CSU students rally against fee increases

James Mellor
MUSTANG DAILY

Seven Cal Poly students, including ASI President Tyler Middletack, traveled to Long Beach Thursday to participate in a rally to oppose the latest CSU fee increase.

Despite the presence of over 200 students representing all 23 California State Universities, the CSU Board of Trustees voted 13-1 to pass an 8 percent fee increase for 2006. This is the sixth time in five years fees have increased.

Students attending CSUs will now pay $2,724 in statewide fees per year. The $204 increase brings the total to 19 percent more than fees were in 2001.

We wanted to attend the meeting to have a strong presence to let our trustees know that the state fee increases were getting to be too much," Middletack said.

The lone "no" vote came from Cory Jackson, the student trustee on the Board of Trustees.

Jackson was persuaded to vote against the increase by students in tears, who said they didn't know what they would do if there was another increase.

"We’re realizing how much the fee increase is hurting our fellow students throughout the state," Jackson said. Jackson was also inspired that students from every CSU came to participate in a rally to oppose the latest fee increase.

PolyProgress aims to help students graduate on time

Karen Velie
MUSTANG DAILY

Winter quarter enrollment is underway and students are frantically studying their degree requirements to find which classes they need to take.

Unfortunately, many students are unsure what courses they need to graduate on time.

“One of my problems is that the old guides are not up, so it’s hard to know what I have to take,” said Ian Sinti, a computer science senior. “When classes are offered only once a year, it’s pretty important that you know when to take them.”

Help is on its way. Cal Poly will begin e-mailing PolyProgress reports to approximately 6,000 students at the end of each quarter beginning this fall, with more students being included as evaluations are completed.

The program tracks students’ progress toward graduation, just as an adviser would do.

It helps to insure that students avoid graduation dilemmas. “If we can give students thorough audits before they register, they will be better aware of what classes they need to take,” said Tom Zuur, registrar and director of Academic Records.

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see Progress, page 2

Schwarzenegger visits SLO

Louise Dolby
MUSTANG DAILY

Protesters gathered outside Apple Farm Inn in response to a visit by Gov. Schwarzenegger to San Luis Obispo to gain supporters on Propositions 74, 75, 76 and 77.

Arnold wants to make each union get 100 percent signatures from all employees, and in a large union it’s going to be hard to garner every signature,” Baskin said.

"Propositions 75 will put in more bureaucracy and silence our voice. The beauty of the democratic process is freedom of speech. It’s our constitutional right," Schwarzenegger supports Prop. 75 because it allows "pocketbook protection," meaning government

see Governor, page 2

Volunteers fight against polio in Nigeria

Brittany Ridley
MUSTANG DAILY

Twenty-five local Rotary Club volunteers will embark on a 10-day trip to Kano, Nigeria to participate in West Africa's National Immunization Day from Nov. 8 to 18.

The local group, along with hundreds of other volunteers, will participate in their goal to immunize every child 5-year-old and younger, for a total of over 80 million children.

Bruce Howard, a local Rotary Club team leader for the Nigeria trip, will partake in the efforts to eradicate polio in Nigeria, as part of an overall Rotary Club effort to eliminate polio worldwide.

"Nigeria is the most polio-endemic place on the planet. Nigeria is where the problem is." — BRUCE HOWARD Rotary Club team leader

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National Immunization Day occurs throughout the year in numerous Third World countries that lack the means to immunize their children.

"In the late 80s, there were 350,000 new cases of polio," Howard said. "This year we are at a ground 1,200 cases of polio worldwide. It’s almost licked." Volunteers like Howard travel throughout India, Africa, Indonesia and the Philippines in order to immunize as many children as possible.

Howard said the population is

see Nigeria, page 2

coming tomorrow to SLO:

The Juliana Theory

IN DIVERSIONS, 5

Kylie Atherstone earns Player of the Week honors

IN SPORTS, 8
Completed courses and currently-enrolled courses against students' degree requirements. Currently used. With an audit of their progress year to educate the public on what CiSUs to Long Beach in support of. The state legislature is doing to ensure a quality education. Everyone has to pay for this. It's an issue that effects every student. Osorio, a member of the ASI Administration which will focus on how the students used the auditors. “Very much we didn't want to because we know we needed that revenue,” said Middletstadt who commented on how students used the meeting as chance to lobby for more funding. But, we also knew if we didn't start advocating for the budget early on, we were just shooting ourselves in the foot,” he said. The students who attended the rally aren't doing fighting. The event marks the beginning of a long year of fighting for higher education. Students have plans to continue lobbying in Sacramento to get legislators to prioritize the CSU system. “Although we didn't accomplish anything tangible by going to this meeting, it really unified the students of California,” said Daisy Kinsey a forestry junior, who also attended the rally.

