Hundreds of students attended the annual Focus the Nation at Cal Poly, which emphasized the need to build a sustainable economy. The event is a nationwide teach-in that aims to educate attendants about the future of sustainability through guest speakers, panelists, and other events.

Many of the panel guests were business professionals who spoke about their business's sustainability. "You have to find people who are knowledgeable on the topic and willing to speak to a large crowd," said Megan Farrell, business senior and director of Focus the Nation. "The outreach was definitely the most work, which was getting everybody on board and into panels." Topics ranged from technology to the culture of sustainability. Climate justice, exploring sustainable business practices, green innovation at Cal Poly, green jobs and policies for a sustainable future were just some subjects presented by the panels.

"The talks about government policy and how it can shape where this whole movement is going really interested me," said Col-lin Spreinkle, architecture senior and attendant of the Policy for a Sustainable Future panel. "I feel like I got some pretty useful details and information about what exactly it's going to take to move things along and sort of the time frames we're looking at."

Focus the Nation began on Tuesday with a Green Job Fair, which allowed more than 400 students to meet with 21 sustainable companies. "I did hear back from a lot of the vendors and many of them said they were very pleased with the caliber of the students here and many of them will definitely be hiring students," said Erica Janoff, industrial engineer senior and Green Job fair coordinator.

There was a sustainable project showcase that displayed campus projects Tuesday evening and student-led sustainability workshops Wednesday. Empower Poly disc jockeys in the University Union Plaza entertained students from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. yesterday playing tracks powered by solar energy. Hip hop Congress B-Boye also performed break dancing.

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Senate struggles on economic stimulus in nighttime session

David Espo
ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate moderates worked to cut billions of dollars from economic stimulus legislation Thursday in hopes of clearing the way for passage as the government sprinted out grass new jobsless figures and President Barack Obama warned of more bad news ahead.

With partisan tensions rising, several Republican attempts to re-make the bill — with higher tax cuts, lower spending and relief for homeowners — failed on party-line votes.

"The time for talk is over. The time for action is now," declared Obama as the Senate plodded through a fourth day of debate on the legislation at the heart of his economic recovery plan. He implored lawmakers in both parties to "rise to this moment.

Obama added he would "love to see additional improvements" in the bill, a gesture to the moderates from both parties who were at work trying to trim the $920 billion price tag.

Increasingly, the events that mattered most were not the long roll calls on the Senate floor, but the private conversations in which the White House and Democratic leaders sought — either with the support of a large group of centrist lawmakers or without them — to clear the bill at the heart of the president's recovery program.

"As I have explained to people in that group, they cannot hold the president of the United States hostage," said Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. "If they think they're going to rewrite this bill and Barack Obama is going to walk away from what he is trying to do for the American people, they've got an- see Bill, page 2

College based fee raise approved by CFAC, students now asked to vote

The Campus Fee Advisory Committee passed a proposal from Cal Poly deans to raise College Based Fees by $362 per quarter per student starting in the fall. Students will have two days to vote on the proposal via the Internet in March. Check Monday's edition of the Mustang Daily for the full story.
Bill
continued from page 1

other thought coming,” Republicans countered that neither the president nor Democratic congressional leaders have been willing to seek common ground on the first major bill of the new administration.

“We’re not having meaningful negotiations,” senior aide to the Senate Republican leader, John Ensign of Nevada, said Obama’s opponent in last fall’s presidential campaign.

In an Associated Press interview he said Obama “hasn’t made any effort to seek a compromise bill” and that negotiators are working “between the two political extremes.”

Obama’s aids have had dinner talks with Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, who have a history of working across the aisle.

But he was not taking part in bipartisan talks on economic stimulus.

Instead, he advanced an alternative that highlighted the differences between the two political parties.

It carried a price tag of $421 billion, less than half the White House-backed measure. The majority of that was in the form of tax cuts, and the rest came in the payroll tax reductions and in the lowest income tax brackets.

The proposal also included provisions to help the battered housing industry, including the $15,000 tax credit for home buyers that passed separately on Wednesday.

