Gamma Phi Beta sorority earns multifaceted award

Victoria Billings
victoriabillings.msd@gmail.com

The Cal Poly chapter of Gamma Phi Beta is one of just 19 Gamma Phi Beta sororities to earn the “Five Crescent Level,” the highest award given by the Gamma Phi Beta international organization through a program called the Order of the Crescents this year.

The sisters work year-round to meet a set of criteria, based upon five “crescents”: recruitment, member education, scholastic performance, risk management and finance.

Gamma Phi Beta works to meet each criteria by electing an executive board, with every member assigned to different categories. Graphic communication junior and president of Gamma Phi Beta Kristina Benvenuto said the board frequently checks on how well the sorority adheres to the guidelines of the Order of the Crescents.

“Every quarter the executive board will sit down and kind of evaluate how we’re doing things,” Benvenuto said.

The sorority uses the criteria as a checklist to gauge its success in all five categories.

“The checklist, really what it does is it sets amazing goals,” Benvenuto said.

In addition to abiding by Cal Poly regulations, the sorority must also follow those of the international Gamma Phi Beta organization in the area of recruitment, as well as recruit the right kind of Gamma Phi Beta sister, said animal science senior Erin Clutter. Clutter helped with recruitment in winter and fall of 2010.

“It’s not just a girl who’s sweet and nice and fun but someone who will stay in the sorority and give support to the girls,” Clutter said.

New members are educated in both safety plans and the history of the sorority, another requirement to earn the Five Crescents title. The Gamma Phi Beta sisters at Cal Poly see Sorority, page 2

Judgment day: Soil team judges Cal Poly, local area resources

Brent Lowrey
SPECIAL TO THE MUSTANG DAILY

Kristopher Osterloh, an earth science senior and rugby player, understands why the rugby fields at Cal Poly flood when it rains. He doesn’t understand why the university chose to put the fields on clay.

“Soil is so common yet no one gets it,” Osterloh said. “Water doesn’t go through clay very fast.”

Osterloh and his teammates are on the Cal Poly Soil Judging Team and are studying soil and its characteristics to prepare for the National Collegiate Soil Judging Contest. The students understand soil is a valuable resource and strive to use it efficiently, despite the carelessness of others.

“It’s important to know how rainwater will affect soil, how roads should be built on it, how many nutrients it has for crops or gardening,” Osterloh said.

The national contest — held in a new location each year — takes place in April, representing Cal Poly among the top soil science departments in the nation.

The students spend two days practicing before two days of competition. They judge two sites individually one day, then three sites as a team the next. They have one hour at each site to examine soil and describe its qualities on a scorecard. The top individual, team and overall school performances will receive trophies at the end of the contest.

“It gives students exposure to soil in different regions with different geology, climate and vegetation,” said Thomas Rice, the team adviser. “There’s no way you could do that in a class.”

Rice was a soil judging undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the early 1970s, and has coached the team at Cal Poly off and on since 1981. Soil judging led Rice to a career in education, but some of his former students have gone on to hold jobs in government, science and environmental consulting.

This year’s soil judging competition will take place in Bend, Ore., where the Cal Poly team will study the area’s soil. “It gives students exposure to soil in different regions,” adviser Thomas Rice said. “There’s no way you could do that in a class.”
"Entire civilizations have failed because they couldn't take care of their land," said soil science senior Michael Wallace.

Professors from participating schools will act as official judges of the students' judging-quality of the soil at the national contest. They score competitions based on the accuracy of their scorecard, which evaluates such qualities as the color, texture and structure of each soil. Another section requires that students classify each soil into one of the 12 U.S. soil classifications — such as alfisols, andisols and aridisols — all of which are found in Bend. Students must also assess each soil's utility in real-world applications such as septic tank absorption and construction. They look to apply this skill beyond the classroom, where soil is poorly understood, said soil science senior Michael Wallace.

"Entire civilizations have failed because they couldn't take care of their land," Wallace said.
Bloody battles continue for control of Libyan government

Nancy A. Youssef
McClatchy Newspapers

Ibrahim Mohammed, 35, returned from fighting in the eastern Libyan city of Ben Jawad, convinced that he and his fellow ragtag fighters had easily moved the rebels one city closer to the capital and no victory. Relieved, he jumped into his truck and drove 25 miles back from the frontline.

