Local Prop. 8 opponents unite to mourn Calif. Supreme Court ruling

Local gay marriage advocates gathered at Mitchell Park Tuesday to oppose the California Supreme Court's ruling to uphold Proposition 8, the proposition passed last November that banned same-sex marriage.

About 250 community members congregated for an event organized by the San Luis Obispo chapter of Marriage Equality USA. The 6-1 ruling determined that the 18,000 same-sex marriages that took place before the vote remain valid.

After the passage of Prop. 8, several same-sex couples took the vote results to the courts, stating that the ballot measure was unconstitutional under state law. The court rejected theses claims, with the majority opinion stating that it is not the court's role to determine whether Proposition 8 "is wise or sound as a matter of policy or whether we, as individuals, believe it should be a part of the California Constitution," but instead "is limited to interpreting and applying the principles and rules embodied in the California Constitution, setting aside our own personal beliefs and values."

According to public law and political theory professor Ronald Den Otter, the ruling was almost inevitable. "The decision wasn't unexpected," Den Otter said. "Very few people thought that the court would find that Proposition 8 constituted a constitutional revision and therefore required approval of the legislature before being submitted to the voters. Very few people also thought that Proposition 8 was retroactive and therefore invalidated the approximately 18,000 same-sex marriages that had been performed before November 4, 2008."

Some Cal Poly student organizations attended to show their support for same-sex marriage, including the Pride Center and Delta Lambda Phi, a fraternity for gay, bisexual and progressive men.

The Supreme Court decision was a let-down for Delta Lambda Phi president Brad Purpura, who was optimistic about the possibility of Proposition 8 being overruled.

"I'm completely dumb-founded actually," Purpura said. "I was sure that it was going to get overruled. Given our own personal beliefs and values, it was the right thing to do."

Economics freshman Jesse Grothaus is attempting to start a Cal Poly club for military veterans.

see Veterans, page 2

Cal Poly student and veteran looks to connect with others

Megan Hassler

Thunder and lightning filled the sky. It was predicted to be the worst rain in 60 years. The two privates had only ponchos and whatever materials they could gather to build the makeshift tent, which had to be camouflage and low to the ground.

In the morning, Private Max Gross looked to his fellow soldier and said "So, Grothaus, did that lightning last night scare you?" His companion admitted sheepishly that it had, and Gross continued, "Yeah when that lightning struck you kind of hopped back a little bit. It was kind of cute."

Private Jesse Grothaus couldn't help but laugh in spite of himself. "Such comradery is what Grothaus left behind when he finished basic training at Fort Benning, Ga. to come to Cal Poly."

After finishing training in August 2008, Grothaus enrolled at Cal Poly as an economics major. Yet despite becoming involved in Poly Reps and Week of Welcome, he still felt there was something missing from his life. He knew that his adjustment to college would not be the same as the majority of freshmen, who come straight from high school.

Looking to find others with a common bond, Grothaus wanted to start a club on campus for other young veterans such as himself. "A lot of military guys have this comradery and brotherhood that was extremely prevalent in the military life, but when we come to the civilian college world it is not the same. I wanted to provide the opportunity to get a taste of that back," he said.

However, when he took the first step to get the club established, he hit a roadblock.

The biggest problem he encountered was not writing the club's by-laws, working with Veteran's Affairs or any of the paperwork. It was simply finding names behind the eight students and community members gathered yesterday to show their support for same-sex marriage and share their disappointment at the California Supreme Court's ruling to uphold Proposition 8.

see Prop. 8, page 2

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Prop. 8
continued from page 1

what the justices said last year when they originally allowed gay marriage. I thought there was no way they were going to go back on that, but the decision today fit a free inside myself. Now I’m fighting harder than I did prior because it’s just a matter of time until I’m afforded the rights of everyone else.”

David Kilburn, San Luis Obispo’s chapter leader of Marriage Equality USA, said that although he and his husband get to keep their marriage, it’s unfair that same-sex couples do not have the opportunity to marry.

“I’m not giving it up, but at the same time, it has a whole different meaning now that I know that we’ve been forced into a situation of having a special right,” he said.

