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Bin Laden was active in global politics for over 30 years, skillful in the art of terrorism and able to elude capture for decades. His death comes as a major victory for American society, as it can now focus on rebuilding and moving on with the nation.

The impact of bin Laden's death is felt not just in the United States, but around the world. His legacy will continue to influence politics and society, and his death marks a significant milestone in the ongoing battle against terrorism.
Cal Poly students react to death of Osama bin Laden

Victoria Billings
victoriabillings@mustangdaily.com

Cheers went up from Poly Canyon Village, and Facebook statuses were full of triumphant messages Sunday night when President Barack Obama announced the death of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. The news quickly spread via text message, word-of-mouth and Facebook among Cal Poly students.

Chemistry sophomore Allie Macrorie said she was in a study room with a friend in Poly Canyon Village when a student ran in to spread the news. Macrorie said students were also waving American flags, playing "God Bless America" and shouting the news from their windows.

"It was pretty crazy in PCV," Macrorie said. "It got a little intense. I didn't know that people would be so excited at the death of someone. I hope that it doesn't lead to some retaliation from al-Qaeda."

Other Cal Poly students got the news not from their neighbors, but from Facebook friends. Paul Skillin, a general engineering senior and ROTC cadet, said he saw the news first on Facebook, and then immediately checked it on the websites of several news organizations he follows, like Al Jazeera.

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Mourners gather at ground zero to mark death of Osama bin Laden

Michael Am\textsuperscript{on} 
NEWSDAY

They came Monday where the Twin Towers once cast their shadows, some bearing tokens of lost loved ones, others burdened with excruciating memories and still more basking in the joy of a national victory.

Nearly 10 years after 2,752 people died there, ground zero again became a pilgrimage site, a fulcrum for conflicting emotions after the death of Osama bin Laden. Families of the fallen, surviving emergency responders and countless others said they felt compelled to pay their respects.

"Coming here, this is my closure," said Al Montano, 52, of Manhattan, a contractor who said he worked in the rubble for four months after the attacks. "I haven't been here since 2002. I couldn't." Tears welled in his eyes and his voice cracked as he described his ailments since working on the pile — lung cancer, mesothelioma and post-traumatic stress disorder. "The memories here, they haunt me. But I'll sleep better tonight having come," he said.

The elation many felt at bin Laden's demise was tempered by a somber undercurrent. By midmorning Monday, there were few remnants of the celebration the night before when the news first spread. Revelers were replaced by rushed commuters, picture-snapping tourists, horde of media and solemn mourners, pushing and pulling against each other in the crammed lower Manhattan streets.

Tara Henwood Butzbaugh, 42, see Ground zero, page 5
Threat of al-Qaeda likely to remain despite bin Laden's death

Hannah Allam
Adam Baron
MCCLATCHY NEWSERVERS

Political analysts who closely monitor Islamist militant groups said Monday that the circumstances of Osama bin Laden's death — far from the battlefield in a million-dollar mansion — support what they've claimed for years: that while bin Laden remained the spiritual figurehead for al-Qaeda, he was far removed from its daily operations.

That suggests, they said, that the impact of his death will be largely symbolic, and that al-Qaeda will remain a force in Iraq, Pakistan, Yemen and some parts of North Africa, where it's still active. Elsewhere, those who claim to be his followers will remain dangerous.

"The forces involved go far beyond al-Qaeda," said Anthony Cordesman, an analyst with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. "There are going to be extremist movements almost regardless of what happens to al-Qaeda. If it weakens, there will be new splitter groups that develop that will replace it."

Long before bin Laden's death, al-Qaeda had evolved into a mostly leaderless group loosely organized via the Internet with self-declared "members" acting independently around the globe. The bin Laden-inspired freelance militant is a model that could persist long after the leader's death.

"No message dies with the messenger," said Montasser el-Zayat, an Islamist attorney in Cairo who once represented bin Laden's No. 2, Ayman al-Zawahri, and who wrote a book in Arabic called "Ayman Zawahri as I Knew Him."

"Bin Laden succeeded in turning al-Qaeda from a movement into an ideology that still pervades the minds of people all over the world," el-Zayat said.

