Engineering dean dismissed
Kevin List
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Cal Poly dismissed College of Engineering Dean Mohammad Noori last Thursday because of a lack of clarity in the direction of the college, said Robert Koob, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

The dismissal came after a number of complaints from and about the college.

"It was more of an internal issue," Koob said. "There was a lack of clarity in our direction."

Diablo Canyon found safe
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The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reported that the Diablo Canyon Power Plant met the high standards for safety and security at its annual town hall meeting June 29.

Michael Peck, senior resident inspector at Diablo Canyon, said from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2009, the plant underwent more than 2,700 hours of direct inspection.

The NRC also used performance indicators to determine the plant's safety. Performance indicators are a color-coded system ranging from green, a very low safety issue, to red, a high safety issue. White indicates a low to moderate or substantial safety issue. Peck said all performance indicators at Diablo Canyon were green.

All of these findings come in light of the June 22 alert issued due to an accidental discharge of carbon dioxide gas from a fire.

SLO County sees more than 200 whooping cough cases
Sarah Parr
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San Luis Obispo County has seen 210 of approximately 900 confirmed, probable or suspect cases of pertussis, or "whooping cough," in the state so far this year, according to San Luis Obispo Public Health Services.

"We're on pace to have one of the worst outbreaks in 50 years. This is an ugly one," McDowell said. "We've had cases from people as young as 10 weeks and as old as 91 years."

The California Department of Public Health clinical case definition of pertussis is "a cough or illness lasting at least two weeks with one of the following: paroxysms of coughing, inspiratory 'whoop' or post-tussive vomiting without other apparent cause."

The "whooping" sound is a result of loss of breath from coughing so hard. "Pertussis is a miserable disease," McDowell said. "You cough and hack."

Public Health Services test for pertussis by taking a swab that will be examined in laboratory tests; the swab test is the only way to be diagnosed with pertussis.

McDowell said treating infants is top priority for health officials; only two local infants were hospitalized to date. Infants are most susceptible because they haven't received all of their booster shots, which are usually received at six months and prevent the disease.

However, infants aren't the only

Gen. Petraeus heads for easy Senate confirmation

David S. Cloud
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — The nomination of Gen. David H. Petraeus to take over command of the Afghan war headed toward quick Senate confirmation after he played down differences Tuesday between military and civilians officials over the July 2011 deadline for the start of U.S. troop withdrawals.

Petraeus made clear during a three-hour confirmation hearing that he was wary of withdrawing large numbers of U.S. troops from Afghanistan too quickly and did not rule out prospects that he would ask President Barack Obama for additional troops if security conditions worsen.

"There will be an assessment at the end of this year after which undoubtedly we'll make certain tweaks, refinements, perhaps some significant changes," Petraeus told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The committee approved his nomination Tuesday afternoon and the full Senate was set to vote Wednesday.

Petraeus was chosen last week by Obama to take command in Afghanistan after the previous commander, Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, was fired over comments he and his several aides made in a Rolling Stone article.

As the Army general credited with turning around U.S. fortunes in Iraq, Petraeus has a stature unmatched by any other military officer of his generation, which has assured him easy confirmation. But he is also one of the few military officers whose views Obama will have difficulty disregarding during the debate next year over how quickly to shrink the U.S. military footprint in Afghanistan.

Petraeus acknowledged that it had not been the military's idea to set the July 2011 troop withdrawal deadline. Nonetheless, he affirmed his support for the date, though he had not been the military's idea to do so.

He stressed he saw it mainly as a way to convey a sense of urgency to the Afghan government. He reiterated that the pace of any U.S. withdrawal next year should be "responsibly" and determined by conditions on the ground at the time.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.,
Cal Poly alumni create iPhone app

Alexandria Scott
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Imagine being able to get Web-wide ratings on restaurants, hotels, cars, electronics, movies or even politicians from your iPhone. Cal Poly alumni Steve Harmon and Tony Harmon (no relation) created a 99-cent iPhone app that assembles information from blogs, news sites, social media and other Web pages and scores them from one to five stars.

The app came out two weeks ago and Apple has already featured it as "New and Noteworthy." It gives a Web-wide opinion so someone will know whether to buy a service or product, Steve Harmon said.

"Taleee gives you the power to know the opinion of anything; the Web's opinion is in your hand," he said.

