A third alleged rape was reported at Cal Poly on Monday, according to a University Police Department crime alert. According to the alert, the reported rape occurred in the victim's room in Poly Canyon Village on May 15.

As of press time, University Police Chief Bill Watton said there was not a lot of information available.

"We can't release too much, other than to say this is the third sexual assault alert issued on campus," Watton said. "Pretty much all we can say at this time is that the suspects are unique in each case. They are not interrelated."

This is the third reported sexual assault at Cal Poly within the last week. Associated Students Inc. President Sarah Sterrelli said although the number of alleged sexual assaults reported in the last week seems high, it, in fact, conforms to statistics.

"Besides that we all live in San Luis Obispo, and think it is relatively safe, the fact is that one in four students will be sexually assaulted while they are at college," Sterrelli said. "It's quite surprising, and also eye-opening."

However, Kyle Rosso, a history senior and Sexual Assault Free Environment Resource (SAFER) program volunteer, said the number of assaults is not surprising.

"It's not that three rapes have occurred, it's that three rapes have been reported," Rosso said. "In a campus of roughly 10,000 women, approximately 395 rapes occur each year. That's one a day, and some days two. This isn't an uncommon occurrence. What is uncommon is that they're brave enough to report it."

Rioso also said although the number of reports may raise concerns for safety, people should not be alarmed, or think students at Cal Poly are more likely to be victims of sexual assaults.

"This doesn't show that Cal Poly is more prone to sexual assault, it shows that people are confident in their surroundings," he said. "It proves that it's safer because these things are being reported, and because we respond to them this way."

In response to the second alleged rape reported late last week, Cal Poly President Jeffrey Armstrong wrote in an email to the student body that he was forming a "task-force" comprised of Sterrelli, Academic Senate Chair Rachel Fennelors and Vice President Amanda Sedo.

**University police issues third reported sexual assault alert**

**Mustang Daily Staff Report**

**Amanda Sedo**
AMANDASEDO.MU@GMAIL.COM

A former Associated Students (ASI) student body president, she received a text message from her best friend Brittany Reiser. It said, "When you're a big shot and you're making tons of money, don't forget about me."

Success does not seem too far out of reach for the newly-elected president. Until she officially takes office on June 20, she said she is exactly the person her campaign platform said she is: a regular student.

"I saw firsthand how the budget impacts athletics and student life," said Sterrelli. "I was not involved in student government prior to this, but I was really interested in the athletic budget and why things were run the way they were," Sterrelli said. "That kind of brought me into student government and things fell into place."

"I saw life as a regular student, then I saw how the system worked," Sterrelli said. "It's not that three rapes have occurred, it's that three rapes have been reported."
I saw life as a regular student, then I saw how the system worked. My goal is to bridge the gap.

— Kiyana Tabrizi
All presidents/first lady

Rape
continued from page 1

for Student Affairs, Cornel Murray, to examine the school's attitudes toward sexual assault. Tabrizi said in light of the recent reported rape, the task force would be paying special attention to campus culture.

"Right now we don't have any specifics on what the task force will do because our meeting is tomorrow," Storelli said. "This is an immediate and evident problem, and when we sit down, we will talk about how to deal with this. Otherwise, we just need to educate ourselves, and all of the different groups on campus need to make a concerted effort to come together and deal with these issues."

In a telephone interview, Armstrong said the task force committee will take on the subject in a "marathon-like" approach not because it is in the news but because it is important and students need to feel safe. He said he is "deeply disturbed" by the incidents and is anxious to meet with the committee.

"We're going to focus on what we've been doing and we're going to look at what we've been doing on campus to bring awareness and where we can make improvements, where we can maybe bring in a speaker, but we don't think it's important that victims of sexual violence feel safe enough to bring these incidents to our attention so they can be investigated. If people don't feel comfortable enough to bring these to our attention then we have a deep problem. We don't want incidents like these to occur at all but if they do, then we want young men and young women to speak up and let's get to the bottom of what's going on and we need to be very proactive."

