Scientists theorize a 'monster' impact on Mars, leaving possibly the largest gash in the solar system.

**SPORTS**

Former Cal Poly star high jumper Sharon Day tries to make her Olympic dreams a reality. 

**ONLINE**

Read about "The Incredible Hulk" and the comic-to-film phenomenon in an exclusive online review.

**TODAY'S WEATHER**

Sunny
High 74°F Low 50°

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**INSIDE**

**NEWS**

McCaincl comes to Central Coast

Marlize von Romburgh

San Luis Obispo congresswoman Lois Capps (D-Calif.) went head-to-head with Republican John McCain earlier this week when the presidential candidate held a rally in Santa Barbara to discuss energy issues.

McCain visited Santa Barbara on Monday and Tuesday, the first day for a private fundraiser with local Republicans, the second for a green energy rally at Museum of Natural History, alongside Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

MSNBC reported that the demonstration outside the rally was the largest anti-McCain gathering they’ve seen this election season.

McCain recently proposed lifting the moratorium on offshore drilling in an effort to increase domestic oil production and ease consumer gas prices. "The immediate problems of high gasoline prices and of our strategic dependence on foreign oil are upon us," McCain said in Santa Barbara. "And on recent days, I've been setting forth a plan of action. When people are hurting, and struggling to afford gasoline, food and other necessities, common sense requires that we draw upon America's own vast reserves of oil and natural gas."

He went on to speak about the other facets of his energy platform — including investing in nuclear technology, developing a cap-and-trade system, modernizing the nation's electric grid, and offering tax incentives for green energy usage — but never specifically spoke about expanding offshore drilling at the rally.

"In these and other ways, we can meet the challenge of global warming with all the resources of human ingenuity at our disposal. Like other environmental challenges — only more so — climate change presents a test of foresight, of political courage, and of the unselfish concern that one generation owes to the next," McCain said.

Capps fired against McCain in a press teleconference alongside state senator Barbara Boxer on Monday, saying that the proposal to lift the oil moratorium is evidence of a hypocritical energy platform.

"This is a total gimmick; we aren't going to drill our way out of an energy crisis," she said. "John McCain has flip-flopped on the energy issue and now he's threatening the livelihoods of the workers who depend on a clean coast."

"McCain wants to threaten our $70 billion coastal economy," Capps said. "This Bush-McCain policy is nothing more than a sweet deal for big oil companies."

"Lifting the moratorium" is going to hurt our economy, it's going to hurt our environment, and it's going to hurt our health," Capps continued.

Offshore drilling is an especially hot topic in Santa Barbara, which saw the state's worst oil spill in 1969. An estimated 3 million gallons of crude oil spilled out into the ocean when a blowout occurred from an oil platform six miles offshore, killing thousands of marine birds and animals and leaving a see McCain, page 2

Firefighters rushed to extinguish a 2007 fire on the hill that hosts the Poly P near campus.

**Crackdown on fireworks**

Camas Frank

Possession of fireworks will not be tolerated in San Luis Obispo County this fire season. Cal Fire announced in a statement released today.

While so called "safe and sane" fireworks are available for sale and use in the cities of Atascadero, Grover Beach, as well as the City in the Sand, Templeton, and Oceano fire districts, possession elsewhere can result in misdemeanor citations and as $2,000 fine.

On the Cal Poly campus, University Police Chief Bill Watton vows to strictly enforce the law. "Fireworks of any kind are not legal on campus. Not 'safe and sane' nor any others," he said.

Watton would like to avoid a repeat of the June 30, 2007 fire on the "Poly P" hillside that was started by illegal bottle fireworks and burned 50 acres.

"That fire occurred at six in the morning when the ground was the most moist. So if it can happen then it can happen at any time of the day," he cautioned.

Public fireworks displays will still provide plenty of excitement this July 4 however, with the cities of Pismo Beach, Morro Bay, Cayucos, Cambria, Santa Maria, and Paso Robles offering free evening shows.

**Neighborhood patrol program on hold**

Lauren Rabajano

A controversial neighborhood patrol program is on hold because of a large amount of student protest and possible budget issues.

The neighborhood protection plan was just one of many city projects created by Measure Y, a half-cent tax that passed in San Luis Obispo in 2006. The part students especially opposed allowed police to cite loud parties, even if there was no neighbor or citizen complaint.

Although plans are at a halt, San Luis Obispo Chief of Police Deborah Linden said she would change the program to better reflect student concerns, a decision reached after an on-campus meeting June 3 between city officials and students.

