The Congressional Budget Office predicts an $855 billion deficit over the next decade

Alan Fram MUSTANG DAILY
WASHINGTON — As Congress started to digest a new Bush administration request of $80 billion to backsend war in Iraq and Afghanistan, its top budget analyst testified that the deficit for the next decade would exceed $855 billion in deficits for the next decade even without the costs of war and President Bush's Social Security plan.

Three senior administration officials said the White House would request $80 billion for the war, or about $20 billion for each year, beginning in fiscal 2006 to 2012.

In a written statement, Bush said the money would support U.S. troops and help the United States "stand with the Iraqi people and against the terrorists threatening the future of democracy and against the advancement of human rights.

The budget office estimated that if U.S. troop strength in Iraq and Afghanistan declines gradually after 2006, these wars would add $590 billion to deficits over the next decade. Including war costs, this year's shortfall would have been $590 billion.

One of the administration officials said the White House will project this year's deficit at $427 billion, citing higher overall spending estimates than the congressional estimators used.

The budget projection, for the years 2006 through 2015, is about two-thirds smaller than what congressional budget analysts predicted last fall. The drop is due largely to a budget estimate that required the agency to conclude Iraq and Afghanistan war costs and other expenses. Last September, the 10-year deficit estimate was $2.3 trillion. The CBO also projected this year's shortfall would be $368 billion. That was close to the $348 billion deficit for 2006 that it had forecast last fall. The two largest deficits ever in dollar terms were last year's $412 billion and the $377 billion gap of 2003.

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UPD
continued from page 1
ies said. The assailant grabbed one resident and struggled with her, but she was able to break free. He then fled the room.
"Breaking into a female's room that late at night, he's there to..." Nealy said. "We have narrowed the investigation's focus to a certain area that could possibly be a student," Walton said. "It's more likely than not.
If the assailant is a Cal Poly student, Nealy said it is not cre-
ted on an individual, and they are keeping their minds open as to what happened.
"We have narrowed the investi-
gation's focus to a certain area that could possibly be a student," Walton said. "It's more likely than not.
"We have put exhaustive research and time into the case at this point," Nealy said. "It's not often you assign two full-time investigators to one case. It shows the emphasis we are putting into this point," Nealy said. "It's not often you assign two full-time on the case.
Gambling
continued from page 1
At the same time, Eric Geffrard, a clinical psychologist in Los Angeles who specializes in compulsive gambling, said one of his patients lost more than $8,000 in one weekend after he signed up on an online poker site.
The recent wave of increased gambling is nothing new. However, this is the first time the pastime has been so readily available to gamblers. The online gambling industry has quickly become one of the largest revenue-producing busi-
tnesses on the Internet next to pornography, Geffrard said. According to PokerPulse.com, in a 24-hour period, people wager an estimated $162 million dollars in online poker games. The Web site reported that in October alone, 1,344,000 players gambled online with real money.
the investigation," Nealy said.
When asked whether the investi-
tigation was focused on a Cal Poly student, Nealy said it was centered on an individual, and they are keeping their minds open as to what happened.
"We have narrowed the inves-
tigation's focus to a certain area that could possibly be a student," Walton said. "It's more likely than not.
If the assailant is a Cal Poly stu-
dent, it is likely he will face police charges as well as consequences from Judicial or Academic Affairs, depending on the severity of the conviction.
"We will take into consideration whether the person used poor judgement and meant no harm," Walton said. "There is a difference between a minor misdemeanor and two felonies.
The suspect is a white male, 20 to 30 years old. He is about 5 feet, 8 inches tall and 170 to 180 pounds with a medium to stocky build. He has dark brown hair, is well groomed and was wearing a light gray hooded sweatshirt and faded blue jeans. He may have been seen a red and white, beach-cruiser style bike.
Anyone who may have knowl-
edge of the suspect or crime is asked to contact UPD at 756-2281. Also, there is a $1,000 award for information leading to an arrest. Anonymous calls can be made to Crime Stoppers, part of the Sheriff's office, at 549-STOP (7867).
Anne Gearan
WASHINGTON — One Senate Democrat called Condoleezza Rice a liar Tuesday and others said she was an apologist for Bush adminis-
tration failures in Iraq, but she remained on track for confirmation as secretary of state.
Rice, who has been President Bush's White House national security adviser for four years, was one of the loudest voices urging war. Democrats said she was responsible for her own distortions and exaggerations of the intelli-
gence which was provided to her," Levin said. "Dr. Rice is responsible for some of the most overblown rhetoric that the administration used to scare the American people," Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., said. "My vote against this nominee is my statement that this administra-
tion's lies must stop now," Dayton said in opposing Rice's nomination on the Senate floor.
Politicians rarely use the word "lie" preferring some of the milder terms other Democrats used Tuesday. "There was no reason to go to war in Iraq when we did, the way we did and for the false reasons we were given," said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass. "But she is responsible for her own distortions and exaggerations of the intellig-
ence which was provided to her," Levin said.
Dems call Rice liar, apologist
LOS ANGELES — Following the lead of the University of California, Santa Barbara, UCLA has turned in Chicago studies programs into a full-fledged academic department. Chicago studies has been an area of study at UCLA since 1973, but converting the field from an instructional center to a department will give it a higher profile on campus, the university said.