“We didn’t ask for a special right. We asked for marriage equality. That’s all we wanted.”

The crowd at Mitchell Park waved signs supporting same-sex marriage at oncoming cars and the people’s wishes,” Kilburn said.

A few Proposition 8 supporters were present as well. Rather than approaching the matter from a religious angle, they argued that the group at Mitchell Park should respect the decision made by Californians.

“People voted twice on this issue,” San Luis Obispo resident Dane Sensei said. “To me, it’s not about equality. I believe there is plenty of equality. It’s not about being homosexual or anything else. How many times do you have to vote on this? You have to go with the will of the people.”

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Maine and Iowa have legalized same-sex marriage and Vermont will be added to the list in September.

But supporters of gay marriage in California are hopeful, like Devin Ward, a teacher in Santa Maria, who was wearing a shirt that read “No More Mr. Nice Gay.”

“There’s a momentum. A momentum that cannot be denied that’s happening slowly but surely throughout the country,” Ward said.

Supporters from California and around the nation will meet in Frogs this Saturday for the Meet in the Middle 4 Equality Conference, the next step at organizing grassroots efforts for legalizing gay marriage.

Veterans
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signatures that Associated Students Inc. requires to start a club.

While there are about 80 student veterans on campus, Grothaus is unable to receive their names due to campus policies and Federal Law according to administrative support coordinator Steven Chandler, a veterans certified official.

Although Grothaus already knew one Marine veteran, agricultural business freshman Scott Somersett, he was unsure how he would find seven others. The two students knew they had a large task ahead but didn’t see it as impossible. Somersett said he hoped the club would be a helpful way to connect with and have support from fellow student veterans, while also being more informed about the benefits that are available to them.

“Even if we aren’t in the same branch, we all think the same way and do things in a very similar fashion,” he said. “We just wanted to have a community with military personnel so we could connect.”

At San Jose State University, Grothaus’ friend and Army combat medic and journalism freshman Cash Houck said he said the veterans club at his school offers tips for how to best use the services provided for student veterans, help with documents and forms, priority registration and group support.

He said that club provides a space for people who have had similar experiences to share their feelings, struggles and achievements. Grothaus continues to look to start such a club at Cal Poly and has now recruited five interested veterans.

Students often don’t understand the difference between being in the Army Reserves and being in the Reserve Officers Training Corp. He said ROTC trains student cadets to become officers, or second lieutenants. After graduation they must serve either four years of active duty or eight years in the National Guard or the reserves.

Army Reserves recruits go through four and a half years of training one weekend per month or two weeks per year. Depending on the route they take after training, they will most likely become sergeants, under command of officers from the ROTC.

Yet Grothaus said he would never trade the bonds he made as an Army Reserve for the title of an officer. He calls himself a “doer” of the Army rather than a leader, and is happy with his role.

And he smiles from ear to ear when reminiscing about the person who was closest to him in basic training, his bunkmate and “battle buddy” Max Gross.

“Every time we went to formation he would always be to my left,” he said. “Every time we went and had a meal he would always be the person behind me. Every time we did any kind of training he was always my battle buddy. We shot next to each other; we stuck each other with IVs.”

He’s now in the reserves making new friends who can share those same memories.

Grothaus needs two more signatures to establish an official club. He can be contacted via e-mail at jggrothaus@calpoly.edu.

The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring community. We appreciate your readership and are thankful for your careful reading. Please send your correction suggestions to mustangdaily@gmail.com.

• An article in last Friday’s edition incorrectly referred to two members of Sigma Phi Epsilon as members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. Sigma Phi Epsilon, the fraternity who organized a philanthropic fight night on Sunday, is not connected to the other front page story about Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity members being arrested in connection with freshman Carson Starkey’s alleged hazing-related death.
MUSTANG DAILY NEWS

The next generation of Afghan women

PART TWO OF A TWO-PART SERIES

Afghan students see their education as an opportunity to rebuild their country

Cassandra J. Carlsson MUSTANG DAILY

Editor's note: Part I of this series ran May 14 and focused on two Afghan students who came to the United States as part of a Cal Poly pilot project called Afghan Education Outreach. This is the rest of their story.