"There is a healthy portion of students who would feel like it's very directed at students," said Associated Students Inc. President Angela Kramer, who attended the meeting. "They feel like it's the 'party police' coming in to lay down the law or kill parties and, at the same time, there are people who understand the need." Official used the meeting to clarify misunderstandings and show students why neighborhood patrols are necessary.

"I think (the meeting) put it in much better context and I think that's valuable," Linden said.

Linden said the reason students felt so targeted was because of vast misinformation circulated by a Facebook group of 1,500 students opposed to the measure. Civil engineering senior Mike Comfort created the Facebook group "Students Against Measure Y" which he said grew to 1,000 members in its first week.

Although the student claim to be against Measure Y, Linden said the students actually oppose a program created by the measure, rather than the measure itself.

"There is a misunderstanding that Measure Y is a series of ordinances," City Councilman Paul Brown, who was also at the student discussion.

The neighborhood control plan was created based on significant
Program

continued from page 1
cant complaints from community members.

"It was neighborhood residents going to City Council really made up," Linden said. Although the plan was created based on wants and needs of the community, she was open to 'silent concerns.'

"Based on that input, we're putting refinements to the program that is now on hold," Linden said. Guither said he understands the good in Measure Y.

"I think the neighborhood team via the patrols is actually a good thing, because there are a lot of things in the Poly neighborhood happening," Guither said. He added, however, that parts of the plan are targeted at the Greek system and sports teams.

Like fraternities and sororities, athletic teams that pass their houses are on a premise list because students are on a premise list because of prior noise violations.

"For me personally, I think that the whole point of the neighborhood team is supposed to be for safety," Kraiser said. "If there's a car driving down the road ticketing a few guys making noise and all they're doing is playing on a Wii ... that's not what safety is about.

"We're really going to work hard this summer to develop a happy medium," she said. "Chief Linden and I will be discussing this in the near future."

After listening to student concerns regarding noise violations, Linden said that revisions will come.

However, due to recent budget issues facing the police department because of the neighborhood control program is unclear. Linden said more specific details will be announced in coming months.

If the plan for unannounced noise citations is removed from the program, Guither said it would appease most of the students concerns.

Kramer said she hopes to continue conversations with Linden to improve the relationship between campus and the police department.

She said students should realize that these measures aren't set in stone yet and they can always be changed.

"We're not sure if they were even going to be open to hearing us," Guither said. "I think it's awesome that [Linden] even came out, a lot of cities' police wouldn't.

"This isn't the first time city officials have met with students. Brown and Linden both said it is something they do each year. "Anytime you can have communications it's a good thing," Brown said. "I think students realize it's not the city versus students. We're all members of the community."

Continued from page 1

McCain continued from page 1

massive oil slick that still has remnants today. That historic spill has often been cited as a catalyst for the nationwide environmental movement.

"Those of us who've seen the effects of oil drilling on our coasts need to educate the rest of the America," Capps said in reference to the spill.

Boeing said that lifting the moratorium is in effect a gift to big oil companies.

"We already know that 80 percent of the offshore oil is in already drillable areas," she said. "Yet only 21 percent of those drillable areas are being drilled.

"If we'd started offshore drilling 10 years ago, maybe gas prices wouldn't be where they are now."

The suspension includes all state responsibility areas and local responsibility areas. The proclamation covers 23 counties, including San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura and Monterey counties. The current and predicted fire weather has alarmed officials, and is the primary reason for the suspension. Even agricultural for­ est management, hazard abatement and other industrial-type burnings are suspended. All remaining "doored" burning permits are also temporarily void.

"The burn suspension will be in effect until there is a proclamation from the regional chief lifting the ban," Zrel.ik said. "Given the current weather and wildland fuel conditions, the burn suspension will most likely not be lifted until the end of the fire season. Fire season usually ends in late fall or early winter."

McCain said, "It's a good platform. It's very moderate; he understands how to protect our environment without hurting the economy."

"He has a good platform. It's very moderate; he understands how to protect our environment without hurting the economy," Poschman said.

"McCain's experience says we're going to take 10-12 years for a (drilling ban lift) to affect gas prices, but they've been saying that for 10-12 years," Poschman continued.

"We're started offshore drilling 10 years ago, maybe gas prices wouldn't be where they are now."

Whitney Diaz

Open fires prohibited

Whitney Diaz

Burning permits and other open fire uses are currently suspended until further notice in the southern region of California due to the risk of wild­fires and their potential to destroy life and property. The suspension is issued by Candace Gregory, Cal Fire's Southern Region chief.

