Student walking on campus hit by car

Victoria Billings
VICTORIA BILLINGS.MD^MAIL.COM

A collision on campus between a pedestrian and vehicle resulted in one student being rushed to the hospital yesterday morning. The pedestrian was crossing the intersection of Highland and University drives at about 11 a.m., when she was hit by a vehicle making a left turn onto Highland Drive, witnesses said.

University Police Commander Lori Hashim said the Cal Poly University Police Department (UPD) is not releasing the name or condition of the student until her family is contacted, but the student is in the hospital for her injuries.

"The pedestrian was transported to Sierra Vista (Regional Medical Center) where she is being treated," Hashim said.

Industrial engineering graduate student Musa Mohamed was at the scene shortly after the accident occurred. Mohamed said he looked up when he heard the screeching of brakes and the squealing of tires. The pedestrian was on the ground, and the driver got out of the vehicle to check on her before noticing his driver's side wheel was still on her foot, Mohamed said.

"Everybody just stopped for a couple of seconds," Mohamed said. "We were just shocked.

The driver backed off the pedestrian's foot, and then witnesses went to the pedestrian's side, Mohamed said.

He said he was shocked by the

If you're a pedestrian, don't be on your cell phone or texting and watch out for traffic when crossing," University Police Commander Lori Hashim (standing on the right) said about preventing pedestrian/vehicle collisions.

Students pimping their ride for California competition

Alicia Freeman
ALICIA FREEMAN.MD^MAIL.COM

Behind the Farm Shop Building sits the old beat-up shell of a Buick LeSabre, with a green 80 painted on its side and the remnants of long empty beer cans scattered among the shabby interior. This car, a veteran to the racing world, will potentially compete in the 24 Hours of Lemons race Aug. 6 and 7 at the Thunderhill Raceway Park in Willows, Calif., for the newly formed Cal Poly Industrial Technology Racing Division.

The 24 Hour of Lemons race allows teams to fix up and build their own race cars, then race them for 24 hours straight until the cars break down. Cristian Rheinisch, an industrial technology sophomore and president of the team, said the racetrack will be filled with more than 150 cars for the "endurance road course" style race.

Rheinisch said after traveling and becoming immersed in the racing culture, he wanted to start a team.

"When I got back from Germany, I kind of wanted to do some racing," Rheinisch said. "I used to stand at a bus stop and stare at all the experimental Mercedes and Porsches every morning when I went to school, (thinking) I really want to do something with this stuff, especially industrial technology. So, I figured I'd do this because this series is pretty much the cheapest way to get on a road course.

With a part of the engine duct taped into place, and an interior nearly bare other than the remnants of a seat and rusting metal, the team has a lot of work ahead of them. Russell Grumner, an industrial technology senior, said he joined

"This thing is going to be a beast," Cristian Rheinisch said about the Buick LeSabre the team will compete with at the 24 Hours of Lemons. "Most of the teams at Lemon are racing little BMWs or (Mazda) Miatas. This thing is 300 pounds loaded."
Pedestrian

continued from page 1

amount of blood.
"There was so much blood coming from her ears," Mohamed said.

As the driver waited for police to arrive, Mohamed said he was in just as much in shock as everyone else on scene. The driver even tried to help stop some of the pedestrian’s bleeding, Mohamed said.
"He was just scared," Mohamed said. "He tried to grab some napkins."

Industrial engineering senior Ty­
er Hays was also nearby when the accident occurred. Hays said he was walking to a parking lot near Cam­pus Market when he noticed the peo­ple in front of him stopped walking. Hays then saw the pedestrian "awkwardly laying on the ground" bleeding from her ears," Mohamed said.

"I stayed on the ground with her and kept her head down," Hays said. "He was just scared," Mohamed said.

"There were actually a few people who contributed pieces of clothing to help.

Both pedestrians and drivers need to pay attention on campus to avoid these collisions, Hashim said. Driv­ers need to constantly be alert while driving and pedestrians should avoid distractions, Hashim said. "If you’re a pedestrian, don’t be on your cell phone or texting and watch out for traffic when crossing," Hashim said.

Race

continued from page 1

the team to work with power tools, rather than a love of cars.

Gruener said there was only one requirement for those wishing to join the "fabrication" crew. "Anyone who wants to work on this (should) be updated on their status boosters," Gruener said.