In 2003, UC Santa Barbara announced it would begin offering the nation’s first doctoral program in Chicano studies.

LOS ANGELES — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and the nation’s top housing official announced Tuesday that homeless programs nationwide will receive a record $1.4 billion in Housing and Urban Development grants.

HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson said an unprecedented number of local projects will receive the federal funding, which includes $278 million for California. An increasing number of faith-based organizations will be among the 4,400 local programs across the country receiving the aid.

“I have always said that I will be ‘The Collegetrantor’ and I always want to make sure we get help from the federal government and we get our fair share,” Schwarzenegger said.

Democrats said...

BOSTON — The FBI said Tuesday that the possible terrorist plot reported against Boston by a tipster last week was a false alarm. A law enforcement official in Mexico said that a suspected smuggler made the story up to get back at people who failed to pay him.

“There were in fact no terrorist plans or activity under way,” an FBI statement said.

Jose Ernesto Beltran Quinones, one of 16 people sought for questions about the alleged terror plot, was detained over the weekend in Mexico City, a Mexican border town near San Diego.

WASHINGTON — President Bush plans to ask Congress to spend more to crack down on deport illegal immigrants. But Bush administration failures mire Bush’s budget plan will call for spending $23 billion, nearly five times the current level, on work site investigations by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a government official familiar with the spending plan told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The money would be used to conduct audits on employers, investigate violations and prepare cases.

— Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Actress Stockard Channing was jailed for nearly three hours after being arrested for alleged drunk driving, city officials said Tuesday.

Channing, 60, won an Emmy for her role as first lady on NBC’s “The West Wing,” was stopped by a California Highway Patrol officer on Dec. 14 for allegedly driving on the shoulder of Highway 101, city attorney spokesman Frank Mariglian said.

— Associated Press

An estimated 300,000 people had gathered for a festival in and around a temple in western India.

Police chief Chandrakant Kumbhar said the incident began when the temple floor became slippery from a ceremony that involved breaking coconuts in front of a deity. Some pilgrims slipped and were trampled to death by others propelled forward by the masses of people behind them trying to get into the temple to make offerings.

— Associated Press

An accident that triggered a stampede that killed more than 200 people, police said.

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— Associated Press

IN OTHER NEWS

DURHAM, N.C. — In what police called an homage to the movie “Old School,” partying Duke University students were found in a fraternity house basement with an inflatable pool, a whole lot of baby oil and women in bikinis.

Police came upon the scene early Sunday after responding to a noise complaint.

