New diversity initiatives underway

Chebca Bieker

In response to last quarter’s crop house incident, new university initiatives are underway aimed at improving Call Poly’s diversity and increase multicultural awareness in the curriculum.

Cal Poly President Warren Baker sent out a campus-wide e-mail earlier this month detailing the “Inclusive Excellence Model,” developed by the Association of American Colleges and Universities, which will promote a more accepting and varied learning environment.

The model is described as paving the way toward a more “rich and diverse learning environment where everyone feels valued and included.”

ASI President Angela Kramer said diversity contributes to a well-rounded education and helps students develop perspectives about the world around them.

“It really is important for any university to foster those sorts of opportunities for people to experience differences of perspectives,” she said. “Without it you just don’t have education.”

Kramer is involved in the development of the Inclusive Excellence Model, as well as the diversity learning objectives associated with it.

“With the diversity learning objectives you have a set of guidelines for faculty members to follow when conducting their classes,” Kramer said. “It could be how to foster a successful conversation, or how to meet in the middle with dissent.”

She said that departments will have the autonomy to develop these principles as they see fit, as long as they adhere to the guidelines set forth.

“You need to allow it to happen,” Kramer said. “You need to allow debate and allow people (on the playing field to say something that may be a little bit controversial.)”

Kramer is a self-described supporter of the model, and said that because Cal Poly doesn’t have a racially-diverse population, the school will have to take extra steps in comparison with other universities to ensure that all students feel safe and welcome in this academic and social environment.

“I think with the incident that happened at the crop house, it makes us realize that it happens to other people and that it really affected them,” she said. “A lot of Cal Poly students don’t have those words directed at them. We as a university were really shocked into this reality that not everyone feels comfortable here.”

President Robert Koob said that the Inclusive Excellence Model would aid students and faculty in their development.

see Diversity, page 2

Former spy discusses Middle Eastern issues

Josh Ayers

Pro-Israel advocates will have a chance to express their views tonight when the Cal Poly Israel Alliance and Hillel host guest speaker Aryeh Green at 8 p.m. in Philips Hall.

Green is the current director of Media Central, an organization that aims to provide support and services to foreign journalists working in Israel. He has an extensive background in the arena of human rights and Middle East policy.

“It is going to be an informative event,” said Zachary Goldstein, vice president of Cal Poly Israel Alliance and mechanical engineering senior.

“He’s had lots of experience,” he added.

Green, a Washington D.C. native, hails a wide variety of lectures and discussion topics, but will focus particularly on human rights and freedom issues regarding the Middle East — specifically the democratic process and its potential benefit to all nationalities in the region.

In addition to his work at Central Media, Green has been a policy advisor to Natan Sharansky, former Israeli minister and prime minister, since the mid-1990s.

“Sharon was a child-like optimist,” he said. “The city was dead.”

“I’m amazed that it was so quiet. There used to be parties everywhere, with a Mardi Gras theme, but it just isn’t what it used to be,” psychology senior Liz Sbrano said.

For the last five years, in what may be a sad period for some people’s college pride, the City of San Luis Obispo has proudly proclaimed that the “party is over.”

In a campaign that began following the Mardi Gras riot of 2004, in which the town was accused of attracting crowds of young people, breaking windows and reaping havoc.

The city council declared that Mardi Gras celebrations in San Luis Obispo were over and asked for the police department to stop it. Captain Dan Blanke said.

The San Luis Obispo Police Department was asked to present a three-year plan to eliminate the carnival-like atmosphere in the city. The most drastic

see Mardi Gras, page 2

Mardi Gras: all quiet on the SLO front

Clinton McGuire

Overheard conversations prior to class usually cover a wide variety of subjects, but talk around campus at the beginning of this week is about the Mardi Gras weekend that wasn’t.

One of the most recognized events in college town took a backseat to life this past weekend in San Luis Obispo; as the excessive partying was held to a minimum.

Cal Poly students seemed either unaware that this past weekend was Mardi Gras, or couldn’t find a way to unleash themselves during the long weekend before Ash Wednesday.

“I knew it was Mardi Gras, but nothing was happening,” business freshman Erin Diamond said. “The city was dead.”

“It’s amazing that it was so quiet. There used to be parties everywhere.

see Mardi Gras, page 2
Green
continued from page 1

decade in prison for springing for the United States, immigrated to Israel in the late 1980s and has been active in promoting democracy and human rights in the Middle East.