Paired with Rheinisch's racing background, as well as the knowl­edge of the other team members, such as agricultural systems man­agement sophomore Cassie Durler who said she has worked with cars most of her life, the team is destined for success as they discussed making the car lighter to match the smaller (Mazda) Miata. "This thing is going to be a beast," Rheinisch said their car may be in­cluded behind the building), but

Garnered much student support yet,

students to help paint the car because "This thing is going to be a beast," Rheinisch said, against the roar of the engine. "Most of the teams at (Mazda) Miatas. This thing is 300 pounds loaded."

With the group just getting started, Rheinisch said the team has garnered support from the industrial technology and agriculture depart­ments (which allowed the car to be stored behind the building), but hoped students of all majors would join to help with the process. "We have an accountant on this team, so it's for everybody," Rheinisch said. "Racing is one of those things you don't want to do without a really good cook on the team (be­cause) it just gets miserable. A good friend of mine is an art profes­sor, and I kind of want some of her students to help paint the car because I can rebuild an engine, but I don't really make things look pretty."

Rheinisch said the team has not garnered much student support yet, but he hopes as the team gains more exposure among the Cal Poly com­munity and makes more improve­ments on the car, they will also gain sponsorship or donations from com­panies willing to help get the car to the track. He also said for those in­terested in working on the car, the team will work on it throughout the summer to prepare for the race.

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Let it out!
Clash between Karzai and NATO escalates

Laura King

LOS ANGELES TIMES

President Hamid Karzai demanded Tuesday that the NATO force refrain from airstrikes on residential compounds, marking a sharp escalation in his long-running feud with Western commanders over the issue of civilian casualties.

The intensifying dispute came as Western military officials announced the death of a service member in a roadside bombing in eastern Afghanistan. Before the latest death, the websiteicasualties.org counted the deaths of 54 NATO troops in May, making this the deadliest month yet in 2011.

Karzai’s announcement followed a weekend airstrike in Helmand province that Afghan officials said were nine civilian deaths — one day only: Thursday, June 2

One of about 150,000 foreign troops, Gen. John McCrystal, He was fired last year by President Obama after a profile in Rolling Stone magazine reported scaling remarks by some of the general’s aides about senior civilian officials involved in war policymaking. McCrystal’s battlefield guidelines included tight restrictions on air and artillery strikes with the potential to kill or injure civilians, except when troops were in direct and immediate danger.

The Afghan leader has similarly demanded an end to night raids by Western special operations forces, which have resulted in the deaths or capture of thousands of insurgents, but those strikes have continued.

Karzai’s statement, however, underscored widespread anger among Afghans over the deaths of noncombatants at the hands of foreign forces.

Human rights groups and independent observers, such as the United Nations, agree that insurgents are responsible for the bulk of civilian deaths and injuries, many of which are caused by suicide bombings and other attacks carried out in public places. And Western military officials consistently note that the Taliban and other groups deliberately place civilians in harm’s way, whereas casualties caused by NATO forces are almost always accidental.

But most Afghans believe that foreign forces should be held to a far more stringent standard than the insurgents, and Karzai — whose popularity has declined considerably in recent years — has made the civilian casualties issue a centerpiece of his presidency, tapping into wider popular resentment over the presence of about 150,000 foreign troops.

Although Western commanders considered unlikely to issue a blanket directive against air strikes on residential compounds, Afghan complaints were a driving concern in recent years — has made the civilian casualties issue a centerpiece of his presidency, tapping into wider popular resentment over the presence of about 150,000 foreign troops.

This should be the last attack on people’s houses. Such attacks will no longer be allowed.

— President Hamid Karzai

House rejects raising debt limit with no spending limits

Michael A. Memoli

Lisa Mascaro

TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

The House of Representatives debated a proposal Tuesday that would have raised the nation’s debt limit without any spending constraints, a vote called by Republicans to balance their case for steep budget reductions in talks with the White House.

The vote was 231-188, with seven Democrats voting “present.” Two-thirds support was needed for the measure to pass.

Democrats voting “present” were concerned that “the full consequences of a default, or even the serious prospect of default by the United States, are impossible to predict and are so unpredictable that we can’t hold up the government,” said Rep. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., the ranking Democrat on the House Budget Committee.

The White House Tuesday issued a fresh call for Congress to pass a higher debt limit. At his daily briefing, press secretary Jay Carney read from a letter Ronald Reagan sent in 1983 to the then-Senator Republican leader, warning that “the full consequences of a default, or even the serious prospect of default by the United States, are impossible to predict and are so unpredictable that we can’t hold up the government.”

Congressional leaders and the Obama administration are now having weekly meetings to reach an agreement on budget reforms before the Aug. 2 deadline in order to avoid a federal default.