Taleee, which means "applause" in Hindi, allows users to get Web-wide ratings on restaurants, hotels, cars, electronics, movies - even politicians - from an iPhone.

"Google indexes websites, we index ratings," Chief Technical Officer Tony Harmon said. "Taleee syndicates data from hundreds of thousands different Web sites.

There are two ways to get opinions from the application: Users can search the object by entering information manually, or use the barcode scanner to get online opinions on something such as a CD or digital camera.

After receiving the online ratings, Taleee gives the user the option to share the results on Facebook or Twitter. The app also allows for someone to read posted ratings on the product.

"It's our goal to have everyone benefit from this application," Tony Harmon said. "Anything that has enough shared opinions will have a rating."

Talee gives its Web-wide information by using innovative Web Sensus technology that the creator calls a "Taleee bot." The bot "crawls" across Web sites and views online information and data sources. Taleee then uses an algorithm to determine the overall Web-Wide rating for products.

In the case of blogs, the application will look for descriptive words like "love, amazing, fantastic" and then compare the words to the overall word count of the article.

"Taleee is a directory or collection of information — almost like the Yellow Pages," Steve Harmon said.

Taleee plans on making the application available for the Motorola Android and SMS or text messaging, Steve Harmon said. We're using a URL, a person can text Taleee the object's information and Taleee will reply with the Web-wide rating.

"We want the application to be available to everyone," Steve Harmon said. "The user would be anyone who wants to buy something or go someplace."

Taleee is also working with inventors from companies like eBay and Thomson Reuters to create funding to expand its mobile services.

"There are 17 million business in the U.S. and 300 million consumers that can benefit from having the Web-wide ratings and opinions on demand," Steve Harmon said. "Next time you want to buy something, just Taleee it."

Tony Harmon attended Cal Poly for one year. Steve Harmon got his journalism bachelor's degree at Cal Poly, then worked for a company that did media research and business consulting around the world.

When the Internet sparked in 1994, Steve said.

Biochemistry junior Doug Amato recalls feeling at risk for illnesses and disease when he lived with 32 other men on one floor of the Sierra Madre dorm two years ago.

"If one person got sick, usually everyone got sick," Amato said.

Harris said a campus-wide pertussis epidemic is unlikely during summer because the students get "out of this packed, herdlike existence."

In the event of an outbreak, the San Luis Obispo Public Health Services would take over campus health.

Cal Poly Health Center offers the Tdap vaccination for $35; San Luis Obispo Public Health Services charges $23. No appointment is needed at either location.
pressed Petraeus about whether he agreed with reports that some White House officials, including Vice President Joe Biden favor a steep drawdown, no matter what the conditions in Afghanistan.

"Somebody needs to get it straight without doubt what the hell we're going to do in Afghanistan," Graham said.

Peters offered a mixed assessment of the progress of the war, predicting that violence would get worse but asserting that the U.S. and its allies have made progress in Helmand province and other areas.

"My sense is that the tough fighting will continue; indeed, it may get more intense in the next few months," Peters said. "As we take away the enemy's safe havens and reduce the enemy's freedom of action, the insurgents will fight back."

Petraeus, who was directly involved in formulating the current strategy as head of U.S. Central Command, did not signal any immediate change of direction in his statement. But he noted that some U.S. soldiers have complained about the lack of engagement and tactical rules set by McChrystal aimed at preventing civilian casualties.

"While the rules are 'basically sound,' he said, implied some lower-level commanders may have been overly restrictive in approving air strikes and other actions aimed at assisting troops in combat.

Some commanders were 'making this more bureaucratic or more restrictive than necessary when our troops and our Afghan partners are in a tough spot,' he said.

A major challenge he faces will involve pulling together efforts that sometimes have suffered from poor cooperation between the military and civilians, and between the U.S. and its allies, including the Afghan government.

"We can achieve such unity of effort because we have done it before," he said, referring to his experience in Iraq, during which Petraeus enjoyed a close relationship with then-U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker.

Petraeus said he had spoken three times already with Afghan President Hamid Karzai and held a conference call with U.S. Special Representative Richard C. Holbrooke, U.S. Ambassador Karl Eikenberry and others in Kabul. He and Eikenberry planned to meet in Brussels this week to brief NATO officials before flying together to Kabul.

He gave no indication that he would recommend that Obama replace the civilians running the U.S. effort. Several longtime Petraeus allies are already deeply involved in efforts to improve Afghan forces, including Lt. Gen. William Caldwell, who is running the effort to train Afghan army and police.