Another proposal, by Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev., was designed to reduce mortgage rates to as low as 4 percent for 1 million homeowners. It was defeated on a vote of 62-35.

Sen. John Thune of South Dakota was the third Republican to try. He proposed a stimulus consisting of tax cuts and unemployment benefits for laid-off workers, at a total cost of $440 billion, but lost, 60-37.

Nearly 20 senators from both parties met twice during the day and returned a bill: a possible cut totaling nearly $80 billion. They included elimination of at least $40 billion in aid to the states, which faced a budget crises of their own, as well as a $14 billion ticketed for the National Science Foundation.

There was no sign of the group of self-appointed compromisers who agreed to support the reduction, but even if they had the numbers were far short of what some were looking for.

“The president made a strong case for a proposal that would be in the neighborhood of $800 billion,” said Sen. Susan Collins, Maine, who met with Obama at the White House on Wednesday.

Yet several hours later, Obama told reporters aboard Air Force One the legislation was already on the way. It was not taking part in bipartisain talks on economic stimulus.

In this Nov. 18, 2008 file photo, reviewed by the U.S. Military, detainees are seen from a tower overlooking a common area for Guantanamo detainees in the Camp 4 detention facility on the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. President Barack Obama began overthrowing U.S. treatment of terror suspects, signing orders on Thursday, Jan. 22, 2009, to close the Guantanamo Bay detention center.

Lara Jakes
ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon’s senior judge overseeing terror trials at Guantanamo Bay dropped charges Thursday against an al-Qaida suspect in the 2000 USS Cole bombing, upholding President Barack Obama’s order to freeze military tribunals there.

The charges against suspected al-Qaida bomber Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri marked the last active Guantanamo war crimes case.

The legal move by Susan J. Crawford, the top legal authority for military trials at Guantanamo, brings all cases into compliance with Obama’s Jan. 22 executive order to halt terrorist court proceedings at the U.S. Navy base in Cuba.

Pentagon spokesman Geoff Morrell said Crawford dismissed the charges against al-Nashiri without prejudice. That means new charges can be brought again later. He will remain in prison for the time being.

“It was her decision, but it reflects the fact that the president has issued an executive order which mandates that the military commissions be halted, pending the outcome of several reviews of our operations down at Guantanamo,” Morrell said Thursday night.

The ruling also gives the White House time to review the legal cases of all 245 terror suspects held there and decide whether they should be prosecuted in the U.S. or released to other nations.

Obama was expected to meet with families of Cole and 9/11 victims at the White House on Friday afternoon to announce the move.

Seventeen U.S. sailors died on Oct. 12, 2000, when al-Qaida suicide bombers steered an explosives-laden boat into the Cole, a guided-missile destroyer, as it sat in a Yemen port.

The Pentagon last summer charged al-Nashiri, a Saudi Arabian, with “organizing and directing” the bombing and planned to seek the death penalty in the case.

In his Jan. 22 order, Obama promised to shut down the Guantanamo prison within a year. The order also froze all Guantamano detainee legal cases pending a three-month review of the Obama administration decides where — or whether — to prosecute the suspects who have been held there for years, most without charges.

Two military judges granted Obama’s request for a delay in other cases.

But a third military judge, Army Col. James Pohl, denied Obama’s order by scheduling a Feb. 9 arraignment for al-Nashiri at Guantanamo. That left the decision on whether to continue to Crawford, whose delay on announcing what she would do prompted widespread concern at the Pentagon that she would refuse to follow orders and allow the court process to continue.

Retired Navy Cmrd. Kirk S. Lippold, the commanding officer of the Cole when it was bombed in Yemen in October 2000, said he will be among family members of Cole and 9/11 victims who are meeting with Obama at the White House on Friday afternoon.

Groups representing victims’ families were angered by Obama’s order, charging they had waited too long already to see the alleged attackers brought to court.

“I was certainly disappointed with the decision to delay the military commissions process,” Lippold, now a defense adviser to Military Families United, said in an interview Thursday night.