“We are committed to reducing the deficit. That’s why we have moved so aggressively and seriously with these negotiations, why we’re encouraged by the fact that they have produced positive results so far,” Carney said.

Asked if the vote was a “useful exercise,” Carney replied succinctly: “It’s fine.” Obama will meet with the House Republican and Democratic caucuses separately this week.

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New charges filed against five alleged 9/11 plotters

Carol Rosenberg
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Guantanamo war court prosecutors filed fresh death penalty charges against five men for allegedly plotting the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, accusing the former CIA captives of murder, conspiracy and terrorism, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

Relatives of the nearly 3,000 people killed in the 9/11 attacks were notified of the pending death penalty charges on Memorial Day, said Army Lt. Col. Tanya Bradsher, a Pentagon spokeswoman.

The new charge sheet reflected a political setback for the Obama administration, which not only came in to office pledging that it would close the prison camps in southeast Cuba that today hold 171 foreign men as war prisoners but also decided after study to have a civilian judge and jury hear the 9-11 trial in New York.

Politicians and some 9-11 families protested the scheme, fearing both that a trial for the accused would make Manhattan an even greater al-Qaida target and that the accused may draw on greater due process in a federal court.

"The charges allege that the five accused were responsible for the planning and execution of the attacks on New York, Washington D.C. and Shanksville, PA that occurred on Sept. 11, 2001," a Defense Department announcement said. "Those attacks resulted in the deaths of nearly 3,000 people."

The five men charged were the same men as those charged at a military commission during the Bush administration.

This trial was ordered by the White House to be frozen in order to give a task force more time to study the case files of each Guantanamo captive.

They are:
- Khalid Sheik Mohammed, 46, Pakistani former al-Qaida operations chief who in 2007 bragged to a military panel at the U.S. Navy base that he ran the 9-11 operation "from A to Z;"
- Ammar al-Baluchi, 33, also a Pakistani, Mohammed's nephew, who once described himself to a military officer as a Microsoft-trained see Charges, page 5
- Catherine Levano, construction management freshman
- Emmet Woods, earth sciences senior
- Rosario Ochoa, aerospace engineering freshman
- Ryan Bonnicks, computer systems management junior
- Casey Caitlin, English sophomore
- Catherine Levano, construction management freshman

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"Don't fall behind because the quarter system is very fast paced."
"Don't cat at Campus Dining."
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**The charges allege that the five accused were responsible for the planning and execution of the attacks ... on Sept. 11, 2001.**

— U.S. Department of Defense
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Anthem poetry slam to liven up dead week

Hannah Croft
HANNAHCROPT. M D ^ M A iL .C O M

Put down your textbooks for a night, and get slammed. Poetry slammed, that is. The Anthem, Cal Poly's annual poetry slam competition, will take over Chumash Auditorium tonight.

The Anthem, an event with the tagline "Words will change the world," is a night for students to "use the power of their voice and their words to make a difference."

The Anthem will feature five poets, an award-winning emcee and hopefully, inspiration. The six-person group organizing the event started working in January. Architectural engineering senior Josue Urrutia has worked on The Anthem event since his sophomore year.

"It all started with Another Type of Groove, ATOG, then I went to my first Anthem," he said. "Then I was hooked."

Other students, such as senior psychology student Ellie Kraumpholz, became involved in a similar way.

"I went to ATOG, and I left thinking I have to be a part of this," she said.

The Anthem consists of a traditional poetry slam, in which there are three rounds of poems from each poet. The master of ceremonies selects audience members at random to judge the poets, and then the winner is determined.

"Each of the poets featured is nationally ranked," business administration junior Jared Wiener said. "And the master of ceremonies, Steve Connell, won an international poetry slam."

Members of The Anthem team stressed that Cal Poly has a reputation of having a strong spoken word poetry scene.

"When people hear 'Cal Poly' or see our Cal Poly email addresses, they're instantly more interested," Urrutia said. "We have a really good reputation in the world of spoken word poetry."

With monthly poetry nights like...
Strawberries are back in season

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

Welcome to dead week once again — and yet as you look outside, the world is anything but dead. The sun is shining bright, the hills are reaping a glorious green hue and the Central Coast is booming with fresh summer flavors.

This weekend, Arroyo Grande welcomed in the sensational strawberry with its 27th annual festival. For those of us who weren’t lucky enough to attend, at least we can be comforted by the fact that strawberries are here to stay and aren’t going anywhere in too much of a hurry — besides in my tummy that is.

