PAGE 2: A basic guide to the ASI presidential candidates

ONLINE: A filmed interview with the candidates

THIS WEEK: In-depth profiles of Melissa, Arvand and Angela
Angela Kramer

I want to be ASI president because...

ASI has the potential to be a representative forum for each and every student at Cal Poly, regardless of background, educational path or political drive to bring we, as a student body, closer to that ideal. I want to bring the student voice back to ASI, and with the collaborative efforts of each entity within the university government, we can do just that.

Primary platform issue

Sustainability is a really important issue, which is why I’ve made it the main focus of this faculty and administrators. For this reason, the idea of creating a “green campus” is a real dream, one that can be achieved at both large- and small-scale levels. First, we need to ensure that there are recycling bins in every classroom, and that people know how to use them. Next, I would like to see a composting program implemented in the computer science faculty dorms. For Cal Poly to become a zero waste campus, the university has already begun to make considerable strides in the direction of green living, and I want to continue to push these materials (for “to go” orders) are either bio-degradable or recyclable — a huge transition from the expanded polyurethane used prior to the change. Small-scale efforts are where we will see the fastest turnover; however, my team and I feel it is necessary to work toward more aggressive policy change. After the executive cabinet, will lobby for a minimum of LEED certification for not only the REC Center expansion, but for all new on-campus facility projects. The CSU system as a whole requires that new facilities meet a minimum of LEED equivalency — we must take the lead and become front-runners in this area.

Work in ASI

I have served on the Board of Directors representing the College of Liberal Arts for two academic years. While on the board I have co-authored a variety of resolutions and bills within student government, we can fully realize the true purpose of their position. I believe that I have represented my college well and truly made an effort to look at all proposals objectively and in the eyes of the students I am representing. I have been on the executive committee for two years and have served on UDEC for one year. Furthermore, I ran for ASI president last year and lost the initial voting phase by a very small margin of 30 votes. I believe in informing people about the issues and what ASI is all about.

How I have affected college students

I have given a voice in a lack of experience. 

Work in ASI

Throughout my two years on the Board of Directors, I have been an effective communicator. It is very important for those elected to the board to fully realize the true purpose of their position. I believe that I have represented my college well and truly made an effort to look at all proposals objectively and in the eyes of the students I am representing. I have been on the executive committee for two years and have served on UDEC for one year. Furthermore, I ran for ASI president last year and lost the initial voting phase by a very small margin of 30 votes. I believe in informing people about the issues and what ASI is all about. 

How I have affected college students

I have given a voice in a lack of experience.

Arvand Sebetian

I want to be ASI president because...

Throughout my four years here at Cal Poly, I’ve loved every aspect of my college experience. From student organizations to faculty and administrators, I’ve truly felt at home here. Therefore, through my involvements, I’ve tried to improve what I’ve already enjoyed to make sure that students who come to this school later can have the same experience I’ve had. I’m confident that as an ASI president, I will be able to make a lasting positive impact on this campus.

Primary platform issue

By far the biggest issue for the student body today is the bad cuts and California’s declining economic status. I plan to first tackle this locally and then on a state level. Locally, I will approach businesses in SLO and ask for student discounts for the Cal Poly student body. I will be able to get to 10 percent discounts in SLO restaurants, fast food establish­ments, retail stores and entertainment venues with their PolyCard. The list of participating businesses will be available on the ASI Web site. I will also work to find some money back into the students’ pockets to subsidize increasing tuition.

While at Poly, I have initiated a student-lobbying effort to bring funding back to the CSU system. By involving the legislature, we would represent 400,000 students.

Melissa Lema

I want to be ASI president because...

Since my freshman year I have been involved and interested as possible, in a place I now consider my home. Throughout my extensive experience with ASI Student Government and various other campus organizations, I have made an effort to work in the best interest of the student I represent and serve. As an ASI president I plan to continue that service and representation, as well as carry on the mission of ASI, which is to provide every student with the ultimate college experience. If elected president, I will strive to continue the work that has been done so far in this campus and we can all be truly proud of.

Primary platform issue

Access to Student Services: Cal Poly is fortunate to have some of the most productive, dedicated students in the nation. In order to attend the California Higher Education Student Summit to lobby on behalf of Cal Poly students. During my sophomore year, I had the fortune of joining the 3,900 students of the College of Agriculture as an alternate member of the board and was elected last March to serve as a voting member. For the past eight months as a representative for my college and vice chair of the board, I’ve served as chair of the Budget Committee, overseeing the $12 million ASI budget. Also, I am currently on the ASI Personnel Committee and two campuswide committees.

I am really proud of the work I have done during the past two years on the Sobe’s “Safe Ride” program that I am excited to see running successfully in the fall. Along with the ASI Strike teams, I have worked to sustain a monthly poetry slam featuring seven of the nation’s best spoken word artists. Transcript. Add Drop and transcript review will no longer be a problem in the fall. I am really proud of the work I have done during the past two years on the Sobe’s “Safe Ride” program that I am excited to see running successfully in the fall. Along with the ASI Strike teams, I have worked to sustain a monthly poetry slam featuring seven of the nation’s best spoken word artists.

Endorsements:

Cal Poly Democrats
California Women’s Student
Council
Women’s Center
Democratic Coalition
Endorsed by: Cal Poly Democrats, California Women’s Student Council, Women’s Center, Democratic Coalition.

Extracurriculars:

Student Life and Leadership Multicultural Center Price Center Women’s Center

Endorsed by: Student Life and Leadership Multicultural Center Price Center Women’s Center. 

3 words to describe me: Experienced. Energetic. Enthusiastic.

Web site: angelaforpresident.com

Endorsements:

California Democrats
California Humanities Student Council
Women’s Student Council
Women’s Center
Democratic Coalition

Extracurriculars:

Student Life and Leadership Multicultural Center Price Center Women’s Center

Endorsed by: California Democrats, California Humanities Student Council, Women’s Student Council, Women’s Center, Democratic Coalition.

3 words to describe me: Hardworking. Energetic. Enthusiastic.

