Previously undiscovered fault found near Diablo Canyon

No clear-cut directions for campus in case of nuclear incident at plant

New Obama rules will transform US auto fleet

Students, community walk in memorial for Cal Poly student
Among the few cars sold today that get more than 30 miles per gallon are models that have more than four gears, adding efficiency, and compression of the air-fuel mixture, the engine, saving fuel.

Power steering and air conditioners and power steering pumps are so components such as air conditioning and fuel efficient. The Volt is designed to run 40 miles on battery power when it is fully charged. After that, a small internal combustion engine kicks in to avoid coasting and to charge the car's battery. Other automakers are working on similar systems.

The Volt is expected to sell for $35,000 to $40,000, and buyers may be unwilling to pay that much for a sedan, even if it taxes help ease the burden, unless gas prices soar.

Recall the battery electric vehicles, which under government calculations could get 100 mpg or more, will help automakers meet the standards and offset sales of larger, less-efficient models.

Diablo
continued from page 1

The Diablo administration says the changes mean the average vehicle would cost about $1,300 more, although some private analysts say the increase will be much higher. The administration says gas savings will make up the difference in about three years.

Automakers have said they need stable, relatively high gasoline prices to create a market for electric vehicles. General Motors fears rolling out its rechargeable Chevrolet Volt next year with gas at $3 per gallon.

American consumers have already shown their car-buying habits can change rapidly depending on gas prices. When fuel cost $4 a gallon last summer, people flocked to smaller cars. Gas is much cheaper now, and sales of hybrids have plummeted.

"The U.S. consumer has consistently chosen performance over fuel economy given the relatively low cost of fuel," David Lesicki, senior automotive analyst for Robert W. Baird & Co. in Milwaukee, wrote in a note to investors.

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News editor: Rachel Glass
News designer: Omar Sanchez
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Obama
continued from page 1

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Big names and bucks back nuclear 'bank'

Charles J. Hanley

BUFFALO, N.Y. — President Obama and the partnership of a savvy ex-Soviet strongman may turn the steppes of central Asia into a nuclear nexus, a go-to place for "safe" uranium fuel in an increasingly nervous atomic age.

The $150 million idea, with seed money from U.S. billionaire Warren Buffett, must still navigate the tricky maze of global nuclear politics, along with a parallel Russian plan. But the notion of such fuel banks is moving higher on the world's agenda as a way to keep ultimate weapons out of many more hands.

Decisions may come as early as next month here in Vienna.

The half-century-old vision, to establish international control over the technology fueling atom bombs, was resurrected in 2003, when Iran alarmed many by announcing it would develop fuel installations for nuclear power; it installed Mohamed ElBaradei, U.N. nuclear chief, then said the time had come to "multilateralize" the technology to stop its spread to individual countries.

Last month, the new U.S. president gave the idea its biggest boost.

"I know a little bit about the initiatives for funding on the state college level. It's really hard to get accurate information from people on campus because everyone has their own biases."

-Trevor Inglish, art and design junior

"Not very, I briefed through the article in the Mustang and I got a packet in my mail at home, but I haven't really looked at it."

-Jen Russell, business administration junior

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Chairman of the Board William Rukeyser

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Federal officials have honored the first Jewish woman to serve in Congress with a portrait that will be permanently displayed at the U.S. Capitol.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi unveiled the portrait of Florence Kahn, Kahn represented a San Francisco congressional district. The portrait shows her with a picture of the Golden Gate Bridge in the background, which helped advocate for while in Congress.

Kahn served from 1925 to 1937 and was a proponent of strong armed forces. The House biography of her says she secured a variety of military installations in the Bay Area, including the Naval Air Det.

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Chairman of the Board William Rukeyser

A SANTA MARIA man has been arrested for the murder of a 5-year-old boy who died after being thrown off a cliff by his babysitter.

Juan Francisco Nunez was held by his boss — has sparked a debate about whether Mexico is winning the drug war or facing a fearless enemy.

