

TODAY'S
WEATHER

High 68°

Low 47°



'SAHARA'

Fast action and comedic storyline guarantees a guilty pleasure

IN ARTS&CULTURE, 5

Men's tennis victory over Santa Clara could give them national ranking

IN SPORTS, 8



Volume LXVIII, Number 95

Monday, April 11, 2005

Mustangdaily@calpoly.edu

Barley, hops and Mustang baseball

During the last nine games of the 2005 baseball season, beer will be made available to students of drinking age

Kristen Oato
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly may not be able to claim "dry campus" status soon.

Starting April 29, for the last nine baseball games of the 2005 season, there will be a trial period where beer will be made available to students and the community at concession stands.

Associated Students Inc. proposed the student-driven initiative, and it has been in the works since the middle of 2004.

"Students have wanted to see alcohol on campus for a very long time,"

said ASI President Blake Bolton.

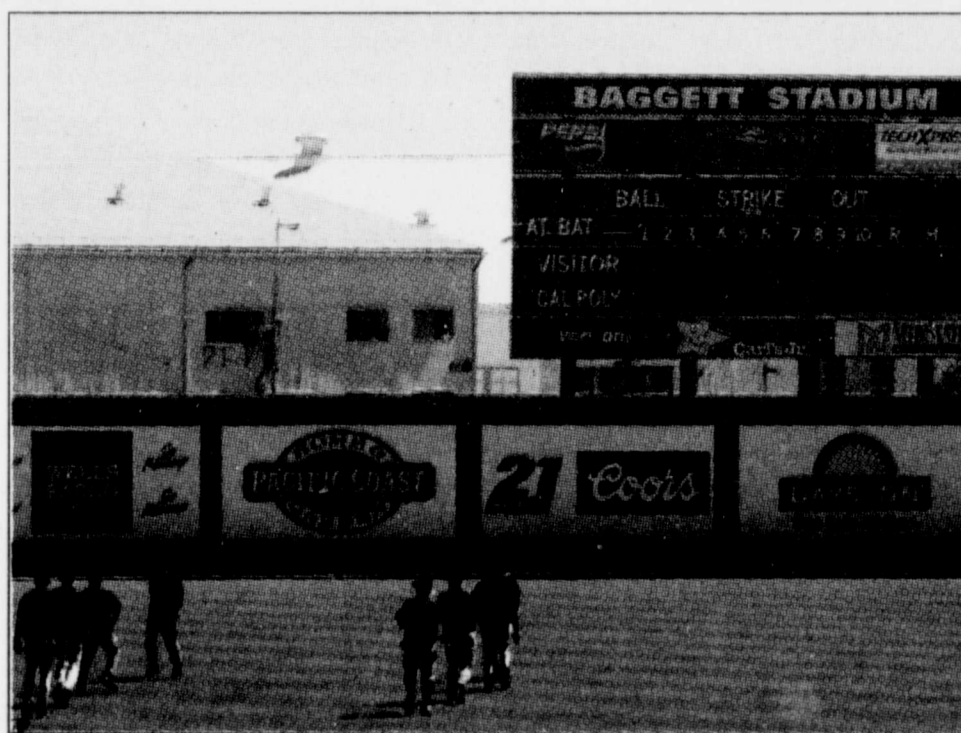
The plan went through several different channels from President Baker to the athletics department, and no one was opposed to the idea. When the new athletics director was hired earlier this year, the plan finally came together, Bolton said.

Since it is just a trial period, the university policy has not been made official.

"It got to the point where everyone involved was comfortable with the idea, and we just went from there," said Interim Associate Athletics Director Chris Baker.

Although ASI initiated the plan, the idea originally came from Cal Poly students and the community.

"Serving beer at baseball games is



SHEILA SOBCHIK MUSTANG DAILY

Up until now, beer was only sold to sponsors that attended Mustang baseball games. Starting April 29, beer will be sold to students.

something that affects students and the community," Bolton said. "As students, we've proven that we are responsible enough to warrant this change. This is a significant alteration that allows everyone to be able to have a beer while they watch the games."

This change takes a step toward eventually having a campus bar.

"If the referendum passes, we will have the facilities to build a bar on campus around 2010," Bolton said. "Right now we just don't have the

see Beer, page 2

ASI to change way students elect officers

For this year's ASI election, the president elect will choose a chief of staff who will perform the duties of the vice president

Allison Terry
MUSTANG DAILY

Associated Students Inc. will be running its presidential election differently this year.

Instead of a ballot with both the president and vice president candidates on one ticket, students will only vote for a presidential candidate. Whoever is elected president will then appoint the second in command.

The ASI Board of Directors voted Jan. 26 to change the title of ASI vice president to chief of staff. The duties of the role will remain the same: facilitator of the executive agenda. According to bill #05-02, the change was implemented so ASI would fall under legal compliance with the way it currently operates as a student corporation.

"I sponsored the bill because the current practices of ASI were not in compliance with our own by-laws," said Mike Motroni, board member and civil engineering junior. "The bill does not alter the way we operate, it only insures that we can maintain our current practice."

ASI's legal counsel advised the officers that changing the by-law would bring the corporation into legal compliance with its current operating procedures, ASI Executive Director Rick Johnson said at the meeting.

"There is no real change in the way ASI operates because the nature of the change was to bring ASI's governing documents into compliance with the way that ASI has historically operated," said Greg Van Dyke, chairman of the Board of Directors and agricultural business graduate. "This will ensure the success of future administrations and positively effect the organization in allowing the ASI president and executive staff to work most efficiently to address student concerns and needs."

The bill did not pass without strong division and opposition at the Board of Directors meeting. The bill, which needed a two-thirds majority vote, was passed 15 to 7.

"I voted against this bill because I believed that there was nothing to be gained by abolishing the vice presidency and replacing it with an unelected position," said Will Weatherford, board member and business administration junior. "Almost everyone, including most of the sup-

see Voting, page 2

Gas prices soar, hurting small businesses

The average price for gas has gone up about 19 cents in the last three weeks

Alicia Chang
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Gas prices soared an average 19 cents in the past three weeks due to lingering high crude oil prices, growing demand and higher refining costs, an industry analyst said Sunday.

The average retail price for all three grades increased 18.95 cents to \$2.32 per gallon between March 18 and Friday, said Trilby Lundberg, who publishes the semimonthly Lundberg Survey of 7,000 gas stations around the country.

The most popular grade, self-serve regular, was priced at \$2.29 a gallon, while customers paid \$2.38 for midgrade. Premium averaged \$2.48 a gallon for the period.

Crude prices, which briefly reached \$58 last week, are likely to stay above \$50 a barrel well into next year, Lundberg said.

"It's very possible that unless crude oil prices show another upsurge, then gas prices may have hit their peak already or will soon," she said.

