within the community, protecting the environment and open space, making sure that the rights of homeowners are preserved, and restoring public trust.

When it comes to students, she advocates for programs that give students a safe ride home. She also helped advocate funding to continue an established program while she worked with Blakeslee’s office.

“My belief is a good program to have in San Luis Obispo because we have a student population and a social aspect downtown. It is important to provide that population with services that fit their lifestyles,” Arnold said.

She said that since students make up nearly 50 percent of the population in San Luis Obispo, they should be equally represented.

Arnold also said land use is a big issue relating to students because recreational opportunities are important for the college demographic and it is necessary to ensure the beauty of the county for the future.

“As a parent, I want to give something back so it will be this nice for your generation,” Arnold said.

Aside from being a former Poly student herself, Arnold also has two children who graduated from Cal Poly in 2000 and 2002. One of her goals for the San Luis Obispo area is being able to help create compromises between local students and other residents.

Arnold emphasized that she feels it is important for students to educate themselves before voting and deciding which issues are important for the future.

“I understand how to work through the legislative processes at every level, and have made a lot of good contacts at the state and federal levels,” Arnold said.

“Having kids that went through Cal Poly helps her understand why safe ride programs are important for some students and it’s good that she’s willing to advocate for this kind of safety,” nutrition senior Colleen Farias said.
Sidewalk chalk and posters: 
Poly students offer their support to the bigger picture

Jennifer Hall 
SUNOCO STAFF WRITER

As the primary elections went into full swing Feb. 5, so did the sidewalk chalk and posters promoting the candidates.

But all of that chalk had to come from somewhere, and many of the people behind the scenes of political campaigns are students.

Molly McFarland and Conner Johnston are just a few who joined the Students for Barack Obama campaign as chapter coordinator and get-out-the-vote coordinator, respectively.

“Our direct area went (for) Obama because of our direct efforts,” industrial engineering junior Johnston said. “I feel like we made an immense impact.”

That impact didn’t come without some hard work, though. The Students for Barack Obama campaign began during the summer of 2007 on Facebook.com and has been opening chapters at universities across the nation since then, according to its Web site.

McFarland, a modern languages and literature sophomore, became involved with the Cal Poly chapter about five months ago after a man talked about the campaign at Linnaea’s Café on Garden Street in San Luis Obispo.

“Most professors are understanding of the time commitment for the campaign, Johnston said.

“I wish I could take the quarter off and just work for the campaign,” McFarland said. “I’m a volunteer and I’m a student. It was a struggle and I’m still trying to catch up, but it was well worth it.”

On the other side of the political spectrum, Hans Poschman, a public policy graduate student with a political science degree from Cal Poly, is the executive director for the Republican party in San Luis Obispo County.

Although the party didn’t promote a specific candidate during the primaries, Poschman was still busy keeping the office open every day, organizing volunteer activities and registering voters. He also speaks monthly to groups to tell them what’s going on with the party.

“I try to provide a presence in the community whenever necessary,” Poschman said. “It’s a lot of work. There’s constantly something to do and you have to balance that with school.

“Most professors are understanding of the time commitment for the campaign, Johnston said.

“I’ve made announcements in my classes and a couple of teachers were proud of me since I was involved in the politics,” he said. “A lot of teachers are excited because they can’t get involved themselves.”

As the presidential election in November and the local elections in June draw nearer, the students involved in campaigns will become even more involved.

“I think that’s the way they like it. It’s a great chance to have a say on what affects this nation,” Poschman said.

THE MUSTANG DAILY SURVEY BREAKDOWN

 Nobama won in SLO county with 39.8 percent of the vote, according to the California Secretary of State’s Web site.

John McCain won the Republican primary in San Luis Obispo county with 39.8 percent, and for the state with 42 percent of the vote, the Web site said Mitt Romney followed with 34.1 percent of the overall vote.

SLO county came down to 500 votes (for Obama) and we got 500 people to pledge, and I’m sure more than that voted,” Johnston said. “Cal Poly students to know that they did make a difference.”

The polling location in the University Union which serves the students who are registered on campus voted 82.35 percent for Obama, according to the county Recorder’s office.

More than 50 students volunteered with the Obama campaign and coordinators like McFarland volunteered up to five hours a day during the final weeks before the primaries.

The registration office has been open seven days a week, and I’m a student. It was a struggle and I’m still trying to catch up, but it was well worth it.”

On the other side of the political spectrum, Hans Poschman, a public policy graduate student with a political science degree from Cal Poly, is the executive director for the Republican party in San Luis Obispo county.

Although the party didn’t promote a specific candidate during the primaries, Poschman was still busy keeping the office open every day, organizing volunteer activities and registering voters. He also speaks monthly to groups to tell them what’s going on with the party.

“I try to provide a presence in the community whenever necessary,” Poschman said. “It’s a lot of work. There’s constantly something to do and you have to balance that with school.

“Most professors are understanding of the time commitment for the campaign, Johnston said.

“I’ve made announcements in my classes and a couple of teachers were proud of me since I was involved in the politics,” he said. “A lot of teachers are excited because they can’t get involved themselves.”

As the presidential election in November and the local elections in June draw nearer, the students involved in campaigns will become even more involved.

“I think that’s the way they like it. It’s a great chance to have a say on what affects this nation,” Poschman said.

Headline XYxxyxyxyxxxx

Rachel Glas MUSTANG DAILY

Husband, father, financial planner and politician — Republican Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee is a man of many faces.

The representative of California’s 3rd Assembly District, which encompasses everything from Lompoc to Paso Robles, and of course San Luis Obispo, drives from his home in San Luis Obispo to Sacramento every Sunday, and back every Thursday. Once in Sacramento, he’s out of the house from 5:30 a.m. until 8:30 p.m.

“It’s not unusual to have a dozen meetings per day. It’s a very fast-paced job,” Blakeslee said.

Blakeslee has been serving as assemblyman ever since he was elected in 2004 with a 24-point margin of victory. He started out in local politics when he ran for and won a position on the Cuesta College Board of Trustees in 1998. Then he served on the Board of the Central Coast Natural History Association for four years before acting as a messenger for the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce.

