Cuesta College may lose accreditation

Marlize van Rensburg  
MUSTANG DAILY

Cuesta College is working hard to redeem itself over the next few months after being placed on a warning status by its accreditation commission. The college was officially warned in January by the Accreditation Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) to heed its recommendations for improvement or risk losing accreditation altogether.

Cuesta performed an in-depth self-study in March 2003, and an apparently unsatisfactory response by the school. The ACCJC decided during its January meeting to warn the school that it was at risk of losing accreditation.

In its first move toward fulfilling that promise, the college welcomed its new president, David Pelham, to its ranks Monday.

The ACCJC, which is part of the larger Western Association of Schools and Colleges, is the accrediting body for private and public two-year colleges. According to the commission's Web site, "accreditation is the process for evaluating and assuring the quality of education used by the American higher education community."

"A warning is issued when the commission finds that an institution has pursued a course of action which deviates from the commission's eligibility criteria, standards of accreditation, or policy to an extent that raises a concern regarding the ability of the institution to meet accreditation standards," according to the ACCJC Web site.

A letter from the commission to Cuesta on Jan. 31 warned that "institutions out of compliance with standards or on sanction are expected to correct deficiencies within a two-year period or the commission must take action to terminate accreditation." Pelham said that despite the serious tone of the warning, he thought it "unlikely" that Cuesta's accreditation would be affected in the future.

"There are some issues the accreditation commission wants us to address and we're working on that," he said. He noted that there are approximately 20 other junior colleges in California currently facing the same situation as Cuesta.

"It would by highly unusual for a college to lose accreditation over something like this," Pelham continued. "Without accreditation, Cuesta would no longer be eligible for federal financial aid, and — most significantly in relation to Cal Poly — lower-division credits would no longer be transferable from the junior college.

Cuesta first faced reprimand in 2003, when it was forewarned that certain problems could place its accreditation in jeopardy if not addressed.

Cuesta performed an in-depth self-study in 2002, wherein it recognized that it needed to enhance communication within the college; improve professional development for faculty, staff and managers; strengthen efforts to diversify its faculty and staff; and generally improve college procedures, including its quality of education.

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High school students get a good look at Cal Poly
Brian McMullen 11/07/08

A Cal Poly alumnus, Estilo in Agriculture, gave high school students from economically disadvantaged schools in San Luis Obispo County a preview of the university's agricultural offerings last week.

Together with the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES), the cub hosted the 20th annual 20 Hours of Science and Technology in Agriculture event last Thursday and Friday.

The conference brought together 140 students from 13 California high schools. Estilo in Agriculture advised and educational and communications department chair Robert Flores said the event occurs because "we want our student population to immerse the pupils of California and do a 20-hour tour of CAFES last week.

"It was a great look at Cal Poly," said Agriculture science senior Barbara Murrell. "It is literally across the hall from where the students are shown of beef being butchered, permeates the air," English lecturer Bill Feldman said in an e-mail interview. Since there are two windows in this "classroom," we are faced with either silencing or opening the door and being revolved by the smell... Even though it takes about 18 students comfortably..." Flores dock.

"I was in the smallest classroom I've ever seen; it had no windows and no ventilation," English lecturer Jennifer Ashley said of room 204.

"And we were in the middle of a 90-degree heat wave! Moving from the already hot classrooms into this classroom, you could feel a classrophicus, temperature increase of at least five degrees, which caused everyone to melt in their seats. Also, the building was under construction and had no bathrooms," Ashley said.

Since summer 2007, major building renovations on campus added noise and dust to the already uncomfortable room. "It was either suffocate with the door closed, or inhale..." she said.

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The differences between certain classes at Cal Poly are drastic. Professors scramble to secure the smart classrooms to avoid teaching in a "closed" or a "big, ugly, boring room," the classroom shortage, combined with a lack of smart rooms has many Cal Poly professors frustrated.

"I have definitely seen a vast discrepancy between learning outcomes when equipped with a smart room vs. a small classroom. I am nothing but an overhead that projects to the class," Ashley said. "Reporting the equipment, setting it up in three different classrooms every day, and logging it around campus is not feasible on a regular basis.