Anybody with information about the alleged rape is asked to call UPD at (805) 756-2281.

Leilas Rodriguez, Kehpil Leslie and Hannah Croft contributed to this article.

Facebook
continued from page 1

potentially predict the outcome of an election (just as it even happens based on information they can access from users. As websites such as Facebook, Google, Mircosoft and Apple battle for power, Beavers said he is concerned with how friendships are being defined by Facebook.

"Facebook's algorithm for determining what goes into a user's newsfeed influences which friendships will develop and which will not," Beavers said. "What I see in my newsfeed determines who I am going to interact with, which parties I go to, et cetera."

Nick Alerza, a computer science sophomore, said he came to the event for participation credit for a class, but came out of the event with a new awareness.

"It encouraged me to think about what (Facebook) could do with all of that information," Alerza said. "The whole topic is interesting and the fact that it affects so many people is what makes everything so serious."

Another concern Beavers said he has with Facebook is the fact that the mechanisms of the program may know more about people than they know about themselves.

"The people at Facebook know the degree from which I sit at the norm or where I am on the fringe on different subjects," Beavers said. "I want Facebook to show me the information that you've aggregated about me."

Beavers showed a plot that Facebook is keeping on how often users break up with a friend. Beavers said the most popular times to break up are right before Christmas and after Valentine's Day. Beavers got back together after Valentine's Day. Beavers said the most popular times to break up are right before Christmas and after Valentine's Day.

"The plot was crazy to me because I didn't know that Facebook had the ability to plot certain things like that," Alerza said.

Facebook has the ability to do things that many people did not expect, which is why Beavers said he came back to Cal Poly for a second year to participate, which parties I go to, et cetera."

"(Zuckerberg) is holding a lot of power and he doesn't know how to deal with it responsibly yet," Beavers said. "Facebook is bigger than almost every country except for two and it is not governed by law."

With Facebook even adopting currency that users can buy in stores, Beavers said Facebook is like a political union with an emerging and growing economy.

"(I'm afraid) but I can't do anything about it," Beavers said. "It doesn't matter (if you quit) because if I watch a trajectory of your past actions while on Facebook, and compare it to others, I can make predictions about what you do even after you quit (using the network profiling machine)."

I want Facebook to show me the information that you've aggregated about me.

— Anthony Beavers
University of California, Santa Barbara computer science professor

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Endeavour space shuttle successfully launches at Kennedy Space Center

Scott Powers
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

Backlit by a brilliant morning sun, space shuttle Endeavour blasted to space — at last — on its final mission Monday, carrying a long-grounded $2-billion astrophysics device and a little bit of the hearts of thousands of space shuttle workers.

Endeavour’s launch was watched by perhaps a half-million people crowding the Brevard County coastline, seeking a chance to witness what should be the next-to-last launch in the 30-year history of space shuttles. Among those with top vantage points at Kennedy Space Center was U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., who is recovering from a gunshot wound to the head by a gunman who killed six and wounded 12 in a January assassination attempt. While continuing what her doctors have labeled a “miraculous recovery,” she traveled twice to KSC from a rehabilitation hospital in Houston to watch as her husband, Navy Capt. Mark Kelly, commanded the Endeavour in his fourth flight into space.

Not among onlookers this time: President Obama, who brought his family to the previous launch attempt on April 29. They and 750,000 other people who turned out that day were disappointed when NASA scrubbed the shuttle due to an electrical problem. This time Endeavour’s countdown appeared flawless, except for one broken tile that technicians quickly repaired Monday morning. The orbiter, riding atop a column of flame, punched through a canopy of light clouds shortly before 9 a.m. EDT, roaring toward a 16-day mission delivering equipment, supplies and the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer to the International Space Station.

In the moments before blastoff, Kelly called Endeavour “this incredible ship” and thanked the thousands of space workers who kept it flying, and addressed the country.

“As Americans we endeavor to build a better life than the generation before and endeavor to be a united nation. In those efforts we are often tested,” he said. “This mission represents the power of teamwork, commitment and exploration. It is in the DNA of our country to reach for the stars and explore. We must not stop.”