Web site: ralnaline.com

Endorsements:

California Democrats
California Humanities Student Council
Women’s Student Council
Women’s Center
Democratic Coalition

Extracurriculars:

Student Life and Leadership Multicultural Center Price Center Women’s Center

Endorsed by: California Democrats, California Humanities Student Council, Women’s Student Council, Women’s Center, Democratic Coalition.

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Web site: ralnaline.com

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Web site: ralnaline.com
bigger and better than ever.

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all your favorite stuff up to 80% off

starts today 11am
thursday 11-8 Friday 12-6 Saturday 12-4. new merchandise arriving each day.

coverings

848 Monterey Street (formerly pier-one). No line-ups prior to 8 am. please leave backpacks & large purses at home.
University Police Bike Auction
What: University Police will auction off bicycles that have been abandoned or illegally parked. If the bikes are never claimed, they:
Where: University Police Station on campus
Questions? Call UPD at 805-756-6654

Earth Day speech and club fair
What: British polar explorer Robert Swan will speak about his adventures walking the North and South poles alone as well as the importance of clean energy. Cal Poly clubs will also host a sustainable club fair.
Where: Lecture in Chumash Auditorium; club fair in the University Union Plaza.

Mr. Fraternity
What: The Mr. Fraternity event will benefit the Arthritis Foundation and is presented by Alpha Omicron Pi.
Where: Wednesday from 6:30 to 10 p.m.
Where: The Graduate, 990 Industrial Way
Questions? E-mail Emily Lake at emlokel117@yahoo.com

"Clash of Cultures?"
What: UCSB professor Ahmad Asif Amad will present a discussion about the presumed "clash of cultures" between Islam and the modern West. The talk is sponsored by Cal Poly's religious studies program.
Where: Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
Where: Fricke Science Building room 286
Questions? Call Stephen Lloyd-Moffett at 805-756-2475

Mustang Jobs
Where: The Graduate, 990 Industrial Way
What: The Mr. Fraternity event will benefit the Arthritis Foundation.
Questions? E-mail Emily Lake at emlokel117@yahoo.com

ASS(Ex)TAZ!
New editors: Sara Hamilton, Giana Magnoli
mustangdailynews@gmail.com
Monday, April 28, 2008

Hundreds flee wildfire burning in foothills near Los Angeles

Los Angeles County fire fighters work to put out hot spots in the foothills of Sierra Madre, Calif. on Sunday.

John Antczak
ASSOCIATED PRESS
SIERRA MADRE, Calif. — An early season wildfire slowly chewed its way through dense brush near Los Angeles on Sunday, forcing more than 1,000 people from homes in the foothills.

More than 400 firefighters attacked the 350-acre fire, aided by two helicopters and water-dropping air tankers, said Elisa Weaver of the Arcadia Fire Department. Residents evacuated at least 550 homes Saturday night and Sunday, but none had burned.

"This is pretty serious," Weaver said. "Some of these areas have not burned in over 40 years."

Smoke and fire billowed near neighborhoods on the outskirts of Sierra Madre near Bailey Canyon Wilderness Park. The fire moved slowly as it fed on brush and was estimated to be 5 to 10 percent contained. It is expected to continue burning for another two or three days.

Winds were calm early Sunday, boosting firefighter efforts, Weaver said.

Helicopters made water drops Sunday morning on a steep ridge above Sierra Madre, about 15 miles northeast of Los Angeles and just east of Pasadena. A fixed-wing water tanker also made at least one drop of flame retardant.

The blaze also stranded 50 guests at a San Gabriel Mountains foothill camp. The mandatory home evacuations were ordered, Weaver said, and no injuries were reported.

Firefighters originally had hoped to have the blaze contained Sunday, but gusting winds late Saturday night kept the fire out of control and sent it creeping toward nearby homes.

Two shelters have been set up for evacuees.

The blaze also stranded 50 guests from a wedding party at the Chantry Flats ranger's station on Saturday until they were airlifted out Sunday afternoon, Weaver said. It took five helicopter trips from the ranger's station to the parking area where the wedding party's cars were. The party then was escorted out by road.

The fire was first reported Saturday afternoon in a wooded area a few miles northeast of Pasadena. It was windy at the time and unreasonably hot, with temperatures approaching 100 degrees.

The flames also brought the evacuation of a Boy Scout camp Saturday and left about 100 hikers stranded in a parking lot. Most of the Scouts had already left the camp by the time the evacuation was ordered, Weaver said, and no injuries were reported.

The mandatory home evacuations came shortly before 11 a.m.

Two shelters have been set up for evacuees.

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Graduation checklist: The one-stop resource for students

Sara Wright

Your days may be swamped with homework and other activities, but don’t lose sight of the ultimate goal: graduation. If you don’t keep track of your coursework and other requirements, you may end up with a rejected graduation evaluation and angry parents with less-than-hotel plans.

According to Wendy Spalding, College of Liberal Arts academic adviser, one (often overlooked) detail is requesting a graduation evaluation four quarters prior to one’s planned graduation.

“If (students) do submit a request four quarters in advance, the university tries to get that evaluation back to them in two quarters so that they will still have two registration cycles to complete any overlooked requirements,” she said. She also said many students do not pay close enough attention to their exact degree requirements.

“Moreover, students should really understand every aspect of the curriculum sheet and know for themselves how they have met are meeting the requirements,” she said. “It’s just one sheet of paper!”

Read through this checklist to make sure you are on the right track to graduation. It might be a little late for students graduating this year, but pay attention if you plan to graduate in the future, especially spring 2009.

To complete anytime during your college career:

• Visit a counselor! It can be hard to do this sometimes, and maybe your college doesn’t have the best or most diligent counselors, but try to meet with the most informed person you can. Ensure that you are on the right track and that you are taking courses in the right order. Maybe create a graduation plan with a counselor. Try to visit counselors before registration periods, and consider making long-term plans to work with them. Counselors can teach you tricks that can save you lots of extra time, money and pain.

• Don’t forget to complete all aspects of your flowchart: general education (GE) courses, free electives (if any), major/core courses and anything else.

• Take a United States Cultural Pluralism (USCP) course. This is intended to increase one’s knowledge of cultural, racial and gender issues in U.S. society.

• Remember your catalog; this can determine how many units you need to graduate, what courses you need to take to graduate, how courses may be sub-

• Update your address on MyCalPoly so materials regarding graduation and other information can reach you.