During the peak periods of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., when most students want to take classes, room availability is extremely limited and professors are required to teach in the smaller, less comfortable smart room versus ill-equipped classrooms. When professors are placed in a bad room, they say it can be difficult to change classrooms.

"Changing rooms is a nightmare," political science professor Susan LeBitte said. "We can request rooms ahead of time (at least we can request smart rooms and a certain room size), but more often than not, we don't get what we ask for. It's a little easier to get a good room if we're willing to teach during off-peak hours, which means either at 7 a.m. or 6 p.m."

Despite the growing number of smart rooms on campus, many faculty members say they are still frustrated with the ones they are assigned to.

"Of all the institutions of higher learning at which I have taught (UVA, NYU, Niagara University, and Webster University), Cal Poly's classrooms are hands-down the filthiest and worst equipped," said Brian Kencik, associate professor and department chair of modern languages and literatures. "There seems to be a huge disconnect between what we claim to be Best in the West and reality."

Cuesta continued from page 1

ACJC reviewed that self-study report in January 2003, and reaffirmed Cuesta's accreditation, but strongly suggested the college strengthen its program review and unit planning processes and take appropriate action to assure the timely-in terms of review program with its budget and priority-setting processes.

Even with those four years to improve, Cuesta's most recent progress report and on-site visit on Nov. 6, 2007 found many of the same problems still unaddressed, echoing almost verbatim the same language of its previous recommendation in its letter to the college on Jan. 31, 2008.

"You think you're making the right decisions and being responsive to the commission's recommendations, until one day a visiting team shows up and says maybe you weren't interpreting those recommendations correctly," said Pelham, who comes to Cuesta with nearly two decades of community college administration experience.

The ACCJC team further noted that out of Cuesta's 10 senior administrator positions, six were interim and one was vacant at the time of the visit, and that then-Interim President Ed Maddah was also doubting an Interim Vice President for Student Learning. Pelham replaced Maddah as Cuesta's new president on March 23, 2008.

Now fully armed with a new president at the helm, Cuesta is working hard to meet the requirements of the ACCJC by filling the remaining vacancies by June 30, and refining its budget priorities and academic program development processes.

"Commission standards are very broad," Pelham explained. "It's a great deal of work to make sure all the requirements of the commission are met. My job as president is to make sure the checks and balances are in place, but it's a huge, campus-wide effort to maintain those standards."

"Even so, he's optimistic about leading Cuesta through its current unstable stage and back to solid, accredited greatness.

"This is just one of those phases you sometimes you go through in the accreditation cycle," he explained. "It's a situation you hope you don't find yourself in, but we're always working to try and uphold those accreditation standards and to try to meet the recommendations the commission sets for us for accreditation.

"The challenge will be staying on target, and making sure we don't lose sight of our long-term goals."
In 2008, Iraq war will cost $72 billion a month

Pharmaceuticals in drinking water affecting wildlife and humans

Jeff Donn, Martha Mendoza and Justin Priestland

A vast array of pharmaceuticals — including antibiotics, anti-convulsants, mood stabilizers and sex hormones — have been found in the drinking water supplies of at least 41 million Americans, an Associated Press investigation shows.

To be sure, the concentrations these pharmaceuticals were measured in quantities of parts per billion or trillion, far below the levels of a medical dose. But they are nonetheless detected in tap water systems.

While the presence of so many prescription drugs — and over-the-counter medicines like antacids and aspirin — is generally known, the finding of pharmaceuticals in drinking water raises questions about their effects on wildlife, fish and even humans.

The situation is undoubtedly worse than generally perceived, because they don’t encompass many “hidden” items in the US budget.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office suggests two scenarios, one in which US troop levels in Iraq and Afghanistan drop sharply and early — to 30-40K by 2012 — and a second in which the drawdown is more gradual, ending during that period but paid for later, such as equipment replaced in post-2017 budgets.

The CBO figures that the category of veterans’ medical care and disability payments, where the CBO foresees $9 billion to $13 billion in costs by 2017, Stiglitz and Bilmes estimated would more than double that in 20 years.

The CBO also assumed that $42 billion in funds appropriated this year for Iraq reconstruction and other war-related expenses.

