Nuclear cloud of concern: Diablo Canyon safety questioned

Josh Friedman
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Scrutiny of the Diablo Canyon Power Plant, which is approximately 12 miles from Cal Poly’s campus, is high following the nuclear disaster in Japan. Diablo Canyon, owned by Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), is currently involved in a body-counted license renewal process, which is now facing increased resistance by locals who fear the possibility of a similar event.

Adam Hill, chairman of San Luis Obispo County’s Board of Supervisors, actively opposed the license renewal, which occurs at the conclusion of the initial 40-year authorization and permits another 20 years of operation. Hill sent a letter one year ago to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) asking for a delay in the relicensing due to mounting concerns over the safety of the plant.

“I have not changed my mind about the appropriateness of the request (to delay the relicensing), and the necessity of it being granted by the NRC,” Hill said. “The tragic events in Japan have added a new and increased level of seriousness to the issue, the supervisor said.”

Nuclear power has often been geared with heavy opposition, but Diablo Canyon has been especially controversial due to its proximity to both the Hog's Fault and the recently discovered Shorline Fault. Images from Japan have caused some people to reevaluate living by a nuclear plant with close proximity to earthquake faults. Consequently, many local politicians are now calling for the suspension of the license renewal process.

Congresswoman Lois Capps, who represents coastal San Luis Obispo County, also addressed the NRC in a March 24 letter. Capps’ letter

Inquiring minds want to know

The mathematics department implements new technique to aid students in understanding course materials

Paige Smith

This is the adage adopted by the mathematics department as it implements inquiry-based learning methods to traditional, lecture-taught classes. In inquiry-based learning (IBL), professors help students in the process of discovery rather than telling them what they need to know, said Stan Yoshimine, director of the Academy of Inquiry-Based Learning.

“Students who use inquiry-based learning (IBL) solve proofs like the one above through class discussions, rather than just listening to lectures on the theories behind them.”

Mudslides, roadwork and flooding ... oh my!

Alicia Freeman
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After lengthy rain and snow storms rocked California through the end of March, Highway 1 has been hit with a number of mudslides causing closures and extensive damage.

With heavy rainstorms starting around March 18, mudslides occurred near Alder Creek, south of Lucia at Dani Creek and Pickets Curve/Rain Rocks and near Rocky Creek. The mudslide at Rocky Creek near Big Sur caused the roadway to fall into the ocean. Though Highway 1 at Alder Creek and south of Lucia are now open, Rocky Creek is still closed.

Susanna Cruz, the public information officer for the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District D, said Big Sur locals and pedestrians are being escorted across the roadway from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cruz also said the locals have been very understanding of the roadwork.

“Locals are used to Mother Nature and the coast,” Cruz said. “Living in a beautiful area has its pros and cons, so they’re very tolerant and very appreciative of that.”

Cruz said Caltrans has dedicatedly kept a news release online updated for locals and commuters. There is also a telephone line for those looking for updates, she said.

Chris Hatton came to visit his children in San Luis Obispo from Lake Tahoe with his wife and said the road construction and closures on Highway 1 affected their travel plans.

“We always take Highway 1 when coming to visit,” Hatton said. “The road construction definitely averted our plans.”

According to the most recent Caltrans news release, road workers will be installing horizontal nails to temporarily fix the road. The area still remains unstable.

However, Cruz said Caltrans

see Mudslides, page 2

Students who use inquiry-based learning (IBL) solve proofs like the one above through class discussions, rather than just listening to lectures on the theories behind them.
When students are engaged in learning, they tend to have better attitudes about it.

— Stan Yoshinobu
Director of the Academy of Inquiry-Based Learning

Diablo
continued from page 1

 Diablo Canyon for safety violations.

Some students, however, were
unhappy about the course. Jane Xiao, an aerospace engineer,
also had a different experience.

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math
continued from page 1

Mathematics professors are exploring inquiry-based learning with the primary goal of improving students' experiences with math, said Dylan Retsek, an associate professor of mathematics.

Students lose many fundamental aspects of theoretical proof-based mathematics by the time they reach a higher math level, Retsek said. A proof is a convincing demonstration that proves a mathematical statement is true.