"The burn suspension should not affect fire marshaled-approved public fireworks shows," said Chad Zrel.ik, fire captain of the San Luis Obispo branch of Cal Fire. "The operators of these shows have to be licensed through the fire marshal's office and each display is inspected by a fire official before the show. All other fire­work uses (use, sale, possession) are illegal in San Luis Obispo County with the exception of some jurisdictions."

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McCain continued from page 1

California

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Scientists think big impact caused two-faced Mars

Alicia Chang

Why is Mars two-faced? Scientists say fresh evidence supports the theory that a monster impact punched the red planet, leaving behind perhaps the largest gash on an heavenly body in the solar system.

Today, the Martian surface has a split personality. The southern hemisphere of Mars is pockmarked and filled with ancient rugged highlands. By contrast, the northern hemisphere is smoother and covered by low-lying plains.

Three papers in Thursday's journal Nature provide the most convincing evidence yet that an outside force was responsible.

According to the researchers, an asteroid or comet whacked a young Mars some 4 billion years ago, blasing away much of its northern crust and creating a giant hole over 40 percent of the surface.

New calculations reveal the crater known as the Beequals basin measures 5,300 miles across and 6,600 miles long—the size of Asia, Europe and Australia combined.

It is believed to be four times bigger than the current titleholder, the South Pole-Aitken basin on Earth's moon. Asians have long puzzled over Mars' landscape ever since images beamed back in the 1970s showed different-looking halves. An orbiting spacecraft later observed the northern lowlands were on average two miles lower than the southern highland and had a thinner crust.

Scientists who had no role in the studies said the latest research strengthens the case for a colossal Martian impact, but it does not rule out the other theory that hot rock from inside the planet could have welled up and formed the different crusts.

All three teams believe there was a single giant blow and not several small hits because there's no evidence of other basins.
What happens when you combine a quirky young artist, a misunderstood troublemaker, and a video camera? Mix in some '80s fashion and little to no parental supervision, and you get a homemade sequel to the classic Rambo flick, "First Blood," appropriately titled, "Son of Rainbow."

Written and directed by CJarth Jennings, this low-budget indie film is a heartwarming tale that balances corniness and fantasy, with spectacular acting and truly touching moments.

Set in a quiet British community in the 1980s, we meet Lee Carter (Will Poulter) who makes it his mission to independently cause chaos around the school. When sent out of class for misbehaving, he meets his unlikely partner in crime, Will Proudfoot (Bill Milner) who is anything but rambunctious. Quiet, shy and content with doodling in his Bible, Will is the Ying to Lee's Yang. As part of a strict religious sect, Will was never formally introduced to bending the rules, so Lee takes it upon himself to show him the ropes.

Both boys have unusual home lives, and on paper the two seem entirely opposite. It is on screen that their bond evolves, beginning as strangers and ending as brothers. The boys bring a creative light to their imaginative lives as they sail through their city daunting of flying dogs and scarecrows coming to life.

Lee lives in an elderly care home with his older brother and is often left alone with video equipment. He is instructed to make a bootleg copy of "First Blood," but after seeing an advertisement for a young filmmakers contest, he spends every spare moment dreaming of winning. Securing the assistance of Will as his stuntman, the two begin a hilarious and touching journey to bring to life the screenplay Will creates.

It is a film inside of a film, and it is interesting to observe the parallels between the movie the boys create and the issues in their lives.

Both boys lack father figures, and in their film, the hero is on a rescue mission for his father, Rambo. Will plays the brave "son of Rainbow," defending his father's honor with his chin held high and bandana intact. Initially, Lee comes off as strong and unaffected by his negligent parents but after acquiring a true friend, we see him transform.

The boys are not usually accepted by the other children at school but once their peers find out about the film, they all suddenly want a lead role. Soon many students become involved, and Will becomes a mini celebrity. It is at this point that the charming, easy-going film unravel into a conflicted mess, with loyalty becoming an issue. Will faces adversity from his mother for going against their religion, and conflict with his best friend, Lee.

For a small, wiry boy, Will has to make some large choices. Should he abandon his upbringing and continue filming the movie? Should he continue working with the other students even though Lee wishes it was just the two of them?

When not consumed with the continuously entertaining plot, it is a treat to observe these amazingly talented young actors. It is like spying on two remarkable young boys, brightening and uniting us through our shared experiences. Featuring a colorful cast of characters, this film is a true triumph that any age can relate to.
Scott Silvey  
NOTE: DAILY

From Bob Marley to Steve Wonder  
to Jethro Tull, singer-songwriter  
Kierstin Gray is influenced by  
many different genres. Next week,  
she will bring her unique blend  
of sounds to The Clubhouse in  
San Luis Obispo.

