Learn by Leaning

Justin Fivella  
MUSTANG DAILY

Imagine taking a trip around the world where one minute you’re basking in the golden South African sun and the next you’re running through the open landscape of beautiful Australia.

No vivid imagination needed here, this is just one of the many adventures Cal Poly horticulture students experience daily as they take a trip through the on-campus arboretum that plays home to over 1,000 plants from all over the world according to arboretum director Thomas Eltzroth.

The Leaning Pine Arboretum, named after a unique leaning pine that once inhabited the grounds, can trace its roots as far back as the 70s, but formally became the Leaning Pine Arboretum in 1989 when Eltzroth became the director.

“When we created the grounds we felt we needed an on-campus display of the plants that students needed to learn,” Eltzroth said.

What started out as less than an acre of plants has now blossomed into over five acres of lush landscape packed with plants from various parts of the world.

Eltzroth explained that there are over 10 different gardens on-site, but that the Chilean, Mediterranean, South African, Californian and Australian gardens are the five main gardens and sources of the facility’s plants.

“People always find it interesting that plants from such different locations, some above the Northern Hemisphere and some below the Southern, all do extremely well here,” Eltzroth said.

People even ask if the plants in the Australian Garden bloom in the winter here because it’s summer in Australia; even though they bloom during our spring like all the others do, Eltzroth said.

Unlike many other arboretums, the Leaning Pine prides itself on being both student-run and having some of the best landscape architecture around.

“I feel we have made a positive impact on the community as more local shops are now carrying some of the rarer plants we’ve introduced and it’s always nice to see local landscapers up here with their clients showing them the grounds for different ideas,” Eltzroth said.

Further distinguishing themselves as unique, the staff points out that unlike other arboreums that display rare plants typically unable to survive in the given area, the Leaning Pine takes plants from all over that can easily survive in the Central Coast and displays them in combinations.

Campus leaders shed light on energy plans

Nicole Small  
MUSTANG DAILY

The sun cast down favorable light Thursday at Empower Poly Coalition dedicated the new photovoltaic energy system located on the rooftop of the Engineering West building.

The ceremony took place at 11 a.m. on Dexter Lawn. This renewable energy project is the largest in San Luis Obispo County yet. Cal Poly joins Chico State and Dominguez Hills in experimenting with alternative energy among campuses in the California State University system.

Jesse Churchill, the president of Empower Poly, said, “This is the first major project to unveil and a lot more are on the way.”

Empower Poly Coalition began about a year ago after the CSU system adopted a policy drafted by Cal Poly students and faculty. The policy requires all CSU campuses to reduce energy use while doubling on-site energy by 2014 and renewable energy by 20 percent before 2010.

Once the policy passed, Churchill said to make application of the project a reality for students to joined forces and use the power of numbers.


“We have our own specific focus, but work towards the same goals,” said David Kirk, the public relations coordinator for Empower Poly.

For instance, civil engineering graduate student Shawn Von Stockhausen sat at the Engineers Without Borders table.

Taco Bell faces potential fallout from E. coli outbreak

Alex Vagia  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — An E. coli outbreak linked to Taco Bell restaurants left the fast-food chain with a major damage-control challenge Thursday. How can it reassure customers its food is safe even as the suspected cause of the outbreak remained unconfirmed?

The outbreak has left more than four dozen people sick in at least three states. Taco Bell ordered the removal of green onions from its 5,800 restaurants nationwide Wednesday after testing by an independent lab suggested the bacteria may have come from scallions.

Analysts said the Mexican-style restaurant chain is likely to see sales decline in the short term.

“You’ve got a crisis of confidence right now,” said Michael Strick, a crisis-management expert. “What they need to do is bring people back in the stores is to assure them that what happened in the past cannot happen in the future.”

Taco Bell, an Irvine, Calif., unit of Yum Brands Inc., told customers that in addition to getting rid of all its green onions, it sanitized the affected restaurants and set up a toll-free number for people to call with concerns.