Looking ahead, both the CBO and Stiglitz-Bilmes construct two scenarios, one in which US troop levels in Iraq and Afghanistan drop sharply and early — to 30-40K by 2012 for the CBO, and to 55,000 by 2012 for Stiglitz-Bilmes — and a second in which the drawdown is more gradual.

Significantly, the two studies view different time frames, the CBO calculating possible costs met in the next 10 years, while the Stiglitz-Bilmes study extends the costs incurred during that period but paid for later, such as equipment replaced in post-2017 budgets.

The two economists say their calculations are conservative, because they don’t encompass many “hidden” items in the US budget. Their basic projections also exclude the potentially huge de-risk-service cost — on which CBO appear to have based on previous work — and the cost to the US economy of global oil prices that have quadrupled since 2003, an increase analysts blame partly on the Iraq upheaval.

According to the CBO, a full funded 2008 war budget will assemble $17 billion in costs over the lifetime of soldiers who by 2017 will be wounded or otherwise mentally or physically disabled by the war.

“We recognize it is a growing concern and we’re taking it very seriously,” said Benjamin H. Grumbles, assistant administrator for water at the USEPA. “We’re trying to recognize it and work it very seriously,” said Benjamin H. Grumbles, assistant administrator for water at the USEPA.
Chinese police broke up a terror plot targeting the Beijing Olympics, and a flight crew foiled an apparent attempt to crash a Chinese jetliner in a separate case, officials said Sunday.

Wang Lequan, the top Communist Party official in the western region of Xinjiang, said materials seized in an early morning raid in the regional capital, Urumqi, had described a plot with a purpose "specifically to sabotage the staging of the Beijing Olympics."

Their goal was very clear," Wang said. "Police were investigating, he said.

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Chinese officials have said a terrorist group based in Pakistan and following the orders of a Uighur separatist group was labeled a terrorist organization by the United Nations and the United States, East Turkestan is another name for Xinjiang.

China says its main terror threat comes from ETIM. Although the group is not believed to have more than a few dozen members, terrorism experts say it has become influential among extremist groups using the Internet to raise funds and find recruits.

Chinese forces reported raiding an ETIM training camp last year and killing 18 militants allegedly linked to al-Qaeda and the Taliban.

State

CUPERTINO (AP) — Two bicyclists are dead and a third was seriously injured after authorities said a sheriff's deputy plowed into the riders while on patrol in Cupertino.

Santa Clara County Sheriff's Sgt. Don Morrissey said the deputy accidentally crossed over the center line at around 10:25 a.m. Sunday and struck the three cyclists, who were riding the other way.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A man is dead after falling down an elevator shaft during a fight with two other men in a building in San Francisco's Tenderloin district.

Police said the victim's body was recovered from the shaft Sunday morning after he fell late Saturday night and landed on top of the elevator car.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Paramount Pictures will become the first major studio to make clips from thousands of its movies available for use on the Internet.

Paramount’s Pictures will become the first major studio to make clips from thousands of its movies available for use on the Internet.

The service gives Facebook users access to footage from thousands of movies available for use on the Internet.

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — State legislators passed a law Friday and the Senate 39-0. After the explosion, which wounded five soldiers in her unit, Brown ran through insurgent gunfire and used her body to shield wounded comrades as mortars fell 100 yards away, the military said.

International

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela said Sunday that it is reopening its embassy in Colombia and will allow back Colombian diplomats expelled last week by President Hugo Chavez in a crisis sparked by a cross-border Colombian attack on rebels in Ecuador.

The government cited an easing of tensions at a summit in the Dominican Republic on Friday, where President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela and Ecuador's President Rafael Correa shook hands with Colombia's U.S.-backed leader, Alvaro Uribe, after a tense debate.

CAMP SALERNO, Afghanistan (AP) — A 19-year-old medic from Texas will become the first woman in Afghanistan and only the second female soldier since World War II to receive the Silver Star, the nation's third-highest medal for valor.

Army Spc. Monica Lin Brown saved the lives of fellow soldiers after a roadside bomb tore through a convoy of Humvees in the eastern Pakia province in April 2007, the military said.

After the explosion, which wounded five soldiers in her unit, Brown ran through insurgent gunfire and used her body to shield wounded comrades as mortars fell 100 yards away, the military said.

