Student volunteers recognized by city
Leticia Rodriguez
Thursday, January 21, 2010

Two Cal Poly juniors were named the January Volunteers of the Month for teaching a foreign language at local elementary school.

The San Luis Obispo Parks and Recreation Commission awarded Missy Sparks and Addie Virta, who are the coordinators for the Language Outreach and Opportunities for Kids (LOOK) program offered through Student Community Services at Cal Poly. As coordinators, the women assign volunteers to schools and organize lessons. For an hour a week, volunteers teach at after school programs such as Sun 'N Fun for students in grades fourth through sixth. Sparks and Virta both said the recognition was a complete surprise because they had no idea they were even nominated.

"I was so shocked," Sparks said. "We were just so amazed and thrilled that the city would even honor us this way. It was really nice; we got awards and certificates."

Sparks and Virta have been members of LOOK since their freshman year and have taught language lessons as a part of the program for a year and a half. A bonus for both of them is seeing the children's eager reactions when they learn an answer or say a phrase correctly.

"They're really cute because once they warm up to you, they want to like, hold your hand or they want to be the person that stands next to the teacher," Virta said. "They actually get it, when the lights go off, they're just so proud. They'll go tell their mom like, 'Hey Mom, guess what I learned today!'"

Virta, who teaches French and wants to join the Peace Corps, said that, aside from loving the language and culture, the reason she volunteers is because she wishes she had been taught another language in elementary school because young
Veritas
continued from page 1
that he was actually a "theist." "The atheist speaker wasn't really atheistic; I felt like I was being lied to, definitely misled," said audience member Mike Davies, a Cal Poly graduate and former Cal Poly Blues president.

The Veritas club agreed that the term "atheist" was misleading. "When [Rainbow] was listed, we thought he was an atheist, but he was actually theist," said Chelsea Morrell, biomedical engineering senior and Veritas Forum club vice president. She also responded to critics who complained the time allotted for Q&A was cut to 15 minutes due to a

longer speaking section. "I wish students had more time to ask questions to create more dialogue," she said, acknowledging that a speaker requested more time to speak.

The event's alternating strategies also drew controversy. Flyers posted on campus to promote the event depicted the word "truth" next to it, which some audience members found misleading, since many of the week's events were largely faith-based.

The microscopic view of the word "truth" next to it was misleading," Davies said of the marketing strategy. "There was no telling that it was put on by Campus Crusade. If they wanted to promote truth, why aren't they fully disclosing all the info?"

Morrell agreed that a microscope was misleading. "Last year there were three symbols that represented us: a microscope, a painting and an open book. This year, we chose to do just the microscope, but then we realized we're not just scientific, so we brought back all three symbols (for next year)." Morrell said "I feel the microscope didn't encompass what Veritas is; it doesn't just focus on science.

Still, Veritas Forum members say that all of the week's events were one-time enrichment of starting a dialogue.

"There wasn't a debate, no winner or loser. The audience is supposed to take the (information they hear) to think and talk about later," Morrell said.

Cal Poly professor speaks at Morro Bay Bird Festival
Raquel Redding
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly biological sciences professor Lars Toomnick spoke Sunday night about the global warming effects on birds and humans at the 14th annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival.

"Morro Bay, a self-proclaimed "bird sanctuary," hosts the bird festival because it is part of the Pacific Flyway. A flyway, according to birdwatch.com, is a border area related to migration routes of birds. There are four major North American flyways used for breeding and winter travel.

"Global warming is a debate that is over, the topic has been talked about and people are over it," Toomnick said.

Yet Toomnick, whose research interests are global climate change as well as biochemical temperature adaptation, said that people are more likely to accept a problem if they are given ways to change. "If we feel empowered to make change, there are things we can do," Toomnick said.

Toomnick addressed his audience enthusiastically. He frequently asked questions and probed about what is happening with global warm-

ing and what may happen in the future.

"The speech was one of the two special events that took place over the weekend. The other event was led by a photographer who presented a photographic tour of the wetland birds across the country, according to the Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival Web site. Toomnick's talk took place at the Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival with more than 200 people in attendance.

"The talk was really interesting, everyone enjoyed it. There was a lot of applause and he was a very enthusiastic speaker," animal science senior Danielle Guest said. "He said that if we don't change the way we do things now, in 30 years, it will be very bad for the environment."

Guest is a volunteer at Pacific Wildlife Care, a center in Morro Bay, whose goal is to rehabilitate injured or orphaned wildlife and return them to the wilderess.

"Working at Pacific Wildlife Center, I saw firsthand how global warming was affecting birds," Guest said. "Pelicans were having trouble on their feet due to not migrating in time. Some were late, because the weather was still warm, so they stayed and then winter came."

Toomnick's talk addressed the issues of climate change, and of other environmental issues, saying that "we need to reinvent the way we live" and that "we need to reinvent the way we live" and that "we need to reinvent the way we live" and that "we need to reinvent the way we live" and that "we need to reinvent the way we live."" The Black Catbird has been affected so much by the warmer climates that they have completely changed their migratory patterns; they used to go through Africa but are now seen in Ireland," Toomnick said.

The talk included how global warming affects humans, and Toomnick said that even students can help out by eating organically and removing all plastics. The festival ran from Jan. 15-18 and offered up to 100 events, including workshops and guided bird tours.

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Bigotry takes on a different shade: Experts see an increase in skin-tone bias

Dahleen Glanton
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO — Tamara Field is no longer shocked when people make offensive remarks about her light African-American skin tone. But sometimes, she said, the comments come out of the blue.

Once, Field said, she had to explain to a white supervisor at work why she was having lunch with the company’s minority recruiter, a common practice at jobs with few minority employees.

“I said, ‘She wants to know if I am happy with my career path here,’” Field, 41, of Evanston, Ill., a former journalist who works in public relations, said. “When the supervisor asked why, Field answered, ‘Because I’m black!’

The supervisor responded, ‘Oh, you’re not that black,’ Field said.

The delicate issue of skin-tone bias, as opposed to traditional racism, rose to the surface recently with the revelation that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid had partly attributed President Barack Obama’s appeal among voters to his being a “light-skinned” African-American.

The controversy sparked a debate among academics and those in civil rights circles over the changing face of racism, as the nation grows more ethnically diverse and multiracial and discrimination becomes increasingly subtle.