Initially, this launch was never meant to be. The AMS, under development since 1993, was originally supposed to go into space in the middle of the last decade. But it lost its ride after the shuttle program shut down for nearly two years after the loss of Columbia in 2003 and all flights’ manifests were rebooked to hasten the shuttle’s retirement.

NASA scheduled this Endeavour mission only after Congress, and Obama’s 2010 federal budget, bankrolled an additional flight specifically to deliver and install the AMS on the space station. The mission was delayed six times since its first scheduled target date, last July. The latest delay came three hours before the April 29 scheduled liftoff, when an electrical switchbox caused fuel-line heaters to malfunction. The switchbox was replaced, and the heaters worked perfectly in tests Monday morning.

Now the scientists behind the AMS hope to prove it will be worth all the delays. The device will sit outside the space station, seeking to collect high-energy cosmic rays and space particles that have may originate with the “big bang,” which astrophysicists theorize created the universe. If so, the findings could help them understand the makeup and origins of the universe.

Some scientists have expressed strong skepticism that the AMS will work, but others think it might become the greatest astrophysics tool since the shuttles took the Hubble Space Telescope into space. Even if it does not detect its primary goals, big-bang antimatter or dark matter, the AMS’ potential to analyze cosmic rays and particles is unparalleled and its findings likely will be invaluable, said its principal investigator, Nobel Prize laureate Samuel Ting. More than 600 scientists from 16 countries are involved with it.

“We want to put a powerful physics detector, a state-of-the-art physics detector, into space,” Ting said recently.

All of Endeavour’s crew space veterans. Kelly, 47, is on his fourth shuttle mission, pilot Greg Johnson, 49, piloted Endeavour in 2008. The mission specialists are Mike Fincke, 46, who has been to the space station twice before on Russian rockets; Roberto Vittori, 46, an Italian astronaut who has been to the space station twice via Russian rockets; Drew Feustel, 45, on his second shuttle flight; Greg Chamitoff, 48, who has flown to and from the space station on different shuttles.

As NASA prepared, launched, managed and landed space shuttle Discovery on the previous mission — its final — and as the agency prepared and launched Endeavour Monday, officials have tried to steer clear of expressing much reflection or emotion over the wind-down to the shuttle program, insisting they still were too busy. The Endeavour launch was the 134th. Atlantis will fly the final space shuttle mission in July.

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Kevin G. Hall
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner informed Congress on Monday that the United States has reached its legal debt limit, setting off a ticking time bomb that could explode in less than three months if lawmakers can’t bridge differences and allow more government borrowing.

In hitting the $14.3 trillion debt ceiling — the limit on how much the government can borrow — the Obama administration on Monday began temporarily halting payments to the retirement and federal pension accounts of federal workers and started borrowing from those funds, to be restored later.

Geithner sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., warning that the federal government can move money around for about 11 weeks but if a new debt ceiling isn’t agreed upon by Aug. 2, the U.S. government could effectively default on its obligations to its creditors.

Geithner also warned of “catastrophic economic consequences for citizens” unless Congress raises the debt ceiling.

An increase of about $2 trillion is expected, enough to get the issue past the 2012 elections before Congress would have to lift it again.

Republicans who control the House of Representatives vow to link raising the debt ceiling to cuts in government spending of at least equal measure. In a combative statement on Monday, House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, upped the ante.

“As I have said numerous times, there will be no debt limit increase without serious budget reforms and significant spending cuts, cuts that are greater than any increase in the debt limit,” Boehner has called previously for $2 trillion in spending cuts as part of any deal to raise the debt ceiling.

Republicans rule out further tax increases and any significant cuts in defense spending. The United States continues to fight wars in Iraq and Afghanistan paid for with borrowed money, the only time in U.S. history that wars weren’t offset at least partially with some sort of tax.

Democrats insist that Social Security is off the table, as is an end to Medicare, but they are open to changes in Medicare funding.

