

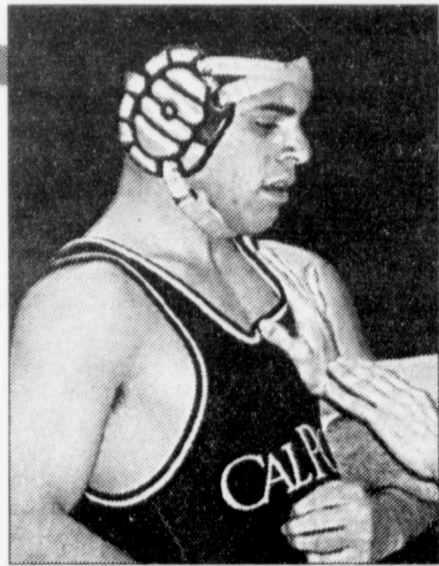
**Mat attack:**

Wrestling faces tough road ahead this weekend, 8

**Oso Flaco:** South of Oceano lies secluded lake, 3



High: 62°  
Low: 50°



# Mustang

## DAILY

Friday, February 11, 2000

www.mustangdaily.calpoly.edu

### Women's History Month



**Modern languages and literatures professor Gloria Velasquez performs one of her own songs. Velasquez is currently working on her soon-to-be released "Superwoman" CD, which will include eight original songs.**

COURTESY PHOTO

## Professor reflects on her beginnings

By Danielle Samaniego  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

When Gloria Velasquez graduated from Roosevelt High School in Colorado, she cried.

Unlike other students who were shedding tears of joy, however, she wept at the thought of the future.

"I remember crying because my family had no money," she said. "I was one of the three 'smartest' Chicano kids in our school, and I remember crying because I thought, 'I'll never get there.'"

"There" was college, where Velasquez longed to go. Unfortunately, no one ever told her

of loans or grants or even how to acquire them. So she worked.

"I worked as a motel maid, I worked stacking transformers, I worked in the fields," she said. "I married, I had my daughter. I mean, you name it and I did all kinds of jobs, always wanting to go to school."

Now, as a Cal Poly modern languages and literatures professor for the last 15 years, Velasquez attends classes to teach.

After graduating from University of Colorado, she went on to earn her Ph.D. at Stanford University in 1985. She was inducted into

Colorado's Hall of Fame in 1989.

"I'm very proud to say that I'm the first Chicana and the only Chicana thus far to be in the Hall of Fame, along with James Michner, among others," Velasquez said.

Archives are also being compiled at Stanford, which will be known as the "Gloria Velasquez files" to highlight her accomplishments while at the university.

Velasquez is an accomplished poet with two poetry books published to date, including "I Used to be a Superwoman" and the upcoming "Xicana on the Run." The first

see VELASQUEZ, page 2

## Speaker confronts women's issues

By Kirsten Orsini-Meinhard  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Dr. Bertice Berry, an acclaimed African-American speaker, addressed Cal Poly students and the community on Wednesday night through humor and solemnity in honor of Women's History Month.

She began her speech with a short song that she described as a prayer. She sang of freedom, peace and acceptance, all themes that were prominent in her hour-long discussion, titled "Finding Your Purpose."

Berry's visit is part of a string of events hosted by the Women's

Center, Associated Students Inc. and Black Student Union celebrating February as Women's History Month.

More than 100 people gathered to listen to the prominent author of three books. Berry holds a doctorate in sociology and has traveled around the country speaking to different universities about the challenges black women face.

As a stand-up comedian, she used humor to emphasize points of her discussion.

"It's interesting to be in a town that you guys call SLO," Berry joked at the beginning of her speech. "I wondered why until I tried to get some food."

With a quick smile and contagious laughter, Berry argued the importance of knowing one's goals in life.

"It's understanding that everything you do is not about you," Berry said. "Purpose is living, essentially. It's doing what you say and saying what you mean."

As the product of a relatively poor family and the sixth of seven children, Berry has struggled against dyslexia and racism to reach the top of her career field.

Her speech was a mixture of wisdom and advice, sprinkled with personal anecdotes to enliven her

see BERRY, page 2

## Colloquium guest speaks on radiation

By Karin Driesen  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The government estimates that a permissible amount of low-dose radiation for one person per year is 100 milligrams, which is equal to about 10 chest X-rays per year. This and other health effects of low-dose radiation were discussed at the weekly physics colloquium Thursday.

Dan Hirsch from Committee to Bridge the Gap, an environmental group that intervenes in court issues, gave arguments on both sides of the issue, then concluded with his own opinions and a question-and-answer session.

Hirsch explained that low-dose means there are no acute effects such as the ones associated with the bomb-

ings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but there can be sufficient damage to genetic material, which can cause cancer.

The government's permissible amount of low-dose radiation could produce one case of cancer per 150 people, and half of those cases would be fatal.

The Environmental Protection Agency regulates radiation exposure on a much stricter risk level of one case per 1 million people, as opposed to the one case per 150 people.

The government's permissible level for nuclear plant workers is much higher at 5,000 milligrams per year, or 500 chest X-rays.

"A properly functioning nuclear

see RADIATION, page 2



STEVE SCHUENEMAN / MUSTANG DAILY

**Contrary to popular belief, household microwaves do not emit low-dose radiation. At the physics colloquium Thursday, an environmentalist spoke of some of the effects of low-dose radiation.**

## Women can buy student-bachelor to fight blood disorder

By Teresa Wilson  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Ladies, are you looking for a date tonight? Cal Poly's Black Student Leadership Commission is auctioning bachelors tonight as a fund-raiser to benefit the American Sickle Cell Anemia Association.

The bidding is set to start at \$10 and the event will take place at The Sandwich Factory located on campus at 6:30 p.m.

"The guys are from different (Cal Poly) organizations," said Pamela Larde of Les Divas Productions, the company organizing the event.

The men have volunteered their time to be auctioned or to serve as drivers for the bachelors and their dates.

More than 25 local businesses have agreed to contribute prizes and services for the evening, including dinners for two and gift certificates. Bay Limousine of Los Osos will provide transportation for some of the newly matched couples to and from restaurants and the final event of the evening, a Valentine's-themed dance at Tortilla Flats.

There will be a photographer on

see BACHELOR, page 2



## Blood vandal confesses

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

The student responsible for Tuesday's Trinity residence hall bathroom vandalism, which included the words "Die Mark die" written in blood on the wall, confessed to Cal Poly Public Safety Thursday afternoon.

Officer John Edds, who responded to the call Tuesday, said the student came into Public Safety on his own and confessed to police.

The student, whose identity Edds could not reveal, accidentally injured his hand and while cleaning his wound in the bathroom, decided to joke around. The student did not intend to leave a blood trail, which lingered from Trinity to Sierra Madre residence halls.

## Team sends careful-love message

By Karin Driesen

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Members of the peer health team EROS, Educational Resources on Sexuality, want to stress the importance of loving carefully this week.

In honor of Valentine's Day, EROS is sponsoring activities in the University Union that promote safe sex. The program started Thursday and will run today and Monday from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

"We want to promote education in a fun way and make people aware," EROS co-coordinator Christy Mountin said. "We're doing it in a humorous way so that people will be more likely to participate."

Among the activities are games such as guessing how many condoms are in a jar and a "condom race." Participants can also make valentines and pick up condoms for free. Gift certificates for restaurants, stores, salons and other places are

Edds said the student was very apologetic and remorseful.

"(The student is) genuinely interested in putting this to rest and making sure everyone is understanding that there was no grief intended," Edds said.

Edds said he feels the case should be handled as vandalism and does not have enough to warrant credible threat.

There are several avenues the university could take in handling the case. It can either go through Residence Halls Judicial Affairs or the university's Judicial Affairs office.