As a result of students not retaining information, professors spend more time re-teaching basic concepts rather than focusing on presenting new material, Retsek said.

Lecture, Yoshinobu said, is a passive way of learning, whereas inquiry-based learning is much more active and forces students to invest more in their education process.

Though the Academy of Inquiry-Based Learning has existed for about a year, the movement has been around for decades, Yoshinobu said.

In an inquiry-based learning classroom, the instructor acts as a mentor to students, guiding them in a general direction and providing advice and encouragement.

A professor gives students detailed problems, which students discuss and develop methods for solving in groups. They then present and explain their solutions to the class.

Yoshinobu asks the students why they believe a solution is correct or why they believe it is incorrect. Yoshinobu does not say whether a solution is right or wrong, but a smile or certain look can be indicators of progress or if a student needs more information, said Kevin Lamb, a mathematics senior and facilitator of Yoshinobus Math 248: Mathematical Inquiry.

“I had to sit in traffic for 25 hours in Colfax,” Smejkal said. “It sucked.”

The city's efforts to clean drainage ditches, said Wahl, as well as a re-moving silt from some of our creek channels have really improved the ability for the runoff to drain, and to pass through without significant flooding or damage, Wahl said.

Yet, with Cal Poly on spring break during a portion of the storm, students were still affected.

Jane Xiao, an aerospace engineering freshman, and Chao Yang, a civil engineering freshman, both said they experienced no problems with the rain storms.

“We were back here already,” Xiao said.

For those intending to travel Highway 1, the restrictions and work will continue for an extended period of time. The Rocky Creek roadway is set to be reopened in late April, while construction south of Lucia at Pitkins Curve/Rain Rocks is expected to be finished in the winter of 2012/2013.

Weather permitting, the San Luis Obispo construction near Hearst Castle is slated to be finished in June 2011, according to the Caltrans news release.

Cruz said the present good weather should continue for the near future.

"What's helpful is that the weather has been very cooperative; Mother Nature has," Cruz said.

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Radioactive water dumped into ocean off Japanese coast

Julie Makinen
Kenji Hall
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The operator of Japan's crippled Fukushima nuclear plant began releasing about 11,500 tons of radioactive water into the sea Monday evening, so that it could make room in storage tanks for even more severely contaminated water.

Some 10,000 tons of the water being released into the ocean was being taken from a communal storage facility near the No. 4 reactor. Another 1,500 tons was being released from the vicinity of the No. 5 and 6 reactors — which have been less troubled than reactors Nos. 1 through 4. The amount of water being released is equivalent to more than four Olympic-size swimming pools.

Although the water being released had levels of radioactive iodine 131 more than 100 times the legal limit allowed for sea discharge, the government approved the release as an "emergency" measure so that water with allowed for sea discharge, the government approved the release as an "emergency" measure so that water with allowed for sea discharge, the government approved the release as an "emergency" measure so that water with

The utility and the government are now considering drawing up radioactivity food-safety standards for fish after high radiation levels were detected in a sand lance, a bottom-feeding fish, that was caught off the coast of Ishikari prefecture.

Nuclear experts have previously assumed that radioactive iodine, which has a brief half-life, would become diluted in the ocean and decay too quickly to be detected in fish, but Monday's finding has raised doubts about that, said Ohara.

According to the health ministry, the sand lance had 6,080 bequerels per kilogram of radioactive iodine.

"We think the level found poses no immediate risk to people's health, but the point is how anyway because all the sand lance that were caught in Ishikari were disposed of," said Ohara. By comparison, the level of radioactive iodine in the fish was twice as high as the limit for vegetables. There are no standards for radioactivity in meat, eggs, fish and grains.

After more than three weeks of cooling the disabled Fukushima reactors by spraying them with thousands of tons of water using fire trucks, concrete pumps and helicopters, Tokyo Electric Power Co. faces a growing problem of what to do with the vast amounts of contaminated water.

Removing the water from turbine buildings and other structures is vital to allow workers to resume cooling functions to the facilities. But with limited facilities for storing the water, the government was considering drawing up radioactivity food-safety standards for fish after high radiation levels were detected in a sand lance, a bottom-feeding fish, that was caught off the coast of Ishikari prefecture.

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Tunes

What are you listening to? 