• Declare a minor or concentration if you plan on having one and finish the required coursework.

• Make sure you have a minimum GPA of 2.0 (for your major and higher-education GPA).

• Talk to people in your major who are nearing graduation; they probably know the program better!

Third year

Six quarters prior to graduation:

• Meet with an academic adviser to plan the rest of your college career.

• Pass the GRE anytime after completing 90 units and GE Areas A and C1.

• Apply for internships, co-ops, fellowships and other programs. Visit the Career Services Center for more information.

• If you are considering a health or veterinary career: Make an appointment with a health professions adviser; begin asking for letters of recommendation; start working for entrance exams.

Five quarters prior to graduation:

• If you are considering a health or veterinary career: Schedule an interview with the campus Health Professions Committee; complete your personal statement; schedule entrance exams.

• If you plan to attend graduate or professional school: Meet with an adviser or Career Services; start working on your personal statement; schedule entrance exams.

• Research the requirements for senior projects and begin thinking about possible topics or issues for a project.

Four quarters prior to graduation:

• Complete a Graduation Evaluation Request Form and submit it to the Academic Records Office (Ad-

administration Building room 222) or in the Records dropbox. You will need to attach certain forms and documents, including adviser-approved electives, emphasis/minor statement, and any other applicable papers indicated on the graduation evaluation form. It must be returned to you approved before you can graduate. Expect to get it back two quarters before your planned graduation if you completed it on time. Also, remember that you can’t take any courses after the date you specify for planned graduation, so take everything you want and need to beforehand!

• If you are considering a health or veterinary career, finish your professional or graduate school application.

• If you plan to attend professional or graduate school, begin researching potential schools.

Fourth/Final year

Three quarters prior to graduation:

• Review your graduation plan and ensure with an adviser that you are still on the right track.

• Begin your senior project. The required number of units to take before you can work on your senior project varies by major. Try to finish it at least a quarter before you plan to graduate. That way, if you encounter problems, you don’t have to fix them during an additional quarter.

• If you want to attend graduate or professional school: Begin asking for letters of recommendation; apply to schools; take the Graduate Records Exam (GRE).

• If you want to begin a career right after graduation: Visit Career Services; complete and submit a resume; research potential employers, desired salaries, and industry trends; and begin interviews.

• Make sure your family has hotel reservations and other accommodations for the weekend of your planned graduation.

Two quarters prior to graduation:

• Make sure Evaluations has returned your graduation evaluation.

• Visit an academic counselor to ensure you are still on track.

• If you want to begin a career right after graduation, update your resume and cover letter, and continue attending interviews, job fairs, etc.

• If you are considering a health or veterinary career, continue attending interviews and repeating the application process.

• If you want to attend graduate or professional school, schedule a mock interview with a career counselor, and continue the application process.

Final quarter before graduation:

• Make sure your senior project is complete.

• Ensure all necessary paperwork is approved and submitted to Evaluations.

• If applicable, begin the student loan exit interview process through Student Accounts.

• Visit the bookstore to purchase a Grad Pack, diploma frames, class rings and announcements first (October for fall graduation, April for spring graduation) and your cap, gown and tassel later (November for fall graduation, May for spring graduation).

• Ensure that you don’t have any holds, and that you’ve paid any required or designated fees.

• Order an official transcript from the Academic Records Office in the administration building to be sent after your planned date of graduation. This will ensure that your degree has actually been awarded.

• If you want to receive school updates after graduation, and you have a privacy flag (FERPA) on your record, update your record.

• Sign up for any alumni memberships and e-mail forwarding through the Alumni Association.

Students crowd a booth at El Corral Bookstore to order graduation announcements for the spring ceremony.

A student speaks to a representative from Ballouf about the various styles of class rings they have available.
Scientists for the first time have used gene therapy to dramatically improve sight in people with a rare form of blindness, a development experts called a major advance for the experimental technique.

Some vision was restored in four of the six young people who got the treatment, teams of researchers in the United States and Britain reported Sunday. Two of the volunteers who could only see hand motions were able to read a few lines of an eye chart within weeks.

"It's a phenomenal breakthrough," said Stephen Rose, chief research officer of the Foundation Fighting Blindness, which helped pay for one study done at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

If successful in larger numbers, experts said, the technique has the potential to reverse blindness from other kinds of inherited eye diseases.

"I think this is incredibly exciting," said Dr. Jean Bennett, a professor of ophthalmology at the University of Pennsylvania and a leader of the Philadelphia study. "It's the beginning of a whole new phase of studies."

The research was published online Sunday by the New England Journal of Medicine in conjunction with presentations at a medical meeting in Florida.

The two teams of scientists, working separately, each tested gene replacement therapy in three patients with a form of a rare hereditary eye disease called Leber's congenital amaurosis. There's no treatment for the disease, which appears early in infancy and causes severe vision loss, especially at night.

An estimated 2,000 Americans have the form of the disease they targeted, Bennett said.

Gene therapy — replacing faulty genes with a normal version — has been studied in humans for over 15 years with limited success. The field suffered a setback with the 1999 death of Jesse Gelsinger, 18, in an experiment for a liver disorder at Penn. And some children treated for an immune disorder called the "bubble baby" disease later developed leukemia.

The early results of the eye experiments should give the field a boost, some experts said.

"I think it's really a big shot in the arm for gene therapy and for medicine in general," said Dr. Ronald Crystal, head of genetic medicine at Weil Cornell Medical College in New York.

Each of the study participants had mutations in a gene that makes a protein needed by the retina, which sends light and visual images to the brain. Those without the gene gradually lose sight until they are blind in early adulthood.

The retina itself stays in relatively good shape for a while, in one study done at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

"It's a big deal to me," said Lowarth, who lives in Bolton, near Manchester.

"At night she could see nothing at all. Now, my sight when it's getting dark or it's badly lit is definitely better. It's a small change — but it makes a big difference to me," said Lowarth, who lives in Bolton, near Manchester.

The retina itself stays in relatively good shape for a while, in doctors said. But it's dificult in larger numbers, experts said, the technique has the potential to reverse blindness from other kinds of inherited eye diseases.

