Economy brings less recruiters to job fair

Matt Fountain  
MUSTANG DAILY

Students have the opportunity to meet with representatives from over a hundred companies today and tomorrow at the Winter 2009 Job Fair. The two-day event, which seeks to connect job-seeking students with prospective employers, will be held in the Chumash Auditorium. The open session will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., when students can browse booths and drop off resumes while interview sessions will be held from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

"This is an excellent opportunity for all students looking for jobs to meet many potential employers, all under one roof," said Industrial and manufacturing engineering and graduate program coordinator Unny Menon.

"Students are also able to meet alums and interact with both (human resources) folks, as well as technical managers from companies. Our students really enjoy the career fair for job search and the one-on-one interaction."

For students, the fair offers an opportunity to see hiring companies and meet a large number of representatives in a short amount of time. For employers, the benefits are just as good.

"For employers, it can be a one-stop kind of thing," said Career Services Director Martin Shibata.

"Over the last five years, employers have shown a preference for the job fair format. They can come in one day, meet students, interview, leave, and have some viable candidates to hire. It's that versus coming here on campus, setting up a room, building a schedule, interviewing students, coming up the evening before, that sort of thing."

In the turbulent economic climate, employers are looking for ways to reduce the cost of finding qualified candidates. According to Shibata, effects from the current recession are visible in this year's fair format. "We have 135 (participating companies) this year; in the fall we had 185," he said. "So there has been a drop-off in the number of employers. Because of what happened in the 'Dot-com' era, when they were kind of hiring indiscriminately, employers, as a result of that, have been a little more conservative. They're being a little more careful in their recruitment."

For example, when seeking interested companies in the fall, Shibata said the fair filled up in just 24 hours. "A lot has changed in three days," he said.

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VISA

continued from page 1

cluded in the tour to filming and editing of the video footage. "The
vision was to prepare prospective students for Poly, said Nunez.
"I thought he created a lot of personality and represented the
university well."

Not every building is included in the tour. The team
initially chose a number of buildings that would be easily
recognizable to members of the outside public. In the future,
they hope to expand the tour.

"We went through and chose major landmarks, build­
ings that are most recognizable," said Nunez. We are going to be
expanding the tour for different areas and we'll be diversify­
ing the tours so maybe one tour
is a college or a specific program
area of the university."

Nunez speculated that the specialized tours could be avail­
able within the next six months, but added that other recruit­
ment initiatives could delay the appearance of the new tours.

Kristen Calderwood, Poly Rep and graphic communications
senior, thinks the GPS Rangers are a good addition to the
admissions department.

"I think that the devices are a great idea," she said. "It's
sometimes hard for people traveling to make it to the 11:10 a.m.
tour, and we're not like other campuses that give tours all day.
So it's a great innovation that takes the stress off of Poly Reps
to give tours all day and lets people explore the campus on
their own, even as an addition to a Poly Reps tour." So far, the public response to the
GPS Rangers has also been positive.

"We've had some great responses from the public," Nunez
said. "People appreciate the fact that they're still going to be led
by a live body there. There is still
a student could tell you."

Cal Poly alumni Michael Leaky was chosen to be the face of
the GPS Rangers because of his active involvement in Poly Reps
and campus promotional materials while at student at the
university.

"He was a very natural choice," Nunez said. "We just
thought he could be the face of the video tour, and we're not like
other campuses that give tours all day. So it's a great innovation
that takes the stress off of Poly Reps to give tours all day and
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tion to a Poly Reps tour."

Fair

continued from page 1
effect of the uncertain economy is a
fair, however, if called back for an in­
terview, one should dress more formal. Shibata added.

According to a poll from the Ca­
nearness Services department, these forums are becoming more effective for job
seekers in finding stable employment. Between the 2007–2008 reporting year,
job fairs surpassed Internet listings to
become the second most common way
employers and students to research and contact em­
ployers.

