Holocaust survivor relates her family's experiences

By Raul Vasquez
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

A Holocaust survivor shared her emotional story at the 14th Annual Community Holocaust Remembrance in Chumash Auditorium Sunday.

Hedy Epstein was the principal speaker at this year's event, with the theme "Remembering Is Not Enough.

It was co-sponsored by the county's Jewish Houses of Worship and other Jewish organizations, the Polish/Slavic Cultural Club, the Community of John XXIII, the SLO Ministerial Association, the Committee to Honor Those Who Made a Difference and Hillel of Cal Poly.

The event started in 1988 by honoring those who made a difference in Germany.

There isn't a day when I don't think about my parents.

Hedy Epstein
Holocaust survivor

"broken glass," 14-year-old Epstein's world collapsed. Her family's home was vandalized by the Nazis and she was expelled from school for being a "dirty Jew." Her father, uncle and other men in her village were sent to a concentration camp in Dachau.

Epstein recalled being so traumatized by the events of that time that she wouldn't allow her mother or aunt out of her sight.

In May 1939, after Epstein's father returned from Dachau, her family's efforts to leave Germany resumed. Instead of having the whole family leave, they decided to have at least one person leave Germany. On May 18, 1939, Epstein was one of more than 10,000 children, ranging in age from six months to 17 years old, sent to England during a nine-month period between December 1938 and September 1939.

In October 1940, Epstein's parents were deportation to a concentration camp in Camp de Gurs, France. Men and women were separated by barbed wire and were only allowed to spend one hour together. Epstein and her family were able to correspond with one another, although they were only

see EPSTEIN, page 2

Candidates advocate representation

By Janelle Foskett
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

What does the Associated Students Inc. president do anyway? This is one of the many questions the ASI presidential candidates addressed at last night's candidate forum.

In response to the question, the three candidates voiced their opinions on what they see as the president's primary role in the university.

Corey Reihl, a business senior, said the president should be the voice of the student body. He said he wants to use his enthusiasm to advocate for all students and communicate with the community.

The president, Reihl said, needs to appoint a proactive and enthusiastic executive staff to work together to address the issues of the students.

Angie Hacker, a psychology junior, noted ASI's site and impact on the students.

"ASI is a $10 million corporation advocating for 17,000 students - it's a big job," she said.

Hacker said the role of the president

see FORUM, page 2

Edible art

Rinkrit Tiravanija, right, cooks and serves a festive Thai dish as Evan Chambers, agriscience student, left, and professor Michael Miller watch. This was part of a "hybrid" art performance Monday.

ASI unveils new voting technology

By Janelle Foskett
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Instead of trekking around campus looking for a college-specific polling site, students voting in this year's Associated Students Inc. election have a new system that should make the process easier and faster.

The Everywhere Vote System also called iVoting, provides students with five different locations on campus where they can vote: the Rec Center, University Union, Fisher Science Courtyard, agriculture building bridge and Duxter Lawns.

The Everywhere Vote System will use eVerification, a new technology that allows students to be identified quickly with one swipe of their Cal Poly ID card, said Liberty Lewis, elections committee chair and vice chair of the Board of Directors.

There will still be a paper ballot, Lewis said, but the new system makes it easier for students to vote.

"I think it's faster and easier for voters, which is key because our goal is to always get more students to vote," she said.

"We want the leaders to be elect-

see VOTING, page 2
IDENT is not to be just a figleaf of the school, but rather the most knowledgeable person about student issues. She also said the president needs to be accessible to the students through an open door policy.

Brent Vann, a political science student, also said the president is primarily an advocate for the students, but is someone who can also go out to other schools and discuss the advancements Cal Poly has made.

"We need someone (as president) to take the fight outside the campus for the students," he said.

Liberty Lewis, ASI elections commission chair and vice president of the Board of Directors, directed the forum. At one point during her list of questions, she asked the candidates what issues they would address first if elected president.