Under the Taliban's rule

In the warmth of T-shirts and jeans sported by the average Cal Poly student, both Afghan students Farida and Ulker blend into the college landscape, free of their traditional burqas.

Ulker wore the burqa — a cloak-like garment worn by women of Islamic traditions — for eight years under the Taliban's rule. Front covers of The New York Times tell stories of Afghan school girls poisoned with gas and acid thrown in their faces to intimidate them from going to school. Ulker does not challenge these reports, admitting to the challenges that surround her tumultuous home country.

Both Farida and Ulker say that there are some families that encourage girls to go to school and some families that strongly disagree with female education.

"It's very important for (some Afghan) kids, to study and get an education and (then) there are other tribes in rural places in Afghanistan that don't believe in that," Farida said. "If you are the only one who lets their daughter go to school it's shameful for them.""Farida agrees. "My dad is from a small village that doesn't let their daughters go to school," she said. "They think that if they let their daughters go to school then they have no help and they'll be the ones to control their dad and mom and they don't like the idea of their daughters standing up for themselves."

Women's education

Afghanistan's constant instability created many problems in the region. Network news constantly reports on insurgency movements in the region, the United States occupation of Afghanistan and — more recently — women's rights. Front covers of The New York Times tell stories of Afghan school girls poisoned with gas and acid thrown in their faces to intimidate them from going to school.

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Johannes Mehserle will stand trial says an attorney who inquires before he was killed.

As he was told to comply with her commands before he was killed, the 22-year-old Grant was shot and killed.

The fourth day of a hearing to determine whether former Officer Johannes Mehserle intended to shoot Grant.

Mehserle's lawyer Michael Kamis says his client intended to use his stun gun and didn't intend to shoot Grant.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon is prepared to leave fighting forces in Iraq for as long as a decade despite an agreement between the United States and Iraq that would bring all American troops home by 2012, the top U.S. Army officer said Tuesday.

Gen. George Casey, the Army chief of staff, said the world remains dangerous and unpredictable, and the Pentagon must plan for extended U.S. combat and stability operations in two wars. "Global trends are pushing in the wrong direction," Casey said. "They fundamentally will change how the Army works."

He spoke at an invitation-only briefing to a dozen journalists and policy analysts from Washington-based think-tanks. He said his plan envisions combat troops in the Middle East.

"I think we are off to a very good start," U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice said afterward on behalf of the group. But she cautioned that the meeting was a first step and that deliberation will "take some time."

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-Megan Nutt, electrical engineering senior

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Anthony Martin, dairy science junior

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New Belgium: Save the environment, enjoy good beer

Green beer isn't just a Saint Patrick's Day occurrence anymore. Now, I don't mean green-colored beer; but a few breweries have sacrificed their own profit margins for the sake of environmental conservation.

One of those breweries, New Belgium in Fort Collins, Colo., has become the standard for environmentally conscious breweries in the United States. Almost every beer drinker in San Luis Obispo has had a Fat Tire at some point. It's one of the more popular beers in the western part of the country. But you may not be aware of how that unique beer got its strange name.

Jeff Lebesch, fresh off completing his electrical engineering degree, was on a trip to Belgium to try some of his favorite brews as a last hurrah before embarking on his career. Lebesch was an amateur brewer and he really wanted to compare his craft at home to get around on his trip; even then he was environmentally conscious.

The Belgians had never seen this style of mountain bike and asked him, "Where'd you get the bike with the fat tires?"

Several years later, with his amber ale perfected he called upon that memory and the beer that would catapult him to brewing fame was born.

While the bike on the Fat Tire logo may be the symbol that people equate to his brewery, it symbolizes much more to Lebesch.