Soldiers acting on an anonymous tip arrested Rodolfo Lopez Barra on Tuesday at an airport in the northern city of Monterrey, as a convoy of armed men waited to ferry him to a luxury house and a set of offices in an upscale suburb.

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"I know a little bit about the initiatives for funding on the state college level. It's really hard to get accurate information from people on campus because everyone has their own biases."
Scientists unveiled the skeleton of a 47 million-year-old creature from Germany, Tuesday that may help illuminate the early evolution of monkeys, apes and humans.

A worker is in the process of blending down highly-enriched uranium pellets at the Ulba Metal Plant in eastern Kazakhstan, 900 km (560 miles) east of the capital Astana. Warren Buffett’s bankroll, Obama’s clout and the partnership of a savvy ex-Soviet strongman may turn the steppes of central Asia into a nuclear mecca, a go-to place for “safe” uranium fuel in an increasingly nervous atomic age.

“Assurance” is the buzzword — a desire to assure future Iran that won’t be politically motivated cuts of nuclear fuel supplies, and so they neededn’t build, at huge cost, their own enrichment plant. Only one proposal has upfront money behind it, however — the idea advanced by the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), a Washington-based organization founded by philanthropist Ted Turner and former U.S. Sen. Joe Lieberman.

Calling it an “investment in a safer world,” inventor and NTI adviser Buffett, considered America’s richest man, pledged $50 million to such a bank, provided governments put up an additional $100 million. The proposal was passed in March, most of the money coming from the U.S. and the European Union.

The $150 million would buy enough low-enriched uranium to fuel a 1,000-megawatt power plant, jump-starting a constantly replenished fuel stockpile that would be owned and sold by the IAEA at market prices and on a nondiscriminatory basis.

On April 6, the day after Obama’s address, another piece of that puzzle fell into place near 3,000 miles (5,000 kilometers) from Prague, when another president spoke in Astana, capital of the ex-Soviet republic of Kazakhstan.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev announced his country would host a nuclear fuel bank — and that it would be highly symbolic to put the fuel in a country that got rid of nuclear weapons.

The NTI co-chairman told The Associated Press he first approached the Kazakh leader about hosting a fuel bank “a couple of years ago.” By this May 5, Nazarbayev’s foreign minister was in Washington discussing the plan with Gen. James Jones, Obama’s national security adviser.

Most intriguing, perhaps, was the fact that Nazarbıyev’s announcement came with Iran’s visiting president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, standing at his side. The Iranian called the fuel bank “a very good proposal.” In fact, Telvas has suggested that an international consortium might also enrich uranium on Iranian soil.

Iran isn’t likely to give up its controversial fuel facilities, which some fear could lead to an Iranian bomb. But Nunn said a Kazakh or other multinational fuel bank, by involving Iran in an enterprise with international oversight, “could be a very useful tool not the whole answer but part of an answer” to what he called “the Iranian challenge.”

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Nuclear (continued from page 3)

In a historic speech to tens of thousands in Prague, Czech capital, Barack Obama detailed an aggressive plan for arms control, including setting up an international fuel bank, “so that countries can access peaceful power without increasing the risks of proliferation.”

That’s the fear. The centrifuges that enrich uranium work in in­vertable isotope U-235, to produce power-plant fuel, can be left spinning to enrich it much more, producing fissile, highly enriched uranium for nuclear bombs.

Only a dozen nations have enrichment plants, but ElBaradei’s Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) oversees nuclear-power use almost doubling in the next 20 years. More and more governments may want the fuel-making capability.

“...the real risk is that highly enriched uranium could be acquired by, say, terrorist groups,” Russian government adviser Alexander Konovalov told a conference in Rome on nuclear dangers. “All they need is 50 kilograms (110 pounds) of enriched uranium. All the rest (to make a bomb) can be found on the Internet.”