If Congress fails to raise the debt ceiling by Aug. 2, it would force the Obama administration to choose between paying creditors or halting military operations, Social Security and Medicare payments, and other commitments.

A government default on debts surely would trigger a harsh reaction from investors and could panic global financial markets, jeopardizing the U.S. and global economies.

It would mean that the world’s largest economy was governing its finances as if it were a basket-case economy such as Greece.

It might not even take a default to have severe consequences for the U.S. economy, warned prominent forecaster Mark Zandi, the chief economist for Moody’s Analytics. Democrats and Republicans alike frequently cite Zandi’s research.

“While the global investors are going to ask themselves how long can policymakers pay me and not a Social Security recipient?” Zandi said. “So if I were a global investor, I would be bailing well before that, and interest rates would spike.”

He added that the idea that deep spending cuts on the order that Republicans are calling for wouldn’t harm the economy is “just wrong, dead wrong, particularly in the context of the kind of cuts we’re talking about here.”

U.S. hits legal debt limit; government has deadline to find solution before defaulting
Kicking the caffeine habit

Learn how to make it through the day without coffee and energy drinks

Erik Hansen is a graduate student pursuing a Master of Public Policy and the Mustang Daily graduate columnist.

Some of the positive effects of your favorite caffeinated beverage include increased alertness, more energy and a feeling of overall awesomeness. In moderation, other benefits include antioxidants for heart health and possibly even skin cancer fighting properties. However, with caffeine, too much of a good thing can turn into a crutch, and eventually adversely impact your mental and/or physical health.

If you survive off a daily IV drip of coffee, espresso, Monster, Red Bull or, for the truly trashy, Mountain Dew and go into moody fits when you don’t have one handy, there’s a good chance you’re addicted. That’s OK though, because there are a lot worse things you could be addicted to, and if Whitney Houston can quit coke five or six times, you can probably quit caffeine once, or at least bring your intake down to a level that wouldn’t kill a rodent or small house cat.

According to the Mayo Clinic, the normally acceptable range of caffeine intake is about 500 to 600 milligrams a day, which equates to approximately three 8-ounce cups of drip coffee.

For those who overindulge, long-term heavy caffeine users can experience symptoms such as insomnia, nervousness, restlessness, irritability, upset stomach, fast heartbeat, muscle tremors and an increased risk for high blood pressure and stroke. I would guess depression as well, because having those symptoms would be a depressing way to go through life.

Caffeine also acts as a diuretic, causing you to go to the bathroom more often, or pass out from dehydration during one of your intense Shake Weight workouts.

There’s no better time than now to cut back on your caffeine use. What if the zombie apocalypse happened tomorrow and you didn’t have access to caffeine? Would you be able to function? I’m guessing all of our local Starbucks would close, so you’d need to have all of your wits to survive. This is just the type of realistic question you should ask yourself on a daily basis, because in life, there are winners and losers (just ask Charlie Sheen), survivors and zombie victims.

Cutting your caffeine intake will not be fun, and depending on your level of dependency, you could experience headaches lasting for as long as a week, not to mention lethargy, restlessness and moodiness for a month or longer. Eventually they’ll subside though, and you probably won’t die in the process, unless the zombie apocalypse occurs during that time.

With summer fast approaching, your time away from the classroom might make for an excellent opportunity to re-baseline what your body thinks it needs in order to wake up in the morning. The following tips are meant to help those about to take the leap. These tips come from WebMD, which means they’re legit because they’re from Internet doctors, duh.

Take pain relievers

For the headaches, try over-the-counter aspirin, acetaminophen or ibuprofen. No, not Oxy, Norco or Vicodin — it’s probably best not to replace one addiction with another. Also, try to stay away from Excedrin, which is a caffeine-containing pain reliever.

Increase water intake

Drinking tons of water is already a good thing for your body, but drinking a ton of water will also help alleviate those headaches. Drinking water gives you something to down instead of coffee. In addition, your blood pressure may drop a little while you withdraw from caffeine, and drinking large quantities of water could bring it up a little, helping you feel better.