That was clear in the hours after his death. While few openly mourned the man they referred to as "the sheikh" or "the prince," a spokesman for al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, the Yemeni offshoot of the terrorist group, was quoted as calling bin Laden's death "a calamity." An online message board mainly for Iraqi insurgents carried a statement that echoed Muslims to be "providing for the man who said and did, who fought and was killed." Neither statement could be independently verified.

In Gaza, the Hamas leader and former Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh told the Reuters news agency that bin Laden's death was "a continuation of the American policy based on oppression and the shedding of Muslim blood.

In Egypt, the Muslim Brotherhood condemned the tactic of assassination, but added in a statement on its website that "we hope the elimination of bin Laden will help to remove one of the causes of conflict between the Muslim world and the West in general, and the U.S. in particular."

Bin Laden's relevance to the Arab world had been fading. The recent revolts that are remaking the region are the work of ordinary people, not Islamist militants.

A recent Pew Research Center survey of Muslim populations in six countries showed that bin Laden's highest support came from the Palestinian territories, and even there just 34 percent of those surveyed said they had confidence in bin Laden to "do the right thing in world affairs."

One-quarter of Indonesian respondents said they had confidence in bin Laden; the figure was 22 percent for Egyptians, 13 percent for Jordan, 5 percent for Turkey and 1 percent for Lebanon.

Results for Pakistan weren't available, Pew said, but confidence in bin Laden had plummeted there from 52 percent in 2005 to 18 percent in last year's survey.

"Killing bin Laden is the beginning of al-Qaeda's end. His death confirms that it was fading bit by bit, losing its charisma and effect on Muslim youth, losing the appeal of its rhetoric," said Hosam Tamam, a Cairo-based academic who specializes in Islamist movements.

Iraq's foreign minister said in a statement that he was "delighted" to hear of bin Laden's death; Saudi Arabia, Yemen and other Arab countries likewise praised the operation as a victory for counterterrorism efforts.

On a Yahoo message board, Arabic-speaking users debated bin Laden's legacy in heated exchanges.

A user with the handle Raafig, for example, praised bin Laden as a martyr who died defending his beliefs after a successful jihadist career in which he "fought for Islam to end the injustice of Western colonization, starting from Russia to the United States to Europe."

A user with the name Justice of Heaven shot back: "Hell and misfortune to you who corrupted the image of peaceful Islam. Americans made you and killed you and yet some naïve people praise you."

Still, the flood of messages offered little support for the United States, criticizing it for molding bin Laden into a "bogeyman" while failing to respond to what they consider the root causes of radicalism: foreign occupation, poverty and authoritarian rule among them. And they noted the hundreds of civilians who had been killed as "collateral damage" in the U.S. government's 10-year hunt for bin Laden.

El-Zayat said al-Qaeda would continue to find foot soldiers "as long as both Afghanistan and Iraq are occupied, as long as the United States keeps backing Israel, as long as the United States exploits the resources of other countries."

Analysts predicted that the al-Qaeda branch in Iraq, which is only informally linked to the bin Laden network, would continue to mount bombings and assassination attempts that have killed not only Americans, but also Shiite Muslim clerics as well as ordinary Iraqis caught in the violence. Aggressive U.S. and Iraqi military operations have pushed the insurgents into pockets outside cities they once terrorized, but sporadic bombings have continued in Baghdad and elsewhere, signaling a tenacious group of fighters poised to regroup once U.S. forces withdraw.

"Most of the operations of the Iraqi security forces are nothing more than reactions to the insurgent groups," said Muatass Abdulhammed, a security specialist at an independent research center in Baghdad.

In Yemen, bin Laden's ancestral homeland and the base of one of the world's most active al-Qaeda franchises, the leader's death dominated conversations.

"When I heard the news and saw people celebrating in New York and Washington, I was immediately happy," said Saif Talib al-Zahra, a Yemeni who's been participating in demonstrations to oust President Ali Abdullah Saleh. "Bin Laden has done little more than kill innocent people and dirty the name of Islam."

But Cordesman suggested the impact would be small in Yemen, where a Yemeni-American militant, Anwar al-Awlaki, has become one of the most prominent young extremists.