Strawberry season in California can be extended with certain farming techniques, but typically, it is considered to be late May to mid-August. California produces approximately 1 billion pounds of strawberries a year — that’s more than 80 percent of the U.S. strawberry crop. Clearly, this is a summer crop, and once it starts coming out to market, I know golden days at the beach are just around the corner.

I guess that means at least a day or two of sunburns from when I first hit the beach; try as I may even with sunscreen, I just can’t seem to battle the sun’s rays. Luckily, a quick mix of strawberry juice and honey rubbed on your skin will reduce sunburn.

I don’t need to spend much time trying to convince you the flavor of these little rubies is delectable. More than 90 percent of American households consume strawberries each year. There is a reason the strawberry flavor made its way into the world renowned chocolate vanilla combination, now called Neapolitan: the world agrees strawberries are scrumptious.

If you already know you want the tantalizing taste of strawberries dancing on your tongue, the decision now becomes which strawberries will provide the best tasting experience.

Strawberries do not ripen after they have been picked from the vine, so look for deep red berries with no pale or yellow spots — which are signs the fruit will be sour and less nutrient dense. Also, look for strawberries with the green caps still attached.

Storing strawberries in the fridge will keep them for a few days, but to receive the most nutritional benefit you should consume the picked fruit within two days. Waiting more days to consume the fruit will not result in safety concerns, but after two days, there will be a significant reduction in the available nutrients. So, keep it fresh and buy only enough to eat within a two-day time period. Also, keep in mind that because strawberries are fairly perishable, they shouldn’t be washed until right before you are ready to eat them.

These are even more reasons to put strawberries at the top of your grocery list.

Strawberries are also known to help reduce the risk of heart attacks and cancer. One serving of strawberries (eight berries) has more vitamin C than an orange, so these little berries seem to be the overachieving summer school students that have more to offer than you could imagine.

I don’t know about you, but before I make my grand appearance at Dead Week, I’ll be bringing you the story of strawberries.

Strawberries bring a smile to my face because they are sweet and soothing. I can’t imagine a world without strawberries. They are a natural gift from the earth and deserve to be celebrated.

I hope you enjoy this article and find it informative. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to email me at heatherrockwood94@gmail.com.

Thank you for reading, and I hope you have a delicious and healthy day!

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Anthem
continued from page 6

ATOG, it's understandable that Cal Poly is so well-known in the world of slam poetry. But, Wiener said, The Anthem doesn't just draw in regulars of ATOG. "There's a long-standing tradition of (The Anthem) being the event that gets people into spoken word poetry," he said. "It's definitely not just the people who go to ATOG all the time, and anyone will be able to find something they love."

Getting the word out for the event has been a time consuming process. Software engineering sophomore Mark Lerner worked with a street team to put stakes throughout campus and plaster the University Union Plaza and surrounding areas with posters and flyers. But the street team, he said, doesn't do the event justice. "It's a really challenging thing to explain," he said. "You have to experience it once, then you'll love it. Then you keep coming back."

This year is journalism freshman Aryn Sanderson's first experience with The Anthem, but she said she's excited for what the event holds. "I've always had a love for slam poetry," she said. "There's something truly cathartic about it. Listening to someone rip their heart out like that is really beautiful and inspiring."

The night of inspiration is never the same as the year before. Urrutia said. "The poets vary year to year, and the themes presented change constantly. "It's different every year," he said. "It's a whole new set of poets, who have different styles and different backgrounds. Just because you've been to one slam doesn't mean you've been to all of them."

Wiener said a poetry slam isn't your E.E. Cummings or anything like that. "This isn't your E.E. Cummings or anything like that."

A good spoken word poet thrives off the audience, Urrutia said. "The poets are experienced in gauging the sentiments of the audience and appealing to them."

"Half of the experience of something like this is the content, the other half is performance," he said. "But what's amazing is how the poets feed off the audience, and the audience feeds off the poets."

When it comes to campus diversity, it doesn't get much better than The Anthem, Urrutia said. "People always talking about bringing diversity to Cal Poly," he said. "This defines diversity."

The Anthem is free, and the first 25 people in line receive a free T-shirt. The program starts at 7 p.m., in Chumash Auditorium. "It's dead week, but The Anthem will make you feel alive," Sanderson said.

Strawberries
continued from page 7

Avila this summer, I definitely could use a workout session or two, but after dead week and finals I'm just a tad tired. This summer as you try to commit to a real workout plan for a brand new beach body, it will be helpful to remember that strawberries are a good source of nitrate, which has been shown to improve blood flow, especially to muscles, thus reducing muscle fatigue and making exercising a little easier and a lot more enjoyable.