"Spit It Out" by Brotha Lynch Hung
- Jake Dunkle, business administration freshman

"I Need a Doctor" by Dr. Dre feat. Hung
- Amanda Collins, political science freshman

"The Reeling" by Passion Pit
- Yesenia Martinez, psychology sophomore

"Angel On My Shoulder" by Kaskade
- Gary Lam, civil engineering senior

"That's At She Wrote" by Ti
- Emmanuel Loza, electrical engineering senior

"It Wasn't Me" by Nelly feat. Faith Evans
- Kirk Lippold, Military judge

"Roses Are Red" by Rob Thomas
- Amanda Martinez, psychology sophomore

Carole Rosenberg
McClatchy Newspapers

In an about-face on the day President Barack Obama announced his re-election bid, Attorney General Eric Holder on Monday ordered that confessed 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four other alleged co-conspirators stand trial before a military commission at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, rather than in a civilian court. It was an embarrassing reversal nearly a year and a half after Holder announced with much fanfare that the five men, who had been held for years in secret CIA custody before their transfer to the Guantanamo military prison in 2006, would be tried in a courtroom in lower Manhattan. Holder blamed the decision on Congress for prohibiting the transfer of Guantanamo detainees to the U.S., even for trial.

"We must face a simple truth: those restrictions are unlikely to be repealed in the immediate future. And we simply cannot allow a trial to be delayed any longer for the victims of the 9/11 attacks or for their family members who have waited nearly a decade for justice," Holder said.

The Sept. 11, 2001, attacks killed 2,976 people when four hijacked airliners crashed into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in southwest Pennsylvania.

Holder also revealed that a grand jury secretly indicted the five men on Dec. 14, 2009, alleging, among other things, that Mohammed had trained the hijackers "by killing sheep and camels" with short-bladed knives similar to the box cutters used in the 9/11 attacks.

That indictment, which was withdrawn Monday, came a year before Congress stepped in and blocked transfers of detainees to U.S. soil. But even before Congress acted, Holder said the Justice Department had delayed the transfer out of concern about security for a trial in Manhattan. At one time, he said, he considered staging the trial at the Otisville Federal Prison, 70 miles northwest of New York, near the Pennsylvania and New Jersey borders.

"The best venue for prosecution was in federal court," he said. "I stood by that decision today.

Families who lost relatives in the attacks offered mixed reviews of the decision. Most members of Congress endorsed it.

At the Pentagon, the chief war crimes prosecutor, Navy Capt. John Murphy, said his lawyers would prepare charge sheets "in the near future" against Mohammed, 45, Ramzi bin al-Shibh, 37, Wald bin Attash, 32, Ammar al-Baluchi, 32, and Mustafa al-Hawsawi, 41.

They have been held at Guantanamo since September 2006, after years in secret CIA custody during which Mohammed was waterboarded 183 times. The five were charged in the military commission system during the George W. Bush presidency, but that case was dismissed in November 2009 when Holder announced plans for a civilian trial.

Murphy declined to say whether he would seek the death penalty as a fast track to martyrdom. But it is unclear whether a military judge who accepts a guilty plea can also sentence someone to death.

"The timing of the announcement was surprising the day President Barack Obama launched his campaign for re-election. It also came the day before the House Judiciary Committee was to hold a hearing on military commissions, at which relatives of 9/11 victims were expected to hold up pictures of their dead loved ones to protest administration policy.

"It is my hope that today's announcement means that long-delayed accountability will finally be served on the terrorists who killed thousands of Americans on 9/11," said retired Navy Cmdr. Kirk Lippold, who was the captain of the USS Cole in October 2000 when an al-Qaida suicide bomber attacked the destroyer off the coast of Yemen, killing 17 U.S. sailors.

"The shame of Guantanamo will continue," the group said in a prepared statement. "As families of those who were murdered on that day, we have waited nearly 10 years to see those who committed these savage criminal acts be brought to justice."

Reaction from Congress, which had voted to block a U.S. federal trial through funding bans, ranged from triumph to relief that New York would be spared the trial.

"As I have been saying all along, these terror trials belong in a military commission at Guantanamo. I am absolutely shocked that it took Attorney General Holder 507 days to come to this realization," said Rep. Peter King, R.N.Y., chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who helped make the military commission system, said he appreciated Holder's decision to use it for the trials.