“Inside were several of America’s future, re-creating a scene from the movie ‘Old School,’ where females wrestle in a pool of lubricants,” police Sgt. D. Ginter said.

In their version, the Duke students apparently opted for baby oil.

Officers said they cleared the house of the 200 revelers, sending some of the women home in the subfreezing temperatures in nothing more than the bikinis they wore.

Nicholas Hunter Roberts, who lives at the fraternity house, was charged with violating the city’s noise ordinance, a misdemeanor that carries a $150 fine.

There has been ongoing tension between students and residents of the neighborhoods that adjoin Duke’s East Campus.

Other weekend parties in the area resulted in changes to the city’s noise ordinance laws and a marijuana possession charge.

— Associated Press

Based on a survey collected by Cal Poly Health, 97% of students selected Cal Poly students with an error margin of ±4.3%.
Successful Advanced Placement students increasing in every state

Ben Feller

WASHINGTON — More students are taking Advanced Placement exams in every part of the country, and college-prep courses such as AP than ever before, raising more awareness of ethical boundaries during their massage school training. They said they had not seemed herself recently, and that they knew something was bothering her.

"She's starting to understand that when you violate a person it's not right," her father told the newspaper.

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Significant gaps remain, even as AP participation boosts nationwide, according to the first state-by-state report in the 50-year history of the college-level testing program.

Many students enter college with at least one AP exam, compared to 15.9 percent four years earlier. More significantly, 13.2 percent mastered an AP exam last year, compared to 15.9 percent four years earlier. The AP popularity raises questions over whether the system is strong predictor of success in college.

"This new report provides further proof that our children respond when we challenge them academically," said education Secretary Margaret Spellings, who began her term this week. Spellings said she was particularly happy to see more minorities taking AP courses. That has been a longstanding challenge for the College Board, the nonprofit that runs the AP Program. But the AP popularity raises questions, too, Heycock said, as whether the program takes the best teachers and leaves less experienced ones for struggling students.
Female college grads tackle it all: love, family, career

Thanks to strong female role models and educational opportunities, more college women pursue multiple roles

Meredith Carter
The Technician

(U-WIRE) RALEIGH, N.C. — Cheryl lightly smiled as her desk finishing up e-mail to her potential employer. Her face reflected her excitement as she caught sight of her engagement ring as she continued to type.

Like many other young women her age, the biomedical engineer senior anxiously awaits the future and the possibilities that are literally unfolding at her fingertips.

It’s 2005, and this college generation is no longer a woman’s world. Stories of women of our times and the way the possibilities that women are taught to be less dependent on men.

Not only does Julian’s benefit from the relatively small economic impact the office will likely have. It will be the home of the world’s leading stem cell research center, said Ed Paul Elias, an assistant professor in the School of Medicine, studies the subject of political battles.

Paul Elias
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SF. (AP) — Several California cities plan to offer incentives for free rent. San Diego officials said they are preparing their own incentive-laden application.

Groups from San Jose, Los Angeles and other municipalities are also expected to submit offers. At the core of the dispute is the subject of political battles.

The institute was created in November, after voters approved Proposition 71 by 59 percent. The state will borrow $3 billion to fund human embryonic stem cell research.

The state will borrow $3 billion to fund human embryonic stem cell research over the next 10 years.

Paul Elias
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paul Elias, an assistant professor in the School of Medicine, studies the mouse embryonic stem cells. "It will be the home of the world’s leading stem cell research center," said Ed Paul Elias, an assistant professor in the School of Medicine.

Paul Elias
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Local Coffee Roaster Serves Julian’s

By Tonya Strickland
CAMPUSSION STAFF WRITER

Local coffee roaster, Costa Java, has delivered quality coffee beans to Julian’s for the past five years.

Costa Java delivers an assortment of varietals and blends from all over the world to Julian’s two-week roast cycle.