The student is reportedly in good health, which the investigation primarily focused on.

being given away as prizes.

EROS is one of several peer health programs. Its purpose is to raise awareness about health issues such as HIV and AIDS, contraceptives, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and sexual assault. EROS does workshops for classes, dorms, and fraternities and sororities that explain information about the costs and prevention methods of STIs.

In December, the group did a program for World AIDS Day, and in the future it will work with the Women's Center on Take Back the Night.

Love Carefully Week is designed to send a positive message to students.

"I see it as better than focusing on the negative things like rape and STDs," said Sireah Abulaban, a member of the peer health team. "It's about taking care of people — loving carefully."

## BACHELOR

continued from page 1

hand at the Flats to capture the memories. The dance is free for the "new couples," but there is a \$3 cover for those who have not "purchased" a bachelor.

The Black Student Leadership Commission is also sponsoring the dance at the Flats with proceeds also going to the ASCAA. The BSLC is

an umbrella organization for other African-American groups on campus, including the National Society for Black Engineers and the Black Student Union.

The organization chooses at least one philanthropic cause each academic year. The ASCAA was selected this year because sickle cell anemia is an inherited blood disorder that primarily affects blacks. Statistics show that one in 12 black Americans carries the gene for the

sickle cell trait.

"Sickle cell anemia is a disease a lot of people don't pay much attention to," Larde said. "That's why we wanted to support the ASCAA."

Though the event is sponsored by the Black Student Leadership Commission, it is open to anyone interested in checking it out.

"We're welcoming everybody and encouraging diversity," Larde said. "It would take the entire student body to make it diverse."

## VELASQUEZ

continued from page 1

novel is now being used as a biographical/poetical account of her life by several universities throughout the United States.

"I always get asked, 'When did you write your first poem?' and I date it back to my first guitar when I was 7 or 8 years old," she said. "I started playing it and started writing my own songs."

Though Velasquez was actively involved in writing poetry at a young age, it wasn't until she became involved with the Chicano literary movement of the '70s that she began to spread her word, along with other writers and artists such as Jose Antonio Burciaga and Jose Montoya.

"I remember that no one much liked (Burciaga's and my) poetry, because we were so oral," she said. "We were kind of on the edge or something, and were virtually unknown."

Burciaga went on to become one of the most prominent figures of Chicano literature before his death in 1996. He also was important in the art world with his murals (including the "Last Supper of Chicano Heroes" at Stanford) and books (including "Drink Cultura: Chicanismo"). Some of Burciaga's original artwork is in Velasquez's "Superwoman" book.

Velasquez also wrote short stories, and eventually created and wrote her

*"I remember crying because my family had no money. I was one of the three 'smartest' Chicano kids in our school, and I remember crying because I thought, 'I'll never get there.'"*

Gloria Velasquez

modern languages and literatures professor

own young adult novels, titled "The Roosevelt High School Series," which are being used in grammar schools to educate students. The novels focus on the lives of young Mexican-American youths dealing with the trials and tribulations of growing up.

Velasquez's novel, "Tommy Stands Alone," created national headlines after being banned in Colorado for its content. The story deals with Tommy's troubles after being chastised in school for being gay. It is based on Velasquez's cousin Steve who struggled with his own homosexuality within his Mexican-American family. She continues to recognize Steve in her songs like "Going Home," as well as in her written work.

Stepping away from controversy for now, Velasquez has been extremely busy. She is now writing her sixth installment for the Roosevelt Series (the fifth will be out in fall). She is also working on her soon-to-be-released "Superwoman" CD (which will include eight original songs she's written), teaching courses and travel-

ing to gigs all across the United States.

When asked how she deals with everything, Velasquez replies, "I'm barely doing it!"

She gives credit to her mother and father as inspirations.

"I think of my mother because of her incredible strength," she said. "To be a woman of color during that time period and survive poverty, racism, sexism ..."

She also pays homage to her aunt Dora and cousin Steve through her work.

As a self-described "rebel poet and rebel Chicana from Colorado," Velasquez wants to keep striving forward creatively and to continue to make a difference.

"I was born a humanitarian. I was raised in poverty, racism.... I was raised with nothing, absolutely nothing, and when I look at my life today, I think a 'milagro,' a dream come true. But I think that when you're born with nothing, you have everything and that has allowed me to give."

## RADIATION

continued from page 1

plant produces very low doses of radiation for people living near it," Hirsch said. "If the levels reported by Diablo (Canyon) are correct, exposure is about half a chest X-ray."

Not only do people get exposure from power plants and X-rays, but everyone gets exposure from sources such as radiation in the ground, cosmic rays and nuclear weapon fallout, said Hirsch. People also have a small amount of radiation (potassium 40) in their blood.

"Some fraction of cancer is from natural radioactivity, but you can do nothing about it," Hirsch said. "The question is how much we should add to that."

There are three main positions on the dangers of low-dose radiation, Hirsch said. The first is that the dose-effect relationship remains linear. When a dose is fractionated, lower effects are produced. Some believe that low doses are less dangerous, and others believe that low doses are more dangerous. However, Hirsch said, there is no reason to presume departure from the linear.

The sublinear position says that

lower doses are less dangerous argues that there is a threshold under which the levels of risk are very small or non-existent. Cells are believed to be capable of repair at this low level, and are adaptive to the different radiation levels. Some people even believe that the low dose stimulates repair processes in cells, actually making the radiation a health benefit.

An argument against this position is that the repair may not be perfect, and cancer may be a result when the cells do not repair correctly.

The superlinear position holds that low-dose radiation may be proportionally more dangerous. The cells

may survive the low dose but are injured, causing a higher chance of cancer.

Other studies of workers showed that those with high doses had two to three times the cancer death rate than those with low doses, Hirsch said. Also, there is an age effect. Older adults tend to be more sensitive to radiation.

Hirsch criticized some of the arguments. He said the adaptive response in cells lasts only a few hours, and it only works in high doses. The response can also increase the number of complex mutations that lead to cancer.

Hirsch concluded by saying that there are not only scientific forces at play in the debate, but economic ones as well. Large amounts of money could be saved by recycling contaminated metals and lowering standards of acceptable radiation levels.

"These decisions should not be based on economic pressures," Hirsch said.

The physics department has been holding its weekly colloquia for 30 years on physics and on how science relates to society.

The colloquia are held every Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon in bldg. 52.

## BERRY

continued from page 1

serious message.

When stressing the importance of a good education, Berry likened reading to going to the bathroom.

"Saying that you don't like to read is like saying that you don't like to go the bathroom. You don't have a choice. You have to do it to live," she said.

Berry became serious when speaking about society's fear of differences and the intense need to accept each other.

"It's important to encourage people to have a diversity of ideas and

opinions," she said. "You never have a clear understanding that we need diversity to grow."

Berry encouraged audience members to look into their past and learn from the history of their parents in order to grow.

For the future, she advised remaining connected within a society and "spending more time on our insides than our outsides," referring to the superficiality that often plagues people.

Berry urged women to unite and begin to work together, instead of against each other.

English senior Rachel Raymond, a member of the Women's Center Board, was influential in asking

Berry to speak.

"We wanted to have an African-American speaker both to represent women's history, but also because February is Black History Month. Berry's credentials are astronomical,"

she said.

As part of the month, a panel discussion, titled "Choices, Challenges, Changes," was held on Tuesday and a women's quilting session was held Thursday.

## NEED A SUMMER JOB?

We are hiring group counselors and activity counselors for the following activities: archery · ceramics · sailing · riflery · windsurfing · rock climbing · ropes course · mountain biking · motorboating · horseback riding · riflery · canoeing/kayaking · backpacking · drama · arts/crafts · water-skiing. Training is available.