By the next day, a group of men posting as fellow fighters drew him into the biggest battle he had faced since the liberation east fell out of Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi's control last month. On Sunday, the men told Mohammed to join them and head back to Ben Jawad because Gadhafi's forces had left badly needed ammunition behind. Since few among the rebel fighters know each other, he assumed they were allies and jumped in, only to discover he was being driven into an ambush.

In Ben Jawad, Gadhafi's forces were reinforced and on Sunday residents were not as welcoming of the rebels as before and were, in some cases, fighting alongside Gadhafi's troops, several insurgents said.

Armed with guns, grenades and shoulder-launched anti-aircraft missiles, the rebels were no match for the regime's artillery, snipers, airstrikes and missile attacks.

At least six rebels were killed and 60 wounded in Sunday's daylight battle. The rebel-controlled east suffered its first decisive loss in the insurrection's steady move to control the country.

There were probably far more dead, rebels said. Gadhafi's forces would not allow them to retrieve all their dead or injured. In some cases, the regime's forces disposed of the bodies or killed the injured, they charged.

"The guys who told me about the ammunition didn't tell me about the fight. They set me up," Mohammed said from Ras Lanouf, the next nearest town safely in the rebells control. "Gadhafi's forces have really, really grown. We have to wait for more support for our victory Sunday, "we're on red light (alert)." Ahmed said. "Because they may come back at any time, you know."

There were also reports of bloody fighting in Zawiya, the anti-Gadhafi forces' major stronghold in western Libya outside Tripoli, a city that the Libyan dictator has tried several times to recapture in recent days.

Every man had his own way to prepare for the battle. In Ras Lanouf, one rebel left a grenade near his comrades to see if the box that he had acquired from looted military installations actually worked. Nearby, two men latched a high-caliber machine gun on the back of their pick-up truck and took off Sunday afternoon back to the fight.

"Let's go. I want to die for my country," one man said to the other as they drove off.

At the hospital here, the closest one to the front line, an endless stream of bloodied gurneys rushed by the front door, often with dried blood on them from previous patients. Men wailed as they sought to find out if their brothers had died, screaming: "I just want to know if he is dead."

The hospital floors were covered with drips of blood. In between the rush of patients, workers would attempt to mop the floor. Then the patients would arrive in spurs - one shot in the face, another in the leg, still another was shot in the groin. Always, there was a fellow, uninjured, fighter accompanying him. At one point, the hospital staff pleaded that those with guns stay outside.

Abdel Basset Saad, 29, came back with an injured comrade whom he did not know before the battle here began. He, along with Mohammed, had fought Saturday and was convinced they had prevailed.

"But we were back, they (Gadhafi's forces) started shooting everyone with every kind of weapon," Saad said.

Mohammed al Masalti, 40, another fighter, said he thinks the rebels were too eager to move to Sirte and didn't make sure Ben Jawad was secure first. In the night, he believes, Gadhafi forces set up their positions.

"We are waiting for the no fly zone," Buchlega said at the end of the day's fighting. And then, in English, to better reach his American audience, he said: "Where is the United States?"
Republicans in Sacramento move to oppose Brown's tax extension program

Kevin Yamamura
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

State Republican leaders are urging their lawmakers to stand firm against Gov. Jerry Brown's proposal for a June tax election.

Brown acknowledged Friday that he met privately with 42 GOP lawmakers last month and vowed to oppose Brown's proposal, and conservative activists have rebuked the 12 who did not sign on.

"I think even from the most conservative fiscal perspective, they should explore what the governor and Democrats are willing to concede," said Rob Stutzman, a Republican strategist who advised Meg Whitman, Brown's opponent in last year's election. "They have more leverage than they've had at any time arguably over the last decades."

"They're spread out this quarter," said Ron Nehring, California Republican Party vice chairman who runs the conservative FlashReport blog, nothing less than the future of the GOP is at stake. Only 31 percent of state voters were registered Republican enough to satisfy their wishes.

"The bottom line is, if the minority party wants to become the majority party, the first thing we have to do is act together as a team and unite around certain concepts," Fleischman said. "Frankly, if we can't unite around the idea that a massive tax increase in the midst of a recession is going to hurt jobs, we're never going to unite."