When I took a tour of the New Belgium brewery earlier this year, the guide made it clear that they hope to be completely reliant on wind energy very soon. They even produce some of their own energy in the form of methane gas that is a byproduct of their on-site water treatment plant and they pay a high premium for it. Some brews start to get stale after you've had a pint or two. Well, Sunshine Wheat never got old. I might even say it was the second best keg beer I've ever had behind Lost Coast's Great White. I think so much beer that night that I don't even remember a large portion of the evening.

Lebesch took his new mountain bike to get around on his trip; even then he was environmentally conscious.

New Belgium makes a ton of seasonals and special recipes all the time. They also brew a completely organic wheat beer called Mothership Wit.

When I took a tour of the New Belgium brewery earlier this year, I was an amateur brewer and I really wanted to compare my recipe to theirs. I didn't want to be the only one who knew how to make good beer.

But if you thought the free beer was good, listen to the perks of the employees. On their first day of employment they are given the key to the brewery. They are also given stock in the majority of darker beer.

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The beer looked like sunshine when poured. It came out in a smooth yellow and my goodness, it was tasty. We sat out on the deck and enjoyed glass after glass of it. Some beers start to get stale after you've had a pint or two. Well, Sunshine Wheat never got old. I might even say it was the second best keg beer I've ever had behind Lost Coast's Great White. I drink so much beer that night that I don't even remember a large portion of the evening.

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Byzantium unveils ‘Keeper of the Story’ tonight

Jennifer Titcomb

Years from now when we are too old to remember the school work we did during our college days, Cal Poly students will be able to look back and read the creative efforts of students in 2009.

‘Keeper of the Story’ is the theme for this year’s edition of Byzantium, Cal Poly’s student written, edited and designed literary magazine.

“What we wanted to stress this year was the importance of preserving literature and passing it on from generation to generation,” said Erin Santos, an English senior and co-editor. “‘Byzantium is kind of Cal Poly’s legacy; it protects our literature and passes it on and people can be a part of it and also look back at past volumes.’

The title Byzantium comes from the William Butler Yeats poem “Salting to Byzantium.”

“For him it was a place where artistic and philosophic achievement happened,” said English senior and co-editor Emily Anderson.

Students have been contributing to Byzantium since it began in 1991. For the editors and art director it serves as a senior project.

Illustrations for the magazine were done by art and design senior Shelby Moulden, who also looked to Yeats’ poem for inspiration.

“He took a lot of time to really study the Byzantine Empire and it was really a lot of looking at the armor to protect and the time period,” Santos said. “They were protecting the treasures of that time period just like this is protecting ours.”

Moulden said he wanted the book to be valued by its owners.

“We wanted the book to be kind of like this treasure that people can appreciate and be like, ‘Oh, this is a treasure. I want to take this book and read it because there is something great inside it,’” he said.

The artwork combines ornate lettering with wavy patterns and decorations resembling those of ancient Byzantium and Turkish medieval times that were based off the church of Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, Turkey.

The length of Byzantium allowed for Moulden to expand his creativity.

“Usually in art classes you only make a 20 page book and here is a 150 page book. It was phenomenal to research about the Byzantine Empire because it was really cool and the art is really pretty,” Moulden said.

As always, Byzantium includes the top three winning entries in both poetry and fiction from the Al Lindwehr Creative Writing Contest. The winners are selected by four English professors with backgrounds in each particular writing style.

This year’s edition is longer than previous years and will include even more fiction and poetry with additional editor’s choice selections.

English freshman Cameron Simpson, whose short story “Stavy Calves is Hungry” won first place in the fiction category, said the win was unexpected.

“I was hoping for honorable mention,” he said. “I hadn’t taken any creative writing classes yet so I wasn’t really sure if I was doing it correctly; it was just more of a hobby for me. It was a pleasant surprise.”

His story is about a Catholic priest who is also a cannibal. Simpson described the story as a little risqué.

“I just thought it would be funny to think about the idea of transubstantiation and the Catholic belief that the wafer at communion actually becomes the body of Christ and how if someone was a cannibal that would be a temptation to them and it sort of went from there,” he said.

English graduate student Dylan Bowen won the poetry category with his poem entitled: “The name represents what his parents would have named him if he had been a girl or had a sister.

