Protests surround republican rally

By Victoria Walsh

Despite much controversy surrounding Thursday's Cal Poly College Republicans' "Support Our Troops" rally, the event went smoothly and without chaos. College Republican President Brent Vann said he was happy with the turnout and the way the rally went.

About 100 people attended the rally, whether they were for the troops or not. Vann said he wanted the day to be about the troops and not bring any politics to the forum.

"Today is 100 percent about the troops," Vann said. "We want them to know that Cal Poly supports their efforts."

The event included a moment of silence to reflect on the military's efforts in Afghanistan, words from veterans who fought in the Korean War and Vietnam and remarks from Vann and Dustin Thelen, chairman of the rally.

"The soldiers will stop the beating of hearts of terrorism," Thelen said. "For they believe that the war and Vietnam and remarks said. "For they believe that the

see FLIERS, page 7

International Education Week highlights global diversity

By Stephen Curran

For many students planning to enter the workforce, it is indeed a small world after all. And many Cal Poly students realize this.

Architecture senior Mandi Roberts is one such student. Last year, Roberts took part in a Japan Study program through Virginia Tech, where she was studying at the time. "It's good to be exposed to different cultures," she said. And, as International Education Week draws to a close, many students are looking forward to gaining experiences like these for themselves.

The idea behind International Education Week is to increase interest in international travel, said Richard LeRoy, Pacific programs coordinator for Cal Poly International Education and Programs. As the world becomes more globalized, the need to understand different cultures grows.

The week's activities are geared not only toward students planning on traveling overseas, but to those who might not ordinarily think about international travel, LeRoy said.

"The idea is to increase awareness," he said.

Currently, he said, Cal Poly sends a large number of students abroad. According to an Institute for International Education report, Cal Poly sends the fourth-highest number of students abroad of any master's institution in the country, sending more than 50 students overseas during the 1999-2000 school year. "Actually, Cal Poly is doing quite well for its size," LeRoy said. "The options for students wishing to travel abroad are many."

Despite recent safety concerns, there has not been a noticeable drop in the number of students studying abroad.

see GLOBAL, page 7

Program helps bridge digital divide

By Stephen Curran

In the United States, poverty does not necessarily mean going without food or shelter. In today's technology-driven society, computer skills can often separate the haves from the have-nots, says the founder of a new computer-training program.

For many, having these skills can mean the difference between a subsistence income and a six-figure one, said Apatu Kuttan, president of the National Education Foundation (NEF) Cyberlearning, a nonprofit organization aimed at closing this "digital divide." Kuttan said.

According to Kuttan, the "digital divide" is one that is adversely affecting the poor and minorities.

"The digital divide is actually widening if you look at women and minorities," Kuttan said.

Therefore, the NEF has been sponsoring programs nationwide to help train those who are either unemployed or underemployed with skills that will help them compete in today's high-tech workforce. The program provides subsidized Personal Computing and Information technology classes to students, teachers and underprivileged people.

"It's a good opportunity to make a difference," Kuttan said.

However, high-tech skills do not necessarily guarantee a job in today's technologically saturated workforce, said Jerry Hanley, vice provost and chief information officer for Cal Poly Information Technology Services.

In fact, he said, some of the nation's largest unemployment figures are in the high-tech sector of California's Silicon Valley.

And, as technology has become more prevalent, courses such as the NEF's become more common, making the opportunity available to more segments of the population.

"In the U.S. today, even if you're a homeless person, you can go into a (public) library and gain access to the Internet," Hanley said.

In comparison to other parts of the world, the United States has some of the best public access in the world, he said. However, there is still a problem, as many current employees lack the skills to compete and will face decreasing opportunities as a result.

"I think that anybody who is not learning to use IT is going to be competing for less and less opportunity," he said. "More and more of our econ.
By Stephen Harvey

Is religious diversity lacking at Cal Poly?

The mantra of conversation fills the room as more people join in the discussion. Students carrying leather-bound Bibles, Korans, Torahs, and some not carrying anything, sit next to each other. The topic for the night is religion. Although this isn’t a reality on campus, it could be. Religion, while a perceived decision for many, is also a way of life and provides a cultural background for others. However, Cal Poly doesn’t provide the most diverse forum to explore different faiths.