Sleep more:

Duh. This is probably the reason you got hooked on caffeine in the first place.

The benefits of getting seven or eight hours of sleep a night are too numerous to count and deserves a column of its own. If your life is so crazy that you can’t get a good night’s sleep, then you need to make some life adjustments. Keep in mind these words from David Hasselhoff, “When you burn the mirror, page 8

If you survive off a daily IV drip of coffee, espresso, Monster, Red Bull … there’s a good chance you’re addicted.
April showers bring May flowers, and apricots

Heather Rockwood is a food science junior and Mustang Daily food columnist.

May is finally here and the rain keeps falling. Whatever happened to April showers bringing May flowers? Well, if the raindrops and gloomy weather are clouding your vision this spring, take a bite into a fresh apricot to help your eyes see the light of summer.

This yummy little fruit is caught somewhere between a peach and a plum, but is in no way lost or confused. When apricots start popping up on trees, showing up at farmer’s markets and making their way into my fruit bowl, I know summer is just around the corner.

Their presence alone reminds me that the summer sun is making its way back to the Central Coast and that the beaches will soon be filled with barbecues, bonfires and burnt cherry red faces, but this reminder of the joy of summer is not all they bring. Apricots have the goods within them to help you enjoy the beauty of all the summer sun shines upon.

These little guys are full of beta-carotene (provitamin A) and vitamin A. These nutrients play a vital role in the health and protection of eyes. Beta-carotene is converted to vitamin A within the body and vitamin A has proved itself to be one eye-catching warrior.

Vitamin A protects the eye through a group of antioxidants that battle free radicals as well as help create a surface that is resilient against harmful bacteria and viruses. The daily consumption of vitamin A has also been linked to the decreased risk of macular degeneration and cataracts.

With benefits this great, there has to be a catch, right? Apricots must not taste very good, or maybe they are outrageously expensive, or maybe they are hard to cook. On the contrary, apricots are quite tasty and reasonably priced, and are as easy to eat as an apple.

Let’s take a moment to explore:

How do apricots taste? Despite the fact that everyone has different taste preferences, overall apricots is a widely accepted and admired taste. It is sweet with a faint tartness. Often, it is described as having a musky taste.

Are they expensive? Luckily, as residents of California, we get some of the best agriculture prices around. There are more than 400 apricot growers in the San Joaquin Valley, and more than 95 percent of the United States’ apricot crop comes from California. This means that as Californians, we don’t have to pay the high transportation costs tacked onto the price of the fruit. Thus apricots are quite affordable. It also means we are getting extremely fresh produce and supporting our local Californian farmers.

Are they hard to cook? You don’t even need to cook them — just buy them, wash them and bite into them. They have a pit in the middle, so don’t swallow them whole, but give a nice firm twist — you can easily pop the pit right out and enjoy both halves.

Apricot season is fairly short — May through August — so be sure to make the most of it. Perhaps you can even try the confused children of the apricot and plum: Plumcot (50 percent plum plus 50 percent apricot), Aprium (75 percent apricot plus 25 percent plum) or Pluot (75 percent plum plus 25 percent apricot). Whatever you decide, just remember that the rich golden apricot has finally arrived to offer the Central Coast a taste of the warm golden sun of summer that is not far away.

HINT: Like an ostrich, this veggie keeps its head planted deep under the sandy soil — almost a whole foot under!

**Filled and Grilled Apricot Bruschetta**

**Ingredients:**
- 1 baguette
dough
- 2 Tbs. mascarpone cheese
- 2 Tbs. honey
- 1 lemon
- 1/4 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 6 apricots, peeled, halved and pitted
- Chopped fresh mint

**Directions:**
- In a bowl, combine cheeses, honey, lemon juice, and cinnamon, stirring well, set in walnuts. Let chill 1 hour:
- Squeeze remaining fresh lemon juice equally over all apricot halves.
- Place all apricot halves flesh side down on the grill. Grill for 3 to 5 minutes until tender and with grill marks.
- Take apricots off grill. Allow fruit to cool slightly. Top with cheese mixture and fresh mint. Enjoy!