“We have already waited eight years. Justice delayed is justice denied. We must allow the military commission process to go forward.”

Crawford was appointed to her post in 2007 by then-President George W. Bush. She was in the news last month when she said interrogation methods used on one suspect at Guantanamo amounted to torture. The Bush administration had maintained it did not torture.

Last year, al-Nashiri said during a Guantanamo hearing that he confessed to helping plot the Cole bombing only because interrogation methods used on one suspect at Guantanamo amounted to torture. The Bush administration had maintained it did not torture.

mustangdaily.net
It's the best thing since sliced bread.
Justice Ginsburg has pancreatic cancer surgery

Mark Sherman

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has surgery Thursday for pancreatic cancer, raising the possibility that one of the ideologically divided court's leading liberals — and its only woman — might have to curtail her work or even step down before she had planned.

Ginsburg, 75, has been a justice since 1993. She has been increasingly vocal in recent years about the court's more conservative stances, especially after the appointments made by President George W. Bush.

Pancreatic cancer is often deadly, although the court's surgeons apparently found Ginsburg's growth at an early stage. In 1999, she had colon cancer surgery, underwent radiation and chemotherapy, and never missed a day on the bench. Statistics suggest this could be a tougher fight.

Ginsburg underwent the surgery at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York. She will remain in the hospital for seven to 10 days, according to the court.

The justices hold their next private conference on Feb. 20 and return to the bench from their winter break on Feb. 23.

President Barack Obama expressed hope for her speedy recovery, White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said. "We are appalled by his utter folly," The Asahi, a major newspaper, said in an outraged editorial. "Some young people casually try pot. It is vital that we educate them on the risks of this drug from a fairly early age."

More than being simply a drug issue, however, the scandal has been amplified by the fact that it involves one of the world's oldest and most tradition-bound sports — and one that is solidly rooted in religious purification ritual. Sumo wrestlers are expected to live the old-school life of a disciple. They wear their hair in top-knots, dress in traditional robes and train in communal "stables." Their schedules are tightly regulated and the word of their coaches, who are still called "masters," is absolute and final.

Sumo aficionados like to note that former grand champion Musashimaru, of Hawaii, had a 9 p.m. curfew.

All the buzz: Pot scandal jolts Japan's sumo world

Eric Talmadge

Sumo wrestlers with pot bellies, yes. Sumo wrestlers with pot? Now that's harder to grapple with.

In the past six months, four wrestlers have been kicked out of the ancient sport for allegedly smoking marijuana, creating the biggest drugs-in-sports scandal that Japan has ever seen.

Although three of the wrestlers who have been expelled from the sport were from Russia, the arrest last week of a 25-year-old Japanese athlete who goes by the ring name of Wakakirin for possession of marijuana has raised concern that use of the drug may be more widespread than originally thought.

In Japan, sumo wrestlers are not seen as athletes in the way that baseball or tennis players are. A photo of U.S. swimming star Michael Phelps with a marijuana pipe got wide play in the media here, but nowhere near the consternation of the sumo scandal.

For example, the scandal's sting of the busts in sumo — which only recently introduced doping tests — was made all the worse because of the breakdown in Japan's still relatively drug-free environment. Marijuana use, in particular, is rising rapidly despite a stiff punishment — up to five years in prison for possession.

"We are appalled by his utter folly," The Asahi, a major newspaper, said in an outraged editorial. "Some young people casually try pot. It is vital that we educate them on the risks of this drug from a fairly early age."

Wakakirin, 25, whose real name is Shinichi Suzukawa, was arrested for possession of marijuana on Jan. 29, 2009, becoming the fourth wrestler in Japan's ancient sport to become involved in a widening drug scandal.

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SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP) — A body found in a state medical board official's home was set on fire outside the office with payment or email the photo to mustangdailyads@gmail.com

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**WORD ON THE STREET**

“What will you be doing during this rainy weekend?”

“‘I was going to continue (can-vassing) for AAPD (Asian American Disability Programming) as is when I’m going back home to L.A. to visit family and then I’m going to go party on Saturday night.”