Although there are clubs related to religion and faith on campus, they remain mostly Christian. There are 15 religious clubs listed on the Associated Students Inc. Web site. But not every religion has an organization tied to it, and Cal Poly is handicapped when it comes to religious diversity because of the nature of students who come here. Other schools with more ethnically diverse student bodies have greater religious diversity on campus as well. It is well known that Cal Poly is trying to gain ethnic diversity, and with it might come more religious diversity. Robert Derwelle, interim vice president of Student Affairs, noted that Cal Poly has a large population of Asian Americans, but that they are mostly Japanese or Chinese descent and follow the Christian religion. Consequently, this doesn’t add to the religious diversity of the campus.

Cal Poly isn’t alone. Chico State has almost the same number of religious groups as Cal Poly. Many of the religious clubs are national and can be found on both campuses: Campus Crusade for Christ, Hillel/Jewish Student Union and the Muslim Student Association are just a few of the different organizations.

Student views on Cal Poly’s religious diversity are varied.

“Cal Poly is fairly diverse,” said Reul Zellar, vice president of Campus Crusade for Christ. “I’ve gotten in many conversations with many different people of different faiths.”

Shahzad Khan, acting president for the Muslim Student Association, said, “It has a lot to do with enrollment.”

Khan said that because Cal Poly is a public institution, the administration cannot target or recruit students of specific religious descent. Derwelle affirmed this and said that because of Proposition 209, the administration can’t target ethnic groups, either.

Cal Poly doesn’t limit the formation of religious groups, but it doesn’t foster their formation. However, Cal Poly does have a group that puts different religious groups in contact with each other. There is an interfaith council that meets once a quarter, according to David Smiley, the liaison to the council. The job of the council is to work together to coordinate what each religious group does within the university setting.

“Most are staff, but there are a few students (on the council). Hillel doesn’t have an employed staff person, so there is a student that helps out. We value their membership. The door is open to anyone,” he said.

Even though students can sit on the council, it doesn’t give them the same forum or brotherhood that can be found in organizations such as Campus Crusade or Hillel. One idea that the Muslim Student Association has been working on, with the help of the Progressive Student Alliance and the Multicultural Center, is a public forum on religion so that students would be able to be educated on all religions. Khan said that if he wants to know about Christianity, he goes to the source rather than trying to figure it out from a book.

“Ignorance is why the Muslim Student Association exists,” said Khan. “If you ask, you’ll find, if you need (to know), you’ll know.”

There is a way for students to learn about religions even if they don’t have a club — in classes. Hinduism and Buddhism are both offered once a year as part of the religious studies program. Judaism and Christianity are also offered as well.

Buddhist professor Joseph Lynch said that in the 11 years he has been at Cal Poly, he hasn’t seen an attempt to form a Buddhist club.

“I would have thought that if students wanted to start one they could,” Lynch said. “It would be better if there was an attempt. It would be to everyone’s benefit if there was more religious education.”

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Cal Poly Alumni Association
National Briefs

United Airlines to arm pilots with stun guns

CHICAGO — United Airlines announced Thursday that it will be the first major U.S. airline to install Tasers, a brand of stun gun, in the cockpits of its 500 planes. The guns are intended to be used against hijackers and only the pilots will be able to access them.

Tasers fire an electrical signal and incapacitate the assailant for 15 minutes. They will cause no damage to the airplane, unlike other firearms. The installations are pending approval by the Federal Aviation Administration, which currently prohibits deadly or dangerous weapons aboard airplanes except when carried by air marshals. There are no plans to change the rule.

The only other airline planning on using the stun guns is Tiny Mesa Airlines. Even though federal authorities have stepped up security requirements for airlines, government inspectors have found 92 breaches of security at U.S. airports in the last two weeks.

— Reuters

Man on probation for assaulting Cookie Monster

DOYLESTOWN, Pa. — A Maryland man was convicted Wednesday with simple assault, disorderly conduct and harassment of an employee at Sesame Place who was dressed as Cookie Monster on June 9. The man, Lee P. McPhatter Jr., 22, kicked, punched and knocked down the employee after she did not respond to requests to pose with McPhatter’s 3-year-old daughter for a photograph. He was sentenced to two years probation and must take an anger management class.