The IAEA’s 35-nation board of governors is expected to address the issue in June at meeting. A raft of proposals has surfaced, including a German idea to build an IAEA enrichment plant on “internationalized” soil somewhere, to sell fuel to countries committed to nonproliferation.

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A New Hope for Star Wars fans: Comics!

I have to say that my first step into the world of worldy things was Star Wars. I first saw "Episode IV: A New Hope" when I was about four or five. There were a few years during my childhood I remember watching all of George Lucas' original trilogy on the original, not special edition, VHS at least once a week. It was hooked.

As time went on, I found myself in a bookstore with my parents and stumbled upon a new drug, if you will: Star Wars fiction, better known as the Expanded Universe. My new senses were tingling.

My first glimpse into the Expanded Universe was "Shadows of the Empire," a pretty epic story that takes place between Episode V and VI, the Linpire," a pretty epic story that never really explained in the sixth film. I was so well versed in Star Wars lore that I could pretty much name most species, vehicles, and plot points.

Then the second trilogy came out.

Due to my disappointment with the new trilogy and my continued love for Star Wars even though I felt George Lucas had ruined it, I began reading perhaps the neatest thing of all: Star Wars role playing.

I'm going to assume that most people have heard of Dungeons and Dragons. For those of you who haven't, basically it's a game where players get together, make characters, roll dice, have fun and let their dorkiness run wild. Don't confuse this with LARPing, however. Live action role-playing is an entirely different class of dark, where guys and the occasional girl dress up and act out a role-playing game. I've never actually done it myself, but sadly, I've always wanted to try.

So in high school my friends and I began to play Star Wars RPG. Let me tell you, it was awesome. Most of the time we would play in our friend's garage, drink a lot of soda, eat a lot of chips and roll a lot of dice. And I know what you're thinking, but I did have a girlfriend back then and she was cute too. Thank you very much.

However, these last few years my interest in Star Wars has waxed. I've sort of moved on to newer, neater things, like comic books, and I don't really think I'll ever read another Star Wars novel. However, to my rather recent discovery, there are some fairly decent Star Wars comics.

Dark Horse, the wonderful comic book publisher, has put out Star Wars comics for the last few years. The biggest two are "Legacy" and "Knights of the Old Republic." I myself have just read the first story arcs of both these series, and I must say, they're really good.

"Legacy" takes place in the future, some 100 plus years after episode VI, with the main character being a descendent of Anakin Skywalker. "Knights of the Old Republic" is the complete opposite, taking place thousands of years prior to Episode I. Each book is full of the force, droids, lightsabers, blasts and general awesomeness.

So if you're like me and you miss Star Wars but don't really know how to get back, then give Dark Horse's Star Wars comics a try.

Peter Leonard

Boyish Norwegian wins Eurovision Song Contest

Peter Leonard

MOSCOW (AP) — A boyish, fiddle-wielding Norwegian singer won the Eurovision Song Contest in Moscow on Saturday night, his buoyant diry the highlight of the musical bonanza studded with pyrotechnic artistry and stunning electronic visuals on an epic scale.

Twenty-five performers from across Europe competed in Moscow in a musical bonanza that is one of the most watched annual television events in the world, despite being written off by some as European kitsch.

"Fairytale," penned and performed by 23-year-old fiddler Alexander Rybak, blew away competition from Iceland's Yohanna, who finished second, and Azerbaijan's Aygel & Arash, who was third, with a folksy melody to the accompaniment of an acrobatic dance routine and twin blonde female support singers.

The thin-faced Rybak, the winning graduate of a Norwegian television talent show in 2006, accused the most points to Eurovision's 53-year history, outstripping Finland's Lordi in 2006.

"Thank you so much, Russia. You are just great, thank you," an emotional Rybak, said, speaking in Russian from the stage after the result was announced. "You are the greatest public in the world," he proclaimed, before launching into a repeat performance of the winning entry.

Russia was trying to capitalize on Eurovision, page 7

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Jim Kouf may have left San Luis Obispo's laid-back lifestyle for the fast-paced Hollywood scene, but he took with him the love for writing he developed while attending Cal Poly.