"That group does not have long-standing ties to the senior leadership," Cordesman said. "It is a new group of young leaders that didn't work with bin Laden."

In Change Square in Yemen's capital, Sanaa, demonstrators were glued to televisions broadcasting the latest news on bin Laden's death.

"Killing bin Laden will not end terror," said Hazem Majed al-Jadali, a protester. "Arabs, the United States and the European Union must get rid of (Libyan leader) Moammar Gadhafi, (Syrian President) Bashar Assad and (Yemeni President) Ali Abdullah Saleh; only if we want to truly end terror."

Analyst, Center for Strategic and International Studies

There are going to be extremist movements almost regardless of what happens to al-Qaeda.

— Anthony Cordesman

President Obama declared al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden was declared dead May 1. Many political analysts believe the terrorist group will remain influential.

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MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE

Tuesday, May 3, 2011
Death of bin Laden a clear victory for Obama, but popularity boost won't last

David Lightman
Margaret Talev

President Barack Obama has gained stature from the dramatic killing of Osama bin Laden, but history shows that a burst of national euphoria many months before an election doesn't assure victory for an incumbent who's seeking another term.

Obama's job-approval numbers probably will spike, and for a while he may even look unbeatable as the 2012 campaign season unfolds. But he still has to confront a weak economy, and as long as Americans see gasoline prices near $4 a gallon, analysts said, he shouldn't count on an easy campaign.

Obama's greatest gain is that he now looks more presidential: the commander in chief who got bin Laden, after George W. Bush spent most of his eight-year presidency trying, but failing, to find him.

"It took a long time to run Osama down," said University of Texas political analyst Bruce Buchanan.

"Bush didn't have enough. Obama didn't do it rapidly, but he did it, and people like that.

However, the presidential election is still 18 months away. And as New Hampshire conservative activist Jennifer Horn put it, killing bin Laden "doesn't change the unemployment rate or the health care crisis."

Buchanan tended to agree: "Unless the war is a crisis that happens right before Election Day, it isn't necessarily a plus. You can be shown the door in spite of that."

Military successes usually mean bumps up in the polls for presidents. Bush got the biggest ever after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, when his job-approval rating soared to 86 percent from 51 percent within days. He soon hit a record 90 percent.

President John F. Kennedy's numbers jumped 13 points during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, and President Bill Clinton got a 7-point boost after the 1995 bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building.

Perhaps the most sobering reminder of how fleeting such a bump can be is the experience of George H. W. Bush, whose boost came at a point in his presidency that's similar to Obama's now. During the Persian Gulf War in February 1991, Bush's Gallup poll rating rocketed to a then-record 89 percent. Many political analysts thought he'd be a shoo-in for re-election in 1992.

The next year, however, amid a stagnant economy and perceptions that he was out of touch with it, Bush first endured a nomination challenge from conservative Pat Buchanan, then lost the general election to Clinton. In fact, Bush garnered the lowest popular-vote total of any incumbent president in 80 years.

Much the same thing happened to Winston Churchill. After he led Great Britain to victory in World War II, British voters, focused on the economy, tossed him out of office in 1945.

Frank Newport, the Gallup Poll's editor in chief, suggested that the pattern could repeat itself this cycle.

"A year from now I think the focus will be quite a bit more on the economy than on what happened to Osama bin Laden," Newport said, but then he hedged: "Sometimes this can have a lasting effect on the image of a leader. We just don't know at this point."

Ground zero
continued from page 3

of Manhattan, carried an American flag and a photo of her brother, John Christopher Henry, 35, a Cantor Fitzgerald employee killed on 9/11.

"It's bittersweet," she said of bin Laden's death. "For the world, this is a victory. For families, this is very personal."

There was also an uneasy sense that another terrorist strike loomed.

"This isn't over," said Elijah Steinfeld, director of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum.

"It is a place that acts like a magnet for our nation," said Alice Greenwald, director of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum. "People feel this need to be here, this need to be part of 9/11."

Newspaper front pages featuring bin Laden were hung along the northern wall of the ground zero construction site. Tourists smiled for pictures in front of them, their thumbs up.

"It is a place that acts like a magnet for our nation," said Alice Greenwald, director of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum. "People feel this need to be here, this need to be part of 9/11."