Police said that McPhatter called E. Jennie McNells, the Sesame Place employee, “a mean Cookie Monster” and then punched her through the mouth of the monster costume, knocking her down. McPhatter and his girlfriend, the girl’s mother, testified that McNells showed her daughter several times, flings a paw in McPhatter’s face and then tripped. The little girl said to the judge, “Cookie pushed me in the face.”

McNells spent two months in physical therapy McPhatter could have been sentenced to up to two years in prison.

— Associated Press

CDC survey reveals most Americans not having risky sex

NEW YORK — Only 4 percent of respondents in a Centers for Disease and Prevention survey said that they had either tested positive for HIV or had engaged in behaviors strongly linked to HIV infection. Almost 8 percent of respondents believed their risk for HIV infection to be “high” or “medium.”

More than 90 percent of respondents reported having one or no sexual partners in the preceding year. 25 percent said that they had used a condom last time they had sex.

The CDC reported that men, women and those over age 40 were more likely to have two or more sexual partners, but they were also more likely to have had sex in the last time they had intercourse. They also said that their findings showed most adults were not at risk for HIV infection.

The survey looked at HIV-related behaviors among more than 33,000 adults from 25 states. Participants were randomly selected from the general U.S. population.

— Reuters

International Briefs

Middle East

JERUSALEM — At a meeting of the UN General Assembly Thursday, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said that there was support in Israel for a Palestinian homeland, but that it was not an official policy. Members of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon’s cabinet have said that Peres had no mandate to make the declaration, and citizen groups have called on Sharon to fire Peres.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat has said that a Palestinian state would be an “absolute guaranty” for peace and stability in the region. Sharon has made public comments suggesting a demilitarized Palestinian state, but this still falls short of Palestinian aspirations.

Israeli troops and tanks entered two Palestinian-held towns in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank Wednesday night; officials and witnesses said that one Palestinian was killed and 14 were wounded. Thirteen houses were destroyed or damaged. The Israeli army said that the houses destroyed belonged to terrorists who believed were used by Palestinians to fire anti-tank grenades, mortar bombs and guns at military campsites and a Jewish settlement.

— Reuters

South America

BOGOTA, Colombia — Police said Thursday that a Colombian journalist and his 17-year-old nephew were killed by unidentified gunmen with an unknown motive. The two were in the home of Buenaventura, watching a soccer game on television when the attackers burst in. This brings the total number of journalists killed in Colombia this year to nine.

Herberto Cardenas, 52, was a correspondent for several Buenaventura radio stations and one national newspaper, but had been out of work for several months. Last year 10 journalists were murdered, and another 12 fled the country after receiving death threats. At least 100 journalists have been killed in Colombia in the past 10 years, most from far-right paramilitaries and cocaine smugglers. About 42,000 people have been killed in the last decade for reasons related to the conflict.

— Reuters

Middle East

KABUL, Pakistan — Eight Soviet aid workers were released near Kandahar early Thursday. They were later airlifted to Pakistan by the Soviet army. They had been in Taliban custody for three months. The group was composed of six women and two men from the United States, Germany and Australia.

They had been arrested and charged with preaching Christianity, which is punishable by death in Taliban courts.

Retreating Taliban troops had taken the eighth from Kabul towards Kandahar Thursday. They were kept in a shipping container and later in a squad jail. They were discovered by Northern Alliance forces and rescued by workers of the Red Cross.

The prisoners celebrated with local residents and the formerly imprisoned men cut their beards. The women burned their burqas to help the helicopters land in the dark. The Taliban had forced the women to wear burqas and the men to grow beards while they were in captivity.

The Taliban were planning on releasing the aid workers to the Red Cross and the United States were delayed by the U.S. bombing in Kabul. A Taliban deputy ambassador and six other Taliban officials were transported for their safety.

— USA Today

Briefs compiled from various news services by Mustang Daily contributor Anne Guildford.
Monsters, Inc.