That effort, Petraeus said, is "now broadly on track, for the first time, to achieve overall approved growth goals and to improve Afghan security force quality."

But he noted that the Afghan police remain a concern and that "considerable work" needs to be done to reduce high attrition rates in the police and "to develop effective leaders."

Dean

continued from page 1

Diablo

continued from page 1

suppression system, according to a press release issued by Pacific Gas and Electric. PG&E, the operator and owner of the plant, is in effect until 2024. By continuing to operate the plant, PG&E is seeking an operating license renewal for the plant for another 20 years. The current license is in effect until 2024. By continuing to operate the plant, PG&E guarantees economic and environmental benefits.

However, not everyone wants the license renewed.

Jane Swanson is a spokesperson for the non-profit organization Mothers for Peace, which is dedicated to fighting the 20-year license renewal.

The June 23 alert at the Diablo Canyon Power Plant fits into a year-long pattern that shows PG&E's inability to manage its two aging reactors," Swanson said.

The power plant was designed in the 1960s but didn't begin running until the 1980s. Swanson said a potential major earthquake could have a detrimental effect on the cooling process of the power plant, but the NRC maintains that the plant "can withstand an earthquake up to 7.5 on the Richter scale and is high enough on the coast to avoid tsunamis."

Petek said the NRC will hold a scientific workshop that will address all issues related to earthquakes in September and a license renewal environmental audit in December.
Bill Cosby, Steve Martin with a banjo, Chinese acrobats and "Legally Blonde." These are some of the featured shows in next year's lineup at the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center (PAC).

Director of Cal Poly Arts Steve Lerian said it took about seven months to successfully fill this year's lineup with shows sure to create hype and draw large crowds.

"I get a jigsaw puzzle of artists that we can afford, (artists) people will win a production. While some are repeat visitors to the PAC, this year's shows are potentially more student-friendly.

"This is my second season booking shows and I learned a lot about what people want to see more and less of from the first season," Lerian said. "People don't thirst for old, chestnut Broadway. They need newer shows."

Lerian said he likes to keep Cal Poly students and San Luis Obispo community members in mind when choosing shows. However, booking specifically for students is difficult because they have yet to produce a large turnout, he said.

Lerian said students are turned off by the thought of paying for a small show but if more students paid to see shows, Cal Poly Arts would book bigger names.

In addition, Lerian said it is hard to compete with the free shows offered by Associated Students Inc., and larger venues like Chumash Casino.

To compete with other venues, shows are added throughout the season mostly because San Luis Obispo is the perfect spot for tours to stop and play a show for the night.

"Cal Poly is in an interesting position because we are exactly half way between San Francisco and Los Angeles," Lerian said.

Despite battling for bookings and venues, Lerian said he is excited to see the comedic stylings of Bill Cosby on Sept. 26, as well as Steve Martin strumming away on a banjo to his Grammy-winning, grassroots folk music on Oct. 6.

Lisa Weiske, head of Public Relations for Cal Poly Arts, said it's currently the middle of the ticket-subscription period, which continues throughout the season.

Weiske said the best savings, which come to 20 percent off face value, are available through fixed-series packages, which are based on show genres.

The other type of subscription is a create-your-own package. If four to seven tickets are purchased, there is a 10 percent discount on each ticket; if eight or more tickets are purchased, there is a 15 percent discount on each ticket.

Lerian also said students, faculty and staff each get an additional 20 percent off the ticket price; therefore, students can receive 40 percent savings. Students also have the option of purchasing student rush tickets an hour before the show for $13.
Eclipse' features new characters, love triangle

John Anderson
MCCLATCHY NEWSGROUP

At a fan convention earlier this month in Los Angeles, newly issued vampire Xavier Samuel got a taste of "Twilight" mania: "I got to hang out with 2,000 people, answer a few questions, mostly about whether I'd have my shirt off in any scenes." Such is the so-called life of the undead, at least in the world of "Twilight," which involves passion, drama and the frequent bewailing of teenage girls. "I don't know how you prepare for something like that," Samuel said.

