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Mustang DAILY

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CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN LUIS OBISPO

diversity
university
issue


Readership Awareness Week


February 25 to March 1

Weather WATCH

5-DAY FORECAST

 **TODAY**
High: 77° / Low: 44°

 **WEDNESDAY**
High: 75° / Low: 42°

 **THURSDAY**
High: 71° / Low: 42°

 **FRIDAY**
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 **SATURDAY**
High: 67° / Low: 45°

TODAY'S SUN
Rise: 6:36 a.m. / Set: 5:56 p.m.

TODAY'S MOON
Rise: 5:23 a.m. / Set: N/A

TODAY'S TIDE
AT PORT SAN LUIS
Low: 2:32 a.m. / 1.77 feet
High: 8:39 a.m. / 6.52 feet
Low: 3:42 p.m. / -1.39 feet
High: 10:10 p.m. / 4.54 feet

Today's front page
was designed by
Jeff McKeown.



Editor's note:

For today's issue, we explore the different challenges facing minority groups on college campuses across the nation. Through our research, we found that university systems are still struggling with the issue of affirmative action versus reverse discrimination. Minorities are still underrepresented in leadership positions, and hate crimes are not a thing of the past, but rather an ongoing occurrence. Locally, Kristy Charles writes about the most current census data on Cal Poly's student population, and Cynthia Neff looks at foreign students' views on the American lifestyle.

Foreign students judge Poly's diversity

By Cynthia Neff
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

When Simon Kaspar came to study at Cal Poly, he expected the demographics to be "more multicultural." Instead, he arrived from Switzerland to find San Luis Obispo "white and conservative."

"I expected the demographics to be like the ones in San Francisco or Los Angeles," he said. "SLO County is more of a white country."

But the city and regional planning senior noted that the comparisons between San Luis Obispo and his hometown may be a little unfair since he comes from an area where speaking four languages is the norm.

At the same time, differences in background aren't so obvious in Switzerland, he said.

"You don't realize people (are foreign) because they are usually European — from Greece, for example — but here, it is more obvious that someone is Hispanic, or from South Africa or Asia," he said.

This year, there are 233 international students at Cal Poly — 198 undergraduates and 35 graduates from 44 different countries, said Dr. Barbara Andre, associate director of International Education and

Programs. They make up about 1 percent of the students on Cal Poly's campus.

Most international students live at Valencia Apartments, due to discounted rates and quarter-by-quarter leases, and often find themselves keeping each other company.

"A lot of international students end up hanging out together," Kaspar said, "especially the larger groups like the French and the Germans."

For many exchange students the perceived lack of diversity on campus is not an issue.

"I don't think it matters," said business senior Michael Grachinha, who is from Karlsruhe, Germany. "Perhaps it depends on what region you are in."

But for some Californian locals, traveling overseas has been the best way to mingle with people

from different backgrounds, and often diversity is found in the least expected places.

French Professor John Thompson, who studied in Montpellier, France, as part of his undergraduate work, said that the students at Montpellier proved to be much more diverse than those at his home campus, University

see FOREIGN, page 4

Poly attempts to diversify campus

By Cynthia Neff
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Since a student's ethnicity is relatively more visible in the United States, minority students may feel uncomfortable at campuses that lack high diversity rates, said Mark Fabionar, director of the Multicultural Center.

There has been a drop in the number of African-American students — currently down to under 1 percent — and a decline in African American faculty, he said. This is largely due to the results of Proposition 209, which

see DIVERSITY, page 4

Campus releases demographics

By Kristy Charles
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Cal Poly students are younger on average than most other California State University campuses, according to a census taken last fall by Cal Poly's Institutional Planning and Analysis department.

The census, which is taken every quarter and compiled into a publication called Poly View, also stated that the majority of students are California residents. And, the largest percentage of Cal Poly students originates from the San Francisco Bay Area.

Other trends unearthed include Cal Poly's high and rising student SAT scores, grade point averages, and an increase in the number of enrolled female students.

"A large percentage of students come here as freshmen right out of high school and are full-time students," said Bonnie Krupp, deputy director of institutional planning and analysis. "Cal Poly is a residential campus, as opposed to commuter schools where people tend to be transfer students after going to community colleges, or are only part-time students."

Last fall, the average age of undergraduate students was 21

versus an average of 24 years for all undergraduate students in the CSU system. The average age of Cal Poly students has actually decreased for a few years, according to old Poly View data. In fall 1997, the average age for undergraduate students at the university was 22, and by fall 2000 it was 21.

"I would think students would be older because they have to stick around so long to get their degrees," said Rose Ignacio, an industrial technology senior.

According to fall 2001 Poly View data, 95 percent of students enrolled during fall 2001 came to Cal Poly from within California; 24 percent of students originated from the San Francisco Bay Area; 19 percent were from San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Monterey counties; and 16 percent of students came from the Los Angeles area.

"I don't really think that out-of-state people pay attention to (Cal Poly) San Luis Obispo because nobody really knows about it," said Andrew Rice, a business administration graduate student. "Agriculture and engineering are the only really well-known programs."

The top high schools that

see CENSUS, page 4

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Sexual orientation not covered by Montana hate crimes law

Editor's note:

On Tuesday, Feb. 5, the University of Montana's newspaper reported that two UM faculty members, along with the American Civil Liberties Union, had filed a lawsuit against the Montana University System for refusing benefits to same-sex partners of lesbian and gay employees.

The next day, Carla Grayson, one of the professors involved in the lawsuit, received a threatening letter, addressed to her and her partner. That same day, a similar letter was sent to the second plaintiff.

On Friday, Feb. 8, Grayson's house was set on fire.

"Police are treating the arson as an attempted murder," the Montana Kaimin newspaper reported Feb. 9.

When the Mustang Daily contacted Montana Kaimin editors Monday, the search for suspects continued and the lawsuit was still pending.

By Bryan O'Connor

MONTANA KAIMIN

(U-WIRE) MISSOULA, Mont. — Hate crime. Two words people don't utter in Missoula, Mont., often. But when they do, it's usually about an event that is far away from a town which prides itself on its diversity and openness.

But last Friday, while police and firemen began investigating an arson and attempted murder case in Missoula, people began to speculate that this was a hate crime.

The arson occurred at the home of Carla Grayson and Adrianne Neff, an openly gay couple who just days before announced that they were plaintiffs in a lawsuit seeking to gain same-sex health benefits from the Montana University system. Grayson and Neff, along with

other plaintiffs in the case, received death threats in the mail.

Missoula police have said the couple's sexual orientation was probably the cause of the arson and threats, but also said they cannot rule out other motives.

Under the Federal Hate Crime Prevention Act, the definition of "hate crime" is crime that is motivated by the actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexual orientation of any person. Montana's hate crime statute lists those same motivations, but fails to include sexual orientation.