Rising gas prices are hitting small business people hard, especially taxi drivers, companies with small fleets, fast food delivery drivers and others, said Jack Kyser, chief economist with

see Gas, page 2



SHEILA SOBCHIK MUSTANG DAILY

Construction on the Foothill bridge was expected to be completed in late 2004 or early 2005, but the job is still not finished. Some Cal Poly students are upset that the project has taken so long.

Foothill bridge still a burden

Jonathan Drake
MUSTANG DAILY

In spring of 2001, San Luis Obispo experienced a hefty rainstorm, spurring the city to inspect the Foothill Bridge over Stenner Creek.

The city's public works department discovered the bridge was sinking into the ground. The pipes that direct the water under the bridge, called culverts, had failed. Because of the flood damage, the culverts would have to be replaced.

Replacing a culvert, however, translated into completely rebuilding the bridge.

For the next three years, the city mulled over possibilities for construction until Whitaker Construction, based in Santa Margarita, was contracted for \$4.2 million to rebuild the bridge.

The construction was expected to proceed smoothly, with the completion date set for late 2004 or early 2005, according to the city's public works department.

It's now mid-April, and students and community members have yet to see completion of the bridge. No official statements have been made recently to verify a completion date, but the city assures that it will be soon.

"Yeah right" said social science senior Karen Akre. "It's a big fat pain in the ass."

While many students find the construction bothersome, others do not care as much about it.

see Bridge, page 2

Beer

continued from page 1

venue. Having a bar will definitely change the culture on campus. Serving alcohol at sports games is without a doubt the first step."

Although students and the community will now be allowed to purchase beer, the selling of alcohol is not new to Cal Poly sports events. Alcohol is currently offered to sponsors, who must drink their beverages in specifically designated areas.

The athletics staff does not anticipate many changes with the introduction of alcohol at the baseball games.

"At the most, our events staff will have to work a little harder on crowd control to deal with the fans," Baker said. "However, we do not foresee any big problems by selling alcohol at the games. Overall, we don't expect the environment to change significantly."

Bridge

continued from page 1

"I don't have a right to be up in arms about it," said mechanical engineering junior Brian Dobbs.

Dobbs parks off campus and walks the rest of the way to his classes, skirting the traffic congestion and ever-rising cost of parking permits.

Nutrition sophomore, Stephanie Weiland, lives within walking distance of class, so the bridge construction doesn't bother her either.

Students enrolled at Cal Poly before the 2001 rainstorm do not know why the bridge is being rebuilt.

"It was perfectly fine before," Weiland said.

The many students that ride the bus to campus are frustrated by the bridge construction as well.

English senior Robert Baighley takes the bus route in front of the Valencia Apartments and used to travel over the bridge, but now has to make a detour, which adds time to his daily commute.

It is not expected to be accessible to cars for another year said an onsite general contractor.

The only notable difference thus far is the completion of a sidewalk along the bridge, replacing the temporary wooden bridge.

Weiland's irritation is not altered by the completion of the sidewalk.

"What's the difference?" she said.

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Voting

continued from page 1

porters of this bill, agreed that the current system was working perfectly fine. That being the case, why fix something that isn't broken?"

During the meeting, members discussed the difference between ASI as a corporation and ASI as a student representative.

"Theoretically there is no difference between the two," said Tylor Middlestadt, ASI vice president and architectural engineering senior. "The student representatives are the leadership of the corporation. Realistically, the two roles are quite different."

ASI as a corporation provides programs and services through the University Union, Rec Center, sports complex and children's center. The board of directors makes business management decisions: approving annual budgets and audits, creating new positions and allocating resources.

"The student representatives, who are the same people with a different hat, are responsible for representing the views of the students within their colleges to the board when making these decisions," Middlestadt said. "They are expected to be in close communication with their college student council and are expected to represent, to the best of their ability, the views of their constituents."

The struggle for board members is that they have this dual responsi-

bility, determining when and how the representative role interfaces with the corporate board of director role. This has been a struggle that ASI has dealt with and it was at the center of the debate regarding this bill, Middlestadt said.

"The catch is that regardless of the views of their constituents, the board of directors has a fiduciary responsibility to do what's best for the corporation, which is not necessarily always what's best for their constituents," Middlestadt said.

One argument is whether or not changing the election ballot will take away from students' choice on who represents them in ASI.

"I think students like the idea of being able to vote for a president and a vice president because of the fact that if the president is not able to do his or her job, then the vice president, who was also elected by the students, can take the place of the president," Weatherford said. "The new system is inherently undemocratic because the chief of staff, who is appointed by the president, has the authority temporarily to take the place of the president if the situation arises. Many students find it to be outrageous that a situation could arise where a person whom they did not elect, the chief of staff, could be the one representing them."

Van Dyke said that the change does not diminish the student voice because students vote on the agenda of the president, not the person running.

"There is nothing to prohibit a presidential candidate announcing his or her chief of staff, and there should not be a difference in the way students vote," Van Dyke said. "A student should vote on issues presented by candidates and their plans of action, not on who the student is. The president controls the agenda, and his or her views are the platform that students should vote on."

Middlestadt said it is a misunderstanding that the vice president does not have his or her own voice in ASI.

"The concerns supporting this bill were framed within the context of the question, 'Is the ASI vice president solely supporting the agenda of the elected president or do we want to define the vice president as an independent leadership role?'" he said. "The bill is an attempt to mandate that the chief of staff works solely for the agenda of the president as opposed to being dually elected with a separate set of issues and priorities."

Students have only been voting for the president and vice president on the same ballot for three years.

"ASI went through a reorganization four years ago and the ticket system was created, we have only voted for a vice president the previous three years," Motroni said. "The purpose of the vice president is to execute the president's agenda through the ASI executive staff. The reason why they were on the ballot with the president was likely overlooked during the reorganization."

Gas

continued from page 1

the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. Kyser said he has heard of at least one florist who has restricted its delivery area because of fuel costs.

Last week, the Energy Department said it expects gasoline prices to average \$2.35 a gallon nationwide in May, the dawn of the heavy summer driving season. The Energy Information Administration reported that gasoline demand for this summer is projected to be 9.3 million barrels a day, up 1.8 percent over last summer, and the highest on record.

Crown Limousine built a \$25 fuel surcharge into its regular rates in January for rentals of its stretch Hummers, Cadillac Escalades and Ford Excursions.

"Those are the gas guzzlers," said manager Jackie Rizkalla.

The company also raised its regular fuel charge for airport and other business trips by \$1. Rizkalla said most people don't complain about the extra charges because they know gas has gotten more expensive.

Rizkalla said the company would probably absorb any future gas price hikes this year.

"We're not that worried about it," she said. "We wouldn't raise our rates again until another year."