Like Obama, Field is biracial and light-skinned, a trait that she said has given her entree into diverse environments. In a changing American culture with an increasing minority population, skin color is becoming a more common gauge for some Americans of all races to determine who fits in and who does not, sociologists said.

A caste system that novelist Alice Walker termed “colorism” has existed within the black community since slavery, stemming from the hierarchy established by slave masters for the light-skinned slaves who tended the fields.

Pigmentocracy also has long been a divisive issue among Hispanics, Asians and other ethnic groups. Now, it has flowed into the mainstream, according to experts who follow bias trends.

Minorities whose skin tone is becoming increasingly subtle.

A lot of it is subconscious ... They’ve been socialized to think of dark as threatening and menacing and white as pure and innocent.

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is closer to white are better able to assimilate and be accepted by whites, said Ronald Hall, a sociologist at Michigan State University and co-author of “Racism in the 21st Century: An Empirical Analysis of Skin Color.”

“The basic psychological tendency is that people are less threatened by those who are perceived to be in proximity of their own racial or ethnic group,” Hall said.

“Because of the increase in inter-racial marriages, it is more difficult now to discern someone’s racial background. But we can evaluate them by their skin color.”

Last year, minorities filed a record number of color-bias complaints, specifically addressing skin-tone discrimination. Over the last two decades, the number of cases rose to 2,949 in 2009 from fewer than 400 in 1992, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission reported. They represent a small percentage of the more than 93,000 discrimination complaints filed last year.

While most cases involve minorities discriminating against each other for being too light or too dark, most often within the same racial group, there also are cases where whites were found to have discriminated against minorities on that basis. Federal law distinguishes race and color discrimination but they often overlap, officials said.

Historically, racial discrimination cases have targeted whites who sought to limit the hiring or advancement of blacks. In cases that involve color, white employees often make a distinction between two minorities, one light-skinned and the other dark. Such cases, according to Trina Jones, a law professor at Duke University, can be difficult to prove in court.

“Now you don’t have individuals excluding an entire racial group; they are screening and finding people who are more racially desirable within a racial group,” said Jones, who researches color bias.

They’ve been socialized to think of dark as threatening and menacing and white as pure and innocent.

High-profile lawsuits such as the racial discrimination case against NikeTown in Chicago that resulted in a $7.6 million settlement in 2007 to former and current African-American employees, points to the modern nuances of racial bias, as people find new ways to discriminate when race is not easily determined, attorneys said.

According to the lawsuit, African-American employees in the Michigan Avenue store routinely were given lower-paying stockroom and cashier jobs, and were subjected to comments such as, “You’re lucky to be light-skinned” or “You have a big nose; I can tell you’re black.”

A growing number of sociological studies have documented that skin tone can affect economic well-being, said Joni Hersch, a professor of law and economics at Vanderbilt University and the author of several studies on skin color.

Researchers found that darker-skinned blacks tend to have less education than their lighter counterparts, earn less, are more likely to be unemployed and have lower job status. Her study of new immigrant workers showed those with light skin earned 17 percent more than those with darker skin.

Reid sought to defuse tensions, but Jones said, “It is not enough just to say, ‘He apologized; President Obama accepted, let’s move on.’"
Schwarzenegger, California legislative leaders press Congress for billions for state deficit

Rob Hotakainen
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — In a long-shot bid to ease California's fiscal troubles, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger came to Washington on Wednesday, hoping to shake loose $7 billion from Congress to help plug more than a third of the state's deficit.

Schwarzenegger, accompanied by Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, not privately with Democratic Sens. Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, pressing the case that the federal government is shortchanging California.

It was anything but a show of unity. At a news conference on Capitol Hill, Bass said the Republican governor had erred earlier this month by taking a combative tone in his dealings with members of Congress.

"Different from the governor, we are here to work in collaboration and partnership with our congressional delegation," Bass said. "We have differed with the tone that the governor set. I will tell you, though, today his tone has been a little better."

The governor was unapologetic.

"California is getting 78 cents back for every dollar it sends to Washington and the governor will not apologize for aggressively fighting for the state's fair share," said Aaron McLear, the governor's press secretary. "If some of our leaders are satisfied with California subsidizing other states while we make devastating cuts to our own programs then they will have to explain that to their constituents."

Schwarzenegger said the state needs the money from Washington to avoid more painful budget cuts.

"We are owed this money, and so we all work together, the whole team, the legislative leaders and myself. We need that money more than ever," the governor told reporters.

Democrats Boxer, of Los Angeles, and Steinberg, of Sacramento, argue that California should receive special help because the national economy depends on the Golden State's economic recovery. They said one way the federal government could help would be to give the state more flexibility in how it spends its stimulus money.

Bass said that both Boxer and Feinstein "were taken aback by the governor's combative tone" two weeks ago when he blamed the state's financial woes partly on the federal government. Bass said the governor's tone had not been constructive.

"I would agree with the speaker," Feinstein said after emerging from a meeting with the governor. "That look, my loyalty is to California. I'm born there, raised there, spent all my life there. I love the state. I hate to see the economic distress that's going on, and I want to help. So it's not a problem."

Feinstein said she had "a good meeting" with Schwarzenegger.

"Obviously, we want to help the state," she said. "We'll do the best we can. It's very difficult. All I can say is we'll do the very best we can."

Steinberg said the senators and the state's congressional delegation are trying their best to help California balance its budget.

"We came to D.C. not to point any fingers, but simply to say that our constituents are the same, whether you're a state legislator or a member of Congress," he said. "We are all in this together."

But many Democrats and Republicans alike are skeptical of any plan that would favor a single state, particularly while the federal government struggles with big-time money woes of its own.

"Budget deficits that are made in California need to stay in California, and that goes for the other 49 states as well," said Rep. Tom McClintock, R-Calif.

Drew Hammill, a spokesman for Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of San Francisco, noted that "tens of billions of dollars have gone to California" under the federal stimulus passed last year and that more will be coming as the remaining funds are spent. Nearly half of the money has not yet been awarded, he said.

"That being said, the federal government is not responsible for the state of California's budget, and we look forward to hearing a sustainable plan for the state to get its house in order," Hammill said.

Schwarzenegger will wrap up his meetings Thursday. He's scheduled to meet with Pelosi privately and then with the state's entire delegation.

Avoid Burnout

www.mustangdaily.net

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**Teacher Feature**

History assistant professor Lewis Call in his office.