—Tony Clayton, computer engineering freshman

“Friday and Saturday I’m going to the Purity Conference at First Baptist Church. Other than that, I was sick earlier this week, so I’m going to catch up on sleep and enjoy that.”

—Tyler Bierco, architecture freshman

“I’m performing in ‘Impact,’” Orchesis Dance Company’s concert, and then I’m going to see my family. It’s my family is coming to watch me. Come see ‘Impact!’”

—Kathleen Helm, recreation junior

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**Little Love Notes**

*Message [Max of 28 characters]:*

**Dear Emily, I love you! Happy Valentine’s Day! Love, Scott**

**Happy Valentine’s Day Brad, I love you! Kelly**

**Dearest Ashley, You’re my princess! Love, Andy**

**Deadline for submissions: Monday, February 9 @ Noon**

**Ginsburg continued from page 2**

Gibbs said Thursday, and offered his thoughts and prayers.

If Ginsburg or another justice leaves the court, it falls to Obama to pick a successor. Anyone he might choose to replace her probably would be a liberal as she, if not more so, keeping in place the 5-4 conservative tilt of the court.

Ginsburg is only the second female justice in the nation's history. The other was Sandra Day O'Connor, who retired in 2006, and Ginsburg has lamented being the only woman on the court.

In the spring of 2007, she voiced her frustration with the court's increasingly conservative tone by writing two sharp dissenting opinions that were made even more notable by her decision to read from them in the courtroom.

Objecting to a decision that upheld a nationwide ban on an abortion procedure that opponents call partial-birth abortion, Ginsburg said the ruling "cannot be understood as anything other than an effort to chip away at a right declared again and again by the court — and with increasing comprehension of its centrality to women's lives."

A short while later, the court threw out a discrimination suit by Lilly Ledbetter, a longtime Goodyear supervisor who was paid thousands of dollars a year less than her male peers. "In our view, this court does not comprehend, or is indifferent to, the insidious way in which women can be victims of pay discrimination," Ginsburg said.

Ginsburg was a federal appeals court judge in Washington before President Bill Clinton appointed her. She served as a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union before that and argued six cases before the high court.

The new cancer was discovered during a routine, annual exams late last month at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md. A CAT scan revealed a tumor measuring about 1 centimeter across at the center of the pancreas, the court said.

The court offered few details about the operation or her anticipated course of treatment. Pancreatic cancer is one of the most deadly cancers. Nearly 38,000 cases a year are diagnosed and overall less than 5 percent of patients survive five years.

The treatment. Fewer than one in 10 cases are diagnosed at an early stage — like Ginsburg's appears to be — before the cancer has begun spreading through the abdomen and beyond. That's because early pancreatic cancer produces few symptoms other than vague indigestion.

**2009 Mustang Daily**
Kick back for some mellow jams and put on your dancing shoes for a birthday celebration for one of reggae’s legends. Downtown Brew Co. will be hosting its third-annual Bob Marley Birthday Bash Friday night, led by reggae musicians and enthusiasts Revolution, Native Elements and the Kicks.

Local nine-piece reggae band Revolution will headline the show once again, playing Bob Marley cover songs in honor of his birthday, as well as songs from their new album, “Conscious Development.”

“It’s a really good day to celebrate Bob Marley. He opened up the door for a lot of reggae musicians. He’s the one that put (reggae) on the map. He’s given us the chance to even be able to play the music and have it be accepted for what it is,” said Revolution drummer Tim Cordero.

According to Korri Newman, Downtown Brew’s booking and venue coordinator, this show has sold out the past two years. She said they expect a full house of about 400 people.

“Everybody who goes is positive and happy. It’s a real party atmosphere with lots of great music. Primarily, the night will be focused on Bob Marley and celebrating reggae music and what he did for the reggae community,” Newman said.

San Francisco-based reggae band Native Elements will also take the stage. Like Revolution, Native Elements will be performing original songs as well as Bob Marley covers.