The highest average gas price in the nation for regular unleaded was \$2.62 a gallon in Bakersfield. The lowest price was \$2.06 in Newark, N.J.

Among the stations surveyed, the lowest average gas price in California for regular unleaded was \$2.50 a gallon in Sacramento.

UNIVERSITY-SPONSORED INFORMATION SESSIONS

ASI/UU FEE REFERENDUM

Tuesday, April 12
Cerro Vista Residence Hall
7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 13
University Union, Room 219
4:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 14
University Union, Room 219
11:00 a.m.

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STATE NEWS

TRANQUILLITY — Shifting cargo and severe turbulence may have contributed to a plane crash last week that killed three Sonoma County businessmen, authorities said.

Witnesses near the town of Tranquillity, about 25 miles west of Fresno, reported hearing an explosion and the sound of an engine

dying before the plane fell out of the sky on Thursday.

SAN DIEGO — The University of California, San Diego said Thursday it will not be able to raise \$7.2 million to rebuild the chancellor's ocean-view mansion.

The university decided recently that too many other projects were competing for private funds. UCSD declined to say how much it

had raised for the project to raze and rebuild a 11,400 square foot home for Chancellor Marye Anne Fox.

The existing home, built in 1950 and valued at \$12 million, was closed last summer due to structural and seismic code deficiencies. Fox has been staying in a \$6,500-a-month rental home near the campus, paid for by the university.

LOS ANGELES — A facility for the homeless is unveiling a \$17 million state-of-the-art center to help the estimated 6,000 to 8,000 homeless who live downtown.

The new 123,000-square-foot mission, which opened Sunday, will have 360 recovery and emergency beds, up from 230. It can seat 500 people for meals and restrooms and showers are available 24 hours a day

—Associated Press

IN OTHER NEWS

PHOENIX — A garden of 212 marijuana plants was discovered inside a rental home west of here early Saturday morning. Maricopa County sheriff's deputies say the garden, nurtured by an intricate irrigation and lighting system, is worth tens of thousands of dollars and is one of the most sophisticated they've ever seen.

"We've just never seen a more elaborate setup in a house," said Sgt. Travis Anglin. "It's a completely self-sufficient system."

With the lighting and water systems controlled by timers, "you can just come every few weeks and take what you need," Anglin said.

No one was living in the house, which has an out-of-state owner. The owner told the sheriff's office he was renting out the house and was unaware of the illicit vegetation thriving on his property, Anglin said.

The system consisted of hoses running from faucets to 50-gallon drums that fed a timed irrigation system. Reflective material covered walls and filtration devices were attached to air ducts in an effort to prevent strong smells from seeping out.

—Associated Press

NATIONAL NEWS

DENVER — Hundreds of travelers were stranded at the Denver airport and along highways Sunday as a blizzard blew across eastern Colorado with wet, heavy snow. Seven to 10 inches of snow was forecast in Denver and up to 30 inches was possible in the foothills west of Denver, the National Weather

Service said.

WASHINGTON — Rep. Christopher Shays said Sunday that fellow Republican Rep. Tom DeLay should step down as House majority leader because his continuing ethics problems are hurting the GOP.

"Tom's conduct is hurting the Republican Party and is hurting this Republican majority," Shays told The Associated Press on Sunday.

MURPHY, N.C. — Kenny Jane Wade understands the anti-government sentiment that may have led some people here to help feed and shelter serial bomber Eric Rudolph during his years on the run. Wade, who owns a cabin near where some of Rudolph's stash of explosives was found this week, said the mistrust has been part of mountain culture since the days of the so-called revenueurs —

federal agents who arrested people for making moonshine during Prohibition.

Although no one has admitted assisting Rudolph during his five years on the run in the Appalachian wilderness, investigators suspect he had help. Authorities are wondering if there will be additional prosecutions now that Rudolph is talking to authorities as part of a plea deal to spare his life.

—Associated Press

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

JAKARTA, Indonesia — An undersea earthquake that hit Sunday near the Indonesian island of Sumatra sent people fleeing from their homes in panic, but the temblor was not strong enough to generate a tsunami, seismologists and meteorologists said. The 6.8-magnitude tremor's epicenter was

about 70 miles southwest of Padang, a city in western Sumatra, at a depth of nearly 19 miles, the U.S. Geological Survey said.

JERUSALEM — Thousands of Israeli police mobilized at Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site Sunday but confronted only a handful of Jewish extremists intent on scuttling a Gaza pullout by tying up security forces. In Gaza,

militants fired dozens of mortar shells after Israeli forces killed three teenagers. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, speaking on a plane taking him to Monday's meeting with President Bush, said the mortar fire "is a flagrant violation of the understandings" reached at the February truce summit with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas.

CRATHIE, Scotland — On the first day of their Scottish honeymoon, Prince Charles sported a tartan kilt and his new bride Camilla wore a fuchsia coat and matching feathered tam when they wheeled up to the local parish church on Sunday.

The gray Audi, with Charles at the wheel, was met by a couple hundred villagers standing in blustery weather to wish the newlyweds well.

—Associated Press

THIS WEEK

IN ASI EVENTS

SUPERSTAR MOVIE SERIES

Featuring **MEET THE FOCKERS**
Monday, April 11
8:15 p.m. in Chumash Auditorium - FREE

The Superstar Movie series continues with "Meet the Fockers." Mondays in April, catch superstars on the big screen before their latest blockbusters are available on home video. Bring your blankets, pillows or a fold-up chair and get comfy. Seating is limited. Free popcorn will be provided.

UU HOUR

Featuring **MONTY MILLS**
Thursday, April 14
11-noon in the UU Plaza - FREE

Kick off Open House weekend with the vocal talents of local country singer Monty Mills. The Rodeo Team will also be out in the Plaza showing off their stuff. Come join the fun!

UU GALLERY

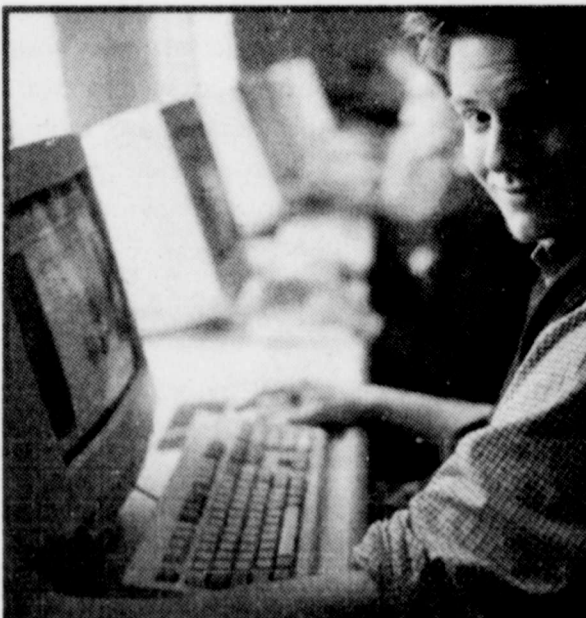
Featuring **CROWDED STREETS**
In the UU Gallery through April 22 - FREE

The UU Gallery presents photographs from India by Cal Poly student Mike Krautter. The Art and Design senior's photographs document his month-long journey through the Asian nation. His work focuses on the beauty that is found in the Indian culture.