Since graduating from Cal Poly in 1974, Kouf has become a screenwriter, director, and producer for films and television shows. Some of his credits include writing screenplays for "National Treasure," "Rush Hour," "Snow Dogs," "Stakeout" and episodes for the TV shows "Ghost Whisperer" and "Angel.

Kouf returned to his roots last week as a part of the College of Liberal Arts distinguished speaker series. He discussed his career path, offered advice to students and community members interested in writing in the movie and television business and screened his new independent film "A Fork in the Road."

Kouf majored in English with a history minor. Ironically, they were his two least favorite subjects in high school.

"It decided it was more of the teachers than anything else that made the subjects come alive. The professors that I had here were great, especially Keenig in history," Kouf said.

His history background came in handy when writing the script for "National Treasure," a film filled with historical landmarks that the main characters encounter as they embark on a hunt for treasure.

"It was when I took playwriting that I discovered I had the ability to write well was the most important skill he learned at Cal Poly."

"It was when I took playwriting that I discovered I could do this and get A's and it wasn't that difficult and I really enjoyed it," he said. "Everyone was suffering with their senior projects and I wrote a play. It was really then that I discovered I could maybe do this and make a living at it."

After graduation, Kouf moved back home to Burbank, Calif. for a few weeks before moving in with friends in Canoga Park, Calif.

"I didn't want to leave San Luis Obispo. I was living the life, there was no traffic, the weather was good. I was right next to the beach," he said. "That was a hard, hard transition; I didn't know what I was going to do."

Kouf worked jobs selling paint and driving a truck while writing in his spare time. Two years, 11 TV and six feature scripts later, he had his first success. He gave the script to his future agent, who was working in the mailroom at the time and who then forwarded it to his mother, a producer at the time.

"His mom liked it enough that she paid me $500 and made me rewrite it about 10 times," Kouf said. "It took me awhile to understand that you really need to go over it again and again and again to make sure it's alright, but that script got into such great shape that the script then started to get me work."

His script "White Water" was later renamed "White Water Rebels" and appeared as a made-for-TV movie. And he's been working in the industry ever since.

Kouf met his wife on the Paramount Pictures lot. She is a producer and was working on "Airplane 2" while he was working on "Airplane 3" he said in his presentation. The couple have four children and have worked as business partners for the past 20 years.

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Eurovision

continued from page 7

on the prestigious event to showcase the nation's hospitality and growing role in modern society, but those efforts were undermined several hours earlier when riot police attacked gay pride rallies in the capital.

Gay rights activists sought to use the international competition to draw attention to what they call widespread discrimination against homosexuals in Russia. No injuries were reported.

Police hauled away around 40 demonstrators, including British-based activist Peter Tatchell and American activist Andy Thayer of Chicago, co-founder of the Gay Liberation Network.

"Today's arrests go against the principles of Eurovision, which are about peace, harmony, cooperation and unity between all the peoples in Europe," Tatchell told The Associated Press after being released by police.

Rybak criticized the protesters for choosing the same day as the contest — which has a large following in European gay communities — to vent their frustrations.

"I think it is a little bit sad that they chose to have (the protests) today... They were spending all their energy on that parade, while the biggest gay parade in the world was tonight," Rybak said at Eurovision.

Minsk-born Rybak, who left Belarus when he was four years old with his musician parents, earned the minimum number of points from several of the participating former Soviet satellite countries.

His performance was greeted by rapturous applause from the spectators thronging the Olympic Sports Complex in central Moscow. The crowd heard a wide array of songs, ranging from traditional cheesy pop to tear-jerking ballads and ear-piercing operatic melodies.

Norse's list won the competition in 1995 and a winner will host the event next year.

Russia was pinning its hopes on "Mano," an overweight ballad composed by a Georgian songwriter and partially performed in Ukrainian by a Ukrainian-borne artist Anastasia Prikhodko, but she could only muster 11th place.