Vann said his first agenda item would be to invite both Reid and Hacker to be a part of his executive cabinet. Reid said working on the transition between the two government would be his first issue. Hacker said regardless if she wins or loses, she wants to get back to the issues and get people to register to vote.

At the beginning of the forum, the candidates were allowed five minutes to address the main issues of their campaigns.

Reid said increasing communication between ASI, the students, faculty and community is an important aspect of his campaign. He said he would like to see the Mustang Diner run a "presidential column," in which the president can have a voice to the students.

Following in ASI President Sam Abomey's footsteps, Reid said he wants to make sure buses in San Luis Obispo will continue to be free for students. Hacker said she wants to ensure quality accommodations for all students and have an open door policy to the president. She said she wants to create a State of the Student Forum, in which a representative from various clubs and organizations on campus come together at one event to address student issues.

She also wants to get more funding for student government, an essential service for people who need rides.

"I am not here to leave a legacy," she said. "I am here to change things."

Vann said his primary goal is to motivate students to get more involved in ASI. This way, students will be more respected in the community, he said.

"The (community) doesn't take us seriously right now," Vann said.

He wants to see the library extend its hours so students can use the computer lab open at all hours for students' convenience. All three candidates agreed on a few specific issues. One such issue is the need to have ASI represented in the San Luis Obispo City Council. Reid and Hacker both addressed the need to encourage students to register to vote to have more sway in the community.

ASI elections are Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at five polling sites: Dexter lawn, University Union, Rec Center, Fish Science courtyard and agriculture building.

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VOTING continued from page 1

allowed to write one page each.

"They never told me about the horrendous conditions at the camps," she said.

In the fall of 1942, Epstein's family was sent to the concentration camp in Auschwitz. They were never heard from again.

Epstein's mother, in her final letter, urged her daughter to never forget her father.

"There isn't a day when I don't think about my parents," Epstein said.

She asked the members of the audience to remember at least one thing she said Sunday and share it with someone else.

"In that way my mother's wish will be perpetuated long beyond my lifetime," she said.

For many years, Epstein refused to accept the fact that her family was gone.

"Since I wanted so very much to be reunited with my parents, I kept on saying to myself a long time just isn't over yet and I just have to wait some more," she said.

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ASI will also be able to inform candidates about information including the types of students their campaigns succeeded in targeting and who they should have focused on more, Lewis said.

"This is new information for us," Lewis said. "To my knowledge it's never been tracked before."

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U.S. officials to disassemble spy airplane

WASHINGTON (AP) — A small group of U.S. defense contractors headed to Hawaii on Monday to prepare to fly to China's Hainan island and determine how to disassemble the Navy surveillance aircraft that landed there April 1, a U.S. government official said.

About five civilian contractors with detailed knowledge of the EP-3E Aries II aircraft will receive briefings at the Hawaii in U.S. Pacific Command headquarters, then fly to Hainan on a chartered civilian plane, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. They probably will remain on Hainan at least a few days before returning, with a detailed assessment of how to recover the EP-3E.

In a subsequent phase of the recovery operation, a different team will be sent to Hainan to disassemble it and ship it off the island, the official said.

The Pentagon originally had said it would continue searching possible locations in Hainan and fly the damaged plane off the island, but that option has been ruled out, apparently at China's insistence.
The mechanical engineering department's senior project lab received funding this quarter to purchase new lab equipment.

The senior project lab, located next to the Sports Complex, houses machinery and fabrication equipment available for student use for school-related projects. The mechanical engineering department recently allocated well over $10,000 for new purchases, said Scott Harshman, senior project lab student technician.

This purchase is one of the largest acquisitions in the history of the senior project lab, said Harshman. Among the new equipment is a Clausing Metosa lathe, a Miller Brand TIG Welder, a hydraulic tubing bender, a paint booth and other upgraded tools, said George Leone, senior project lab shop technician. The new equipment will allow more students to use the shop, Leone said.