Montana is one of 27 states that does not recognize sexual orientation as a requirement for a hate crime. During the last legislative session, a battle was fought and lost

by human rights and gay rights groups to amend the statute to include sexual orientation.

While the 2001 Legislature discussed the hate crime statute, two Montana men were severely beaten in separate incidents because they were gay. One of them, a 22-year-old Carroll College student, had "Die Fag" written on his body with marker. The other, a Billings bartender at a gay bar, was beaten nearly to death and suffered brain damage.

This was the fifth time the Montana Legislature considered adding sexual orientation to the motivations for a hate crime, and the fifth time it was rejected.

Until local authorities complete an investigation or find a suspect, it is unclear what federal involvement may occur. The FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms have taken an interest in the case, but have not assumed jurisdiction.

Bill Mercer, Montana U.S. attorney, could not be reached for comment on Monday as to what actions will be taken in the case, if any.

David Aronofsky, UM legal counsel, said if the perpetrators of the crime crossed state lines to commit the crime, a federal prosecution could ensue.

The threatening letters and the anthrax hoax could also trigger a



LISA HORNSTEIN/MONTANA KAIMIN

Plaintiff Carla Grayson is an assistant professor in the psychology department at the University of Montana. Grayson is suing the Montana University System for discriminating against same sex partners under the health care and benefits plan. Grayson received threatening letters and her house was set on fire after the lawsuit was made public Feb. 5.

federal investigation, because they were mailed by the U.S. Postal Service, he said.

If a suspect is found, Grayson and Neff could sue the person for damages, Aronofsky said.

"In this case," he said, "they could sue for actual and punitive damages in a civil suit as well."

Jeff Renz, a professor at the UM

School of Law, said Montana has a law that prohibits people from being tried in state court after they have been convicted in federal court. He also said he is sure the person responsible for the crimes will be found.

"All it takes is a fingerprint or a little DNA," Renz said.

Detroit students, teachers protest to keep affirmative action

By Jordan Schrader

MICHIGAN DAILY

(U-WIRE) ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Kicking off a weekend-long civil rights conference, more than 300 students from primarily Detroit-area public schools marched through the streets of Central Campus en route to the Diag, an outdoor common area located in the middle of central campus on Friday, chanting "We won't take re-segregation, we want quality education."

Several teachers and administrators from Detroit schools accompanied their students, who were let out of school for the day to attend the field trip to the University of Michigan. Members of the Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action and Integration and Fight for Equality By Any Means Necessary (BAMN) recruited the stu-

dents by speaking at their schools, said Janaya Williams, a student at Philip J. Murray-Wright High School.

"We think we can stop affirmative action from being taken away from us," Williams said.

Speakers at the rally, which began the Second National Conference of the New Civil Rights Movement, addressed issues such as affirmative action in higher education, de facto segregation in inner-city public schools and inadequacy of education in those schools.

"We know that black people are not inferior ... but if you go to the black schools in urban Detroit you get an inferior education," said College of Literature, Science and the Arts sophomore and BAMN member Agnes Aleobua.

BAMN members who spoke asked participants to rally more people to

their cause, find more signatures for the petition in support of affirmative action and to continue being active in protests — including a march to the Supreme Court if it agrees to hear any future appeal in the lawsuits challenging the university's use of race in admissions.

The next major protest will be a "sick-out" held on Feb. 20, said BAMN member Luke Massie. On that day, students, teachers and workers in Detroit schools will not attend school, and will instead gather for a rally at Martin Luther King High School in Detroit.

"I don't know how much good it will do to close the schools. I do support their ultimate goals ... to keep the door open to higher education," said Norman Grange, an administrator from Lewis Cass Technical High School who accompanied the students to Ann Arbor.

▼ "We know that black people are not inferior ... but if you go to the black schools in urban Detroit you get an inferior education."

Agnes Aleobua
BAMN member

"We came so we can get better chances to get into schools like (the university)," said Joshua Reed, a Cass Tech High School student.

Reed said he also hopes activism will improve the quality of high schools, including technology and books.

Counter-protesters from the student group Young Americans for Freedom also attended the rally, bearing signs with messages like "Diversity is more than skin deep."

YAF members stood in a line in the middle of the Diag, quietly holding up their signs while a crowd of affirmative action supporters shouted angrily at them. At least two of the counter-protesters' signs were ripped apart. From the steps of the Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, speakers threw both insults and snowballs at them.

"It was worse at the beginning, but toward the end the conversation went pretty well," said LSA freshman Scott Foley, a YAF member.

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University students rethink decision to study abroad

By Jennifer Drury
THE GW HATCHET

(U-WIRE) WASHINGTON — George Washington University officials are encouraging students to continue with plans to study abroad next semester, but with an added note of caution. With anti-American sentiments flaring in many countries in the wake of a war on terrorism in the Middle East, students studying abroad said that concealing their American roots is a warranted idea.

Lynn Leonard, director of GW's Office for Study Abroad, said students living abroad should keep a low profile, advising them not to hang out or travel with large groups of Americans. She also recommends that students vary their routines while overseas and not wear distinctive American clothing. GW currently has 236 students studying in other countries this semester, she said.

"You have to understand you are more visible as an American abroad, so you should consider that as you travel overseas," she said.

The office has received phone calls from parents with children abroad and those debating going in the spring. Leonard said parents call because they want to make informed decisions and be reassured that their kids will be safe.

Some students living abroad advised students to take the new warnings seriously.

Bridget Belknap, a junior studying in Aix-en-Provence, France, through the Institute for American Universities, said anti-American sentiment is high overseas and described her experience as "surreal."

"We've been through various meetings and information sessions through our program, telling us to be discreet, never travel in large groups and basically pretend we're not Americans for our own safety," she said.

Belknap said she has heard reports of Americans being attacked.

"While we read in the papers about Arab-Americans being targeted in hate crimes in the U.S., here it's quite the opposite," she said. "Here, there are Americans getting beat up and harassed."

Other students abroad said they have felt very little anti-American sentiment overseas. Living in Argentina this semester, Tova Mannis said she feels safe in her host country. "Argentina is probably a safer place than most at the moment since it is pretty isolated from the events and the politics in the U.S.," she said.

Despite her safe experience so far, Mannis said students should be aware that Americans are not popular in many areas.

"Just be careful who you talk to and what you say," she said. "Never let your guard down. Although I have had very few negative experiences, there is a lot of resentment toward the United States abroad."

Even with fears circling around studying abroad, GW has not seen a decrease in applications for spring semester programs or a change in where they are applying, Leonard said.

"We are not completely done with the application process, but our preliminary analysis shows there is no tremendous change in where students are applying," she said. "Our school sends very few students to the Middle East; students tend to travel to Western Europe, and the same is true to this year."