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Beginning last Friday and continuing through Sunday, San Luis Obispo will buzz with a little slice of Hollywood. This year marks the 14th annual San Luis Obispo International Film Festival, an event that showcases several films and special events.

The films showcased at the festival are a variety of both new, contemporary films from around the world as well as older films. The county will also host hundreds of visiting filmmakers.

Movie screenings, which began last Saturday, feature independent films from several different genres, including arts, politics, sports and romantic comedies. After each of the screenings, there will be public question-and-answer sessions.

The films are from more than 12 different countries and many were entered into the George Sidney Independent Film Competition. Awards for the competition will be presented Saturday.

“This is the first time in the festival’s history that we’ve been able to fly people in from other countries to take part in the festivities,” festival director Wendy Eidson said.

The 1969 film “Easy Rider,” co-starring and produced by Peter Fonda, will be one of the highlighted films at the festival. Fonda will be honored with the King Vidor Career Achievement Award at the festival this year.

“Easy Rider” will be fun for people to watch for the first time or see again on the big screen at the Fremont Theatre, Eidson said.

The award will be presented following the George Sidney Independent Film Competition and the event will begin at 7:30 p.m. This red-carpet event costs $25 for students and film society members, and $45 for nonmembers.

Another major red carpet event is Surf Night, which will be held at 7:30 p.m. Thursday. The event will be at the beach, a prominent surfing filmmaker.

His film, “Surfing the 50’s” will be shown at the Fremont Theatre; a question-and-answer session and a beach-themed party will follow. Other screening landmarks, such as Gerry Lopez, Walter Hoffman, Linda Benson and Jack McCoy will attend. The event costs $25 for the general public and $20 for students and film society members.

“I think Surf Night will be a big success. It’s a culture, not just a sport, and these people are cultural icons,” Eidson said.

There will also be a variety of panels and workshops that include meeting filmmakers, acting for the camera and stunt work with the pros. Tickets for all workshops will be sold at the door for $50.

The most exciting addition to the festival will be the Hollywood and Vines series, which will showcase five movies at different venues throughout the area. One of these events will be the Western Night in Paso Robles, which will feature the 1972 film “The Cowboys,” starring John Wayne. These events cost $20 for the public, and $15 for students and film society members.

Other festival highlights include the screening of a short film directed by Josh Belkin called “X” and a sing-along version of the film “La Bamba.” The event will be followed by a costume and hair-do contest.

“Every year when the filmmakers come they submit their films because they want to come visit San Luis Obispo. It’s a beautiful area, and we’re just trying to capitalize on it as much as possible,” Eidson said.

Passes for the event can be purchased in four different ways. Individual tickets to screenings can be purchased on a first come, first serve basis for $9 for the public and $7 for students and film society members.

There are also three different passes that can be purchased. The film festival pass costs $45 and pays for any six screenings for one individual or any three screenings for two individuals. The movie star pass costs $65 and includes all screenings as well as panels and workshops. The movie mogul pass costs $150 and pays for a full-access pass to all screenings as well as all workshops, addition panels, red carpet and Hollywood and Vines events.

For more information about festival events and passes, visit www.dolfinfest.org.

I’m always on my grind. I ain’t got time to count sheep. So I’ll take these pills and start a life without sleep.

America’s tank is on empty. We have so many different energy-inducing products on the market, seemingly people don’t stay awake on their own anymore. For real, America’s getting pretty damn ridiculous.

One upon a time there was a magical drink called Jolt Cola. It used to keep me wired as I kicked as and saved small children in the arcade game version of Michael Jackson’s “Moonwalker.” Then these other soft drinks came out and hit Jolt’s steere. Now we have energy beer, which is a really funny concept. People used to turn to beer when they had a rough day and wanted to sit on the couch with their man panties and shoes untied. Now it’s that thing people turn to when they’re too tired to go out but don’t want to miss the “wear a pajama and share your candy” party.

What better place is there to get the feel of the body needs than where you feel up your hoopy? When you’re checking out at convenience stores, lottery tickets, novelty lights shaped like handbags and super energy pills in neon packages (or colored to look like humble bees) are staring you in the face, daring you to take a ride on their crazy train.

Next to those are the foil packets of energy gooo or paste or jelly or whatever the hell that stuff is called. Just imagine this product’s spokesperson: “I prefer to rub it on my tired muscles and let my body absorb its electric magnetism.”