After a trip to India with his son, Blakeslee decided to run for Assemblyman Sam Blakeslee, a native of San Luis Obispo, has served the area since 2004.

The week before the California primary came down to 500 votes (for Obama) and we got 500 people to pledge, and I’m sure more than that voted,” Johnston said. “Cal Poly students to know that they did make a difference.”

The polling location in the University Union which serves the students who are registered on campus voted 82.35 percent for Obama, according to the county Recorder’s office.

More than 50 students volunteered with the Obama campaign and coordinators like McFarland volunteered up to five hours a day during the final weeks before the primaries.

“SLO county came down to 500 votes (for Obama) and we got 500 people to pledge, and I’m sure more than that voted,” Johnston said. “Cal Poly students to know that they did make a difference.”

The polling location in the University Union which serves the students who are registered on campus voted 82.35 percent for Obama, according to the county Recorder’s office.

More than 50 students volunteered with the Obama campaign and coordinators like McFarland volunteered up to five hours a day during the final weeks before the primaries.

“SLO county came down to 500 votes (for Obama) and we got 500 people to pledge, and I’m sure more than that voted,” Johnston said. “Cal Poly students to know that they did make a difference.”

The polling location in the University Union which serves the students who are registered on campus voted 82.35 percent for Obama, according to the county Recorder’s office.

More than 50 students volunteered with the Obama campaign and coordinators like McFarland volunteered up to five hours a day during the final weeks before the primaries.
Professors

continued from page 2

cline to state, said he teaches an ex-

plicitly political set of classes and

that “it would be a disservice to my

students to try to pretend that I was

neutral or to try to hide my own

political views. I think of politics as

an open forum and so I want to put

my views out there and I want to

put people who disagree with me

out there.”

By discussing alternative view­

points, Latner believes professors

prepare students for the real world.

“Ideology tends to fall apart

when it hits the sort of messy world

of reality,” he said. “There is no time

for radicalism (once you graduate)

because you’re in the rat race. Part of

what the university is about is saving

space for radicalism because radical­

ism has freed us from the tyrannv ot

tradition, in a way.”

Chris Harting, an assistant profes­

sor in the political science depart­

ment, said he speaks of his personal

political preference, decline to state,

sparingly in class.

Harting said while unconven­

tional views could bother or mislead

some people in a classroom setting,

“it could also be the case that minor­

ity point of view is the best one and ev­

erybody else is thinking something

stupid.”

Latner acknowledged California

is generally a liberal state and said,

“Republicans have a sense of being

the underdog in California.”

Of her colleagues in the liberal

arts department, Freberg said, “They

don’t just not want to work with

you, they hate you. Every time I’ve

put out a broadcast e-mail advertis­

ing a College Republicans event, I’ll

get hate mail.”

Get involved with

ASI Student Government

President & Board of Directors

ASI Election Packets

Now Available

• Pick up application in ASI

Business Office UU212

• Info Sessions:

Feb. 20 @ 6 pm UU218

Feb 21 @ 6 pm UU219

• Filing Deadline:

Friday, March 7, 2008

To place an ad in this directory call 805-544-9198

Mention this ad to receive your 10% discount

Minimum SLO

for Honda & Acura Servicing

SERVING HONDA PRODUCTS

EXCLUSIVELY FOR 25 YEARS

Landis

HONDA-ACURA

Automotive

435 MARSH STREET • SAN LUIS OBISPO (805) 544-9198

Keep your career on a
direct path to success.

Start out in the right direction at Ernst & Young. With our
award-winning training programs, you’ll have invaluable
resources to help you enhance your skills. And since you’ll
be working alongside some of the best talent in the industry,
getting ahead is as simple as following the signs.

Grow. Succeed.

Visit us at ey.com/us/careers and our Facebook.com group.
1903
ROOSEVELT comes to SLO to commend citizens for establishing Cal Poly.

1941
WWII causes 24 Japanese-American Cal Poly students to relocate to internment camps.

1962
COLD WAR and threats of nuclear attacks cause Army engineers to approve on-campus shelters.

1963
PROTESTS break out on campus after three women students are suspended for attending off-campus fraternity events.

1968
REAGAN comes to campus to deliver an inaugural address for the new Poly president, Robert Kennedy.

1969
ANTI-WAR advocates protest Vietnam on Dexter Lawn.

Sitting in the middle of one of the most liberal states in the Union, conservative Cal Poly stands out like a sore thumb.

Easily considered one of the most conservative schools in the state, the university has hardly been noted for the kind of student revolutions that led universities like Berkeley to fame. Yet even from within this relatively quite campus, political moments for the history books have been written.

Marlize van Romburgh

A look back in time

Teddy Roosevelt and a “common sense” school

Established by a state legislative act in 1901, Cal Poly opened its campus to students in 1905. Standing before the citizens of San Luis Obispo that spring, on May 9, 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt commended them for their “common sense” in establishing a polytechnic school.

“I am glad to learn that the State of California is erecting here the polytechnic institute for giving all of the scientific training in the arts of farm life. More and more our people have waked to the fact that farming is not only a practical but a scientific pursuit, and that there should be the same chance for the tiller of the soil to make his a learned profession that there is any business,” the president said.

Cal Poly’s first war

World War II hit Cal Poly with the same shock as it did to the rest of the United States, as the news streamed in through the radio that Pearl Harbor had been bombed. The first wartime issue of the student newspaper, on Dec. 12, 1941, proclaimed the words in bold—“U.S. FIGHTS AXIS,” “WAR WITH JAPAN,” “GERMANY AND ITALY,” and “Hiroshima Bombed.”

By the end of the week, Cal Poly was observing blackout restrictions. Yet in sharp contrast to the wars that would follow decades later, Cal Poly’s student body seemed eager to take up arms for their country.

Student body president Walter Dougherty wrote in the newspaper, “We students of California Polytechnic... are training ourselves with certain specific objectives in mind. Now we are called upon to turn aside from these objectives and give to our country military defense. There can be no hesitation if we are asked to lay aside our books and papers, but rather a willing step forward to the task ahead. I know that none of us shall hesitate.”