“My poem is about the sort of a desire for a connection with someone of the opposite sex and how not growing up with a sister creates problems for relating to a girl and the ultimate failure of romantic relationships to satisfy that lack,” he said.

Contributors to Byzantium have the freedom to write about any topic or theme they choose. Santos said some of this year’s subject matter for the short stories included the idea of second chances, the issue of cutting and another about a boy with an alcoholic mother and what it is like for him to learn to fend for himself.

“The poetry we have is such a wide variety; we have the writing itself, relationships, rape, sex, going insane on Monday mornings,” she said.

The community will have a chance to hear these stories and poems read aloud during a special unveiling at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Steinberg Gallery. Copies of the magazine will be given out at the unveiling.

This is the second year Byzantium has been available for free. Loverspeak, a poetry reading in February, helped raise funds for printing 1,500 copies of the magazine as well as restaurant fundraising and advertisements.

“When you work hard and get to see your actual words in print in a little book it’s pretty exhilarating the first time it happens; it’s really neat,” said Cody Morales, an English senior and author of third place “A Second Chance.”

After the unveiling, Byzantium will be available on campus. Santos said tables will be set up in the English building, education building and possibly the Student Market and the University Union.

“I would just be happy if lots of students were curious (and) picked it up recognizing that we do have a journal and that our students are really talented and that there is a lot going on in the creative writing part of Cal Poly because a lot of times it gets ignored or forgotten,” said English graduate student Sarah Sakurai, writer of the second place fiction story “The People, You Know.

English graduate student and author of second place poem “Maybe She Reached the Sea” Helen Knight echoed that sentiment.

“It is neat to see this kind of art happening in this community and on this campus and to know that there has some kind of significance it is trying to get across and maybe that will positively affect someone that reads it here and maybe it will inspire other people to write poetry or submit to the contest.”

April 20, 2009

the anthem

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May 22th 7pm

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Seven of the nation’s most accomplished slam poets will come together as part of Cal Poly’s third annual poetry slam “The Anthem” tonight. With the goal of showing that words have enough power to change the world, the event will present poets who are champions from the international slam circuit, including some who have performed on HBO’s Def Poetry Jam and National Public Radio. The show will address issues of gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, race, class, identity and love.

“It’s not poetry like you think of poetry; it’s in your face, political, commercial and really entertaining,” journalism senior and Anthem Committee member Rachel Gellman said.

“It is supposed to show Cal Poly students that what they say can make a difference. Poetry in general is a very different avenue of expression and I think the Anthem is a great source for people to learn,” she said.

The competition, sponsored by the Cal Poly English department and the College of Liberal Arts, was influenced by the Another Type of Groove performances put on by Associated Students Inc. every month. However, instead of featuring just one poet, the committee expanded the event to feature several from around the country. It drew more than 1,000 students and community members to the Cal Poly campus last year.

English graduate student and committee head Sarah Sukiri said the Anthem is different and unique every year.

“This year is going to be even more amazing than the last two,” she said. “As it grows, more nationally recognized poets are joining the event and getting excited about it. We get more audience members every year.”

“The experience is going to resonate with people differently,” Gellman added. “I think it’s hard to argue that people won’t be inspired.”

The Anthem Committee, which has been planning the event since the beginning of winter quarter, is composed of several students that represent a wide variety of majors, including art and design and graphic communications. It has a few major criteria for selecting poets is that the Cal Poly student body would be interested in hearing what they have to say,” Gellman said.

The master of ceremonies will be Derrick Brown, a winner of the 2004 California Independent Book Critics’ Award as well as six first-place poetry slams from around the world. Brown has performed at over 1,200 international venues, including the Tonight Show with Jay Leno, the Nuyorican Poets Cafe in NYC and Le Sorbonne in Paris. In addition to last year’s champions Tara Hardy and Alvin Lau, first-time participants Shira Erlichman, Chinaka Hodge, George Wansky and Poetri will perform.