"We get great coffee from them," Reeves said.

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Costa Java Roaster Matt Bull said that the small company, of five employees, began in San Luis Obispo years ago and has not branched out beyond the San Luis Obispo community.

Costa Java is not a coffee shop, but a small batch specialty roaster located on Fiore Lane.

"Students are welcome to stop by for a tour," Bull said. "It would be a nice little bike ride from campus." If students would like to take a tour they must first call ahead.

They would be able to watch employees roast shipments of raw, green coffee beans until they turn brown once they reach the mill.

"We get great coffee from them," Reeves said.

From the special blends made exclusively for Julian’s, two of these special blends include McPhee’s Espresso Finalist, and the Seven Sisters.

The "Seven Sisters" is a dark espresso blend while the "Seven Sisters" is a coffee blend that represents the mountains that encircle the local area.

Costa Java’s website boasts that it provides only the best quality beans, and when quality makes a difference to the company, it is sure to make a difference to its customers.

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temperatures. Afterwards, the beans are blended, bagged and shipped to various locations.

"This is a process that we sometimes do all in one day," Bull said.

In addition to Julian’s in the U.U., Julian’s in the Inner-Campus Market also serves Costa Java coffee.

Try these special blends, along with cappuccino, an assortment of baked goods and the "Seven Sisters" blend delivered by Julian’s located downtown in the University Union.
'Aviator' flies high with 11 nominations

The Howard Hughes epic "The Aviator" led Academy Award contenders with 11 nominations Tuesday, including best picture, plus acting honors for Leonardo DiCaprio, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Blanchett and Al Pacino, and a directing slot for Martin Scorsese.

The boxing saga "Million Dollar Baby" and the J.M. Barrie tale "Finding Neverland" followed with seven nominations each, among them best picture and acting nominations for Clint Eastwood, Morgan Freeman, Hilary Swank and Johnny Depp.

Eastwood also got a directing nomination for "Million Dollar Baby." The other best-picture nominees included best picture and acting nominations for Clint Eastwood, Morgan Freeman, Hilary Swank and Johnny Depp.

Along with Eastwood, Jamie Foxx also scored two nominations, as best actor for the title role in "Ray" and supporting actor as a taxi driver whose cab is hijacked by a hit man in "Collateral.

Starring as aviation trailblazer and Hollywood rebel Hughes, DiCaprio also was nominated for best actor. He and Foxx will compete against Depp as Peter Pan playwright Barrie in "Finding Neverland." Eastwood as a cantankerous boxing trainer in "Million Dollar Baby," and Don Cheadle for "Hotel Rwanda," starring as hotel manager Paul Rusesabagina, who sheltered refugees from the Rwandan genocide.

The best-actor category presents a rematch of the 1999 showdown, when underrating Swank won the Oscar for "Boys Don't Cry" over Annette Bening, who had been the front-runner for "American Beauty.

This time, Swank was nominated as a bullheaded boxing champ whose life takes a cruel twist in "Million Dollar Baby." Bening was chosen for "Being Julia.


Joining Eastwood and Scorsese among directing nominees were Taylor Hackford for "Ray," Mike Leigh for "Vera Drake" and Alexander Payne for "Sideways.

Along with Foxx in "Collateral," Al Pacino was nominated for supporting actor in "The Aviator" while Freeman was picked as a worldly-wise ex-boxer in "Million Dollar Baby." The other nominees: Thomas Haden Church in "Sideways" and Clive Owen as a course lover in the sex drama "Closet.


The films star, Leonardo DiCaprio, received a best-actor nomination. 'The Aviator' garnered 11 Oscar nominations, including best picture.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Laine Ganstey ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS — Like the children from small-town France who star in his movie, the director of "The Chorus," the French film nominated for an Academy Award, says he has come a long way.

A year ago, before the movie came out in France, thoughts of an Oscar were sci-fi fiction ... not even a possibility," said Christophe Barratier of his first feature-length film.