The study abroad office has received about 300 applications for next semester — which Leonard said is average — that are mostly for Western Europe. Most students apply to GW's study centers in Madrid and Paris, and only a handful generally apply to study in Morocco, Turkey, Jordan and India.

Numbers of applications for those areas were unavailable.

Leonard said GW is allowing students to go on all programs available, and she does not expect any to be canceled. The university sent 600 students to 40 countries last year with

"As an international affairs major, I had every intention on going away next semester, but I'm worried about what kind of backlash I would get as an American abroad right now."

Randi Retter

George Washington University junior

one-third of the junior class traveling overseas.

Guaranteeing the safety of every student in every country is impossible, Leonard said. She said the office works closely with students in orientation sessions, teaching them safety precautions and informing them of the resources available abroad.

Safety concerns have prompted some students to reconsider their travel plans.

"I've already decided that I can't go abroad in the spring," junior Randi Retter said. "As an international affairs major, I had every intention on going away next semester, but I'm worried about what kind of backlash I would get as an American abroad right now."

GW is not the only university with a concerned student body.

Boston University's overseas program director Ben DeWinter said he has heard from worried students and

parents. BU sends almost 20 percent of its students to international programs every year, he said.

"We work closely with resident directors in all the countries we send students to make sure they are safe," DeWinter said.

Leonard said several programs are trying to help students decide whether to travel overseas by extending deadlines and being more flexible on refunds for their deposits.

Junior Rich Reinemann said he intends to participate in the GW Madrid program next semester if he is accepted.

"Before Sept. 11, I never really thought about there being a threat to my safety, but now I am definitely going to be more cautious overseas," Reinemann said. "(The attacks) proves to me that D.C. is no safer than anywhere else, so there is really no reason not to go abroad."

FOREIGN

continued from page 2

of California, Santa Barbara.

"It was the first time I was able to meet people from all over the world," he said. "It was mostly people from North Africa and the old French colonies."

Thompson also completed his graduate work in France and said that a lot of the students there were Asian.

"I learned a lot about Chinese food from living in France," he said.

There is one main difference foreign students notice between Cal Poly and their home campuses, and that is the difference in the night- and social lives.

"In Germany, there are a lot of par-

ties," Grachinha said. "Here, it is quite dead."

Devaux agreed that her lifestyle in Paris was more social, and the friendships she has there are much stronger.

"When you meet people in the U.S., they are really friendly right away, but don't follow up on it," she said. "It is the opposite in France - but when you're in, you're friends for life."

Devaux added that if one doesn't keep in touch often with American friends, eventually "you stop existing."

Kaspar agreed that he has had to get used to his current social life in San Luis Obispo.

"There are no bars to smoke in around California," he said, "and in Utah it is tough to get a drink altogether."

DIVERSITY

continued from page 2

finally trickled down to affect state universities, Fabionar said.

"If you take a campus without a high diversity rate and couple it with no sense of community, (the students) will have a feeling of alienation," he said.

But there is an up side to this issue, he said.

"Students of color are starting to come together," he said, citing the Martin Luther King Jr. march and the upcoming Culture Fest as two examples of fresh cohesiveness among minority students.

"We're working with ASI and local businesses to develop projects of diversity that celebrate differences and brings the disparity into the light," Fabionar said.

He added that Cal Poly is working on addressing the issue of diversity on campus through a new group called

the University Diversity Enhancement Committee, chaired by dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Harry Hellenbrand.

The issue of diversity at Cal Poly was raised a few years ago, Fabionar said, when a student coalition for diversity conducted a successful protest, since they were open to working with the university. It was after this event that administrators realized that Cal Poly was not an accurate reflection of California's demographics. President Warren Baker created the position of "Connections for Academic Success" to encourage students to complete their degree at Cal Poly and to do it well.

"But really, what is diversity?" Fabionar asked. "Do we define it legally, or by socioeconomic status, or by race? I think it means to get people with different experiences, racial, ethnic, gender and class backgrounds, together. All (of these) elements go into diversity."

CENSUS

continued from page 2

incoming students graduated from were all local or in the Bay Area. They included San Luis Obispo, Atascadero and Arroyo Grande high schools, as well as Archbishop Mitty in San Jose, St. Francis High School in Mountain View, and Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton.

Another reported fact was that the average high school grade point average and SAT scores for incoming freshmen has increased through the years. In fall 1997, the average GPA was 3.6, and the average SAT score was 1,159. Now the average GPA is 3.64, and SAT scores are around 1,169.

The same trend has been occurring for transfer students: in fall

1997 the average college GPA was 3.09. Last fall it was 3.22.

"Every year the number of applications to Cal Poly goes up. The more applications we get, the more selective we can be," said Krupp. "Our reputation gets better because we have better students and so the university becomes a higher choice for students. ... Our competition is UCs and private schools, not really other CSUs."

One trend that students may not be aware of is that the Cal Poly student population is slowly approaching an equal number of female and male students.

This fall the undergraduate student population was 44.7 percent female and 55.3 percent male. This is up from fall 1990, when Cal Poly's undergraduate population was 41.9 percent female and 58.1 percent male.

Surprisingly, the CSU system in general has more females than males. At Cal Poly, the biggest programs are traditionally male fields, even though some colleges such as the College of Agriculture, the College of Liberal Arts, and the College of Science and Math have more female students. The increase in female students in general at Cal Poly may be because more women are going into fields that they didn't enter before, Krupp said.

Taryn LeFort, a math senior, is happy about having more female students on campus.

"I take a lot of engineering classes, and there are a lot of male students in them," LeFort said. "It is less intimidating if there are more female students in the classroom."

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Sanding, shaping, tracing: Making surfboards is daily habit for Poly student

By Justin Ruttkay

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Specks of dust billow out the sides of dusty hands as they put the final touches on what was once a square piece of foam. For a surfer, a surfboard is a vehicle of expression, but for the shaper, the board itself is his art-work.

While most architecture students are busy building models of houses, parks and towers, architecture senior Brandon Cover spends his spare time creating surfboards. The student surfer has been making surfboards for Poly students ever since he came to San Luis Obispo four years ago. B.C. Surfboards, the name of his board label, was born when Cover was a high school sophomore in Santa Barbara. He saw a piece of surfboard foam for sale in the newspaper, bought it and created his first hand-shaped surfboard.

"I didn't think I would have anything to lose buying the thing since it was only 20 bucks, and I had always wanted to mess around with shaping surfboards," Cover said.

Selling his first board set off the drive to want to shape more. Cover started by making long and short boards. Later he experimented with making "fun" shapes, which incorporate his own style into more non-traditional models.

Being a self-taught surfboard shaper was difficult at first, he said.

"In the winter it's much more fun to have a board that's bigger. It allows you more speed and energy on the wave."