His words seemed to ring true around campus, with more than 80 students dropping out of school right after Pearl Harbor, even before the draft began calling them forth.

As another effect of World War II, the 24 Japanese-American students who had been enrolled at Cal Poly during the 1941-42 school year had disappeared by the end of 1942, forced to relocate with their families to government internment camps in California or Arizona.

Then by 1945, the war that had defined a whole generation of college students ended and Cal Poly faced new challenges again. Thousent of young veterans, all funded by the new GI Bill, flooded home and Cal Poly’s already established “learn-by-doing” focus was exactly what many of them wanted: To accommodate the surge of post-war students, the university had to rapidly hire new faculty and begin a large campus upgrade.

The Cold War and Cal Poly’s nuclear threats

On October 1962, the United States was firmly in the grip of the Cold War with the Soviet Union, and the Cuban Missile Crisis only further looked to chill relations.

In the aftermath of the crisis, Army engineers approved eight Cal Poly buildings as fallout shelters. Rather casually, the campus newspaper noted, “In the event of all-out nuclear war, Vandenberg Air Force base, located 50 miles south of campus, could be a main target area. In the event of this occurrence, Cal Poly could be heavily showered with radioactive fallout.”

1969

Marcie A. Hardy


Coming out just an hour and a half after the president’s death, the student newspaper reported on the campus’ reaction: “For some, the first inkling of the tragedy came when they noticed the flags near the Administration building being lowered to half-mast... Business stopped completely in El Corral Bookstore as reports came over the closed circuit radio system. Students with purchases in their hand stood and waited and listened. ‘I’ve forgotten what I came in for now’ said one student listening to the news.”

“The hippie generation, student unrest and the psychedelic world”

Cal Poly saw one of its rarest occurrences, a student protest, in October of 1963 when students were disgruntled over university policy toward female students. Three women had been suspended for the rest of the quarter after they had attended off-campus fraternity events. The school proclaimed that it neither recognized nor approved of fraternities, and that the three women didn’t have permission to attend the event.

In an uncommon show of emotion, the student body marched and petitions circulated, questioning the role of the university as a “seraglio parent.”

Although the protest didn’t bring immediate change to other campus policies or mainstream sentiments, they did begin to foreshadow the revolutionary youth attitude that would mark the country by the end of the decade.

Reagan comes to campus as Kennedy takes the reins on a restless generation

On April 3, 1968, Cal Poly held its first university presidential inauguration as it appointed Robert Kennedy as its new leader for the tumultuous decade to come.

Ronald Reagan, then governor of California, stood before the students of Cal Poly to deliver Kennedy’s inaugural address and praised Cal Poly for being “an institution that doesn’t agree with me politically.”

Meanwhile, the student reporter who attended Kennedy’s first press conference observed keenly the challenges that lay ahead for the new university president.

“Sitting in front of the typewriter for six hours preparing this story gave me time to reflect on this man in charge of such a respected institution. No other college president (on this campus) has had to face the hippie generation, student unrest and the psychedelic world,” the reporter wrote.

Even heading a notoriously conservative campus, Kennedy was just as concerned about the unfolding tide of student demonstrations as the other university leaders of the time. As it turned out, his concerns were well-founded: Cal Poly proved to be no exception to the student protest phenomenon, especially as popular opposition toward the Vietnam War grew.

The Oct. 15, 1969, Mustang Mooratorium that drew millions of anti-war protesters.

Student body president Walter Dougherty wrote in the newspaper, “We students of California Polytechnic... are training ourselves with certain specific objectives in mind. Now we are called upon to turn aside from these objectives and give to our country military defense. There can be no hesitation if we are asked to lay aside our books and papers, but rather a willing step forward to the task ahead. I know that none of us shall hesitate.”

His words seemed to ring true around campus, with more than 80 students dropping out of school right after Pearl Harbor, even before the draft began calling them forth.

As another effect of World War II, the 24 Japanese-American students who had been enrolled at Cal Poly during the 1941-42 school year had disappeared by the end of 1942, forced to relocate with their families to government internment camps in California or Arizona.

Then by 1945, the war that had defined a whole generation of college students ended and Cal Poly faced new challenges again. Thousent of young veterans, all funded by the new GI Bill, flooded home and Cal Poly’s already established “learn-by-doing” focus was exactly what many of them wanted: To accommodate the surge of post-war students, the university had to rapidly hire new faculty and begin a large campus upgrade.

The Cold War and Cal Poly’s nuclear threats

On October 1962, the United States was firmly in the grip of the Cold War with the Soviet Union, and the Cuban Missile Crisis only further looked to chill relations.

In the aftermath of the crisis, Army engineers approved eight Cal Poly buildings as fallout shelters. Rather casually, the campus newspaper noted, “In the event of all-out nuclear war, Vandenberg Air Force base, located 50 miles south of campus, could be a main target area. In the event of this occurrence, Cal Poly could be heavily showered with radioactive fallout.”

Sitting in front of the typewriter for six hours preparing this story gave me time to reflect on this man in charge of such a respected institution. No other college president (on this campus) has had to face the hippie generation, student unrest and the psychedelic world,” the reporter wrote.

“Sitting in front of the typewriter for six hours preparing this story gave me time to reflect on this man in charge of such a respected institution. No other college president (on this campus) has had to face the hippie generation, student unrest and the psychedelic world,” the reporter wrote.

“The hippie generation, student unrest and the psychedelic world”

Cal Poly saw one of its rarest occurrences, a student protest, in October of 1963 when students were disgruntled over university policy toward female students. Three women had been suspended for the rest of the quarter after they had attended off-campus fraternity events. The school proclaimed that it neither recognized nor approved of fraternities, and that the three women didn’t have permission to attend the event.

In an uncommon show of emotion, the student body marched and petitions circulated, questioning the role of the university as a “seraglio parent.”

Although the protest didn’t bring immediate change to other campus policies or mainstream sentiments, they did begin to foreshadow the revolutionary youth attitude that would mark the country by the end of the decade.

Reagan comes to campus as Kennedy takes the reins on a restless generation

On April 3, 1968, Cal Poly held its first university presidential inauguration as it appointed Robert Kennedy as its new leader for the tumultuous decade to come.