The exhibit is on display from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. every Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Friday, through April 22.

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CPTV Cal Poly Television

Prosecution relies on Jackson workers who peddled "stories" to tabloids

Linda Deutsch
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA MARIA — Michael Jackson designed his Neverland ranch as a retreat from the prying world. But testimony at his trial shows it became a nest of backstairs intrigues among gossiping employees who are now offering stories to bolster prosecution claims that Jackson molested boys.



Jackson's defense lawyer has effectively worked to undermine the strategy by confronting the witnesses with their own financial motives, portraying them as mercenaries and liars who abused Jackson's trust.

The former employees have admitted they were lured by the siren song of tabloid money and sold out Jackson to the highest bidder, selling alleged inside dirt on his sex life with ex-wife Lisa Marie Presley and his relationship with child actor Macauley Culkin.

In trial testimony last week, maid Adrian McManus acknowledged that she knew nothing about Jackson's sex life with Presley but nevertheless signed contracts to sell details of "kinky sex" to tabloid magazines.

She said employees were using a "media broker" to sell gossip because they needed money to pay for their multi-million-dollar wrongful termination suit against Jackson. They lost in court and were ordered to pay Jackson \$1.4 million. Another maid acknowledged she was the first to hit the jackpot, getting \$20,000 from the TV show "Hard Copy" with another maid acting as her agent in the deal. She then sued Jackson, saying her son had been molested and received a \$2.4 million settlement.

Security guard Ralph Chacon, who was part of the employees' suit against Jackson, said he was forced into bankruptcy by the court's judgments in favor of the pop star. He gave a graphic account of seeing Jackson perform a sex act on a child, testimony the defense portrayed as a way to "get even."

The latest addition to the parade of ex-employees, chef Phillip LeMarque, said he once asked for \$500,000 to tell a tabloid that he saw Jackson with a hand up Culkin's shorts.

The actor was well-known in the 1990s as a Jackson companion. The defense has said the "Home Alone" star has repeatedly denied anything

inappropriate happened. A spokeswoman has said Culkin does not plan to be a part of the case.

LeMarque said he didn't receive any money from tabloids.

"Everybody was trying to sell our stories," said LeMarque, who acknowledged that the competition to cash in on Jackson's fame divided the employees.

"We didn't have any friends at the ranch," he said. "You couldn't have friends. Everyone was spying on each other."

Jackson, 46, is charged with molesting a 13-year-old boy in February or March 2003, giving him wine and conspiring to hold the boy's family captive to get them to make a video rebutting a TV documentary in which Jackson appeared with the boy and said he allowed children to sleep in his bed, although he characterized it as non-sexual.

Experts question whether testimony by the former employees helps or hurts District Attorney Tom Sneddon's effort to convict Jackson. Some said the charges are fading into the background as the case focuses on salacious allegations from the early 1990s.

Ex-employee Phillip LeMarque said he once asked for \$500,000 to tell a tabloid that he saw Jackson molesting Macauley Culkin.

University dance team suspended for sexy moves

Dance team member claimed sports officials asked the team to up the seduction factor to boost ticket sales

SAN JOSE — (AP) San Jose State has suspended its dance team after a sexy routine at a basketball game triggered a confrontation involving one of the performers.

The team is suspended until it develops guidelines to represent the university "at the highest possible standard," the division of intercollegiate athletics decided last week.

The move came a month after a shouting match between an elderly alumnus and 20-year-old dancer Tarah DiNardo, whose arm was apparently bruised by a university sports official who intervened.

The confrontation — captured on videotape by a parent — erupted after a dance during a March 5 home game to the raunchy lyrics of "Move Somethin'" by LL Cool J.

"It was vulgar," said Ray Silva, 74, a San Jose businessman and major university booster. "It was like a burlesque, with bumps and grinds. I just came unglued."

Silva said he shouted at the dancers: "Trash, that's trash. Get off the court."

DiNardo confronted Silva at the end of the game, gesturing emphatically as the two shouted at one another. John Glass, an associate athletic director, stepped between them and grabbed DiNardo's arm.

The dancer filed a complaint with police, but authorities declined to prosecute. Her angry father has hired an attorney.

"I don't want people to lay hands on my daughter," said businessman

and ex-Marine Joey DiNardo. "There's too much dirty dancing going on," he acknowledged, but added: "You don't grab anyone or call the girls trash."

Tarah DiNardo says the dancers have simply been doing what sports officials asked. "They wanted more makeup, more hair and sexier uniforms" to boost ticket sales, she said.

"That doesn't strike me as anything we'd want," said Mark Harlan, the university's new associate director of athletics. He said the dance team's role is being reevaluated.

"It was vulgar. It was like a burlesque, with bumps and grinds. I just came unglued."

— RAY SILVA
San Jose State U. booster

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REVIEW

'Sahara' is lost in the sand

Rebecca Laman
MUSTANG DAILY

"Sahara" is an action adventure that gets lost in a sandstorm of plots. It's heavily populated with explosions and cliché characters that hunt for a treasure hidden aboard the Ship of Death, the ironclad Civil War-era craft that sunk without a trace.

Based on the novel by Clive Cussler, scientist Dirk Pitt (Matthew McConaughey) and his trusty sidekick Al (Steve Zahn) are two wild guys who have basically spent every waking moment of their lives together — school, the military and now their jobs at an archeological society. Dirk is a treasure hunter with charm, so the Indiana Jones comparisons are inevitable.

Tagging along is Eva Rojas (Penelope Cruz), a doctor for the World Heath Organization, who is investigating a plague that has broken out in several communities. The trio is in heavy pursuit to stop an African dictator's nuclear waste disposal plant from threatening the planet's ecosystem. It's up to Pitt and his associates from National Underwater And Marine Agency to find the source of the pollution, which has killed countless people in Mali and shut down the operation.

But the African dictator (Lennie James of "Snatch") and an industrialist (Lambert Wilson of "Catwoman") of the solar-energy plant in the war-torn country don't want them poking around and when the courageous heroes get too close to the truth, things get dangerous.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The action-adventure film, 'Sahara,' starring Matthew McConaughey and Penelope Cruz, fails to impress the way similar films, such as the 'Indiana Jones' series did years ago. The film opened at No.1 at the box office last weekend.