Paul Argenti, a business professor at Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H., said Taco Bell appeared to be doing a good job handling the problem.

“When you’re in the middle of it, give people any information that you know, as much as possible;” he said. “Try to be honest and open and transparent.”

Argenti said he believes a television ad campaign to reassure customers is not necessary. Taco Bell has a loyal customer base that “will be looking for a reason to go back,” he said.

“Within six months, everything rights itself,” Taco Bell spokesman Rob Poetsch said the chain is preoccupied with the investigation. He would not say if it plans a major publicity effort.

IN SPOTLIGHT, 4

IN SPORTS, 8
Arboraeum
continued from page 1
most would never consider.
"It's not about the rarest stuff in the field, it's about taking plants that people would never consider and arranging different mixes in such a way that people can and will possibly want to duplicate themselves," said Eltzroth.
Nestled near the top of Eliza Carter next to the Plant-Shop, the folks hope that more people will come walk the grounds and experience the beauty as an alternative to visiting local spots like Avila or Pismo beach.
"I didn't even know we had something like this on campus until my teacher mentioned something to my class; this place is awesome," Business junior Stan Bleek said. "After walking around for a little bit it is a great place to take a date or to just get outside and enjoy.

Eltzroth mentioned that each day you can come up to the grounds and find something that is beautifully new because it is ever-changing.

"Though my favorite time is from March to June when everything is blooming, the beauty of all it that you can come up here every day and find something new that is amazing," Eltzroth said.
The Learning Pine Arboraeum is open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is free and open to both Cal Poly students and the public. For more information visit their Web site at www.leaningpinearboretum.calpoly.edu.

Outbreak
continued from page 1
The restaurant is working as closely as possible with authorities "to find the root cause of this," he said.
Also Thursday, federal health officials said they were investigating two more suspected cases of E. coli linked to the outbreak in Idaho and South Carolina, far from the other cases concentrated in the Northeast. And in Delaware, at least 14 Taco Bell restaurants closed for cleaning after a 15-year-old girl who ate at a Taco Bell in New Jersey was hospitalized.
Some local customers seemed unconcerned about the outbreak.
"I don't care," I've been eating at Taco Bell my whole life," said Josh Dowiat, 20, of Philadelphia, as he devoured a meat dripping with cheese behind a Taco Bell in Gloucester, N.J.
But his co-worker, a fellow college student, expressed less gusto for the restaurant, too, after learning about the outbreak.
"I didn't know about it.

Otherwise I don't know if we would have come here," said Dale Gudino, 23, also of Philadelphia.
The company suggested that customers who are worried about the outbreak call its hot line, 1-800-TACO-BELL.
Barry Sawyer, an operator who answered the phone at the Manhattan-based call center, said he had handled 25 calls since Wednesday. Most callers were not ill; they just wanted to understand the situation.
"The majority are calling in and asking 'What's going on?"' Sawyer said, "so I don't think I've received any irate calls about it."

Dr. Douglas Archer, associate dean for research at the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida, said throwing out more than the scallops would be a waste, but disagrees with them.
"If nothing's pointing to anything else, where would you stop if you started down that path?" he said.
"Taco Bell has been around for a long, long time and they've served billions and billions safely."

Dedication
continued from page 1
Borders booth and shared her experience of traveling to Nicaragua twice already to survey the area and choose a project and site to work. Over the week of Thanksgiving three students, including Von Stockhausen, who is the project manager, decided to build a water storage system for a health clinic. At this moment the team is in the designing stages and plans to return in July 2007.
Mike Marcus, from environmental affairs with Associated Students Inc., said, "It was great that students, faculty and administrators came together to support one goal, especially to support a self-sustaining campus."

Those who attended included Larry Kelly, from the administration and finance division, and Dan Howard-Greene, the executive assistant to President Warren Baker, who wasn't able to attend due to a scheduling conflict, but supports the coalition.

Empower is working on creating a resource center in the old power house building where students and faculty interested in the topic can get information and become involved.