Besides, Fleischman wrote on his blog this week, "No one I know wants to divert enthusiasm, energy and resources away from 2012 (elections) to engage in (a) June battle against higher taxes, a battle in which Republicans and tax fighters would be outspent by 40 or 50 to 1." Republicans say that rejecting taxes would force Democrats to splinter as labor unions and social service advocates fight for a smaller budget pie.

Brown pledged last month that he would demand an all-cuts budget if voters or lawmakers block the tax extensions. That probably would require major reductions to primary and secondary schools, community colleges and prisons, based on a Legislative Analyst's Office review.

"As long as government is expanding, they don't have to make difficult choices because everyone who sits around their table gets more and more money," said Ron Nehring, California Republican Party chairman. "When tax hikes come off the table, Democrats have to make difficult choices."

Thirty of 42 GOP lawmakers organized a "Taxpayers Caucus" last month and vowed to oppose Brown's proposal, and conservative activists have rebuked the 12 who did not sign on.

The strategy puzzles other Republicans.

"The idea that a massive tax increase in the midst of a recession is going to hurt jobs, we're never going to unite," said Bob Stutzman, a Republican strategist who advised Meg Whitman, Brown's opponent in last year's election. "They have more leverage than they've had at any time arguably over the last decades."

Rep. Stutzman see Brown's pledge to put any more taxes on the ballot as a perfect opportunity for Republicans.

"It's leverage fabricated out of a campaign promise enforced by a Democratic governor," he said. "It's such an amazing amount of good luck and good fortune that's not being explored, that to me it's just astounding."

He suggests that Republicans ask for a list of long-sought changes: pension reductions, a cap on future state spending, fewer civil service protections and softer regulations on businesses.

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Government to partner with Muslim-American groups

Margaret Talev
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Days before a congressional hearing into Islamic radicalization begins, President Barack Obama’s deputy national security adviser said the administration also takes the threat seriously but is working in “partnership” with Muslim-American community groups.

“Muslim Americans are not part of the problem, you’re part of the solution,” Denis McDonough told members of the All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS). He said the administration would make an announcement about its approach toward combating radicalization in the coming weeks.

Reps. Peter King, R-N.Y., and Dave Camp, R-Mich., will convene a hearing on Islamic radicalization. King’s plans have drawn criticism over claims he will marginalize the Muslim-American community.

McDonough said radicalization efforts prey on people who feel disillusioned or marginalized and that it is important not to fuel radicalization by stigmatizing Muslim Americans.

“We can send the message that we’re all Americans,” he said.

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“We can send the message that we’re all Americans,” he said.
You’re only a freshman once
How to make the most of your first year on a college campus

Hannah Croft is a journalism freshman and Mustang Daily copy editor and freshmen columnist.

I’m writing this from a hotel room, surrounded by the rest of the Mustang Daily staff and an overwhelming amount of soda and Girl Scout Cookies. We’re in Hollywood for a convention and downtown is teemong.

The rest of the staff is napping, touching up their hair and Facebook lurking. But me? I’m writing. It’s not working out too well, because we’re trying to figure out our dinner plans, and when we’re all in the same room without actually having to work, it’s hilarious in the most dysfunctional way possible. But I’m happy. So completely, utterly and incandescently happy.

Cal Poly has taught me a lot. But I’m happy. So completely, utterly, and incandescently happy.

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Every Monday cut out this refrigerator to find out what deals are happening around you!

Check out all the deals from 03/07/2011 to 03/13/2011

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Interested in running in this directory in Pub and Grub, call 805.756.1143 or e-mail mustangdailyadsgmail.com
For a movie whose message is that beauty comes from within, "Beastly" seems to be hedging its bets: Its beauty comes from within, "Beastly" is the unlikely romance of Kyle (Alex Pettyfer) and Lindy (Hudgens), two New York high school kids trapped in a fairy tale that, like a pair of sale-rack jeans, doesn't fit them.

Kyle, we find, is a self-absorbed jerk who runs for student council on the platform that he's very, very good-looking (this seems to work at their school, which resembles a teen modeling agency). He's mean to the school's misfit Goth girl — never mind that she looks like she should be on a fashion runway — and she in turn puts a curse on him, making him ugly.