The modestly budgeted movie was one of five films nominated Tuesday for an Oscar as best foreign-language film.

The movie's signature song, "Look To Your Path" (Vois Sur Ton Chemin) is contending for best original song. "The Chorus," set in post-World War II France, tells the story of how an out-of-work musician uses the power of music to transform troubled boys at an austere country boarding school.

Released in France in March, the movie received little pre-publicity. But it led the list of box office successes in 2004, made choral music popular and turned some of its child actors into stars.

The director said he will not be upset if he leaves the Academy Awards without an Oscar in hand on Feb. 27.

From the start, "we were consid­ered like the little outsider," he said. "I can't be disappointed now.

The other foreign films nominat­ed Tuesday were "As It Is In Heaven" (Sweden), "Downfall" (Germany), "The Sea Inside" (Spain) and "Yesterday" (South Africa).
City Plans Strict Enforcement during Mardi Gras Season

The City of San Luis Obispo has asked us to inform the campus that there will be no public Mardi Gras events this year.

We firmly support the City's decision.

The City's Police Department intends to strictly enforce the law to protect public safety and property.

Nearly 400 law enforcement officers will be on duty.

Those who break the law risk:

- Personal injury
- Arrest
- Civil liability
- Triple fines for violations such as open containers, public drunkenness, excessive noise, etc.
- Possible expulsion from Cal Poly
- Loss of future job opportunities

For more information, please visit www.MardiGrasSLO.com

Thank you for your help in maintaining a climate of civility and mutual respect between Cal Poly and the City of San Luis Obispo.

Robert Detweiler
Interim Provost

Lawrence Kelley
Vice President for Student Affairs

Cornel Morton
Vice President for Student Affairs

Sandra Ogren
Vice President for Advancement

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**ARTS&Culture**

**Wednesday, January 26, 2005 8**

**COMMENTS**

**Following the Rules: Part One**

Once upon a time, there were women who sought marriage above all else. Their lives, attitudes and wardrobe revolved around finding the man they believed would be their dream husband.

Then, along came "The Rules". The Rules, which first printed in 1995, is a New York Times bestselling book of dating guidelines for women. It instructs single ladies to be mysterious, aloof and remote. Be so distant that even your dream man won't assume dominant courtship behavior. It sounds clinical and strict, and it is. Rules include: Don't talk to a man first, let him take the lead and, most tellingly, don't discuss The Rules with your crush — one of many to come.

When I restrain myself, I just feel like I'm not being feminine. Not other women (including my coworkers) involves impractically tight sweats, hill makeup (remember that you're dressing for the college music scene. It's a cold night to be a skank, I inform friends), remain cheerfully mysterious (Rule No. 20).

"You could say ohmigosh more," he muses. "What atxnit it?" I said.

My pal James stares at me. "txik at what you're wearing!" he said.

I promptly screech it on-air. It rolls hesitantly off my tongue and sounds like English. He shrugs. "Nothing. It's just funny."

"What's to lose now? I decide to do something that would make "The Rules" authors shake in their stilettos — I will ask out a man."

Read Part 2 of Stacey Anderson's dating diary next week in the *Art Beat.*

**REVIEW**

**dios, Kicks a lovely, live blend**

Crystal Phend

If it's not a New York sound, what is it? The French Kicks don't really know, but whatever it is, it's a lot of fun.

In high energy set brought the crowd at SLO Brew to its feet Sunday night in a concert opened by up-and-comers Dios malos. Dios malos got things off to a great start, the crowd chanted and screamed — but hardly enough for British "it" band Kreme, and it has started to pay off. The Kicks even hosted Subterranean on MTV2.