Monsters, Inc. is monster hit

By Leslie Edwards
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

As the movie opens, Monstropolis faces a crisis there is a screen商用age because kids don't scare as easily as they used to. The burden weighs heavily on Sulley and Mike (voiced by Billy Crystal and John Goodman), who have spent years creating the leading scare-producers, a job that they used to

The computer animation in 'Monsters, Inc.' is incredible — perhaps better than 'Toy Story' and 'A Bug's Life.'

Boo brings out Sulley's soft side and makes it easy to relate to the characters, even if they are monsters.

The film portrays Monstropolis as a mirror of our own world. The city, power problems result in all too familiar "rolling blackouts." The power company also puts out a public service announcement: "We scare because we care."

"Monsters, Inc." is the fourth computer animated motion picture brought to the screen by the marriage of Disney and Pixar. The computer animation in "Monsters, Inc." is incredible, perhaps better than in its predecessors, the two "Toy Story" films and "A Bug's Life." In one scene, you can actually see the hair on Sulley's arms move back and forth in the breeze.

Monsters, like toys and bugs, come in every shape, size and color, a sure attraction to the film. The most entertaining part of the film is the rollercoaster-like chase with Sulley, Mike and Boo trying to escape Randall's group. The scene involves thousands of doors from all over the world, flying along a conveyor belt to be placed at their designating spots until the plant needs them again. An interesting component of the film is the lack of songs. It goes the see MONSTERS, page 5

Animation booms in recent movies

By Nikolias Markantonatos

AMHERST, Mass. — "Monsters, Inc."

In fact, Randall Boggs (Steve Buscemi), a sly, disappearing leader who will stop at nothing to get to the top.

Things go haywire when the monsters accidentally allow a tiny human, named Boo (voiced by Mary Gibbs) into the world of Monstropolis. For the rest of the film, Sulley tries to get the little girl back to her home safely before Randall gets hold of her to hook her up to a torture machine he invented that will remove the kid's screams for good.

Boo's existence in Monstropolis is a catastrophe since the inhabitants are convinced that kids are toxic and that their mere touch will destroy the world. Before long, Sulley and Mike bond with the young Boo and end up defending her against Randall and the CDA (Child Detection Agency).

But there's a fight brewing in the Two current computer-generated titans: Can Mike and Sulley top that

After Sept. 11, these films have even more meaning. Everything from Pixar Animation Studios and Disney/Pixar, the chic, cutting-edge computer animation behemoth, contains exceeding virility and melts the heart with enormous character and warmth. Filled with multilevel awareness to kids' eye sensibilities and adult-pitched humor, "Monsters, Inc." offers more entertainment than others in the movie theater. Unlike say action flicks (most of which have been pushed back) or heavy-handed dramas, "Monsters, Inc." provides light-hearted fun to a grief-stricken America.

But there's a fight brewing in the two current computer-generated titans. Can Mike and Sulley top that big green ogre's almost $270 million total of $111.7 million after its second weekend. Then again, there's also the comparison of DVD sales.

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gained an impressive $46.2 million this past weekend, down only 26 percent from its $62.6 million bow — a record for an animated fantasy-Pixar and Disney labored for more than four years to craft the tale of two amiable beasties, Mike and Sulley (voiced by Billy Crystal and John Goodman), who find an errant boy named Boo (voiced by Mary Gibbs) to plant subtle jokes that poke "Antz" to plant subtle jokes that poke "Antz"

As the movie opens, Monstropolis faces a crisis there is a screen商用age because kids don't scare as easily as they used to. The burden weighs heavily on Sulley and Mike (voiced by Billy Crystal and John Goodman), who have spent years creating the leading scare-producers, a job that they used to

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In fact, Randall Boggs (Steve Buscemi), a sly, reptilian creature who challenges Sulley for terror championship in a showdown between good and evil among the monster population, goes invisible during the end of the film in a state-of-the-art animation piece in the movie. The magic isn't about technology, no matter how whizzy the tech is; it's about story, style and substance.