Tourists took time from their workday to reflect on the day's stunning news.

Bennie Rodriguez, 40, of Huntington, a construction inspector for the 9/11 memorial site, stood in the crowd and took in the scene. For the past four years, he's seen many gatherings at the site, but never the spontaneous outpouring on Monday.

"Maybe now people can start recovering," he said. "But I can't really believe it. I couldn't sleep last night. I'm not sure what it means."
A look at the Fair Trade movement

Heather Rockwood is a food science junior and Mustang Daily food columnist.

Imagine you have been working all day with the sun's hot rays burning down on your body. You are exhausted from the manual labor of harvesting food and replanting for next season's crop. Your back is sore from bending over, but the sun is finally setting and you know the end of the day is here. You walk over to the line of waiting workers to receive your earnings. What happens when you finally get to the front of the line? What if the scenario was different reality — and we, however unknowingly or unintentionally, have contributed to the painful reality of so many others.

Well, if you are in the United States, you can expect to be fairly rewarded for your hard work, and you expect to receive at least minimum wage for the long hours you put in. Unfortunately, in this scenario, you are not in the U.S. Actually, you are a resident of a developing country, such as Kenya or the Ivory Coast, and earn less than $2 for all those long hours. This hardly seems fair, but that's the reality faced by many others.

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Almost all of us believe living off a minimum wage salary — $8 per hour — is near impossible for a family. As Americans, we work hard and demand to be fairly rewarded for our labor, and we are. Although we claim these standards in our lives, the sad reality is that beyond the comfort of our U.S. homes, a vast majority of the rest of the world is facing a starkly different reality — and we, however unknowingly or unintentionally, have contributed to the painful reality of so many others.

Sixty percent of the world lives on less than $2 a day. Since globalization, the world of food has been greatly altered. In an effort to provide more foods in all seasons and to gain larger profits, many American companies outsource labor to developing nations across the globe. This new shift posed a possibility of benefit not only for American companies, but also the

see Fair Trade, page 8

Beyond the comfort of our U.S. homes ... we have contributed to the painful reality of so many others.

— Heather Rockwood
Food columnist

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Looney Tunes return to television

Robert Lloyd
Los Angeles Times

Pity the poor cartoon character. Unable to speak for himself against those who would redraw or rewrite him, he is the slave and plaything of whomever owns the copyright. The human fan can only watch or not and note that in most cases the better work is not usually the latest, and that theatrical versions of old cartoons are almost invariably superior to their television revivals. But revivals there will be. "The Looney Tunes Show," which debuts Tuesday night on CN, at the big-kid-but-not-little-kid-friendly hour of 8 p.m., is the latest attempt to do something new with the Warner Bros. roster of cartoon characters — the greatest cartoon cast of them all, to my mind. It is certainly a new take on the classics, making suburban neighbors of its players in a show framed like a sitcom, and while it doesn't improve on the originals, it does not at least turn them into toddlers, as in the 2002 "Baby Looney Tunes." It's useful to remember that even in their youth these characters evolved, and taken on their own merits, ignoring the cognitive dissonance, the show can be pretty amusing. Bugs Bunny, badly re-proportioned with a big head and big feet, and Daffy Duck are at the center of the action. (Both are well voiced by Jeff Bergman, who has voiced them before.) When they shared a cartoon in times gone long by, they were adversaries, the cool rabbit versus the overheated waterfowl. Here they are not only best friends — the words "You're despicable" will not be heard — but roommates. ("I'm just crashing here until I get back on my feet," Daffy protests to Speedy Gonzales, who points out that five years cannot be described as crashing.) They lead a modern life, in a big house with a flat-screen television and stone-topped kitchen counters. Bugs works out on a treadmill; there are laptops and email and texting. Bugs is not the wiseguy he once was; Daffy is an amiable, excitable idiot.

— Robert Lloyd
Los Angeles Times

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— Robert Lloyd
Los Angeles Times


## Fair Trade

continued from page 6

potential benefit of opportunity for developing nations to become a part of the global society. Sadly, this opportunity became more like a curse for hundreds of thousands of small farmers and producers.