U.S. burlesque artiste Dita Von Teese, ex-wife of rocker Marilyn Manson, spiced up German's act by straddling a shiny lip-shaped black plastic sofa. In an apparent concession to the organizers' sensibilities, Von Teese toned down her initially planned performance, which involved her stripping off her top down to just sparkly nipple warmers.
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War on drugs puts the fight in otherwise peaceful exchange of goods

by Jeremy Hicks

Throughout muriel history there have been many occasions where armies have fought against each other to gain supremacy of a certain advantageous hilltop. But, correct me if I am wrong, there is no single instance of which I am aware where a man has fought with a hill. Men may fight for hills, but men do not fight against hills. We, the hills and humans, have enjoyed an unbroken peace since our first encounter.

Looking about me, I am delighted to see that man enjoys peaceful relationships with a number of inanimate objects. Still, on some days I fear this peace may be in jeopardy. Each day, across every landsman, a cruel and bloodthirsty army of countless insolent rocks poutest themselves to stub the toes of hapless passersby.

But even such offenses as these do not nor provoke more than a swear word or a wince. Certainly, it is a rare instant when the person with the bleeding toe seeks to even the score with the rock by wounding it, spunking it, or (most ill-advisedly) kicking it with his other toe.

Why does man display such sufferance and mercy towards the rock which stubs his toe? We all know that man is a passionate creature, prone to his emotions and quick to seek retaliation when he feels wronged. History, with its countless scores of bloody wars, testifies loudly to the fact that man has very little qualms about going to battle. So why the uncharacteristic forbearance towards rocks?

I submit that men prefer to settle scores with other creatures that actually have an appreciation for the concept of a scoring system, that is, other men. You can beat a tree all day with your fists and it probably will take very little offense and will, no matter how frenziedly you beat, refuse to show remorse for any wrongdoing.

There is a very famous scene in literature in which the dauntless Don Quixote rushes the windmills. Miguel de Cervantes, the author of this classic, entertainingly illustrates the striking and comical contrast between the windmills and their adversary, Quixote. Quixote is an animate being, alive and invigorated, drenched in the perspiration that comes before battle, and hopelessly overwhelmed with emotions so grand only a human being could feel them. The windmills, by contrast, are utterly unfazed. They do not contemplate their attack, nor their retreat. They remain fixed to that spot where human hands constructed them. They are lifeless and unmovable.

This fact, I have told you that man does not battle with inanimate objects except perhaps, in rare circumstances when he is in a foul temper. Generally speaking, he does not seek revenge against the rock or retribution for the tree. And, with the exception of certain fools of fiction, he does not battle with windmills.

But I am afraid that I would not be relating the whole truth if I told you that everybody is adult enough to realize the foolishness of fighting a battle with inanimate objects. It makes no sense, but a very large, violent, and expensive campaign is being fought, purportedly, with the object of vanquishing drugs.

Of course, the idea of engaging in moral combat with objects is preposterous on its face. Men can’t battle with drugs anymore than they can jest with windmills. The “war against drugs” is not a war against drugs.

Like wars, this one is a war against other humans, in this case drug users, drug vendors (most recently a Cal Poly freshman from the dorms) and producers.

For whatever reason, the government has decided that it does not like drugs. I don’t know why precisely. Perhaps the government simply does not like potheads (even when one sits in the Oval Office) or perhaps it doesn’t like its citizens to use objects that could potentially endanger the user. If the latter is true, we should expect to see the government expand on this general principle and outlaw scissors in the very near future, or at least criminalize running with scissors and other potentially harmful behaviors.

But who really cares what reasoning the government employs to defend its violent behavior. Who really cares whether drugs are a good thing or a bad thing? Harmful or healthful? I certainly don’t.

You see, I defend the right of people to engage in peaceful exchange to acquire goods which they desire, regardless what those items might be. Even go as far as to defend the right of people to buy things (like kitchen knives) which could potentially be used to cause harm against themselves or others (willingly or accidentally). If a free society is our objective, how can it be otherwise?