“As a reggae band, you got to throw in some Bob Marley covers,” said Mike Hensel, Native Elements’ trombone player.

Native Elements plan to play about five Bob Marley cover songs including, “Thank You,” “Waiting in Vain” and “Could You Be Loved?”

This will be Native Elements’ first time playing a show at Downtown Brew.

“We heard it’s a good place to play,” said Hensel. “(Revolution) are hometown favorites down there, so they’ll draw a crowd,” he said.

“Bob Marley had a really strong message on how he thought the world should be. He was a pretty powerful man,” said landscape architecture senior and reggae fan Ian Casey.

“It’s great to see his music kept alive,” Newman said.

Bob Marley, legendary Jamaican singer-songwriter and leader of the reggae community, was born Feb. 6, 1945 and died at the young age of 35 from melanoma.

Due to the popularity of the event, it will be restricted to 21-and-over. The show will start at 9 p.m. and last until 2 a.m. Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance at Bio Bio Records, Downtown Brew box office or online at ticketweb.com for $8.
The dreaded April 15th
Not as scary once you get to know it

When a third candidate of Obama’s administration is caught not paying taxes, it’s enough to make you wonder. If people earning that much money don’t even figure out how to pay their taxes, how is the average American supposed to?

Taxes have been a part of American history since colonial times and yet we still can’t seem to get it together. With all the new rules added each year, it may seem like a bunch of mumbo-jumbo thought up by people just trying to confuse us, but this is not the case. Most of the laws are designed to help us, but piled on top of all the previous laws make things more needlessly complex.

In light of this, it’s time we asked ourselves if there is any important reason to be afraid of our taxes? It may seem like a big, disheartening task just to complete the form (or forms). However, it’s very important to ensure that you are not paying taxes that only you have to.

The language of taxes can be quite confusing, however, and some of it is difficult to understand on your own. It’s even difficult for accountants to figure out some of this stuff out.

In light of this, it’s time that we have a better understanding of our tax education classes before we’re forced into the dreaded “real world” where we have to figure out things for ourselves and where the penalties for mistakes are much higher. It would be great to have a basic introduction to personal finance classes in high school and then have another, more advanced class in college.

I know we all want to take more classes, especially those that deal with such a mundane aspect of life. But the math in this country needs taxes to function properly. Most people I know don’t really understand why we pay taxes (only that we have to).

Brace yourselves, I have chosen to venture away from defining a single word and have expanded to describing a short phrase—“that guy” and the feminine derivative “that girl.” Our generation has created this catchphrase to disclaim our most inter­ested colleagues and to ensure those absolutely hamstrung receive this title. I have compiled a list of signs to let you know which of your friends qualify. Check to see if your friend...

-Wears what appears to be a costume as an everyday outfit
-Has an assortment of burns and bruises (some from unsuccess­fully attempting a kickstand)
-Is wearing your clothes to the party and passes out on the couch
-Forgets that she is wearing a dress (i.e. trying to climb in through a win­dow)

I have enumerated these signs to help you decide if your friend qualities as that guy or girl. But if you find yourself fulfilling all of the aforementioned signs, don’t fret. We’ve all taken our turns being “that guy.”

And exactly where our money goes (to CEOs who feel the millions they make running companies into the ground aren’t enough), so a class that would teach us this information would be very helpful.

Everyone should have at least a cursory understanding of the tax system and its history. Filing taxes should not be something that we dread each year. A little education can go a long way towards making sense of our taxes, at least knowing enough to feel confident when April 15 rolls around. Hell, maybe we’ll even do our taxes early if we knew what we were actually doing.

But the day when we have a tax class may be far off or may never come. Maybe there will be too much opposition to such a concept. But if it is created one day, I predict many more people will feel better about filing their taxes.

Where do some professors student turn to when they can’t hire a per­sonal CPA? At H&R Block we are lucky because we have some students who volunteer through the Volunteer Tax Assistance Program (VITA) to help students and other low-income families file their taxes correctly for free. From April 1 to April 15, every Saturday until March 14, VITA will be on the third floor of the business building.