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**National Briefs**

**EASLEY, S.C. (AP) — A teen­ager who had recently moved back home after breaking up with his live-in girlfriend is accused of gun­ ning down and killing four fam­ily members, stunning friends and neighbors.**

Nathaniel Dickerson, 18, was ar­rested Saturday night at a home in Belton about 20 miles from where the bodies of his father, stepmother, stepson and younger brother were found, authorities said.

Those who knew Dickerson grap­pled with how the quiet teen who loved video games and sports now was charged with four counts of murder.

**NEW YORK (AP) — A coal­ition of civil rights advocates on Sun­day urged changes in the handling of police misconduct and brutal­ity complaints after the acquittal of three officers involved in the shoot­ing death of an unarmed man on his wedding day.**

They also called for a permanent state-level special prosecutor to in­vestigate such cases.

The verdict in the Sean Bell case proves it is almost impossible to successfully prosecute cases of police misconduct, especially in homicide cases," said lawyer Norman Siegel, former head of the New York Civil Liberties Union.

**BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Gray wolves in the Northern Rockies have been taken off the en­dangered species list and are being hun­ted freely for the first time since they were placed on that list three decades ago, and nowhere is that hunting easier than Wyoming.**

Most of the state with the ex­ceptions of the Yellowstone National Park area has been designated a "predator zone," where wolves can be shot at will.

**BENTONVILLE, Ark. (AP) — An inmate incendiary trial on a mu­nition charge is suing the county, complaining he has lost more than 100 pounds because of the jailhouse menu.**

Broderick Lloyd Laswell says he isn't happy that he's down to 300 pounds after eight months in the Benton County jail. He has filed a federal lawsuit complaining the jail doesn't provide inmates with enough food.

According to the suit, Laswell weighed 413 pounds when he was jailed in September.

**Baton Rouge police say they have arrested a suspect in the murder of a 36-year-old man who was kidneys of medical facilities.**

The suspect, a 29-year-old man, was charged with two counts of murder.

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Carolyn and Keith Maupin as they prepare to place the casket of their son U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Matt Maupin into a hearse during a memorial service.

Maupin, a 20-year-old private first class when he dis­appeared, was listed as missing-captured until a tip from local Iraqis led to the discovery of his remains on the out­skirts of Baghdad, about 12 miles from where the convoy was ambushed.

The Army had promised Maupin three times since his capture to keep his military career on a par with his contemporaries in case he survived. At a private ceremony with his family on Sunday, the Army awarded Maupin the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Med­al, the POW Medal and other commendations.

Since his capture, the Yellow Ribbon Support Center founded by his parents, Keith and Carolyn Maupin, has seen nearly 10,000 packages of toiletries, magazines, snacks and games to soldiers. They have said that work will con­tinue.

The governor praised the work of the Maupins, who have raised money for scholarships in the name of their son and others from the Cincinnati area who died in Iraq and Afghanistan. They also have helped provide comput­ers to let soldiers to keep in touch with their families.

"In your pain and in your grief, may Matt's courage give you courage now," Strickland told the Maupins. "May Matt's strength give you strength now."

**WIRE E D I T O R : C h r i s t i n a C a s c i**

**POLICE BLOTTER**

April 24, 13:29 - Officers took a report of a suspicious circumstance of a student setting up e-mail accounts using a teacher's personal information.

April 23, 14:53 - Officers respond to a call of a suspicious person going through recycl­ables. The subject was instructed to leave campus.

April 22, 18:42 - The University Police Department received a call for medical aid of a female subject who had fainted and regained consciousness. The reporting party was instructed to re-contact if there were further issues.

April 22, 19:21 - A hazardous condition of spilled formaldehyde in a room of the Sci­ence Building was reported. Access to the area was restricted.

April 22, 14:10 - Officers conducted a welfare check on a subject whose vehicle had been parked illegally.

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Massive gunbattles break out in Tijuana; 13 dead, 9 wounded

Massive gunbattles broke out between suspected drug traffickers who fired at each other while speeding down heavily populated streets of this violent border city early Saturday, killing 13 people and wounding nine. All of the dead were believed to be drug traffickers, possibly rival members of the same cartel who were trying to settle scores, said Rómulo Moreno, the attorney general of Baja California state, where Tijuana is located.

"Evidently this is a confrontation between gangs," Moreno told reporters. Eight suspects and one federal police officer were injured in the pre-dawn shoot­ings, none gravely, said Agustín Pérez Aguilar, a spokesman for the state public safety department. The suspects are being held on suspicion of weapons possession among other possible charges.

Police recovered 21 vehicles, many with bullet holes or U.S. license plates; a total of 54 guns; and more than 1,300 spent shell casings at various points in the city where the battles broke out, Perez Aguilar said. At one point, the alleged traffickers fired at one another as their sport utility vehicles sped down a busy six-lane boulevard lined with restaurants, car repair shops, medical offices and strip malls.

Bullet holes could be seen in the walls of a factory building and on the perimeter wall of BajaCalifornia state, where Tijuana is located. Police believe to be the 13th victim turned up at a city hospital. The body of a man police believe to be the 13th victim turned up at a city hospital.

The first shootout claimed seven victims. Three subsequent gunbattles — one outside a hospital — claimed five more, police said. The body of a man police believe to be the 13th victim turned up at a city hospital. Tijuana, a sprawling metropolis just across the border from San Diego, California, is pervaded by frequent violence, much of it blamed on drug cartels battling for control of lucrative trafficking routes. The city is home to the Arellano-Felix drug cartel.

In January, eight people died in a gunbattles in Tijuana safe-house apparently used by drug hit men to hold kidnapped rivals. In that confrontation, hit men holed up inside the house battled police and soldiers with automatic weapons for three hours.

Workers carry a body from the scene of a shooting in Tijuana, Mexico. Running gunbattles broke out between suspected drug traffickers on the streets of Tijuana Saturday, killing 13 people and wounding nine, law enforcement officials said.

Of the eight killed in January's shootout, three were bystanders who were killed by stray bullets.

Three subsequent gunbattles — one outside a hospital — claimed five more, police said. The body of a man police believe to be the 13th victim turned up at a city hospital.