"We want to make constant upgrades so students can use the shop," he said. "We have a high client load and sometimes it is necessary to turn people away because the shop is full."

Leone said the lab is in high demand, so the new equipment will allow more students to use the facilities.

"The department has budgeted to upgrade materials," Leone said. "Some of the materials have been in consideration for a while, we were just waiting for funding."

The new paint booth will allow students to use approved paints and do dusting and sanding jobs, Leone said. The new booth puts the senior project lab in a position to help cut air pollution and let students make even more creative things, Leone said.

"It is an important step to allow us to do a lot of stuff we couldn't do before," he said.

With the new equipment, seniors will have more project options, Leone said.

"The new stuff will make it possible to do my project on campus without consulting outside help," said Adam Brinkman, mechanical engineering senior.

Grimm, senior project lab student technician. "Our new equipment is going to increase the quantity and quality of projects that students are able to produce in the shop," Grimm said. It's really going to help us.

The new equipment has been purchased and is on order, Leone said. The paint booth will be usable by summer quarter, he said.

"We encourage people to come up here and use the lab for school-related projects," Leone said. "Not many schools have facilities like this. We're a resource."

The department is considering building a new lab facility to accommodate more equipment and students, Leone said.

Speech is difficult to decipher for software

By Corbin Sullivan
THE DAILY CARDINAL

(LEWIS MADISON, Wis. - The idea of computers that can recognize voice is not new. Writers of the 1960s science fiction series "Star Trek" had the characters talking to a computer that ran their starship, and recent computer programs write from dictation.

Now a computer voice-recognition revolution is on the horizon, but research suggests that current voice-recognition technology has shortcomings that may discriminate against a broad range of people whom the computer will not understand.

Rosetta Tall, an assistant professor in the department of communicative disorders at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, is doing continuing research on what voice-recognition software does not recognize.

"This is one of those cases where the future is now, but we're not ready for it quite yet," Tall said.

The future, Tall speaks of is voice-recognition technology controlling the Internet, being used for security and eventually helping to run our homes as well. It is a future much like the visions of "Star Trek," but instead of saying "Computer, give us our coordinates," people will say "Refrigerator, how much milk do we have?" However, the programs that would make this possible only recognize extremely specific vocal patterns.

The accepted industry standard for vocal recognition is called Voice XML, and as of now it is far from complete. Voice XML is like a Rosetta stone for computers that includes the letter sounds and combinations that result in words. Programs that use it rely on clear, precise pronunciation and proper vowel pronunciation, something few people with voice disorders can accomplish.

Spasmodic dysphonia, which is weak and breathy speech, and dysarthria, which is slurred speech, are two examples of disorders that could leave a voice-recognition program unable to respond, Tall said.

"People also pose a problem for Voice XML. While many of the deaf can talk, they often confuse consonants, such as "t" and "d," that look the same when lip reading.
Philosophies on freeways, radio, mall parking lots

Long car rides provide plenty of time for reflection, and since I spent more waking hours in a car than in any other vehicle this past weekend, I've had time to ponder life's great mysteries. This isn't necessarily a good thing, since my trains of thought don't tend to run in a linear fashion.

Los Angeles traffic has a way of screwing with people's minds. They either go crazy or become philosophical. I'm not quite sure which one I've become. So it goes.

Diary of a small-town girl in a big city

11:30 p.m. Saturday. A small parking lot in Orange County. I've been driving around for 15 minutes looking for a parking space. It's like trying to find a spot in the Cal Poly library lot. It cracks me up when I'm in the reserve room doing homework and see people driving around the library lot for 25 minutes or more, looking for a space. I haven't yet figured out what prompts people to do this - it's faster just to park out in the boonies and wait. Maybe that's what I should do. So it goes.