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I tend to shy away from intense discussion of the Second Amendment because it doesn’t really matter. However, it could have been phrased, whatever meaning was interpreted or intended in it, in a most point; we would still be having the same arguments about the same issues — merely the symbols would change. We wrestle over the intent and interpretation of the Constitution because we’re supposed to, but, as with any text, people can always fabricate support for the pre-existing convictions that they bring to the table. The issues behind firearms emerge from our very nature as human beings, and no constitution can alter that.

As with any issue, people appeal to international norms, to traditions, to social expectations; these are allies of opportunity, tools of manipulation, selected and discarded in order to support pre-existing objectives. The principles are more interesting and important than the symbols in which they are dressed.

The topic of firearms generates a great deal of heat, perhaps more than any other subject in the world, because it cuts close to the heart of our greatest social issue: what is the proper relationship of the individual to others, separately and collectively? I have been on both sides of the issue (if it can be reduced to a single, two-sided issue), and I like to think that I can appreciate the hopes and fears of both sides. No matter what position you take, guns are not simple. Guns are messy, serious and very real, because, in the end, guns are us. Sans humans, a gun is an inert pile of atoms. Any argument about guns is an argument about people, an argument about power and who holds it.

Guns are tools that amplify the power of those who hold them. They can be used for two purposes: to force compliance in others, or to resist such force. The questions then are, who has the right to force what compliance and to what degree, and who has the right to resist what force and to what degree?

Everyone conceives that governments have the (delegated) right to use force against criminals, that is a central purpose of governments. Most of us also believe that governments have the right to raise force against the general citizenry: taxation, regulation and law are based on the assumption of force.

Gun ownership is usually evaluated according to a rather emotion-al cost-benefit analysis, each side fraudulently trying that its position provides the greatest public and/or private benefit (whose definition of “benefit?”). This is based on the assumption that the individual’s highest purpose is to advance other people, but if the individual does not have inherent worth, neither does anyone else. The value of one’s actions to oneself is perfectly valid. “Because I want to” is a perfectly good justification so long as it does not enroach on the rights of others (whose definition of “rights?”). People argue whether gun ownership increases or decreases societal violence in general, assuming that the individual’s safety and rights exist in terms of an endless succession of somebody else. But if the individual can be thrown under the bus, what makes the group sacred? To uphold this counterbalancing of individual rights with public benefit is to assume that they are in contradiction; that a “balance” must be struck between right and people. This is like arguing that a balance must be struck between mass and matter. Firearms expand the user’s capacity for violence. To endorse private ownership is to assume that this capacity will be handled wisely, while opposition is often based on the belief that it will not be handled wisely. To resist aggression (whether a private thugs or a public one) is to take on the burdens of identifying aggression and of developing an appropriate response.

To identify aggression means to hold fundamentally different values than the aggressor, to take an ideological stand, to choose. To determine an appropriate response is to make a value judgment outside the shelter of the “guidelines” (those social expectations and legal requirements that dictate behavior). To put the response into effect is to accept moral and physical responsibility for that choice. This is a heavy burden. To endorse gun ownership is to believe that private persons are thuggishly capable, to believe that the individual has a responsibility and a guiding light that points above the many forces of the world.

But if the private individual is not capable of bearing that burden, who is? Elected officials? To participate in elections is to carry a similar burden, albeit mundane and sanctioned. The only true refuge from private responsibility is totalitarianism. Power will always exist. The question is: who wields it?

No matter what you believe about guns, you’ve probably been lied to. When the Clinton assault weapon ban ended, an open-fire zone was predicted. Crime continued decreasing. Whenever a state opens access to concealed-carry, bloodbaths are predicted that fail to materialize. “Gun-free” zones are formed, but killers don’t seem to care. Officials claim that Mexican drug lords casually purchase weapons from the United States. The grenades and machine guns are heavily restricted here and originate elsewhere. Politicians ban gun components that they can’t even identify. A lot of individuals, groups and governments oppose the private ownership of guns, and they’re willing to lie for “the greater good.” What kind of person is better off when others are unable to say “no?”