Next to those are the energy shots that promise five hours of energy. “To literally jump-start my day, I’ll inject this fine product straight into my thighs.”

With the energy drink and alcohol-mixing trend going on (Caution: your heart hates you for drinking all of those Yegerbombs and Pithills) I wouldn’t be surprised if people started dying from upping the ante. “First, you’re gonna drop this energy shot into this glass of Rockstar. Then, chug it and shoot this vodka. Then, snort this line of cracked-up energy pills, pound this, create a shake, take this bong, and sip on this non-fat, non-dairy mocha-latte-a-chino. It’s called a ‘tried by lightning’.”

Everyone’s caffeine tolerance must be going up, too, because Pepsi and Coca-Cola felt it necessary to release products with more of the drug in them. It’s like caffeine addiction is not a problem; it’s a lifestyle. Students know exactly what I mean, especially being that it’s “so tired and wired, I’m technically dead” week. I say we make Friday of dead week “zombie day” and all come to campus wearing tattered clothes shot into this glass of Rockstar. Then, chug it and shoot this vodka. Then, snort this line of cracked-up energy pills, pound this, create a shake, take this bong, and sip on this non-fat, non-dairy mocha-latte-a-chino. It’s called a ‘tried by lightning’.”

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Trendasaurus

continued from page 1

and fake blood.

Back to extreme energy products, I made a major discovery this weekend! There are energy-inducing lollipops for sale at gas stations. That's right, you can now suck on raw electricity. Pretty soon, the typical day will consist of a steady supply of energy supplements. Wake up, shower with calcified soap, brush teeth with energy toothpaste, eat a Powerbar for breakfast, chew on energy gum and drink energy water all day. We might as well walk around with Camelback backpacks hooked up to IVs of caffeine.

I'm not saying energy supplements are all bad. I wrote this wired on coffee after daylight-savings time stole an hour of my life (they should just have it on April 1 every year, that way I can laugh when the time on my cell phone fools me and I'm late for something). I'm saying that this trend is growing beyond healthy bounds. Do we really need energy suckers? If the answer is yes, maybe we need to re-evaluate our workload.

So have a productive dead week, you procrastinating slackers, and...Garrett also

Dustin Stone

Marvel Comics' release of a new miniseries created by Jack Kirby, the late "King of Comics," should be enough to throw the salivary glands of all of fandom into overdrive. That is, until they actually get their sweaty, little hands on "Galactic Bounty Hunters." The six-part miniseries, based on notes and characters created by "The King" in the 1980s, makes for good eye-candy for fans of the Kirby style. Aside from some old-fashioned camp, the storyline is about a lackluster and contrived as an episode of "Full House." The books were written by Kirby's daughter, Lisa, who teamed up with artist Michael Thibodeaux, writer Steve Robertson and editor Richard Frenche to flesh-out Kirby's notes.

Prior to this project, Lisa had never written a comic book, and her inexperience shows on every page. To put it succinctly: I knew Jack Kirby. I read Jack Kirby. Jack Kirby was a hero of mine. You, ma'am, are no Jack Kirby.

"GBH" follows the story of Garrett, a brash, teenage boy who gives his father, Jack Berkley (creator of the beloved "Galactic Bounty Hunters" comics in this world) no respect. Garrett believes his dad is nothing more than a drone, who chooses to spend his life in a fantasy world rather than seeking real adventure.

Little does he know, the stories are all true accounts of Berkley's exploits as one of the universe's greatest peacekeepers. And, oh yeah ... Garrett also dreams of being the world's greatest magician. That plus a device doesn't seem forced at all right?

Along the way, Garrett is kidnapped by an evil space monster (who comes across as a bastardization of Savage Dragon and Lobo). Berkley is forced out of retirement and "the old band gets back together."

What follows is a syrupy-sweet, thinly veiled morality tale that teaches kids to respect their parents because of the sacrifices they make to raise them in a safe and loving environment. If one can get past the awkward dialogue and done-to-death plotline, the books have some nostalgic value.

The art is truly reminiscent of Kirby's style. It definitely stands apart from the highly stylized, over-produced comics currently on the market. However, there are many circumstances where the out-of-date character design clashes with writing that desperately tries to be current and edgy.