Kimm Johnson, an architect junior, toured the different club booths because "she is an environmentalist and a little bit of a hippie and wants to learn about how to incorporate green architecture into design."

Recently, the coalition put together a video for a MTV and GE competition with a chance to win $75,000 used to campaigns fundraising. Reconstruction of the old power house is expected to cost between $2 million to $3 million.

Other money-saving items Cal Poly has installed are waterless urinals and different lighting fixtures.

Marcus stated that many opponents say raising money for the above is a waste, but disagrees with them.

"No matter where people are on the political line, we all need energy," Marcus said.

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State

MOORPARK (AP) — A Ventura County wildfire that burned five houses was sparked by fallen power lines, authorities said.

The 13,600-acre Shekell fire began Sunday and was contained on Tuesday after Santa Ana winds drove it through ranch and orchard lands.

Southern California Edison has some electrical lines in the area and there are also privately operated lines, so it was unclear whose lines were involved, Edison spokesman Steven Conroy said Wednesday.

CAMP PENDLETON (AP) — A Marine squad leader was arraigned Thursday on charges of kidnapping and murdering an Iraqi civilian.

Sgt. Lawrence G. Hutchins III, of Plymouth, Mass., headed a eight-man squad that prospected claim took Hashim Ibrahim Awad, 52, from his home in the Iraqi town of Hamdania and shot him without provocation last April. Hutchins did not enter a plea but reserved the right to do so later. He appeared with his civilian attorney, Richard Brannon, and two military defense lawyers.

National

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senators raised sharp questions Thursday about a special Iraq commission's recommendations for changing U.S. diplomatic and military strategies in the war, as the panel's leaders urged the Bush administration and Congress to urgently work out a new bipartisan approach. One of the commission's co-chairmen, former Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., underscored the urgency of changing course in Iraq, where conditions were described as grave and deteriorating. He was asked at what point the situation there, if not corrected, will be hopeless.

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush acknowledged Thursday that the United States needs a new approach in the unpopular war and promised to unveil details in an upcoming speech. Bush said he was dispointed in the progress in Iraq, but continued to oppose direct U.S. talks with Iran or Syria and remained steadfastly committed to spreading democracy across the Middle East.

"I do know that we have not succeeded as fast as we wanted to succeed," Bush said. "I do understand that process is not as rapid as we had hoped."

International

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — Islamic militants in control of most of southern Somalia warned Thursday that war will erupt over a U.N. decision authorizing an African force to protect the country's virtually powerless government.

The U.N. Security Council unanimously approved the resolution Wednesday, hoping to restore peace in Somalia and avert a broader conflict in the region. Prime Minister Ali Mohamed Gedi welcomed the decision and urged its immediate implementation.

The U.S. resolution, co-sponsored by the council's African members, also partially lifted an arms embargo on Somalia.

LONDON (AP) — After a Muslim prayer service, ex-spymaster Alexander Litvinenko was laid to rest Thursday in a rain-swept cemetery attended by a Russian tycoon, a Chechen rebel leader and other exiled Kremlin critics.

In Moscow, Russian prosecutors opened their own investigaion into the former KGB agent's poisoning death, and authorities said a key figure was ill with symptoms related to polonium-210, the highly radioactive substance that killed Litvinenko.

Bay Area R&B singer Chris Brown, Imogen Heap, Blunt, and former "American Idol" winner Carrie Underwood, Gnarls Barkley, a duo of producer Danger Mouse and rapper/singer Cee-Lo, were surprisingly shut out. However, they did receive a total of four nominations.

Sandy Cohen

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Mary J. Blige, whose album "The Breakthrough" was perhaps the biggest in her career, was nominated for a leading eight Grammy Awards on Thursday, including R&B album, record and song of the year. The Red Hot Chili Peppers were also multiple nominees, garnering six.

Other multiple nominees were the Dixie Chicks, British newcomer James Blunt, Justin Timberlake, John Mayer, Prince, and the Black Eyed Peas williams.

R&B veteran Blige was nominated for record of the year for "Be Without You" and song of the year for the same track.