5:00 p.m. Sunday. Some freeway somewhere. I hate Los Angeles traffic. There's nothing to do but sit and check the traffic reports and contemplate the freeway billboards, which range from the mane to the wotly to the just plain confusing. I think the one that irritates me the most is the international Paper one with the little boy and the quote about "thinking outside of the box." That phrase was OK for a while, but now it's just a cheap trick to keep us away and never return. It ranks right up there with those buzzwords like "synergy" and "paradigm shift." Or the new one, "branding." "...it's not just for cars anymore. Silly me, I always thought branding was what happened to livestock to establish ownership. Now it's happening to wines and cheeses and products from Target. I would probably not have even known about this concept if it weren't for a lecture on this topic from my earthy-business and buzzword-conscious sister. So it goes.

10:30 p.m. Sunday. 101 north approaching Cuesta Grade. I've just passed my last landmark before I get home. For me, this is a notable landmark because it's near theGRAPHIC ARTS BUILDING, SUITE 226 Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanities and length. Please limit length to 350 words. Mustang Daily encourages comments on editorial policy and university affairs. Letters should be typewritten and signed with major and class standing. Preference is given to e-mailed letters. They can be mailed, faxed, delivered or e-mailed to editor@mustangdaily.calpoly.edu. Also, Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanities and length. Please limit length to 350 words.

Letters to the editor policy

Kari Savala

Kari Savala is a student in the education credential program.

Opinion

Sweet tooth' gene may explain obesity

... and so he lived happily ever after

For there would be no more diets and tasteless fat-free meals...

"Society has accepted that children of alcoholics are more likely to become alcoholics themselves ... "

Last week, researchers announced that they have identified a gene present in mice and people that acts as a sweet taste "receptor" in taste buds. The discovery of the gene could explain why some people have more pronounced cravings for sweet foods. A CNN.com article quotes Dr. Robert Mangelsdorf of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine as saying that the gene may play some role in promoting obesity due to increased sugar consumption.

This is not the first time scientists have claimed that genetics may play a role in obesity. Over the past few years, three genes — Benson, Agpt2 and Ney — have been linked to obesity and increased appetite. Naturally, this has prompted the findings and belief that overweight people will simply eat all they want and deny responsibility. Of course, some obese people would benefit from exercise and a change of eating habits.

For others, however, diet and exercise can only go so far. Obesity is such a large problem in the United States that, with the ever-increasing food portions and unhealthy diets, it cannot explain away obesity. Some people are just born with more fat than others are, and it's wrong for people to blame them for becoming fat from overeating, especially if they are genetically predisposed to crave sugar.

Society has accepted that children of alcoholics are more likely to become alcoholics themselves, and this is recognized as a valid and serious problem. The same should apply to certain cases of obesity. I have seen many obese mothers with obese babies and children. I find it hard to believe that mothers will purposely overfeed their babies and toddlers because they themselves eat larger portions of food. Just as parents transmit hair color and height genes to their children, they can transmit body size and shape genes as well.

The fact that people naturally come in all shapes and sizes cannot be disputed. I have seen many people who would be considered "chunky" or even fat by society's standards. These people could easily outshine me in a race or outplay me in any sport, even though I exercise every day and am what society considers a normal weight. This shows that weight is not always an overall indicator of health, although society has brought us up to believe it is.

In the United States, 8 million people suffer from eating disorders, according to Random House. Because these disorders can cause severe health problems and death, less emphasis should be placed on obesity as the root of all evil. There is a tremendous stigma associated with being naturally large, more so than other, more dangerous, genetically inherited traits such as alcoholism and various forms of mental illness.

Americans have become so shallow that beauty, worthwhileness and personal value have become more important than actual health and happiness.

While the discovery of the sweet taste "receptor" gene may be one small step in the process of proving the genetic variant of genetic inheritance of body size, it will be a long time before society accepts the theory. I hope that, in my lifetime, I will see an end to the perception that beauty and health are synonymous with a slim physique.