This summer's smash, "Shrek," confirmed what every other film was hurt.) Precision to detail can also be seen in "Monsters, Inc." and "Shrek." During the end of the film in a state-of-the-art animation piece in the movie. The magic isn't about technology, no matter how whizzy the tech is; it's about story, style and substance.

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DIRECTIONS to the local showtimes:

**Fremont**

**Harry Potter & the Sorcerer’s Stone**
- (1:00), (3:00), (10:00)
- (6:00), (9:00)
- (12:15), (3:15), (8:15)

**Monsters, Inc.**
- (12:15), (3:15), (7:00), (9:15)
- (5:00), (8:00)

**Downtown Center 7 Cinemas**

**Focus**
- (11:10), (4:10), 9:00
- (4:00), 9:20

**Sorcerer’s Stone**
- (1:00), (3:00), 6:00

**Lift As A House**
- (12:15), (3:15), 6:40, 9:35

**From Hell**
- (3:15), 7:00

**Domestic Disturbance**
- (11:45), (2:45), 7:15, 9:45

**Shallow Hal**
- (11:45), (2:45), 7:15, 9:45

**The One**
- (1:15), 3:40, 6:00, 8:15, 10:25

**Riding In Cars with Boys**
- (1:15), 3:40

**Sunset Drive-In**

**Spider-Man**
- (4:15), (7:00), 9:15

**Madison Drive**
- (6:30), 9:15

**Reel Attraction**
- (4:15), 7:00, 9:15

**CPTV**

**Y? Magazine**
- Thursday, Friday & Saturday
- 8:30 p.m.
- Sunday 12:30 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.
- Channel 10

**Cal Poly Television**

**Mustang Daily Staff Writer**

**Shallow Hal**

**by Emily Schwartz**

**MONSTERS**

continued from page 4

whole 90 minutes without a single song, which just shows the strength of the writing and vocal characterizations. “Monsters, Inc.” is a fast-moving and visually impressive film that is enjoyable for both adults and kids. Although the really young children might be scared of the few scenes with scary monsters, the older viewers will enjoy the inside jokes. Most everyone will appreciate the “Toy Story” street sign and the tabloid newspaper “The Blob.”

One reference in the film that will sail over the heads of many kids (as well as most adults) is the name attached to a restaurant to which Mike takes his sweetheart Celia (voiced by Jennifer Tilly). It’s named after Ray Harryhausen as a tribute to his pioneering efforts in animation. Even though “Monsters, Inc.” doesn’t have as many jokes as its predecessors, it’s still a funny and enjoyable film for all ages.

**From Hell**

Robert De Niro stars in this dramatic take on the mystery of Jack the Ripper. No one said it would be pleasant. "From Hell” is one of the most disturbing movies of the year. It’s filled with gore and violence and makes viewing it an experience rather than entertainment. The film, which is based on the graphic novel by Alan Moore, is set in London in 1888. The years leading up to the murders are shown in flashbacks, and the film takes place during the serial killings. The action is well executed, but the film is too graphic for some audiences. It’s not for the faint of heart, but it is a well-crafted film that is sure to please fans of the graphic novel.

**Riding In Cars with Boys**

This coming-of-age film stars Drew Barrymore and Justin Timberlake as two young people who fall in love. The film is set in New York City in 1993, and it is a realistic portrayal of what it was like to be young and in love during that time. The characters are well-drawn and the performances are strong. The film is directed by Catherine Hardwicke, who also directed the film " Lords of Dogtown." It is a film that will resonate with young people who are looking for a realistic portrayal of life during that time period.

**Sunset Drive-In**

Please call 544-4475 for Movies & Showtimes.

**Palm Theater**

Please call 544-4475 for Movies & Showtimes.
Female television lacks quality

(BURBIZ LOS ANGELES) — You probably know that women were not allowed on stage in Shakespeare's day, but you probably don't know why. The vagabond laws, which applied to wandering English citizens such as a touring acting company, included a regulation that technically, rendered actresses as prostitutes. With the advent of the Lifetime Channel, this prophecy has come to pass.