Governor continued from page 1

employees can decide how their wages are spent in regards to supporting political candidates or issues, because it requires employees to give their permission before their money is used for political contributions.

"A RAND wants to take away our First Amendment rights," said Cheryl Coons, an electrical office union member. “Everything the national Republicans want to do destroys the middle class.”

Many members of the Cal Poly College Republicans also amended outside Apple Farm Inn to support the governor with signs reading “Reform and Rebuild.”

Jennifer Reyes, a political science junior and member of Cal Poly College Republicans, agrees with the propositions; she thinks they will fix the budget problems, impose the public education system and give unions work a vote.

"He's like an action-hero in every sense of the word," said Taylor Scott, business junior and member of the Cal Poly College Republicans. "The propositions benefit the people, not the party, and there are no special interests. They just make sense."

Gos Schwarzenegger will return to San Luis Obispo on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. to speak at the Madonna Inn to urge voters to support his reforms. The speech is not open to the public but 200 community members have been invited to attend.

Members of Rotary Clubs across the country participate in different immunization days throughout the world.

Steve Lombardi, a member of the San Luis Obispo de Tolosa Rotary Club, said that the wonderful thing about the Rotary's effort against polio is that it gives average community members the opportunity to help eradicate the disease and experience the culture of a Third World country.

"I think any time you go to a Third World country it's an incredible eye opener," Lombardi said. "I thought I was going over there to work, but we were really representatives from the U.S. which under-scored how important the role that polio internationally has taken and how important polio immunization is."

Rotary Club members plan to continue their efforts against the polio epidemic and eventually eliminate the problem completely, Howard said.

"We are going to eliminate polio. If we can do this, and we can, then what can we do next? We think poverty," Howard said. "But the world needs our hands and our hearts."

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THE FACE OF CAL POLY

Name: Amy Fortier
Year: junior
Hometown: San Marino
Major: theater

Podcast
continued from page 2

You don't need an iPod to listen to a podcast, and you definitely don't need it to create a podcast," Walsh said. "You just need the software."

Options include using an MP3 player to record audio files and Windows Media Player for listening to podcasts on computers.

Walsh said many universities are considering ways to incorporate podcasts into the classroom. Even though some colleges and universities across the country have considered podcasting, Walsh said this concept is not overwhelmingly popular among college students due to a lack of marketing toward that age group.

"I've seen many more teenagers podcasting or listening to podcasts," Walsh said. "It's almost as if podcasting is skipping over the entire college generation. It's very popular for people who are 25 to 40, and it's really popular for people 12 to 18."

Critics of podcasting in the classroom fear some students will abuse this technological opportunity.

Group calls for easing of marijuana law

Vanessa Stumpf
THE CAL POLY MUSE [Oct 30]

DAVIS — The controversy of using marijuana medicinally continues to swell as rallies take place across the nation and a national advocacy group calls for a federal reclassification of the drug that would likely make it available on a prescription basis.

Marijuana is currently classified as a Schedule 1 drug under U.S. law and has been for more than 30 years. This rating identifies marijuana among the most dangerous drugs, and according to the Drug Enforcement Administration, this classification is reserved for drugs that have no recognized medical use and a high potential for addiction or abuse. Marijuana shares placement in this category with heroin.

The federal scale, enacted by Congress under the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, has five levels, with Schedule V being the least dangerous.

According to Hilary McQuie, spokeswoman for Americans for Safe Access, an Oakland, Calif.-based advocacy group for medical marijuana, a placement into Schedule II would allow for medical marijuana, a placement into Schedule II would allow for medical marijuana can be made available via pharmaceutical companies to the public for medical use as well as open the door for expanded scientific research.