President of Cal Poly Israel Alliance Jacob Kory, electrical engineering senior, said he wants people to come "in order to learn about the greater Middle East, not just the Israel-Arab conflict."

Goldstein said he wants the event to provide a positive, fresh view for students that attend.

"It's going to be a positive event," he said. "We're not out there to badmouth anybody. We're here to promote Israel and to promote democracy and positive solutions."

Goldstein referenced recent events put on by the Students for Justice and Peace and said that some have not been constructive. He hopes to provide more balance on the topic by hosting the Green lecture.

"We think a lot of the information is not very accurate and we're doing this event to provide a positive, fresh view for students that can be accomplished within daily student life."

"I would like to encourage my friends and colleagues to step up a little bit," she said. "That is your place, it's not being rude, it's not telling people how to live their lives, it's about respect. It's about an educated class about to go into the world saying comments and describing people in a way that has traditionally been filled with hate, that's not an educated action."

Kramer said she views Cal Poly as an open campus and very relaxed about issues involving diversity.

"Besides the crops house, I personally have never had any issues with hate or intolerance," she said. "But there is a difference between, I'm not racist, and standing up for someone?"

Both Koob and Kramer are aware that although action is underway in dealing with this issue, there is still much to be done, including providing more training for faculty and staff and providing contacts for students to report behavior they are uncomfortable with.

"I do think that we wish to do whatever we can so that the climate is as supportive as it can be," Koob said. "But you are never perfect; there is always more to do. But I do think we are attempting to improve."

Kramer describes diversity as "just having people."

"We will take every necessary step that is feasible that will change that climate," she said. "Who are we to tell people who they can and can'tbe? It's not our place."

Mardi Gras
continued from page 1

matic and noticeable approach to fixing the problem came in 2005 when about 450 police officers were patrolling the streets. The normal amount of vehicles paroling the streets is 13 to 14.

"You really couldn't look right or left without seeing a police car," Blanke said.

It was an effort that couldn't be done by the local police alone. The highway patrolmen from as far as Sacramento came to help and the FBI also helped coordinate the initial crackdown, he said.

This weekend the police department had 20 cars on patrol.

We think people have forgotten about it," graphic communications senior Michael Forte said. "The city really shut it down."

According to Blanke, this was the Mardi Gras that wasn't. The level of activity was normal for an average weekend, he said.

"As far as we are concerned, Mardi Gras is basically dead and we want the memory of it to fade away," Blanke said.

Diversity
continued from page 1

"We put more (police) on patrol, because we weren't sure what to expect," Blanke said. "We didn't hear any advanced talk and nothing came up in our Internet searches. But, we were in the business of being safe rather than sorry."

Each year since the riots, the celebrations have become less and less chaotic and forgotten by more and more students. This year, however, may have marked the death of the carnival in SLO.

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WORD ON THE STREET

“How are you celebrating Mardi Gras?”

“I didn’t know it was Fat Tuesday! What am I doing in school?”
Corey Kreider, environmental engineering senior

“No, not really. I knew it was today but I was busy with school, I probably would be partying if I were to celebrate.”
-Bryan Welly, agriculture business freshmen

“It’s Fat Tuesday right now?”
-Matt Hutton, environmental engineering graduate student

“I have no plans. I knew it was coming up but didn’t know exactly when it was.”
-Robert Hosbach, general engineering junior

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Reformers debate Calif. Constitution

Juliet Williams
Associated Press

Following the bruising effort to fix California's budget deficit, political reformers are debating a novel idea to end the state's political gridlock. They want to rewrite the state Constitution to fundamentally change how California governs itself.

The Constitutional Convention Summit convened Tuesday in Sacramento, bringing together office holders and government experts to hash out ideas about how to do it. The gathering was organized by the Bay Area Council, a business group.

Among the suggestions brought by participants: scrap term limits for legislators, redraw political districts to make them smaller, allow voters to register on Election Day or when they renew their driver's license and combine the two houses of the state Legislature.

California voters first would need to approve an initiative allowing a constitutional convention, then decide who gets to participate.

Obama speaks on economy

Ron Fournier
Associated Press

President Barack Obama gave America the audacity to hope again. After describing the U.S. economy in nearly apocalyptic terms for weeks, pushing his $787 billion stimulus plan through Congress, the president used his address to Congress on Tuesday night to tap the deep well of American optimism — the never-say-die spirit that every president tries to capture in words. And great presidents embody.