Students should dress in business­
casual attire for the open part of the
In Washington, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates echoed Karzai’s concerns, telling a Senate committee that “civilian casualties are doing enormous harm in Afghanistan.”

As U.S. commanders paid villagers near 15 newly dug graves, Karzai met Tuesday in the capital with relatives of some of those killed. He told the villagers he has given the U.S. and NATO one month to respond to a draft agreement calling for increased Afghan participation in military operations.

Karzai said if he does not receive a response within that time, he would ask Afghans what he should do about international military operations. The statement from the presidential palace describing the meeting did not elaborate.

The U.S. is doubling its troop presence in Afghanistan this year to take on the Taliban militia in the capital and in rural areas of trouble spots. Last year, 151 U.S. troops died in Afghanistan, the most in any year since the U.S. invaded the Taliban-rulled country in late 2001 for sheltering Osama bin Laden.

Col. Greg Julian, the top U.S. spokesman in Afghanistan, led Tuesday’s delegation into the village of lnzeri, a small collection of stone and mud homes set high in a steep, rocky valley. insurgents have a strong presence in the region just 30 miles (50 kilometers) north of Kabul.

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WORD ON THE STREET

“How will you be affected by the possibility of Calif. state IOUs?”

“Well I wouldn’t get the money that I’ve been working for. As long as that’s what the state needs to get back on its feet then I’m OK with it as long as I get the money back within a reasonable amount of time.”

-Lyssia Porter, ethnic studies sophomore

“I wouldn’t get my grant money but I would still be able to attend school because my parents would help me.”

- Bond Walker, graphic communications junior

State Briefs

SAN LUIS OBISPO (AP) — One of the two reactors at the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant has been shut down for a two-month project involving refueling and replacement of four steam generators.

Pacific Gas and Electric, operator of the Central Coast nuclear power plant near Avila Beach, shut down the Unit 1 reactor Sunday.

Utility spokeswoman Emily Christensen said Monday that refueling outages usually last about a month. A third of the unit’s fuel rods are being replaced.

But replacement of the steam generators — which weigh 390 tons each — will require more time.

L O S ANGELES (AP) A man who fatally shot his wife, five young children and himself Tuesday had earlier fired a note to a TV station claiming the couple had just been fired from their hospital jobs and together planned the killings as a final escape for the whole family.

“Why leave the children to a stranger?” Ervin Lupoe wrote, according to KABC-TV.

The family received the fax after the shooting.

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — A 28-year-old San Jose man has been jailed for allegedly punching a stranger who was speaking on a cell phone in Spanish.

San Jose police spokesman Jermaine Thomas says Scott Ponzonious was booked on suspicion of assault and committing a hate crime after a 33-year-old man reported being attacked on the street.

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP) — A California appeals court has ruled that a private Christian high school has the right to expel students because of an alleged lesbian relationship.

The 4th District Court of Appeal in Riverside on Monday upheld California Lutheran High School’s right as a private, religious organization to exclude students based on their sexual orientation.

Two teens filed a lawsuit claiming they were discriminated against after they were expelled from the Wildenour school in 2008 because of an alleged lesbian relationship.

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Info Session

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Entering Phoenix Books in downtown San Luis Obispo is like walking into book heaven, where everything, right down to the smell that only good old books have, is perfect. The two-story space is a collage of artifacts that lend the feeling of being inside an antique shop of sorts rather than just a bookstore. It seems it would be possible to spend a day in the book palace and still not see everything. Between unique sections like “bohemiana,” and “snit,” the fun is in the search at this grotto of words.

Bruce Miller, owner of Phoenix Books, grew up in San Luis Obispo but learned the business of book selling in Berkeley, Calif. After working there for about seven years, the writer decided to come back to his hometown and build his own used book legacy. In November of 1984 the shop made its first appearance on Broad Street next to Big Sky Café before moving to its current location at 990 Monterey St. Adorned with large green canopies shading the front door, the store feels separate from its surroundings, and it is that uniqueness that keeps people coming.