Q: Where are you originally from? Las Cruces, New Mexico

Q: Where did you attend school? UC San Diego and UC Irvine

Q: How long have you been at Cal Poly? 14 years

Q: Where are you now? San Luis Obispo

Q: What do you hope your students learn from you? I'd like students to learn how to think for themselves.

Q: What is your favorite thing about Cal Poly? The people: my students and my colleagues.

Q: What is the funniest thing you have experienced? Though she's never seen it.

Q: What was the last book you read? Or favorite book? Right now, I'm re-reading William Gibson's cyberpunk classic *Neuromancer*.

Q: Where are you when you aren't teaching? At my tai chi class.

Q: What kind of music do you listen to? Funk, ska, reggae, world music, hip-hop music, and of course the Battleship Galactica soundtrack.

Q: What was the last book you read? Or favorite book? Right now I'm re-reading William Gibson's *Neuromancer*.

Q: What is the funniest thing you have experienced? Watching my five-year-old sing about Battleship Galactica, even though she's never seen it.

Q: Do you have a funny, inspiring, crazy or interesting teacher you want to know more about? Send teacher suggestions to: mustangdailywire@gmail.com

**6.1 aftershock rocks Haiti**

Tracy Wilkinson and Ken Ellingwood

PORT-PRINCE, Haiti — Quake-stricken residents of Haiti were jolted from sleep Wednesday morning by a magnitude 6.1 aftershock that sent people running into the street and caused fresh fears eight days after a catastrophic earthquake.

There were no immediate reports of injuries, and it was unclear what more damage was caused by the aftershock, which hit just after 6 a.m. local time about 35 miles southwest of the devastated capital, Port-au-Prince, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The new quake, about 6 miles deep, was the strongest of a series of aftershocks that have rattled Haiti since the 7.0 earthquake hit on Jan. 12, reducing Port-au-Prince and surrounding cities to rubble and killing tens of thousands of people.

Wednesday morning's aftershock sent people who were indoors screaming outside, news reports said. Thousands of other people have stayed outdoors since last week because their homes were ruined or they have feared new tremors.

The new quake came as the U.S. military said it was devoting more resources to the relief effort.

A Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said during a visit to India to discuss the situation in Haiti, the AP reported.

"Supplies are beginning to get out to the people," Gates told reporters traveling with him, according to Reuters. He said he hoped the presence of U.S. troops would prevent violence.

A man hops over newly-fallen debris outside the ruins of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, after a 6.1 aftershock caused additional damage.

"There is a concern that if you are unable to get significant supplies out that in their desperation people will turn to crime and violence," Gates said told. "We have not seen much of that yet happily, and my hope is that as we get these trucks out on the road with supplies and people see pallets, that will prevent any significant violence from taking place."

The U.S. military has already mobilized more than 10,000 Marines, values and soldiers in a variety of roles: supplying food, water and medical gear; treating patients; running the Port-au-Prince airport; and helping protect humanitarian shipments.

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WORD ON THE STREET

"Who is your favorite teacher at Cal Poly?"

David Lightman and William Douglas

"Dr. Ed Himelblau, because he's very enthusiastic about plants."

-Diana Bohen, biological sciences sophomore

"Dr. Robert Crockett, because I really like all of my landscape architecture teachers. They make it feel like one big family and help with school and other things."

-Kevin McCutcheon, mechanical engineering sophomore

"I really like all of my landscape architecture teachers. They make it feel like one big family and help with school and other things."

-Mike Machado, biomedical engineering senior

"Dylan Retsek, his teaching style pretty dull, subject matter to keep it fun and interesting."
Thursday, January 21, 2010

Report: FBI phone recording controversial

Josh Meyer

WASHINGTON — The FBI used a variety of controversial and possibly illegal methods to obtain phone records in terrorism investigations, according to a sharply critical report issued Wednesday by the Justice Department's inspector general.

The report by Justice's independent watchdog office said the tactics were used by the FBI from 2002 to 2006 and approved by officials at the highest levels of the bureau, including at least four top counter-terrorism officials.

In an apparent effort to cut corners, the FBI informally — and improperly — used emergency or "exigent letters" to phone service providers to obtain at least 2,000 phone records, Inspector General Glenn A. Fine said in the 298-page report.

The report described some of the methods as "troubling" and even "startling," including repeating "egregious breakdowns" of the FBI's own oversight of the program. After the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, Congress made it easier for FBI agents to get phone records in certain emergency circumstances when trying to thwart terrorist plots and attacks.

The report also detailed how FBI officials compounded the missteps in reporting that the FBI and the Department of Justice, including their own inspector general, was aware of phone records in recent years.

"This is an ongoing issue," Inspector General Glenn Fine said in the 298-page report, "It's a significant issue." The report was the inspector general's third on the issue of the FBI's improper collection of phone records in recent years.

But it provided few new details about the program, including how widespread it became and how much controversy it generated within the bureau.

The report also confirms instances in which FBI agents conducting leak investigations obtained information relating to the billing records or other calling activity information of reporters for The New York Times and Washington Post without getting the required authorization from the attorney general.

In response, the FBI issued a statement saying its agents were working under great stress in trying to run down numerous leads and thwart potential terror attacks and that they did not intentionally violate the law. The practice was "limited and discontinued," and the records in question involved only billing records as opposed to access to what was actually discussed in the calls, the FBI said.

"The OIG report finds no intentional attempts to obtain records that counterterrorism personnel knew they were not legally entitled to obtain," said Michael P. Koran, the FBI's assistant director for public affairs. "No FBI employee obtained telephone records for reasons other than a legitimate investigative interest."
Improv comedy groups to bring laughs to Chumash

Rhiannon Montgomery

The Second City and Upright Citizens Brigade (UCB) comedy troupes will perform off-the-cuff and sketch comedy at Chumash Auditorium the next two Friday nights, respectively, to start the Associated Students Inc. Improv Series: Late Night with ASI. Smile and Nod, Cal Poly's improvisational comedy group, will open for the UCB show.

Improvisational comedy is a style defined by the unexpected, that interacts with audience members to come up with ideas for sketches and games. Josh Lee, aerospace engineering junior, said he is passionate about making people laugh and has been an improv player for Smile and Nod since last winter.

Lee said improv is about working the moment and going with the flow. Smile and Nod had one of those moments when a player was a pterordactyl who squawked out mucus during his scene.

"BIWACK, and phlegm flies out of his mouth right onto the stage," Lee said, laughing.