While saving the world, they are also in search of a fabled American Civil War ship full of gold coins that somehow crossed the Atlantic Ocean and landed in Nigeria 150 years ago.

Directed by Breck Eisner, son of former Disney chief Michael Eisner, "Sahara" elicits a certain level of guilty enjoyment as we follow the trio through ridiculously unrealistic action scenes and plot holes. Rounds of ammunition, bombs and even cannonballs are fired at them, but somehow they're able to survive without a

scratch.

McConaughey jumps wildly onto speeding boats and trains and even dangles from a helicopter landing-pad tower with one hand and Cruz is still able to maintain an alluring appearance as she leaps out of a helicopter to escape the villain or jumps from a camel onto a moving train.

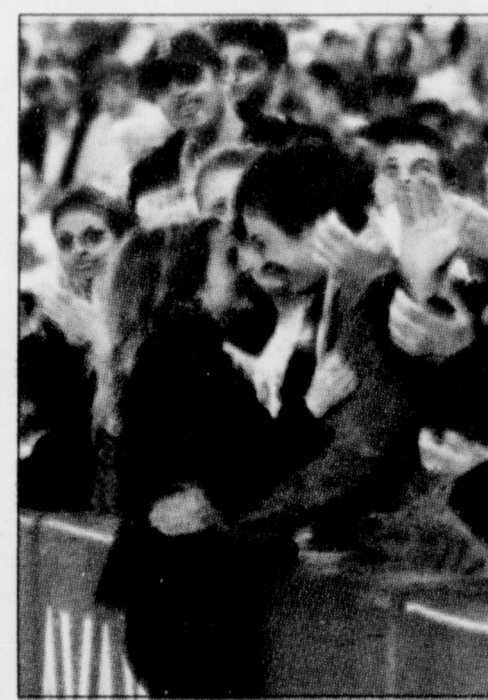
But the most entertaining scene of all is when Pitt and Al manipulate an abandoned airplane into a desert windsurf board.

"Sahara's" strength is the teamwork between the leads.

McConaughey and Zahn have an engaging chemistry, and together they put us in the mood for the ridiculous action sequences.

Although the film is smart enough to keep the romance to a minimum, both McConaughey and Cruz create palpable chemistry together, and it was no surprise the two fell in love both off screen and on.

While "Sahara" may not be the next Indiana Jones, it does guarantee strong acting, fast action and a silly storyline that's a guilty-enjoyment.



COURTESY PHOTO

TOP 10 BOX OFFICE

Top grossing films of last weekend

1. "Sahara," \$18.5 million.
2. "Sin City," \$14.1 million.
3. "Fever Pitch," \$13 million.
- 4 (tie) "Beauty Shop," \$7.1 million.
- 4 (tie) "Guess Who," \$7.1 million.
6. "Robots," \$4.65 million.
7. "Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous," \$4.1 million.
8. "The Pacifier," \$3 million.
9. "The Ring 2," \$2.9 million.
10. "The Upside of Anger," \$2.6 million.

Matthew McConaughey's "Sahara" heated up the weekend box office, with the action flick set in the African desert debuting at the top with \$18.5 million.

Audiences gave a cooler reception to "Fever Pitch," the weekend's other new wide-release. The Drew Barrymore and Jimmy Fallon baseball romance opened in third place with a so-so \$13 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The previous weekend's No. 1 movie, "Sin City," slipped to second place with \$14.1 million, lifting its 10-day total to \$50.7 million.

In limited release, Stephen Chow's raucous action comedy "Kung Fu Hustle" had a big opening with \$293,025 in seven theaters, averaging a whopping \$41,861 per cinema. "Sahara" averaged \$5,866 in 3,154 theaters, and "Fever Pitch" reaped \$3,979 in 3,267 locations.

Already a hit in Asia, "Kung Fu Hustle" features writer-director Chow as a two-bit crook in pre-revolution China whose antics land him in the middle of a showdown between mobsters and martial-arts heroes. "Kung Fu Hustle" expands to nationwide release April 22.

—Associated Press

The 'Housewives' flip out

NEW YORK (AP) — They may appear sultry and ready for summer on the May cover of Vanity Fair, but according to the magazine, the stars of ABC's "Desperate Housewives" were actually steaming angry.

Vanity Fair's cover proclaims: "You wouldn't believe what it took just to get this photo!" The article acknowledges that the poolside photo-shoot, in which the five women appear in different colored bathing suits, was manned by an ABC representative who was to make sure that certain demands were met, including that Teri Hatcher didn't select her wardrobe first or appear in the center of any group photo.

"Whatever you do," the ABC rep, who wasn't identified by name, said when he arrived on the set, "do not let Teri go to wardrobe first."

Despite the rep's plea, Hatcher was the first "housewife" to visit wardrobe and she had consulted with the stylist days in advance. At one point, the rep proclaimed: "This is a problem. I'm getting text messages from Eva (Longoria). Everything is not fine."

The struggles continued once the photographer started snapping. Redhead Marcia Cross turned red-hot when she saw Hatcher standing next to her in the center of the shot, according to the article. Cross grabbed her bathrobe and stormed off, spewing expletives at the ABC rep.

Hatcher later walked to the other end of the set, where "she got into a tearful, heated conversation on her cell phone."

In the fold-out May cover, which hits newsstands Tuesday, the center position belongs to Nicollette



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sheridan, who's flanked by Hatcher and Cross with Longoria and Felicity Huffman posed beneath them on a chaise although Cross and Huffman can't be seen when the cover is folded.

Also in the article, the women discuss the media blitz surrounding the

show and its stars. Huffman believes a "Desperate" backlash is imminent while Cross just ignores it all.

"Honestly, I don't read it," Cross told Vanity Fair of the media coverage. "And I don't even watch the show right now. It's too much. It's just too much ..."

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COMMENTARY

If gay were straight, could you change?

STILLWATER, Okla. — This April Fool's Day, the University of Nebraska's student newspaper did their annual issue of the Daily Halfasskan. As usual, the joke news stories ran the gamut from ridiculous to hilarious to profound.

One particularly relevant joke story was written by Aaron Eske. It was called "Frat president proud to be ex-straight."

It told the story of a fictional character named Johnny O, who lived in an alternative universe where nine of 10 people were gay. Straights had to come out of the closet and risked abuse and persecution.

Eventually, Johnny entered a reform program for straights so he could learn to be gay — the way God intended. He gave up dating women and became proud to be ex-straight.

Twists the brain, doesn't it? Of course, straights are not usually in the minority anywhere. No one expects us to change.

But even those who don't actively seek to reform gays sometimes seem to think it'd be an easy matter to become an "ex-gay." They don't respect the sexuality of gays and lesbians the same way they do that of straights.