Ronald Reagan, then governor of California, stood before the students of Cal Poly to deliver Kennedy’s inaugural address and praised Cal Poly for being “an institution that doesn’t agree with me politically.”

Meanwhile, the student reporter who attended Kennedy’s first press conference observed keenly the challenges that lay ahead for the new university president.

“Sitting in front of the typewriter for six hours preparing this story gave me time to reflect on this man in charge of such a respected institution. No other college president (on this campus) has had to face the hippie generation, student unrest and the psychedelic world,” the reporter wrote.

Even heading a notoriously conservative campus, Kennedy was just as concerned about the unfolding tide of student demonstrations as the other university leaders of the time. As it turned out, his concerns were well-founded: Cal Poly proved to be no exception to the student protest phenomenon, especially as popular opposition toward the Vietnam War grew.

The Oct. 15, 1969, Mustang Mooratorium that drew millions of anti-war protesters.
If students truly want to be represented by a democratic government then they need to understand how government is currently dictated by plutocracy and partisanship and take it back.

—Allen Settle
Political science professor

MAN OF LAW

Political science professor Allen Settle has taught at Cal Poly since 1974, served four terms as the mayor of San Luis Obispo and is currently a member of the city council.

As he put it, the plutocratic characteristics of governments are preventing politicians and thus policy, making which takes control of the government out of the hands of the people.

"If students truly want to be represented by a democratic government then they need to understand how government is currently dictated by plutocracy and partisanship and take it back," Settle said. "I encourage as many of my students to become engineers, city planners, finance directors, lawyers, or participate in a non-partisan city, state or federal government," Settle said.

The core of his courses is an attempt to help students: first — understand the law; and second — understand money and finance. "If you have a bad credit score (a score as low as 450) then you can forget about getting hired because who is going to put you in a position to manage money for the corporation and government, are evaluating applicants by their credit scores," Settle said.

"Students really need to pay attention to their FICO (Fair Isaac & Co.) Credit score because employers look at those more than ever," Settle said. "If you have a bad credit score (a score as low as 450) then you can forget about getting hired because who is going to put you in a position to manage money if you can't manage your own?"

In business and politics, it boils down to the relationship of law, finance, and government. If you understand these things, especially if you plan on going in to positions of management or government, "You're good to go," Settle said. Otherwise, as Settle said, "If you don't know them, you're crippled."
History

continued from page 7

The Mustang Daily reported, "Even this conservatively minded campus and this relatively isolated city were witness to conspicuous observance of this event."

Indeed, local observance of the anti-war event began the night before, with a rally in Mitchell Park, where campus speakers, folk music and discussions on war issues filled the otherwise quiet area. Protectors then held a candlelight march and gathered at the Mission downtown.

"The Vietnam War protest planned for Wednesday... received a degree of support from President Robert Kennedy. The college president refused permission for a meeting on the library lawn, but offered use of the Amphitheater for the entire day," the Mustang Daily reported.

"I do indeed support the concept that the war should be brought to a speedy conclusion," Kennedy said. "I have expressed it on many occasions."

As the actual day of the Moratorium rolled around, student protesters planted 20 white crosses on Dexter Library lawn, but offered use of the campus ROTC to their rally. One of the most controversial images depicted the five-day weather outlook for Afghanistan with a mushroom cloud and temperature of 4000 degrees anticipated for the week's end.

A faculty-led campaign, meanwhile, protested that Republican rally, calling the club's message "irate speech" and saying their posters stereotyped Muslims-Americans.

With the continuing concern over foreign policy, Cal Poly became just a small sample of the issues that began unfolding and shaping the Millennial generation.

Even California conservatives can turn into hippie environmentalists

Pointing to the environment and global warming as the biggest issue of our generation, Evans considers January's Focus the nation summit at Cal Poly one of the most monumental political moments on campus.

The global warming summit served as the largest teach-in in America's history, according to the event Web site, with an estimated 4,000 to 5,000 students, faculty and community members who participated.

"The environment is serving the same stimulus for your generation as did Vietnam during its time," Evans explained. "It serves as a tipping point.

He said that over the past decade, various campus groups have come forth with initiatives to save water, recycle or promote alternative energies, but have all pretty much sparked up and then disappeared.

"Then to see this massive event come together, along with big coalitions and with groups like Empower Poly, it really is a mark of the times."

When asked about Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed education cuts, Blakeslee said, "Our challenge is to make those cuts in a way to have the least impact on the classroom. We want to ensure that quality education is available and remains affordable.

Blakeslee himself attended schools in San Los Obispo since he moved here in 1965 at the age of 10. He graduated from San Luis Obispo High School, then left for Wyoming to build cabins. Five years later, after a failed marriage and a child to care for, Blakeslee returned to San Luis Obispo to attend Cuesta College. And though, he left for 20 years upon graduation, pursue a Ph.D. and work at Exxon, he always felt a pull to return.

"I missed the Central Coast terribly, I wanted to reconnect with the community," he said.

And by running for assembly, he feels that he has.
Everything's coming up roses

at Cal Poly this Valentine’s Day

MUSTANG DAILY

Dustin Stone

Everything’s coming up roses in San Luis Obispo this Valentine’s Day, when the national touring cast of “Gypsy” makes a stop at the Performing Arts Center.

A classic by any other name, “Gypsy” has been one of America’s favorite musicals since it first debuted at New York’s Broadway Theatre in 1959. The show features some of the biggest songs in Broadway history, including “Everything’s Coming Up Roses,” “You Gotta Have a Gimmick” and “Some People.”

“It’s one of the greatest musicals of all time,” said Peter Wilt, interim director of Cal Poly Arts. “Every song in it is good.”

“It’s one of the greatest musicals of all time,” said Peter Wilt, interim director of Cal Poly Arts. “Every song in it is good.”

The play is based on the memoirs of famous actress and burlesque entertainer Gypsy Rose Lee, who was known as much for her intelligence and wit as she was for her striptease act.