Jeremy Hicks is a 2008 political science graduate, the founder of the Cal Poly Libertarian Club and a Mustang Daily political columnist.
Customer service: Want manners with that?

Have you ever seen that obnoxious lady in Starbucks complaining to the barista about her soy chai tea latte not being exactly 180 degrees? What about the man who storms out because he'll have to wait two more minutes for his coffee to brew? Have you ever been that person? Well, you might not have been, but I am that barista.

It's astounding how many people come in each day that seem to think my name is "grande mocha" when I say hello to them at the register. A friend of mine used to work at a clothing store downtown and I guess people who went in there thought her name was "how much." I often find myself wondering why people like to be rude to those in customer service. At my job, I have little control over what they receive at the end of the bar. At most I can give someone decaf espresso in their latte so that their beverage will be a bit more enjoyable — for both parties.

Although they're generally in uniform, the employees of whatever establishment you are probably not your maids. Trashcans and recycle bins are plentiful in San Luis Obispo and can be found on most sidewalks as well as inside stores. The counter of a food place and the floor of a dressing room are in fact not trashcans and not where you should put things you no longer want.

What about the man who storms out because his iced coffee is too cold or the woman that his latte is too sweet? A friend of mine used to work at a clothing store downtown and I guess people who went in there thought her name was "how much." I often find myself wondering why people like to be rude to those in customer service. At my job, I have little control over what they receive at the end of the bar. At most I can give someone decaf espresso in their latte so that their beverage will be a bit more enjoyable — for both parties.

1) Don't: Forget to not speak like a caveman.
Do: Say "hello" back to the person behind the counter.

Indeed these petite phrases called "greetings" have been invented in the last 2,000 years or so. Generally one person will greet another at the beginning of a conversation. More than likely they have already said hello to a hundred people that day but will still enjoy hearing and returning that greeting one more time around.

2) Don't: Reference the person helping you as the item that you're trying to purchase.
Do: Acknowledge that the person behind the counter is a human being and not named "tall coffee" or "for here.'

3) Don't: Neglect the three most important words you can say to someone you don't know.
Do: Remember that the words "please" and "thank you" are welcomed. I don't think elaboration is necessary.

4) Don't: Forget that neatness is nice.
Do: Remember what a trashcan looks like.

Although they're generally in uniform, the employees of whatever establishment you are probably not your maids. Trashcans and recycle bins are plentiful in San Luis Obispo and can be found on most sidewalks as well as inside stores. The counter of a food place and the floor of a dressing room are in fact not trashcans and not where you should put things you no longer want.

5) Don't: Get too upset by small things.
Do: Realize that most employees are truly trying to do their best and be as helpful as they can be.

Whether it's more free peanuts on your flight home, another pants size or even the paint color for the walls of your new apartment, the staff of the store can probably help find just what you're looking for. And if they can't, well, remember that sometimes stock just runs out and there's not always anything anyone can immediately do.

Now that I've shared a few quick tips on how to act and not act towards the people that are merely doing their jobs, I hope you think about this the next time you walk into your favorite downtown boutique, Home Depot or even Starbucks.

With just a little common sense and manners, you can avoid awkward stares from other customers for being the man who is way too upset that his iced coffee is too cold or the woman who couldn't find those perfect shoes in her size. Moreover, you'll make the person behind the register's day a little better and in doing so, probably send some good karma your own way too.

Oh, and before I forget: "Thank you" for reading.

Mikaela Akuna is a journalism sophomore and a Mustang Daily reporter.
The Cal Poly women's water polo team went on to win their second-consecutive national championship on May 3.

"We take it very seriously, always been known as a powerhouse, this is our fifth national championship (in eight years)," environmental and protection management senior Cireta Carroll said.

The women’s water polo team, one of the most dominant clubs at Cal Poly, starts their season as soon as they get back from winter break and go through the end of April.