Miller said that he got started in used books “a little bit by accident.” As an aspiring writer and painter, he needed a way to be able to create while also making a gainful employment.

“Used books seemed like a pretty good idea and I ended up liking it quite a bit,” Miller said. “I seem to like to hunt, either for information, or in this case for books. When you consider the history of the book business or civilization, all the best books are the used books.”

Used books indeed, but it is important to note that Phoenix also sells newer titles along with the unusual. The inventory is kept completely in Millers’ head, and as he shuffles through some boxes that a customer has brought in for appraisal and trade, it is easy to see he has his own system. He separates the sellable from the non-sellable quickly, as if he had done this a few times before. He said that his knowledge comes from experience.

“We are reality based, we go look on the shelf,” Miller said when asked about the store’s catalogue. “I think it’s important to be present, go to the shelf, see if the book is there, then answer the question.”

Not having the ability to go straight to what you are looking for allows the customer to stumble across something he or she may not have previously been aware of. The sense of a “hunt,” as Miller likes to call it, makes the experience unique.

“A lot of people come in and they say, ‘Is this a library?’ They don’t recognize it, they don’t know what it is because they are used to corporate stores,” he said. “They look at the art on the wall and all of the knick knacks, and it confuses them for a minute — which is a good thing because when you sort of shake people out of their normal sense, maybe they open up and think about what’s going on right there instead of walking around in a perfectly groomed atmosphere that the corporate stores tend to have.”

Miller describes the store as a “general used book store,” but behind the scenes at this small local store is treasure trove of used books

The Internet has basically devastated the used book business, but it is the way things go. The mechanism of selling has changed. With the confluence of high real estate prices and high rents versus the low rent of the virtual bookstore, we drop all of our books into Amazon. Miller is confident that Phoenix Books will remain aloft in part because he does not consider making money his top priority. He said that the ambiance of the store would be a major reason why they will not go out of style.

“We don’t try to be everything to everybody, but we try to present a little bit of atmosphere,” he said. “I think it’s one of the ways going forward that used bookstores will be able to survive. I don’t want to do anything else, so it’s a little bit of a trap… but it’s sort of a wonderful trap of my own device.”

Miller is not the only one in town who considers Phoenix Books to be a rare gem. At 10 a.m., not a moment after the doors have been opened to begin the business day, a woman is waiting patiently with a large cart full of books. Her name is Andiica Spierling and she is a self-described book addict. She has been anxious to trade the books in her cart for ones that she has not previously read. Spierling has been staying alive on re-reads alone, and it is time she makes her regular visit to the shop to reimburse her collection.

“I’ve been going to this one for about seven years,” she said. “They have a pretty good selection and the clerks are really nice.”

The doors open and Spierling begins her own hunt, a process that many others must have penciled into their agendas as well, looking at the sudden rush of customers invading the shop. Some are here to trade, others just to browse. Arroyo Grande resident, Larry Turner is selling back some of his wife’s books. He has about five large boxes of them that Miller, undaunted, accepts right away.

“I’ve been coming to Phoenix books since they opened,” Turner said. “I think this shop is pretty unique in the area, and I like the feeling and the atmosphere. The people are nice and it’s a little bit of a local feel.”

Miller finishes looking through Turner’s selection and hands over the worth. After doing this for over 35 years I still see books I’ve never seen before,” he marvels. “A used bookstore is different than other stores. You can bring stuff in and walk out with money. It goes both ways here; we’re a little bit like a pawn shop.”

Buying and selling aside, the reason Miller sticks around this business goes back to his love for town treasure lies an international business. Miller sees the Internet as a wonderful source of information, and he recognizes the changes it has forced upon the book business. Some not so positive, but others have allowed Phoenix Books to be a supplier to anyone in the world. Miller said he gets orders from places like Japan, Australia and England weekly, as he is now able to use Amazon.com as a selling device.