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## Beachfront property

A walk through  
Oso Flaco Lake  
Natural Area, south  
of Pismo Beach, takes  
visitors through  
natural wonderland

By Andy Castagnola  
MUSTANG DAILY EDITOR IN CHIEF

It's like a fish out of water: a small, freshwater lake sitting only a few hundred yards from giant sand dunes and the Pacific Ocean.

Oso Flaco Lake, three miles south of Pismo Beach off Highway 1, is a peaceful respite for busy students. About 11,500 people visited Oso Flaco Lake Natural Area last year to fish, hike, sight-see and snap a few photos.

The mile-long hike from the parking area to the beach is an exploration into diverse ecosystems. The trail starts in a dense, wooded area. Don't be fooled by the cool, shaded walk through the riparian forest, though. A left-hand turn after a few hundred yards leads walkers to a wooded bridge directly over the middle of the lake. Keep an eye out for active bird life in the willows and cattails around the lake.

Once across the lake, the footpath wanders through low-lying dune scrub unique to the Central Coast. Soon, the scrub becomes sparse, leaving smooth, windblown sand. Birds such as Western snowy plovers and California least terns make the dunes their home.



ANDY CASTAGNOLA/MUSTANG DAILY

**The bridge spanning the entire length of Oso Flaco Lake connects its riparian forest to the Oceano Dunes.**

Eventually, the trail opens up to the beach, and walkers can follow the coastline in both directions.

The 200-acre area is part of Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area; however, no vehicles are allowed on this protected portion of the dunes.

Currently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing converting the dunes south of Oso Flaco into a national wildlife refuge. The Mobil Coastal Preserve, which begins about one mile south of Oso Flaco, contains about 2,500 acres and several federally protected

species, including the snowy plover and least tern.

The Nature Conservancy, which now operates the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes south of Oso Flaco, offers docent-led walks in the area several times per month. Visitors can call 929-3647 for information.

To access Oso Flaco Lake, take Oso Flaco Lake Road off of Highway 1 and follow it into the parking lot and trailhead. Day use fees are \$4 per vehicle, and camping fees are \$6 per night, May through September. Oso Flaco Natural Area is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Life at its fullest

I heard a drinking story yesterday. It was no different from the last, or any other, that I had heard before. Drink lots; do stupid things.

But it led me to consider more deeply a conversation I had had during the long ride to the Sierra east-side.

"My father," a friend confided, "is having a hard time getting older. He can't handle the fact that he can't do the things that he used to." Father, like son, is a climber. Father is an adventurer who is coming to the end of his adventures.

A stark realization hit us just then: Youth doesn't last forever, and when it's gone, what is left? Only memories of adventures past.

That is why I could never spend my weekends going to the same parties, drinking the same beer and telling the same stories each Monday morning. What memories would I have when the twilight of my life set in? Where would I have been? What would I have done?

No, the time for adventure is now. The time to see the world is

now. The time to live is now.

With that, I charged the weekend. Hot springs, ice climbing, bouldering, rock climbing, more hot springs we did it all in two days. Yeah, it was a long drive, a tad expensive and perhaps the home-

work suffered a little, but in the end I gained experiences that can never be taken from me.

I may not be an accumulator of wine, women or wealth, but when I reflect back as the

sun sets on my life, at least I'll be able to say that I experienced the world in its full splendor. Will you?

Thanks, Jason O., for the insight.

Jason Schaller, chemistry junior, writes a weekly column for Get Out.



Jason Schaller

## Poly Escapes presents Kavu film festival

Kimberly Tahsuda

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Kavu Day 2000, a festival of outdoor films presented by Poly Escapes, premiers Tuesday Feb. 15 in Chumash Auditorium.

"The festival is a good diversion for students," program adviser Darin Conner said. "It will give students a break from studying."

Kavu is a Seattle-based apparel company that created the festival to provide a series of amateur films to be viewed by college students. The festival is modeled after the Banff Festival of Mountain films, an amateur film contest. The winners of the Banff Festival tour the world with the winning films.

The festival consists of four films: a 45-minute back country skiing documentary of an epic expedition through Russia; 30 minutes of extreme kayaking through Washington, Montana, Mexico and Canada; a 20-minute mountain bike shift through San Francisco and North Shore British Columbia; and

a 10-minute film called "The Realm."

The event is a fundraiser for Poly Escapes, and the profits will be used to buy tents, skis and backpacks.

"The purpose of the festival is to support amateur filmmakers who show their passion for the outdoors through films," Conner said.

Free popcorn will be available at the festival as well as free giveaways of outdoor apparel from Kavu.

"These are great films," Conner said. "The kayaking film shows some amazing feats."

The films will show at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Tuesday in Chumash Auditorium. Pre-sale tickets are available in the Escape Route (room 112 of the University Union). Tickets will also be sold at the door.

"These films will not be able to be seen everywhere else," Conner said. "Amateur films are not mass market. They have a grassroots quality to them."

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## WANTED

### Polytechnics columnist

Mustang Daily need a student, staff or faculty member to write a weekly column about his or her wanderings around the World Wide Web. Contact Nanette Pietroforte, Features Editor, at 756-1796 or [features@mustangdaily.calpoly.edu](mailto:features@mustangdaily.calpoly.edu).

### Sports loud mouths

Mustang Daily needs your opinions about the world of sports for the new Sports Forum. Letters can address Cal Poly sports or any other professional or collegiate sport. Drop them by bldg. 26 room 226 or send to [sports@mustangdaily.calpoly.edu](mailto:sports@mustangdaily.calpoly.edu).



# The issue: Valentine's Day romance

## It's a wonderful holiday

Valentine's Day is not a holiday made up by greeting card companies to make money in-between "real holidays." The holiday actually has a romantic and factual history to it. And it's a great day.

I was once a skeptic of Feb. 14, but now that I've found true love after a long time of disbelief, I believe that Valentine's Day is a very special holiday.

Some may say that you don't need a holiday to celebrate your love for someone. True, you can celebrate your love every day, but Valentine's Day is an excuse to go overboard with reminding (or even telling someone for the first time) just how special they are to you.

People who believe the holiday is "fake" may have never experienced love and therefore are not compelled to celebrate it. Others may have been hurt by love and despise any mention of Valentine's Day. Some may be sad that they don't have someone special to be with on the holiday.

Even if you don't have a Valentine, the day can celebrate friendship, too. Last year my best friend and I didn't have Valentines, so we used it as an excuse to meet back in our hometown and catch up on old times.

Whatever the case, we can probably agree that love is a popular feeling recognized by people all over the world. Love is everywhere: in songs, in movies, on television, in books — even animals experience love. Love creates knots in our stomachs and shaking in our knees. It's nothing learned or taught, but rather a natural instinct within us.

For these reasons, Valentine's Day is a valid holiday because people are celebrating such a special, powerful and prominent emotion.

Remember the days back in elementary school when we were given an entire afternoon to swap innocent Valentine cards with our classmates? And remember when you got that special one from your crush? Well, maybe it was a tiny cartoon-character card that said "Gee, you're swell ...," but in any case, it was probably a great feeling. So why shun a holiday we've known since we were little? Just because we're grown up doesn't mean that we can't make some worthwhile experience out of the day.

Valentine's Day, more formally known as St. Valentine's Day, has backgrounds in both Christian and ancient Roman cultures. The main legend holds that Valentine was a priest from third-century Rome who secretly married young couples, even though Emperor Claudius II outlawed it for young soldiers. Claudius thought that young men would make better soldiers without wives and families. Valentine was caught and jailed for performing the ceremonies. While in jail, he fell in love with the jailer's daughter, and before his death, wrote her a love letter that he signed, 'From your Valentine.' Researchers claim that Valentine's Day commemorates the anniversary of his death.