Kat Delbakker is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Letter policy

Columns, cartoons and letters reflect the views of their authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Mustang Daily.

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

Mustang Daily encourages comments on editorial policy and university affairs. Letters should be typewritten and signed with major and class standing. Preference is given to e-mailed letters. They can be mailed, faxed, delivered or e-mailed to editor@mustangdaily.calpoly.edu. Also, Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanities and length. Please limit length to 350 words.

Letters to the editor policy

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Opinion

Hacker Web site attack unfounded
Editor,

Richard Martin, letter to the editor ("What a tangled Web some candidates weave," April 27), struck me as utterly hypocritical. He rails against Angie Hacker for using "derogatory terms toward the homosexual community." However, her use of a single derogatory word on her Web page had nothing to do with gay and lesbian people. Although it was a poor choice of words, it was a choice that was made over 20 years ago.

Of course, Mr. Martin failed to mention that he is the former President of Cal Poly College Republicans - Brent Vann's current role. This is an organization whose official position during the 2000 primary elections was that gay and lesbian people aren't even worthy of Constitutional equality, as the College Republicans recommended a "yes" vote on the anti-gay Proposition 22.

On the other hand, Hacker is an active member of the Progressive Students Alliance - a group of people motivated to ending intolerance and inequality. Vann or Hacker, who is more likely to be supportive of the gay community?

The GLBU has accepted Hacker's apology and moved on. As an article in Mustang Daily indicates ("Campaign signs found distorted," April 26), the Judicial Affairs office will take action against any violations. We urge all students, no matter who they support, to respect each other's campaigns.

Ken Barclay is director of Student Life and Leadership and Pat Harris is coordinator for Leadership Education and adviser to the Associated Students Inc. elections.

CSU focuses most on teaching students
Editor,

As the California State University begins its contract negotiations with the California Faculty Association, we look forward to constructive conversations about the many issues that affect California State University faculty and students and the high quality of education at the CSU. The CSU recognizes how dedicated our faculty are to students. As a teaching institution, there is a focus on research so that CSU faculty can spend more time teaching students. CSU's appreciation for faculty is demonstrated by the fact that their annual average salary of $72,000 is 20 percent higher than the national average.

Over the past four years, the CSU faculty salary increases total 23.5 percent compared to the national average of 14.9 percent. Just last year, the CSU increase was six percent, compared to the national average of 3.5 percent, and the CSU is asking for another six percent increase this year. This may be a factor in why only about 1 percent of tenured track faculty choose to leave the CSU for another position annually.

The CSU has made instruction of students a priority, and spends less on administration compared to other comparable national universities. The latest data from the U.S. Department of Education is from the 1995/96 year and shows that universities, on average, spend 32 percent of their budget on instructors' compensation, compared to 41 percent at the CSU in the current year. Likewise, the cost of instruction, academic support, student services and maintenance of facilities account for 75 percent of the CSU expenditures, compared to the national average of 51 percent.

Considering the CSU's significantly increasing enrollment, it is fortunate that the CSU budget has increased by $143 million over the past three years. Much of that has been spent on hiring new tenure-track faculty. You may hear union activists claim that only one tenure track position has been added in the last five years. However, the fact is that the more than 2,300 tenure track faculty hired over the past five years has helped maintain our low 18 to 1 student faculty ratio, which keeps CSU class sizes small.

One of the issues you will hear about as the negotiations continue is the Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP), through which CSU faculty can choose to ease into retirement. There are about 1,000 faculty in the program statewide, and, in many cases, these faculty teach half as much and actually earn more than before they retired. It is a very popular faculty benefit. Ten percent of CSU tenured faculty are in this program, and, over the past several years, half of retiring faculty have entered the program. However, it also prevents the CSU from hiring full-time tenure track replacements and causes the CSU to hire one or two part-time faculty replacements to ensure that students have access to the courses they need and the small class size they expect.