“The Internet has basically devastated the used book business, but it is the way things go,” he said. “The mechanism of selling has changed. With the confluence of high real estate prices and high rents versus the low rent of the virtual bookstore, we drop all of our books into Amazon. I love the Internet, but I also sort of wonder if it isn’t going to be a problem at some point and people will suddenly wake up and realize that there aren’t any actual used bookstores anymore.”

Miller is confident that Phoenix Books will remain aloft in part because he does not consider making money his top priority. He said that the ambiance of the store would be a major reason why they will not go out of style.

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reading. Hearing him explain why reading is impor-
tant makes it seem very sad that people are reading
less and less.
"Reading is the sort of activity that helps your
brain develop," Miller said. "It's different than being
on a computer. I think reading can develop your
imagination, and the more you do the the quicker
you can understand narrative. It makes a con-
nection between the real life events that can be
harmful and you can discern when things aren't
necessarily true."
Miller said that if you are good at narrative
due to avid reading, then you have some foun-
tation of understanding when certain narra-
tive goes off track.
"It helps you understand the flow of
life," he said. "You read a lot of novels and
you realize sometimes marriages end and
new love is found. When you break up
with your girlfriend or boyfriend you can
drink. you really know. Charles Dickens
'Great Expectations,' he didn't get the girl
till the very end. I think reading is really
important; it can humanize you."
Miller encourages people to search
out used bookstores when they go on
vacation, as he said that many of his
customers are tourists who have lost
their own local stores.
"I used to think of the store as a
more vibrant place than just
people coming in with cash and
buying a book," he said. "Maybe they
can make their own library a little more
lovely.
"It's sort of the anti-lecture. The goal is to encourage
the community, including non-scientists, to participate in a
science forum." Dunning said.
"Here's your chance to participate. Isn't it part of your
responsibility to come and share your vision? Share your
ideas and share what you think might happen. How can
you have a conversation about anything if you're not
there?" asked Scaramozzino.
Science Café will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.
on the second floor of the library, right next to Julian's Pan-
siee Snacks will be served.
There are different themes for each month's discussion.
The next Science café session will be Feb. 12 at 3 p.m.
and will be an ode to Darwin's birthday. This birthday tea-
party will feature birthday cake and biology faculty mem-
er, Christy Strand, as she talks about her work at Galapa-
gos Islands.
Science Café is the library's program and is sponsored
by the College of Engineering and supported by the Col-
lege of Math and Science.

Library hosts science discussion

Krizia Torres

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Cal Poly and the Central Coast will see its first-ever Sci-
ence Café in the Robert F. Kennedy Library this Wednes-
day afternoon.

Several of these discussion cafés have already sprung up
in coffee houses, bars and other libraries around the Bay
Area, Los Angeles and the rest of the country, but none in
the Central Coast until now.

This informal discussion series will feature conversa-
tions with a scientist and 10-minute presentations from
four different Cal Poly contributors — including elec-
trical engineering department Chair Art MacCurries, Electric
Vehicle Engineering club, Cal Poly Rose Float and Human
Powered Vehicle — centering on the theme of "Improb-
able Vehicles."

According to John Dunning, who has a doctorate in
electrochemical engineering (Cal Poly research scholar and
Café discussion moderator, improbability is a function of
history. What was once improbable is now commonplace.

"We can use this (forum) as a way to ask ourselves some
questions: What was improbable then? What is improbable
today? What is the future going to be like? Then let the
people talk," he said.

Conversations will stem from topics such as what are
the driving forces behind the creativity of methanol mo-
tocycles, electric race cars, human powered vehicles and
Cal Poly's Rose Float?
The Science Café discusses scientific topics and discov-
ers what other groups are up to around campus.
"I think this project is bringing in so many parts of
(a campus. This is a way to see what they are doing and being
part of the community."

But what's unique about the Science Café is it is not
a two-and-a-half hour PowerPoint lecture getting shoved
down your throat. The approach will be informative, yet
relaxed.