"I am really inspired by eras  
and periods of music, so my tastes  
runch a wide gamut," the 25-year-old  
singer said. "Sometimes I look  
to attempts to see the world  
that my contemporaries are  
creating the work of some of her favori-  
te peers.

"I really get into anything that  
fits me in a new way of interpret.  
tion, so I love doing covers," she said.  
"I think you learn a lot about song  
structure and identity through lyrics  
and melody when you can re-inter-  
pret a piece of music."

Juggling the variety of sounds  
is sometimes tough for Gray, who plays  
piano and sings with a band in New  
York, but will be touring California  
alone.

"It is a challenge, but a welcome  
one," she said. "I like to explore  
themes with my music, so it keeps  
things fresh for me and I, hope, for  
the listener."

Experimentation is a big part  
of her sound and she is willing to  
try new things with the guitar or vocal  
aspects of her repertoire.

"Sometimes I look to include an  
element I haven’t explored before,"  
she said. "Mostly I try and write songs  
that are familiar to people, either in  
words or lyrics."

Gray said she stumbled upon  
the music business a few years ago but  
has really enjoyed the wholeside ride.

"I was in college and some friends  
suggested I go to an open mike," she  
said. "After going there for a while I  
started actually writing songs for it,  
and then that sort of just kept pro-  
gressing to being a professional mu-  
sician. It was a gradual process, but  
it keeps things fresh for me and I, hope,  
for the listener."

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My beach is not your ashtray

Since I live in the little community of Grover Beach and can literally see the beach from my house, I often go down there to exercise and run along the breakwater in an effort to be healthy. But lately I’ve noticed the amount of litter getting bigger and bigger along these runs. I often have to stop and pick up beer cans, water bottles, and old toys that people leave in their wake after a weekend.

Sometimes, as I lay out and ran my toys into the sand — trying to enjoy the best part about living on the coast — a cigarette butt comes up. It disgusts me that people think the beach is a large-scale ashtray.

According to the Surfrider Foundation, in 2000 there were 230,000 cigarette butts picked up along California’s beaches in one day during Coastal Clean-up Day. It was the No. 1 trash item found. Cigarette butts are the most widespread form of litter.

It’s bad enough that cigarette butts are the most commonly found trash items on the beach, but there...
Olympics

continued from page 8

others who have not already met
the Olympics. "A qualifying stan­
dard would need to do so at the trials in order to make the team.

In other words, if three standard­
less jumpers placed first third through
third at the trials at heights beneath
6.45 m, and Day placed fourth, she
would supersede them and make the
team. "It’s a matter of already hav­
ing achieved the standard during the
applicable time span (the past 18
months). But if the three other
jumpers to hold the standard were
to place above her, she wouldn’t
make the team.

"Hopefully, everything comes
together like it has this year, and
she’ll be rolling. I think she’s re­
lively she’s al­
ready made the
6.45 m mark, and can just get
in there and compete. She’s got a
fantastic chance."

Day, who has jumped at
the track before (al­
though it’s been upgraded for the trials), said she’s
lightened her training in order to be
“fresh and not so sore or run­
down” at the meet, which will be
held through July 6.

Women’s high jump finals will be held at 7:30 p.m. July 4.

In addition to Day, former Mustang Jon Takahashi (in the men’s pole vault), Maggie Vessey
(women’s 800), Kaylene Wagner
(women’s high jump), Stephanie Brown-Trafion and Vesley
will compete in Friday’s pre­
lims, Wagner in Monday’s and Vesley in July 3, when Reid would also compete if he qualifies.

If Borys and James qualify, their
prelims will be July 4.

“There aren’t that many oppor­
tunities to get there,” Hoyt said of the Olympics. “It’s really an elite group. To be able to say you were
on an Olympic team is really spe­
cial. It’s every athlete’s dream as a
student-athleticist.”

Sharon seems to rise up a little higher when
the pressure is on.

— Jack Hoyt
Cal Poly’s jump coach.