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“There wasn’t a voice for the urban Chicano population in Los Angeles at the time,” said library curator Catherine Trujillo, who is also involved in the exhibit. “The magazine was sort of a playground for their art and writing.”

Religions have their trends, too

Brian McMullen

They tell you what’s up when this life ends, but please believe religions have some trends.

Nothing is immune to being trendy. And no matter how set in stone some things seem to be, sometimes they still fall out of style. Plus, trends can both be your friends and your enemies. I’m just pointing out what I see as trendy religious behavior in the world.

Let’s start with religions stuff. If you consider the whole of human history, there have been a ton of religious trends and not many have lasted. Be it conversion, war or just simply a dying out of followers, many religions have disappeared off the face of the earth. It’s easy for us to view our own religion as correct and therefore long-lasting — but isn’t that the same way the ancient Greeks felt? Correct me if I’m wrong, but no one still believes there’s a bunch of gods living on top of Mt. Olympus, right? We have helicopters and we’ve been up there. No one still believes Zeus came down from the mountain, turned himself into a bull, seduced a woman and kidnapped a woman and made love to her under a tree on an island. Greek, “mythology,” as it is called today (I guess we’ve proven it to be false), was as juicy as an episode of “The O.C.” or “The Hills,” which makes no sense why it died out. You had gods preoccupying with morals, fighting among each other and being all-around sters. According to Wikipedia, Zeus had something like 42 baby’s names. They had Dionysus, the ...
Prisoner David uses his personal Web site as a creative outlet for both himself and others

Sara Wright  
Mustang Daily

If you have ever harbored interest in learning about prison life, here is your chance to do so through the online and on-air creative workings of an inmate doing 25 to life for conspiracy to commit murder.

Prisoner David, a 37-year-old former inmate at the California Men's Colony, describes himself as a comedy-sketch writer. He has already served around 14 years of his sentence, according to a letter he wrote to the Mustang Daily. At the time of his arrest, he was host and producer of a weekly cable television and radio show, "Hollywood Haul," and had attended Long Beach State as a marketing and broadcasting major for three years.

He is now incarcerated at the Correctional Training Facility in Soledad, Calif. While he maintains his innocence and attempts to prove it through research he conducts at the prison library, he has learned to channel his frustration with the prison and legal systems through online postings, including articles, drawings and radio segments.

His Web site, prisonerdavid.com, is his way of showing every aspect of prison life from the humor of pranks to the horror of prison violence. He promotes himself as the cartoon character "Prisoner David" in order to spread his message more effectively.

"Prisoners are human beings," Prisoner David said. "A lot of prisoners don't belong here, and have received draconian sentences. I figure, by creating 'Prisoner David,' a cartoon character, the message could be spread to the masses."

The site features profiles and works of other inmates, including Robert, an eight-year prisoner who taught himself to play the fiddle during his incarceration, and Joseph Mitchell, who creates designs for Outback Jewelry from behind bars.

Prisoner David's profile page includes a link to his MySpace page and a form for visitors to submit guestbook comments, many of which include requests for David to tell an inmate "Hi" or "We're thinking of you."

Prisoner David has been featured in segments on "The Adam Carolla Show," a weekday morning radio program hosted by the co-creator and co-star of "The Man Show," and syndicated throughout the West Coast.

A close friend, who wished to remain anonymous, said he helped Prisoner David acquire a segment on the show by writing a letter for him to show in 2006, along with a demo tape made in prison.

'The funny thing about him is that he's still talking to the audience (of his Web site) and radio segments,'" said McGowan. "It's amazing that they would feature a prisoner."

Recordings of these segments can be found on the Web site, along with audio commentaries Prisoner David created concerning issues facing California prison inmates. According to the Official Adam Carolla Show Blog, Prisoner David may be scheduled for recordings but is unable to come in due to lock-downs at the CTF.

The Articles page has a link to a number of writings that are more like anecdotes or diary entries. Each work is titled, dated and separated in parts. "Jailhouse Memoirs," chronicles the process behind a fellow inmate's suicide, while "Sleepless in Soledad" detailed Prisoner David's intense interest in female radio personalities, including "Alston" of Cal Poly's own KCPR.

Prisoner David has had plenty of writing experience himself. He has written monthly short stories for the past two years for the Rogue Voice, a literary journal based in Cayucos. His column "Life to the Cape," includes stories "about the comedy of doing time," he said. In October 2006, a feature titled "Inside for Life" was included in the Rogue Voice about Prisoner David, detailing his imprisonment and his life before incarceration.

The publication called him "a rising star in the radio world until he was sent to prison for conspiracy to commit murder.

"I don't want to become a celebrity while I am in prison," he said. "The radio show has the opportunity to write for New Times and his series "Prison Diaries."

Interestingly enough, Prisoner David is not allowed Internet access. Jess McGowan, a lawyer and former Cal Poly student, assists in maintaining and running prisonerdavid.com for him. McGowan has known Prisoner David since McGowan was a student at Cal Poly, and said he is "impressed by how persistent he is."

"A lot of people in his shoes would find some ways to forget about it and watch TV with their time," he said. "All of the things he's involved in are positive."

Needless to say, prisonerdavid.com whips up the controversy of sympathizing with a criminal. Various online forums, including "Opinions on Prisoner David" at forumer.com, include posts decrying his online and on-air presence; audience members are shocked and outraged that an "evil" convict is given frequent chances to express his opinions. Some think it's the mystery of prison life that makes him, along with televi-

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Prisoners are human beings... I figured by creating 'Prisoner David,' a cartoon character, the message could be spread to the masses.

-His journalism experience began in 1999, when Cal Poly professor Kevin Sites gave him the opportunity to write for the New Times. McGowan said he helped Prisoner David acquire a segment on "The Adam Carolla Show," a weekday morning radio program hosted by the co-creator and co-star of "The Man Show" and syndicated throughout the West Coast.

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"I don't think they'd have him as a character on the show," the friend said. "It's amazing that they would feature a prisoner."

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However, some appreciate the chances into the behind bars, a place where injustice has been proven to occur on certain occasions. On the main page, Prisoner David has posted a sort of cop Gale on the water within the prison that sometimes requires checks by the Health Department.