Many such issues in the bargaining are complex and can be misunderstood. However, be assured the CSU realizes that there is no more important factor in the quality of our students' education than the quality of the faculty. That is why we are so proud of the high quality of our faculty and will continue to work very hard to support their dedication to students.

Charles B. Reed is chancellor of the California State University system.

Mike Sullivan is a computer engineering junior.

Letters to the editor

Opportunities lead to less convictions
Editor,

Reading Michelle Hatfield's commentary on Friday ("Rex Krebs shouldn't be no longer served for society," April 27), I was surprised she recommended the "look into their eyes" test as a sentencing guideline for convicted criminals. I thought that was just something people said to get out of jury duty.

I'm convinced of Krebs' guilt, and I believe criminals have to be punished in order to deter crime. But using draconian punishments is a symptom of the "whack-a-mole" approach to social control: wait until someone messes up and then make his life as miserable as possible, even though he may have been miserable to start with. I also believe that GIGO applies to humans as well as computers.

We as a society should spend more effort trying to make sure each child grows up healthy and functional so we don't have to spend so much on the criminal justice system (more money to SCHOOLS and less on PRISONS).

We ought to keep Krebs around to remind us of our collective failure, not just put another skeleton in another closet.

No man is an island - not even a serial killer.

Dean Wilber is an electrical engineering senior.

Defacing posters will not be tolerated
Editor,

As the department responsible for coordinating the Associated Students Inc. election, we are very disappointed in the defacing of campus posters. This is clearly a violation of the election code and rules. It is also indirect contradic­tion to the spirit of cooperation expressed by all presidential candidates.

As an article in Mustang Daily indicates ("Campaign signs found distorted," April 26), the Judicial Affairs office will take action against any violations. We urge all students, no matter who they support, to respect each other's campaigns.

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Editor,

Reading Michelle Hatfield's commentary on Friday ("Rex Krebs shouldn't be no longer served for society," April 27), I was surprised she recommended the "look into their eyes" test as a sentencing guideline for convicted criminals. I thought that was just something people said to get out of jury duty.

I'm convinced of Krebs' guilt, and I believe criminals have to be punished in order to deter crime. But using draconian punishments is a symptom of the "whack-a-mole" approach to social control: wait until someone messes up and then make his life as miserable as possible, even though he may have been miserable to start with. I also believe that GIGO applies to humans as well as computers.

We as a society should spend more effort trying to make sure each child grows up healthy and functional so we don't have to spend so much on the criminal justice system (more money to SCHOOLS and less on PRISONS).

We ought to keep Krebs around to remind us of our collective failure, not just put another skeleton in another closet.

No man is an island - not even a serial killer.

Dean Wilber is an electrical engineering senior.
Sports

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Blackwell said one of the best aspects of running for Cal Poly is working with Mark Conover, assistant track and field coach. Conover has taken the cross-country team, which he also assists in coaching, from "pathetic to one of the best in the nation." Cal Poly cross-country is ranked No. 23 in the nation. Blackwell said he respects Conover not only as a coach but also as an outstanding athlete. Conover, who has worked with Blackwell since he was a freshman, said he holds an edge over other athletes mentally. "He has figured out how to race," Conover said. "He runs well when it matters." Heads above the rest

Stephanie Brown is not too humbled to call herself a "gamer." While she doesn't look forward to practicing her events, shot put and discus, Brown said she always strives to play her best.

"I have a mind set of pure confidence," Brown said.

The red-shirted freshman held the school record for shot put at 50 feet, 8 inches. She is second on the list for discus at 160 feet, 2 inches. In 1999, she was Big West Champion in both events.

At the California/Nevada championships, "Locals appreciate my hometown hero status." Stephanie Brown

Cal Poly field athlete

overshadowed this weekend. Brown placed third and fourth respectively in shot put and discus. Brown came to Cal Poly out of Arroyo Grande High School in 1998 on a scholarship for basketball and track and field. It is no surprise to the 6-foot, 5-inch athlete also played volleyball in high school.