For anyone who thinks that Valentine's Day is corny, I have one thing to say: Don't be so stubborn. Love is worthwhile if you only accept what it has to offer.

For example, my friend — we'll call him Chuck — decided to protest Valentine's Day by asking a girl out to protest the holiday with him. Hmm ... I may be wrong, but in some sense, isn't he using Valentine's Day as an excuse to ask her out? Sorry, Chuck, you're not fooling me!

I've been on both sides of the arguments involving Valentine's Day. However, I've come to realize that the holiday is here whether we like it or not. It's more fun to enjoy it than fight it. Besides, love can be hidden in many ways, and Valentine's Day is an opportunity to single it out and have a little extra fun. It's the power of love.

A LONG TIME AGO, IN THE OFFICES OF HALLMARK...



## 'Forced love' is overrated

Right now, at least half of the Cal Poly population is stressing out, and it's not because of midterms. There are people wandering the aisles of Hallmark, crying over the sappy cards and heart-shaped flowers.

Students are wandering campus in a state of near-sickness, watching other couples kiss or hold hands, knowing that they will be alone on Valentine's Day.

Students who have found that special someone are frantically checking their bank accounts, calculating the amount of money they can spend buying a "meaningful" gift.

It's arrived. America's only holiday that takes the essence of love and commercializes it into an ideal that is impossible to achieve. Valentine's Day is essentially a day that forces you to love someone.

Although I hate to admit it, I too believed in the meaning of the holiday. Just as I do now, I dreaded Feb. 14, but I assumed my hatred of this heart-smattered day was the result of my love life, or rather, lack thereof. I knew that as soon as my prince charming rode through the door, I would be granted the perfect Valentine's Day: a romantic dinner, chocolates and flowers or a walk on the beach, perhaps. I was wrong.

Last year, I finally had a boyfriend.

While my friends moped about and complained about boys, I planned for a day of love and romance. I speculated on the surprises that my boyfriend would most certainly

bestow on me. When he came over Valentine's Day evening, he carried with him a handmade frame with a picture of the two of us — and no plans. When I realized he didn't have dinner reservations or surprises hiding up his sleeve, I was disappointed. When he suggested a homemade dinner and a movie, I was devastated. Any other day of the year, the prospect of quiet time at home with him would have made my day. Instead, it ruined it for absolutely no reason.

So upset was I that we wouldn't

have all the typical Valentine's ingredients, I failed to appreciate how long it had taken him to make the beautiful frame or how lucky I was to be with him at all.

While I've heard Feb. 14 dubbed Single Awareness Day, I have found that couples are not spared from the agony of forced romance.

In searching for the ideal Valentines, I realized a great many things about myself and this so-called happy holiday.

First and foremost, it is impossible and unfair to designate a day to love someone. This theory puts entirely too much pressure on the parties at hand and is utterly pointless. While I still have a lot to figure out about relationships, I know that couples shouldn't be forced to love each other on a particular day. I would hope that would happen every day.

Valentine's Day only succeeds in perpetuating the American stereotype of superficiality. Love should not be turned into a Hallmark card or tacky gifts.

In a world full of stress and insecurity, the last thing we need is this "holiday" to make everyone doubt themselves. Single people have no choice but to contemplate their existing no-partner state. Popular questions are usually, "Why don't I have a boyfriend/girlfriend?" or "Is there something wrong with me?"

At least single people are granted the opportunity to whine; couples have to grin through their misery and pretend they're happy about the expensive presents they had to buy.

For those of you intent on finding the meaning of Valentine's Day, call off your search. It doesn't exist.

Kirsten Orsini-Meinhard is a journalism sophomore and a Mustang daily staff writer.

Kelly Hendricks journalism junior and a Mustang Daily staff writer.

# Mustang

## DAILY

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Advertising ♦ (805) 756-1143  
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mustangdaily.calpoly.edu editor@mustangdaily.calpoly.edu

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"You have no idea how hard it is to get someone to put on a condom so you can take a picture."



# Controversial ads bring breast cancer to public attention

Unfortunately, I don't remember the last time a breast cancer ad caught my attention. I also don't know many female friends who perform regular self-checkups. I can't say that I do. Many

women probably don't even know how to perform breast self-examinations correctly.

## Commentary

In 1999, it was estimated that approximately 176,300 cases of breast cancer would be diagnosed and more than 43,700 women would die from the disease, according to Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization's Web site. Breast cancer is an ugly disease, yet the women who have it are anything but.

Just recently, controversy struck the Bay Area after a series of poster-sized ads went up in numerous bus shelters in Santa Clara and Contra Costa counties. The women in the ads appear to be models for Cosmopolitan, Calvin Klein perfume or Victoria's Secret lingerie. The major difference is that these women have mastectomy scars and that these ads are designed to increase breast cancer awareness,

to provoke discussion and reaction. A model in one of the posters has two red scars where her breasts had been. The scars, which have been superimposed on the models' bodies, belong to Andrea Martin, founder of the Breast Cancer Fund, a San Francisco-based nonprofit organization that started the campaign. Martin had one breast removed in 1989 and the other removed in 1991.

Many have been upset by these ads claiming they are unacceptable and too offensive for public display. Many of the posters have been taken down, and companies that own the advertising space in the bus shelters have refused the campaign. These ads are trying to wake society up to the realities of this deadly disease, and society is looking away, disturbed.

Why is it that our society is so easily disturbed by reality? People are constantly watching sex, violence, drugs and death on television and the big screen, looking at half-dressed women in magazines without a problem.

Now, when an ad with a real and serious issue is at hand, the protests are loud and clear.

The scars of a mastectomy are unsettling to look at because they invoke fear. Breast cancer is scary. Imagine how difficult it must be for women battling this disease to look in the mirror and accept their bodies, after just losing part of it. The scars do represent something beautiful: survival. In the fight against breast cancer, something does need to be done to increase awareness, improve detection methods and motivate women to protect themselves. This campaign is working to achieve these goals. These ads may inspire women to take breast cancer more seriously and to perform regular self-checks and mammograms. According to Y-ME, the majority of cases occur in women who have no identifiable risk factors. A simple mammogram can reveal small cancers before they can be felt.

One argument against these ads was that they might upset women and cause them to further dodge doctor's visits for fear of finding a lump. Once again, ignorance is not a cure.

Others think these ads may be better suited elsewhere, perhaps camouflaged among the

perfect computer-enhanced images in fashion magazines. I think that is just another attempt to give the ads less exposure and leave the ads visible to only women who can afford magazines.

Although this disease is rare in males, it is still an issue men should be aware of. The women stricken by breast cancer are your friends, your sisters, your girlfriends and your mothers. This is real.

It may be argued that the use of models instead of actual victims of breast cancer is superficial, but the ads are designed as parodies of today's fashion icons of sexuality. The ads are still a step in the right direction; they get attention.

These models represent real women and a real disease. These images are nothing to be offended by and the scars are nothing to be ashamed of. The scars represent courage and strong women moving on with or without breasts, happy to be alive.

Jillian Wieda is a journalism and a Mustang Daily staff writer.

## Letters to the editor

### Use posters sparingly Editor,

Although I do not agree with the gay, lesbian or bisexual lifestyle, I feel it is not my business to tell them what they can or can't do.

However, when any club insists on plastering posters on the bulletin boards, I think they are overstepping their bounds. Every time that the Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals United posts its posters by the math building, I cannot see any of the other posters on the board. This practice is not only disrespectful, but presumptuous and childish. The majority of campus is not gay, lesbian or bisexual, and therefore the majority of posters on a bulletin board should not be advertising such a club.