The self-described working-class femme poet and teacher from Seattle, Washington, is the founder and creative director of Bente, a writing institute for LGBTIQ people. Hardy was named Seattle’s Poet Populist, or poet of the people, by the city council in 2002, the same year that she won the Seattle Slam Champion title. Each poet will perform for two to four minutes in a total of three rounds. Four audience members, chosen on the day of the event, judge the poets on content, performance and time limit.

Gellman said that poetry, with plays on words and rhyming, provides new avenues to get a point across. “Musically, it’s like hip-hop in a sense that you can listen and not necessarily pay attention to all the words but it will still sound amazing. When you actually hear what these poets are saying it’s almost hard to believe that they can make the poems sound so good and still have a message. It has a lot of substance,” she said.

Besides providing entertainment, Gellman said that the Anthem might also reveal creative career opportunities. “People don’t have to just write essays for school. They can write performance poems that will inspire,” she said.

“If you’re interested in seeing how powerful words can be and how poets can take the form of poetry to a higher level, come to the Anthem. It’s a great event for anyone interested in opening their mind to new things,” Gellman said.

Anthem committee chair Sarah Sukiri echoed that sentiment. “This event provides the opportunity to share issues that are important to our generation with students who may not even have otherwise been interested in poetry at all,” she said.

The Anthem will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Chumash Auditorium today. Free T-shirts will be handed out to the first 25 audience members as well as anyone who purchases poets’ merchandise. The Anthem Committee suggests arriving early because seats are expected to fill up fast.

YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE
It is a crime to host a party or gathering in SLO where anyone under 21 is drinking or possessing alcohol.
A violation is a misdemeanor and convictions go on your criminal record.

FINES
1st offense: $350
2nd offense: $700 within 12 months
3rd or additional offense: $1,000 within 12 months

Additional court costs will be added to all fines
Memorial Day should focus on sacrifices, not victories

by Jeremy Hicks

The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring community. We appreciate your readership and are thankful for your careful reading of our work. We are managing editor in chief, Maritze van Rombough; managing editor, Giana Magnoli; assistant editor, Erin Bider; business managers, Sarah Carbonell, Jessica Schroeder; advertising managers, Gaby Horta, Ashley Singer, Charlotte Liddle; advertising copy editor, Justin Rodrigo; advertising coordinator, Kristen Hau; social media coaches, Megan Diley, Jessica Schroeder, Kady Sheen-Jerry, Skyelee, Colin Prins, Brittni Koo; graphic designers, Adam Achter, Erikia Powers, Drey Trowe; faculty advisor, Teresa Allen; general manager, Paul Bilton.

Write a letter

Memorial Day reserves the right to call upon its readers to grant their privileges and length. Letters, commentaries and cartoons do not represent the views of the Mustang Daily. Please limit your letters to 250 words. Letters should include the writer's name, phone number, major and class standing. Letters must come from a Cal Poly e-mail account. Do not send us your letters as an attachment. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.

By e-mail: mustangdailyopinion@gmail.com

By mail: Letters to the Editor, Building 226 Room 226, Cal Poly, SLO CA 93407

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the column written by Mark Jewell on May 27, 2009 titled "Don't Tread on Me." I do not wish to take issue with his mention of Memorial Day as a time to honor those who have given their lives in the service of our country. However, I would like to take issue with his thoughts on the meaning and actions surrounding Memorial Day.

First, he claims that memorial day is a day of mourning for the fallen. I disagree with this statement. Memorial Day is a day to remember the sacrifices that our soldiers have made for our country. It is a day to honor the brave men and women who have given their lives for our freedom.

Second, he states that Memorial Day is a day to remember the fallen. I agree with this statement. Memorial Day is a day to remember the sacrifices that our soldiers have made for our country. It is a day to honor the brave men and women who have given their lives for our freedom.

Finally, he argues that Memorial Day is a day to remember the fallen. I agree with this statement. Memorial Day is a day to remember the sacrifices that our soldiers have made for our country. It is a day to honor the brave men and women who have given their lives for our freedom.