As you finish the last quarter, for some of you the last two weeks of your college experience, I hope you let the light of these little berries bring you peacefully into the prosperity of summer.

Strawberry Agua Fresca

Ingredients
- 1 cup strawberries
- 1 c. fresh cut strawberries
- Juice from one fresh lemon or lime
- Mint (optional)

Directions
Mix all ingredients, including the mint, in a blender until desired consistency. Pour into glasses and garnish with a sprig of mint for an extra twist.

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Obama leaves immigration unattended

There is nothing astonishing about the fact that President Barack Obama's Republican critics claim that he is taking U.S. Hispanics for a ride on immigration issues. What's surprising is that some of Obama's closest Democratic allies are beginning to say the same thing.

virtually all Hispanic Democrats in the U.S. Congress — they include the only Hispanic Democratic senator, Bob Menendez of New Jersey — are stepping up their criticism of Obama for not doing more on the immigration front.

Last week, I was amazed by what I heard from Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez, a Democratic congressman from Chicago — the president's hometown — and longtime Obama backer. Gutierrez was visiting Miami as part of a national tour to denounce Obama's immigration stand, saying that is playing games with Hispanics by claiming to be fighting for a comprehensive immigration reform, while not doing anything to stop massive deportations of people who shouldn't be deported.

Obama has in recent weeks stepped up calls for congressional approval of an immigration overhaul that would both secure the border, and offer a path to earned legalization to millions of undocumented residents who are willing to pay penalties and learn English.

He had pledged during the 2008 campaign that he would pass such a law during his first year in office.

But Gutierrez and growing numbers of Democrats in Congress say that Obama's immigration reform campaign is political posturing, because the president knows that he won't get the votes for congressional passage of a comprehensive immigration reform in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives.

Obama's rhetoric may help win Hispanic votes for the 2012 elections by showing Republicans at the stumbling block for immigration reform, but it's creating false expectations among Hispanics, they say.

So what should Obama do, I asked Gutierrez. There are many things Obama can do with discretionary powers he already has, without going to Congress. Gutierrez said.

First, Obama could use existing presidential powers to stop deportations of the estimated 65,000 undocumented students who were brought to the United States as children, and who graduate from high school every year, and want to enter college or the armed forces. Gutierrez said. Obama has called repeatedly for congressional passage of the Dream Act, which would allow these youths to stay, but is not using his discretionary powers to delay their deportations until Congress decides on their fate, he added.

Second, Obama could use his executive powers to delay deportation of the parents of the estimated four million U.S.-born children who have at least one parent who does not have legal status, he said.

If the Obama administration recently used discretionary powers to give temporary residency status to Haitian immigrants to avoid their deportation to earthquake-devastated Haiti, why not give a similar relief to Mexicans who face deportation to violence-ridden Ciudad Juarez, he asked.

So why is Obama not doing any of this? I asked Gutierrez.

"The president doesn't feel the pressure to do it, because he feels that Latinos will vote for him anyway," he said. "But this is a matter of life and death, that has to be taken seriously, and not be used to deceive the Latino community as we come near the next elections."

Responding to such criticism, Obama said in a recent speech in El Paso, Texas, "I wish I could simply bypass Congress and change the law myself, but that's not how a democracy works." A White House official told me that, while the administration continues to push for immigration reform in Congress, it is changing the way it enforces deportation procedures, focusing on removing undocumented immigrants with criminal records.

My opinion: Obama's calls for congressional passage of a comprehensive immigration reform are a good electoral strategy to gain sympathies among Hispanics ahead of the 2012 elections, but is raising false expectations within the Latino community.

Obama should stop playing this game. Instead of fear being criticized by Hispanic-phobic anti-immigration zealots for allegedly pursuing a blanket "amnesty" for 11 million undocumented residents, he should use his discretionary powers to give temporary status to some categories of immigrants.

For instance, as he said in his State of the Union address, "it makes no sense" to deport thousands of undocumented students who grew up as Americans, or others — including many from China, India and other parts of the world — who came to study in some of the best U.S. universities, and upon obtaining advanced degrees are "sent back home to compete against us." Obama can stop their deportations, but — as far as we know — isn't doing so.

Obama's rhetoric may help win Hispanic votes for the 2012 elections ... but it's creating false expectations among Hispanics.