The best writing in the series comes via the tran­

sections between chapters. Narrations like, "The fabled 11th Squad is now ready to plunge the world of righteousness deep into the toro of evil itself..." are the stuff that make for kitschy, nerdy wet dreams.

Unfortunately, that kind of gourmet cheese is often outweighed by bad puns and even worse pans. I guess the ultimate ques­tion is: Would I buy these books if they had not been sent to me to review? Unfortu­nately, the answer is "yes," but only be­cause I am a major nerd who likes to waste my money on campy junk. Don't be like me, kids.

TRENDASURUS

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SKYDIVE TAFT

Reminiscent of Jack Kirby's style, the art in "Galactic Bounty Hunter" stands on its own, but the story lacks depth.

The best writing in the series comes via the transections between chapters. Narrations like, "The fabled 11th Squad is now ready to plunge the world of righteousness deep into the toro of evil itself..." are the stuff that make for kitschy, nerdy wet dreams.

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Focus on the homefront**

I find it disgusting that the university is even considering supporting other universities, for shoddy discriminatory ones, while our own labs and faculty continue to suffer. To add insult to injury, they expect our overworked and underpaid faculty to support this deal? I find it disgusting that the university is even considering supporting other universities, for shoddy discriminatory ones, while our own labs and faculty continue to suffer. To add insult to injury, they expect our overworked and underpaid faculty to support this deal? I find it disgusting that the university is even considering supporting other universities, for shoddy discriminatory ones, while our own labs and faculty continue to suffer. To add insult to injury, they expect our overworked and underpaid faculty to support this deal? I find it disgusting that the university is even considering supporting other universities, for shoddy discriminatory ones, while our own labs and faculty continue to suffer. To add insult to injury, they expect our overworked and underpaid faculty to support this deal?

**Ashley Evans**

Aerospace engineering senior

**Religious image goes too far**

I believe in freedom of speech and freedoms of the press, but I must post a strong complaint. Your article "Religious Art" about Mark Bryan’s painting had several unacceptable parts. In particular, the picture of the "Mona-lisa-like figure" was over the top. And you had to make it the biggest one in the paper. This kind of article creates hatred, disappointment and division. It’s fine to have lively discussion. But we have enough division in this country at the moment due to the political stuff going on. We need unifying stuff, not hate-generating stuff.

**Dan Malone**

Mathematics lecturer

**Clarification on misleading PETA column**

Please allow me to respond to the misleading March 5 column by Jacki DeMarchi — for whom, incidentally, PETA has no record of membership. PETA is proud to be a "shelter of last resort" for elderly, sick, aggressive, and injured animals — those whom we so-called "no kill" shelters often turn their backs on. We also provide a peaceful, painless release to animals whose human guardians cannot afford to take them to a veterinarian for euthanasia. We refer almost all adoptable animals to veterinary homes. Every person who goes vegetarian after seeing what PETA does for animals will ultimately shut the ranch down for good. With a little monetary aid, Sunny Acres will finally be able to produce an environment reflecting city standards and the local community will no longer face such a negative stigma on the progress made on the ranch.

**Taylor Moore**

Editor-in-chief, Mustang Daily

**Focus on the homefront**

I find it disgusting that the university is even considering supporting other universities, for shoddy discriminatory ones, while our own labs and faculty continue to suffer. To add insult to injury, they expect our overworked and underpaid faculty to support this deal? I find it disgusting that the university is even considering supporting other universities, for shoddy discriminatory ones, while our own labs and faculty continue to suffer. To add insult to injury, they expect our overworked and underpaid faculty to support this deal? I find it disgusting that the university is even considering supporting other universities, for shoddy discriminatory ones, while our own labs and faculty continue to suffer. To add insult to injury, they expect our overworked and underpaid faculty to support this deal? I find it disgusting that the university is even considering supporting other universities, for shoddy discriminatory ones, while our own labs and faculty continue to suffer. To add insult to injury, they expect our overworked and underpaid faculty to support this deal? I find it disgusting that the university is even considering supporting other universities, for shoddy discriminatory ones, while our own labs and faculty continue to suffer. To add insult to injury, they expect our overworked and underpaid faculty to support this deal?