Instead of taking a step further in development and progress, many producers were victimized, stripped of rights and protection, left defenseless against the powerful government-backed companies that came into their countries, and thus scenarios like the one described above became the result of the once hopeful opportunity.

But the reality of this scenario does not have to remain — there is gleaming hope once again for change and the rebirth of the original opportunity posse by global trade. As students and consumers receiving education and information on the injustices occurring around the world, we have the opportunity to make a difference for so many who have lost their voice in the clamor of an unfair system. Fair Trade is a social movement not only committed to raising awareness of the unfair realities in the global food trade, but a market-based movement that takes action to change the current situation. While focusing on numerous facets of global trade, the Fair Trade movement's overarching goal is to offer disadvantaged producers fair prices, to secure rights for marginalized producers and to contribute to sustainable development.

By purchasing products marked with certified Fair Trade logos, consumers are guaranteed that they are battling against the current injustices involved with global trade, and fighting for the promotion of producers in developing nations being justly compensated and being able to work in safe and healthy working environments.

Next week begins Cal Poly's Fair Trade Week, and I encourage you to take a closer look at what it means for you individually and for the thousands of marginalized farmers to support and promote the Fair Trade movement. We all eat, and thankfully we can use the way we purchase our food to help impact a greater change for good. And I think you'll be surprised with just how many people are becoming conscious of the present situation and are making the ethical choice to support the Fair Trade movement.

Instead of the usual weekly recipe, I've included some local places that sell fair trade and products that are fair trade-certified:

- Ben and Jerry's
- Honest Tea
- Morningstar Organic Juice
- Sweet Earth Organic Chocolate
- Dole Food Company (pineapples and bananas)
- Trader Joe's Honey
- Starbucks
- Black Horse Espresso and Bailey
- Higher Ground
- Nautical Bean
- Linnane's Café
- Kerusserg, Ca

HINT: This food originated in Latin America, and was used as currency in parts of Latin America until the 19th century. It was also used in many religious rituals of the ancient Mayan people.
The nice thing about being a libertarian is that I have front-row tickets to the very best conspiracy theories. Other people have their George Soros, their global warnings, their corporate shadow governments and their Koch brothers. We have those too, but we go one better: we go gold.

Gold has a long history in human commerce. It fulfills all the requirements for money: it is limited in quantity, easy to standardize, transportable and almost indestructible. Is it a hoard or a discovery? For some, gold is the ultimate form of money.

In one form or another this has been enough to ensure gold's use in the economy since the dawn of human history.Governments have experimented with other forms of money, but they have not been enough to ensure gold's use in the economy since the dawn of human history.

The advantage of a fiat currency is that it is limited by the availability of particular commodities. It can be expanded to keep pace with economic growth to minimize deflation, it does not face shocks due to large amounts of the commodities entering or exiting the economy (California gold and Nevada silver rushes, anyone?). It lacks of intrinsic utility means it will never get melted down for its metal content.

The advantage of commodity-based currency is that it is limited by the availability of particular commodities. The value of its component sets a lower threshold for its total value, ensuring that its trustworthiness is not restricted to the apparent trustworthiness of its associated government. Governments and banks cannot issue unlimited amounts of money to fund wars, takeovers or expensive programs.

In the early stages of the Great Depression, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 6102, which kind-of-sort-of confiscated gold coinages from citizens and into the government's treasury. He then revalued gold from approximately $20 per ounce to whatever seemed expedient, thereby expanding the dollar value of the government's holdings because aggregate demand was insufficient and the New Deal required a lot of money.

In 1971, President Nixon closed the Gold Window, ending the ability of foreign governments to redeem dollars for gold at a fixed rate. Before then, other nations could exchange dollars for gold at a fixed (though modifiable) rate. Now the dollar faces free; it is backed by nothing other than the expectations of those who use it. Dollars can still be exchanged for gold but at a ratio determined by the market; currently around $1,500 per ounce. Beginning in 1965 the metal content of dimes, quarters and half-dollars was changed from silver to cupronickel clad. A silver dime is now worth almost $5.