Lee said he has played an alien searching for food for his family and quickly pointed at the green blob shouting he'd found space porridge.

Second City and UCB are fairly well-known, especially for fans of Saturday Night Live (SNL) and Comedy Central. Many of the alumni have gone on to become popular actors and comedians seen frequently on SNL and the network shows. Comedy is one of the biggest demands for entertainment on campus, said Courtney Serafin, ASI special events student supervisor, and she wanted something different from the usual stand-up shows.

"We're hoping for non-stop laughter," Serafin said. "This is pretty big for us."

She said the series came about when UCB wanted to add Cal Poly to its college campus tour. The Brigade was founded in New York by Amy Poehler and the other original cast members from the Comedy Central show of the same name, in 1996. Serafin said UCB's tour is completely improvisational comedy.

The Brigade is considered a newbie among comedy troupes, especially next to Second City.

Second City is celebrating 50 years of comedy, with a tour that splits the performance between a revue that includes a history of the company, and improv games. Second City began in 1959 as a comedy theater in Chicago and has since become well-known for its noteworthy alumni.

Both theaters have comedy schools and boast a long list of famous alumni. Previous cast members include Tina Fey, Horatio Sanz, Abby Elliot, Stephen Colbert and classic comedians like Ed Asner, Dan Akroyd and Gilda Radner.

Smile and Nod is a club that performs every Saturday night during the quarter. They've been performing for 12 years. The group is made up primarily of theater and liberal arts majors, with the occasional engineering or science student thrown in. Shelby Lewis, theater sophomore and Smile and Nod player, is eager to share the stage with such a well-known group.

"We're so lucky to be a part of this," Lewis said.

Lewis has dabbled in improv since high school but said this group is her first "real" experience.

The Improv Series show begins at 9 p.m. both nights and are expected to last about two hours. Serafin said people can expect seating to be an issue and suggested show up early for the show because of the popularity of the groups performing. Admission is free to those with student IDs.
Thursday, January 21, 2010

Local breweries provide unique samplings

by Adam Plocek

Good morning, Cal Poly! And in case you don’t read me until later, good afternoon, good evening and good night. I hope I’ve enjoyed your three-day weekend and just got tons of home work done. I wish I had. No really. I wish I had. Instead, I spent my Martin Luther King Jr. Day working hard for you, sampling various beers. Exhilarating. But, I did manage to tough it out, just like you and gab. No need to thank me; it’s just what I do.

Last week, I promised that I would be leaving my rooming house to do it next tasting and as I cannot tell a lie, I have kept that promise. Wait — that kind of sounds like something just out of a book. Anyway, I did indeed leave my apartment and venture out unto the beer world. I will thus be attempting the first of what some might call, a “Local Brewery Profile.” Of course, some people may have a cooler name for it. In fact, these same people may leave said cooler name ideas in the comments section of this beer column at mustangdaily.net. Maybe.

This week’s profile is of a local favorite of mine, called Central Coast Brewing. This slightly recessed micro-brewery is located on Monterey Street, just down the hill from Splash Café. Micro as this brewery may be, its beers pack a macro flavor. It also boasts a great beer-tasting deal: five tastes for five bucks.

Still, while you may not be able to “get your beers on” with five or six bucks, you will be able to have a great beer experience — or as I like to call it, a great experience. And while you’re there, don’t be afraid to do as I did and ask the brew master, who is often working the bar and chatting with the brew master or whoever is serving. I was there for two hours, and time flew by. Don’t let a DUS, or worse, yet an accident ruin an awesome experience.

Adam Plocek is a business administration senior and Mustang Daily beer columnist.

Celebs flock to team Coco

Conan O’Brien has been replaced as host of NBC’s “The Tonight Show” by the show’s former host, Jay Leno.

Mary McNamara

LOS ANGELES — In many ways, it’s been a pretty good week for Conan O’Brien. On Monday night, Martin Scorsese offered to put him in his new HBO series, and Tuesday night Quentin Tarantino said he’d help O’Brien follow the director’s template and make a revenge movie.

“They pushed him too far,” Tarantino growled, imagining the trailer. “They made promises they had no intention of keeping. They took his show, they killed his dog... They had their way and now Conan will have his.”

O’Brien’s even become the “star” of a Chinese animated video attempt to explain the whole late-night mess. The clip, in which he morphs into the Incredible Hulk, made the rounds on the Internet and pleased O’Brien so much that he decided to air it Tuesday night, claiming that now, at last, he understood what had happened.

“And we wonder why they’re beating us,” quipped Andy Richter, proving that maybe he could have become a great sidekick, given enough time.

All this on top of pro-Conan rallies, the Team Coco T-shirts and the ever increasing applause the moment he appears on stage. Indeed, O’Brien has become so universally loved, you have to wonder where all these fans were hiding during the last seven months as “The Tonight Show with Conan O’Brien” opened

see Conan, page 9
Conan
continued from page 8

David Hilbrand
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

NEW YORK — The sprawling NBC Experience Store in Rockefeller Center is "the place to go if you're shopping for a Jim ["Mad Money"]: Cramer bobble-head or a "Biggest Loser" refrigerator magnet.

The "Law & Order" coffee mug! Right behind you.

Action figures of the villainous Ninjas? They're out in the clearance section. (Sorry, 'Hee-ses' fans. That can't be a good sign.)

A big crowd has lined up inside the store on this raw winter morning to get autographs from and have their pictures taken with Zachary Levi, the star of Chuck (Mondays, NBC).

The show, a frank but ratings-challenged espionage/comedy mash-up, has averted cancellation twice, primarily because of the ardor of its fan base. So Levi, 29, is used to making a lot of personal appearances.

The grassroots campaign seems to be working. A couple weeks into its third season, "Chuck" has increased its audience by more than 20 percent from last year.

"Word of mouth has been a big factor in the numbers picking up. Our fans are very passionate," Levi says.

NBC has also been promoting the show relentlessly, he adds.

Indeed, the show is being marketed by a reference to the death of the founder of Taco Bell. But hey, whatever gets you through the next few days.

A host to the end, O'Brien referenced newsworthy topics that he couldn't legally say anything bad about NBC. While Murdoch was announcing this or that culture or whatever on Wednesday, he went bilingual, calling NBC executives "brainiacs" and referring to the "crappy money and crap trouble" in Spanish.