**Ashley Evans**

Aerospace engineering senior

**Religious image goes too far**

I believe in freedom of speech and freedoms of the press, but I must post a strong complaint. Your article "Religious Art" about Mark Bryan’s painting had several unacceptable parts. In particular, the picture of the "Mona-lisa-like figure" was over the top. And you had to make it the biggest one in the paper. This kind of article creates hatred, disappointment and division. It’s fine to have lively discussion. But we have enough division in this country at the moment due to the political stuff going on. We need unifying stuff, not hate-generating stuff.

**Dan Malone**

Mathematics lecturer

**Clarification on misleading PETA column**

Please allow me to respond to the misleading March 5 column by Jacki DeMarchi — for whom, incidentally, PETA has no record of membership. PETA is proud to be a "shelter of last resort" for elderly, sick, aggressive, and injured animals — those whom we so-called "no kill" shelters often turn their backs on. We also provide a peaceful, painless release to animals whose human guardians cannot afford to take them to a veterinarian for euthanasia. We refer almost all adoptable animals to veterinary homes. Every person who goes vegetarian after seeing what PETA does for animals will ultimately shut the ranch down for good. With a little monetary aid, Sunny Acres will finally be able to produce an environment reflecting city standards and the local community will no longer face such a negative stigma on the progress made on the ranch.
Calvin finally came up with a crazy money making scheme that worked.
Senior Night
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left, but Yarwasky hit a 3-pointer on the next possession, and Cal Poly never ceded the lead. Harrison made 9 of 13 free throws en route to 14 points and 10 rebounds for Cal Poly, and sophomore forward Rebecca Tratter was 5 of 11 from the floor while adding 12 points and five rebounds in just 18 minutes. Holloway was 8 of 11 from the floor and 10 of 12 from the charity stripe while accruing a game-high 24 points.
“Shel, obviously, is key to their performance and they look for her all of the time,” Cal Poly head coach Faith Minnaugh said. “We forced a lot of turnovers that gave us the upper hand. She still had a tremendous game, but overall we did a reasonably good job.” Junior guard Tonicia Tademy was 0 of 13 on her way to adding 12 points, six rebounds and five assists in a complete 40 minutes in defeat.
Although they shot a better percentage from the floor, the Mustangs held a 46-30 rebounding advantage while distributing 17 assists to the Matadors’ nine.
Cal State Northridge (1-26, 0-16 Big West) joined Colgate (1-29) and Sam Houston State (1-28) as the only teams in the country with one win; Fordham finished 0-29.
The Matadors made just 8 of 25 shots in the second half and missed 14 of their 15 attempts from 3-point range for the game. The Mustangs, meanwhile, despite being eliminated from contention for a first-round bye in the tournament with their 75-62 loss to Long Beach State on Thursday, are happy to be heading to the postseason on a positive note.
“It’s good momentum for our team and it pumps us up,” Santiago said. “We want to get another win.” Cal Poly’s first game at the Big West Tournament, which is held in Anaheim until Saturday, is at noon Wednesday against UC Irvine (7-23, 3-13). The Mustangs easily swept the Anteaters this season, routing them 92-55 at home on Jan. 12 and then emerging 84-63 on the road Feb. 7.
“All of us in our conference have vendettas out for each other,” Yarwasky said. “I think any team we play is going to be a battle to say the least. We are pretty feisty girls and people know that about us.”

Men
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high nine assists.
Junior center Titus Shelton led the Mustangs (12-17, 7-9) with 12 points on 5-of-7 shooting. Junior guard True Clark (11 points) and freshman guard Shawn Lewis (10) also scored in double figures in the loss.
Cal Poly, which made 16 of its 25 shots before intermission yet just 9 of 35 afterward, was outrebounded 34-31.
The Mustangs took a 21-13 lead on a dunk by senior forward Dreshawn Vance with 10:45 remaining in the opening half but were outscored 30-17 the rest of it. Cal Poly pulled within a point, at 46-45, with 17:34 on a Clark jumper, but Cal State Northridge responded with a 15-2 run over the next two-and-a-half minutes capped by a Field layup to extend the margin to 61-47.
The Matadors, who distributed 23 assists, shot 59.7 percent from the floor overall.
No one from either team played more than 28 minutes as Cal State Northridge’s reserves outscored Cal Poly’s 52-18.
The Mustangs open the Big West Tournament, held in Anaheim through Saturday, at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday against No. 7 seed UC Riverside. Cal Poly split the season series with the Highlanders, falling 62-58 on the road Feb. 2 before claiming a 70-63 overtime win at Mott Gym on Feb. 28.