"It's the assumption that everyone is straight and homosexuals are just confused and in need of some 'straightening out.' A heterosexual thinks they're not really gay, they're just 'experimenting.'"

things out."

No one doubts whether it's "natural" or "moral" to be straight. The same can't be said for some people's opinions on what it's like to be gay. You should take everyone's opinion — mine included — with a grain of salt when they have no way of knowing what it's like to live that life.

For many gay and lesbian friends of mine, the matter of finding out who they really were was a long, difficult, sometimes painful process. Petty prejudices and false assumptions only make this harder on them.

Believe what you want about homosexuals. No one is saying you have to befriend one, work with one or even tolerate one. You may have to later, so it might be a good thing to think about, though.

Look at it any way you want, but denying the legitimacy of a part of someone else's personality is not going to get you anywhere.

Even if you think someone should change, it doesn't mean such a thing is a good idea or even possible.

Jeff Postelwait is a columnist for the Daily O'Collegian at Oklahoma State University.

FROM RIGHT FIELD

by Mustang Daily columnist Matt Bushman will return next week.

GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

SEND US YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AT
OPINION@MUSTANGDAILY.NET

Kids make nutritious snacks

Miners refuse to work after death

New vaccine may contain rabies

Iraqi head seeks arms

Neil Armstrong bracelets: Fashion or charity?

Study of obesity looks for larger test group

Deaf college opens doors to hearing

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"Make way for Mr. Womack."

April 11, 2005
Volume LXVIII, No. 95
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printed by University Graphics Systems

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Reception: 5:45 - 7:45pm

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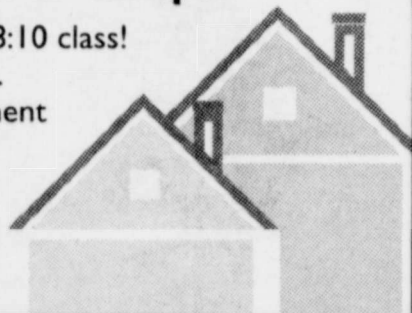
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Tennis

continued from page 8

they moved between courts to watch the others play. They periodically moved to watch No. 3 freshman Fred DeWitte, who pulled out a tight victory, Van Linge on the fourth court and senior Travis Crawford playing on the sixth court.

The Mustangs hope to ride the momentum of the past few wins as they prepare to enter the Big West tournament which is scheduled to take place in Palm Springs from April 21-23.

"We are going into the Big West in two weeks and the guys are starting to learn all about heart and character. If we can continue this we will be tough to beat,"

Kronemann said.

After a slow start for the first half of the season in which the Mustangs only won three of their 11 matches, they have now seemed to hit their stride.

Overall, the team has a 11-11 and 1-2 in the Big West.

The men also defeated Sonoma State on Sunday, 7-0, to sweep the weekend.

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0228

ACROSS

1 Livens (up)

5 Snapshot

10 Bedazzles

14 Away from the wind

15 Home run king Hank

16 Retail store

17 Glib responses

19 On the ocean

20 Baffled

21 Canines or bicuspid

23 New Haven collegians

24 Personal bugbear

27 Observer

30 Quattros, e.g.

31 Some sports cars

34 Take into custody

37 Supreme Diana

38 Go bad

39 Indy service break

41 Sport (all-purpose vehicle)

42 Med. school subj.

44 Caviar source

45 Price add-on

46 Subway handhold

48 Make into law

50 Kind of stove

53 Smooch

56 Major company in metallic products

57 Drink often served with a lemon twist

60 Skin woe

62 Portfolio hedges

64 Eliot or Frost

65 One of the nine Muses

66 "Lohengrin" soprano

67 Drags

68 Heroic tales

69 Not shallow

DOWN

1 Mama's partner

2 Fill with joy

3 Flower feature

4 Protect, as freshness

5 Free ticket

6 Hems' partners

7 Source of iron or lead

8 Rich pastry

9 Beginning

10 Not an expert

11 Exhausted

12 Before, in verse

13 Depot: Abbr.

18 "Forget it!"

22 Clean air org.

24 "Blue Hawaii" star

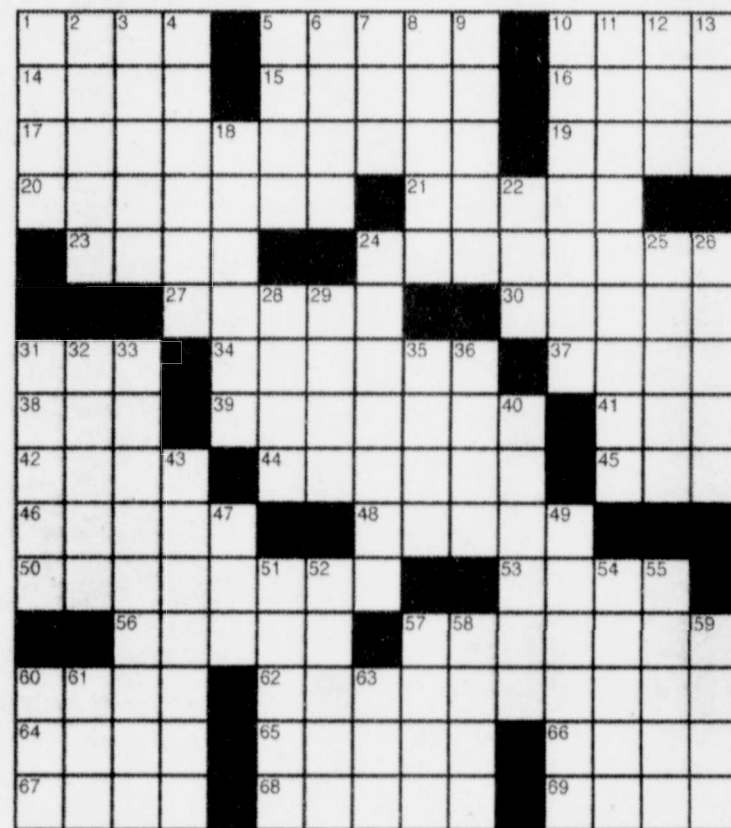
25 Far-reaching view

26 "The Private Lives of Elizabeth and ... (1939 film)

28 Common newspaper nickname

29 Art Deco designer

31 Understand



Puzzle by Marjorie Berg

32 Jay Silverheels role
33 Go back to square one
35 Surprise greatly
36 Roman robe
40 Bundle
43 Things held by Moses
47 Chest muscle, for short
49 Neatened
51 Easy strides
52 Designer Ashley
54 Item worn around the shoulders
55 Pick up on
57 Teensy bit
58 Navy noncoms, for short
59 "Rush!" order
60 It may be a walk-up: Abbr.
61 Dove's sound
63 Children's game

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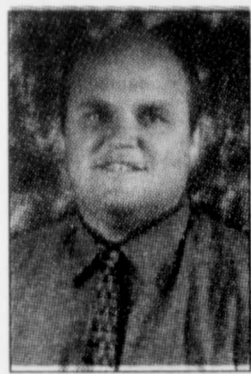
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COACH'S CORNER

This week's spotlight on ...