There was another clip of great moments in O'Brien's life — Conan and the fan who challenged the drunk Conan O'Brien history. This pattern also seems to involve an "Aerobics," a clip which featured a reference to the death of the founder of Taco Bell but hey, whatever gets you through the next few days.

A host to the end, O'Brien dutifully interviewed his guests and peppered the discussion with Tarantino, Paul Bettiya made an appearance — but there is no denying that it was the O'Brien/NBC connection that got more of an Irish wake than anything else, with everyone eager to laugh at the NBC execs. But O'Brien got blepped twice and even Conan Forth spent his 56th birthday on Tuesday night making puns and arena jokes.

And if anyone out there didn't understand, just what was going on.

...and comedians and favored O'Brien guest Norm MacDonald showed up with a purple T-shirt that he bought in June in the middle of the show — "Congratulations Conan on finally securing the respect you deserve," read the T-shirt. "The Tonight Show. That's something they can never take away from you." — the word was fancy, raise and genuinely sad. NBC's late-night woes is not the worst thing happening in the world today, but it may be the most unnecessary.

"BIGGEST LOSER" RETREAT

Zachary Levi stars as a spy on NBC's comedy "Chuck." The show has faced cancellation twice, but remains on air due to fan support.

"I have to be the straight man at Buy More and the funny guy in the 'spy world'" says Chris Fedak, the show's co-creator and executive producer. "It's a testament to Zac's dramatic and comic chops that he can carry it off. That's some very complicated acting math going on there."

Fortunately, Levi is comfortable stepping into Chuck's, um, sidekicks. The character's trademark high-top converse Chuck Taylors have long been the actor's preferred footwear, even in formal situations.

"Chucks and a tux," he says proudly.

"Sometimes I'll get to work and the wardrobe they have set out for Chuck is exactly what I'm wearing," Levi says. "On those days, I tell them, 'I'll just go with what I have here.'"

That style synchronicity isn't happening as much this season. In a transparent bid to attract more viewers, our favorite geek has taken on a far more worldly and sophisticated sheen.

Chuck has been complemented with a new computer program, that, like Neo in 'Matrix', allows him to instantly muster any number of complex skills.

"I always did a lot of the stunts," says Levi, who is taller to four feet and more dashing than he appears on the tube. "But it used to be mostly falling down and running away. Now, it's martial arts and gunplay.

"Since every year could be our last, it's forced us to push the envelopes," he says. "This season has been a little more intense, but Chuck is still the same guy. He's been going on these spy missions for a while. He couldn't keep being a whiny little girl like he was the first year."

"That's been the driving force — that's something else that comes naturally to the actor."

He was born Zachary Levi Pagel in Lake Charles, La. Along with his two sisters, he experienced a peripatetic childhood because of his father's job field technician for Lichten Bum~mers, a manufacturer of industrial welding equipment.

"He would go to train people or fix machinery all over the country," says Levi. "We lived in Connecticut, Nebraska, Washington, you name it. We probably spent the most time in Vennam, Calif., where my mom's side of the family is from."

"I was in sixth grade, living in Redmond, Wash., when my middle school put on 'Grease,'" he says. "I auditioned for that and I haven't stopped since."

Levi enjoyed a TV break-through at 21 on the underrated ABC sitcom "Less Than Perfect," which was canceled after four seasons.

His second series, "Chuck," has had a pretty rocky ride. But thanks to the Jay Leno meltdown, the show's chances of survival have improved dramatically. With gaping holes in its prime-time schedule, NBC isn't likely to cancel any of its existing programs.

Which of course is just fine with Levi.

"It doesn't suck to be part of a show where I get to run around and be up bad guys and have beautiful women."

In other words, that "Chuck Me" T-shirt! You won't find it in the clearance section anytime soon.

"You deserve a break."

Thursday, January 21, 2010

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Food magazines compete to fill the Gourmet gap

Speciality food magazines become more prominent on the shelf

Judy Heverdejs

Ever since Conde Nast ceased publishing Gourmet late last year, maybe you've been searching for a food magazine to suit your cooking style and personality, flipping through glossy after glossy, gazing at gleam photos of mint chicken and chocolate tomatoes or Paula Deen and Rachael Ray.

It would be easy to become confused and overwhelmed. There are dozens of food magazines from the usual suspects (Bon Appetit, Saveur, Everyday Food, etc.) to specialty magazines (Cooking Light, Vegetarian Times, etc.) and imports (from Australia, Italy, England, etc.).

Samir Husni is not surprised by the numbers. He's a journalism professor at the University of Mississippi at Oxford and director of its magazine innovation center.

Food "was one of the earliest adapters to specialized publications. Food magazines and farming and automotive magazines—they were reflective of society," he said. "Food was the top of those categories because it's one of the essential elements."

The value of a food magazine "comes from what I call the 'usability'" he said. "The first place where you see that is in the recipes." A glance through the recipe index (most food magazines have them now) lets you know the magazine's direction—upscale, easy-to-do, comfort.

"Everybody is making it easier because they know that it's the recipes that are going to grab you. The recipes and the pictures," Husni said.

Most magazines play to two types of cooks. There's the person who is so overwhelmed and they want to simplify their life, so they want to see the final product, they want to see the ingredients, they want to see the recipe," Husni said. "And there are the people who have the dream that they're going to be on 'Iron Chef.'"

Looking for something more specialized? If there's one area of the magazine rack at your favorite bookstore that seems to be expanding faster than a souffle in a 400 degree oven, it's the specialty food magazines, whether it's celeb chefs, specialty diets or imports.

One of the biggies in the specialty area Food Network Magazine, Taste of Home and Food & Wine are three specialty food magazines.

It's sort of like inviting the star that you like watching on TV and bringing them with you to the kitchen and helping you create this meal." It has that celebrity factor and the food!"

Add the vast number of specialty food magazines (Cooking Light, Vegetarian Times, etc.) to the stack that also includes Betty Crocker and Pillsbury glossies ("an impulse," says Husni, "name the ingredient and someone will put a recipe book together for you.

And there are those that lure the bargain hunters, food and cooking magazines imported from Australia, the UK and Italy, from Deliveries (Australia) to Waitrose Food Illustrated (a UK supermarket). "Offer something more to the person who has been overseas, who've been traveling and have seen those magazines and are looking for something to bring that international flavor to their home-cooked meal." He also points out it helps if you know metrics (though some magazines include conversion charts).
In light of Senate loss, Democrats should ask what Wilberforce would do next

A painting of William Wilberforce, with his tilted head and kind eyes observing (I imagine) progressive movements for centuries after him, lends insight into his incredible character, which is particularly relevant for health care reform advocates this week in light of Tuesday’s Massachusetts election.