"That's a beautiful thing, that I'm still going," Blige, 35, told The Associated Press. "The Breakthrough is about triumph, about not being a victim, but being a victor. It's about loving yourself."


Already a two-time Grammy winner, Timberlake, 25, said getting nominated never gets old.

"It is definitely a special thing," he said. "I look up to people like Mary, who's been doing this for way longer than me."

Corrine Bailey Rae, a silky soul singer from Britain, was nominated for best new artist, but was a surprise nominee for record of the year for "Put Your Records On." Other nominees in that category were Blunt's ubiquitous ballad, "You're Beautiful," Gnarls Barkley's psychedelic groove "Crazy," and the Dixie Chicks angry "Not Ready to Make Nice."

Collecting three nominations is "brilliant," Rae said.

"It's a great end to the year, to go home for Christmas knowing my name is on a list of people I've admired for a long time," the 27-year-old told the AP. "The fact that I was on the stage with Mary J. Blige, I think it's amazing, it's hilarious. It's really a big moment, when the weirdness of all of it comes home."

Besides Rae, other nominees for best new artist included teen R&B singer Chris Brown, Imogen Heap, Blunt, and former "American Idol" winner Carrie Underwood, Gnarls Barkley, a duo of producer Danger Mouse and rapper/singer Cee-Lo, who were surprisingly shut out. However, they did receive a total of four nominations.

Blige nominated for a leading 8 Grammys

2006 Season Home Opener

#20 Cal Poly Wrestling vs. #6 Oklahoma
Saturday - 6 PM - Mott Gym

Sandy Cohen

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*FREE Wrestling T for The First 100 Cal Poly Students
Wind ensemble's innovative style travels the world

Josh Krane
MUSIANC daily

For more than 36 years, the 60-piece Cal Poly Wind Ensemble has performed in some of the most famous venues in four continents. Despite being made up of mostly non-music majors, the group has earned an international reputation for music excellence and is continually invited to play at renowned conventions and festivals throughout the world.

William Johnson, professor of music and conductor of the ensemble, said the wind ensemble constantly researches ways to create a more innovative sound and often incorporates nontraditional instruments into its pieces. The piece "Concerto for Violin" features a violin, harp, pad bass and even synthesizers, which some traditionalists would consider blasphemous.

"We're different than what people normally would associate with a school band or military band. Today's composers are creating new sounds and breaking away from a normal sound," said Johnson, who has been at Cal Poly since 1966. "It makes it more entertaining and more interesting," said Johnson, who has been at Cal Poly since 1966.

"We're not completely over the top. We want people to come to our next concert. But that's the job of any ensemble. We don't want to give them what they want all the time; we want to stretch them a little bit," Johnson said.

Playing modern pieces usually allows the band to communicate and receive suggestions from the original composer, an advantage Johnson said helps the music sound more authentic. There is also an element of originality to the songs the ensemble plays.

A composer puts music on a page and you try to find out what they had in mind and try to be faithful to that. But there are some composers where I think I can interpret music better than they can.

—William Johnson
Music professor and ensemble conductor

Cal Poly's more contemporary piece, "The music written these days is really experimental and just generally creative. Some beautiful compositions have been written over the last decade that I love. That's definitely something I like about our group," Fradin said.

Johnson quickly pointed out that the Cal Poly Wind Ensemble isn't as edgy as those that might be heard in New York or Chicago, but said he tries to introduce audiences to new sounds with the pieces he chooses.

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see Wind, page 5

* • 1952 First acknowledgement of pregnancy on TV on "I Love Lucy."
• 1956 16th Olympic games close at Melbourne, Australia.
• 1969 Police surprise attack on Black-Panthers in Los Angeles.
• 1992 NBC announces that "Cheers" will go off the air in May 1993.
Wind
continued from page 4

"There's a balance. A composer
puts music on a page and you try to
find out what they had in mind and
try to be faithful to that. But there
are some composers where I think
I can interpret music better than
they can," Johnson said.