— Andres Oppenheimer
Latin America correspondent Miami Herald
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The big three showed they have enough talent to beat the Dallas Mavericks.

With 20-point plus performances from LeBron James and Dwayne Wade, the Miami Heat downed Dirk Nowitzki and the Mavericks Tuesday night, 92-84, in Game 1 of the NBA Finals. James led the Heat with 24 points, while Wade posted 22. Behind James and Wade, Chris Bosh had 19 points and nine rebounds. Nowitzki led the Mavericks with 27 points and eight rebounds.

Crocker, Radeke named to first team

Outfielder Bobby Crocker and pitcher Mason Radeke were selected to the 2011 Big West All-Conference first team Tuesday, along with three Mustangs selected to the second team and two selected as honorable mentions.

Center fielder Bobby Crocker led the Mustangs with a .339 average this season. Crocker hit .339 this season, to go with 13 doubles, a triple and five home runs. He finished with 16 multiple-hit games and five multiple-RBI contests.

Radeke finished the season 8-4 with a 3.07 ERA. He led the Big West in strikeouts looking with 41 and was second in wins (8) and strikeouts (95) and fourth in innings pitched (99.2).

Among the second-team honorees, Fischback posted a 7-3 record and 3.33 ERA in his final year with the Mustangs. He was named Big West Pitcher of the Week after tossing a five-hit complete game against No. 5 Cal State Fullerton on April 23, his first career win against a top-25 team, and two weeks later, allowed three runs and nine hits in eight innings for another top-25 win against No. 23 UC Irvine.

Cal State Fullerton junior first baseman/closer Nick Ramirez was named Big West player of the year. Cal State Fullerton’s Michael Lorenzen earned Big West freshman player of the year honors and Cal State Fullerton’s Dave Serrano earned coach of the year honors.

Other awards were presented to UC Irvine starting pitcher Matt Summers (Big West pitcher of the year), UC Irvine’s Brian Hernandez (Big West defensive player of the year) and UC Riverside’s Dylan Stuart (Big West Freshman pitcher of the year).
The Cal Poly volleyball team went 22-7 (12-4 Big West) and finished tied for second in the conference last season.

Last November, the Cal Poly volleyball team walked off the court following a 3-1 victory over UC Davis. The team won seven of its last eight matches and most, including head coach Jon Stevenson, believed the Mustangs were headed to the NCAA Tournament.

But the selection committee passed over the Big West runners-up in favor of Long Beach State, which Cal Poly defeated twice, and the Mustangs, along with freshman stand out Kristina Graven, were left out of the postseason.

"(Getting rejected) really motivates us," Graven said. "We were really annoyed and thought we should have been in the tournament, but it's been the motivation we need to go out and win conference this year so there is no one deciding our fate."

Graven even noticed her increased tenacity and sees Keddy as more aggressive and taking big swings this spring.

Driven by the NCAA tournament committee's rejection, Smith said leading the Mustangs to the postseason is within reach in 2011. One key to not being left out of the postseason for a second time is earning a higher RPI, a ratings system used to help the selection committee.

To do so, the Mustangs plan to work hard in the offseason, but due to NCAA rules, the team was not allowed to conduct many official volleyball practices in the winter. So the team was left to work on strength and conditioning.

Led by strength and conditioning coach David Wood, the team underwent a winter quarter training regimen. Stevenson said he is happy with the progress his team made under Wood's direction.

"Our team did a good job of attacking then acquiring the skill, the knowledge (necessary to be successful) and then really going all in, in terms of their strength and conditioning," Stevenson said.

He was particularly grateful for Wood's work in planning individualized workout schedules that allowed each team member to maximize their off-season workouts.

In particular, Stevenson said Graven, who was American Volleyball Coach Association (AVCA) Region Freshman of the Year, will come back stronger this year because of this training.

"Graven really benefited from her strength and conditioning," he said. "Not that she was weak, she just got stronger. I felt that there was not a better outside hitter that I saw in the spring."

Graven led the team in kills with 458 in 2010 and combined with senior Dominique Olowolafe to torment defenses.

The absence of Olowolafe in 2011 might give the Mustangs reason for concern, but AVCA All-American Jennifer Keddy led the team in blocks in 2010, with 123 total, averaging more than one per set, including 14 solo blocks.

Graven even noticed her increased tenacity and sees Keddy as more aggressive and taking big swings this spring.

It was easy to overlook outside hitter Catie Smith last season because of the imposing trio of Graven, Keddy and Olowolafe, but next year's senior captain actually matched Keddy in kills last fall and will look to do so again.

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