As for the recent comment by Andy Rubin mentioning posters encouraging a "yes" vote on

Proposition 22 to prohibit same-sex marriages in this state, California law currently does not recognize same-sex marriages. Therefore, this proposition would not prohibit such marriages. Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California. As you can read in the proposition, nowhere does it state that California is prohibiting same-sex marriages. The purpose of this proposition is to prevent California from having to accept the decisions of other states regarding this issue.

Yasmin Corless is a liberal studies junior.

### Exceptions are the rule Editor,

Rosie O'Donnell's third healthy, Caucasian adoption in as many

years. Dominique Moceanu's divorce from her parents. Elian's private bill to grant him U.S. citizenship.

Celebrity status has become the fastest way to cut through the proverbial red tape.

The private bill introduced into the Senate to grant Elian citizenship (which, thankfully, did not pass) is not incredibly rare, despite what the media would like you to believe. Senators, if asked (and wooed) are eager to help their constituents whenever possible. The speed and fury with which the Elian bill was introduced, however, is rare and mildly disgusting.

I know a woman named Debbie Berger who has been trying to get a private bill passed for her daughter for the past five summers. Her daughter was born in England while Ms. Berger was living there with her parents and, although Ms. Berger is a U.S. citizen, her daughter is not (there are other circumstances, but

that's the gist of it). On two occasions she has had breakfast meetings with Harry Reid, senator from my home state of Nevada, and filled out the necessary paperwork.

Unfortunately, because of issues pressing Nevada, she's been told by Reid each year that he'd "be happy to help and introduce it, but then (he) can kiss Yucca Mountain goodbye."

Of course we expect such politics — the greater good of the state — to play a part in what our elected officials do, but should the media so heavily influence what's done so quickly? I certainly don't think so.

Megan Arenaz is an environmental horticulture sciences freshman.

### God is a delusion whose time has passed Editor,

Even after years of exposure to the concept, it still amazes me that peo-

ple still cling to the idea that there is an omnipotent being that created the universe and that we are somehow special in it. I fully acknowledge the comforting feeling that this must bring to believers, but I really think that it is time we give up this antiquated notion. Modern science is discovering new facts every day, and, while this doesn't replace so-called eternal truths that many people look for in a too-oft translated and overly edited book, they have the advantage of being duplicable and observable by anyone who cares to look, rather than made-up interpretations or half-forgotten old stories.

Believing does serve useful purposes in society, including a peace-keeping element that is usually stronger than local law enforcement and a foundation for solidarity difficult to find elsewhere, but it has also caused problems.

Organized religion has been the cause of more strife and devastation than any other force in human history. The Crusades, the Inquisition and the continued conflicts in the Middle East and elsewhere are only a few examples of the tragedies wrought by taking unfounded beliefs too far.

Although I am not opposed to elaborate belief systems created to keep us in line and make us feel better, I think that we need to recognize them for what they are and keep them from getting out of hand.

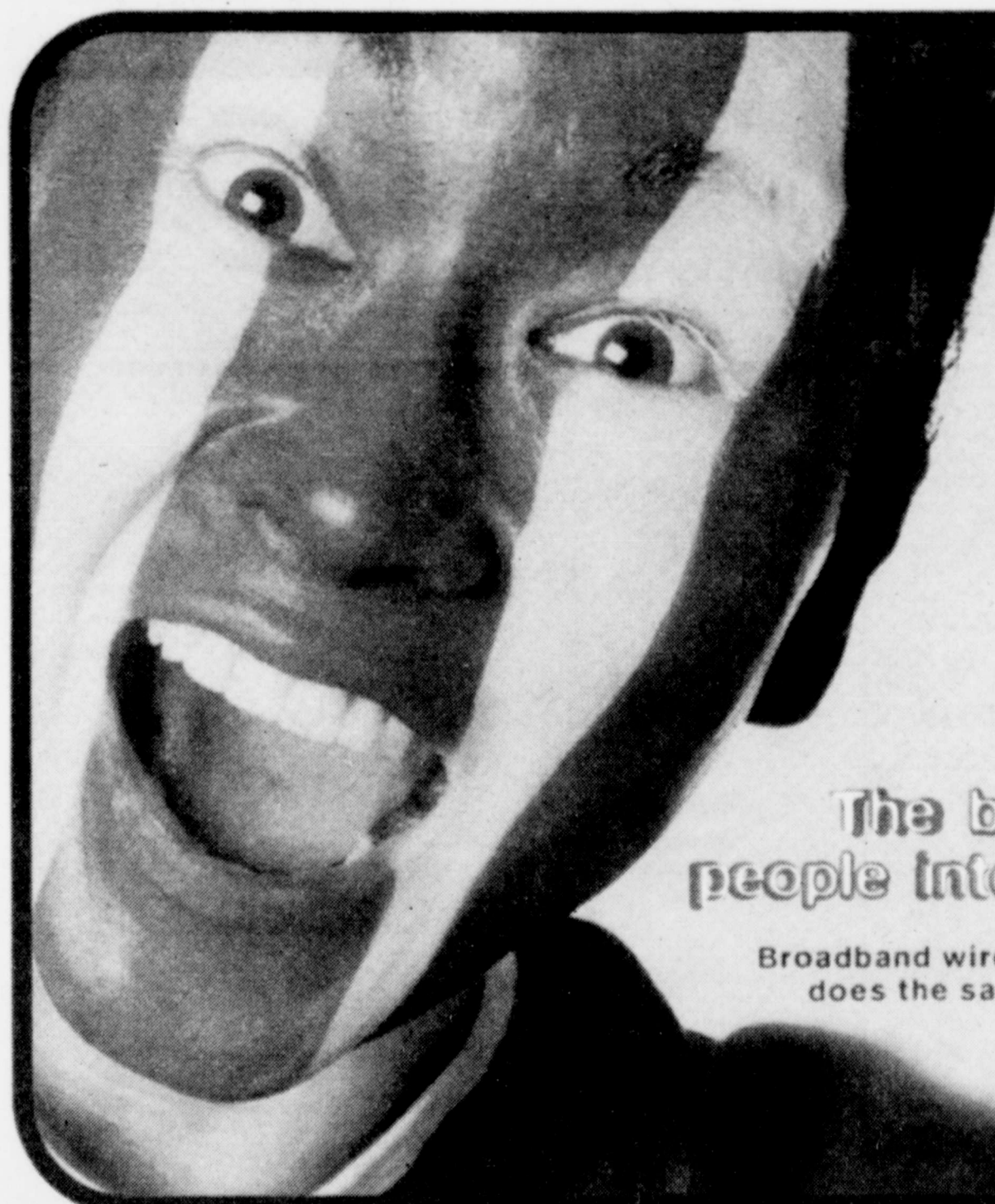
Chris Newman is a computer science junior.

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Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanities and length. Please limit length to 350 words.