"Military commissions have been used in wars throughout our history, and they should be used in this war," said Graham, a military lawyer who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. "The commission trials will be transparent, conducted by the same judges and juries who administer justice to our own troops, and subject to civilian review. In addition, the military commissions system balances the interest of the accused with the safety of our nation as a whole in this time of war."

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, lamented the reversal. He called the American justice system "the envy of the world" and with hundreds of terror-related convictions already "more than capable of trying high-profile terrorism cases and mass murder cases."

"The record in military commissions pales in comparison, with only a handful of convictions, and the ground rules still in flux," he said.

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Change Required

Art exhibit brings change of pace to SLOMA

Amber Kiwan
amberkiwannds@gmail.com

Culture and politics made its way into the dark cartoonish sketches and whimsical pastel backgrounds of the new paintings on display at the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA).

The double entendre of the "Change Required" exhibit encapsulates the messages that alternative artist Russ Pope, whose style strays from traditional artwork, hopes to convey.

The paintings in the exhibit address the questions: When is it time for change? Can you spare some change? Is change in the air? Do you embrace change? How do ideas change? And, is change required?

"Each piece has a small message," Pope said. "Most of my work is based on social commentary. Every individual gets something different out of it."

For example, Pope said one of his paintings is loosely based on social media and advertising.

"It visually tells a story of the change from print ads to being blasted on every level intellectually, by (digital) advertising," Pope said.

The paintings, which are mostly acrylic and ink on either canvas or wood, draw inspiration from human interaction, music and life in general, Pope said.

Pope also incorporates skateboarding into his art, which makes sense since he said he is as heavily involved in the skate industry (he currently works for Vans) as he is with his art.

Five unique, hand-painted skateboards will be part of the "Change Required" exhibit. Each board is uniformly numbered on the bottom, but will feature individually exclusive...
The benefits of doing business with a credit union

Erik Hansen is a graduate student pursuing a Master of Public Policy and the "When I Was a Mustang..." columnists.

Tired of transferring money from your checking account to your savings account every month just to keep your "free" checking account at one of the large, for-profit banks? How about those overdraft charges you might occasionally incur and the impersonal customer service?

While large banks have advantages such as greater availability of branches and branded ATMs, most of us spend at least five days of the week, nine months out of the year, at one of the large, for-profit banks. Trying to keep your "free" checking account open is usually your first concern. Money is trickled down to its members through the various services offered by the credit union. This also means members choose the directors of their credit union, and in turn, the direction that their credit union will steer. Such measures make stakeholders out of credit union members, with more interest and power in how the credit union operates.

Credit unions are exclusive. While anyone can walk in off the street and open an account at Wells Fargo, you'll need to be a member of a "group" to join a credit union. This can mean having a certain employer, or being a student at Cal Poly. This can also simply mean living in a specified community. Similar to group discounts you might receive on your car insurance, this cuts down on the institution's risk and lowers costs, which again, trickles down to its members.

Checking and savings accounts are more member-friendly. The vast majority of credit unions offer free checking and savings accounts, without having to enroll in direct deposit or some other money moving scheme. Credit unions are also typically more lenient in terms of account overdrafts, only penalizing repeat offenders, and will usually offer some form of overdraft protection, such as connecting your checking account to your savings account or credit card.

According to the DataTrac Corporation, as of April 1, 2011:
- The typical five-year, fixed-rate mortgage from a California credit union has an APR of 4.75 percent, as opposed to an APR of 10.99 percent at the average California bank.
- The typical 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage from a California credit union is 4.75 percent, as opposed to 4.88 percent at the average California bank.
- The typical five-year loan on a used car from a California credit union has an APR of 2.79 percent, as opposed to an APR of 3.99 percent at the average California bank.
- The typical checking account at a California credit union with a balance of $5,000 will accrue 0.12 percent annually, as opposed to 0.09 percent at the average California bank.
- The typical savings account with a balance of $10,000 will accrue 0.18 percent annually, as opposed to 0.10 percent at the average California bank.
- The typical five year, $10,000 CD will accrue 2.09 percent annually, as opposed to 1.75 percent at the average California bank.
- The typical credit card, home and car loan rates are much better at credit unions. Not to drawn you with numbers again, but with good credit, as of April 1, 2011:
  - The typical basic credit card from a California credit union has an APR of 5.15 percent, as opposed to an APR of 10.99 percent at the average California bank.
  - The typical 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage from a California credit union is 4.75 percent, as opposed to 4.88 percent at the average California bank.
  - The typical five-year loan on a used car from a California credit union has an APR of 2.79 percent, as opposed to an APR of 3.99 percent at the average California bank.