Wilberforce, a social reformer who lived from the late 18th to the mid-19th century, was a man of conviction, love and perseverance. He was a deep thinker, an intelligent diplomat and a man passionate about Jesus Christ — and his life and legacy in terms of his involvement in abolishing the slave trade consistently reflect those values.

I mention Wilberforce, not because of his eventual success in causing the abolition of the British slave trade in 1807 and abolishing slavery throughout the British Empire in 1833, but because of his resilience in the face of failure and his tenacious perseverance even when the demise of his vision seemed inevitable.

In his biographical article about Wilberforce, “The ‘shrimp’ who stopped slavery,” Christopher D. Hancock describes Wilberforce’s heroic struggle to abolish the slave trade, writing, “Wilberforce’s fall to abolish the trade was defeated in 1791 (by 163 to 88) because a slave uprising in Santo Domingo made MPs nervous about granting freedom to slaves. Further defeats followed in 1792, 1793, 1797, 1798, 1799, 1804, and 1807.” That certainly doesn’t sound like a glamorous or popular national movement. Wilberforce and his supporters suffered one defeat after another, year after year after year. But Wilberforce refused to give up. In response to the failure of his bill in 1791, he said, “Let us not despair; it is a blessed cause, and success, dear George, will crown our exertions. Already we have gained one victory; we have obtained, for these poor creatures, the recognition of their human nature, which, for a while was most shamefully denied. This is the first fruits of our efforts; let us persevere and our triumph will be complete.”

No Parliamentary defeat, ideological opposition, or setback would arrest Wilberforce’s will to see his vision come to fruition. Wilberforce believed in his cause, and he believed in the human potential to affect change in his country — despite his detractors’ arguments, despite his defeats. Why? Wilberforce knew he had a moral obligation to end the slave trade; he truly believed in his cause. And in 1833, three days before his death, Wilberforce’s vision came to pass. Slavery was abolished throughout the British Empire. It was an incredible achievement and a precursor for moral change throughout the world — 30 years before the Emancipation Proclamation in the United States.

Like Wilberforce, Democrats have a moral obligation to end the slave trade. According to a Harvard Medical study, 45,000 people die every year because they lack health insurance, and even more are drowned in medical bills.

If Wilberforce had settled with his detractors for an abolitionist bill that merely declared the slave trade and did nothing to ameliorate those conditions, history would not have remembered him. If Democrats allow Tuesday’s setback to redirect their agenda, history will not forgive them.

Stephanie England is a British intern and Mustang Daily political columnist.
Many students unaware of health care plan

As Cal Poly, most students are unaware of the status of the health care reform being discussed in Congress. If these bills become law, they will have an effect on the future of Americans and their health insurance. Whether students are covered by their parents, pay for their own or do not have health insurance, the outcome of Congressional decision will affect their future health care options. People are not following the health care debates and decisions because it is confusing. Out of a poll of 20 randomly-selected students, only seven said they "followed the health care debate." As of Tuesday, the passing of President Obama's health care plan became a more difficult reality. Due to the Republican filibuster, the Senate needed all 60 of the Democrats' votes to pass the bill on Dec. 24. But yesterday's election of Republican Scott Brown, who has said he would be the 41st vote against the bill, could prevent passage.

The health care bill is a complex document with confusing language and has many references to itself within the document. This can lead any reader in a circle. A better idea of what is happening is to look at the health care bill given the example, "The assistance goes to individuals who have obtained benchmark coverage in section 1937 B1."

Not only are the bills hard to follow, but their amended or omitted options are as well. But even with all of the confusing language, there are many resources at one's disposal. I spent a few hours tackling this topic and was able to get an understanding of the basics of the bills and the controversy surrounding them. This understanding the jargon might help.

Another important component of research is evaluating and diversifying sources. Taking into consideration who is providing the information and what is presented will lead to credible conclusions.

None of the students in the poll could define public option. One student guessed that it was the public pragmatic to choose who was able to be insured. It was an early amendment that prohibited federal funds from being used for abortion services. The House bill allows each state to decide whether abortion could be covered by health insurance. However, this bill precludes the use of federal funds for abortion services.

A final issue surrounding the bills is the cost and how they will be funded. While this is a controversial issue, it is easy to do some research and find the answers.

The plan outlined in the House bill would cost over $1 trillion and would be paid for mainly by a surcharge on families making over $1,000,000 and individuals making over $500,000 annually. While the Senate's plan would cost $871 billion and would be paid for by an increase in medicare payroll tax and a tax on "cadillac" plans.

Cadillac insurance plans are high value insurance plans with low deductibles and high-end coverage.

Now that both of these bills have passed, health care reform will face two main challenges: being combined into one cohesive bill and then passing and becoming law.

This is all information that is readily available in newspapers and can be found online and on television. Although I can get caught up in the hustle and bustle of school, it is important to follow the issues that will affect all Americans. I don't expect to see the end of the health care debate, but it doesn't take long to figure out the basics and stay up with the current events. This does affect everyone, and just because the issue isn't being brought up in the news does not mean it can be ignored. Do the research and get informed about your future.

Megan Hauler is a journalism sophomore and Mustang Daily online editor-in-chief.

Prop 8 trial should have been broadcast

Proposition 8, California's ban on same-sex marriage, is in the spotlight after last year's raging battle over the majority vote. The constitutionality of Prop 8 is now under question in the San Francisco district court of appeals after a lawsuit was filed in June by two gay couples.

Prior to the trial, U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker, who is overseeing the case, has shown some low video cameras inside of the courtroom. The video would have then been posted on YouTube by a few hours after the day's proceedings.

Judge Walker's decision however, was overturned last week by the U.S. Supreme Court in a 5-4 vote. The opinion was part of the Supreme Court document, cited procedural mistakes in how the ruling to tape and broadcast was reached. This, along with concerns about the harassment of witnesses and e-mail affects on testimonial information to the decision, the document stated.

This decision is wrong for quite a few reasons. First of all, the trial is already public. If someone is in San Francisco they can squeeze their way into the courtroom to see the case unfold. Tens, if not hundreds, of national and international news organizations are covering the trial as well.