Brandon Cover
surfboard maker

He didn't have anyone to tell him what he was doing wrong. It wasn't until he got a job working at Central Coast Fiberglass that his skills improved at fast pace. Sanding and finishing all of the boards that people sent there allowed him to see how better shapers work. This gave him new ideas on how to improve his designs.

"I just started figuring out how to make really clean shapes that the rider of the board could respond well to on the wave," he said.

His local shaping career began with making all of the boards for his two roommates, who are also surfers at Cal Poly. Currently, he shapes three to five a month for anyone who is looking for a custom-made surfboard.

"His boards are sick," mechanical engineering senior Mike Starkey said. "They're the only boards I ride."

The amount of work that goes into shaping a surfboard is enormous, Cover said. He described it as an eight-step process in which the shaper tries to make the perfect form for a particular surfer.

"Each surfer has a different style

and finding what type of board suits them best is a real challenge," he said.

Cover's specialty is shaping "mini-guns." These range from 6 feet 8 inches to 8 feet in length and are traditionally ridden in bigger and heavier waves, he said.

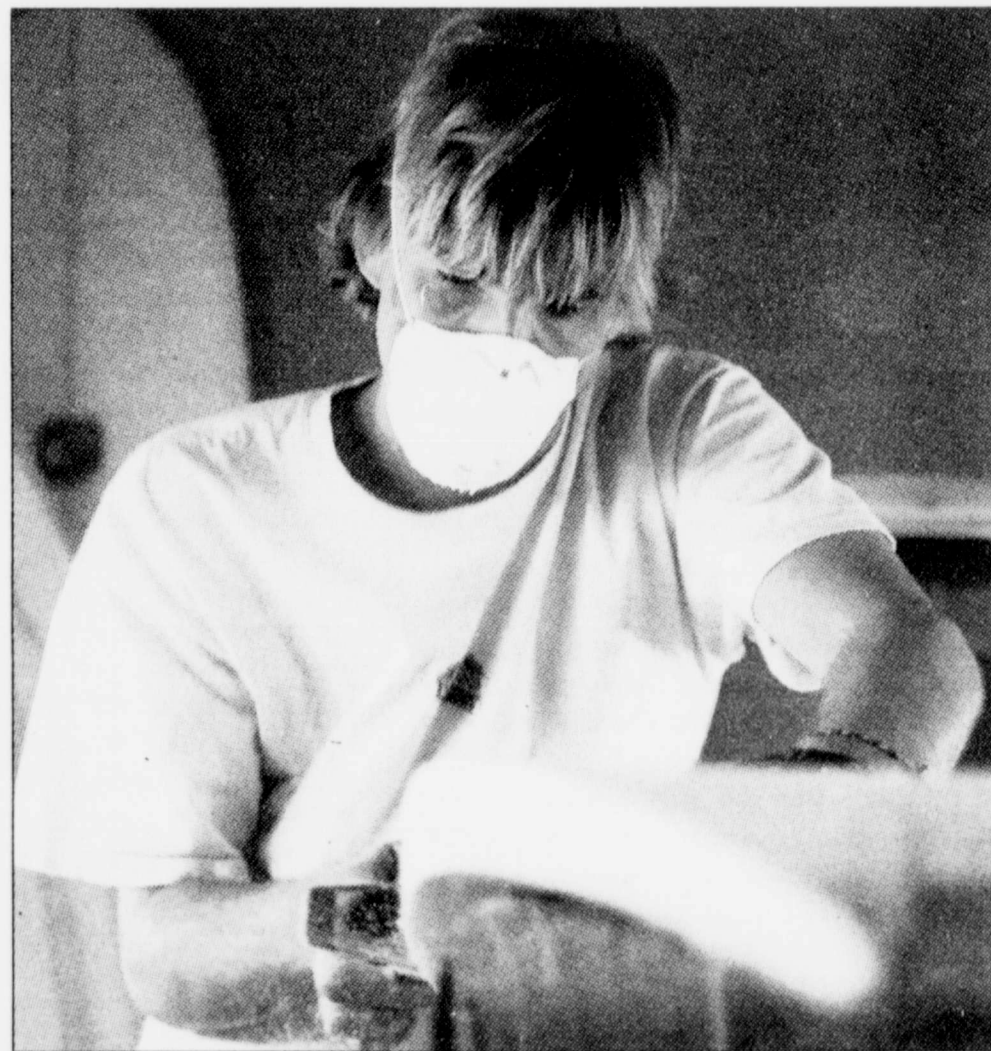
"In the winter it's much more fun to have a board that's bigger," Cover said. "It allows you more speed and energy on the wave."

Although the extra income from shaping boards is a bonus, the pleasure comes from wanting to create something of his own, Cover said.

He shapes for the fun of it and sees it more as a hobby than a job. Making surfboards isn't a goal he is pursuing for a future career, he said. Next year is his last year at Poly, and finishing up with school is what he wants to get out of the way first.

"There definitely isn't much money in making surfboards," he said. "It's just a great thing to do."

He sells his boards out of his house on Mill Street. The average waiting period for a surfboard is three weeks, he said. Cover can be reached via e-mail at bcover@calpoly.edu



AARON LAMBERT/MUSTANG DAILY

Architecture senior Brandon Cover sands the edge of a foam blank as he prepares it to be shaped into a surfboard.



Above, Cover traces an outline of the foam blank. The trace is the outline he will follow when cutting the foam with a hand saw. Right, he shapes the foam after it is cut. Cover works at Central Coast Fiberglass, where, during his free time, he can make himself a new surfboard in time for the next day's sets.



AARON LAMBERT/MUSTANG DAILY



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Diversity is more than skin color

I could sit here and talk about the plethora of students from different ethnic backgrounds I've had the pleasure of meeting since I've been at Cal Poly. I could talk about their individual races and discuss the intricacies of their experiences here, and why they chose to attend this reputable university on the Central Coast. I could even talk

Commentary

about my close friendships with these folks and how we quite obviously differ from one another. But rather than focus my attention on how my bright red hair and pale skin contrast with their dark hair and skin, I'd prefer to focus on the differences that lie deeper than our skin color.

Diversity is a subject that lends itself to many categories, for people and things can be diverse in infinite ways (thus Webster's Pocket Dictionary definition, "involving different forms"). When one hears the word "diversity," race is a key factor that often springs to mind. I could beat a dead horse and go on to say that Cal Poly isn't very racially diverse, but we've been there, done that and got the T-shirt. I'm more interested in the distinctions that go beyond race, and Cal Poly has a lot to offer in that department.

Every day that I stroll around campus, I am presented with dozens of prime examples of the type of dress, style and personal characteristics that separate us from one another.