Casey McEwan, spokesperson for the San Francisco District of the Drug Enforcement Administration, said that marijuana is currently considered a drug and not a medical tool and will be opposed as long as it holds a Schedule I classification.

"Whether it should be used as a medicine should be determined by scientific fields, not by a drug legalization lobby," McEwan said.

McQuie also agreed that a classification of the drug should be based upon science, citing the 1970 decision as flawed.

"Scientists didn't come up with these categories — politicians did," she said.

Both entities concurred that scientific evidence should be the backbone of a reclassification or change in the standpoint on the effectiveness of the drug. There appears to be no definitive consensus from the greater medical community on the matter.

The Food and Drug Administration acknowledged the uses of medical marijuana in a testimony dated Apr. 1, 2004, but remained neutral as to a position on the drug.

"FDA has not approved marijuana for medical use in the United States," the testimony said.

"Despite its status in an unapproved new drug, there has been considerable interest in its use for the treatment of a number of conditions."

Currently, California holds the legal standpoint that the seriously ill can have access to medical marijuana with the recommendation of their physician. This action was the result of Proposition 215, the 1996 state initiative that passed with a 56 percent approval rate.

California is among fewer than a dozen states that allow some form of medical marijuana use, including Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, Montana and Vermont.

McQuie said a reconsideration of this rating will significantly aid the states that lack such medicinal marijuana laws, but are pursuing them, such as Pennsylvania and Texas.

"The rescheduling is on behalf of the people who are in states that don't have medicinal marijuana laws," she said.

Citizens of California experience a greater protection under Proposition 215, so a new classification, according to McQuie, would not affect California as heavily. Here, the vast majority of medical marijuana arrests are the result of state and local authorities.

Several rallies are planned for November across the state.
I know it, you know it. Scantily-chad, beer-soaked witches know it. We are boring.

I discovered the truth this weekend, during the annual San Luis Obispo Mime and Street Performance Festival. The festival was a celebration of the arts, but it was the most mundane aspect of the event that stood out to me. It was the repetitive nature of the performances that struck me. The same mime artists, doing the same tricks, over and over again. It was like watching a movie that never ends. It was as if the performers were stuck in a never-ending loop, unable to break free.

The weight of this realization was overwhelming. It seemed like everyone was stuck in their own little world, unwilling to step outside their comfort zone. The festival was a chance to explore new ideas and experiences, but it felt like everyone was content to stay in their own little bubble.

And then something happened that changed everything. I stumbled into a conversation with a group of mimes, and we started talking about their experiences. They shared their stories, their triumphs, and their failures. It was like a weight had been lifted from my shoulders. I began to see the world in a new light, and I realized that there was so much more out there to discover.

I decided to break out of my own little world. I started exploring new ideas and experiences, and I never looked back. I learned that the most interesting things happen when you step out of your comfort zone. It was like a wake-up call, and I'm grateful that I answered it.
Organic, energetic and purely TJT

Joshua Kosker, guitarist; and Josh Theory's (TJT) new songs, "Hold on now for the ride of your life," aims to simply give its audience eight years worth of music for an experience they won't forget.

"We don't tend to do back flips and synchronize spins and moves or anything, but we try to have a really good time and try to help everybody else have a really good time," lead singer Brett Detar said. "It's really about connecting with people through music."

For Detar in particular, between his early age, 1960s pop melodies, and obviously his grandmother encouraging him to play musical instruments and his father in a singing group himself, music was just a part of life.

"I think it's a bit of a stretch, but in my family, it was evident we've never become a band like that. We've never made any extreme forewarnings so intensely, the way we make the record," Detar said. "It was all about having five songs we thought the artist subconsciously buried in each song. As for future plans, Detar is just looking forward to playing an intimate show for his music-loving fans.

"We've never made any extreme genre jumps and I'm glad we've never become a band like that. We don't tend to do back flips and synchronize spins and moves or anything, but we try to have a really good time and try to help everybody else have a really good time," lead singer Brett Detar said. "It's really about connecting with people through music."

The Juliana Theory will be performing at Downtown Brew tonight with Jamison Parker, June and The Fury. The all-ages show, $12, starts at 8 p.m.

But despite what many listeners would think, Detar was named to the full sound of TJT.