This summer, the ensemble
joined the Cal Poly Choir for a 16-
day tour through Europe that went
through Hungary, Austria, Germany
and the Czech Republic.

"It was an incredible experience.
We played in some unbelievable
cathedrals and churches that were
not huge and had great acoustics.
Just to play there instead of a normal
concert hall was so different and an
incredible experience," Fratkin said.

The group performed the cor­
erstone piece of the tour,
"Requiem," a 60-minute piece
inspired by the 1956 Hungarian
uprising against the Soviet Union,
in a packed concert hall in
Budapest, Hungary. It was the first
time the piece had been played in
10 years.

The piece’s original composer,
Frigyes Hidas, was in the audience.
Fratkin, who could see him seated
in the second row as the piece was
played, said the composer remained
expressionless throughout the piece
but came up to the thank both
groups after the song ended.

"Even though he wasn't able to
talk to us, you could tell it meant a lot
to him," Fratkin said.

Johnson said the wind ensemble
probably won't get out on another
tour for a few years, but the group
has some big dates scheduled for
next year.

The ensemble will perform at the
Christopher Cohan Performing
Arts Center March 7, 8 and
9.

It will be hosting the Ameri­
can Bandmasters' As­

American Bandmasters' Association
Convention at

"This is the biggest honor.
It's the most prestigious
bandmasters association. It's
an honor to host it and
perform for it," Johnson said.

The ensemble will also perform at the PAC in March, April and June.

The 60-piece Cal Poly Wind Ensemble has performed in four continents and will play at the PAC in March, April and June.

Mark Your Calendar

The wind ensemble will perform at Open House on April 21
and at their spring concert on June 9.

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**HUMOR COLUMN**

**WWD? Spin the dreidel and schmooze**

By Mike Heinowitz

"Tis the season to be jolly, unless, well, you're not into all the media-hyped holiday festivities that go on. "Tis also the article where I promise that for the rest of the "Guides to Life" I ever write, I will never use the word "tis" again. So, might as well live it up because 'tis an article that will only happen once, and I would like to continue to use the word as incorrectly as possible.

While we're at it, I promise that I won't use the word "jolly" again in any more of my "Guides to Life" either, so just bear with me for the rest of this one while I have my fun.

Anyways, since this is the last article I will be writing before winter break, I thought it would be fitting to break down the holiday season for you. Even though it might seem a little bit straightforward, it sure can be confusing.

I'll start with the big one. Christmas. Apparently, JC came out of the womb a little plump, really red and fully bearded. And, 'tis the reason for Santa, right? Well, there is that reason, but there is also America's obesity problem and crappy job market. Christmas gives opportunities for fat, unemployed men every where to play Santa Claus.

So anyways, back to the birth of JC.

I think we all know about the Bible and whanot, JC was quite different than what we're used to. Now I'm not saying he's different whether he is the Messiah or not, but rather a bigger difference. Of course, while the other children had normal dad and can, Jesus had nine reindeer. It was a lot to keep up with.

But, WWJD,? This is a plea on behalf of, well, us Cal Poly students who can't afford it at Julian's. This is a plea on behalf of the Jews. I think there should actually be at least one real fact in this piece. Of course if you hold your breath, you might sort of have to let her do what she wanted. I mean, she was always a little bit of a tomboy, having a ton of reindeer, so it was obvious that nobody would get in her way and she wouldn't have a room inside.

Moving on to the one I actually have feeling about, which is Hanukkah. Now, right off the bat we can have fun with this spell and it will be Hanukkah, Hanukkah, Channukah, Chanukah, or whatever, but we'll stick toChanukhanah.

As long as when you say it, you say it with noise, while saying the beginning of the word, you'll be correct while nobody else will be. Of course, because, eh, we already have huge noses and thick hair, so can eat out some of the worst things possible really hurt our appearance that much? I think you get my drift that there is no help for us, hey, at least us Jews are good at sports, right?