Prepare he must. With the regularity of a full moon, another "Twilight" movie is upon us: "Twilight: Eclipse" is the third in the series inspired by the Stephenie Meyer novels and one that addresses such titanic questions as immortality and high school graduation. While Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner all return, respectively, as Bella Swan, Edward Cullen and Jacob Black (Lautner), they are being joined by a virtual legion of previously unseen characters. While the second film was titled "New Moon," this one, which opened Wednesday, could be called "New Blood" (all puns intended).

In addition to Bryce Dallas Howard, who replaced Rachelle Lefevre as the vampire twin Alice, there's Jodelle Ferland, a native of Vancouver who (the film was shot) who plays the so-called life of the undead, Victoria's scheme of revenge.

And there's Samuel as Riley, a member of Victoria's newborn army of bloodsuckers, whose strength is greatest during their early days of unlife. "He's a complex character," said the 26-year-old Australian, "because he's still got human blood pumping through his veins, and because he had his humanity snatched from him, and that stirs a lot of feelings of frailty and rage." Riley is being manipulated by Victoria to seek revenge on Bella and Edward, "so he's essentially kind of a puppet, which makes him a tragic figure. It's kind of a Lady Macbeth relationship with Victoria, there's Jodelle Ferland, a native of Vancouver (where the film was shot), who plays the role specifies, says that the first part will be shot simultaneously, "when Lautner will have reached the ripe old age of 20."

Although the "Twilight" series will not be ending with a fourth installment, as originally intended. It will be ending with a fourth, and fifth. Although the producing and opening of the films in the series have been quick and clean — each feature has been released while the next was being shot — "Breaking Dawn," the last in the Stephenie Meyer series of novels, will be broken into two parts for the screen. The first half will be released in November 2011. The fifth movie does not yet have a release date, according to distributor Summit Entertainment.

To reveal any major plot points would kind of take the steam out of "Eclipse," the imminent third chapter in the vampire quartet/quintet (at least for those few dozen who aren't closed in). But it's safe to say that Edward Cullen (Pattinson), Jacob Black (Lautner) and Bella Swan (Stewart) will all be supping at the Twilight" trough until at least 2012 — when Lautner will have reached the ripe old age of 20. But he's still got human blood pumping through his veins, and because he had his humanity snatched from him, and that stirs a lot of feelings of frailty and rage." Riley is being manipulated by Victoria to seek revenge on Bella and Edward, "so he's essentially kind of a puppet, which makes him a tragic figure. It's kind of a Lady Macbeth relationship with Victoria, there's an Italian damsel in distress, his Jodelle Ferland, a native of Vancouver, who played the role specifies, says that the first part will be shot simultaneously, "when Lautner will have reached the ripe old age of 20."

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Soccer has yet to make a goal with U.S. fans

After an exciting World Cup rolled up and around TV ratings, Sports Illustrated declared that soccer, its hour come round at last, is touching toward the United States:

"American soccer now has its greater opportunity. If those who control this burgeoning game in the U.S. have the good sense and the enlightened self-interest to discipline themselves and to make a decent posture toward soccer, we may yet have a shot at international recognition in a game that, thanks to an accident in sporting history, passed us by.'

The only catch: Those lines appeared in Sports Illustrated in March 1967. The two new professional leagues the magazine ballyhooed surely you remember the National Professional Soccer League and the United Soccer Association were stillborn a month later. Certainly they all loom large in the memories of TV cameramen, who every week had to come up with breathtakingly acute new cameras to disguise the vast expanse of empty seats at the games. If you're one of the 870 fans who attended the match between the Chicago Spuds and the Los Angeles Toros in Chicago's 6,150-seat Soldier Field in June 1967, bring your ticket stub to me and I'll buy you an ice-cream cone.

If Sports Illustrated was the first to sample the soccer Kool-Aid, plenty of others have joined them at the same pitch over the last four decades. As the joke goes, soccer is America's sport of the future — and always will be.

From candy hawkers trying to make a quick buck selling franchises to earn assistant professors who are morally certain that world peace would be achieved if only Americans could be made to appreciate the intricacies of the corner kick, we've been endlessly bonzahed with predictions that any day now we'll feel the sudden urge to throw away our baseball gloves and football pads to chase our new allegiance to the scoreless ties and incomprehensible offside calls that make soccer so enthralling. My personal favorite came from a Baltimore sportscaster named Charley Eckman, who once said, "Indoor soccer will be the game of the '80s. Bet your cherries on it.” And you wonder why you never see cherry orchards in Baltimore.