There are also many helpful Web sites out there to help you complete your taxes. H&R Block (hrblock.com) has several tax calculators including a tax estimator to help you decide how much credit or how many deductions you could get from student loan interest and tuition costs.

The IRS has a part of its Web site devoted to students and there is even a section on “Understanding Taxes.” This site is particularly helpful because it covers a wide range of topics, from events in your life that may affect your taxes to what types of income for college students are considered taxable. Plus, you know the information on this site is correct.

So as we get deeper into tax season, try to look at it as a learning opportu­nity. Knowing even a little more about the tax process will put you at ease and make you confident that you can get through it without having a heart attack.

Alisha Axson is a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily reporter.

Don’t be “that guy”

Marci’s World of the WEEK

-Marci Pulls is a public policy graduate student at a Mustang Daily house columnist. “Marci’s World of the Week” explores some of the more important, remainders of college life, one word at a time.

Nice work. More people need to understand this (unfortunately) unorthodox version of the facts in order to avoid similar pitfalls in the future.

-Ashley

Response to “Obama: The Next FDR?”

The juxtaposition of FDR’s policy decisions and WWII implies a degree of causation (see paragraph three). FDR’s New Deal and Germany’s military aggression are indepen­dent events. Please don’t pervert historical fact with post-hoc fallacies. The US was not reluctant for half of the war. And for what it’s worth, as much as FDR did, WWII alone ended the depression in America.

-Aaron

Anonymous

Response to “Obama: The Next FDR?”

Remember, the “progressive” first century of American capitalism is characterized by exploitation, class struggle and bureaucratic corruption. Do we really want to return to that? I applaud you to actually read The Wealth of Nations and find out what real capitalists would be. Feed your own advice, do research.

-Ryan

Response to “Obama: The Next FDR?”

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February 6, 2009
Volume LXIX, No. 87 6/2/2009
Mustang Daily

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Volunteer at Cal Poly Student Community Services Stop by UU Room 217! or call (805) 756-5834
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Announcements
Save Darfur "One Love! Cal Poly-Darfur Alliance" Informational Meeting Monday, January 9 11:00am in UU 219 7:00pm in SLC. Find out how to support our cause and learn about upcoming events! Contact Lynsey: boli@calpoly.edu

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Pop Culture Shock Therapy by Doug Bratton
Poster pop culture comics and games

How Tony Stark Survived Judgement Day

Across
1 Problem in closing
16 Just before it's too late
17 1984 Jollieth Williams comedy/adventure film
18 Oulka option
19 Bucket seat feature
20 Seventeen people, briefly
21 One whose deposits are often collected
22 Hit-making group
24 Gladie, at times
27 Beattle's need
30 Grounded
31 One way to kick a bad habit
32 World-weary
33 "per" day
34 Like Gene's former family
35 Like some cookie sheets
36 I, have, in Lel Havre
59 Pressure points
62 Who said 'A hungry man is not a free man'
63 One who'd like to put you in your place

Down
14 Given a line
15 Goes oft
16 Strike it Easy
17 Goes Out
21 Whitebelt, e.g.
23 Roses too
24 Stone, to Caesar
25 Like a shepherd's charges
31 Luxury hotel award
32 Big pictures
33 Resource
35 Pick up
36 Start ___(be)
37 .. ye shall___
38 Alice who wrote
39 Utter collapse
40 Preview crowd
42 Brewer's product
43 "... ye shall___
44 Social group
45 Social group
46 Instructive
47 1980s N.B.A. guard Matthews
48 They look better when they're ripped
49 Like some cockie sheets
50 Cuban patriot
51 A room with una
52 World-weary
53 Formerly
54 Mexican
55 Decide to leave
56 I have, in Lel Havre
57 Like some cookie sheets
58 Abba's "Love
59 Like some cockie sheets
60 Jazz guitarist
61 Like Mahler's
62 Who said "A hungry man is not a free man"
63 One who'd like to put you in your place