"I think I really liked the running sports would be her ticket," to college. Brown said. While competing in high school, several schools recruited Brown for track and field, but she really wanted to play basketball. She said Cal Poly ultimately became her school of choice when they offered her a scholarship for both sports, she said.

Brown placed on the Cal Poly women's basketball team her freshman year. After a knee injury, she decided to come back this year and try to compete only in track and field. She now has dedicated herself full time to track and field.

Pete Corkery, assistant track and field coach for throwers, said Brown is having her most consistent year in the shot put and discus events after coming off the knee injury. "She is working to hone her skills technically," he said.

After graduating from Cal Poly, Brown said she plans on pursuing her dreams of competing in the Olympics. She said she would like to win a NCAA championship before going to Olympic trials someday.

Remaining close to her Arroyo Grande roots has let Brown keep in touch with friends and family and has enabled Blackwell to remain in close contact with the com- munity.

Reds switch Griffey with Prime Time

CINCINNATI (AP) Ken Griffey is being replaced by Devon Sanders.

The Cincinnati Reds put Griffey on the disabled list Saturday because of a partially torn left ham-

string that has reduced him to pinch-hitting for the time being.

They plan to replace him with Sanders, who is eligible to rejoin the club on Tuesday. The two-sport athlete was called up from Triple-A Louisville, where he represented his baseball career by hitting .495.

"It is a lot easier now to balance Junior when you have Devon Sanders to replace him," general manager Dave Bowden said.

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Herbert stands atop the statistics sheet with a 412 batting average. He is hitting over .400 in 19 games, one of which occurred in a pinch hitter or defensive replacement. Not only has Herbert hit well, but he's also hit for power, with a .647 slugging percentage.

Although he might not have pre-
dicted the contributions from his freshmen, Price is not surprised.

"They're actually making an impact sooner than I expected them to," he said. "A lot of that is a trib- ute to how good they are and how good of players they are. They've come in, they're worked hard, they've managed to work on their weaknesses and develop their game and progress at a faster rate than our coaching staff even thought possible."
Rookies help Mustangs' playoff run

By Ryan Ballard

The Cal Poly baseball team has found an unusual fuel for its fire on the way to a 28-17 record this season — freshmen.

Throughout the season, a handful of freshmen have made a significant impact, including Kyle Wilson, Quinn McGinnis, Billy Saul, Andrew Toussaint, Chalon Tietje and Sam Herbert.

Head coach Ritch Price is very pleased with his freshmen class.

"We knew we had a really good freshmen recruiting class," Price said. "We think it's the best class we've recruited since we've been Division I."

Wilson has had the most playing time among the freshmen and has been the most productive, often batting in the cleanup spot and playing third base. He has steadily improved this season.

"Every at-bat I feel more comfortable," he said. "I feel like I can do more out there every game."

Wilson is batting .302 this year and is tied for third on the team with two home runs. He also has driven in 22 runs in the 34 games he has played.

After starting 25 games, Wilson no longer qualifies as a typical freshman.

"I feel more a part of the team, that I'm expected to do more because I've been in the games," he said. "It makes it a lot of fun. It's better because the expectations are higher, which makes me want to work hard. I love the competition. I like the pressure and I like going out there and playing every day."

Another frequent freshman starter is outfielder Andrew Toussaint, who has started 19 games for the Mustangs this season. Toussaint has been steady at the plate, with a .305 batting average and a .425 on-base percentage.

Outfielder Billy Saul has been getting more playing time recently and understands the importance of being prepared when called upon.

"It's been mostly mental," he said. "Whether I'm playing or not I have to be mentally prepared because I might come in late in the game or I might start. I just have to be ready." Saul is best at getting on base and the set of the table for runners behind him. He has a .415 on-base percentage and has scored 16 runs.