The Kicks sound has been likened to that of other New York bands such as the Strokes and Interpol. And with its fitted blazers and button-up shirts, it was hard to deny the comparison, but Stumpf did so anyways — adamently. I would defy anyone to define the New York thing, he said.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Students should try to do more about textbook prices
This letter is in response to Jay Deemer’s letter from Jan 20. Publishers are not to blame for high textbook prices. My opinion on online textbooks is that if students don’t like the price of textbooks, students should do something about it.

What can you do? Well, at the end of this quarter, if you’re in a class where you’re hardly cracked, openly a poor required textbook, talk to your professor about no longer requiring the book so future students won’t be burned. If you’re in a class with supplemental notes, ask for those to become the textbook and ask the professor to make them available for free online as a PDF. If the professor expects you to buy a book you never use, complain about it on Poirot or so that other students might look for a professor who doesn’t. Make friends in class with expensive books, and split one book among four of you. That will make expensive $100 books less of a burden. And I’ll encourage you to study with others. Despite what you’re told, most textbook are rarely required. When they are, there are always week-arrangs. Don’t buy the book until absolutely necessary. We’re supposed to be bright individuals, so why aren’t we coming up with more ideas to avoid the idea of buying books? It’d be a lot more productive than listening to everyone involved avoiding responsibility by saying “It’s not us, it’s so-and-so.”

Shane Lile
Computer science senior

"Support Our Troops" is more personal than political
I am writing to answer the question posed by a student in a letter to the editor asking what does "Support our troops" mean. For me it means waiting for my daughter, a firefighter in Iraq, to come back to her home. It means supporting her the best way we are able, from a distance, when she suffers and makes sacrifices in service of her country, or when she worries about her husband stationed at another location, also in Iraq. It means helping my other children with their fears and worries when they think about the dangers faced by our loved ones in the military.

Did I vote for President Bush? No, neither time. Do I agree with all of the decisions he has made? No. To me, that is not what that yellow ribbon magnet on my car represents. It could say “Support Peace,” “Appreciate the Troops” or any number of expressions, but my yellow ribbon represents my hope that my daughter, son-in-law and all of the other American citizens in Iraq, and other strife-filled areas of the world, will return to us soon and safely.

I suspect that for many people, myself included, the “Support Our Troops” magnet is a statement that is more personal than political.

Lisa Bruce
Assistant Directors, Orientation Programs

COMING TOMORROW
Campus Troubleshooter by Mustang Daily Columnist Carrie McGourty
80’s Nigh
On Wednesday Night

MISSION GRILL
STEAKS * SEAFOOD * PASTAS * PRIME RIB

805.547.5544
Whiten could play the point guard position or be a scoring guard. I know you don't want to see that, but you do that then we'll be in good shape.

Q. — What is the team doing wrong?

A. — We have sports where we play really good defense and we have sports where we have really good offense. The game of basketball is a game of runs. You're going to give up some, you're going to make some, but we need to sustain, making our runs and not giving up runs at the same time. I think the constant effort in defense is where we're lacking. I see this in our defense.

Q. — How is it being a young player on the team?

A. — To be honest, I don't feel very young on the court when we start playing. My age is more facilitated when we are off the court. That comes more into play because I can't go to the places that the older guys go or do the other guys do. But on the court, I just feel like a player. I don't feel like a freshman.

Q. — How did you get started playing basketball?

A. — Wow. I might as well tell you my whole life story. Let's say I didn't have so good of a childhood. I left my house since I could get out of the bad environment and then went to the gym and the park at six in the morning and didn't come back until six at night because I was sweeping the gym and things like that. The older guys wouldn't let me stay there because I was little. My motivation was to get better so the older guys would let me play and over the years, I continued to grow and my game started to get better and the older guys let me play. I remember a few summers after that, around sixth grade, I was bigger than the older guys and they started letting me play with them and they told me I was playing better so that made me want to play even more. Basketball was like my escape from an abnormal childhood.