"I think it's a bit of a stretch, but in some ways not because I think that's all about; to get down and dirty 'down and dirty' tonight at Downtown Brew to promote their new album."

Divert your attention to this...

Elliott Smith's 'XO' lives on after death

Katie Pierpel
IOWA STATE DAILY (IOWA STATE U.)

AMES, Iowa — A track titled "Waltz No. 2" may be one of the most intriguing orchestrated pop songs ever written. Its creator, the soft-whispered Elliott Smith, who carried dark images in delicately soft-whispered Elliott Smith, who carried dark images in delicately carved songs, had a bittersweet way of wrapping his listener tightly around his finger. Friday marked the two year anniversary of the singer-songwriter's tragic death. He was 34.

In 1998, at the age of 29, Smith released his fourth solo album and first major label release, "XO." His fashioning and timeless characteristics — perfectly orchestrated 1960s pop melodies, quivering voices and intricate acoustic guitar playing — are at their finest in this album.

From the simple, yet haunting finger picking on the opening track "Sweet Adeline," to the lush harmonies of "I Didn't Understand," Smith weaves desolate images through a flourishing landscape. The soft piano-based "Baby Brittan" channels the melodies of The Beatles, and the acoustic guitar riff and drum loop of "Independence Day" back Smith's gentle vocals.

Smith was an artist who always brought a horde of supposed mysteries along with his music. Fans indulged in these mysteries, trying so hard to unravel the "hidden secrets" and foreshadowing they thought the artist subconsciously buried in each song. And although the listeners contemplated the supposed secrets and forewarnings so intensely, the music slipped away without ever gaining the attention it so desperately deserved.
A year by year and our generation ages in way into the voting class, it is imperative that we take a hands-on approach to shaping the future. As students, let's join together to advocate for the future of higher education.

I was being sarcastic! In response to the tweet attack on Facebook, I would like to apologize to all of the liberal studies majors who did not get that my letter to the editor on College of Humanities was completely sarcastic. I was sick of two things, being called an MRS. major, and the CP-Sala editors.

Jessica Potter
Liberal studies sophomore

To my kid's future teacher

First of all, Miss Jessica Potter, you would be darn lucky to have the honor and privilege to be taking one of my children. And based on your letter, I would have been surprised if that turned out to be the highlight of your family!

If you and your liberal studies colleagues don't mind being anything more than a uterus in a nice house, that's your business. If you want to be married to someone who would suffice a better quality of life and a marriage, you should be working hard to have an impact on the world. At least I can be an example to my children, all you can pass on is a legacy of hatred and cowardice.

Shea Ellerson
Aerospace engineering senior

How to use a degree

I really hope that Jessica Potter's letter was meant to be sarcastic. If not, her way of thinking that women have fought for so long and hard to change. That's why on earth would she attend a university such as Cal Poly, a university that is so highly esteemed that it can not admit thousands of qualified female colleagues and I are doing a disservice to our children by getting a R.E.M. degree and a R.E.M. job. I work very hard and I will continue to work hard to have an impact on the world. At least I can be an example to my children, all you can pass on is a legacy of hatred and cowardice.

Shea Ellerson
Aerospace engineering senior

Liberal studies is not a joke

I am writing this letter in response to Jessica Potter's letter to the editor, I hope that she will read this. If not, I think that liberal studies majors belong in the home. If some women came here to marry an engineer husband or plan on setting down at home in the future, fine. I think that Potter was making a complete oversimplification about our major which I resent. I can't speak for other people, but I know that my intent was to come here because it was a great school for academics and I want to make a difference as a teacher. I think children are loved children and I would be willing to make sacrifices for it. One major I am a part of shows that we WILL have to sacrifice a lot because it is becoming harder and harder to become a teacher. Anyone that looks down on this major, I have to ask them if they would pick a job that is underpaid and overworked? Being a teacher is a honorable job and when I think about most of my liberal studies majors, I am touched. I refuse to conform to those stereotypes that I know that I have with staying at home. For the person that is reading this I am sure that you know that all of the women I know who are liberal studies majors worked hard to get here. We should be taken seriously, and our major is not some kind of a joke.