It follows the story of Mama Rose — the stereotypical, overbearing stage mother — in her quest to make her two daughters the brightest star of vaudeville. She focuses the majority of her attention on her youngest, Baby June, who headlines the show while big-sister Louise (Gypsy) is stuck in the chorus.

Following some “contract disputes,” Rose has no choice but to put a reluctant Louise in the spotlight. Once there, Louise flourishes and eventually transforms into the world-famous striptease artist Gypsy Rose Lee.

“She was a stripper — but she was a high-class stripper,” said Wilt, who recalls seeing the real Gypsy Rose perform on television.

Over the course of its many revivals, “Gypsy” has collected three Tony Awards and featured such big names as Angela Lansbury, Tyne Daly and the original Mama Rose, Ethel Merman. Daly won a Tony in 1990 for her portrayal of the role.

A nostalgic trip back to a time when vaudeville ruled the American stage, the play also explores some of the darker aspects of the human condition. Jealousy and the loss of innocence are themes addressed within the story. Other prominent themes include ambition, loyalty and family dynamics.

Tomorrow’s performance promises to be an entertaining treat for Broadway fans of all ages. It also makes an excellent date for slackers who haven’t made plans for Valentine’s Day.

To sweeten the deal, any seats available one hour prior to the 8 p.m. showtime will be made available to Cal Poly Students with a valid student ID card as $8 student rush tickets. So now it’s a cheap date. No excuses.

THE MLS CENTRAL COAST SHOWCASE IS COMING TO CAL POLY...

Scheduled to appear (pictured L to R):
Joe Cannon (San Jose), Frankie Hedjuk (Columbus), Jaime Moreno (DC United), Ben Olsen (DC United)

FRIDAY, FEB. 22 - SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES VS. COLUMBUS CREW - 7 P.M.*
SUNDAY, FEB. 24 - SJ EARTHQUAKES VS. D.C. UNITED - 1 P.M.*
ALEX G. SPANOS STADIUM

*Cal Poly Men’s Soccer to scrimmage 2 hours prior to each game

CAL POLY STUDENT PRICING - $6 SINGLE GAME/$10 FOR BOTH
TICKETS ON SALE AT THE BOX OFFICE AT THE REC CENTER OR AT 756-5806
Parisian electronic artist O.Lamm's experiments in pop music, as encompassed especially in his album "Monolith," explore new frontiers for the tired and worn-out genre.

A musical kaleidoscope of deconstructionist thought

Quite possibly the most underrated album of the year, O.Lamm's third full-length, "Monolith," is a juggernaut equal in might to any release by the other French nibblers of 2007. Whereas Ed Banger强men Justicé and Sebastian slam the listener into a rock-solid wall, O.Lamm nips it ever, leaving you no choice but to dig yourself out of the rubble.

O.Lamm is Oliver Lamm, a Parisian outsider in the electronic world who has, until recently, only released albums on the small French label Active Suspension. While most French electronic artists and DJs follow in the lines of Daft Punk, O.Lamm ventures into unfamiliar territory; deconstructing pop songs with systematic precision. "Genius Box," the second track on the album, begins with a build-up that lasts well over two minutes. The anticipation is intense. But rather than getting to what would normally be the "meat" of a classic pop song, O.Lamm decides to dissect, examine and re-examine the lead-up (which is usually overlooked).

The other songs on the album follow the same methodology. The typical verse-chorus-verse structure is abandoned, and in its place are pop sensibilities being sampled and sequenced through a sort of stream-of-consciousness song-making process. The results are brief pop moments whose edges are magnified and brought into focus.

What makes these experiments in pop music so successful is the beautiful production of the album. While these songs are not hipster club jams, the bass hits with just as much thump. The steady, low-end swing that pushes "Return of the Night Goat" is offset by another layer of high-frequency clicks and cuts, which makes the sonic palette of the song both diverse and balanced. Every discrete sound element that makes up each song is given proper recognition in the mix. While listening to tracks like "The Maguffin," it's as if each individual sound rests in its own bubble and could be picked out with one's fingers. Everything is crystal-clear and at no point, despite the complexity of the songs, is the mix muddy. Each track sparkles as every frequency is exploited with the utmost clarity.

"Monolith," in its focused approach to experimentation, brings new life to the tired and worn-out pop song. While the idea of restraining a pop song to minimal parts is not new, O.Lamm's careful sonic deconstruction of those parts is unique. The real pleasure of this album comes from listening to the details. The kaleidoscope of sound and space that "Monolith" studies gives a structure to the parts in order to better understand the whole.

Paul Caiuhoi is an architecture junior and music director for KCPR, San Luis Obispo, 91.3 FM. He's also completely full of it.

SUMMER OF YOUR LIFE! CAMP WAYNE FOR GIRLS!

Northeast Pennsylvania. If you love children and want a caring, fun environment, we need Counselors and Instructors for our summer camp.

We will be on the Cal Poly campus February 18th to conduct interviews. Call 1-215-944-3069 or apply at www.campwaynegirls.com

Select The Camp That Selects The Best Staff!
Write a letter

"Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, punctuation, and length. Letters, commentaries, and cartoons do not represent the views of the writers. Letters may not exceed 250 words. Letters should include the writer's full name, phone number, major and class standing. Letters must come from a Cal Poly e-mail account. Do not send letters as an attachment. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.

By e-mail

mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com

By mail

Letters to the Editor
Build 33 Room 226
Cal Poly, SLO, CA 93407

Electability equation isn't calculus

Nicky Berman

DAILYPennsylvania (L. PENN)

Journalists, pundits and candidates are engaging in the political calculus of finding the perfect electable candidate, offering their best arguments about why their candidate is most likely to win the presidency.

As the Democratic nomination battle rages on, those of us voting in the back of the heat are coming to the refreshing realization that our votes might actually matter. Indeed, it's likely that come April 22 (Pennsylvania's day of no return), both Obama and Clinton will still be wrestling for every vote.

In our newfound state of power as Pennsylvanians, we're all but destined to play a role in landing a candidate of our party in office. We can't help but feel tempted to jump on the electability bandwagon, heed the endless debates about who's likely to beat the opposition and rely on this make-believe measure to determine how we vote.