His arrogant father (Peter Krause), appalled by the fact that his handsome son now looks like somebody's been practicing graffiti on his face, sequesters the boy away in another house outside the city with only a blind tutor (Neil Patrick Harris, the movie's sole comic relief) and housekeeper (Lisa Gay Hamilton) for company. Because the plot says she has to. Lindy soon moves in, and Kyle must work to break the spell by having her fall in love with him.

And on it goes, with swoony looks and scenes of poetry being read while petals fall off flowers, not to mention tantalizing glimpses of the vast real estate holdings owned by Kyle's father, who's clearly the most overpaid news announcer in the greater New York area. Meanwhile, Hudgens bares her lip and models a lot of cute scarves; the chalk-pale Olsen swans in and out, while, Hudgens bites her lip and pained, as well she might, as he wanders around the house in the teen uniform of blazer over bare chest.

Everything and everyone looks very pretty, with even Kyle's disfigurement looking like it would make a cool T-shirt logo: nothing, and nobody, makes any sense. Stick with the Disney version, kids.

For a movie whose message is that 'Beastly' proves pretty, but nonsense.
Hello,

I write a letter views of the Mustang Daily. Please edit letters for grammar, spelling, and profanity. Letters should include the writer's full name and address. Letters may be edited for length. Letters not sent as an attachment should be sent to the Mustang Daily at San Luis Obispo, CA 93407. Letters must come from a Cal Poly e-mail account. Do not send letters as an attachment.

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By fax: (805) 756-1485
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By outside mail: The Mustang Daily, 499 Central, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

thanks,
 thirty-six

The Mustang Daily is a free newspaper publishing a daily in the San Luis Obispo area.

Andrew Neuwirth is a wine and viticulture sophomore and Mustang Daily conservative columnist.

This week's column may seem a bit odd to some people. It may even seem odd enough that you may check the heading to make sure this is a conservative column. Nonetheless, it goes off of a point I made back in my first article as a columnist: Conservatives are different from Republicans. It also has to do with my continued belief in the media's inability to produce unbiased news on television. The more I watch all news channels, the more I see the angles being used to affect viewers. And I think you're overestimating most people's ability to uproot themselves for employment. I may be able to find a job in Maryland, but may not have the financial resources to move myself out there, and an employer is not likely to pay relocation costs for an employee who is not highly skilled and desired. I made no claim that profit is exploiting the worker or that business owners are not entitled to the profits of their business. My point was that profits on their own are a poor method of producing or predicting increased employment. If I have a business making widgets and I have enough employees to meet demand and make a sizable profit, I have no incentive to hire more employees because to do so would only serve to decrease my profits.

Thank you, now I don't need to look up the definition of unbanishment.

— SW

Andrew Neuwirth
Conservative columnist

In your example of the $15/hour position, what is to stop the employer from hiring a non-union employee? And what is to stop an independent agent from negotiating a higher salary? And I think you're overestimating most people's ability to uproot themselves for employment. I may be able to find a job in Maryland, but may not have the financial resources to move myself out there, and an employer is not likely to pay relocation costs for an employee who is not likely to work for less. In reality, Paul was given a standing ovation for his victory. Fox News deliberately played audio from the 2010 debate in place of the 2011 results. Instead of the cheers of 2011 Paul supporters, the boos of 2010 Mitt Romney supporters were heard, causing a misleading perception of Paul's support. So why did Fox do this? Paul may be what the country needs to take on Obama and the Democratic party.

The truth is Paul does not fit in Fox's narrow vision of what it means to be on the right.

— Andrew Neuwirth
Conservative columnist

Thank you, now I don't need to look up the definition of unbanishment.

— SW

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DOG EAT DOG? BUT I'VE BEEN SAYING IT'S A DOGGIE DOG WORLD FOR YEARS!

I ALWAYS THOUGHT THIS WAS FOR DESPERATE PEOPLE WHO NEVER GO OUT

YOU KNOW, THE TYPE WHO JUST CAN'T MEET SOMEONE UNDER NORMAL SETTINGS LIKE THE REST OF US

ANYWAY, IS THIS YOUR FIRST CLASS TOO?

IT'S MY SEVENTH!

TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Sleep buff
6 Gala occasion
10 Fair-minded
12 Amalgamation
13 Range in Asia
14 Brackenfern
17 Kiss target
18 Centers
19 Lab compound
20 Food for trout
22 Give a reason
24 Work day
26 Nose or cranary
27 Talk about
28 Poet's foot
29 Wineglass part
30 Decent grade
31 CPA forte
32 Down the hatch
33 Beau
34 Lb. and oz.
35 Perfect (hyph.)
36 Playing card
37 Gaelic
38 Financial-aid criterion
39 Hook's henchman
40 Grand — National Park
41 Only
42 "Big Blue"
43 Egg beater
44 Wise from memory
45 Cefixine
46 Gathered together
47 Quantum of sunlight
48 Bamboo and p.
49 "Ye — Hilo"
50 Not include
51 Dwight
52 NCAA Bruins
53 — — Move on!
54 Mennonite's pal
55 MTV watcher
56 River in Belgium
57 Moves toward

DOWN
1 Pave with mud.
2 "High Hopes" lyric
3 Shake -------
4 Fishing gear
5 Paper (4 wds.)
6 Scrooge's retort
7 - (2 wds.)
8 Picking ingredient
9 Natural pot
10 Eavesdrop
11 Arm bones
12 Cookie cutter
13 Ceramic piece
14 Persian carpet
15 Rice growers
16 Mouse target?
17 Japanese time
18 Rubby of Lucy
19 Paul's shut
20 Wineglass part
21 Decent grade
22 Lil and oz.
23 Perfect (hyph.)
24 Herbal soothers
25 Gaelic

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

ACROSS
20 Taxi driver
21 Rx givers
23 Mouse target?
25 Japanese time
27 Rubby of Lucy
29 Paul's shut
31 CPA forte
32 Down the hatch
33 Beau
35 Perfect (hyph.)
37 Gaelic

DOWN
1 Pave with mud.
3 Shake -------
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Women's basketball falls to UCSB

Mustang Daily Staff Report

The Cal Poly women's basketball team (16-11, 12-4 Big West) was 16 minutes away from making history.

After clinching the program's first ever co-share of the Big West title last weekend with their 61-48 win over Long Beach State, a win over No. 2 UC Santa Barbara would give the Mustangs the outright Big West Championship.

But clinging to a 40-36 lead in the second half, the Gauchos did their best to spoil their Central Coast rivals' ambitions.

The Gauchos (19-10, 12-4) downed the Mustangs with a 46-point second half to earn the second share of the Big West Championship Saturday afternoon in Mott Gym. It was the Mustangs' first shot in history to be named sole Big West champions, but with the loss, they come out as co-champions.

It was a blemish on one of head coach Faith Mimnaugh's most successful seasons, but despite the loss, the Mustangs will still be the No. 1 seed in the Big West Tournament and host Cal State Fullerton in the first round on Tuesday night.

It was the Gauchos' hot shooting that downed the Mustangs in the second half. After shooting 44 percent from the floor through the first 20 minutes, the Gauchos went on to shoot 57 percent in the second half. Overall, the Mustangs allowed UC Santa Barbara to shoot 50 percent.

The Mustangs weren't as fortunate on the offensive side of the ball. They shot 35 percent in the first half and 40 percent in the second half. It was somewhat of an unusual characteristic of the Big West's best scoring offense (71.4 points per game).

But the Gauchos' defense was the story of the game from the start.

The Mustangs were able to run out to an 18-11 lead with 11 minutes, 39 seconds left in the game, but with two 3-pointers by Emilie Johnson, the Gauchos pulled ahead 20-19. From there, the Mustangs and Gauchos traded basket for basket with UC Santa Barbara heading into the break with a 32-31 lead.

After the break, the Mustangs were able to race out to a four-point lead off a layup by guard Kayla Griffin. Then the Gauchos' offense woke up, and spoiled the Mustangs' hope of being the sole champions of the Big West.

The Mustangs had two scorers post double figures against UC Santa Barbara. Guard Jonae Ervin scored a team-high 17 points and center Abby Bartsch scored 16 points to go with her 12 rebounds.

However, UC Santa Barbara had three players post double figures, with one player scoring more than 20 points. Mekia Valentine scored a game-high 27 points, Johnson scored 18 points and Adrian Kayney scored 17 points. Valentine also boasted 20 rebounds to go with her offensive showing.