"We will rebuild. We will recover, and the United States of America will emerge stronger than before," Obama said, echoing Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Ronald Reagan.

"The answers to our problems don't lie beyond our reach," Obama said. "What is required now for this country is to pull together, confront boldly the challenges we face, and take responsibility for our future once more."

The themes of responsibility, accountability and, above all, national community rang throughout an address carefully balanced by the gravity of its times. "The impact of this recession is real, and it is everywhere," he said.

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Swingin’ musical returns for highly anticipated encore

Samantha MacConnell
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Although we'll never be able to relive days gone by, it's sometimes fun to revel in the memories. "In The Mood," a fully staged retro musical that recreates moments in the lives and times of America's Greatest generation, aims to convey a sense of that time period when it makes its second appearance at the Performing Arts Center Wednesday evening.

The event sold out so fast last March, many did not get to see the show. "What it brings to audiences is an authentic recreation of that very special era, the World War II era of music and dance that a lot of our patrons might remember or they remember their parents listening to this music," said Lisa Woske, marketing coordinator for Cal Poly arts. "It's really a retro show recreating that time in our entertainment history.'

World War II defined the 1940s and saw the creation of what would be called the 'greatest generation.' Women entered the workforce and the television, first computer and music of the Big Bands emerged, which found a way to lift America's spirits.

The term 'greatest generation' was because those people really believed what they were fighting for and if anything, "In The Mood" does try to portray that," said Bud Forrest, the show's creator, producer and musical director. "People leave the show with a renewed energy and spirit."

The play features music of the 1940s that moved the nation in a time of hardship. The music of Glenn Miller and Tommy Dorsey, two American big band leaders, will be presented, along with the talents of Artie Shaw, Benny Goodman, Harry James, Erskine Hawkins, the Andrews Sisters and Frank Sinatra.

Forrest pointed out how Glenn Miller's 1942 song "At Last," made classic by Etta James' rendition, was sung at many of President Barack Obama's inaugural balls while he danced with his wife, illuminating the music's lasting impact and appreciation today.

"I think that this music is American music, American lyrics, American big bands, and I think it's part of our culture," Forrest said. "I think for people coming to see "In The Mood" there is no story, but the music is the story."

Along with the Cal Poly performance, "In The Mood" has 13 other performances scheduled throughout the state. The musical features a 23-member company of singers, dancers, and the String of Pearls Big Band Orchestra. Authentic and colorful costumes recreate the essence of the 1940s.

"I really want to encourage the college community to come out and experience something that has probably not crossed their radians in a while," Forrest said. "I think they would absolutely enjoy this presenta-
Crime is a disease and we're a pink chalky-tasting medicine!

Back when I was a kid I would play on my dad's Power Mac for hours. I remember faking sick all the time to stay home and play my favorite LucasArts adventure games, like "Sam & Max Hit the Road." I can't help but to think about the offbeat dialogue in Sam & Max comics. Sam and Max really have a comedic violence that much. And if you're really feeling in the mood, try to find a copy of "Sam & Max Hit the Road." That isn't enough, which I'm sure it won't be, you just might be able to find the short-lived animated series on DVD.

So if ever you have a hangover for some offbeat comedy, pick up a copy of "Sam & Max Surfin' the Highway." If that isn't enough, or if you're really feeling in the mood, try to find a copy of "Sam & Max Hit the Road." That isn't enough, which I'm sure it won't be, you just might be able to find the short-lived animated series on DVD.

Jon Montcith is a history senior and Mustang Daily comic book columnist.
Wednesday, March 11
11 am - 2 pm on Dexter Lawn

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Stimulus lures with promise of instant gratification

After all the froth over the stimulus bill lather, I am convinced that this country is dominated by two classes. The first class is made up of those weak- and wiseful-minded, often called Democrats. The second class is that craven order which proys upon the first class and is often known as "our nation's leaders."

These two classes assure the passage of Obama's (or was it Bush's) stimulus packages. Bafflingly, enough people believe that taking money from some people and giving it to other people will solve this country's economic problems, as though a bankrupt government can rescue a bankrupt nation. Also, another crucial ingredient, there are enough politicians in power sufficiently craven to execute this idiocy.