Credit unions provide much better loan rates ... Credit card, home and car loan rates are much better at credit unions.

— Erik Hansen
Graduate columnist
Radishes provide a cure-all for spring quarter

Radishes are quickly growing, quick to prepare and even quicker to disappear off my plate. These root vegetables are members of the mustard family and although they resemble beets or turnips in appearance, they are quite distinct from these vegetables when it comes to flavor. The radish originated in China thousands of years ago, but it really made its mark in Greece when it was named after the word meaning "fast appearing." Like I mentioned before, these veggies are fast to spout from underground, but even faster to disappear into the depths of my stomach.

Today, in America, these vegetables are most commonly produced in Florida and California — what a delight it is to be living in California, which produces so many of America's delicious crop varieties. That being said, if you decide to visit family in a less agriculturally-rich state anytime soon, don't fret, because radishes are grown in almost every state in the U.S. — even the Big Apple. So, no matter where you go, you can get that radish fix I know you are all bound to have after trying just one of these little guys.

Speaking of little, radishes tend to be best when they are only about one inch in diameter, although some radishes have been known to reach almost 100 pounds. For the best flavor, the little guys really do win this battle. Larger radishes tend to become sponge-like in texture and thus lose some flavor and texture quality.

Radishes should be round, firm and free of cracks when you look to purchase them. If you can find roots with the leaves still attached, even better, but make sure they are crisp and green. When you get home you can cut the green leaves off the top, but don't throw them away. The greens make for a perfect side — just quickly sauté them with a little olive oil and garlic and you have an easy and nutritious side to pair with dinner in a matter of minutes.

Radishes have been held in high esteem for healing qualities by old housewives for ages. Many people have claimed radishes are capable of curing anything from coughing, digestion problems, liver health, to skin problems and even cancer. Although not all these may be true, there are some very real health benefits associated with consuming radishes regularly.

Radishes can help with digestion. Due to the diastase enzyme it contains, radishes can help break down large starch molecules into smaller maltose molecules that our bodies digest with greater ease. The vitamin C found in radishes helps prevent skin wrinkling as well as promote a healthy immune system in our bodies. As a member of the cruciferous group, the radish is connected to the many studies supporting that consumption of cruciferous vegetables aids in cancer prevention. Maybe the housewives of old were a little right.

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Baked Radish Chips

Ingredients:
10 to 15 radishes, thinly sliced
1 tsp. chili powder
1/2 tsp. garlic salt
1/2 tsp. smoked paprika
1/2 tsp. salt
1 Tbsp. olive oil

Directions:
1. Steam diced radishes in the microwave approximately 5 minutes.
2. Mix with spices and oil in a small bowl.
3. Bake at 350°F for 8 to 10 minutes. Flip chips and bake additional 8 to 10 minutes.
4. Enjoy!

Write a letter to the editor!

Please include your name, year and major!

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Redefining the concept of 'us' and 'them'

Eric Baldwin is an electrical engineering senior and Mustang Daily libertarian columnist.

We humans can be huge jerks, and we're getting better at it every day. Society, however cracked, provides a structure that encourages good behavior* and discourages the bad. Most of us would behave a bit worse if we knew we wouldn't be caught or censored. Where the enforcement mechanisms of society are lower we reflect its expectations less and less and exhibit our own raw desires more.