Witness names will be published and if harassment should happen, it would not be because of a broadcast of the trial. Many of these witnesses were already vocal public and about their support or dissent of the issue in last year's campaign; they were already in public view.

The second reason is transparency. A topic as controversial and divisive as gay marriage deserves to be seen, in full, by the public. This allows each person to make their own decisions about the topic prior to or the interruption of outside voices and opinions.

If a witness uses a derogatory term or slurs accusations without reason, the public should be able to interpret that action in the way they see fit. Without the broadcast, most interested people will be forced to make their decisions and judgments through reporters' observations.

This transparency would give the trial an even higher profile than it already has. Judging by reactions, comments and debates, this issue will not be leaving the spotlight anytime soon.

While Judge Walker makes the case, we will inevitably make it to the Supreme Court. The decision made there will define gay marriage and its status across the nation, probably for quite a while.

The decision should be the right one, with the input from the public, in the most informed way. If this doesn't happen, we risk the chance of having a muddled case that does not reflect the rights that all Americans are due.

Some critics argue according to an LA Times article, say that the intervention of the Supreme Court before the trial even begins is an "bad omen" for gay marriage proponents as it moves through the American political system. The position that this decision is a bad omen is certainly justified. Standing alongside the fact that the majority of Supreme Court Justices want less public spotlight on the trial is a sign that they are trying to put out fires before the firestorm reaches their level.

The Supreme Court rarely intervene in district courts, according to the Times. "The majority has a distinct sympathy for the faces of same-sex marriage," the article said. "The justices cited a series of newspaper stories reporting on the threats and harassment faced by those who have publicly opposed gay unions."

This has led some proponents of gay marriage to ask, is the time too soon to bring the debate over gay marriage to an official, national level? From their viewpoint, it may be, but it doesn't look like this snowball is going to slow down.

Whether or not the decision comes sooner or later, broadcasting the trial would have opened up a more honest discussion of the topic.

Arguments would be more sound, discussions would be more layered and therefore, the decision reached would be more thorough and educated. That much, at least, is owed to a topic that is so contentious and that is, and will continue to be.

Bill Taylor is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily reporter.

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR

The current concept of recycling is not enough, since it only delays a product's arrival at landfills. Since products are not created with their disposal in mind, they are created with dangerous chemicals that are not only toxic but also do not do their part in recycling for the next generation, need to change this to save our planet.

When creating new products, like the ones some Cal Poly seniors make as their senior projects, the disassembly and disposal should be considered in their design. If every student would do this, not only would we be reducing our waste and landfill, but we would also reduce the amount of hazardous chemicals that will be around us for the rest of our lives and the lives of later generations.

There is a firm called Mc- Donnell Douglas Defense Corporation, Design Chemistry that has come up with a design called Cradle-to-Cradle (C2C), where the products have no end life or can become biodegradable. It assists companies with the research and creation of such products. Companies like Nike, Herman Miller and Ford have already reached and are working to create more and more products according to this design.

It is not time for Cal Poly to incorporate C2C in our classrooms. C2C products like chairs, desks and computer cases should be integrated into any new buildings on campus. By exposing students to C2C, they can develop new C2C products in their senior projects.

Cecilia Cadenas
computer engineering freshman

San Luis Obispo desperately needs to remove the city ordinance restricting drive-thrus in our area. Drive-thrus are a necessity in today's fast-paced world. They provide a quick meal for busy people at almost any time. Drive-thrus are also a convenience for the elderly, families with small children and for people having difficulty getting in and out of a car. There are an estimated 5 million people living with disabilities in the U.S.; drive-thrus are an extremely helpful resource for them.

Getting food without having to wait in line is a "bad omen" for the lives of later generations. Drive-thrus would also be beneficial to fast food restaurants by greatly increasing their sales. Fast food restaurants make up 50 percent of their total sales from the drive-thru window.

I understand the opposition to the drive-thrus in San Luis Obispo is related to the excessive emissions created from idling cars. But the amount of emissions created from a car at idle are not significant enough to inconvenience an entire town over. This is an amazing town, so let's drive-thrus in!

Kyle Ross
construction management freshman

The Mustang Daily is always accepting guest commentaries.

Commentaries should be about 500 words long and can be on any topical issue.

* Editors reserve the right to edit commentaries for spelling, grammar, style, length and profundity.

Thursday, November 12, 2009

MUSTANG DAILY

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The New York Times Crossword

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5 "What Do You Do With . . ." inTheDowntown" ("Avenue Q"
7 "Breathing 2000"
8 Preserved, in a way
10 It tills a chest
13 Vol waste
15 A Precon
16 Canaite deity
17 Tractor make, briefly
18 Mon. (surnpiously)
19 No holds barred
20 Craft that's the subject of this puzzle
23 Subject of "Holmberg's Poison"
25 Finish behind
26 ___, America
30 Custody
32 Physical sound
33 United hubs

Down
1 Hundred Days campaign
2 Planning site
3 It makes an impression
4 Firemen, annoyed
5 City Hall
6 "Old-fashioned Sweet"
7 Group of paws
8 Sound made while being pushed
9 Envelope abbr.
10 James of "Star Trek"
11 Allen and...comedy duo
12 10 ft. fits a chest
13 Louis va va
14 Dager
15 "I'll Push you!
17 Title role for 1997 Oscar nominee
19 Swede frozen
21 It pays a "little"
24 "Billy Bathgate"
25 "New York, New York"
27 "What?" (T.V.)
28 Topped
29 Available

Edited by Will Shortz
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Answer to Previous Puzzle

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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1960s-'70s

The Rewards of Writing...
...and the pain of revising.
Marianne Williamson

"I Carroll took great care of me!
I just relaxed while they handled my troop's shirt order from start to finish. They even accepted payment in bananas."

"When my sister was young, she had a birthday party and all her friends came over to help decorate the house. They discovered my collection of old comic books and started pulling out my favorite characters. I was so upset that I burst into tears. My sister comforted me and said, "Don't worry, I'll get them back!" She promised to take care of my precious collection and make sure it was safe from harm."

"I was always interested in writing my own stories and creating characters of my own. When I was a child, I loved reading comic books and发挥了 the Superhero genre to its fullest potential."

"I was never too old for comic books. I continued to read them as an adult and found that they still brought me joy and inspiration."
Wrestling  
continued from page 16

Eric Barlich, assistant director of media relations at Cal Poly said that the start to this season is a good step.