As its core, the stimulus package cater to base emotion. Many Americans find themselves in a pinch and they want out — now. The promise of instant gratification is what makes McDonal'd's such a successful franchise. It is the same cheap, greedy rubbish which assures the success of Obama's presidency, a presidency that is already suffocating under mountains of trash, which mainstream history, with its predictable prejudices, will continue to pen with favoring, flattering quills long after we have all read ad.

But really, I'm no elitist. Base emotions are the stuff of man, without which we probably wouldn't recognize our best friends, or ourselves for that matter. Let's be honest, very few care about correctly identifying the causes of the current recession. We lack the intellectual tools, interest and the motivation to do so. What we're having for dinner tonight is of much higher importance.

In pursuit of honesty, let's go one step further. Despite all this grand talk about solving for some great common purpose, we really put all that nonsense behind us after watching the evening news. Is that it? Our petty, private existences, our own unique, selfish ends matter a good deal more, do they not? At the end of the day, we're individuals and spend most of our lives

by Jeremy Hicks

Don't Tread on Me

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Tattoo removal offers a chance to fade the past

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

I am blessed to live during a time of technological advancement where permanent mistakes can be erased.

When I was younger, I was not so careful with what I did. I had a tattoo removed because it was considered cosmetic and a personal option in most cases.

I have witnessed the growing trend of tattoos, including parlors arising in smaller suburban areas and even small-knit communities in California. Years ago, Berkeley or San Francisco were the most well-known places to go for body work. But now tattoo parlors like Zeba, Inc. are opening shop in places like Walnut Creek, Calif., an East Bay town of business, entertainment and wealth. The shop's arrival is rumored to attract the "soccer moms" in the area, who may be conveniently located to an escape from a middle-life crisis.

According to the American Society of Dermatological Surgery, over 50 percent of the 10 million Americans who have a tattoo would like it removed.

Afterall, the skull and crossbone tattoos that once seemed fashionable or tough are not always perceived well by employers or family members and it certainly will look different on the skin in 30 years.

Today, laser tattoo removal treatment is widely performed, with centers all over the United States. Previous removal methods such as excision, dermabrasion, salabrasion, chemical removal and laser rays caused scarring.

Now, technologically advanced lasers are gentle, effective and prevent harmful side effects.

A few hours before treatment, the patient must apply a high-topical anesthetic numbing cream to the site. Believe me, this is the important part. The procedure lasts 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the size of the tattoo. The laser beam passes through the skin and attacks the inked particle inside. The blood stream then absorbs the ink and processes it through the kidneys and liver to remove it as waste in a natural body process for the next two months. It's nice to collect before and after photos to track the progress.

An evaluation is needed to estimate the amount of ink in the tattoo. On average, a tattoo removal costs $1,500 to $2,000. Every tattoo artist's style is different, so every tattoo is different. The tattoo artist that created mine went over it twice, resulting in additional ink to be removed, meaning more money and time. Just because a tattoo is larger doesn't necessarily mean it has more ink than a smaller tattoo.

Most insurance companies will not cover the tattoo removal procedure because it is considered cosmetic and a personal option in most cases.

I have witnessed the growing trend of tattoos, including parlors arising in smaller suburban areas and even small-knit communities in California. Years ago, Berkeley or San Francisco were the most well-known places to go for body work. But now tattoo parlors like Zeba, Inc. are opening shop in places like Walnut Creek, Calif., an East Bay town of business, entertainment and wealth. The shop's arrival is rumored to attract the "soccer moms" in the area, who may be conveniently located to an escape from a middle-life crisis or be unfortunate enough to have a media-hyped "tramp stamp" done.

The TV show "L.A. Ink" is extremely popular, revealing the emotional aspects of tattoos and the reasons people permanently ink their bare skin. I don't mean to offend tattoo lovers or possible candidates of tattoos. I am definitely not one of them. I have seen many people become addicted. I just find it ironic that tattoos were once considered non-conforming and unique marks.