Despite what visitors may believe, much of the content is compelling and believable, and probably includes information with which most of us are unfamiliar.

"The attitude (of Web site and radio segments) seems to be entertained, and he's good at that," McGowan said. "He's a natural."

McGowan recognizes that Prisoner David writes and records radio segments as "an outlet, a way to be creative."" Since he's been incarcerated.

"He still talks about rave bands and other things because that's what was around when he was free. It's funny sad at the same time."

In the meantime, while his appeal rests at the California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District in Los Angeles, Prisoner David wishes to evade the spotlight until he is granted a new trial.

"I don't want to become a celebrity while I am in prison," he said. "The radio show has the opportunity for that kind of exposure, but I don't want it at that time."

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Between the time "A Fever You Can't Sweat Out" and "Pretty. Odd.\" came out, Panic at the Disco has dropped a few things. First and foremost, the band dropped the "!" from "Panic\" on its name and, even more noticeably, the overly synthesized and childish sound in its debut album.

Instead, Panic decided to record at Abbey Road Studios in England and incorporate an orchestra, which sounds great. However, in the first song, Panic claims to be the same band as before, which is obviously untrue upon listening to the new album.

"Pretty. Odd.\" is an obvious tribute to the Beatles\' "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band\" with its psychedelic orchestrated tunes. However, Panic didn't really know what it was doing in putting these songs together, and it shows in a few clumsy spots and absurd lyrics.

The lyrics harken back to "A Fever You Can\'t Sweat Out\" and its preacher-like ways, which, in all reality, comes out as a fun in this combination. Sure, sometimes the lyrics just didn't make any sense, but what type of Panic at the Disco albums would it be if they did?

With all this in mind, the album was light-hearted and fun to listen to. The horns incorporated throughout the album add a new dimension to the music. While listening to the songs, I wasn't bothered by the fake sounds emanating from my headphones — a real plus out of this group — but was surprised by bright, light instrumentation.

The first single, "Nose in the Afternoon\" is a very strong offering and a song impossible not to nod along to. The vocals throughout the album are clean, easy to understand and sound good alongside the harmonies.

Panic stays true to its band base with a thick carnival feel to the whole album. This adds to the absurdity that makes the album work so well.

Overall, this is a good sophomore album given its sound if not its lyrics. It's able to draw in new listeners while still playing to the fan base. There is room for the band to grow — lots of room — but that can't take away from a wholly entertaining and pretty odd album.

Trendasaurus

continued from page 9

god of wine and party. C'mon, is there no religion more suited for the college lifestyle?

Nevertheless, religions aren't spared from being trends that fade away, and today's religions are stepping up their game to stay alive. Usually, billboards give us information on where to call if we need help getting out of jail, what casinos have the lowest slots, and where Hall and Oates are playing next week, but lately, they've been telling us what to worship. Driving back to San Luis Obispo from Berkeley on U.S. Highway 101, I saw two billboards advertising for Jesus. I have yet to see a religion besides Christianity promoted this way. Why is that? Perhaps other religions don't want to get into a media-bash like Apple and Windows.

Then we had billboards in September that said, "If you were Jewish, you could probably take the day off today.\" This isn't saying to use Jewish holidays as excuses to get out of work, but the fact that many important Jewish holidays happen in September and require time off work may be worth advertising. Then again, this would lead to the notion that the only reason someone becomes Jewish is to have days off work. Moral of the story: Maybe it's better that other religions don't hop on this trend or allow me to write their billboards.

Also, religious beliefs can sometimes be trends. The Vatican recently released a list of new sinful behaviors, which include drug use, pollution (even the pope is going green), accumulating excessive wealth (sorry, Oprah) and genetic manipulation (sorry, Michael Jackson).

All of this shows that trends don't just exist on television and in stores, but they are a part of every facet of our lives. So practice what you believe, promote what you believe at your own discretion, and don't count out Greek "mythology\" yet. THE TRENDASaurus says it's prime time for a comeback, if only for a weekly comedy or soap opera.

Brian McMullen is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily columnist.
I have a great history of watching movies. I consider myself to be a pretty big movie buff, and it is getting closer to summer, which is my favorite season of the year. This movie, which makes me a little excited. I find myself pondering, in anticipation for the next great movie. I have spent countless hours watching movies with my family. The day we watched this movie was the first time I saw my father cry. This was the last day I respected my father as a person.

Sadly, I cannot always watch movies on the big screen. I have spent countless hours watching movies with my family. Even though the movie was about funny, I was still laughing at the movie. Even though the movie was about fun, I was still laughing at the movie. Even though the movie was about fun, I was still laughing at the movie. Even though the movie was about fun, I was still laughing at the movie.

Now there is only one more thing that can ruin the good summer movie line-up, and that is a romantic comedy. Some of you may already know about the preview made me want to jump into a movie theater like a left-wing radical on a pile of movie tickets. It even has Heath Ledger cast as The Joker. It is rumored that his performance is going to be flawless. This makes me hope that he will deliver what I feel about romantic comedies, but just to keep the movie in check, I would rather watch a Coca-Cola CEO cash his mega-salary check, and then spend my money on cheap hookers and blow. It's the same message with none of the bullshit ... at least I'm entertained now.

Keeping it Current
by Taylor Moore

GUEST COMMENTARY
Summer movie madness:
May contain offensive material

I had to watch a romantic comedy with a girlfriend one time and I was so mad at the end of the day. Because the movie cost me two solid hours of my life. It also cost me two more hours of my life to go steal my neighbor's dog and sell it to a Korean restaurant because I was so mad. I dumped my girlfriend later that night.

My outlook for the theater experience this summer, however, is not all bitter. I recently saw a preview for the new Batman movie. Everything about the preview made me want to jump into a movie theater like a left-wing radical on a pile of free healthcare. I even have Heath Ledger cast as The Joker. It is rumored that his performance is going to be flawless. This makes me hope that he will deliver.
Does your busyness have a purpose?

With every busy quarter that passed, I languished for my final quarter at Cal Poly, which I promised myself would be, well, more peaceful and thus more pleasant. I told myself I would take no more than three classes, work less than I usually did, and maybe participate minimally in only one club or so.