Mustang Daily encourages comments on editorial policy and university affairs. Letters should be typewritten and signed with major and class standing. They can be mailed, faxed, delivered or e-mailed to [opinion@mustangdaily.calpoly.edu](mailto:opinion@mustangdaily.calpoly.edu)



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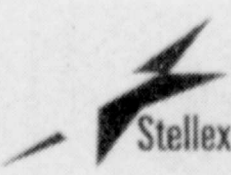
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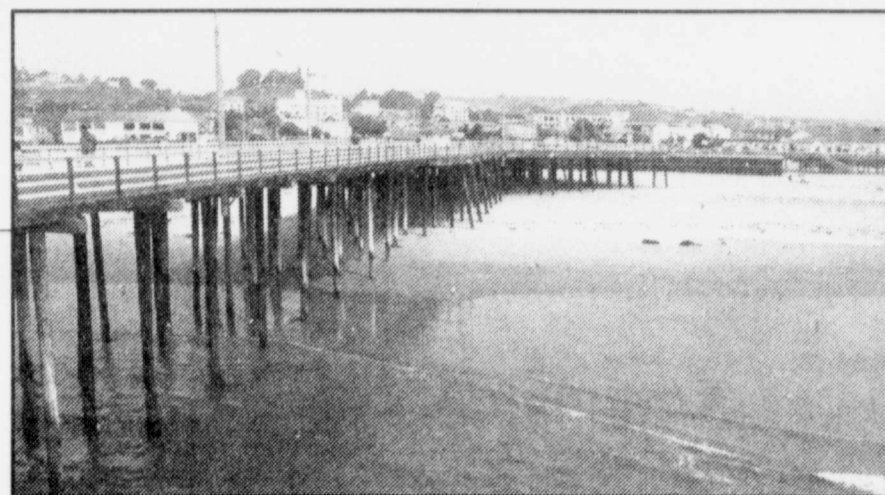
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# Destinations & Diversions



## Novel Experience offers personal interaction

**T**he Novel Experience is a bookstore located downtown at 787 Higuera Street across from The Network.

The owner, Jim and Christine Hill, have run the family type bookstore for the past eight years.

The Novel Experience carries every type of book from bestsellers to classics, healthy cooking to healing the spirit.

"People are getting smarter about taking care of themselves and their health care," Jim Hill said.

Some of the busiest sections are children's books, mysteries, and the hot, new titles. The Novel Experience also boasts a collection of San Luis Obispo's local authors. You can find books for the active, outdoors type, too. The Novel Experience has shelves full of local history guides and trail books.

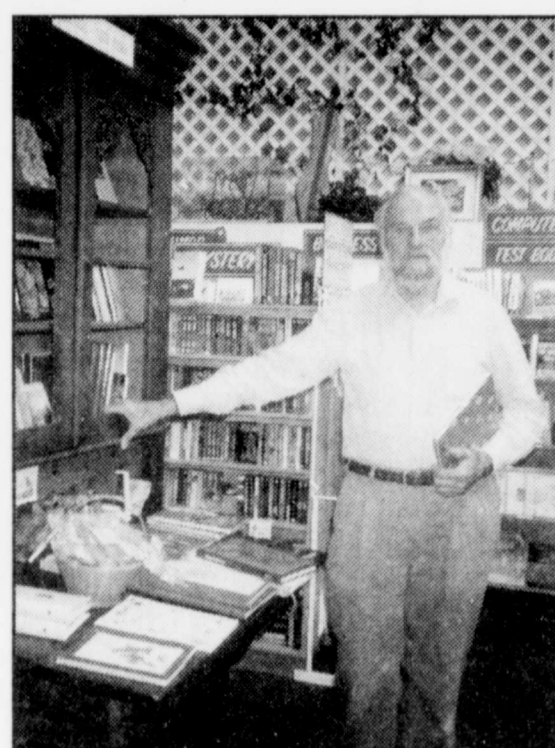
The Novel Experience is also a great place for browsing. The bookshop has ambient lighting and welcomes visitors. If you are lucky, you might even catch a



**The Novel Experience is located downtown at 787 Higuera Street. Owner Jim Hill, right, believes in face-to-face service.**

glimpse of the bookstore's jet-black cat, Ophelia.

Ophelia, named after a character from William Shakespeare's Hamlet, lives at the bookstore full time. "When we first adopted her we called her Othello," said Jim Hill,



"Until we found out he was a she."

Besides books, the Novel Experience carries pens, stationery, book lights, and calendars. The store has a wide variety of bookmarks ranging from 99 cents to \$5, as well as many greeting cards.

Jim Hill doesn't believe in on-line shopping.

"Nothing beats face-to-face interaction," he said. Unlike chain and on-line bookstores, employees at the Novel Experience can recommend books to customers that they have personally reviewed.

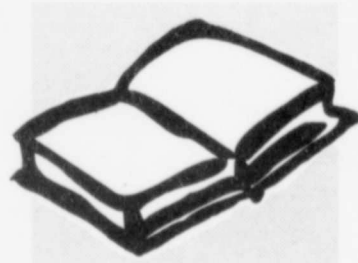
In the next few months, the Novel Experience will be remodeled and seismically retrofitted, resulting in a bigger, better, and nicer environment.

The Novel Experience currently offers students and faculty a 10 percent discount on all books. Students studying literature's classics can find them at the store, along with a wide selection of Cliff's Notes.

"If we don't have it, we offer to get it," said Jim Hill.

He said 90 percent of the time books can be ordered at no additional charge. The Novel Experience also carries the books featured in Oprah's Book Club. Most orders are filled within five to seven days. Call 544-0150 to order by phone.

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## BASKETBALL

continued from page 8

game in which she scored 20 points.

Tonight's matchup will be the 23rd meeting between the two teams. Long Beach holds the advantage, 20-2, including wins in both meetings last season.

The 49ers will enter play with one loss (53-66 at New Mexico State) and a 6-1 record in the conference. They are second in the Western Division behind the undefeated UCSB Gauchos.

Following the game, the Mustangs continue their road trip, traveling to Stockton to face the Pacific Tigers. Pacific is currently third in the Western Division with a 3-4 record.



STEVE SCHUENEMAN/MUSTANG DAILY

Guard Kristy Baker drives to the hoop against Fullerton last week.

## WRESTLING

continued from page 8

three pins and won seven of 10 en route to a 33-13 victory.

A standout in the Mustang roster lately has been sophomore Steve Strange. Strange has won 15 straight matches to improve his overall record to 22-8. Strange is coming off a California State Championship performance in which he captured the 174-pound title by defeating Fresno State's Dan Jackson by default.

Strange is confident in his team's ability to perform this weekend.

"I feel confident that we should come out with two victories this weekend," Strange said. "We should beat Stanford and San Francisco State, but we'll have to see how we get off against Nebraska."

Following their two dual meets

"I feel confident that we should come out with two victories this weekend. We should beat Stanford and San Francisco State, but we'll have to see how we get off against Nebraska."

**Steve Strange**  
174-pound wrestler

tonight, the Mustangs will take on No. 7 ranked Nebraska Saturday at 7:30 p.m. The Cornhuskers enter the match with a 7-5 overall record. They have two returning All-Americans and are members of the Big 12 Conference.

There is no rest ahead for the Mustang grapplers. They travel Monday to face Cal State Bakersfield in their final dual meet of the season.

## Rec Center jumping with new classes

By Danielle Samaniego  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The Rec Center covets little-known treasures.

Many of the fitness and instructional classes now being offered are new this quarter. Students can participate in everything from jump roping to salsa dancing to a 500-year-old African-Brazilian tradition.

"We look for classes that emphasize physical well-being, mental well-being and otherwise," said Charlene Rosales, a fitness administrative assistant at the center. She is in charge of bringing in different activities for the students each quarter.

This quarter there are several new classes, including a "Mat Pilates" class based on a program developed by Joseph H. Pilates. The class works on a person's posture and core muscles, allowing greater flexibility. There is also a 45-minute workout class, known as "JUMP," which focuses on using a

jump rope for cardio purposes. Another course on capoeira, which is a combination of martial art techniques, involves kickboxing and acrobatics.

Malia Watson, a mechanical engineering sophomore who works at the front desk of the center, said classes often fill up within the first week, except for those that are foreign to students.

"When people don't recognize the words, when they don't know what it is, then (the class) won't (fill up)," she said. "If it's something like kickboxing, well, everybody knows what that is, and they want to take that."

Sign ups for the various activities take place during the first week of each quarter. The first week is free to those who are interested but not quite sure if the course is for them. After that, average prices for classes range between \$35 to \$38, and most sessions are offered twice a week. Rosales said

prices for the classes are competitive to other gyms and clubs, and as Watson puts it, "We don't get that many refunds."