As I grow older and become increasingly exposed to people from all sorts of backgrounds, I can't help but marvel at the fact that we're acquainted at all, or even get along, for that matter. Take my first roommate here, for example. I found my residence online two weeks before I transferred to Cal Poly in 2000. It was a shared room in a house that I had never seen with two people I had never met. I spoke on the phone with the girl I was replacing (she was off to Spain for a semester) and received my only information about the living situation from her.

Looking back, I wasn't at all scared about what kind of people my new roommates were. I probably should have been, but I was completely open to new experiences at the ripe ol' age of 19. I finally met my roommate the day I moved in, and I quickly discovered that we didn't have much in common.

Other than the obvious physical features that distinguished us from one another (she had long blond hair, blue eyes and tan skin - all the markings of a surfer girl), I learned that she listened to alternative-type music, loved to skateboard but hated to surf, and didn't much like to dance. I, on the other hand, listened to mostly rap and hip-hop, didn't have enough balance to skateboard, and absolutely lived to dance.

Nevertheless, we got along fabulously. Aside from being roommates, we often hung out together and even took a trip to Santa Barbara during the six months I lived there. I'm not sure I would have ever met this girl had we not lived together, as we were about as different as night and day. However, I think our varied backgrounds made us more interesting to each other and actually added to our friendship.

Diversity encompasses so much more than race that it seems silly to limit its definition to that exclusively. So, the next time you involve yourself in a discussion concerning Cal Poly's diversity, expand your mind and open your eyes to the truly diverse world around you.

Barbara Bowden is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Letters to the editor

Give residents some credit

Editor,

This letter is in response to Cory Dugan's commentary of Feb. 25 ("Students and alcohol: always a pair"). I wrote this letter because Mr. Dugan's commentary was, for me, the proverbial "straw that broke the camel's back." Since I have been at this school, I have heard almost constant complaints from everyone, ranging from the average student on up to our "illustrious" ASI president, about how the residents of San Luis Obispo hate college students because of their drinking and noisy parties. These same people argue that drinking is part of college life and that the residents are just going to have to learn to deal with it. But has anyone ever considered that the residents might be right? And why is drinking among college students inevitable? Don't try to give me the excuse that there is nothing else to do in San Luis Obispo. That is the most ridiculous reason I've ever heard. If you like drinking because of the feeling it gives you, that's great, but stop hiding behind the excuse that there is nothing else to do. I personally don't drink, and somehow I manage to have a good time every weekend. You don't believe me? Here are just a few suggestions: have a bonfire at the beach, play a board game with friends, go dancing at The Grad, read a book, hang out with your friends, go to the movies, make a late night run to In N' Out, hike up to the "P" for a little star gazing, etc. Those are just a few examples. We are all intelligent around here; be creative. There is always something to do.

It is truly sad if you have to use mind-altering substances to have a good time, because it says one of two things about you. Either you yourself are uninteresting and have to change your state of mind to become interesting, or the people you hang out with are uninteresting people and have to use mind-altering substances to become so. Try breaking out of the mold of the stereotypical college student that goes drinking every weekend.

On another note, I'd just like to say congratulations to our ASI president for fighting the earlier disputed alcohol ordinance, thus fighting the entire idea of being responsible for your actions and the consequences of your actions for other people. By the way, it is illegal for minors to be drinking, Ms. Hacker, and if you are providing the alcohol, you should be responsible.

Hopefully this letter has enlightened some. You don't need alcohol to have a good time. There is stuff to do in San Luis Obispo that doesn't involve drinking. For more suggestions, you may try stopping by the WOW office. Their entire program is dry, so I'm sure they have some ideas of what you could do for fun around this town. And as a final comment, try to put yourselves in residents' shoes and then think about your drinking habits.

Joshua Erquiaga is a biochemistry sophomore.

Women's sports still unequal

Editor,

I must say that the article "Female athletes overcome lack of funding to gain equality with male sports" (Feb. 21) made me laugh. Yes, Title IX has provided the opportunity for more women to compete in intercollegiate athletics. However, as a member of Cal Poly's club field hockey and lacrosse teams, I must say there is still a long way to go for funding for women's sports. Not a lot has changed since 1965, apparently. We still have to drive ourselves to games, provide our own gas money, purchase our own equipment and tote our sleeping bags with us to away games while we camp out at family and friends' houses. Not to even mention the team fees that come out of our

own pockets that range from \$75 to \$250 per season. We are as much athletes as our NCAA-sponsored teams, yet receive much less funding and support from the school. We do not get scholarships, uniforms, travel expenses paid for and our own gym to work out in. Nor do we get the media support and acknowledgement we deserve. We are as much a representation of our school as other teams, yet get much less support. While the football field is beautifully manicured and taken care of, it is an uphill battle to get the administration to cut the recreation field the appropriate length to play field hockey on. What drives us is our true passion for the sports we play. The women's field hockey team came in second in the state this season, and the women's lacrosse teams are currently ranked No. 1 and No. 2 in their respective leagues (<http://www.wvll.com/cgi/standings>). Title IX has helped many women, but there is still a long way to go in funding support for women's teams at Cal Poly.

Shannon Rudd is a graphic communications junior and goalkeeper for Cal Poly's field hockey and lacrosse "B" teams.

There are bigger fish to fry

Editor,

While reading the Feb. 22 article "Frat Web master accused of taking site design," I began to think: Why do people have to make such a big deal over situations that are, in the long run, petty? As of today, both DSP and PCE have new Web sites. Whether or not DSP "stole" Miss Chu's design, I don't know. I am just curious as to why she would not accept their apology and leave it at that. As a graphic communication and business major, I know the value of intellectual property, but I also know very well what generic looks like. Yes, the sites looked alike. But let's face it, they were nothing extremely unique or creative. The new Web sites both look better anyway. My point is, in this day and age, why can't people just move on? They are two organizations at Cal Poly. They are full of students with one goal: to graduate (and have some fun while doing it). So what if two Web sites looked alike somewhere down the line? I don't want to discredit Miss Chu, because if DSP did use her material they should have credited her. But I really think that in order for both groups to just to move on, Chu should accept their apology and put her efforts into Web site design or another interest.

Lauren Perley is a business junior.

Fuel to the flames

Editor,

In reading Chrissy Roth's response ("Race is a useless fact in this article," Feb. 11) to the dorm altercation article ("Disruption in dorms leads to arrest," Feb. 7), my impression halfway was that she had much the same to say as Laura Newman. A taboo was made in the reporting of the event by mentioning the race of those involved. Yes, I follow her this far. To then stereotype the very group of individuals she intended to defend in our school rag was in bad taste. A style of hair, the cars she may have seen driven by a person of Asian descent, even an allusion to what their names may have been, all sunk Roth to the same level of the article she felt so moved to bash. It is my hope that the Daily ran her letter opposite Laura Newman's to give our student audience a deeply contrasting spectrum of how to go about voicing one's opinion here on campus.