As a male American, I have noted a decrease in the number of women in movies and on television. For example, the vast majority of their line-up is centric to the Mafia. You make jokes, you're in the club. If you're not, Sharia Law is coming for you. Perhaps the term "Vagina Monologues" doesn't mean the same thing to you that I mean it. You can actually have your uterus revoked. I'm sure there are mountains of women like, "Shattered Roses: The Story of the Jewish Woman's Struggle to Find Her Place in a Channel. The vast majority of their line-up consists of reruns of old TV movies with names like, "Splatter House: The Story of One Woman's Struggle to Find Her Place in a Big City After Getting Knocked Up By Satan, Michelle Gellar and at least one Olsen twin."

For the sake of science, I actually forced myself to watch four hours of the Lifetime Channel. The last words of this letter will
tell you that for those of you who don't know, "The Vagina Monologues" are to actors what shtshitting is to women and glittery cars has not faced, nor benefited by the dramatic achievement that is a Ja Quinn, as s<milie material.

The "love it or leave it" argument is old hat to America, it may have given the Afghan people the "love it or leave it" argument is old hat to America, it may have given the Afghan people the pleasure and fun, and anyone who Kiught that excuse was... well, for us, it was hard way to see how we can work together to shape our government's policies and actions. In fact, not only do we need to sacrifice our country further sub- bly, driven to the absolute bloody streets, and die for our pointless war.

The "So is it over?" argument is old hat to any peace activist; one would have believe that since we don't actually possess with America does, we must leave (and of course, leave the Taliban, as so many counter-protesters have told us to do). This is a democracy, and we have as much right as any citizen here to try to shape your government's policies and actions. In fact, not only do we need to sacrifice our country further sub- bly, driven to the absolute bloody streets, and die for our pointless war.

Clayton Whit is co-director of the PSA and a social science science.

"The Vagina Monologues." Frankly, I find the stage in Shakespeare's day, but you probably know it was the Guatemalan Freedom Fighters."

I've never been a fan of the Lifetime Channel, but we must move with the times. I'm sure someone, some quaint and quaint诋l 1  have noted a decrease in the number of women in movies and on television. For example, the vast majority of their line-up is centric to the Mafia. You make jokes, you're in the club. If you're not, Sharia Law is coming for you. Perhaps the term "Vagina Monologues" doesn't mean the same thing to you that I mean it. You can actually have your uterus revoked. I'm sure there are mountains of women like, "Shattered Roses: The Story of the Jewish Woman's Struggle to Find Her Place in a Big City After Getting Knocked Up By Satan, Michelle Gellar and at least one Olsen twin."

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FLIERS
continued from page 1

"I know some clubs would be offended," Vann said. "But there isn't one flyer on campus that doesn't offend someone. We agreed not to take down the posters."

Brent Vann
president of Cal Poly College Republicans

NEWSPAPERS
continued from page 3

CIT€ T T U in y."

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Does not appeal to build
deadly sound with campus media," Johnson said. "But Harris was not the only person offended by the posters."

The Respect demonstrated during the rally

is not the republican stance on (racism) is not the republican stance on

the fliers demonstrated during the rally."

"We agreed not to take down the posters."

"We were not anti-war protesting," Anderson said. "Just anti-violence."

Thelen said it was their first amendment right to use the poster board. "It was just meant to bring attention to the rally," Thelen said. "We agreed not even though College Republicans may have contradicted the students' needs, they do need to be sensitive to the academic side and campus concerns it could potentially raise."

Although the two groups differed on many views, the politics were put on hold in time to fulfill Vann's hope: 100 percent troop support.

Friday, November 16, 2001

before the smart bombs came along to inflict military defeat on them," Khoury wrote, recalling that it was the United States and its allies who helped craft the Soviets' defeat in Afghanistan more than a decade ago. The subsequent U.S. abandonment of the desperate country helped lay the groundwork for the acceptance of America's will in the region. "And the victors in Afghanistan: we are not talking here about the Northern Alliance but about America itself. Americans are also the prisoners of obstacles, and there have been so many," Khoury wrote. "Their obstacles defeated them politically in many parts of the world, before they were struck with the events of Black Tuesday, on Sept. 11, in one of the ugliest of a civilization's defeat."

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"The Taliban was struggling not to fragment totally, but it also traced beliefs by ethnic, Pakistani tribal leaders and their challenge to Taliban rule in Turkestan and Kandahar."