In conclusion, Memorial Day is a day to remember the sacrifices that our soldiers have made for our country. It is a day to honor the brave men and women who have given their lives for our freedom.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
Mustang Daily

is now accepting applications for next year
applications forms at mustangdaily.net

all majors welcome!

applications due Friday, May 29
email to emilieeegger@gmail.com

photographers

section editors

columnists

section editors

freelance writers

web editor and

web developer

page designers
Big West Conference Commissioner's Cup for the second time. Long Beach State won four conference titles and averaged 110 points over 14 conference sports in which they competed. The cup is given to the team that fares the best in the conference's 18 sanctioned sports.

**Round-up continued from page 12**

To determine the champion for the Commissioner's Cup, total points are summed and divided by the number of championships in which each institution competes. Each sport champion is also given a 20-point bonus. The Commissioner's Cup is then awarded to the school with the highest average.

The Mustangs, which won the softball championship, finished second in women's track and field and third in women's tennis, baseball and men's track and field, had the second highest spring average. Cal Poly finished second in the fall as well with the men's cross country team earning first place points. Women's soccer took second place while the men's soccer team tied for second. Volleyball received third place points. The 49ers won the 2009-09 Big West Conference Commissioner's Cup for the second time. Long Beach State won four conference titles and averaged 110 points over 14 conference sports in which they competed. The cup is given to the team that fares the best in the conference's 18 sanctioned sports.

**NBA continued from page 12**

like the real team, they seemed to want it more.

Don't blame Bryant for that. He scored 34 points, including 14 in the fourth quarter, but he could have scored twice that and it probably wouldn't have mattered.

Not when the Nuggets grabbed 20 balls off the offensive boards. Not when they out-rebounded the Lakers by 18 overall and were better all night than the team that tossed the Lakers.

Bryant suggested afterward that perhaps his teammates didn't understand the urgency of the situation. They were happy to have won in Denver on Saturday, so they didn't play every possession like it was their last, didn't go sprawling after every loose ball like it was their last. The Nuggets did, and that's how you win playoff games. It's really no more complicated than that.

"They played harder and they played better, Period," Bryant said.

The top suits at ABC! have to be wondering now if they didn't make a most costly error in 2004 when they decided not to air the Lakers-Nuggets playoff series because they weren't sure if Kobe and LeBron would meet in the 2004 NBA playoffs.

The series started so many weeks ago and was still going strong when Bryant scored twice that and it probably wouldn't have mattered.

**LEAD THE MUSTANG MANIACS!**

Apply online under "spirit groups" at http://www.gopoly.com

Open Applications are now being accepted for students to serve as board members for the Mustang Maniacs in 2009.

Anyone is eligible, but only the most spirited and motivated students will be elected to lead the group in 09!

**Mustang Daily**

Sports designer: Kate Nickerson

**Corrections**

The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring community. We appreciate your readership and are thankful for your careful reading. Please send your correction suggestions to mustangdaily@gmail.com.

An article in yesterday's paper incorrectly stated Cal Poly's record was 37-20. The Mustangs are 37-19.

A graphical error also incorrectly showed Cal Poly playing Miami on Friday. They instead will play Oral Roberts.

**Round-up continued from page 12**

**MBR**

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Baseball, softball hitting high marks

Clintone McGuire

The Mustangs' offensive attack this year has been the first time in 14 years that the softball team completed a regular-season record heading into their first Division I postseason appearance. It's the most productive season since 1995. The baseball team, which placed second in the Big West Conference last time both teams have reached the postseason simultaneously, is rare. The teams keep close tabs on each other, learning about their successes and failures, but more importantly, taking note of the bar that is set each season.

"For me, it's a little of a competitive edge," senior catcher Matt Jensen said. "As the years go on, it's us against each other, training with them, watching them play and being compared to them."

Although each Cal Poly team is tied together in some way or another, the softball and baseball teams have a unique relationship, one based on similarities of their sports and timing of their schedules.

"Since we play such a similar sport, we relate on similar levels," Jensen explained. "And since we have similar training schedules, it's easier to hang out with (baseball players)."

