Gender-neutral housing in works for Poly

Katelyn Sweigart
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There has been a quiet quest for equality in the Cal Poly campus for two years. In 2009, students approached University Housing with a proposal to have gender-neutral housing, which would allow men and women to live together in the same apartment. The policy would help lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students feel more at ease in their living situation on campus, as well as help individuals who feel more comfortable rooming with the opposite sex.

Paul Armer, a software engineering sophomore and Pride Center housing liaison, is an advocate for gender-neutral housing. He said it is an issue that will change a lot of people's lives for the better. Armer said, "It's a big deal to spread the news, as many students were excited and thrilled about the news." 

Gender Equities Center coordinator Veronica Henkel said the biggest argument against gender-neutral housing is promiscuity. "(People think) co-habitation means just rampant sex, and they all just go crazy, and that's just going to cause a huge amount of promiscuity," she said. "Police might be a little bothered, too."

Though Henkel understands the concern, she believes the change can actually make Poly more attractive to prospective students. "The biggest problem with this is that we're trying to make Poly more appealing to the outside world," she said. "People are mature enough to make their own decisions and go by their own morals."

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.

"I feel like your dorm life is a really-defining point in your life, because that's when you really live alone from your parents," Armer said. "If you are stuck in a place where you are being constantly forced into the closet or being made fun of for being out of the closet, it can really change your life. It can really make you approach new situations differently."

Gender Equity Center advisor coordinator Veronica Henkel said the biggest argument against gender-neutral housing is promiscuity. "(People think) co-habitation means just rampant sex, and they all just go crazy, and that's just going to cause a huge amount of promiscuity," she said. "Police might be a little bothered, too."

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Cal Poly students react to death of Osama bin Laden

Victoria Billings
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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-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

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Food columnist discusses Fair Trade movement.

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Libertarian columnist goes for the gold.

IN OPINION, P. 9

Cal Poly students react to death of Osama bin Laden

Victoria Billings
VICTORIA.BILLINGS@MANN.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 Allee 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.

Though Skillin understands the ecstatic reaction to the news, he said the death of bin Laden is not quite the major victory people think.

"In terms of what it means to us, I feel like it's going to be more of a symbolic victory than anything else," Skillin said.

That symbolic victory is one that has been decades in the making.

Bin Laden was active in global terrorist networks for more than 20 years, with a vast network of supporters, including radical Islamic groups and sympathetic nations.

Before making a speech announcing the death of Osama bin Laden on Sunday, President Barack Obama and National Security officials, as well as Vice President Joe Biden, received updates about the military operation in Pakistan in which bin Laden was killed.
Mourners gather at ground zero to mark death of Osama bin Laden

Michael Amon
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, hordes 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-Qaida likely to remain despite bin Laden’s death

Hannah Allam
Adam Baron
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

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-Qaida, 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-Qaida 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-Qaida,” 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-Qaida. If it weakens, there will be new splinter groups that develop that will replace it.”

Long before bin Laden’s death, al-Qaida 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 al-Zawahri as I Knew Him.”

“Bin Laden succeeded in turning al-Qaida 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 him, his death was widely viewed as an aberration who distorted the tenets of Islam to suit his murderous goals, a handful of bin Laden’s acolytes posted flowery online eulogies to the man they referred to as “the sheikh” or “the prince.”

A spokesman for al-Qaida 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 expressed Muslims to ‘be proud of bin Laden’s legacy in heated exchanges. 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-Qaida’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 Tamamm, a Cairo-based academic who specializes in Islamist movements.

Iraqi 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, Arab-speaking users debated bin Laden’s legacy in heated exchanges.

A user with the handle Rafig, 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 naive people praise you.”

Still, the flood of messages offered little support for the United States, criticizing it for melding 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-Qaida would continue to feed 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-Qaida 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 Muamar Abdullahmamed, 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-Qaida franchises, the leader’s death dominated conversation.

“When I heard the news and saw people celebrating in New York and Washington, I was immediately happy,” said Sahl Talib al-Zahary, 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 Majid al-Jaladi, a protester. “Arabs, the United States and the European Union must get rid of (Libyan leader) Moammar Gadhafi, (Syrian President) Bashar Assad and (Libyan leader) Moammar Gadhafi, too, if we want to truly end terror.”
Death of bin Laden a clear victory for Obama, but popularity boost won't last

David Lightman
Margaret Talev
McClatchy Newspapers

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 no confront a weak economy, and as long as Americans see gasoline prices near $4 a gallon, analysts say, 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."
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? You are not only a child, but a trafficked slave from home and the family you love. What if the scenario was 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

**THE FOOD FACTOR**

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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 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

Looney Tunes return to television

But there will be, "The Looney Tunes Show," which debuts Tuesday night on CN, at the big-bad-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 neighborhoods 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 its 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. Let's listen in:

"Bugs: "I bet if you looked up 'self-absorbed' in the dictionary you'd find your picture." ("Self-absorbed" is, I would guess, a phrase new to him.) Daffy: "My picture's in the dictionary!