Q. — Who is your biggest influence, athletic or otherwise?

A. — Basketball helped me get into college. It's something that people said I couldn't do. I just wanted to prove all of them wrong and I helped to keep me out of trouble. I didn't really look up to anybody until I came to UNLV and it was Kamemn Gray. That's the guy I admire most. I don't know how he does it. He's been playing and still playing sports. I admire that a lot. It was tough for us growing up, so if he can do it I guess I can do it too.

Condon continued from page 12

to experience the competition and play sports like Oregon.

"The Big West is going to be strong this year and I hope our team will be contributing to that," said Condon.

Condon began her new position at Cal Poly last August after returning from the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in Athens.

She also coached at UNLV from 1994 to 1996 and helped guide the Rebels to a third-place finish in the 1995 Women's College World Series.

Condon played softball at Iowa State University, earning numerous accolades as an outfielder. She is the most decorated player in Iowa State softball history and was inducted into the Iowa State Hall of Fame in 2003.

Condon brings a competitive spirit and many years of experience to Cal Poly softball.

Her goals are high for the team and she believes they can reach them.

"The team attitude is that they want to win, and they are going to win because they have the passion for it," Condon said. "You have to believe you can win."

Friday FLASHBACK

A look back at a former Mustang great every Friday.
A new coach, a new schedule, a new motivation and a new team.

Cal Poly's women's softball is ready to take on the season. The team has been working hard since September with first-year coach Jenny Condon.

Condon was selected for the head coaching position last August and began practice with her new team in September.

Upon arriving, however, Condon had her work cut out for her.

The pressure has been intense for Condon, who stepped into the program to coach a struggling team.

Since then, she has made numerous changes.

Condon organized a new schedule for the softball team that enrolled many challenging competitors.

"In my experience, to be the best you have to play the best," Condon said. "Since we are not expected to win against these teams, we should not be afraid to play them."

Although the lineup is challenging, Condon is confident that the Mustangs have improved their ability and confidence since she began working with them.

"I think we can compete," Condon said. "So we have brought in some teams that are going to be in the top 10 and I think it is a good gauge to let our kids see where we stack up."

Before arriving at Cal Poly, Condon was associate head softball coach at Oregon State for the past six years where she helped turn the team around with experienced leadership and competitive consistency.

Condon said that although she thought the transition would be difficult, it would be worth it.

"The team has been very receptive to everything I have asked them to do," Condon said. "Our motto is we want to get better every day."

Walking into a program where the team has struggled is not an easy task, but Condon said she discovered the will to win, immediately.

"They want to compete and they want to win," Condon said. "I have been able to give them the tools and break everything down fundamentally to start from scratch."

Beginning in September, the team revisited the basics, such as fundamental catching and throwing drills. Condon also brought in Keira Goerl, one of her assistant coaches, to focus on the team's pitching.

"We have made our pitching better with the addition of Keira," Condon said. "She has been phenomenal and our pitchers are ready to go."

From an offensive point of view, Condon said the team needs to focus on putting the ball in play and manufacturing runs.

"If we are not going to hit home runs, we are going to get base hits, run them over and hit them," Condon said.

Softball season opens at home Feb. 3 against Colorado State.

Condon said she is excited to see how much the team has improved.

"We have been working day in and day out," Condon said. "I have been telling them every day that they are getting better, but until you step on the field and compete, you do not really trust it."

The team will play its first tournament of the season, the Mustang Roundup, and will face Arkansas, Sacramento State, Nevada and Colorado State.

Oregon State, Condon's former team, is also on the schedule. The team is expected to be one of the top 10 in the nation this season. Oregon set a school record in 1999 with 47 wins and earned postseason berths from 2001 to 2004 with Condon on their staff.

"Oregon State has a great program," Condon said. "They have all the tools and are playing the best everyday."

Condon said she wants her team to see Condon, page 11.

Sophomore Emily Hoyle and Senior Erin Myers will be battery mates again this year for the Mustangs who will begin play against Colorado State on Feb. 3 at home.