Here's the cold blunt fact of the matter: Americans hate soccer, and we've been hating it for a century and a half. The British brought the game when they settled their American colonies, and we played it for a while and then, like their damn tea, we threw it overboard. Soccer's precipitous decline in the United States came in the 1870s and 1880s, when three made-in-America sports — baseball, basketball and football (real football, the kind played with helmets and massive doses of steroids) — surged in popularity.

Soccerphiles have been trying to reverse the trend ever since. Every decade or so, a new swarm of pro soccer leagues bounces like pestiferous insects, only to be crushed by a bloody pulp by the heavy hand of Americanism, unenlightened except by fans of unspeakably weird team names. (The Lone Star Soccer Alliance's San Antonio XI.BA is widely considered the champion by this audience, though my own preference is the Ohio Xoggs of the Southwest Independent Soccer League.)

With so much practice at discerning huge in the face of impending oblivion, soccer fans are the world's most skillful self-deceivers. Their favorite good omen is increased TV ratings — for the World Cup — and with the Nielsens up 50 percent for this cup, they're giddy with optimism. But it's easy to boost your ratings 50 percent when you start from next to nothing. The average match has drawn a million or two viewers, and even the most-watched, between the United States and Ghana, had 19.4 million viewers — about 20 percent fewer than "American Idol" on a bad night.

And most of those viewers were there for the spectacle (and the beer) rather than the soccer. The Columbus Crew Gables, Fla., bar where I watched the U.S.-Ghana match was indeed packed — but a third of the customers walked out when the game went into overtime, the moment at which red soccer fans should have been atgile with anticipation. And let's not start on the guy sitting beside me, who kept asking me which team was which.

A better indication of the ongoing U.S. interest in soccer — or, more correctly, the lack of it — is the attendance and TV ratings of Major League Soccer, the latest professional league to hang in head against the American wall. The 17-year-old league claims an average attendance of 16,000 per match — less even than indoor pro sports like basketball and hockey, and a mere 32 percent compared to Major League baseball (38,000 a game) or NFL football (68,000). And anyway, the key word in the last sentence is claims — the San Diego Cannons, a couple of years ago, got hold of internal Major League Soccer documents that showed that the league was giving away twice as many tickers as it was selling.

As for TV ratings, ESPN's coverage of Major League Soccer has fewer viewers than bowling or poker. I bet most of them's it's going to stay that way.

Tamar Jacoby is a writer for the Los Angeles Times.

"cough cough" are up over 42 percent in just two years? Are you shitting me?

Thanks President Baker for cutting and running. Hope you enjoyed your 10 percent pay increase, your car allowance, your housing allowance, your own campus house, parking spot and your almost $400,000 salary while the rest of those who pay for it have to struggle even harder to pay for it in this economy when it's almost impossible to get a job as a student right now. Thanks again, Baker, for doing this while all other school employees took a 10 percent cut — and you cut classes to save money.

I hope you trip down the stairs in the administration building on your way out, jackass.

Michael

In response to "Student fees increase"

Great writing about Gogcon! I enjoyed it.

Scott

In response to "From Poly to the press - the Chris Gogcon story"

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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Adam Melker's name didn't show up on-screen during the MLB First-Year Player draft. Even if it had, Melker wouldn't have seen it.

The former Cal Poly outfielder wanted nothing to do with the majority of the three-day, 50-round draft in early June. For an event so long, Melker could barely pull himself to watch any of it.

"I kind of knew that I wasn't going to go on the first two days. Obviously I hoped that I would, but in the back of my mind I just kind of knew I wasn't," Melker said. "To be honest, I only watched about a half an hour of the last day."

His friends weren't as pessimistic. His house in San Luis Obispo, roommates and friends all sat together watching the draft. They watched round after round, waiting to see if they could soon call their friend a professional baseball player.

The player under the microscope played center field for the Mustangs last year. He started in more than 10 games in all of his four seasons at Cal Poly, and with the exception of his freshman year, never finished a season with a batting average below .280. Toward the end of his senior season, he rode a hot streak that consisted of a 36-for-79 stretch, nudging his career batting average to just over the .300 mark. Yet, through two draft days, none of that was appealing to a major league ball club — at least not yet.

With 10 rounds left, and two days of boycotting behind him, Melker gave in. Although every MLB team had already neglected him — numerous times — he joined his friends, watching and waiting to see if he had a chance to continue his baseball career.