Laura Newman gave the thought and insight she felt necessary to get her point across in a

respectful manner, while Roth fed off a broad generalization to hear herself think. To wrap things up, she couldn't help but narrow-mindedly foreshadow an article under different pretenses for the effect of catering to the masses, if you will. Assuming there to be "an absolute improbability" of the Daily identifying any other race is a mute point. An event occurred, a statement was made, and Roth came in, guns of naivety blazing. Next time keep the safety on.

Sean Ryan is an architecture junior.

What are you adding?

Editor,

Mr. Moreno, in your letter of Feb. 11 ("Numbers in new dorms don't add up"), without stating outright that you felt 400 new parking spaces would not adequately service 700 new students in the new dorm proposal, you assumed that each and every one of those new students would possess a vehicle to fill those precious spots. Granted, parking on campus has always been a heated topic, but I think that your concern is shallowly thought out. Since not all of us were privileged enough to own a car when we came to Cal Poly, as you may or may not have been, I find it hard to assume that more than half of these new students will.

As you may or may not know, a car is not necessary to traverse our painfully small town, and I would hope that not all 700 of these "proposed" students would bring a car to school. I understand your concern for our future fellow classmates, but don't make hasty generalizations about their vehicular capabilities. A Cal Poly where there are as many parking spaces as students, staff and other personnel would resemble a nightmarish sea of blacktop instead of green rolling hills. I don't want that. I'm sure you don't either. Are we to pave ground for parking lots so that, if each and every student wanted to park a car on campus, they could? Well raise your voice a little, Mr. Moreno.

It just might happen.

Sean Ryan is an architecture junior.

NEW

Letter policy

Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanities and length. Please limit length to 250 words.

Letters should include the writer's full name, phone number, major and class standing.

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Women face uphill struggle for top U. of Iowa posts

By Gigi Wood
THE DAILY IOWAN

(U-WIRE) IOWA CITY, Iowa — Women seeking to become effective leaders at the University of Iowa need to work outside the office as much as they do inside, said a high-ranking university department head.

"You have to become part of that network outside of formal meetings," said Cynda Johnson, head of family medicine in the UI College of Medicine.

Johnson is one of four female department heads in the college, which on July 1 will join an elite group that includes Harvard and Stanford universities when the recently appointed Laurie Fajardo takes her post as the head of the radiology department.

Only four medical schools in the nation, aside from the UI, can boast five or more female department heads, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Although hiring Fajardo is a step in the right direction, medical school Dean Robert Kelch said sex inequality is still a problem at the UI.

"Forty-four percent of students entering medical school are women," he said. "We are working toward a proportionate representation of women at all levels, but always by recruiting the very best people."

Fajardo, a professor at Johns

Hopkins Medical Institutions, will be the only female in charge of a radiology department in the country. Still, some critics say the university is not doing enough to recruit women and minorities for leadership positions.

Joe Coulter, the UI associate provost for diversity, said progress toward increased diversity at the university has been slow.

"In the past five to six years, it's been a chilly environment for women and minorities," he said, referring to what he calls a nationwide political backlash against affirmative action. "It's also partly because of the conviction that the battle's been won — that we don't need to worry about this anymore."

Since Mary Sue Coleman's appointment as UI president in 1995, the number of tenure and tenure-track women at the university has increased by approximately 5 percent, from 22 to 26.6 percent in 2001, according to the office of the provost. In 1991 the number was 23.6 percent.

Ann Rhodes, who has been at the UI for 25 years in roles ranging from student to senior administrator, said the number of women and minorities on campus is not as high as it should be.

"There has been no visible increase," said Rhodes, who currently serves as associate counsel for the UI general counsel.

UC searches for ways to increase underrepresented minority admits

By Helen Hwang
DAILY CALIFORNIAN

(U-WIRE) BERKELEY, Calif. — Despite efforts to represent minorities better in the four years since the end of affirmative action, the percentage of underrepresented groups in the University of California system has not yet reached pre-Proposition 209 levels.

Currently UCs student population has a 15 percent minority ratio. In 1997, the first year the university applied the anti-affirmative action proposition, the percentage of minorities in UC Berkeley's entering class fell from 22 to 11 percent. Some fear educational outreach programs, the UC Board's comprehensive review of admission policy, or even the possible elimination of the SAT I from consideration will not be enough to bring diversity to the campus.

The only way to compensate for the loss of affirmative action is to broaden educational opportunity — a goal that can be reached only if the state of California commits to building more campuses, said Ling-chi Wang, Berkeley's ethnic studies department head.

She added while programs such as educational outreach have increased the pool of minority applicants, they fail to address the underlying problem.

"We have spent \$1 billion in the last four years on educational outreach, but what good is it to have more people applying if we don't have room for them?" Wang asked.

Early Academic Outreach is one UC program designed to increase opportunities for university admission. It offers high school students

ongoing support and advises them about career and college plans. Wang said she believes the program is not enough.

"If we are looking at achieving more diversity, the economic outreach program will help, but it will not replace affirmative action," she said.

Wang said she had seen a significant decrease in the diversity level of the campus in the last few years, calling the change a "disservice to this institution."

However, Jorge Melgoza, Berkeley/West Contra Costa High School coordinator for Early Academic Outreach, said while the program shows students "possibilities that they sometimes don't receive in high school," there is only so much it can do.

He echoed Wang's sentiments and said the state of California needs more campuses across the board — high schools, middle schools and elementary schools, as well as universities.

Assistant Vice Chancellor of Admissions and Enrollment Richard Black said there were several problems involved.

"We need to raise academic preparedness of high schools, increase college enrollment, and up the capacity of community colleges, state (uni-

versities) and UCs," Black said. "It is absolutely important for UCs as a public institution that is supported by taxpayers to have all of California's communities represented."

Wang said while UCs should be applauded for attempting to increase diversity in the absence of affirmative action, the proposals it has made are not sufficient. UCs should shift their focus away from finding a replacement for affirmative action and address the real problem of "limited opportunity," Wang said.


The expected influx of students from Tidal Wave II, combined with California's current budget crisis, already has put the resources of UC campuses under strain; a 10th UC campus, however, is expected to open in 2004.

UC Merced, which is already allocated \$162.4 million by Gov. Gray Davis, will be the first new campus since UC Riverside was established in 1959. Many said they believe a new campus will help the UC represent the growing state.

"The population of California has doubled, but have we doubled the number of campuses?" Wang asked.

She said the plans for UC Merced are a "long-overdue step forward."

Richard Black
assistant vice chancellor of Admissions and Enrollment



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Mustangs take finale, stop losing streak

By Bridgette Vanherweg
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The Mustangs redeemed themselves in a 9-4 victory against San Jose State on Sunday, after losing the first two games of the weekend's non-conference home series against the Spartans.