Well anyways, "tis does it for another "Guidance to Life." This break, I hope your Christmas or Hanukkah, or whatever you celebrate is a jolly one.

Mike Heinowitz is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily humor columnist. Find out what kind of day to 'guy makes his dreidel' at www.mikeheinowitz.com. Oh, and catch him on Tuesdays next to Mike Heinowitz is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily humor columnist. Find out what kind of day to 'guy makes his dreidel' at www.mikeheinowitz.com. Oh, and catch him on Tuesdays next to
Chambers caught two touchdowns passes. Both teams enter the game with double-digit winning streaks to their credit. UMass boasts a school-record 11-game winning streak, but it's a one-upped by Montana's 12- game hot streak. That Grizzlies streak includes winning their last eight contests.

Washington-Grizzly Stadium is one of the toughest places to play in the nation. Montana consistently recorded attendance figures in the low 20,000 range this season, with the two-game coming Nov. 18. That day the Grizzlies took on Montana State and lost, 13-7.

"We're just going to have to prepare our guys the best we can for it," UMass coach Don Brown said of the hostile environment his team will enter. "They do a good job with that, this, that silent cadences, but it will certainly be tough to assimilate during pre-game. But if it happens again, that's on a positive side, we had a great crowd last week at our place — it was extremely loud."

Offense led Montana throughout the regular season, but defense was the key Saturday, and according to Brown, it's been that way throughout the post season.

"They're playing very good defense lately, especially over the last three weeks," he said in a conference call Monday. "I thought their front-four was extremely physical — tough to deal with on the edges."

That front four was poised in stopping SUU's Arke Whiskock. He is one of three finalists for the Walter Payton Award, given to the best player in-I. A. But against Montana, Whiskock was a non-factor.

Whiskock finished the season with 1,828 yards and 25 touchdowns. However, the Grizzlies held him to just 84 yards on 21 carries for a 3.8 average. That number is two full yards below his season average of 5.8 yards per carry.

"They're playing good, concept defense," Brown said. "They're very stingy on defense, just a very balanced football team with no weaknesses, so we're going to have to be at our best to have a chance on Friday."

"That's our trip from Anheuser, Mass., to Missoula constitutes the farthest a team has traveled this postseason," he said. "We're going from Hartford, Conn., or Boston take a minimum of 10 hours to get to Montana. To cut down the travel time, and get a head start in preparing for the game, the Minutemen flew out at 8 a.m. Wednesday and arrived in Missoula sometime early Thursday.

That long trip means a shortened preparation week for Brown and his team, and the Friday night game might not help much. Despite the change in his team's routine, Brown said he's going to try and make this week as normal as possible.

"That's a concern," Brown said of the shortened week. "But you have no control over it — you just do the best you can. We're going to try to have as normal a Tuesday and Wednesday as possible this Thursday will be a little bit more involved than we'd like it to be at this time of year."

"Since we're playing at night, we're going to do the shortest prep possible, through Friday morning. We'll try to get the guys out of the hotel for a little bit of rest and then try to get a feel for the facility and then go back for our pre-game preparation."
Fifth-ranked Oklahoma wrestling team visits No. 19 Cal Poly on Saturday

The Mustangs are yet to compete in a dual meet this season.

Tristan Aird
SPORTS EDITOR

The Cal Poly wrestling team has performed well enough to maintain its national ranking of No. 19 in the W.I.N. Magazine poll, but head coach John Arcevedo is not thrilled with its consistency so far this season.

Arcevedo and the Mustangs will get a chance to prove themselves when fifth-ranked Oklahoma visits Mott Gym at 6 p.m. Saturday for a nonconference dual meet that will showcase a combined eight wrestlers individually ranked in their respective weight classes.

"Most the guys have had their good matches and bad matches," Arcevedo said Thursday. "It's just a matter of putting it together at the same time. Hopefully that happens Saturday."

Cal Poly unofficially began its season Nov. 16 with the Green & Gold Meet, an intrasquad scrimmage in which the two teams tied 23-23. The Mustangs then went to the Hecurton Open, at which they posted team standings with 286.5 points Nov. 18.