Men's tennis coach
Trevor KronemannErick Smith
MUSTANG DAILY

A successful weekend puts men's tennis on the fringe of a national ranking. With a convincing victory over Santa Clara on Saturday, the Mustangs are catching fire at the right time as postseason play looms.

The Mustang Daily talked to men's tennis coach Trevor Kronemann after the team's important victory.

Q. — What did you think of today's match?

A. — We knew it was going to be a tough battle as we have had guys sick and they've had guys sick. Head to head, coming into this they've won six of seven, and we've won six of seven. They've beat two nationally-ranked teams and we've beaten one nationally-ranked team. It was like a heavyweight fight. We are starting to really come into our own. The guys showed great heart and great character which is something that we haven't really seen for four years. We have beaten a lot of nationally-ranked teams and a lot of good teams but today was all about heart and all about a great effort by everybody on the team.

Q. — What can you say about how Santa Clara played?

A. — They are always a tough team and tough to beat. We just happened to outlast them and play very well today.

Q. — How does this make you stand nationally in terms of rankings?

A. — Unfortunately, we got off to a slow start in terms of national rankings, but the important thing is that we are going into the Big West in two weeks and the guys are starting to learn all about heart and all about character and if we can continue this, we will be tough to beat. We are having a seeding meeting next week on the phone and there are teams that are looking at us and don't want anything to do with us and that is where we want to be. That is the type of tree you want to be sitting in going into the Big West, not at the bottom but coming in cruising.

Q. — Before today what were you thinking about your team? What are you thinking now?

A. — I believe in every single guy on the team. They all have under-the-rough skin some passion and heart and it finally came to the surface today and we've got a great team. This is probably the best team that I've had here and we have a great chance to run the table and possibly push for a national ranking and possibly get into the NCAA. That was our goal to begin with. We've won seven of eight and are in the right spot to make everything happen.

Sampson leaves basketball program

Graham Womack
MUSTANG DAILY

Somehow, the Cal Poly men's basketball team keeps losing.

Though the Mustangs' 5-22 season ended five weeks ago, the team confirmed that Fernando Sampson left the program. The junior guard asked for his release after the season ended in March and reached a decision with head coach Kevin Bromley, assistant coach Bob Lowe said.



Sampson declined to comment. Bromley was unavailable as of press time Sunday, though he did not give a reason for Sampson's departure in a story that ran in the Tribune on Saturday. Athletic Director Alison Cone told The Tribune that Sampson is currently enrolled as a student.

At least one of Sampson's former teammates, though, remains puzzled by the guard's exit. "I'm still in the gray area," freshman guard Dawin Whiten said. "I don't know why he's leaving or where he's going."

Once a highly-touted recruit, Sampson was an all-league guard at Fairfax High School, where he averaged 13.4 points, 5.1 rebounds, 3.0 assists and 1.9 steals, while leading the Lions to the final game of the Los Angeles City Championship. He didn't experience nearly the same success at Cal Poly though.

In his three-year, 53-game Mustang career, Sampson averaged 2.5 points, 1.5 rebounds and 1.1 assists. Primarily a reserve during his freshman and sophomore years, Sampson earned a regular starting spot this past season after point guard Kameron Gray's academic ineligibility and the graduation of three other starters from last year's team left the Mustangs depleted.

In 16 games, including 14 starts, Sampson averaged 4.4 points, 2.1 rebounds and 1.4 assists, in 21.2 minutes. However, Sampson did not play during the final month of the season due to academic and mental issues, Bromley told the Tribune. Sampson's absence hurt the Mustangs, who ultimately missed the Big West Tournament.

"He was definitely a defensive presence and I think he would have helped us a lot," forward Tyler McGinn said.

Whiten also praised Sampson's heart. "You can't question his heart ... I think he had the biggest heart on the team," Whiten said.

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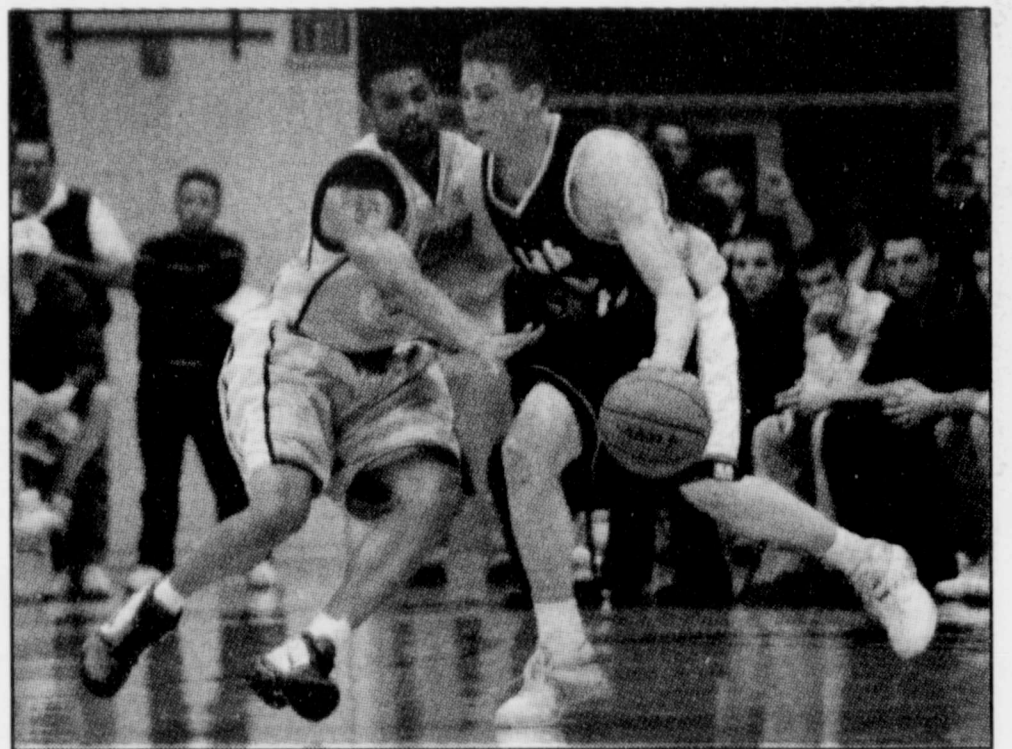
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Whiten also praised Sampson's heart. "You can't question his heart ... I think he had the biggest heart on the team," Whiten said.