Sunday's game also broke the Mustangs' seven-game losing streak. Their last win against the Spartans was Feb. 9 in San Jose.

Senior righthander Kevin Correia threw seven innings on Sunday, holding the Spartans scoreless until the fourth inning, while allowing three runs and three hits. He struck out four and walked five.

"Throwing a lot of strikes helped, making them hit the ball," Correia said.

After Saturday's 18-6 wipeout, Mustang head coach Ritch Price was optimistic about Correia starting Sunday's matchup.

"The difference between (Saturday) and (Sunday) was that Correia was dominating on the mound," Price said. "He showed why he's the ace of our staff, holding them to four hits and giving us a great performance. After yesterday, that's exactly what we needed to get back on a winning track."

Junior first baseman Tony Alcantar initialized a 2-0 lead for the Mustangs with a two-run home run over the center field fence in the first inning, his third of the year. Sophomore Chalon Tietje added his first home run of the season in the fourth inning.

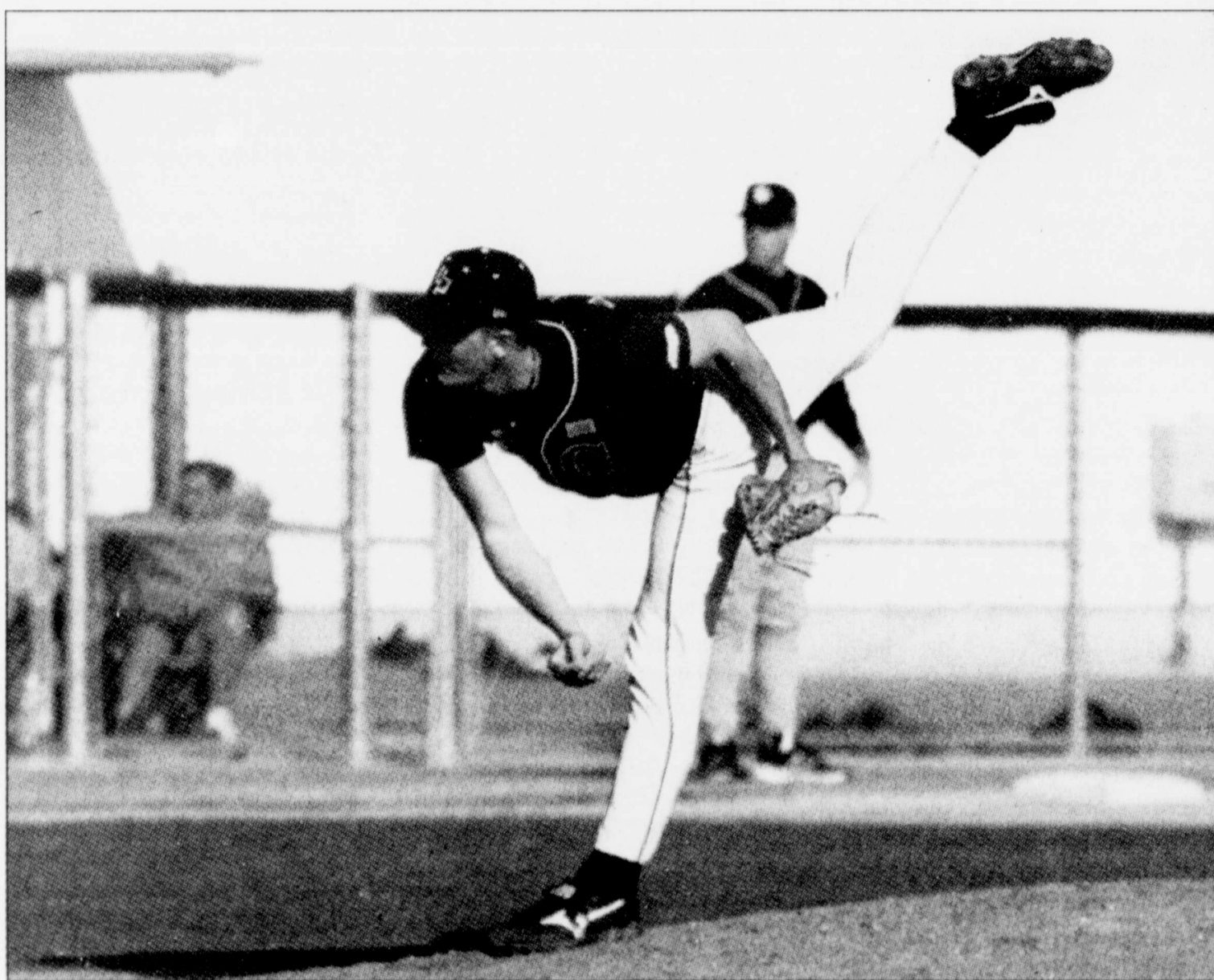
Cal Poly out-hit the Spartans 11-4, with help from junior third baseman Aaron Escobedo's three singles and two second-inning runs.

San Jose State second baseman Gabe Lopez led his team with three singles.

After Sunday's victory, the Mustangs were relieved to finally add to the win column.

"I'm just happy we lost the losing streak," said junior lefthander Ryan Rocheleau. "It's nice to win after losing that many games."

On Saturday, San Jose State right-fielder Travis Becktel had a 5-for-6 showing at the plate, with a home run,



FILE PHOTO/MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly freshman Andrew McDaniel throws a pitch during Saturday's game against San Jose State. The Mustangs lost that game 18-6 but defeated the Spartans on Sunday 9-4.

a double and four RBI. The Spartans gained an 18-6 victory over Cal Poly.

Price categorized Saturday's game as the season's worst.

"I feel like it's the first time in the league history that we didn't play well," he said. "I thought we were handling it properly and we were playing well until (Saturday), and now it's a concern for me, because now all of a sudden the losing streak is turning into an awful performance, and we need to get it stopped."

San Jose State scored at least one run in each of the first seven innings. Starter Greg Bochy (2-2) suffered the loss for the Mustangs, surrendering six runs, all earned, and five hits in one-plus innings.

Cal Poly used seven pitchers Saturday. Price said the team's pitching is "going through some growing pains."

"We've got a lot of young guys in the bullpen that are still trying to grow into being able to pitch at this level," he said. Sophomore catcher Kyle Wilson seemed to match the somber attitude that floated across a windy Baggett field after Saturday's game.

"It was a peak on the losing streak," Wilson said. "We had a couple chances for a couple big innings, and we just didn't get it done."

Cal Poly defense came on stronger in the last two innings, holding the Spartans to their only scoreless innings and striking them out quick in the ninth.