At the 25th annual Cliff Keen Invitational in Las Vegas from Dec. 1 to 2, Cal Poly was 15th among 49 teams, a finish Arcevedo was displeased with.

"We didn't wrestle well," he said. "We left a couple guys behind, which doesn't help your team score. Overall, I really don't think we competed as well as we can."

Cal Poly senior Darrell Vasquez won the Fullerton Open title at 133 pounds. The Mustangs also took the three second-place finishes at the Fullerton Open.

Matt Monteiro is one of three Mustangs currently ranked in the top 10 of their respective weight classes by W.I.N. Magazine. Monteiro lost this match by default, but finished last year 22-6 and is ranked ninth with a 5-3 record so far this season.

**SATURDAY IN MOTT GYM**

**Who:** No. 5 Oklahoma (1-1, 0-1 Big 12 Conference) at No. 19 Cal Poly (0-1)

**What:** Nonconference wrestling meet, Cal Poly's first dual meet of the season.

**When:** 6 p.m. Saturday

**Notes:** The Sooners are coming off a 17-15 home loss to Big 12 rival Oklahoma State. The Mustangs are coming off a 15th-place finish among 49 teams at the Cliff Keen Invitational in Las Vegas.

Invitational, the Mustangs were led by Vasquez and senior Dave Roberts (141), who finished third and fourth, respectively.

In respective weight classes, Cal Poly junior Chad Meredith (125) is ranked third, Vasquez seventh and senior Matt Monteiro (197) ninth.

"Darrell's done a good job," Arcevedo said. "He just lost that one match. David Roberts really wrestled really well at Vegas. Those guys are older. Of the younger guys, Chase Pasui, looked well at Fullerton. Nick Hernandez wrestled tough."

Among Oklahoma's five ranked wrestlers are seniors Sam Hazewinkel (125) and Matt Souers (149), who are both ranked second.

Arcevedo said there is definitely a transition from the nonconference tournament stage to nonconference dual meets, especially against a perennial Big 12 Conference power like the Sooners. Oklahoma is coming off a 17-15 loss to No. 2 Oklahoma State, which will visit Cal Poly at 1 p.m. Dec. 18.

"It's definitely different," Arcevedo said. "Dual situation, one-on-one, school against school. That changes the dynamics a little bit. They're one of the top teams. I think the guys are excited to try to beat them."

Cal Poly will try to average 35-6 losses last year to both the Sooneers and Cowboys this month.

"Being at home is part of it," Arcevedo said. "Guys want to perform well in front of the home crowd. That helps us. I think it motivates guys to do well for the team too. When it's the duals, the team is more important (than individuals). Not to get beat bad. That all plays in.

Arcevedo said that wrestling the two Big 12 powers should prepare the Mustangs for Pac-10 competition, which begins at 3 p.m. Dec. 18 against visiting Cal State Fullerton. That was the case last year, when Cal Poly rallied from the 10 of 36-8 losses against the two Big 12 schools to finish 10-7 overall, 6-3 in the Pac-10, second in the conference tournament and 23rd at the NCAA Championships.

"I think it helps going against Oklahoma and some other teams," Arcevedo said. "It just makes them more confident coming into the Pac-10 duals as long as we stay healthy."

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL UPDATE**

San Diego State handed visiting Cal Poly a 70-68 overtime loss Thursday night at Cox Arena. Sophomore forward Megan Harrison led the Mustangs (4-4) with 20 points. Junior forward Jennifer Layton paced the Aztecs (4-3) with 18 points. The game, which ended just before press time, marked San Diego State's sixth straight win over Cal Poly.

I-AA playoff battle set between Montana, UMass

After beating New Hampshire last week in arguably the most important win in McLaughlin Stadium history, UMass (12-1) travels to Montana to square off with the Grizzlies tonight.

The NCAA Division I Football Championship semifinal game takes place in Mesilla, Mont., with see I-AA Semifinal, page 7