"We're gone 80 percent of the weekends that we have," head coach Dirk Camilli said. "We leave (most) Friday mornings."

Their weekly schedule involves practice every night from 6:30 to 9 p.m. and then two individual swimming sessions a week to make sure they stay in shape for their hectic schedule in what Camilli calls "one of the toughest leagues in the nation."

"We go to tournaments down south, up north, UC Davis, San Jose and we go to a tournament in Ohio," Carroll said.

The national tournament is the culmination of the club season and is a dream only realized by a few teams. With so few teams playing out of their league due to travel constraints, the seeding of the tournament is based off the results from last year. After clinching a berth by winning at regionals, Cal Poly, still carrying the target of defending champions on their back, was awarded the No. 1 overall seed.

Also going against Cal Poly was the curse of the number one ranking. With seeds determined by the results from last year the teams would gun for the No. 1 ranked team not just the No. 1 seed. The players were all aware of the fact that it had been a long time since the team ranked No. 1 won the tournament.

"We were the first team ever to be ranked No.1 coming into (the tournament) and win the national title," Carroll said. "That was the biggest thing ... we were ranked No. 1 the whole season except for two weeks."

Despite the supposed curse, the team still had confidence in its chances to be victorious.

"Going into the tournament I was very confident in our team," Carroll said. "All year we had been playing for this tournament, we wanted to go in seeded first we wanted to be first in the polls."

Cal Poly made quick work of most of their tournament opponents en route to the championship. They beat Chico State 13-5 in the tournament's first round. After defeating Michigan 9-7 in the next round, they trounced Penn 14-4 in the semifinals.

With successfully completing their title defense the team already has its focus on next year.

"What's going to be important for us is to stay humble and make sure we keep working hard for this and not take anything for granted," biomedical engineering sophomore and MVP of the tournament Sarah Ur said.

"It's kind of a legacy we're building right now."

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**Wednesday, May 20, 2009**

**SPORTS**

**Barden and Pura honored at award banquet**

MUSTANG DAILY

Although they are already two of the most accomplished athletes in Cal Poly history, Melissa Pura and Ramses Barden grabbed one more honor Tuesday evening when they were named Cal Poly's 2008-09 Athletes of the Year at the annual Mustang banquet and awards ceremony Tuesday night at Embry-Suites.

Barden became the fourth football player to win the award in the past six years following quarterback Chris Gooding (2006), linebacker Jordan Beck (2008) and cornerback David Richardon (2004).

Pura became just the second softball honoree in 11 years. Outfielder Lisa Modglin won in 2007.

Both players helped bring their team's to their highest point at the Division I level. Barden caught 67 passes for 1,237 yards and 18 touchdowns tying his own school record last season. He caught at least one touchdown in all 11 games this season, tying an NCAA mark for consecutive touchdown catches in a single season set by Randy Moss.

Barden was named offensive player of the year in the Great West Conference for the second straight year and was named to the All-Great West first team four times. He finished fourth in the balloting for the Walter Payton Award, given to the Football Championship Subdivision's best offensive player. He helped lead the Mustangs to an 8-3 record and a program-high No. 3 ranking in the FCS polls. The Mustangs were within seconds of an undefeated regular season losing to both Montana and Big Ten Wisconsin in the final moments.

Pura leaves as Cal Poly's career leader for home runs (34), RBI (135) and slugging percentage (.503).

She had one of the best single seasons in program history this year as she finished as the only conference player to rank among the top 10 performers for batting average (.370), slugging percentage (.57), home runs (7), RBI (32), runs (33) and total bases (88).

Pura was at her best in dangerous situations. She hit a team-high 22 sacrifice flies, best in the Big West.

Both athletes were honored at the banquet in the third round of the NFL draft while Pura was taken with the fourth round of the National Pro Fastpitch Senior Draft by the Akron Racers.