The best way to become informed on an issue is to meet and defend respect for people you disagree with. Recognize your capacity to be wrong, and develop the habit of questioning yourself. Associate with people who hold you intellectually accountable and value clarity more than conformation. Take a firearms safety course and rent a booth at a range.

Who, in the end, makes sure that the right decisions are made, that evil is vanquished and good triumphed? No one makes sure; there is no guar­antee. To my mind the greatest fault of our American system of government is its own success — we now firmly believe that, if we could only determine the exact right rules and elect the exact right people, everything will definitely work. It won’t. It can’t. Rules and rulers are necessary tools for success, but only when directed by those who use them wisely. When all is said and done the fundamental issue is not the allocation of power, but the exercise of character. Character cannot be commanded or guaranteed, laws may corrupt it, but they cannot create it. The use of power is determined by character. Character cannot be controlled. This is where freedom should be guaranteed as minimally as possible.

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Guns are messy, serious and very real, because in the end, guns are us.

— Eric Baldwin
Liberarian columnist
Baseball set for final home game of season

And that team to beat is staying put. Josh Combs, the team's head coach and member of the men's club water polo team, said the rumors of Cal Poly moving up the collegiate ranks always accompany success. But they are just that — rumors.

"A lot of the girls have talked about their feelings toward Cal Poly, and every girl that plays for the team picked Cal Poly as an academic institution," Combs said. "The girls are more able to pursue their careers and goals, and then come out and do something they love on their own."

In fact, Combs said many of the players were contacted by varsity programs before choosing Cal Poly but they chose to pursue academics and play water polo as a hobby.

Combs said there is "no denying that a lot of these girls could compete at a varsity level." These girls work their butts off every day in practice," Combs said. "We do this thing we call quarters — it's seven minutes of straight swimming sprints. And in the end, winning the title made it all worthwhile."

The two largest downfalls to not being a varsity sport, supported by the athletic department, is the lack of a head coach to take care of the paperwork side of athletics and, more importantly, funding, Bigbie said. "(Varsity athletics) gets their stuff handed to them on almost a silver platter — that's why I was excited when (Associated Students Inc. president-elect Kyiana Tabrizi) won," Bigbie said. "She came to talk to some club sports, and said she was a cheerleader who was required to travel to certain things, but they weren't given the funds to do it — that's a lot like club sports." Tabrizi said she understands funding is an issue for club sports because she was a former participant of the stunt team, which she also said does not receive adequate funding throughout the year. However, as of right now, there is nothing she can promise for an increase of funding next year.

"Funding is really tough when it comes to club sports," she said. "As it is now, we help them as much as we financially can by giving them a large sum of money (in the beginning of the year). (ASI is) exploring a couple of ways to see if we can improve funding, but for now, it's just the one large sum."

The team can either stay at the club level and receive the funding ASI provides, which results in $3,500 a year, Bigbie said — or the team can start the process of becoming a varsity sport. The latter, however, isn't something athletics director Don Oberhelman said is possible right now. "I've had no conversations with anybody in club sports about elevating any of the programs to varsity status," he said. "And with how our budget is, it's not really an option for us here in the short term to add another varsity sport."

Oberhelman said adding another varsity sport would require funding for a head coach, duals, and at least 12 scholarships, among other costs. He estimated the scholarships alone would cost more than $100,000. The only times he has personally seen a club sport rise to varsity status was at Texas A&M and SDSU — both of which had to do with Title IX issues. Basically, the amount of male and female athletes was not proportionately represented in the athletics department, so a team needed to be put on a varsity sport level to make both genders' representation equal. "We've heard they are really, really good, but we are happy where we are right now, and it sounds like they are happy where they are too," Oberhelman said.