Now here I am in the last few weeks of my college career, with four classes and some coursework to finish from last quarter, 30 or more hours of work, 10 to 15 hours of community service a month, and executive positions in two clubs. I know I’m not the only one in this position, too. I have always been involved in a number of activities because I found being busy actually helped me maintain focus and accomplish more. However, it’s easy for me to get carried away by my obligations, burnout myself in tasks and assignments as quickly as they come.

A lot of us probably remember how busy we were in high school. A 2007 study by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development found that teenagers did an average of about 87 hours of unpaid and paid labor per day — weekdays and weekends included — in 2005. Sixteen percent considered themselves workholics (before they even started earning), 39 percent felt constant pressure to accomplish more than they could handle, and 64 percent slept less to do more.

“I’m not going to tell you how to solve the issue of burnout in your life by explaining the concepts of organization, delegation, over-committing and necessary no’s. I will tell you that I think the primary issue is really how you feel about your business. I want to be helpful. I want to be independent. I want to be known as an accomplished student who understands how to work towards good grades and a social life. Personally, these reasons provide enough motivation to continue with the many commitments and even add some more every once in a while. While my days are full of obligations and ‘tolerances’ — the little things I do just to move on with life — I think about what I’m doing those things for. Will they help me reach my ultimate objectives? I think they will, which allows me to complete tasks with diligence and comfort of mind.

More than anything, I want to be content with my life and the sacrifices I choose to take part in. However, the issue for many people is that they do not have comfort of mind in the things they do.

Only 45 percent of teenagers with high stress levels in the study previously mentioned reported being very happy and/or very satisfied with life, while 72 percent of teens with little or no stress considered themselves happy. This is where the problem stands.

Busy people should at least take enough time to recognize whether they are satisfied with their occupied lives. Sometimes it even helps to consider the big picture when dealing with day-to-day-‘tolerances’ and other chores. I feel better taking the time of my day to fulfill a task if I know there is a good reason for it, and that it will help me direct me towards the life I want to lead.

Make sure there is a reason you are busy, even if it means examining each duty you undertake. Don’t do something just because someone asked you to, or because you are capable of doing it. Do it to become and enhance the person you want to be.

While I agree that personal attacks are not in decent taste, the student was doing nothing more then what the gentlemen were doing. This Christian fundamentalist, or whatever we are identifying him as, subjectively claimed god hated certain individuals, while the student in question provided a similar subjective claim that God hates evangelical Christians. I believe that was the phrase on the poster. An open discussion on the topic could not happen in the gentleman who showed up this time, and a few others who show up regularly, have no logical argument. They make claims and stand by them no matter what others present to them. So while I understand your criticism, I don’t necessarily see how what the student did was any different than the vistor as it was an emotional response to their hate-filled comments.

— Eric

Response to “Appalled by student’s reaction to Christian fundamentalist”

While we are nearly a hundred years in for our own reform, including the fact that all are the California budget — also state legislature salaries — are looking at a 10 percent reduction from what they have asked we wouldn’t even be thinking about the Saudis if it weren’t for their oil. One of the Cal Poly administrators was asked at the last forum, hypothetically, if this was the 1930’s, if we would be having the same discussions with Germany. The answer which gave the crowd a collective gasp was “YES.”

The concept was that through “open engagement” we might have moved them from their value system. Most people think about what is going on in the mood for discussions; neither is Saudi Arabia. Finally, our esteemed letter writer tries to single out the College Republicans from the student coalition opposing the Saudi deal, which is angrily, all political groups. There is no “issue,” but there is an issue that unites Democrats, Progressives, women, gays and homosexuals. Have I felt anyone out? I have a large group to ask Warren Baker how supporting Saudi Arabia’s backwater university is actually going to bring about a better world? How is the deal? Really helping Cal Poly? And why do they do it so comfortable sacrificing our values for the sake of peace?

— Roger Frueh

Response to “The misconception about the Saudi university”

We certainly won’t want to be “showing homosexuality down their throats,” as Ed Sullivan suggested.

— Sefts

Response to “Saudi partnership concerns raised at forum”

I’m the guy who went ballistic over when I asked “Why can’t we be the change?” that they talk too much about. I commend you for your righteous anti-kicking of the school administration. Bravo On to the questions — how are we the ones chancing another’s culture, since they are the ones coming out to pursue us? The biggest problem is the lack of opportunity women have to enter the program. How will women develop an interest if they are not even allowed to enter it? Dean Nouri said that they will allow women once industry demands it. And who is part of this decision-making process — any women? I’m not even asking Saudi Arabia to segregate women and men, or to back out of this plan because of their different culture, but I want women over there to have the same opportunity to an education as our male counterparts. Please try to keep yourself composed now at the same time it was very ridiculous and extremely emotional, and I’m embarrassed that a college student could act so immature.

— Girl you screamed at Response to “Let’s be the change”

CONTRACTIONS: The buzz is that Saudis have tons of money and we are going to be able to attract a lot of funding from them to benefit Cal Poly. Really? If that is the case, why is Cal Poly being forced to charge 25 percent less overheard for this flawed Saudi deal (30 percent versus the standard 80 percent for everybody else)? See www.calpoly.edu/grants/scpsf.pdf. Hello, did we hear you say money is no problem for Saudis? So we need to give them a break and not for anybody else? Something does not seem right here.

— SLO Oracle Response to “Saudi partnership concerns raised at forum”

Some obvious questions that remain unanswered: a) Why is CP doing this for no local benefit in SLO unlike the $10 million dollars. Berkeley and Stanford from KAUST in Saudi to benefit each campus while Cal Poly is only being compensated ONLY for EXPENSES incurred? b) Is it this such an attractive deal for CP faculty? Why is it that the Poly is getting a research program assigned to go to Jeddah for the $180-plus resident director job at Jeddah is a Cuesta professor? c) Even if the contract stipulates equality and no discrimination of participants, what happens when it violates Saudi government or Shariah rules prohibiting participation by Jews, gays, women and those who have visited Israel? d) Although President Baker promised the ASI Board of Directors committee would release the Saudi contract, I’m not sure that the signing of any contract, why has Dean Susan Opava stated that no such viewing of the contract will ever occur until it is fait accompli? e) Ms. Atwater; please try to keep yourself composed next time; it was very ridiculous and extremely emotional, and I’m embarrassed that a college student could act so immature.