It all seems very much like water under the Hoover Dam at this point. Gold was confiscated. Stuff happened. We moved on. But we haven't moved on; the Great Recession has fattened the fires of curmudgeons across the States. A surprising number of people want to return to a backed currency, and certain politicians who will not be named (Ron Paul 2012) have pushed the idea for years because fiat money requires the state to provide the stability and security that makes it viable. Commodity money is a creation of the market and requires only the mutual agreement of traders to maintain its worth (though the state provides useful standardization services). The primary point of contest between these two forms of money is this: should the state be "wide," or should it be narrow? Should money be under tight control or not?

The answer depends on which view of economics reflects your socio-political beliefs (there is no neutral school of economics). Fiat currency can be created without bounds so it provides an easy way for the government to spend without taxation. When the price of money is reduced, so is the price of power. The value of a fiat dollar is determined by the total number of such dollars in circulation; inflating the number of dollars reduces the purchasing power of each dollar. By pumping new money into the system as it is seen fit, the government can transfer purchasing power from those who have dollars to those who receive them. In this way, a fiat currency allows governments to create an "invisible tax," shifting wealth without having to reduce anyone's number of dollars. To hold the keys to such power must be nearly irresistible.

Since the value of a commodity currency is based on its metal content, government redistribution is difficult. For better or worse, the government can only redistribute what it first gets its hands on. A commodity-based currency is therefore one which encourages the evolution of the status quo and discourages external interference.

If the government should widely transfer wealth then it should have the tools to do so; if not, then not. What is important is to realize just how tangled and messy the topic of money is.

Economics is a deeply ideological issue and the debate on its merits is not merely an academic one but a matter of both moral and political significance. For others, it is a question of choosing which form of currency is more desirable and which provides the most freedom to its citizens, the most efficient method of trade, and the most just method of tax.
ON CAMPUS JOB

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1. Unisea garment
2. Helps a household
3. Director’s shout
4. Scout’s order
5. Delicate hue
6. Flight east
7. Vaulted recesses
8. Bombast front opera (2 wds.)
9. Opposite of “paleo”
10. Spain’s Palace is
11. Anna 81’s state
12. Helen, in Spanish
13. Jeweler’s stone
14. Green
15. Brown-tinted
16. Gibe
17. Brown-tinged
c
18. Temple, in Spanish
19. Hagar’s
20. Brown-tinged
c
21. Vows venue
22. Aquarium
23. Java
24. A to
25. Italian
26. Orchestra
27. Film speed ind.
28. Orchestra
29. Not on the dot
30. Nova
31. Lovers’ meeting
32. Eurasian range
33. Lovers’ meeting
34. Van Gogh
35. Cloudy
36. Shade of green
37. Leaf and
38. Leaf and
39. Leaf and
40. Leaf and
41. Renaissance
gate
42. Sunday, briefly
43. Aquarium
44. Oddly
45. Irma
46. (2 wds.)
47. (2 wds.)
48. (2 wds.)
49. (2 wds.)
50. (2 wds.)
51. (2 wds.)
52. (2 wds.)
53. (2 wds.)
54. Marquee notice
55. Oddity
56. Oddity
57. I, for Wolfgang
58. Roman
gate
59. Baha’i devotee
60. “Xanadu”
rockers
61. Sax man
62. Getz

**DOWN**
1. Novelist
2. Sax man
3. Gun
4. Getz
5. Red
6. Area 51’s State
7. Area 51’s State
8. Area 51’s State
9. Area 51’s State
10. Area 51’s State
11. Area 51’s State
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Women's tennis hopes to continue season in NCAAs

RYAN SIDARTO MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO

After losing in a first round matchup to Cal State Northridge 4-1 at the Big West Tournament, the Mustangs' postseason fate is up in the air. They will wait to see if they were selected to go to the NCAA Tournament, which will be released today.

The Mustangs are 16-6 this season, after losing to the Matadors this weekend.

Softball

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"As of right now, I don't think we have a chance to go to postseason," Cahn said. "It's been a really rough year for me. It's really hard to see this season and everyone is feeling it. The morale is pretty low."

As a sophomore in 2009, Cahn and the Mustangs won the Big West with five seniors on the team.

Now, the senior leads the team as one of only two seniors. With all the new faces on the field, her advice is spread thin, Cahn said.