A large group of softball players recently attended a critical baseball game (a series-ending game against Cal State Fullerton — a division rival) and were greeted with a standing ovation from fans at the game. It is that appreciation that shows the interest of fans in both sports, senior infielder Krysten Cary said. "It was definitely a cool moment for us," she said. "To know that we are appreciated like that.

Although the two teams do not share the same field, they play in close quarters and many times can hear short-outs coming from the other stadium.

"With our schedule we don't get a chance to see them play but we do get to see them play," Jensen said. "It's constructive competition. It's competition in terms of reaching the bar that the other has set, not hoping that the other has lowered it."

For these teams to be playing so well simultaneously is rare. The last time both teams had reached the postseason was in 1997.

"I think it's really special," senior infielder Kyle Smith said. "They usually do pretty well and we just don't hold up our end of the bargain."

—Kyle Smith

Junior infielder

Junior first baseman Adam Buschini and freshman second baseman Matt Jensen were named to the All-Big West Conference first team on Wednesday night.

Jensen was also named Big West Conference Freshman of the Year with the selections of Daniel Bibona (Scott Gorgen was a tri-pitcher of the year in 2008) and teammate Ben Orloff was named Big West Player of the Year.

Antetoros head coach Mike Giliberto collected the school's first Big West Coach of the Year award since 1987 when Mike Gerakos earned the same title. Cal State Fullerton's freshman duo of Noe Ramirez and Tyler Pill won Big West Freshman Pitcher of the Year honors.

Cal Poly second baseman Matt Jensen, shown above, was named Big West Freshman of the Year along with his first-team selection Tuesday.

Junior first baseman Adam Buschini and freshman second baseman Matt Jensen were named to the 2009 All-Big West Conference first team on Wednesday night.

Jensen was also named Big West Conference Freshman of the Year despite missing the final three weeks of the regular season with a broken clavicle.

Buschini and Jensen are the 20th and 21st Mustangs to receive all-conference first-team honors since Cal Poly joined the Big West in 1997.

Buschini hit .412 during the regular season, capturing the Big West batting title. The average also catapulted Buschini into the school record book tying the Division I record set by Scott Kidd in 1997.

Buschini also led the conference in slugging percentage (.723) and was second in total bases (129), on-base percentage (.478) and home runs (11). He hit a homer in each of Cal Poly's final four games of the regular season and finished third in RBI (57) and seventh in doubles (18).

Jensen hit .378 during the regular season, capturing the Big West hitting high marks for the conference. Jensen was fourth in home runs (9), sixth in doubles (15), seventh in runs (9), 13th in batting average (.378) and was second in on-base percentage (.469) and slugging percentage (.650) before being injured.

The Mustangs had several players named to the all-conference second team including junior shortstop Kyle Smith and senior catcher Tyler Pill. Jensen was also named to the honorable mention list.

One man crew isn't enough for Lakers or Cavaliers

Kobe Bryant still hasn’t gotten a chance to hit a buzzer beater to beat the Denver Nuggets, so LeBron James retains bragging rights for now among the two superstars battling to stay in the NBA playoffs. As wildly inconsistent as the Los Angeles Lakers continue to be, Bryant may never get the chance for an iconic shot of his own. Then again, maybe he’s saving it for Game 7, where the Lakers-Nuggets series now seems destined to go.

At least Lakers fans better hope it goes that far.

Bryant did his usual share of work, but the way his supporting cast stood around Monday night and watched as the Nuggets chased down a rebound after to tie the Western Conference finals at two games apiece had to make Jack Nicholson and the rest of the beautiful people feel a little queasy.

Maybe they should have headed down to Staples Center instead, where the WWE was staging the “Monday Night Raw” wrestling match that was supposed to have been held in Denver because no one — including the team’s owner — thought the Nuggets would make the conference finals. Actually, someone made up a Nicholson there, as was a man posing as David Stern.

Say what you want about wrestling, but these guys know how to put on a show. There were villains and heroes, and a five-man tag team match featuring wrestlers in Nuggets uniforms bouncing off the ropes with those in Lakers' gear.

The Lakers won the match, touching off the kind of celebration the real team can only hope it gets upon its return home to Wednesday night. They deserved it because, un-