But there's a problem: The electability equation is not calculus, and there is no reliable way for any of us — including the pros — to identify the more electable candidate.

As Paul Herron, a political science professor at the University of Maryland, explained to me, experts generally rely on several indicators to predict electability: image, message, resources, free media coverage, ads by independent groups, voters' predispositions and distribution of support— in the states. But, he added, these measures are unreliable and don't offer definite answers.

Georgetown political science professor Jim Len- gle echoed this sentiment. "Electability is a useful term," he says, "but any sort of measure of it is inaccurate."

Sure, we can toss around poll numbers that claim one thing or another about the general electorate. But as we've learned this year more than ever, polls can't be trusted (think Clinton versus Obama in New Hampshire last month).

And history agrees: In March of 2004, John Kerry was slaughtering Bush in the general election polls. But on July 18, 2008, former Governor Mike Du­ kas was slamming Bush the Elder. If you haven't heard of Dukakis, take that as an indication of just how unreliable polls can be — especially those conducted months in advance.

Poll data aside, both Democratic campaigns propose compelling arguments about why their candidate trumps in electability. "Obama's policy proposals, as well as his approach to governing, can bring all kinds of people together — the bluest of blue states, but also independents and Republi­cans," asserted AJ Schiera, College junior and co-founder of Penn Students for Obama. "He's able to be competitive in all fifty states." Patrick Bauer, freshman and Penn for Hill­ary's membership director, argues that Clinton's diverse coalition of support — which includes Latinos, single women, white men and youth — makes her most electable. "And she's ineradicable," Bauer added. "Republican have been throbbing attacks at her for 15 years and she's standing today.

With all these persuasive arguments swimming around, we can't be sure which holds the most water, what will occur in the nine months before the election to alter these electability equations, or whose theory will bear fruit come November. As such, Leogle admitted, "Having your vote on electability is a dicey proposition."

So I beg you; do not vote for who you believe will be the most electable vote for who you believe will make the best president.

Grant, we can't be sure who will be, either.

But in casting a vote, sorting out your own personal preferences seems to be a much wiser strategy than attempting to predict the voting be­havior of the entire American electorate.
Politics: both sides of the fence

Your voice, your choice, our future

LEANING LEFT

Thank you Rachel Glas

I just wanted to thank Rachel Glas for her article on being a vegetarian at Cal Poly.

Like Glas, I have been a vegetarian for over seven years, and I rarely bring up the topic, given the lack of transparency and vast amounts of secrecy have left me jaded, but still I have hope. It's easy to deny the corruption and continue to sip from the silver spoon of ignorance. It's harder to fight, to stand up for our rights and realize that we can make a difference.

However small it may be, and wherever your passion might lie, take a chance and step outside your comfort zone. After all, we often look to our leaders for guidance, but I urge you instead to look within, at your own experiences, for the right direction.

We tend to get caught up in school and work, justifying our lack of activism due to higher priorities. Yes, it is difficult to look beyond our experience here at Cal Poly and recognize where future efforts are most needed, but the two are not mutually exclusive.

Collectively, we share the same goals, and together we can achieve them. You may feel like you can't make a difference alone, but come together with thousands of other students who feel the same way, and you can't help but make an impact.

Because the truth is, everyone does better when everyone does better, and there's no denying that the world is in need of better. So join a club, volunteer at SCS, take a class on sustainability, participate in Kelay for Life, or attend events like Change the Status Quo.

Make the effort to actively engage in the betterment of our future because now is the only time we have to influence its course.

Erica Janoff is an industrial engineering senior, the president of the Cal Poly Democrats and a Mustang Daily liberal column.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Response to 'Leave the meat out of it'

Save a cow, eat a vegetarian.

Steve Sharer
Industrial Engineering Major

Thank you Rachel Glas

I just wanted to thank Rachel Glas for her article on being a vegetarian at Cal Poly.

As a freshman, I realized that in order to achieve a genuinely thorough education, my learning would need to escape classroom walls. Over the past four years, I've been involved in clubs, organizations, campaigns and non-profits, and each individually influenced how I see the world today.

But I also realized how much numbers make an influence. Not just the numbers on the bank slip, either, but more significantly, the number of supporters.

On campus, there are many ways to show support for the causes you believe in, and then there are those that you don't even realize you're supporting. Take, for instance, your job, or more specifically an on-campus job.

You might contest and say, "Wait, now that's not really supporting the organization," but on the contrary, you too are a part of the agenda. Associated Students Inc. (ASI), for example, employs more than 500 students on campus, all of whom are unwittingly supporting ASI's corporate goals.

ASI is a business first, and the voice of the students on campus, all of whom are unwittingly supporting ASI's corporate goals.

As students, we have the opportunity to define our direction.

But when I see groups like students for Barack Obama or events like Focus on the Nation, I know we aren't apathetic. If thousands of students can rally together all across this nation in support of what they believe in, then this is just the start.

These last eight years, the Bush administration has made little effort toward positive change within the country in this area. As a result, I can't help but feel a little cynical about politics as a whole.

I respect others' desire to eat meat, but more significantly, I've found my passion for politics for inspired me to be a leader, because I wanted to discuss things with others and share all the new ideas I was learning about.

This is where the Cal Poly College Republicans (CPRC) came in. Many students were realizing that they couldn't help others become informed about politics around the world as well as issues right here on the Cal Poly campus—the way I became involved in CPRC was actually due to my interest in finding out an ASI referendum advertised in 2004. It then become clear that too often, students are not informed—they are unaware of local and national politicians and issues. Frequently when students do get involved in CPRC, it is because they are drawn to the social aspects. Socializing is important to your college experience, but when you give of yourself and your time, what you get in return is priceless.

I've had the opportunity to know many fine people in this area, such as the mayor of the city, the school board and legislators and elected officials all over the area.

A fear of being labeled prevents many students from getting involved politically, but the thing I've learned is just because you identify with one specific party over another doesn't mean that you have to always tow party lines.

People should be able to have their own ideas and share those ideas within any organization. As I am the president of the College Republicans, I still do every line learning about new cultures.