"It was getting to like the 40th round and I texted my mom, 'This isn't good,'" Melker said. "Right when I texted her, a scout texted me from the Cardinals asking me if I wanted to go there. Of course."

Ten minutes later, Melker said, his name finally popped up on screen — the 1,359th selection of the draft. Melker was relieved his baseball career wasn't over; it was just taking a detour to a new destination — the St. Louis Cardinals.

"It was a good day," Melker said.

He was the last of three Mustangs selected on the final day of the draft. The Boston Red Sox selected former Cal Poly outfielder Luke Yoder in the 40th round and the Cincinnati Reds selected former Mustang starting pitcher Matt Leonard in the 38th.

"I was just happy for them," Cal Poly head coach Larry Lee said. "We knew Yoder would get the opportunity; we just hoped Melker would also get that same opportunity."

With the help received from Lee and his former coaches, Melker is now a professional baseball player — playing for the Batavia Muckdogs, a Class A short season affiliate of the St. Louis Cardinals.

However, his road to the major leagues isn't over. That road still extends through the twists and turns of the minor league system, all he has to do is prove to the Cardinals' coaches and scouts that he has what it takes to make it. In turn, they will show his game under the microscope, picking at any flaw or potential flaw in his game. His success in battering drills, fielding drills and in-game situations will decide his future.

This is where ball players are separated from imposters. For now he takes a new field, in a new city, with a new uniform on his back. The majority of the players around him are in the same position, all hoping to move further in their journey to the majors. But Melker has one tool that has been drilled into his mind at all four years at Cal Poly, something that sticks him out from everyone else.

"Mental strength," Melker said. "That's my biggest asset I got from Coach Lee. Just how to be tough ... he taught us that and I think it is really giving me an edge over a lot of the guys here who might let little things affect them.

That strength is helping him combat one of the biggest changes he has had to deal with now playing for the Batavia Muckdogs — the loss of playing time.

Melker has now gone from a collegiate starter to the minor league bench. He will have far less at-bats to prove himself as he did in college. The change hasn't discouraged him, it has just solidified his first goal for his first professional season.

"I just want to win a starting job," Melker said. "Just to play like I did in college and don't try to change my game too much. I got drafted as the player I was, so I am just going to try and keep playing like that, and I am going to try to keep myself in the lineup as much as I can."

But while Melker is being forced to prove himself, some of the tools he became so familiar with as a Mustang are no longer relied upon. There are many differences between the pro and the college game.

"The college game is geared solely on winning; the pro game — everybody definitely wants to win — but it is also about player development," Melker said. "Sacrifice bunts, moving people over, hits and runs, things like that we see commonly in college, you don't really see in pro ball, they let you hit away more."

His former teammates, Yoder, is experiencing the same type of change as well. There are not many similarities between being a Mustang and being a member of a Red Sox minor league roster.

"It's a lot different," Yoder said. "(The Red Sox) don't stress the who's thing about hurlah and the camaraderie, it's not very b era and is experiencing the same type of thing at all."

A new aspect enters the game when players move through the minor league systems from college — the business aspect. When the players sign a professional contract, the game now becomes a job; rather than just a hobby. The change can make the game a bit mechanical, he said.

"You just show up to the park early, get some work done, go ahead and play your game and after you're done playing, you work out, hop back on the bus, shower and go from there," Yoder said. "It's pretty much the same routine day in and day out."

This is what Yoder has wanted all his life. He spent 13 years as a gymnast, but once he realized he was talented enough to someday play professional baseball he knew this was the career he wanted to chase. Now he is living his dream, and although the game may be a bit more serious, the approach may be different and the family aspect may be a bit less.

"We still have as much fun as we can," Yoder said.

The same goes for Melker. He may now have a different seat on the playing field, and he may now play on the other side of the continuum — separated from any direct contact with anyone he met in his four years as a Mustang — but he plans to grind out every moment of it.

"I am going to stick around as long as I can," Melker said. "I am sure when that time comes, when my time is over, I'll know."

For now he takes a new field, in a new city, with a new uniform on his back. The majority of the players around him are in the same position, all hoping to move further in their journey to the majors. But Melker has one tool that has been drilled into his mind at all four years at Cal Poly, something that sticks him out from everyone else.

"You're still swinging a bat, you're still playing catch," Yoder said. "When it comes down to it, there is nothing different about that."