So far, the new classes have been nicely received. Jennifer Wood, an architecture junior, enrolled in the capoeira class because it was the only one that fit her schedule. She now appreciates it on a whole new level.

"I like it because it involves a lot of muscle toning, cardiovascular work and stretching, which is really a part of the three aspects of fitness," Wood said.

Rosales said bringing in instructors outside of the college is what brings a higher caliber of instruction to the classes.

"We are starting to get instructors who are taking their passion and applying it to teaching," Rosales said.

Ryan Anderson, capoeira instructor at the Rec Center, has been studying his art for the past four years and has

been teaching it for the last three.

"You develop a much deeper knowledge for something when you teach it," he said. "You start noticing idiosyncrasies and sequences and all kind of things that you really didn't notice before."

Anderson said he's impressed with how fast his students are learning.

"I haven't seen anyone excel as fast as the people here have," he said. "As a whole, they are way above the curve."

Rosales said the center offers classes for every student, beginner or otherwise.

"Most of our classes are able to accommodate one's athletic ability," she said. "But we'd like to at least offer something for the beginner as well as the advanced."

Rosales said she is excited about the diversity of the classes being offered.

"We really have quite a spread across the board here," she said.

## GRIFFEY

continued from page 8

Frank Robinson are others that come to mind.

Cincinnati is the only place the 10-time All-Star center fielder wanted to play. And when spring training begins later this month, his trademark backward hat will have a "C" on it.

"I didn't want to move around," he said. "I wanted to be able to stay put."

Pitcher Brett Tomko and outfielder Mike Cameron were sent to Seattle for Griffey, along with a pair of minor leaguers: infielder Antonio Perez and right-hander Jake Meyer.

"It's like being traded for Jordan or something," Tomko said.

Indeed, Griffey could be his sport's Michael Jordan. No wonder the Mariners were so reluctant to lose him.

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## Mustangs take streak to Long Beach

By Christian von Treskow  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Following its first ever back-to-back wins in Big West Conference play this past weekend, the Cal Poly women's basketball team travels to take on the Long Beach State 49ers tonight.

The Mustangs' record improved to 2-5 in conference play after a 94-55 lashing of Cal State Fullerton and a five-point victory over UC Irvine. The two wins lifted Cal Poly into fifth place in the conference's Western Division.

Vital to a Mustang victory will be the team's ability to limit the role of 49er center Rhonda Smith. Smith, a First Team All-Big West selection last season, is leading the team in scoring with 19.8 points per game.

Mustang forward Taryn Sperry believes stopping the 6-8 center will be a team effort.

"I'm definitely going to get help from my teammates. It's not going to be a one-on-one situation," Sperry said. "Our plan is to get her into foul trouble by using lots of ball fakes and playing aggressively."

Aside from being the team's leading scorer, Smith also leads the

league in blocks with 16.

Long Beach balances their offensive prowess with strong outside shooting by guard Reta Sula. Sula has recorded 20 3-pointers so far this season with a league-leading .488-shooting percentage.

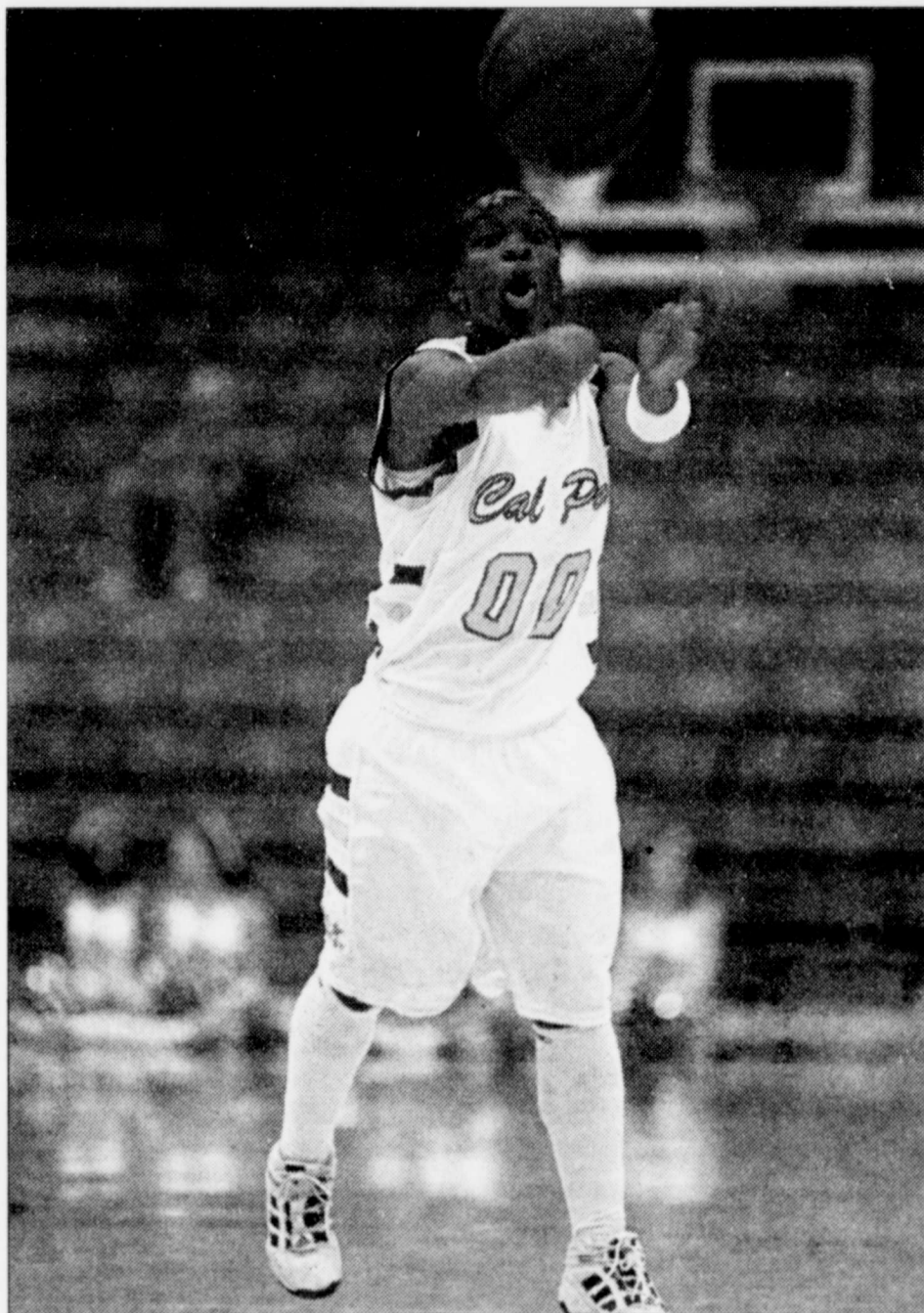
Despite the 49ers offensive weapons, Mustang head coach Faith Mimnaugh said a win is definitely possible.

"I think we pose as many matchup problems for them as they do for us," Mimnaugh said. "We have some serious work to do, but I think we have a belief we can win this game."

Mimnaugh said she hopes defensive adjustments will help expose 49er weaknesses and limit their looks at the basket.

"They have difficulty playing against the zone. Our plan is to play a ton of zone and hopefully that will slow their pace," Mimnaugh said. "That will enable us to keep the ball out of the middle."

The Mustangs will also rely on the offensive contributions of guards Kristy Baker (10.1 ppg) and Stephanie Osorio (10.6 ppg). Baker is coming off the UC Irvine



STEVE SCHUENEMAN/MUSTANG DAILY

see BASKETBALL, page 7 *Sophomore Odessa Jenkins attacks opponents on the court.*

## Griffey heads home to Reds

CINCINNATI (AP) — Junior has come home.