Whiten said Sampson was also fun to be around off-court, noting that the two of them hung out a couple of times during the season, praising his sense of humor.

"I thought he was a cool dude," Whiten said. "I never had nothing against him at all."

Whether Gray will be around next year remains unknown. The Tribune reported Saturday that the eligibility status of the point guard will be determined within the next few weeks.



SHEILA SOBCHIK MUSTANG DAILY

Shooting guard Fernando Sampson has left the Cal Poly basketball program after a three-year, 53-game career.

Lowe said the departure of Sampson's energy, enthusiasm and style of play creates a void that will hopefully be filled by the remaining players on the Mustangs' roster or incoming recruits.

He said the Mustangs are still looking to sign a couple of guards. Lowe, a guard coach, also said he "absolutely" enjoyed coaching Sampson.

"He plays real, real hard and he was terrific," Lowe said.

Whiten said Sampson was also fun

to be around off-court, noting that the two of them hung out a couple of times during the season, praising his sense of humor.

"I thought he was a cool dude," Whiten said. "I never had nothing against him at all."

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A decisive victory for tennis

Behind Brett Van Linge's singles set, the Mustangs defeated rival Santa Clara and cruised through Sonoma State one day later

Erick Smith
MUSTANG DAILY

The men's tennis team came out of Saturday's match against rival Santa Clara with a 6-1 victory, due in part to junior Brett Van Linge who won his 10th straight singles match.

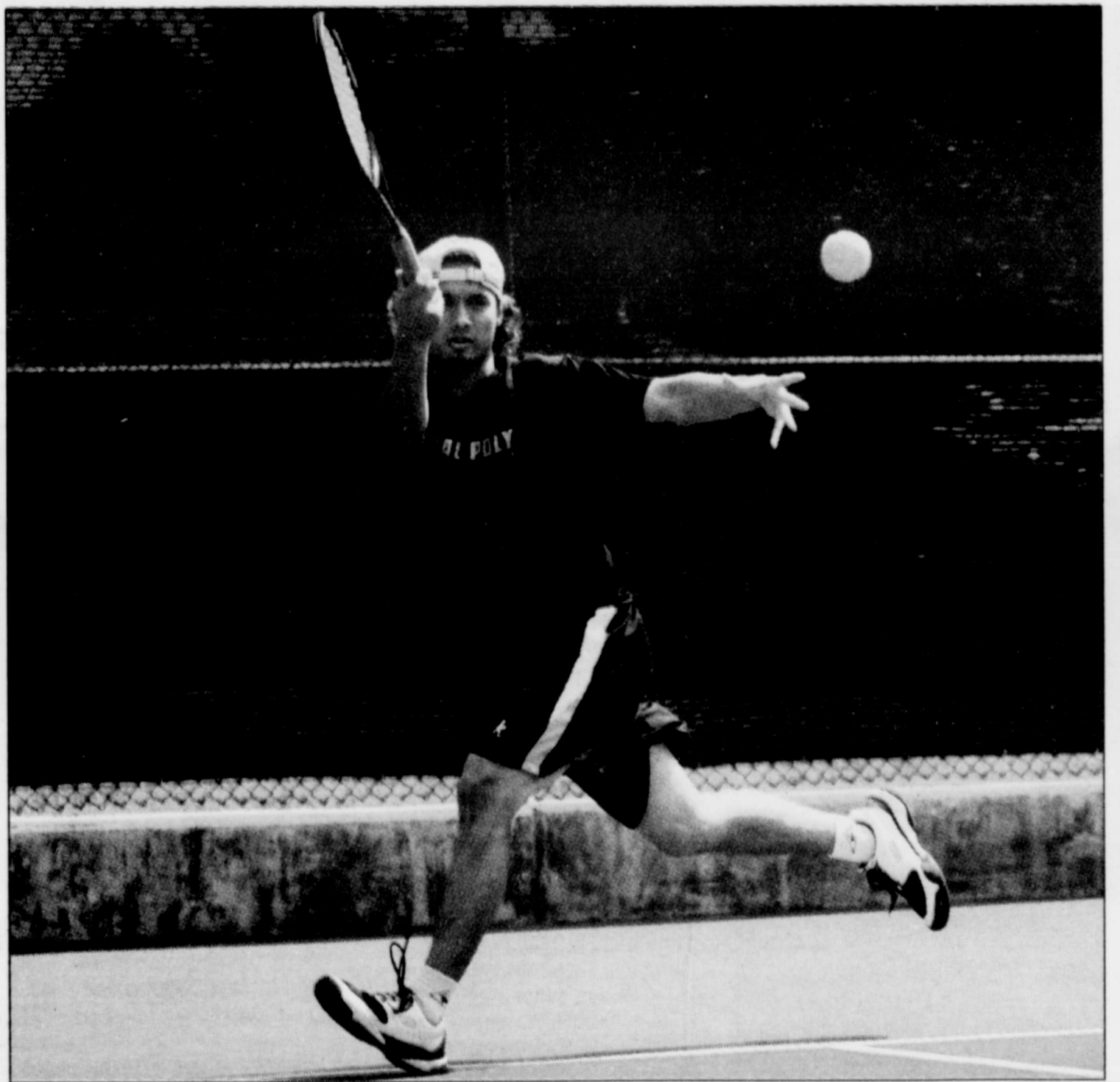
Van Linge, like several other Mustang teammates, battled back after losing the first set to win the final two, 6-4, 6-2, in his singles match.

He appeared in control of the match and had the crowd's support after he won the second set and quickly built a 5-1 lead in the final set which eventually ended in his favor. Van Linge has now won 12 of his last 13 singles matches.

"After the first set I wanted to go back to the way I normally play and structure the points as I normally do and set them up well," Van Linge said. "I just lost focus in the first set and was complacent."

As a team, the Mustangs started the afternoon strong by winning the doubles matches giving them their first point early in the day. That momentum helped propel the Mustangs through singles play giving them the 6-1 edge over Santa Clara. With the win, Cal Poly won its seventh straight match, five of which were road victories. The team has won eight of its last nine games.

"Today was all about heart and all about a great effort by every



SHEILA SOBCHIK MUSTANG DAILY

Fred DeWitte gets the Mustangs started strong, winning the doubles match point against Santa Clara on Saturday. The Mustangs won 6-1 over Santa Clara and also defeated Sonoma State on Sunday.

single guy on the team," coach Trevor Kronemann said.

Sophomores John Nguyen and Matt Baca sped through their matches, winning in straight sets.

Nguyen provided the first of five singles wins for Cal Poly as he finished his day, 6-2, 6-0, while Baca won in similar fashion, 6-2, 6-2.

Upon completion of their

matches, both Nguyen and Baca joined the rest of the team and could be heard cheering in support of their fellow teammates as

see Tennis, page 7