The New York Times

Across
1. "Beginning
2. Year of Pope
3. 9
4. Program of
variety acts
5. Former
heavyweight
champion
16. Eats at a bar
17. Major money
maker
18. "Roz"
19. "Hi", in talks
20. "I'm ..., any
help"
21. Juris (by (the
law itself)
22. "Makositi"
25. "Mirror" hangar
26. "Dart"
27. Home of novellest
28. More Wars
31. Sight from Lake
33. 10,000/-
35. Dead
36. "Broadway show
lane," if hit to the
word ladder
40. Taylor of
"The "Nanny" and
others
44. Apple picker
48. Heavyweight
50. "L_Final"
51. Money
52. Vagabond
53. LA waiter
54. "L_Final"
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57. "L_Final"
58. Not discounted,
say
59. "Tarzan" feature
60. Nearest major
airport in Beulah
61. Attorney with the
"My Life on Trial"
62. "Cubase" show
63. This, to Jorge
64. Leaves in a
salad
65. Porter
66. "End"

Down
1. Marker (Mar.,
in Latin payments)
2. "Remarqles' Sports'
author Luise
3. "Angelina's "Girl's
 Interrupted"
star
4. Against
5. Film producer
6. "Tracks"
7. "The "16"
8. "The "16"
9. "Cold-st overnight
10. "Dirty Sexy
Money"
11. Fit for use
12. "Or," oh yeah!
13. J.F.K.选
14. "Hey, what
15. Brits
16. Out
17. Out
18. Obama, Abi

The Shoes Blog: apps.mustangdaily.net/othepage

Edited by Will Shortz
No. 0515

Sports

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Olympics

continued from page 8

likely.

If Vick died on the football
field from a hit that broke his
neck, we would have seen it from
every angle available. We would
have seen the sky cam, the sideline
and the referee hot cam.

We certainly saw every shot
of former Buffalo Bills tight end
Kevin Everett’s career-ending hit
that people believed would leave
him paralyzed.

Everett has made a remarkable
recovery, but had he died on the
field, the broadcast would have re­
mained the same.

While the Eight Belles tragedy
brought about a rapid discus­
sion on horse safety in racing, thus
far there has been no significant
talk in regards to ramping up Fun­
ny Car safety regulations.

After Earnhardt’s death in 2001,
the fourth NASCAR-related death
in less than a year, NASCAR offi­
cials began looking for ways to
ensure driver security, eventually
developing the next generation of
the racecar, dubbed "The Car of
Tomorrow."

Kalina’s death is the second
Funny Car fatality in just more
than a year.

In March 2007, Eric Medlen
died during a practice run after a
tire failure. Six months later, popu­
lar Funny Car racer and reality
television star John Force suffered
a near fatal crash from which he
has still not completely recovered.

For the sake of the fans who
do not enjoy watching athletes’
deaths plastered across the televi­
sion screen, let’s hope the NHRA
follows horseracing and NASCAR
with its own sweeping reform.

Scott Kalitta is a journalism junior
and a Mustang Daily sports editor and columnist.
**SPORTS**

**MUSTANG DAILY**

**Day leads former Mustangs looking to head to Olympics**

Donovan Aird

**SPORTS EDITORS:** Donovan Aird and Scott Silvey

**mustangdaily.net**

Thursday, June 26, 2008

**To show or not to show?**

Scott Silvey

**SPORTS**

Imagine you are watching television when you see shocking footage of an athlete's death. Not only do you see it once, but you are then shown replays of the death highlighting all camera angles so that we may see the exact moment the person died. Outdoors, the death of Funny Car driver Scott Kalitta was the latest in a string of incidents in which athletes' deaths were broadcast for the world to see.

It is hard to understand why videos of murders or deadly traffic accidents are not shown to the public, yet a video of a car bursting into flames at 300 miles per hour and exploding into a barrier is.

What is the difference between a traffic accident video and a race-car crash?

When Dale Earnhardt died in 2001, the video of his death was seen not only on sports television, but also on news broadcasts nationwide.

Someone might say an athlete's celebrity status means they forfeit any right to a dignified death.

Are we to believe that if Brian Vickers was shot in the head on camera that news broadcasts would be plantering that footage anywhere they could find it?

Ironically, the best-handled athletic death this year was not even human.

The filly Eight Belles, who had to be put down after finishing second in the Kentucky Derby, was shown collapsing just one time on the initial broadcast — a total of 11 seconds on air were devoted to the initial fall; she was put down moments after taking the fall. The other two in the race were never shown to the public, yet a video of a car bursting into flames at 300 miles per hour and exploding into a barrier is.

What is the difference between a traffic accident video and a race-car crash?

**Draftees from Cal Poly tune up in summer leagues**

**MUSTANG DAILY SPORTS**

Although the Cal Poly baseball season ended May 25, many Mustangs are in the midst of playing in summer collegiate leagues across the country.