Guard Destiny Johnston scored nine points in the Mustangs' loss to UCSB.

Men's basketball loses in season finale

In what was a chance for the Cal Poly men's basketball team to even the score with UC Santa Barbara, the Mustangs came out on the short end of the stick — again. Cal Poly fell to UC Santa Barbara 49-43 Saturday night, to end its season with a 15-14 (10-6 Big West) record and a No. 2 seed in the Big West Tournament. The Mustangs had just one player post double digits against the Gauchos, forward David Hanson, who scored 12 points. The Mustangs' next closest scorer was guard Chris O'Brien, who scored nine points. Cal Poly will play its first game in the Big West Tournament against UC Riverside on Thursday in Anaheim.

This Week in Cal Poly Athletics

Tuesday Night

7:00 PM in Mott Gym

Cal Poly Basketball

Women's Basketball Hosts First Round of Big West Tournament

The team begins its march to a Big West Title on Tuesday. Be here as Cal Poly takes the first step toward the conference crown and the teams first ever NCAA tournament bid.

Student Tickets at the game— $5

*The First 200 Cal Poly students get FREE tickets courtesy of the Mustang Maniacs and Coach Faith Mimnaugh.

We Are the Mustangs
Baseball wraps up home-opening series with sweep

Brian De Los Santos
MUSTANGLDAILYSPORTS.COM

Fisch is back.

The fifth-year senior started his first game in Baggett Stadium since May 18, 2008 and tied the knot on the first sweep for the Mustangs since 2009, defeating Valparaiso 7-1 Sunday afternoon.

"I've gotten two starts on the road this year and I'm ready to be at home," Fischback said. "It's my first start in three years. I'm happy with it."

The win gives the Mustangs (4-6) some much needed momentum after going winless through their first six games of the season. And after Cal Poly was able to get its first win of the season Tuesday night against then-undefeated Fresno State, 11-4, the Mustangs have now reeled off four straight.

Part of the success is due to the performance of Cal Poly's pitching staff. In the three games combined, the Mustangs allowed just two earned runs to the Crusaders (11-19). Mason Radke pitched Friday night and recorded 14 strikeouts through seven innings to tie the Cal Poly Division I record for strikeouts in a single game.

Saturday night, the Mustangs combined five shutout innings from Kyle Anderson, Chase Johnson and Chris Ferreira with each outing, "I think our players appreciate what he has gone through and I put a great swing on it."

With the Mustangs leading the Crusaders 7-1, closer Jeff Johnson came into the game with two outs in the eighth inning. Johnson struck out the side in the ninth on 12 pitches to end the game.

"This is a pretty good staff," Lee said. "We're pretty good on the front end of a game and we have some guys that can fill in the middle innings. We're really good at the end of the game with Johnson."

But of course, the strength of the pitching staff remains a big question, depending on the health of Fischback. With him missing two full seasons, it's almost expected he will have some fatigue or soreness as his pitch count rises. After throwing a total of 84 pitches Sunday, he used one word to describe how his arm felt.

"Sore," Fischback said. "It's going to be like this for a while. It's something where it takes me quite a few days to get back into the flow of things and then I start thinking about my start Thursday and Friday."

Lee said the amount of innings Fischback will pitch in a single outing still depends on his numbers. When trying to calculate how long a player who has just pitched three times in the last three seasons, multiple factors come into play.

"The capability is there, I just think it depends on the results he is getting," Lee said. "I don't think it is going to be an issue extending him or not, there is probably not a need to in most games. I think with six (innings) is a good number."

But even with the sparse four-to-six inning starts Fischback has been pitching, he has still been noticeably sore, he said. And for Fischback, he is still unsure of whether this soreness is a result of rust, or if it's going to be a reoccurring theme this season.

But one thing is for sure. After three years of hard-fought rehab, there is no way he wants to feel this way for much longer.

"I don't know when it's going to stop," Fischback said. "But, hopefully it's sooner rather than later."

In three games against Valparaiso this weekend, Cal Poly's pitching staff gave up just two earned runs to the Crusaders.

In 250 words or less, to mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com. Or submit it at mustangdaily.com