The Internet is humanity's most recent and most free arena for social expression. There are close to 232 possible forums where people can come in contact. The rules vary among them, but in general it has increased anonymity and reduced social expectations in comparison to the "real world." And with that comes an acceptance of behavior that would not be expressed, or expressed as strongly, elsewhere. It is true that anonymity and technical implementation permit the jerks to spread havoc out of all proportion to their actual numbers, but the majority of the aforementioned nemeses, through name-calling and such; and preciously little logic. That's us, folks; it would he if we had that much raw desires more. Read some other articles. Check out some other sites. The comments will vary depending on the policies and political leanings of the site (and we're all partisan now), but the same general tone is almost certain to be found throughout: thorough demonization, of each other's very own special nemesis: compulsive reference to those nemesis, even if the article doesn't really have anything to do with them; casual dehumanization of the aforementioned nemesis, through name-calling and such; and pretense to be dumb. That's us, folks; or it would be if we had that much free time on our hands.

The most chilling aspect of these comments is not the emotional fervor but the serene conviction. The nemesis is generally presented as an inherent trait and immutably-malevolent creature without value or shared identity, but that is based on the assumption that a shared identity ought to exist, that our worth ought to be based on many of the traits we humans have in common. If it's really true, we have to really mean it. If not, well, carry on.

At the heart of all this is the question: 'What does it mean to be me?'

— Eric Baldwin Liberation columnist

This Labor Statue is too Pro-Union and Has Come Down!

Dude... I'm Trying to Work Here!

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billed to the bowl. One was to see a space shuttle launch in Florida.

— At least $13,000 for wedding-related costs of a key aide to Junker.

— A 12-day, $17,000 trip to Ireland for a Fiesta consultant and his wife.

— A $1,000 bottle of wine ordered by an ex-Fiesta employee.

— A $65,000 bill for the bowl for taking Arizona legislators and extended families to Boston—to see a game and hear a talk by Boston College athletic director Gene DeFilippo.

— Two $5,000 college-scholarship payments made to the granddaughters of a consultant to the Big 12, Donnie Duncan.

— A $1,241 bill run up at a strip club by Junker, a former associate and the head of the firm that provides security for the Fiesta Bowl.

Junkers explanation: "We are in the business where big, strong athletes are known to attend these types of establishments. It was important for us to visit and we certainly conducted business."

The Fiesta Bowl was also known in college athletic circles for the "Fiesta Frolic," a May function including all FBS coaches and athletic directors, who were afforded free hotel, dinner and golf while paying for their travel expenses.

Some attendees have cited the event as worthwhile for scheduling and networking purposes. But the investigative report also notes a push by attendees that resulted in a new name—"Fiesta Bowl Spring College Football Seminars"—"to make the event sound like less of a boondoggle."

The event has been canceled this year, as the bowl goes about rehabilitating itself.

"You've got a lot of making up to do," said Folmer. "The first people they ought to make up to are the volunteers that put the bowl on the map — the last guy that closes down the hospitality room and the first guy meeting planes at the airport.

"How do you say you're sorry to those people?"

Baseball

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mound with their success in the batter’s box.

Starting pitcher Joey Wagman said the team knows both pitching and hitting are going to need to step up to fill the gap left by the injured players.

"Coach Lee challenges us to pick up our game," Wagman said.

"That's the way things got to be done. Everyone knows we need to pick up our game. It starts with staying in our routines ... and being mentally prepared every game."

Junior center fielder Bobby Crocker has met that challenge, connecting on 15 hits in his last 35 at-bats, raising his average 58 points to .341.

But it's a different story for the rest of the team, which was 2 of 16 with runners in scoring position in the Mustangs' win against UC Riverside Sunday.

Unsure of how long his teammates will be injured, Crocker said the Mustangs will have to rely on their secondary players to become an asset to the team.

"We have to have confidence in our secondary guys who are our starters and have confidence for whoever is on the field," Crocker said. "Really, all we can do is accept it and continue playing."
Baseball doing its best to overcome injuries

The Mustangs have become all too familiar with the trainer's room over the last couple of seasons. Cal Poly has had player after player go down, most being key players like second baseman Matt Jensen and freshman Tim Wise. Head coach Larry Lee, who is in his ninth season with the team, said the volume of injuries this past two seasons has aggravated the team and prevented it from reaching its full potential.

"It's just frustrating," Lee said. "You like to go to the games playing fully loaded and we haven't been for quite some time and it's very evident that it's hurting us."

Some are starting to get back, like shortstop Mike Miller, who was inserted back into the lineup this weekend and played all three games against UC Riverside.