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· BETTER VALUE

Puzzle by Martin Amish-Good
35 George Hamilton's "Mimi"
36 U-shaped carrier
41 Real poser
42 Brewer's product
47 They have certain rings to words
51 A room with una
52 Social group
53 Fords
54 Mexican
55 Decide to leave
57 Like some sources: Abbr.
58 Abba's "Love
59 Mexican
60 Jazz guitarist
61 Like Mahler's
62 Who said "A hungry man is not a free man"
63 One who'd like to put you in your place

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7 1 4 6 9
6 1 8 3 5
9 5 6 1 2
2 4 7 9 6

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Cal Poly softball team ready to regain top form

If the team is to strive for a national championship, it will have to battle through a competitive schedule that includes 21 games against opponents who appeared in last year's NCAA tournament including San Diego State and Purdue to start the year in the Stacey Winsberg Memorial Tournament. Even though the team lost several key players including right fielder Sarah Iwata, a former first team All-Big West selection, and pitcher Robyn Kontra, Condon said that the team will be just as strong this season.

"I think they're fine," she said. "Every year the team is different. I think this year we've got some great senior leadership and they have done a great job working on team chemistry and really setting the tone in the classroom and on the field. Their work ethic is second to none." Seven position starters and three pitchers will return from last year's team which Condon said makes it the deepest team she's had from an experience standpoint.

we have been preparing to put ourselves in a position where hopefully we will get the opportunity to play for a national championship.

—Jenny Condon
Cal Poly head coach

con don said that the team chemistry is exceptional this year, and is confident that it will be the reason the team will maximize its potential. "I think it's one of these intangibles, at the end of the season when you come up short in some area a lot of teams find that that's the reason," she said. "When you are all fighting for the same thing it makes it a little bit easier. I think our seniors have done a good job cultivating the relationships with the younger players and bringing them along quicker than we have in the past. "At this point I think we're in a good position for the beginning of the season. Our pitching looks solid, our defense is great and hitting is good as well." Senior third baseman Cris­ ten Lee said that her goal is to put everything she can out on the field, win conference and ad­ vance to regionals. "I think we have all the tools that we need to be able to do that," she said. "It's a matter of being able to execute." Senior shortstop Me­ lissa Pura said that she is sure that the team is capable of winning the Big West title and its biggest strength is work ethic and tenacity. "I think this season is so different in the fact that we're so close, which is very unique," she said. "Our team is like a family.

Mustangs roll to fifth consecutive victory

The Cal Poly women's softball team opened their season against San Diego State at the Stacey Winsberg Memorial Tournament at UCLA on Friday. "Coming back from last year's third place Big West finish and 24-22 overall record, head coach Jenny Condon said the team has been preparing since the end of last season, and looks strong going into their first tournament. "We had about four or five scrimmages with some outside competition just to see where we are and give the freshman some experience at this level," she said.

The Cal Poly women's softball team will open their season against San Diego State at the Stacey Winsberg Memorial Tournament at UCLA on Friday.

"We practice pretty much every weekday until game day," Condon's goals for the season include winning conference, making it to the post season, and trying to win regionals. "The ultimate goal for everyone is work ethic, at the end of the season when you come up short in some area a lot of teams find that that's the reason," she said. "When you are all fighting for the same thing it makes it a little bit easier. I think our seniors have done a good job cultivating the relationships with the younger players and bringing them along quicker than we have in the past. "At this point I think we're in a good posi­tion for the beginning of the season. Our pitching looks solid, our defense is great and hitting is good as well." Senior third baseman Cris­ ten Lee said that her goal is to put everything she can out on the field, win conference and ad­ vance to regionals. "I think we have all the tools that we need to be able to do that," she said. "It's a matter of being able to execute." Senior shortstop Me­ lissa Pura said that she is sure that the team is capable of winning the Big West title and its biggest strength is work ethic and tenacity. "I think this season is so different in the fact that we're so close, which is very unique," she said. "Our team is like a family.

Cal Poly's Aly Geppert attempts a layup during the Mustangs 61-51 win over UC Irvine yesterday.