In an opinion piece headlined "New McCarthyism," columnist Rajah Khoury equated the cual of life in the Taliban and the Afghanis' defeat with the defeat for America represented by the "New McCarthyism being practiced domestically by the United States."

Anti-terrorism measures, he wrote, mark a deadly blow to freedom, democracy and human rights. "The defeated in Afghanistan are the prisoners of obstacles, and there have been so many. They had been beaten down in their daily lives..."
High hopes guide Cal Poly

By Collin Hester

While adjusting to a year of experimentation and fresh ideas from a new coach, Cal Poly football presses on with stamina and perseverance to battle its last two opponents of the season.

The Mustangs have set off to compete against the Northern Iowa Panthers on Saturday followed by their final game on Nov. 24 against Saint Mary's. The confident and hopeful Mustangs are looking to improve their 5-4 record.

"It's easily feasible to win these next two games and we expect to win them, and we'll get pretty much nothing less," senior wide receiver Adam Herzing said. "We're just working hard and hopefully we'll get it done and get these next two wins."

Cal Poly has played Northern Iowa four times in the past, with the Panthers winning the last three of those games. The eighth-ranked team in the nation beat Cal Poly last year at Mustang Stadium 43-41. The Panthers enter Saturday's game with a two-game winning streak. The game will be held at Northern Iowa at 5:05 p.m.

Herzing said the Mustangs started the season off well and he is pleased with the way the new coach is leading the team.

"Coach Ellerson has done a really good job with our intensity and our effort and how we approach the game," Herzing said.

At the season's opening, the Mustangs lost to Montana 17-31, and then came back to beat Southern Utah 31-21 and Montana State 34-6. Of the four games they lost this season, three were lost by a touchdown or less. These early signs of success increased the team's confidence.

"We started the season slow, and I think we laid the foundations for playing some good ball," head coach Rich Ellerson said. "We went from

Poly tries to bounce back from road loss

By Jacob Jackson

The Cal Poly women's volleyball team was upset on the road last Saturday by UC Riverside, throwing their chances of a berth in the NCAA tournament into jeopardy.

But at this stage in the season, there is time to make a comeback.

"That was one of the all-time most devastating losses," junior setter AARON LAMBERT/ MUSTANG DAILY

Mary Hartfield said of the match against Riverside. "It knocked us down a little bit, but given the significance of this weekend, we have to move on."

On Friday and Saturday, the Mustangs face the Big West. And welcome a pair of Big West Conference opponents in their final two home matches of the season. Coach Steve Schlick said the Mustangs have to win both to be considered for a berth in the NCAA tournament.

"These next two matches are huge," Schlick said. Friday's opponent, Cal State Northridge, lost to the Mustangs 3-1 two months ago. Coach Schlick said the Mustangs match up well physically with the Matadors.

Saturday's pivotal match against Pacific is a different story. The perennial Big West powerhouse swept the Mustangs handily when the two teams met Oct. 9.

"They're a top 15 program nationally, and they're only gotten better as the year has gone on," Schlick said. The Mustangs don't have their history on their side, either.

"Pacific is the only Big West team we haven't beaten in my time here," said O'Halloran, who leads the team in kill percentage (.389) and assists (397). "We're looking to get even." Lead the charge will be a well, no one in particular. And Schlick said he doesn't mind that one bit.

"In years past, I've had one or two primary players," Schlick said. "This year, it's more of a team production. It's a great thing, as long as everyone steps up."

Junior Worthy Lien also praised the Mustangs' balanced attack. "It's a great thing, as long as everyone steps up."

"There's not a team in the conference that gets along better than us," she said. "We love each other. That makes us want to win that much more this weekend, to honor our seniors in their last home matches."

Schlick pointed to the seniors as the motivating factor this weekend as well.

We value their contributions a great deal," Schlick said. "This is our opportunity to celebrate their career, to allow them to be appreciated by a big home crowd for the last time. And of course, it's an opportunity to win a couple big matches, too."

Both Friday's and Saturday's matches begin at 7 p.m. in Mott Gym.