Former Mustangs Brent Morel, Logan Schafer, Derrick Saito and Brian Tregoning, who have all already signed professional contracts, are also playing summer baseball after being chosen in the Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft from June 3-6.

Morel, a third baseman, agreed June 7 to a $458,000 signing bonus with the Chicago White Sox after being chosen with the 86th overall pick. Morel is hitting .323 in Great Falls, Mont., for the Great Falls Voyagers of the Pioneer League.

Schafer accepted June 14 a signing bonus of about $400,000 plus college tuition and incentives from the Milwaukee Brewers, who chose him in the fifth round. He's hitting .323 for the Helena Brewers, also of the Pioneer League.

Saito, a left-handed pitcher who's struck out five batters in 2⅓ innings of work for the league's Idaho Falls Chukars, came to terms June 9 on a $100,000 signing bonus plus one year of college tuition from the Kansas City Royals, who selected him 475th.

Tregoning, a right-hander, has surrendered three earned runs in an inni ng on behalf of the New York-Penn League's Mahoning Valley Scrappers of Niles, Ohio after taking a deal June 12 with the Cleveland Indians upon being picked 1,163rd.

Four more Mustangs drafted — sophomore right-hander Kevin Castner, sophomore outfielder Luke Yoon, junior right-hander Jared Eskew and sophomore right-hander D.J. Maugein — are also playing this summer.

The Scrappers' roster features incoming sophomore Evan Bauby, sophomore left-hander Kellen Morin, freshman outfielder Philip Ortez, incoming catcher Jordan Hadlock, junior outfielder Robert Crocker, freshman third baseman J.J. Thompson and junior left-hander Eric Masingham.

Professional teams have until Aug. 15 to sign players who've not fully utilized their college eligibility.

Eight Belles' collapse was often the difference between an athlete's death and broadcasting footage of an athlete's death.

The difference between a traffic accident video and a race-car crash is.

**Day leads former Mustangs looking to head to Olympics**

**Sharon Day, shown as a sophomore during the 2004-05 season, was a seven-time All-American during her Cal Poly career, which ended June 13. On Monday at the Olympic trials in Eugene, Ore., Day, who is seeded fourth in the women's high jump, will try to finish in the top three to earn a trip to Beijing.**

Sharon Day, shown as a sophomore during the 2004-05 season, was a seven-time All-American during her Cal Poly career, which ended June 13. On Monday at the Olympic trials in Eugene, Ore., Day, who is seeded fourth in the women's high jump, will try to finish in the top three to earn a trip to Beijing.

Neatly two weeks ago, Sharon Day missed her graduation ceremony. She was OK with that, though, because she can soon qualify for another ceremony — at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

Day finished her Cal Poly career June 13 by placing second in the women's high jump at the national collegiate outdoor track and field championships in Des Moines, Iowa — parts of which were being overwhelmed by flooding.

A day later, she couldn't make it home in time for her formal graduation.

"It was kind of crazy because there were all these things happening in all of their separate little worlds," Day said. "There was flooding and natural disaster over there, a national track meet over here. Our hotel was actually on a huge hill above the river, where you could see everything; we were just waiting for something to happen, but it didn't really affect the meet. All this stuff was going on, but we weren't really a part of it."

She will, however, be a part of the Olympic trials, which begin Friday at Hayward Field in Eugene, Ore. Women's high jump prelims will begin at 7:15 p.m. Monday.

"I've been trying to think of it as just another U.S. championship, and trying not to think of it as the Olympic trials," Day said. "But it's hard not to let the magnitude of this meet get in the way."

The seven-time All-American from Costa Mesa met the Olympic "A" qualifying standard May 17 at Cal State Northridge with a personal-best clearance of 6 feet, 4⅜ inches — the country's best collegiate mark this season and 3⅓ inches higher than her leap at the national meet.

Needing a top-three finish at the trials to make the U.S. squad, Day enters the competition seeded fourth (with a 1.95-meter seed mark) — behind Nike's Chaunte Howard (1.98), Destinee Hooker (1.96) and ASCS teammate Amy Acuff (also 1.95).

"I like my chances really well," Day said. "Out of the four women who've jumped the standard, Chaunte and I have most recently done it. The other two haven't done it as recently."

Although Arizona sophomore Elizabeth Patterson edged Day (the 2005 collegiate outdoors national champion) at the national meet by needing one fewer attempt at 6-1⅜, Patterson and all see Olympics, page 7