Other male athletes nominated for the award of the Year award were baseball second baseman Adam Baccchi, basketball forward Timo Shelton, cross country runner Daniel Gonia, golfer Geoff Gonzalez, soccer goalkeeper Eric Bravo-Franco, swimmers Peter Kline, tennis player Drew Jacobs, track and field decathlete James Numato and swimmer Chase Parnell.

Female athletes nominated for the award were basketball forward Megan Harrison, cross country runner Brittany McCane, golfer Stephanie Yocom, soccer defender Cartie Andrews, swimmer Lacey Buck, tennis player Brittanly Bialock, indoor and outdoor track and field thrower Julie Dubton and volleyball opposite Kyle Atkinson.

Other athletes honored at the banquet included baseball senior outfielder Ryan Les and junior women's tennis player Steffi Wong who were named Cal Poly's Big West Conference Scholar-Athletes. Cal Poly's Scholar-Athletes for the 2008-09 school year are Lefc Anderson of cross country and track and field and Caitlin Lee of women's swimming. Anderson is a biomedical engineering junior while Lee, a distance freestyler, is a kinesiology sophomore.

The baseball team was also recognized by the Big West Conference, earning a team sportsmanship award.

**We're at a pretty serious point. We're doing everything we can medically to get him back on the field.**

—David Forst
Assistant general manager

Cal Poly's nominations for the NCAA Leadership Conference were swimmer Eric Maldonado, men's soccer centerback Josh Didion, volleyball defensive specialist Caitlin Smith and women's basketball guard Tamara Wells. Maldonado has been selected to represent Cal Poly at the conference.

Chavez has hemiated disk

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Oakland Athletics third baseman Eric Chavez has a hemiated disk and could be facing career-ending surgery if he injures his back again.

Chavez, rehabbing in Arizona, was moved from the 15- to 60-day disabled list Tuesday. He was placed on the DL May 1 with a strained right forearm, a move retroactive to April 29. He experienced back spasms May 10 and underwent an MRI exam one day later.

"We're at a pretty serious point," Athletics assistant general manager David Forst said before Tuesday night's game against Tampa Bay. "We're doing everything we can medically to get him back on the field."

Chavez was limited to just 113 games over the 2007-08 seasons due to back problems and was recently informed about the herniated disk. He was told the disk could burst anytime, which would require a spinal fusion procedure.

"Pretty much game, set and match," Chavez told The San Francisco Chronicle. "It's disheartening. It's kind of the worst-case scenarios I've just got to be careful now. It goes beyond baseball."

Chavez is hopeful of returning this season, but it will be at least five weeks before that might happen.

"He's optimistic," Athletics manager Bob Geren said.

"It is getting better," Geren said. "He's close."

The Athletics made several other roster moves on Tuesday, including purchasing the contracts of right-handers Edgar Gonzalez and Chris Schneider from Triple-A Sacramento. Pitchers Sean Gallagher and Gio Gonzalez were optioned to Sacramento.

Edgar Gonzalez could take Gallagher's spot in the rotation and start Saturday's game against Arizona.

Minor league outfielder Javier Herrera was released to make room on the 40-man roster. Oakland plans to try and re-sign Herrera, who will likely undergo season-ending surgery shortly, to a minor league deal.

Backup catcher Landon Powell, who hurt an hamstring running out a ninth-inning grounder Monday night, was sore but available at Triple-A.

Minor league catcher Tristan Ignacio, sidelined by a back injury, is set to join Oakland's extended spring training team, while Sacramento catcher Joel Carlander went on the DL with a right shoulder strain.

**Lakers hold off Nuggets to take Game 1**

Associated Press

Los Angeles guard Kobe Bryant dunked during the Lakers' 105-103 loss to Denver Nuggets on Tuesday night in the Staples Center. Bryant had a game-high 60 points. Carmelo Anthony led the Nuggets with 39 points.

**Kristen Hays MUSTANG DAILY**

Cal Poly senior shortstop Melissa Pura accepts her Cal Poly Athlete of the Year award on Tuesday night.