Some of the characters have been given new backstories or jobs, as if they had entered a cartoonist's protege program — the Marv Martian is now "a former foreign exchange student from Mars who went to Daffy's high school"; Speedy Gonzales, voiced by Fred Armisen, "owns the local pizza place, Pizzarriba," and Foghorn Leghorn has become "a rich entrepreneur and adventurer." Sylvester, Tweety, Porky, Yosemite Sam, Elmer Fudd and Granny (still voiced by June For ay) are all here as well, along with the relatively recent Lola Bunny (a very funny Kristin Wiig).

There are also music videos — Elmer Fudd sings a soul ballad to grilled cheese, or "grilled cheese" — which are weird in good and bad ways, and CG road runner-Coyote segments have something of the quality of VHS slides. They are neat, but bravity is certainly the soul of their wit.

...
Currency not worth its weight in gold

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 warmings, 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, transport, divide and measure and it won’t corrode or die. For some mystical reason, humans like gold. It is pretty and shiny and has a nice mellow tone when you whack it.

In one form or another this has been enough to make gold’s use in the economy longer than the span of human history. Governments have experimented with other forms of currency from time to time, but most nations reverted to gold (or a hag ol precious metals) eventually. It was only in the first half of the 20th century that nations as a group turned from backed money to fiat money, which is money that exists by legal means.

The advantage of commodity-based currency is that it is limited by the availability of particular commodities. The value of its component parts 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 currency 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 coins from citizens and into the national treasury. He then revoked gold from approximately $20 per ounce to its use as a means of transaction. “Backed,” or commodity-based money is money that has value and utility aside from its use as a means of transaction. Believe it or not, huge conflicts have

been fought over the difference.

The advantage of a fiat currency is that it is not limited by the availability of any particular commodity. It can be expanded to keep pace with economic growth to minimize deflation, which does not face shocks due to large amounts of the commodities entering or exiting the economy. “Backed” or commodity money is a creation of the government. Governments and banks cannot issue unlimited amounts of currency to fund wars, takeovers or expensive programs.

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 sees 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 for 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 widen 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 field and all claims deserve to be carefully questioned. More often than not, we take the default path because someone (perhaps we ourselves) has a vested interest in us taking it. The beliefs we hold deserve to be the products of honest struggle.

Even as commodities, gold and silver act as currency, rising in response to demand as the world loses confidence in the major fiat currencies. They’re not investments they don’t create wealth but they can be a decent store of wealth.

If Real News Were Marketed Like a Royal Wedding...
The Mustang Daily is looking to hire a part-time graphic designer to work this summer (20 hours a week) and during the 2011-12 school year (5-10 hours a week). We’re looking for someone who can design print ads and promotional materials.

Design experience is a must! Ideal candidate is proficient in the Adobe Creative Suite and using Mac computers. Must be creative, able to think outside of box and work well with others.

Hourly pay with opportunities for advancement. If this sounds like a position for you, please email your resume and design samples to Advertising Coordinator, Stephanie Murawski at smurawski@calpoly.edu.
Women's tennis hopes to continue season in NCAAs

Softball continued from page 12

"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," Ober­

helman 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 continued from page 12

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

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 duos 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 again 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 Cal Poly couldn't se­cure the win in a third set tie-break­er, losing 7-6.

Now the Mustangs will wait eu­gerly for the selection announce­ment for the 64-team NCAA tour­nament, which is scheduled today at 2:30 p.m.
The Mustangs' hopes for their first Big West Tournament championship were cut short Saturday as Pacific upset the Mustangs in the semifinals.

Men's tennis falls short in Big West Tournament, seeks NCAA at-large bid

Jeremy Goyhenetche
JeremyGoyhenetche.MQ@GMAIL.COM

The Cal Poly softball team is fighting to get back on top. After losing to Cal State Norridgey (18-29, 6-9) this past weekend, the Mustangs (8-33, 4-11) are tied for last place in the Big West. In a preseason 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 roller coaster of disappointment and frustration.

Barling 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 season record knowing they are capable of much better.

"I felt like we relied on each other a lot better and we just trust each other a lot more. Now we just have to keep moving forward," Mc-Grath said. "The duo has ranked in the top 45 since late February, posting a 12-4 record for the season and going 2-2 against ranked opponents."

For Dome, the highlight of the season has been watching the team chemistry develop and grow with every victory.

"Every match we win has been a pretty big highlight for me," Dome said. "I felt like we relied on each other a lot better and we just trust each other a lot more. Now we just have to keep moving forward."

Despite being a freshman, Westlund has started every game, a Mustang, Cahn wanted to go on to play in the postseason, Cahn said. "They get along really well and for the athletes they compete against, they have more seasons to play together as a team and learn from this season's roller coaster of disappointment and frustration."

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 postseason, and the Big West season has not seen the results she was looking for. For Dome, the highlight of the season has been watching the team chemistry develop and grow with every victory.

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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

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 Norridgey (18-29, 6-9) this past weekend, the Mustangs (8-33, 4-11) are tied for last place in the Big West. In a preseason 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 roller coaster of disappointment and frustration.

Barling 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 season record knowing they are capable of much better.

"I felt like we relied on each other a lot better and we just trust each other a lot more. Now we just have to keep moving forward," Mc-Grath said. "The duo has ranked in the top 45 since late February, posting a 12-4 record for the season and going 2-2 against ranked opponents."

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