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CLASSIFIEDS
Women’s tennis team wins fifth of past six matches

Cary Conrado
MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal Poly women's tennis team won the third match of its seven-match home stand at Mustang Courts on Sunday, 5-2 over Pacific. "I think we played really well today," Mustangs head coach Hugh Bream said. "We came back very aggressively to win all three doubles matches."

In singles play, the Mustangs won four of six matches. In the No. 1 slot, Cal Poly's Brittany Blake secured a 7-5 win over Cal State Northridge in its regular-season finale Saturday in Mott Gym on Senior Night to earn the No. 5 seed in the Big West Conference Tournament.

In the final home game of their careers, the victory was especially sweet for seniors Kyla Howell, Sparkle Anderson, Nicole Yarwasky and Toni Newman. "It’s bittersweet," Yarwasky said. "This has been a big part of our life in college and it’s all starting to wind down."

Three players reached new benchmarks in their careers during the game. Junior forward Megan Harrison became the first Mustang to compile 400 points and 200 rebounds in a single season in 21 years, while Anderson played in her 115th collegiate game, a program record.

Freshman forward Kristina Santiago was 7 of 15 from the floor to lead the Mustangs (11-18, 8-8 Big West) with 16 points and 10 rebounds. She also had 15 of five steals and two blocks while amassing her fourth career double-double.

A pair of free throws by Cal State Northridge senior center Katie Holloway pulled the Matadors within 55-50 with 5:22 remaining, but the Mustangs closed the game on a 16-5 run. Cal Poly lagged behind Cal State Northridge for the beginning of the first half until a 3-pointer by sophomore guard Shannon Gholar gave the Mustangs a 19-17 advantage with 9:31 remaining. They wouldn’t relinquish the lead for the rest of the half, which they led 31-28 at the break. A Holloway jumper tied the game at 40 with 11:11 left.

Three Mustangs meet West Regional qualifications

Dufresne, Day, Silva lead eight Cal Poly winners in outdoor opener at UCLA Invitational on Saturday

Eight members of the Cal Poly track and field team won events in Los Angeles on Saturday in the Mustangs' outdoor opener at the UCLA Invitational held at Drake Stadium. Junior Juliana Dufresne won the shot put at 48 feet, 1 1/4 inches and the discus at 137 feet, surpassing the NCAA West Regional qualifying standard in each event.

Other Cal Poly West Regional qualifiers included senior Sharon Day, who cleared 6 feet, 3 inches in the high jump and senior Christine Silva, who pole vaulted 12 feet, 9 1/2 inches. Altogether, the Mustangs won eight events.

Freshman Jasmine Pickett won the women's 200 meters in 25.47 seconds and finished third in the long jump at 18 feet, 7 inches. Sophomore Kevin Jones, who came in third place in the pole vault at 16 feet, 5 inches, won the 110 high hurdles in 15.05, and fellow sophomore M.J. Robinson claimed the 400 hurdles in 57.26.

Cal Poly ends regular season with 30-point loss

Donovan Aird
MUSTANG DAILY

Although the Cal Poly men’s basketball team’s fate as a sixth seed in the Big West Conference Tournament was already set heading into its regular-season finale at Cal State Northridge on Saturday night, it couldn’t have fared much worse in its final tune-up.

The Mustangs hit 16 of 26 attempts from 3-point territory in front of 1,492 at the Matadome while handing the Mustangs a 97-67 loss, their third defeat of the season by at least 30 points and seventh by no fewer than 20. Junior guard Devon Tremvant was 8 of 11 from the floor overall and 5 of 7 from 3-point range to finish with a game-high 21 points for Cal State Northridge (20-9, 12-4). Senior forwards Jonathan Head and Calvin Chitwood chipped in 19 and 17 points, respectively, while junior guard Josh Jenkins made all four of his 3-point attempts on his way to 16 points and a game-