TattooFinder.com has a pretty interesting list of questions to ask before making a life-changing tattoo decision:

1) There will be some level of pain involved. Am I OK with that?
2) Am I comfortable knowing that a tattoo will become a permanent part of my body?
3) Do I accept that, even under ideal circumstances, there may be some health risks?
4) Whether people love my tattoo or hate it, can I accept potential tattoo criticisms and other "tattoo attention" as part of my life?
5) What are my reasons for wanting a tattoo?
6) Do I understand that my tattoo will change in appearance over time?
7) Am I willing to educate myself and do the required research needed for the best tattoo experience?
8) Am I willing to take full responsibility for the final outcome of my tattoo and experience?
9) Does the decision to get tattooed feel like my own, or are there other influences that might be pressuring me?
10) Are there alternatives to a tattoo that would better satisfy my desire to get one?
11) Over time I have realized that I don't want my life to be affected negatively by society's views on tattoos, and I came to the conclusion that I am young enough to reverse any preconceived misconceptions of my personality.

I have been fortunate to watch my tattoo significantly fade. I predict that there will be no trace of ink by this summer, and I'm excited to wear tank tops that will reveal my inkless upper back.

I am now able to appreciate unlimited possibilities for opportunities in the future, and blessed to live during a time of technological advance where seemingly permanent mistakes can be erased. At least I didn't have anyone's name tattooed on my skin.

Ashley Cull is a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily reporter.
Lifeguards - Avila Beach Port San Luis Harbor District has seasonal part-time opportunities for high school graduates (or enrolled seniors age 17+) with certification in First Aid and CPR. Title 22 (or ability to obtain same) to serve as lifeguards in Avila Beach. Candidate must be able to pass a 500 meter ocean swim test in 10 minutes or less; provide safe conditions for users of public beach by watching over beach activities; advise public of dangerous sea conditions and provide lifesaving assistance; use emergency equipment; keep logbooks of incidents/ injuries, and maintain cleanliness of beach areas. Prior experience desirable. PAY RANGE: $11.96 – $15.26 hr. (Minimum wage during training: $8.00/hr.) SWIM TESTING: Saturday, March 14, 2009 (Avila Pier at 9:00 a.m.). Obtain application at the Harbor Office, 3950 Avila Beach Dr., in Avila Beach, Mon-Fri from 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon and 1:00-4:30 p.m., or by mail: Port San Luis Harbor District, P.O. Box 249, Avila Beach, CA 93424 or online at www.portsanluis.com. Deadline: Thursday, March 12, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. Questions call 595-5400 x11.
Basketball

Cal Poly head coach Kevin Bromley tutors junior guard Lorenzo Keeler during last Saturday's game against South Dakota State.

Gordon

continued from page 12

that were a little larger but all of a sudden I saw him for the first time before a game, and this dude had nice threads on and the clothes were nicely strung.

Gordon's smooth transition to the NBA is in sharp contrast to the process that led him to Indiana for college. He orally committed to Illinois before backing out to play for the Hoosiers, leading to an ugly trip to Champaign during his only season with IU.

The 6-foot-3 Gordon led the Big Ten in scoring (20.9 points), set school and Big Ten freshman scoring records with 669 points, and made the third-most free throws by a Hoosier in a single season (231).

But Indiana's 25-8 season was marred by Kelvin Sampson's midseason resignation, the promotion of Dan Dakich to interim coach and three player suspensions.

"A lot of different things affected the team last year," Gordon Sr. said. "I think coach Sampson was the only guy who could control those kids. And when he wasn't around, kids weren't going to class and were just hanging around."

Gordon told The Indianapolis Star it was a "well-known fact" that some players were using drugs, and that their use created a rift on the team. Some players wanted to protest Sampson's ouster, but Gordon stuck around and went on to practice.

"Our team was split up in many different ways," he said. "But that entire experience prepared me to take on anything. I just know how to take it how it is — coaching change and players getting in trouble — a lot of those things happen in the NBA so I'm ready for it."

The silky playmaker is putting together quite the rookie year off the court, too. He started the Eric Gordon Foundation in Indiana with his father and is working with the Indiana Board of Health to set up the shots for the elderly and HPV vaccines for young girls.

While the Clippers stumble through another difficult year, they have at least one bright spot in place. The losses and a rash of injuries have led to more playing time for Gordon, who is raking in the most of his opportunity.

"He's got a good head on his shoulders and we keep pushing to get through this," Danlevy said. "If we were playing with our team on a nightly basis and this was our record, then I think he would be tested character-wise. But I think our guys understand that we do have an upside."

Basketball continued from page 12

side," he said. "They're big, they're physical and they're strong. They keep their games very close."

Cal Poly sophomore guard Shawn Lewis continued his recent run of strong play in the win over South Dakota State, scoring 21 points and grabbing four rebounds.