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— SLO Oracle Response to “Saudi partnership concerns raised at forum”
Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

THE OLYMPIC TORCH IS COMING THROUGH TOWN IN TWO DAYS

WE NEED A PLAN TO STEAL IT AS A SIGN OF PROTEST

NO, HE WANTS BASEBALL BACK IN THE 2012 OLYMPICS

THE END OF THE LINE IN MR. PEANUT’S SEARCH FOR HIS MISSING FAMILY

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0317

Across
1  “I saw sawing wood.” (old longue twister)
2  Lawn base
3  Finally
4  Outlaws
5  “I won’t.” (eg)
6  Amp toter
7  What President Washington said upon winning the lottery?
8  Professor’s goal
9  “I’ve got a mule, her name is ___.”
10  Once around the sun
11  Hidden valley
12  Whatflagmaker Ross said, ...
13  Colonial Franklin, familiarly
14  Once around the sun
15  Cheer to a matador
16  Figure skater’s comp
17  Rocklike
18  Clamor
19  Overhaul
20  Just watched
21  Lawn base
22  Finally
23  Outlaws
24  Finalist
25  “I saw sawing wood.” (old longue twister)
26  Lawn base
27  Finally
28  Outlaws
29  Professor’s goal
30  “I’ve got a mule, her name is ___.”
31  Once around the sun
32  Hidden valley
33  Whatflagmaker Ross said, ...
34  Colonial Franklin, familiarly
35  Cheer to a matador
36  Figure skater’s comp
37  Rocklike
38  Clamor
39  Overhaul
40  Just watched
41  Lawn base
42  Finally
43  Outlaws
44  Professor’s goal
45  “I’ve got a mule, her name is ___.”
46  Once around the sun
47  Hidden valley
48  Whatflagmaker Ross said, ...
49  Colonial Franklin, familiarly
50  Cheer to a matador
51  Figure skater’s comp
52  Rocklike
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78  Whatflagmaker Ross said, ...
79  Colonial Franklin, familiarly
80  Cheer to a matador
81  Figure skater’s comp
82  Rocklike
83  Clamor
84  Overhaul

Down
1  Flows out
2  Request at a medical exam
3  Viewpoint
4  Put to good
5  Porch protector
6  “Rock of Ages” accompaniment
7  Hair colorists
8  Picasso output
9  Little piggy
10  Actress Jessica
11  Rated NC-17.
12  Fathers
13  Wee
18  H and-wringer’s words
24  Monk’s home
25  Traffic noises
26  Merrie ___ England
27  Command to Rover
28  _______Miguel, largest island of the Azores
29  Part of N C A A. Abbr.
30  Actor Robbins
31  Commercial prefix with phone
32  Sis or bro
33  Lightheaded
34  Lightheaded
35  Put forth, as effort
36  Flood stopper
37  Transporter across the Andes
38  Not cut up
39  HBO’s Real Time With Bill
40  Convalescent home employee
41  Biblical place of innocence
42  Hip, in the ’60s
43  Delve (into)
44  “Sez ___ tired of reading?”
45  Lottery winner’s yell
46  Convalescent home employee
47  Witches’ blemishes
48  Put forth, as effort
49  Food stopper
50  Transporter across the Andes
51  Not cut up
52  Delve (into)
53  Lottery winner’s yell
54  Convalescent home employee
55  Biblical place of innocence
56  Hip, in the ’60s
57  Delve (into)

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WWW.MUSTANGDAILY.NET
**Baseball**

continued from page 16

four hits, no walks and striking out nine.

"I felt great out there," Fischbeck said. "I had a couple pitches working, and everything was going my way. It just all went right." Lee praised Fischbeck's performance.

"That was probably the best outing we've had all season, especially against such a solid lineup," he said.

However, after 123 pitches,

Lee added, there was "no ques-
tion" about putting Fischbeck and
putting Madslien (4-5) in for the
month.

"He was the best available guy," Lee explained.

The most glaring of them was
in the eighth. After Cal Poly had
ed the bases with no outs, Martin retired junior third baseman Brent Morel on a force play at the plate before getting a 4-3 double play
off the bat of sophomore designat-
ed hitter Luke Yoder. Martin (4-2) picked up the win on the strength of two scoreless in-
ings of relief, allowing no hits and
no walks.

"I probably gave (UCSB) mo-
tivation, and kept them within
striking distance," Lee said of not
scoring in the ninth frame.

"There are only so many times you can say, 'Next game we'll do better,' but you still have to bounce back. It's the nature of the game."

Cal Poly continues its home-
stand by hosting USC (20-22) at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

**Sharks**

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month.

The Stars took a handful o f un-
precedented penalties in the first pe-
riod, but the Sharks couldn't capital-
ize on their power-play advantage, including 76 seconds of 4-on-3 working, and everything was going
their way. It just all went right," Lee praised Fischbeck's performance.

"That was probably the best out-
ning we've had all season, especially against such a solid lineup," he said.

However, after 123 pitches,
Eight scoreless innings by Fischback are for nought as Cal Poly gives up grand slam in ninth

Rachel Glas  Mustang Daily

It wasn’t supposed to happen this way. In the ninth inning of Sunday afternoon’s rubber game, the Cal Poly baseball team held a 3-0 lead over UC Santa Barbara with one out and nobody on base. Nearly everyone from the 1,324 in attendance to the players at Baggett Stadium wanted to chalk up the win and go home.

Instead, the Mustangs let their lead slip away on a series of throwing errors. Now facing a 3-3 tie to start the bottom of the ninth inning, nearly everyone was hoping that the game would end just short of a loss.

That’s when the magic happened, and Cal Poly needed it. The Santa Barbara batters hit a massive home run to centerfield, giving the Gauchos a 4-3 lead. The Mustangs were unable to recover, as they lost 5-3.

The game started promisingly for Cal Poly, which won in its final scheduled road game of the season, will begin a six-game homestand by opening against top-ranked UC Davis (22-31, 7-8 Big West) with a doubleheader starting at 4 p.m. Sunday at Bob Janssen Field.