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Sun: 1:30, 4:00, 6:45

Slumdog Millionaire
Weekdays: 4:00, 6:45, 9:15
Sat: 1:30, 4:00, 6:45, 9:15
Sun: 1:30, 4:00, 6:45

The Wrestler
Weekdays: 4:00, 6:45, 9:15
Sat: 1:30, 4:00, 6:45, 9:15
Sun: 1:30, 4:00, 6:45

General Admission: $7.50 Matinee: $5.00
 comprend ene: 6:00
"YEAH."
www.mustangdaily.net
A memoir in little pictures

I have a bit of a problem. I really like to spend money on things I shouldn't, like comic books. For instance, last week I was at a bookstore with no intent of buying anything, and of course I had to check out the graphic novel section. I stumbled upon something I just had to have. Jeffrey Brown's "Little Things: A Memoir in Slices."

I've read some of Brown's work before and I'm a big fan. For those of you that don't know, Brown is an indie "graphic memoirist" from Chicago, whose work mostly consists of autobiographical stories, told through little pictures, about his many failed relationships with girls.

Jeffrey Brown certainly isn't limited by that, however, for he really has a great knack for observing the world, remembering it, and then bringing it to life through his drawings. Like in his adorable little book, "Cat Getting Out of a Bag and Other Observations," in which he illustrates his love for his cats by showing the shenanigans they get into around the house, such as getting caught in a bag and getting out.

"Little Things" is a really great combination of the entirety of Brown's talents. It is made up of, as the title gives away, short stories about the little things in life. From friends, to work, your favorite coffee shop, buying CDs or getting your gall bladder taken out. Brown describes the interconnectedness of the little things in life and what they mean to us. How seemingly mundane objects or events, taken in context, can take on a very personal and important character, which would otherwise be devoid in an individual's life.

For instance, the first story in the book describes how the music of artist Andrew Bird has affected Brown over the period of his life. At first, and of course, Andrew Bird's music was associated with a girl, but when that relationship ended, so did his love for the music. However, after time passed and new experiences accumulated, Brown finds a new love for Bird's music.

A bit of warning for any of those out there that may be looking for a continual narrative when they pick up Brown's works. More often than not, the stories are true to life and do not have any definitive ending, that wraps the story up in a neat little package. Brown's talents. It is made up of, as the title gives away, short stories. Each individual story doesn't follow a traditional plot line either. There have been numerous times while reading his work that I was positive that the story was going to turn out a certain way, but it didn't. And hey, that's kind of refreshing when you think about it. Moreover, that's kind of how life works and Brown knows how to capture that.

It's getting to be about that time in the quarter where midterms are quickly creeping up. I swear I'm starting to smell the stress in the air. So if you need a break from those studying blues and maybe want a bit of reassurance in the little things in life, then you should pick up a copy of Brown's "Little Things: A Memoir in Slices."
The job market's tough — deal with it

The US Bureau of Labor statistics announced an increase in the national unemployment rate from 6.8 percent in November to 7.2 percent in December. CNN reported that more than 11,500 jobs were cut on Jan. 27 alone adding to the nearly quarter-million jobs cut so far in 2009. Planning on graduating soon? College seniors will soon graduate and move into a job market that doesn’t want them. With the potential sky-rocketing costs of college tuition looming on the horizon, school may not be the best place to be either. It’s not the end of the world though. Surviving during unstable economic times is difficult but do-able if you are willing to make some minor sacrifices.

Here’s a suggestion: Grow up. It’s time to face the reality that a job with a 40-hour work-week, a respectable salary, benefits and a retirement plan is not going to fall in your lap. These types of jobs are the ones currently getting cut. Having a back-up plan means mentally preparing yourself to take on the task of working 50 to 60 hours a week at two to three different jobs to afford to make payments on those towering student loans, car payments, bills, rent... well, you get the idea.