"For the most part, I've felt like I've done an OK job," he said. "I can always do better, but I'm just going with the flow pretty much, trying to get to the job done."

Pitcher Quinn McGinnis has received the most appearances on the mound for the Mustangs among freshmen.

McGinnis has come out of the bullpen 11 times and started twice, recording two wins and two saves.

Being a relief pitcher is usually a high anxiety job, so being a freshman reliever potentially could intensify the pressure. McGinnis doesn't let it bother him, though.

"I don't even have time to think about it and get nervous," he said. "Sometimes later I look back and think it could have been hard to do." The leadership from the upperclassmen has helped McGinnis and the other freshmen adjust to the transition of going from high school to Division I college baseball.

"Talking to the second- and third-year guys and seniors has helped me a lot," McGinnis said. "I learn about what they're going through, how to work through injuries and deal with different situations." Chalon Tietje has played in 27 games this season, starting nine. Tietje has been solid in the outfield and at the plate. He has an on-base percentage of .425.

In limited action, Sam Herbert has received the most appearances on the mound for the Mustangs among freshmen.

McGinnis and the other freshmen have been a solid contributor to the Mustangs, batting .295 and scoring 16 runs. He has five RBI and hasn't been caught stealing in four attempts.

Above, outfielder Billy Saul has been a solid contributor to the Mustangs, batting .295 and scoring 16 runs. He has five RBI and hasn't been caught stealing in four attempts.

By Jenifer Hansen

Athletes come to Cal Poly from all over the country, but for three track and field athletes, the trek to the track was just a hop, skip and a jump from their local high schools.

Avery Blackwell, Stephanie Brown and Mitch Naber came to Cal Poly knowing the territory a little better than their track and field teammates.

Blackwell hailed from San Luis Obispo High School while Brown and Naber both graduated from Arroyo Grande High School. Each of the athletes competed in their high school track and field programs, enabling them to showcase their hometown athletic talents.

Growing up in the area is where their similarities end. Each athlete had different reasons for coming to Cal Poly — and each athlete had different motivations for competing in track and field. While Blackwell, Brown and Naber seem as different as night and day, the athletes complete the picture of what the Cal Poly track and field team should look like — masters of distance, throws and jumps.

Going the distance, going for speed

Senior Avery Blackwell has had the best season of his tenure on the track and field team.

Competing in the 5,000- and 10,000-meter events, Blackwell ran a personal best of 22:22 in the 10,000-meter event at Mr. Sac Relays on April 21. He is currently ranked No. 22 in the nation in the 10,000-meter event.

Blackwell is humble, though, when talking about his success on the track and field team. He liked his ability to run as a gift from God, realizing that it was given to him to put into use.

"Running is the greatest gift I have," he said.

Religion and spirituality are motivating factors in Blackwell's life. In addition to running on both the track and field and cross-country teams for Cal Poly, he leads a Campus Crusade bible study for fellow teammates.

After graduating next year with a degree in civil engineering, Blackwell said he plans on getting involved with Athletes in Action, a Christian-based organization that works with athletes.

Blackwell ran cross-country and track at San Luis Obispo High School before graduating in 1997. Running for Cal Poly wasn't really what he wanted to do after high school, he said. While Blackwell thought that Cal Poly had great engineering and running programs, he wanted to get away from San Luis Obispo by going to another school like UC Davis, he said.

Ultimately, he decided that Cal Poly was the best option because of the superior programs.

"If Cal Poly had been in any other city, the decision would have been easy," he said.

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Sports Trivia

Yesterday's Answer:

John Wooden played college basketball at Purdue.

Congrats Chheang Yang!

Today's Question:

How many Grand Slam singles titles did Martina Navratilova win?

Please submit sports trivia answers to: reader@calpoly.edu

Please include your name. The first correct answer received via e-mail will be printed in the next issue of the paper.