Miller, who just rebounded from a wrist injury, currently leads the team with a .386 batting average, with 12 RBIs.

The team is still without what could be an integral part of a Big West Championship run.

Jensen, 2009 Big West Freshman of the Year and first-team All-Big West performer, has missed 13 games so far this season with an injured wrist. He hit .375 his freshman year, to go with his nine home runs and 53 RBIs.

Wise is doing his best to get back onto the field. He saw playing time in the Mustangs' loss to Pepperdine on March 29, but struck out swinging with runners in scoring position. He is batting .313 for the season.

Lee said the players are day-to-day and it is still up in the air whether they will get to make their return in the team's Big West debut this weekend.

"Hopefully we can get at least a couple of them back and have them make a difference," Lee said. "We'll see, it's going to be a day-to-day decision and not quite sure if we're going to get any of them back (soon)."

But for once, the Mustangs are managing to stay healthy on the mound.

With the return of Mason Radeke and Steven Fischback to Cal Poly's pitching lineup, the Mustangs are pitching some of the best games in recent memory. The team has seen a drop in its 6.75 team ERA to 4.08 this season.

But the Mustangs have been unable to synch their success on the mound and still haven't been able to synch their success on the field. Lee said the players are day-to-day and it is still up in the air whether they will get to make their return in the team's Big West debut this weekend.

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Fiesta situation could affect Pac-10

Bud Withers
THE SEATTLE TIMES

SEATTLE — The Pac-10 Conference's lineup of bowl games, historically a source of irritation to many fans, could continue evolving with the recent controversy surrounding financial mismanagement of the Fiesta Bowl.

If the Fiesta is dropped from the Bowl Championship Series, but survives as a lesser bowl, it would need a critical mass of appeals to any side investigation that resulted in the ouster of Fiesta CEO John Junker.

"We don't want everybody," said one bowl director. "It's really unfortunate, particularly in this day and age when there's all this public debate about bowls versus playoffs."

The Fiesta mess comes on the heels of the book "Death to the BCS: The Definitive Case Against the Bowl Championship Series," by authors Dan Wetzel, Josh Peter and Jeff Passan.

"This is their worst nightmare," said the bowl official, referring to the BCS executive council.

The Fiesta faces two immediate challenges: A BCS task force is looking into the report and suggested reforms and will make recommendations to the commissioners of the BCS, while the Cotton Bowl, played in Jerry Jones' new stadium outside Dallas, sits in waiting.

A more dire consequence—less likely—is decertification by the NCAA postseason licensing subcommittee that meets April 26-29, which could put the Fiesta on the sideline for another postseason berth.

"Death to the BCS" authors Dan Wetzel, Josh Peter and Jeff Passan, who had an especially close relationship to the Fiesta, anchored on one side of its BCS agreement to the Big 12. That stems in part from the Fiesta's snub of some BCS-worthy Pac-10 teams in the past.

The Pac-10's bowl contracts run through the 2013 season. Any future tie-up with the Fiesta hinges partly on what sort of reforms the bowl undertakes and its fate in the postseason hierarchy.

"They've got to clean house," said John Holmer, longtime official with the Sun Bowl. "The board (of directors) says, 'I didn't know, I didn't know.' B.S. Anybody on a board, you've got fiscal responsibility."

The Fiesta mess began with allegations of the bowl illegally pointing staffers toward contributions to political campaigns—which they admitted to, but only after a whitewashed investigation by the bowl initially found otherwise. The outside report opened up a cascade of financial abuses and sloppy bookkeeping at the nonprofit, among them:

- Junker's $33,000, 50th-birthday party at Pebble Beach in California, one of at least 27 trips taken by his family since 2000 and
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Walker, Connecticut win national title

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So much for "being tired." After Connecticut was almost written off after playing five games in five days prior to the NCAA Tournament, the Huskies showed no signs of fatigue. In fact, they won six more games this season, with the latest being in the national championship game. Guard Kemba Walker led the Huskies with 16 points, as Connecticut defeated Butler 53-41 for the National Championship Monday night. It is the third national title since 1999 for the Huskies, who held Butler to a national title game-worst 18.8 percent shooting on the night.