Think like an employer. In this economy, would you want to pay someone a full-time salary, benefits and retirement, or would you rather find a few part-time, lower-paid people to fill the position? Whether applying for a job in your field or not, a willingness to work part-time and forgo benefits for a few years has the potential of making you a much more appealing candidate than a seasoned veteran demanding a hefty salary and all the extras.

Following up this employment opportunity with a positive attitude and a matching work ethic may open up a potential full-time, benefited position down the road.

If part-time work isn’t hiring, remember that there’s a whole country out there dealing with a financial burden as well. Know your skills — all of them. Some homeowners, business owners and other entities are willing to sacrifice the craftsmanship of licensed contractors for small jobs around their homes and offices and are willing to pay well above the state’s minimum wage — and tax free.

Listings on Craigslist and the Mustang Jobs Web site are perfect for finding temporary work that can almost always appeal to your little-known trade skills. If you are handy with a hammer, help the Mr. So-and-so household build a shed for $12 an hour some weekend; Walk people’s dogs, hoe a flowerbed. Enjoy your hobbies get exercise, and most of all, enjoy getting paid for it. The second and probably most important suggestion for surviving in the tough times in your post-college era is to make it essential to rule out the non-essential.

Protect your hard earnings by learning to eliminate needless spending. If you’re not good at balancing your check-book, consider, at least, making a daily list of what you purchased and at the end of the month evaluate where your bad spending habits are. Cutting back on that K2-day coffee habit will save you more than $50 a month. Extend the life of your leftovers by incorporating them into new and creative dishes in the days after cooking them. Make it a trust to save. Even if you’re only putting $25 a month into a savings account do it. The time after rent is paid, bills are taken care of and the loan payments are sent is the perfect time to look at your checking account and realistically determine an amount to transfer to savings.

If your spending is up a lot one month, resist the urge to spend the next and put it away immediately. You’ll thank yourself later.

Josh Ayers is a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily reporter.

Send your opinions, rants and raves in 250 words or less to mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com. All published letters must include author’s name, year and major, and are subject to editing for grammar, style and spelling.
**Obama’s presidency brings realistic optimism to the White House**

President Barack Obama has been criticized by the press for not being strong enough, demanding enough, or even mean enough. These critics continue to find certain flaws, searching for anything and everything to prove that he can’t be perfect. It is all too good to be true that we finally found a man with such brilliance, sincerity, determination and impeccable manners?

Some may think he is too naive, over confident or perhaps complacent. But his inaugural address, spoken in front of millions of people, with billions more watching on TV, was anything but naive. He addressed the nation sincerely, making sure to continue to find certain flaws, searching for anything compared to Lincoln’s.

The day after the inauguration, newspaper headlines read “The world has changed.”

Yes, it has.

It’s not only a new year, but a new time to rejoice in the new hope of our new president. It is truly a remarkable time in history.

**The Layman’s Guide to the Bill of Rights**

An accurate understanding of the Bill of Rights has been sadly lacking lately. The sheer number of people affected by this deprivation is tragic enough, but it is especially alarming when higher numbers of the political class are among the most ignorant of this document’s most elementary concepts.

The word “rights” is flippancy and is commonly misunderstood by those on both sides of the aisle to invoke a nebulous moral claim to whatever political advantage can happen to be proposed. It is a cheap device that bolsters dubious, illegal and ill-legal proposals.

But the word “right” is not connotative of gifts that dear Uncle Sam doles out to his good little children. The rights circumscribed by the Bill of Rights were meant for a very specific purpose: to safeguard the people against potential abuses by their government.

Far from being claims to whatever we may want (pay increases, job security, healthcare, etc.), the Bill of Rights serves as a legal protection for inherent individual rights and restricts government trespasses and abuses. They are not rights to be granted so much as they are rights to be protected.