Maddie Flaherty
Liberal studies freshman

There's nothing wrong with staying at home

To the Editor:

I want to start off by saying there is nothing wrong with wanting to be a stay-at-home parent. And there's nothing wrong with going to college and still deciding to be a stay-at-home parent. Jessica Potter has a point when she says that it has been hard to be a teacher. Anyone that has done any serious babysitting or child care knows that it comes with a certain satisfaction.

However, my problem lies in the fact that she thinks that others are doing something wrong with not following this path. My mother has worked her entire life and she and my parents are still together and I turned out quite well. And trust me, men who girls who work, I believe that if people help supporting the expenses of a home and children, then be expected to provide it alone. And these classes are about math for elementary school teachers, and story telling? I know it might come a bit of a shock, but there are actually liberal studies majors that want to be teachers and use those skills for that purpose. Stop making assumptions about the rest of the women in your major and stick to your own goals, whatever they may be.

Liz Solomon
English sophomore

MUSTANG DAILY CORRECTIONS

The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring community. We appreciate your feedback and are thankful for your careful reading. Please send your correction suggestions to

mustangdaily@gmail.com

LETTER POLICY

Send us your love, hate and more

Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanities and length. Letters, comments and cartoons do not represent the views of the Mustang Daily. Please limit length to 250 words. Letters should include the writer's full name, phone number, major and class standing. Letters must come from a Cal Poly e-mail account. Do not send letters, as attachment. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.

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OP/ED
6 Wednesday, November 2, 2005

COMMENTARY

Politics, values and our future

As President Tylor Middlestadt

Politics has got to become more continuous than a nine-month sprint every four years. I'm tired of people, young and old, left and right, rich and poor, complaining about everything under the sun, from liberations in universities to neo-conservative natural politics, while remaining complacent to the world around them. Refusing to engage in the political system because it seems dysfunction is unacceptable. We are the future leaders of world in business, politics and commerce, and if we don't step up to create a new system of governance that transcends, but includes the systems that are currently in place, then will be forfeiting our right to shape the future we even accept the challenge! Who do you think or not, politics are real, and if you don't make your political known, not assured, somebody else will police on your behalf. Politics are simply power, priorities and decisions influenced by people, time and money. Most students lack access to enough money to get attention from policy makers, so we must utilize our ability to organize our peers and spend time advocating for our values.

We live in a world extremely important in shaping decisions. Most Americans vote by values. Whether the issue is abortion, war and peace, or the environment, values often determine decisions at the polls. Unfortunately, this often leads to political candidates unfairly, and sometimes superficially exploiting popular values to gain votes at the polls.

As we emerge as the new voting class, let's be sure to express our values to our political makers, but also hold them accountable by voting in elections. The only way we'll influence votes on key policy decisions is if our leaders know that we have the ability to unseat them if and when they fail to address the needs and wants of the people. Gray Davis' recall is a perfect example, and the only reason it worked was because people voted.

We only have one choice before us to make: the failed system of governance that has produced endless gridlock from Sacramento to Washington D.C., or to accept the challenge of putting our politics aside, putting our values on the table and engaging in the difficult but dynamic process of understanding each other. We will agree on everything, but if we stop playing the blame game, we'll realize that we have more in common that we have differences. At the very least, students, let's join together to advocate for the future of higher education.

The future is ours for the taking and we will determine the course of our time. Let's start now.
Frankly

continued from page 8

freshmen seasons. Chris

Goeing is one of the top

defensive players in the

country and Kyle Shrout is one of the

top linebackers in the nation. And

that's not all. There are

plenty of bright spots on the

roster. From place-kicker Nick

Chicoine was the key to the

winning trajectory. There’s no
doubt under-the-radar talent.

The absence of one player
cannot be the difference

between Champions

or teams, individually.

But championships are

about it, he was the key to the

Mustangs this season.

Chris Chicoine

continued from page 8

team with 4.77.

UC Davis defeated Cial Boly 20-13 at

Toomey Field, while North Dakota

State was a 37-21 winner over

Southern Utah in Cedar City, Utah.

Northern Colorado defeated

Fort Lewis 45-14 in Greeley, Colo.,

but South Dakota State fell
to Georgia Southern 55-42 in

Brookings, S.D., in non-conference

contests.

Kenny Chicoine

Two players from UC Davis and

one Cal Poly earned Great West

Football Conference player of

the week honors for their

performances in last Saturday.