Being a "Republican," perhaps I have labeled myself as sharing a basic set of ideals with others, but it doesn't mean that I'm less of a Republican if I care about air quality or volunteer at the humane society or consider myself a conventional feminist. I believe that both sides often go too far with their blatant labeling of one another and constant partisan politics.

America is not about parties, it's about the freedoms to have different opinions and share those opinions in order to form a better society. In the same vein, one of the biggest mistakes that politicians make is trying to please all facets of their party by not being straightforward about who they are.

Clear example of this lies within the Mitt Romney campaign. His speech that suspended his campaign was eloquent, direct and showed his true intentions, devotion to America, as well as his devotion to God and his family. It was extremely inspirational—perhaps if he had given that speech earlier (minus the campaign suspension part), people would have been more inclined to get out and vote for him. Republican voter turnout is low and the party is divided, so there are no motivating or reliable candidates, or no candidates who chose to be frank with the American people soon enough.

The future may seem uncertain for Republicans, but I hope that when I move on, my commitment to the College Republicans will continue to rub off on other students so they can keep it going for the sake of their peers, the campus, the community and themselves.

Christina Glocpe is a social sciences senior, president of the Cal Poly College Republicans and a Mustang Daily conservative columnist.
Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

HARRIS DATES AN OLDER WOMAN

HOM, CINDY, WE NEED GREAT SEATS

WHO, YEAR, I GOT THEM FROM MY HUSBAND WHO DIVORCE

THERE SEEM ALL THE GREAT PLAYERS IN PERSON. NO, ROSE, SHAG, DUNCAN, GARNETT...

...BIRD, DR. J., KAREEM, WALT...

SAD, HOW OLD IS THIS WOMAN?

Last Ditch Effort by John Kroes

ALBERT, YOU WENT OFF THE ISL, YOU KNOW, YOU'RE LUCKY I CALL YOU UP HERE, YOU KNOW, WITH YOUR COURSES BUT... WITH YOUR COURSES BUT... WITH YOUR COURSES BUT...

Sorry, I can't help you with that, Albert. I'm busy with my own puzzles.

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz
No. 0102

Across
1 Rivera of the original "Chicago" force, in brief
6 "Draggo" force, in brief
10 Or, for which a D.V.M. might work
14 Southwestern sheepherders
15 Mythical king of 88 Huns
16 Press
17 Unending pain
18 Ayatollah of the Huns

24 Actor Tom of "Amadeus"
25 Bialy flavorer
26 Some court testes
28 Violinist Schneider
29 Le Figaro article
30 Epigram
31 Curtain puller of a "Chicago" joke in an I.M.
32 See 65-Down
33 "Come here often?" e.g.
34 Wrap up by 65-Down
35 Chewy candy
36 River to the Southwestern blinds
37 Former Swedish chief Kofi
38 River to the Rhone
39 Beau
40 City north of "Chicago"
41 What to do after completing this puzzle, with four straight lines
42 Any acetate, as in film
43 Pope after John XXIII
44 Children's author Blyton and others
45 Chef Whitmore, e.g.
46 Subject of Richard III
47 Japanese leader of the 1960s
48 "The Gift of the Magi" gift
49 "Chicago" of P. D. O. T
50 Instruments for drawing angles
51 Ample shoe width
52 Promoted
53 Spanish skating figures
54 Cain vis-à-vis Abel
55 _______ Lama
56 Green of the original "Chicago"
57 Freshmen
58 Berlin cry
59 Beau
60 Be irtclined
61 "Yeast!
62 Response to a 32-Across
63 Like some hands
64 _______ Gay (W.W. 1 plane)
65 Some votes
66 Some votes
67 China company
68 Some votes
69 "Carn of "Los & Clark"
70 China company
71 Sexy
72 Dry
73 Jim-dandy
74 Down
1 Half a dance
2 Keep all to oneself
3 New issue on Wall St.
4 Color family
5 Sanctuary
6 Dragon's early video game
7 Central courts
8 Alternative if things go wrong
9 Bread for brunch?
10 Order to attack, with "on"
11 Made a killing, with "no"
12 Individually owned apartment
13 Former U.N. chief Kofi
14 Multiple-choice choices
15 Kind of appraisal of "Amadeus"
16 Some court attire
17 Violinist Schnieder, informally

Down
1 Half a dance
2 Keep all to oneself
3 New issue on Wall St.
4 Color family
5 Sanctuary
6 Dragon's early video game
7 Central courts
8 Alternative if things go wrong
9 Bread for brunch?
10 Order to attack, with "on"
11 Made a killing, with "no"
12 Individually owned apartment
13 Former U.N. chief Kofi
14 Multiple-choice choices
15 Kind of appraisal of "Amadeus"
16 Some court attire
17 Violinist Schnieder, informally

For answers, call 1-800-285-5656, $1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

Solution, tips, and computer program at www.sudoku.com

Anniversary Crossword Puzzles: www.nytimes.com/learning/xwords

PUZZLE SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE

CONTACT MUSTANG DAILY ADVERTISING

(805) 756-1143
Hanson, shown here in Cal Poly's 66-44 win over Mendoza College on Dec. 2, played at Vermont and St. Cloud State before transferring to Cal Poly.

Hanson

continued from page 16

Bromley and the Mustangs coaching staff jumped at the chance to add him. "At St. Cloud State, he was playing and doing well," Bromley said. "But at the same time he was thinking, 'I'm a D-1 player,' so he put some feels out."

Hanson, who had to redshirt in 2005-06, has since become "an ambassador to (the Cal Poly) basketball program," Bromley says.

In November 2007, Hanson's brother, David Hanson, a senior 6-foot-6 wing also from Maranatha, signed a national letter of intent to play at Cal Poly.

"I'm glad he made his decision to come out here," Matt Hanson said. "Academically and sports-wise, it's a great opportunity to come out here."

For now, Hanson, 23, is focused on helping the Mustangs (9-13, 4-6 Big West) prepare for the conference tournament held in Anaheim from March 12 to 15 after they play out their seven remaining regular-season games.

The biology major plans to graduate in the spring and says he would like to try to play professionally overseas, possibly in Australia.

Having traveled so much, it seems he should have no trouble making himself at home wherever he may land.