"Shawn's playing good basketball right now," Bromley said. "He's aggressive off the dribble, I lie's aggressive running the bounds.

As Lewis' play has improved, Bromley has noticed his confidence has grown as well.

"Shawn is ego driven, and I don't mean egotistical," Bromley explained. "Ego driven is a good thing." He's aggressive running the ball right now," Bromley said, "and he's aggressive running the floor."

Bromley admitted, however, that Lewis' youthful enthusiasm isn't always a positive.

"I tried to teach him some evidence has grown as well.

"But Indiana's 25-8 season was marred by Kelvin Sampson's midseason resignation, the promotion of Dan Dakich to interim coach and three player suspensions.

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Athletics

continued from page 12

Raiders unveiled plans to move south in November 2006, after trying unsuccessfully for years to find a suitable site in Oakland.

The $1.8 billion ballpark village plan called for a 32,000-seat stadium beyond Wolff's statement.

The A's purchased land for the project in November 2006, after trying unsuccessfully for years to find a suitable site in Oakland.

The $1.8 billion ballpark village plan called for a 32,000-seat stadium, town houses and retail space.

The A's hoped a new ballpark would help them become a bigger spender and a more popular choice for fans in the Bay Area.

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**Wednesday, February 25, 2009**

**SPORTS**

**MUSTANG DAILY**

**men's basketball**

**Mustangs hanging on by a thread**

They're still alive — barely. The Cal Poly men's basketball team needs a lot to happen in order to make the Big West Conference Tournament next month.

"Mathematically we're still in it," Cal Poly head coach Kevin Bromley said. "(Winning the games we have left) is all you can do."

The Mustangs trail UC Santa Barbara by two and a half games for the final tournament slot with three games to play. The Gauchos hold the tiebreaker by virtue of two wins against Cal Poly this season.

So the Gauchos would have to lose out while the Mustangs would have to win out.

There is an even trickier situation involving sixth-place UC Riverside dropping their final games, including a season finale at Cal Poly that would allow a tiebreaker scenario. The teams would have split two meetings, which would mean the team with the better record against the top finisher in the conference would go to the tournament.

Both scenarios seem like a statistical improbability, but Bromley said that despite the tough season, the team would battle to the end. "They're a pretty high-character group," he said. "Coming off some of the devastating losses we've had, the guys come back very well."

The Mustangs (7-17, 3-10) have suffered a slew of close losses this season, including seven losses by five points or less.

In Cal Poly's last game, a 66-62 win over South Dakota State, the Mustangs were able to use some of that close-game experience to their advantage in pulling out a win over the Jackrabbits.

"We were down five in the second half and our guys showed a lot of moxie and character in coming back," Bromley said. The Mustangs will try to put some of their new late-game knowledge to use when they host Cal State Bakersfield (7-20) tonight at 7 p.m. in Mott Gym. The Roadrunners beat Cal Poly by two points earlier this season.

While the Cal State Bakersfield game is nonconference, Bromley said he'd help the Mustangs prepare for their final Big West Conference games, particularly UC San Diego and UC Santa Barbara.

"Bakersfield is a lot like Riverside," Bromley said. "They're a pretty high-character group, so I think it's an opportunity we need to take advantage of."

The team needs a lot to happen in order to make the Big West Conference Tournament next month.

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Cal Poly freshman guard Justin Brown attempts a layup during the Mustangs' 66-62 victory over South Dakota State on Saturday night.

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**Oakland Athletics end Fremont stadium plans**

Sudhin Thanawala

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — The Oakland Athletics on Tuesday officially scrapped their plans to move to Fremont, capping months of speculation that the team would pull out of over-procedural holdings.

A's owner Lew Wolff told city officials in a letter that the A's have stopped all plans to build a new, state-of-the-art stadium in the San Francisco Bay area suburb, 20 miles south of the team's current home at the Oakland Coliseum. He cited expected delays to the project as a reason for his decision.

"Delays that are both real and threatened have made it impossible for me to assure my organization of an implementation date consistent with our needs and the requirements of Major League Baseball," Wolff wrote in the letter. He noted that the team had already committed more than $80 million to the project, $24 million of which is not recoverable.

Fremont Mayor Bob Wasserman said he was disappointed by the decision. "I think it's an opportunity we may never have again," he said. "It would have generated revenue for a city that badly needs revenue."