Oberhelman did not dismiss the idea entirely, though. Leaving the door to a varsity level slightly open might prove to be a good thing for younger players, such as sophomore driver Jordan Bell, who said she isn't sure if she would want women's water polo to become a varsity level sport. "I'm not sure if I want to stay in club sports," she said. "A lot of people don't understand club sports — it's kind of a different world," Bell said. "With a team that has to be so self-motivated, we are expected to have perfect attendance to practice, and everyone to be there every night whether or not you play or travel — there is a lot of heart behind it because we are so self-motivated."

Water Polo

continued from page 12

RYAN SIDARTO MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO
It will be the final home game for the Cal Poly baseball team's senior class tonight, as the Mustangs take on Santa Clara at 6 p.m. Seven seniors will play their final home game of the season.
For Erika Bigbie, Cal Poly women’s water polo players say the team doesn’t want to become a NCAA sport

Karlee Prazak
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For two-and-a-half hours, five men brutally beat a Dodgers fan at a Dodger Stadium parking lot; the San Francisco Giants fan who spent weeks in a coma after being brutally beaten at a Dodgers game in Los Angeles arrived Monday to a semi-homecoming in the San Francisco Bay Area.

San Francisco Giants fan in coma moved to Bay Area

Abby Sewell
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The San Francisco Giants fan who spent weeks in a coma after being brutally beaten at a Dodgers game in Los Angeles arrived Monday to a semi-homecoming in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Bryan Stow, 42, was left with a fractured skull and brain damage after two men attacked him March 31 at the Dodger Stadium parking lot after the season’s opening game between the Giants and Dodgers.

Bryan Stow, her teammate, four-time National Collegiate Most Valuable Player and whole seit. “Her and myself were getting looked at, she was getting recruited for Division I and Division II schools,” Bigbie said. “I wasn’t pushing it much because I’m like, ‘I’m not going to go to the Olympics for water polo, and I want a college experience.’”

Four years into their academic careers, they are now a part of one of the most successful club water polo teams in the nation. The team won four consecutive national championships, beginning in 2008 in the Collegiate Water Polo Association (CWPA).

These wins raise the question: Why isn’t such a successful team a NCAA varsity sport at Cal Poly?

Like Bigbie said, she and her teammates, including Ut, who will be a graduate student next year, share the feeling of academics being a priority and water polo being a hobby. However, the dedication put toward the women’s club water polo team proved to be more than just a hobby.

For two-and-a-half hours, five nights a week starting the first week of winter quarter until the end of spring quarter, Bigbie and her 29 teammates take over the Anderson Aquatics Center. This hard work doesn’t go unnoticed.

“We didn’t want that (NCAA) commitment, but we ended up with that commitment because, if we win, we have to keep winning,” Bigbie said. “In the water polo community, and in CWPA nationally, Cal Poly is the team to beat.”

"Everybody felt like he knew he was going home,” she said. “It remained unclear whether he would wake. “It’s very difficult to say what his prognosis might be,” Saca said. “We just know that his recovery is going to be very slow and very long.”

Since the attack, Stow’s family members said they had been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support, and apologies from Los Angeles residents.

His sister, Bonnie Stow, who was waiting for him to arrive at the San Francisco hospital, was among the family members who stayed in Los Angeles for the duration of his time in the hospital there.

The family has expressed gratitude for the outpouring of support from Angelinos.

Bonnie Stow said that every day when family members stopped by the office at the hospital, they would find at least five and sometimes as many as 20 cards waiting.

Some people sent baked goods. Some offered prayers or apologies on behalf of Dodgers fans; others shared stories of loved ones who had recovered after dire brain injuries.

The hospital was inundated with calls from people seeking updates on Bryan Stow’s condition, so much so that his family posted a blog asking well-wishers to give the nursing staff a break from the queries.

And then there were the people who would approach the family in the hallway of the hospital to offer a hug and kind word.

“We couldn’t hear ‘We’re praying for you enough,” Bonnie Stow said.

It’s very difficult to say what his prognosis might be. We just know that his recovery is going to be very slow and very long.”

— Rosa Saca
USC Medical Center spokeswoman

This is an image of a flyer. The text is too small to be legible.