"I've been on the East Coast and lived in the Midwest, but this is such a great place to live and a great school," Hanson said of Cal Poly. "Obviously I've been around, and I'm really glad I made the move I did."

Clemens

continued from page 16

The case against Roger Clemens and his former assistant coach Billy McMillon is winding through federal courts.

The former New York Yankees pitcher Roger Clemens walks with his attorney Rusty Hardin on Capitol Hill on Tuesday, February 12, 2008. Former New York Yankees pitcher Roger Clemens walks with his attorney Rusty Hardin on Capitol Hill on Tuesday.

Find it.  Buy it.  Rent it.  Work it.

DoItDaily Mustang Daily Classifieds

Place a classified ad visit mustangdaily.net click on Ad info, Classifieds

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

CONSTRUCTION
ESTIMATOR ASSIST. General Engineering firm in Santa Maria is seeking a student P/T for assist. in bidding, construction law, interpreting plans & specs, take offs, sub bids, scheduling. Flexible hours. 14798@calpoly.edu 922-4366

FLASH DESIGNER experienced in Flash/Photoshop/Illustrator for Admissions Office. Email ecoms@calpoly.edu for interview/questions.

Mustang Daily Classifieds

Online and in print! www.mustangdaily.net/classifieds

HELP WANTED

Video Editor Ever cut your own movie? Admissions Office is looking for a video editor to support the development of multimedia marketing tools. Work on shoots of alumni, students, and faculty. Edit footage for marketing campaigns with yearly audiences of 90K+ people. Experience in Adobe Premiere/AfterEffects or similar software is preferred. Will train if motivation level is high. Email ecoms@calpoly.edu for an interview or questions.

PLACE your ad today! Visit our website or call (805) 756-1143

HOUSING


Condo For Rent Near downtown, 2 brms, 1 1/2 baths, No pets. $1600/month 805-539-0949, or e-mail rproperties16@gmail.com


ANNOUNCEMENTS

Change the Status Quo: A Student's Role in Shaping Society Chumash Auditorium on February 15-16 Join us in educating and networking activists on multiple issues, bringing together people who share a passion for making a difference in their community and the world. Challenge stereotypes, demand solutions, and use education to make lasting changes. See the website for more info: www.studentlife.calpoly.edu/CSQ Register at UU 217 www.mustangdaily.net/classifieds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Unlimited yoga classes $90 for 90 days. Smiling Dog Yoga 546-9101. 1227 Archer St. www.smilingdogyogaSL0.com

LOST AND FOUND

LOST Monthly Planner - Reward - black zippered planner w/address book lost on campus Dec 2007 finals. $100 reward. (775) 287-4896

LOST Fat gray cat Heron Hall/Stadium area. Eddie CP Cat Program 441-5293

FOUND Black women's gloves in Ag Bldg 10. Contact Oliver (805) 215-6234
Truly a laker at heart

Forward from Minnesota makes mark hitting big shots, stretching defenses for Cal Poly

Donovan Aird

Matt Hanson stepped to the line Thursday night knowing full well he hadn’t made a free throw in a game for more than three weeks. There were only 1.4 seconds left, and if he could make one this time, his team would probably win.

As 1,676 people nervously looked on, Hanson went in his mind to his favorite fishing spot, Clubhouse Lake in his home state of Minnesota. His second try fell through the net like aunker cast into the water, giving the Cal Poly men’s basketball team a 57-56 win over UC Irvine.

“Fundamentally, my shot’s fine,” Hanson says. “For some reason free throws are all mental for me. I just have to get out of that mental block, relax and visualize myself being there.”

Hanson, who has shot 36.2 percent from the charity stripe during the season, arrived at his solution with the help of team psychologist Jeff Tresch.

“(Tresch) said, ‘Matt, it’s not whether you make or miss them — it’s the process, what you think about.’ Cal Poly center Travis Bumley said. ‘You can’t be thinking about, ‘I’ve got to make this basket.’ It’s like throwing a rock in a lake. That way he’s not thinking anything.”

While Hanson has freed his mind at the free-throw line, it’s the Mustangs’ opponents who’ve had to think of ways to match up with the 6-foot-7,220-pound senior forward who shoots 42.9 percent from the 3-point line.

“He’s versatile,” Bumley says. “He’s got a nice jump hook, can stretch defenses a little bit — he’s an unselfish person, and really positive. Guys really like him as a teammate.”

The Plymouth, Minn., native has shot 51.4 percent overall from the floor in averaging 8.4 points and 5.4 rebounds this season. His latter average ranks 10th in the Big West Conference, and all of the players above him play more minutes per game than he does.

Perhaps his most memorable college basketball moment came Jan. 28, at Pacific, when he hit a 3-point shot from the top of the arc with under two minutes remaining to break a 59-59 tie, giving the Mustangs a permanent lead in their 69-64 win nationally televised on ESPN2.

On Thursday, the Mustangs didn’t seem to be overly concerned with their teammate’s free-throw woes.

“Free-throw shooting is all mental,” Cal Poly center Tim Shelton said. “We had confidence in Matt. That’s where you want to be at the end of a game.”

Hanson’s own deep-rooted assurance goes back to Maranatha High, where he was an all-state selection as a senior, when he posted 23.4 points and 10.1 rebounds per game.

From there, Hanson began his college career at Vermont, for which he played 22 games in 2003-04. In the first round of the NCAA Tournament, he went 3 for 3 from the floor on behalf of the Catamounts in nine minutes off the bench for seven points in a 70-53 loss to eventual national champion Connecticut, which boasted five future NBA players, including stars Emeke Okafor and Derick ROss.

Hanson then transferred closer to home, to Division II St. Cloud State in St. Cloud, Minn., where he started 27 games in 2004-05, averaging 9.7 points and 5.9 rebounds per game before transferring again, the second time to Cal Poly.

“I actually never saw the school until committing out here,” Hanson said. He explained he first heard about the school through Mitch Olmstead, who played at Cal Poly before transferring to Minnesota in 1997.

“He told me he knew coach Bumley well, and that’s how it all came to be,” Hanson says.

see Hanson, page 15