The best way to understand the difference is to evaluate the document in its true form, that is, as a legal document. Many misconceptions can be cleared up with the simple distinction between positive and negative rights. The Bill of Rights consists of a series of negative rights, which does not imply more or less, but rather acts which have the right to confiscate from others.

The Layman’s Guide to the Bill of Rights serves as a necessary clarification on what many have found it best (and easiest) to empower the government to do with their livelihood.
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CLASSIFIEDS NEWSPAPER
James
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much. Having them spot you while bench-pressing a 400-pound barbell? Not so much.

But James laughed off the idea that could be dangerous. "Everybody knows me because I'm around so much - reckoning weights, spotting me, doing the things I need is not a problem.

Neither, apparently, is finding a meal at that hour.

Toward the end of his appearance at media day, a reporter from a children's TV network asked James to list what comprised his own nutritional game-day breakfast, as a way of getting viewers off to a healthy start each morning.

"Uh-uh, I don't eat breakfast," he began. But trying to be helpful, James added a moment later, "But I like to have a nice late-night meal."

That erratic schedule, coupled with all the punishment a feature back like James takes, is hardly the only reason many people doubted he'd last this long. More than a few thought James was done when he left the Colts the season before they won the Super Bowl. And his critics note it wasn't hard enough, or that he didn't put up enough numbers. It's, "just," James said, panicking, "that everything has to work out.

His resurgence at the end of the season came as the Cardinals realized they would have to balance an offense built around veteran quarterback Kurt Warner's arm with some power on the ground. They'd need James and Hightower to pile up carries and yards to have any hope of slowing Pittsburgh's fearsome pass rush.

"He's a guy I've looked up to," Parker said, "because he's been doing it for so long now. And he helped me. I know a little bit about what it's like, because you take a lot of hits in this job."

Not all of them on the field, either. James caught flak early in his career for his dreadlocks, gold tooth (since removed) and his rough past. So while no one had to ask who owned the sparkling white Lamborghini parked in the passenger seat, he protested, chuckling, "But I said if I ever get to the Super Bowl, I was going to drive."

"He's always willing to teach and share things," Hightower said. "But he's doing so light. Anything you can name," Hightower said. "Everything." What lesson stood out the most?

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Terry Pluto Edgerton James

To a man, teammates call James an inspiration and one of the hardest workers on the squad, even though most still marvel at how much he accomplishes out of sight.

"He's always willing to teach and share things, and he's got knowledge of every single business, skill, hustle - whatever you can name," Hightower said. "Everything."

What lesson stood out the most?

"How to be a pro, how to carry myself," Hightower replied. "But I feel I'm doing a disservice to compare myself to him. He's already earned his. I've got a long way to go to earn mine."

-Jim Hightower

Santiago guides Cal Poly past Bakersfield

Led by a career-high 29 points from sophomore forward Kristina Santiago, the Cal Poly women's basketball team defeated Cal State Bakersfield 76-67 at the Kardia Center. The Mustangs (12-7) were without the services of junior guard Tamarra Wells who was out with a groin injury. With Wells out, Cal Poly played 13 different players in the first half.

Among those seeing meaningful action was freshman forward Aly Geppert. Geppert, who had just two points and four rebounds on the season stepped up scoring six points and grabbing 10 rebounds.

Geppert's effort on the glass was the first Mustangs' double-digit rebounding figure this year. Cal State Bakersfield (13-8) jumped out to an early advantage, leading 15-6 before the Mustangs would rely on Santiago and senior forward Megan Harrison to climb back into the game. Harrison finished with 17 points.

Cal Poly led by two points at halftime, with teams played a tightly contested second half before a layup by junior guard Ashley Stewart gave the Mustangs a five-point advantage. With just over a minute remaining and Cal Poly clinging to the five-point lead, Santiago grabbed an offensive rebound made the putback and was fouled. She would convert the three-point play to give the Mustangs an eight point lead and virtually sealed the win.

Santiago made 11-of-19 field goal attempts and 7-of-8 from the line. She also added six rebounds and four assists.