"As a freshman I didn't really know the expectations and I looked to the older girls on what to do," Cahn said. "But there are only two of us (seniors) so it's been hard for us to help them out experience wise or (by) giving them tips."

Now that time has gone by in the season, the underclassmen have accustomed themselves to what needs to be done, Cahn said.

"I think they are doing a good job," Cahn said. "It just takes a little bit of time being fresh to a new level of play. For them, for those eight girls, if they stick together and work hard, I know they will do some really great things."

With more than 15 years of experience in his professional career in athletics, athletics director Don Oberhelman is no stranger to witnessing young teams struggle initially, and then follow up the next seasons with success.

"If you have a team whose primary contributions come from underclassmen, they almost always are able to learn from those lessons," Oberhelman said. "If they get knocked around a little bit, it's a challenge as to what you are going to do. Are you going to fold the tent or are you going to dust yourself off and get better? Very rare does it not involve getting better and adding to the win total the next year and the years to come."

Oberhelman fully anticipates the Mustangs to be a top contender for the Big West again next year. Moreover, he said this season will provide lessons that go beyond the game of softball.

"They'll take these lessons on to life," Oberhelman said. "This isn't the only adversity they're going to face in their lifetime. They're going to face a lot of downtime in their careers and in their personal lives. This will teach them how to handle it in ways most students don't get the opportunity to learn."

Tennis

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ing into the tournament.

"Every match is tough," Sonesson said. "There was Pacific, who we barely won against in the regular season and other small margin victories here and there that can change the outcome of the season."

Cal Poly narrowly defeated Pacific in the regular season, with the seventh and final match being won by freshman Marco Comuzzo who, after losing the first set 6-3, dominated the next two 6-2 and 6-3.

The Mustangs were unable to pull off the same result in the Big West semi.

Up 3-0 after winning the doubles point and their first two singles matches, the Mustangs were unable to secure a victory in the last four individual matches and missed a second consecutive Big West Championship appearance.

Cal Poly picked up the first doubles point with victories from the duo of Dome and Sonesson, as well as Brian McPhee and Drew Jacobs.

The team jumped up within striking distance of victory over Pacific with quick wins in straight sets from Sebastian Bell who won 6-3, 6-3 and Dome who won 6-1, 6-2.

But Cal Poly failed to win any of its last four matches.

Sonesson and McPhee were defeated in straight sets, while Jordan Bridge lost in three sets, 6-0, 2-6, 6-3.

The deciding match came down to Comuzzo who faced Alex Golding for the second time. It was a similar setting for Comuzzo, who narrowly lost the first set 4-6, before dominating Golding in the second set 6-1. But Comuzzo couldn't secure the win in a third set tie-breaker, losing 7-6.

Now the Mustangs will wait eagerly for the selection announcement for the 64-team NCAA tournament, which is scheduled today at 2:30 p.m.
Young softball team takes positives from losing record

Catherine Borgeson
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The Cal Poly softball team is fighting to get back on top. After losing to Cal State Northridge (18-29, 6-9) this past weekend, the Mustangs (8-33, 4-11) are tied for last place in the Big West. In a pre-season coach's poll released back in February, Cal Poly was predicted to win the conference but two months later, it's a completely different story.

But the Mustangs do have one thing on their side — youth. Seventy-five percent of the team is underclassmen, which means they have more seasons to play together as a team and learn from this season's rollercoaster of disappointment and frustration.

Battling through the season struggles for the first time is shortstop Kim Westlund. As the team's third leading hitter (.266), it's hard for the journalism freshman to look at the team's season record knowing they are capable of much better.

"You want to show that you came here for a reason and that you can perform at that level," Westlund said. "They have never quit. They're fighting as best they can, and hopefully we'll get the break to get the outcome they're looking for."

But for pitcher Anna Cahn, this season has not seen the results she was looking for. In her last year playing as a Mustang, Cahn wanted to go on to post season, and the Big West season has not lived up to her expectations. Cahn said she will play in the post season, Cahn said.

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They have never quit, they're fighting as best they can. And hopefully we'll get the break to get the outcome they're looking for.

— Jenny Condon
Cal Poly softball head coach

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