"The team was far more visible in the 70s and 80s when they won eight straight Division II titles." The national reputation of Cal Poly has not been as good in the 2000s," he said. "But, because of their performance, they're getting a lot more recognition than they have recently. We have four guys nationally ranked in the top 20." Chase Parni, a senior communications major at 157 pounds, is one of the four in the top 20. There has been a shift in the program in his years at Cal Poly, from a focus on individual wrestlers to a focus on the team as a whole, Parni said.

"With that mentality, you realize there's not just one guy on the team," Parni said. "It forces you to want to have an even better match. That competitive feeling is bringing out the best in us as a team."

This is Parni's last year on the team, but he said he would like to return as an assistant coach next year as he trains to compete in the 2012 Olympics.

"To see the program on a rise is huge," he said. "My goal is to win a national title and lay the groundwork for Cal Poly."

Ultimately, the coaching staff would like to see the Mustangs till Mot Gym with fans streaming down the street, excited to see some national-level wrestling. Arvedsao said. Much like the days when he came to wrestle himself.

Adams  
continued from page 16

NFL vice-president of public relations Greg Auello said in an e-mail.

The typical NFL physical Adams passed after getting traded to the Bears from the Bucs in October only requires an electrocardiography, typically called an EKG. The difference between the two tests is an EKG measures electrical signals of the heart while an echocardiogram, which costs about $2,500 more, takes a two-dimensional look at the heart and examines chambers, valves and major blood vessels. It's more invasive and expensive but more complete.

The Bears performed Adams' physical in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement, a procedure supported by a recommendation of the American Heart Association on cardiac screenings for elite athletes. The exam includes a complete medical history, blood and urine tests and an EKG. Based on those results, a decision is made whether to include an echocardiogram.

There was nothing in Adams' history of exams to suggest he ever needed an echocardiogram, a source said.

Adams' autopsy also showed no evidence of substance abuse after a review of his major organs, a source said. Toxicology results aren't due for six weeks but, according to the source, it's drug such as marijuana shows up in Adams' system it wouldn't have contributed to the official cause of death.

The coroner's report indicated that Adams' heart weighed well beyond 375 grams, which is considered abnormal, and he also suffered from hypertension, a high-blood pressure condition that can lead to hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.

Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) affects one in 500 Americans and is the leading cause of sudden cardiac death among youths. It's a congenital problem that results in a thickening of the heart muscle, forcing it to work harder until it suddenly stops working altogether.

Interestingly, 55 percent of sudden deaths in athletes related to HCM strike African-Americans, according to a study by the Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation. In a league where statistics show 70 percent of its players we black that makes it even more imperative for the NFL to use Adams' death as the impetus to re-examine matters of the heart.

Not everyone agrees.

Jay H. Alexander, a cardiologist at North Shore Cardiologists, who was Mike Ditka's physician, worried that a mandatory echocardiograms could produce too many misdiagnoses. Alexander wondered how many cases of "Athlete's Heart Syndrome," a benign condition in which the heart is enlarged due to exertion, would be confused as HCM and unnecessarily sideline a player.

Enough other liability and privacy concerns exist for Alexander to have doubts.

"The data would suggest to me the cost-benefit ratio is not there to support making 'school routine,'" Alexander said. "I am just not sure you can prevent all the Gaines Adams deaths."

Maybe you can't. But if you can make a change that prevents even one more, isn't it worth it?

Former Tampa Bay Buccaneers defensive end Gaines Adams passed away Sunday in South Carolina. The former fourth-overall pick played three seasons with Tampa Bay and was traded to the Chicago Bears this season.
Mustangs take on UC Riverside in conference contest

Brian De Los Santos

Five games into conference play, the Mustangs (7-10, 3-2 Big West) hold the mindset that they can compete with anyone in the Big West.

According to numerous preseason polls, the Mustangs should not hold their chins so high. Cal Poly was projected to be the bottom-feeder of the conference this season.

The newfound swagger hit the Mustangs after recording a 90-79 win against Long Beach State. The scoring performance came from five different Mustangs who contributed with double figures, against a 49er team that was dubbed one of the favorites to win the conference at the start of the season.

"Our outlook right now is that we can beat anyone," sophomore forward David Hanson said. "Predictions at the beginning of the year mean nothing... every game is winnable."

Junior Cal Poly looks to advance from a three-way second place tie in the Big West, when they face current UC Riverside (7-11, 1-4 Big West) in Mott Gym at 7 p.m. tonight.

I think (the team's) confidence level is that we can beat anybody, on any court," head coach Joe Callero said. "We're just going in to play; we're not thinking about standings."

The pre-season projection may have been a bit of a gift to the Mustangs, Callero said. The underdog mentality has led teams to look past them.

"Let's put it this way, (opponents) certainly don't think the Mustangs are coming into town," Callero said. "Somebody's not prepared for Cal Poly and is overlooking us, well that's to our advantage — we'll jump on that." Cal Poly will carry that mindset into Mott Gym, facing an opponent that sits in last place in the Big West.

"Every conference game is a game that we want to go out and win," Hanson said. "We don't look at UC Riverside any differently, we just see them as a game that we need to go out and get — they're winnable games for us." Callero said his team can't let leads slip through its fingers.

"When you haven't been ahead a lot, you're not comfortable with a lead realising that a team is going to pressure you," Callero said. "I think it's pretty common that you have to see a team has to fight (opponents) off... It's the position we want to be in, which is learning how to win home or away, learning to play with a 19-point lead or a five-point lead."

After hitting the road for two contests, the Mustangs will host two games this week. The Mustang coaching staff's goal is to develop the team's home-court advantage. But sometimes, heading home after a road trip can be detrimental.

"Sometimes, coming home adds a bit more excitement to the team," Callero said. "Sometimes it lances out to somebody to go for a steal, kicks it, and a guy gets a three. We got to learn play with the poise of having your home-court support while not getting out of formation." Hanson has scored double digits in three of the Mustang's five conference games this year. His most recent came against Long Beach State where he posted a career-high 22 points and a season-high eight rebounds.

The team's leading scorer is senior guard Lorenzo Keeler, Keeler is averaging 21 points per game in conference play.

UC Riverside holds the third leading scorer in the conference — junior Kyle Austin. Austin is averaging 20 points per game in the Highlanders' five conference contests.

Tip off is set for 7 p.m.