The Mustangs continue their road trip at 4 p.m. Saturday when they take on Cal State Northridge in a Big West Conference game.

**Note earlier start time - Game televised on Fox SportsNet**
Rachel Clancy brings the luck of the Irish

Cal Poly sophomore guard Rachel Clancy passes to an open teammate in the Mustangs’ 64-60 win over UC Davis on Saturday night in Mott Gym.

Cal Poly University President Warren Obney says she needed to come to the U.S. in order to attend Duquesne, the relationship with Wisconsin ended and she didn’t think she had any loyalties to the school.

Alisha Ax to Duquesne.

The Mustangs this season. “As a team, (Cal Poly) is much more tightly knit,” Mimnaugh says. “She always brings the highest level (of basketball) she graduates from college. An honor student and biology major at Cal Poly, Clancy transfers her intelligence to the basketball court as well. “She is very intelligent on the court and rarely makes any mistakes,” Mimnaugh says. “She’s also a great teammate.”

Working hard at school in addition to sports is nothing new for Clancy who is known as a top science student in Ireland. Mustangs head coach Faith Mimnaugh was actually alerted to Clancy’s potential by Cal Poly President Warren Baker. Mimnaugh says he was excited to recruit a student of “that caliber.”

Clancy also uses her wide range of experience playing for the Republic of Ireland National Team to help the Mustangs, who reached the semifinals of the Big West Conference Tournament last year for only the second time in program history.

“She got loads of experience internationally,” Mimnaugh says of Clancy who has played against teams such as Switzerland, Poland, and Iceland.

“A lot of students in America have only played against Americans so they have a limited view, a limited style of play because of their exposure. She’s been exposed to every type of system universally and she does a tremendous job helping us solidify our game,” Clancy’s family has always been big on sports, started playing basketball when she was 7 to copy her older brother. The Clancy clan had just moved to Canada following Rachel’s father’s job transfer.

Once Clancy was back in Ireland, she joined as many teams as possible. If she was too young to be on a team, Clancy would still practice with them and try to surround herself with people she believed could better her.

She played basketball and soccer up until her last year of high school when she dropped soccer because she didn’t have enough time. Clancy says she simply loves to play basketball and that’s what drives her to work hard to improve her skills.

“I put loads of ink into it and at the end I got rewarded,” Clancy says. “I’m pretty good but I practice hard for it.”

Currently, Clancy is a standout on the Mustang roster for three-point field goal percentage at .500 (19-38-2) and tied for second in second field goal percentage at .509 (20-38-5).

Clancy’s academic progress may be even more intimidating than her shooting accuracy. As a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, she was selected for the University President’s Inaugural Conference program where she attended President Barack Obama’s inauguration on Jan. 20.

It was such a fantastic trip,” Clancy wrote in a blog about her trip. “I met so many nice people, as well, and I really can’t believe that I was actually there.

I’ve been watching a lot of things on television about Obama since then and I am more interested than ever I thought I would have been.

As for life after Cal Poly, Clancy wants to include both basketball and school, but school will come first.

“I hope to pursue an MBA so I’d like to dictate where I’m going to be and hopefully add on basketball to that,” Clancy says. “I don’t really know right now but I don’t plan to stop playing basketball right when I graduate.”

Feeling isolated in a dorm room and never leaving the Duquesne campus, Clancy says she re-evaluated her situation and decided to take another look at what the Mustangs had to offer.

“This was the right decision for me,” Clancy says. “I have a much more well-rounded life. The all-around experience I would get at Cal Poly drew me to the West Coast rather than keep me back at second base in program history.

“I’ve always loved basketball and I’ve been doing ever since college, picking it up,” Janes said a few years ago that’s why, when he showed up at the University of Miami to begin his college career, “I was hardened in every way.”

Besides, when you do your best conditioning work at 3 a.m., as he has been doing ever since college, pickings can be slim.

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