"We had the opportunity to win all six of our last games, and obviously we lost some games late, and lost some games by a run, but (Saturday was) the first day that I've felt like we got behind early and just shut it down," Price said. "I didn't think we played as hard as we could."

"(San Jose) is a fine team — they were in the College World Series two years ago," he said. "If you leave the ball up, they're going to hurt you, and they hurt us real bad (Saturday)."

On Friday, San Jose State beat the Mustangs 5-2. Spartan senior righthander Jeremy Rogelstad held Cal Poly to six singles, striking out nine and walking two.

Age shouldn't matter for NBA-wannabes

The 6-foot-7 basketball player soars gracefully through the air on his way to the basket and slam-dunks the ball with ease. The small yet enthusiastic crowd cheers wildly, knowing this might be their last chance to see the superstar in person.

The athlete is not Michael Jordan fresh off a comeback, but an unknown player named LeBron James. The stadium is not the MCI Center in Washington, D.C., but

rather, the school gym at St. Vincent-St. Mary High in Akron, Ohio. Yet playing in the MCI Center, or any other NBA stadium, is fully within James' sights. So is graduating from high school, and to understand his story, you need to know that he just turned 17.

James was only a twinkle in his mother's eye when Jordan made his professional debut in 1984, yet he is the media heir apparent to Jordan. James was on the Feb. 18 cover of Sports Illustrated, and he wanted to declare himself eligible for this year's

NBA draft, where he would have been an easy top-five pick.

James is currently averaging 30 points, eight rebounds, and six assists per game and has led his team to consecutive state championships. He was considering challenging the NBA rule that states that a player can't declare for the draft until his high school class graduates. Those plans were eliminated, but barring injury, he is an almost-certain No. 1 pick in the 2003 NBA Draft. College is not even an option; he wants to play the best as soon as possible.

In the past, there has been a controversy over high school seniors declaring themselves for the NBA draft, but James is sparking a new discussion: How early will it go? When will a 12-year-old, straight out of elementary school, declare himself ready to play against Shaquille O'Neal? Those who misunderstand the politics of entertainment routinely use these kinds of slippery-slope arguments, and as a result, young NBA athletes are constantly victims of unwarranted criticism.

It is perfectly status quo in today's

society for consumers to accept Lil' Bow Wow, Mandy Moore or Aaron Carter. Likewise, anyone who is a fan of figure skating must acknowledge the youthfulness of nearly all of the competitors. After all, Michelle Kwan, at 21, is starting to appear "over the hill." Rarely do we hear about the choices these people make to do what they love. But when a basketball player wants to go from high school to the pros, the apocalypse is upon us.

It is hard for me to imagine that a 17-year-old can possibly be ready to go against, say, Kobe Bryant. But wait — Bryant himself came straight out of high school. So did Kevin Garnett and Tracy McGrady, and all three are superstars in today's league. A high school junior who thinks he can make it to the NBA right now should do it if it's right for him. However, diehard some of us sports fans are, none of us knows what is right for James.

It's up to him to decide if he wants a guaranteed multi-million dollar contract to play the game he loves, or for posing in front of a camera and

saying "Just Do It" or "Always Coca-Cola." If the NBA thing doesn't work out, he can always go back to college; a B-average in high school means he's got both the brains and the brawn.

Whatever decisions James ends up making from here, I have his back. He currently has no high school competition, but he is unable to showcase his talents on the highest level. In a capitalist society, he can't gain the profits he, as well as his family living in a poor area of West Akron, Ohio, could definitely use. Is he to blame because he's simply too good? Or is society to blame for claiming, "He's too young," while simultaneously flipping the channel to check out Anna Kournikova? James is ready to dazzle basketball fans all across the country, but until backward thinking is reversed he will have to settle for dazzling basketball fans in Akron, Ohio.

Matt Szabo is a journalism junior and a Mustang Daily staff writer, despite being only 9 years old. E-mail him at mszabo@calpoly.edu.

mustang

SCORE, SCHEDULE BRIEFS

BAR

SCHEDULE

BASEBALL	fri, mar. 1	6 p.m.
vs. stanford	@stanford	
BASEBALL	sat, mar. 2	1 p.m.
vs. stanford	@stanford	
BASEBALL	sun, mar. 3	1 p.m.
vs. stanford	@stanford	
MEN'S BASKETBALL	thu, feb. 28	7 p.m.
vs. uc riverside	@calpoly	
MEN'S BASKETBALL	sat, mar. 2	7 p.m.
vs. csu fullerton	@calpoly	
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	thu, feb. 28	7 p.m.
vs. uc riverside	@riverside	
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	sat, mar. 2	2 p.m.
vs. csu fullerton	@fullerton	
SOFTBALL	fri, mar. 3	12 p.m.
vs. st. mary's	@cal poly	
SOFTBALL	fri, mar. 3	2 p.m.
vs. st. mary's	@cal poly	
MEN'S TENNIS	sun, mar. 3	1 p.m.
vs. santa clara	@santa clara	
WOMEN'S TENNIS	sat, mar. 2	1 p.m.
vs. n. arizona	@santa barbara	
WOMEN'S TENNIS	fri, mar. 8	1:30 p.m.
vs. uc riverside	@calpoly	
WOMEN'S TENNIS	sat, mar. 9	1 p.m.
vs. ucsb	@cal poly	
WOMEN'S TENNIS	sat, mar. 10	10 a.m.
vs. uc davis	@calpoly	
RUGBY	sat, mar. 2	1 p.m.
vs. u. of san diego	@calpoly	
WOMEN'S LACROSSE	fri, mar. 1	tba
vs. u. of rhode island	@calpoly	
WOMEN'S LACROSSE	sat, mar. 2	tba
vs. u. of arizona	@calpoly	
WOMEN'S LACROSSE	sun, mar. 3	tba
vs. u. of redlands	@calpoly	

BRIEFS

Lacrosse gains momentum in Davis win

By Grant Middleton
MUSTANG DAILY SPORTS CLUB CONTRIBUTOR

The Cal Poly men's lacrosse team beat UC Davis 11-6 on Sunday's road game.

The Mustangs had a slow start, allowing Davis to net two goals within the first minute. But the team mounted a comeback, taking the lead at the end of the first quarter by a score of 4-2.

At the beginning of the third quarter, the Mustangs converted two "man up" opportunities to raise the score to 9-3. Davis scored three more goals, but Cal Poly had already secured the lead with strong performances by Tristan Frolich, Blake Bolton and Ryan Oliver. Scoring was led by Jim Fipp, who had three goals, and Matt Ryan, with two more scores. Tim Casey finished the game with a behind-the-back goal.

The Mustangs are looking to gain confidence as the team heads to Tucson to face Fort Lewis-Colorado, Michigan State, and the University of Arizona, a squad ranked 13th in the country. Cal Poly will have to beat all three teams to ensure a spot in the national tournament.