Cal Poly free safety Kenny

Chicoine earned defensive player

of the week award. Chicoine,

a junior from

Huntington Beach, picked off

a UC Davis pass and returned it

59 yards for a touchdown, tying the

game at 13-13 with 14:05 to go. It

was the first interception of the

season for Chicoine, who was

among the nation’s leaders in

interceptions a year ago with seven.

Chicoine also had six tackles (two solo).

Chicoine has 37 tackles, one

interception and a forced fumble

for the Mustangs this season.

His 25st interception of the week

caused a high 212 yards to help boost

the Aggies past Cal Poly on

Saturday.

Meanwhile, teammate Benjamin

boasted a pair of field goals and had

two extra points in the win.

Benjamin had field goals from 33

and 35 yards.

In Great West Football Conference

games Saturday, UC

Davis defeated Cal Poly 26-13 at

Tooneym Field, while North Dakota

State was a 37-21 winner over

Southern Utah in Cedar City, Utah.

Northern Colorado defeated

Fort Lewis 45-14 in Greeley, Colo.,

but South Dakota State fell to

Georgia Southern 55-42 in

Brookings, S.D., in non-conference

contests.

The New York Times Crossword

ACROSS

1 Ump's call

5 Like some committee

8 White-bearded type

12 Rectangular...-

15 Lip balm...-

19 Eastern nurse

22 Overthrow...-

23 Prelude to a solution

25 Tanned...-

26 Group in power

31 "Yikes!"

33 European...-

35 20-, 25-, 45-

39 Suffix with...-

45 Putzed around

49 Some back...

50 Gyro holder

52 Time 

55 Baker of song

58 Flock members

63 Like a Playboy

65 Part of a TV

70___column

73 Words

78 Leader's name

81__color symbol

97 Type

102 Alpaca's relative (p'cular Car)

130 Randled stone

138 Bake members

139 "Like!"

140 Clen symbol

147 Answers to previous puzzle

152 Closers in the middle

158 Reversal of the above

200 Path to work

242 A role in a story

287 At the edge of a story

321 Two TV's Arthur

330 "Do it" ( Tell)

345 In the...-

349__in the...-

357 Down

366 How to speak

374 ___ operator

382 What

392 Kenny Chicoine

405 Foreign language

419 '97's Hill

424 Some back...

429 Prefix

435 Plural of...-

442 Some back...

453 Prefix

461 Name...-

471 Down

476 2007's Hill

480__in the...-

485___ operator

490 Kenny Chicoine

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Football continues to tumble in national polls; now No. 19

SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

Following back-to-back losses, the Cal Poly football team fell to No. 19 in the ESPN/USA Today poll. The Mustangs were ranked as high as No. 3 prior to losses at No. 4 Montana and No. 23 UC Davis. The Mustangs are No. 18 in The Sports Network poll.

Cal Poly, which dropped to No. 10 after a 36-27 loss at Montana on Oct. 22, has three games remaining in its 2005 regular season schedule, all in Mustang Stadium. The Mustangs have four of their last five games on the road.

UC Davis, which beat Stanford earlier this year, climbed into the Top 25 with its win over Cal Poly.

The Mustangs were ranked as high as No. 3 prior to losses at No. 10 Eastern Washington and No. 10 Montana State on Sept. 17. Cal Poly climbed to No. 12.

The Mustangs opened defense of their Great West Football Conference title with a 24-16 victory at South Dakota State on Sept. 24 and jumped to No. 10 in the polls, then climbed one more position to No. 9 following their 31-14 triumph at Northern Colorado.

In this week's polls, the top five teams are Furman (7-1), New Hampshire (7-1), Hampton (8-0), Montana (6-2) and Southern Illinois (6-2).

Western Kentucky, last week's top-ranked team, lost to No. 8 Southern Illinois 31-20 on Thursday night. Furman is ranked No. 1 for the first time since 1999. James Madison, the 2004 NCAADivision I-AA national champion, fell out of the top 25 this week.

Hampton is the lone undefeated team in Division I-AA and just six other teams in the division have one loss. Furman, New Hampshire, Coastal Carolina, Grambling State, Brown and San Diego.

Cal Poly is also ranked No. 17 in the Any Given Saturday poll, dropping seven positions.