Following three months of often deadlocked trade talks, the Cincinnati Reds reunited Ken Griffey Jr. with his father and his hometown Thursday by sending four players to the Seattle Mariners.

The final piece of the deal came when Griffey agreed to a nine-year contract worth \$116.5 million, the richest package in baseball history. The pact covers from 2000-08, and the Reds even have an option for a 10th season.

"The last time I put on this uniform, I think I was eight — for a father-son game," Griffey said, pulling on a Reds jersey at a news conference.



KEN GRIFFEY JR.  
Outfielder

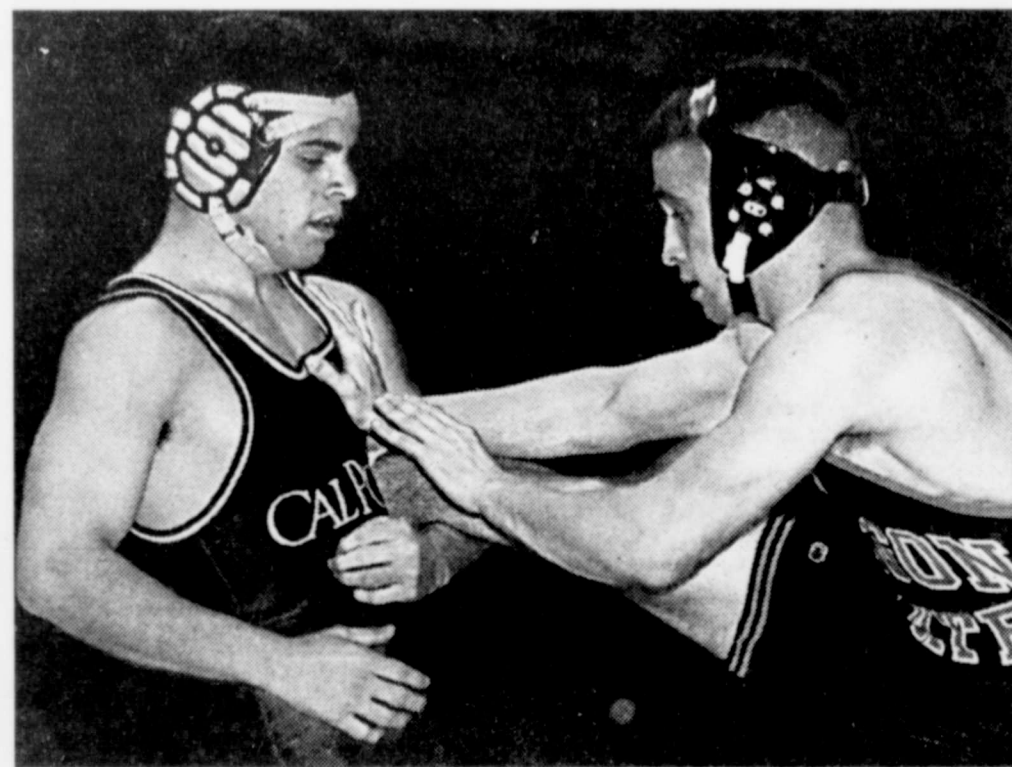
"This is something I dreamed about as a little kid, being back in my hometown where I watched so many great players," he said. Griffey was picked up in Florida by a private plane belonging to owner Carl Lindner and flown to Cincinnati, where about 200 people greeted him at the airport. Earlier, euphoric fans honked horns on the streets, put up "Welcome Home" signs in their yards and reveled in the team's most celebrated trade since Pete Rose returned as player-manager in 1984.

"His name comes up like Pete Rose's name as far as Cincinnati," said coach Ron Oester, a native who played for the Reds. "That's the magnitude he's at for Cincinnati fans."

And for all of baseball, too. Widely regarded as the best all-around player in the game, the 30-year-old Griffey is considered a threat to break Hank Aaron's career home run record of 755. Junior already has hit 398 with his sweet, left-handed swing, and was voted onto baseball's All-Century team last fall.

Perhaps never before has such a great player been traded in his prime. Babe Ruth, Rogers Hornsby and

## Wrestling faces tough weekend matches



DAN GONZALES/MUSTANG DAILY

Mustang wrestlers play host for three of four matches this weekend.

By Christian von Treskow  
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Cal Poly's wrestlers will be busy hitting the mats this weekend when the Mustangs play host to San Francisco State (6 p.m.) and Stanford (7:30 p.m.) tonight. Things won't get any easier Saturday when they face No. 7 ranked Nebraska.

San Francisco State enters the meet as a member of the Division II Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference. They are in first place with a 3-1 conference record. Stanford comes in with a disappointing 2-4 Pac-10 record, but a roster loaded with nationally ranked wrestlers.

The Cardinal are led by seniors Zach Zimmerer and Rudy Ruiz.

Zimmerer is ranked No. 16 in the nation at 133 pounds and is bidding to become Stanford's first ever four-time NCAA qualifier. He is undefeated this season with 12 straight victories, including five pins.

Ruiz, a two-time NCAA qualifier, is currently No. 15 in the nation in the 125-pound class. He will face junior Jaime Garza, who is 17-14 overall this season.

Poly will also be forced to match up with Cardinal wrestler Warren McPherson. McPherson dropped down to the 157-pound division this year and is ranked No. 16 with a 6-1 conference record.

The Cardinal were victorious in their last dual meet against Cal State Fullerton. Stanford recorded

see WRESTLING, page 7

see GRIFFEY, page 7

### Sports Trivia

#### Yesterday's Answer:

Fran Tarkenton played for the Minnesota Vikings and the New York Giants.  
Congrats Tommy Razo!

#### Today's Question:

Which former Boston Red Sox pitcher gave up Bucky Dent's home run in the 1978 American League playoff game?



Please submit sports trivia answer to: [sports@mustangdaily.calpoly.edu](mailto:sports@mustangdaily.calpoly.edu)  
Please include your name. The first correct answer received via e-mail will be printed in the next issue of the paper.

### Briefs

#### Brown to stay with Raiders

ALAMEDA (AP) — Wide receiver Tim Brown passed up a chance at free agency and instead will remain with the Oakland Raiders.

Brown was signed to a new contract, Raiders coach Jon Gruden said Thursday. Terms of the pact were not disclosed.

Linebacker Greg Biekert, the team's leading tackler last season, and guard Steve Wisniewski also opted against going out on the free agent market in favor of re-signing with the Raiders.

Quarterback Bobby Hoying, the backup to Rich Gannon, also came to terms and will be back with the Raiders next season.

"With free agency, we're in an era that promotes a lot of movement so to have this group of men back with us is something we're very excited about," Gruden said in a conference call. "We've had a plan from the very beginning. It's been private but well-calculated. The beginning of free agency began very well for the Raiders."

Teams had until midnight EST Thursday to comply with the \$62.2 million salary cap and Friday marks the beginning of the free agency period in which qualifying players can go to the highest bidder.

### Schedule

#### TODAY

- Baseball vs. San Jose State
  - at San Jose • 2 p.m.
- Wrestling vs. San Francisco State
  - in Mott Gym • 6 p.m.
- Wrestling vs. Stanford
  - in Mott Gym • 7:30 p.m.
- Women's basketball vs. Long Beach State
  - at Long Beach • 7:30 p.m.

#### SATURDAY

- Wrestling vs. Nebraska
  - in Mott Gym • 1 p.m.
- Baseball vs. San Jose State
  - at San Jose • 1 p.m.
- Men's basketball vs. Cal State Fullerton
  - in Mott Gym • 7 p.m.