In last week's Gridiron Power Index (GPI) rating released by FootballScoop.com, Cal Poly was No. 8. The top three teams were New Hampshire, Texas State and Western Kentucky.

In this week's Jeff Sagarin ratings published Monday in USA Today, Cal Poly is ranked 189th among the 239 football teams in Divisions I-A and I-AA.

The Mustangs are No. 30 among I-AA schools. New Hampshire is No. 1, followed by Appalachian State and Montana and are ranked ahead of such Division I schools as Syracuse, Utah State, Troy, Duke, San Jose State, UNLV and Rice, among others.

Cal Poly hosts Eastern Washington for Homecoming on Saturday at 4 p.m. The game will be broadcast live on KXTY-FM (99.7 FM) and GoPoly.com, beginning with a 3:30 p.m. pre-game show.

see Rankings, page 7

Harness earner of the week

SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

Cal Poly volleyball's Kylie Atherstone was named the Big West Conference Volleyball Player of the Week for the week ending Oct. 22.

Atherstone earned the honor when she led Cal Poly to a 3-2 win over Long Beach State and contributed in a three-game sweep over UC Irvine.

The freshman recorded 20 kills in the win over the 49ers and added eight digs and seven assisted blocks. It was the Mustangs' first win over the 49ers since 2002 when the team won at home in five games and the first road win over the 49ers for Cal Poly since defeating Long Beach State in five games in 1986 at the PCAA Tournament in Long Beach.

In the UC Irvine match, the Chico native had 14 kills, five digs and five total blocks.

For the weekend, Atherstone, an outside hitter, averaged 4.25 kills, 0.62 aces, 1.62 digs and 1.50 blocks per game.

She is the third Mustang this year to earn the award after Vanessa Gilliam and Kristin Jackson.

Atherstone shares the honor with Long Beach State's middle blocker Erika Chidester. Cal Poly is currently in third place in the Big West Conference and has a 15-5 overall record while posting an 8-3 mark in conference play.

Atherstone has been a key player in the Mustangs' turnaround from a dismal 2004 season.

She is second on the team in kills per game with 3.53. Gilliam, another outside hitter, leads the Mustangs in kills per game at 5.57.

see Awards, page 7

Frankly Speaking

Frank Stranzl

SPORTS EDITOR

There is a white box in my closet filled with memories. It's the box I look to at those dire moments when you need an emotional boost.

From high school yearbooks to photos of my childhood, blue ribbons and a "One-Day Passport" from my first trip to Disneyland and even a photo of a friend who followed me from birth.

More than anything, I use the memories in that box to remind myself of who I am.

I'm sure injured quarterback Anthony Garbett is doing the exact same thing in his own box of memories in the last week. His Cal Poly football career was ended after tearing his ACL and meniscus in the game against Montana.

He's going to look back on this season and think, "What if..."

What if he hadn't thrown that ball or run-planted his foot in the turf? What if he hadn't been injured at all — would the team have lost to UC Davis? What if the Mustangs had run the table and won the Division I-AA championship?

Garbett was a very good football player and a leader for the team. But the loss of one player can't mean the end of the season.

After consecutive losses, the Cal Poly football team's season is on the brink of disaster.

Everything seemed to be going according to plan for the Mustangs. They were No. 3 in the polls, the highest ranking in school history and destined for a top seed in the playoffs. That was then and this is now.

The Mustangs sit at a crossroads. The team is in a do-or-die situation against No. 10 Eastern Washington on Saturday. In fact, every game is a must-win for the Mustangs.

One loss and Cal Poly will not make the playoffs, a scenario that seemed impossible before two weeks ago.

Many will look back on this season and think the same thing Garbett is most likely thinking.

"What if...?" Would Cal Poly be better off with Garbett in the lineup? A maddening yes!

But that's not going to happen. Matt Brennan is the starting quarterback, and along with the rest of the team, will have to step up their game and play out this season.

This is still a playoff-caliber team.

There were 10 other players on the field while Garbett did his duties this season. They had been rock solid up until an Oct. 22 trip to Minnolda.

James Nodle, although nursing an injury himself, is an outstanding running back. Rameses Barden and Treacle Toliver are top-notch receivers.

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