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Should the Rec Center be expanded? You decide.

Shannon Boren

There are few school-related things over which students have control. No one votes whether mid-terms are a good idea or if 10 minutes is sufficient time to dash from class to class, and rarely do students have a say in new construction and fee increases. The proposed Recreation Center expansion, however, is offering students a chance to voice their opinion in an online vote Wednesday and Thursday.

Associated Students Inc. came up with a proposal to expand the current Rec Center in an attempt to meet the perceived growing needs of the campus community. Now they are looking for students to decide whether the expansion is something they want implemented.

"We've run a neutral and informative campaign on what the new Rec Center would entail," ASI president Brandon Souza said. "We're not advocating a vote either way; it's just an informative campaign for students to make an educated decision.

So what would the new facilities include?

To start with, the $72 million plan would double the Rec Center's current size. The addition would include another 14,000 square feet for the weight and exercise rooms, two new courts for basketball and volleyball, a multi-activity center for sporting and entertainment activities, and a leisure pool in addition to the existing lap pool.

"If you look at some of the other CSUs, many of their Rec Centers are much newer and more amenity-filled than ours," ASI public relations coordinator Michelle Broom said. "Cal Poly was one of the very first to build one, but now everyone else has a Rec Center and ours is old."

The project will require a 51 percent approval in order to pass and, if approved, is projected to be completed in September 2011. Though the facilities would remain open throughout construction, very few students currently attending Cal Poly will have a chance to utilize the new additions once completed.

"It's the idea that students today are preparing for the students of tomorrow," Souza said. "The Student Union and the Sports Complex were both voted on by students in the past. My dad was class of '71 at Poly and he voted on the Student Union in '67 but never got to use it. Unfortunately, Rome wasn't built in a day and neither are buildings on campus."

It will also be the students of tomorrow paying an increased fee of $65 per quarter when the facilities open; current students pay nothing until then. And while these increases do provide benefits, they are also adding to the constantly rising cost of higher education.

CSI fees have nearly doubled in the last five years, and the CSI system recently announced a 10 percent increase for next year in general fees charged to all students.

According to Broom, this is one of the major complaints ASI has been receiving about the proposal.

"There are students who are putting themselves through school and have jobs," she said. "They have to really budget their finances, and raising student fees, no matter what it's for, is a hardship for them."

Graphic communications senior Cassie Barth understands both sides of the issue.

"In general, I think the expansion is good because they are also adding to the constantly rising cost of higher education."

To have it renovated is beyond what anybody can do."

Wetzel has been taking out new locations for the shop but cannot say whether or not it will be reopening until he can reach his business partner, who was vacationing out of the country when the decision was handed down.

Finding a space of equal or greater size in the downtown area within the same budget has proved difficult. This has led Wetzel to believe that Costume Capers may relocate to one of the more industrial parts of town, which, as it turns out, wouldn't be such a bad thing.

"We're more of a destination store," he said. "They have to have it renovated beyond what anybody can do."

As for the Blackstone Building, its fate is as uncertain as that of Costume Capers. The staggering amount of renovation necessary to make it safe makes demolition an appealing choice for its owners. Wetzel said in bricks are so waterlogged that one could easily drive nails through them
New York Philharmonic arrives in North Korea

Burt Herman
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The New York Philharmonic became the most prominent U.S. cultural institution to visit isolated, nuclear-armed North Korea on Monday, and orchestra members said they hoped their musical diplomacy could bring the two nations closer together.

A stern-faced border guard checked music director Lorin Maazel's passport before he descended the steps of the plane to the tarmac, where officials welcomed him and other orchestra members with handshakes and smiles. Later, the musicians were treated to a North Korean dance program and a banquet.

North Korea made unprecedented accommodations for the orchestra, allowing a delegation of nearly 300 people, including musicians, staff and journalists, to fly into Pyongyang on a chartered plane for the 48-hour visit.

The Philharmonic's concert Tuesday will be broadcast live on North Korea's state-run TV and radio, unheard of in a country where events are carefully choreographed to bolster the personality cult of leader Kim Jong Il.

The Philharmonic accepted the North's invitation to play last year, in honor of their school colors reversing their usual order, and American officials said it was the right decision to go.

"I think it would have been a great mistake not to accept their invitation," he said after arriving at the Pyongyang airport.

"I am a musician and not a politician. Music has always traditionally been an arena, an area where people can make contact. It's neutral, it's entertainment, it's person to person," Maazel said.

He said if the music moves the audience, "we will have made whatever contribution we can make to bringing our peoples just one tiny step closer."

Lorin Maazel and orchestra members attended a performance that featured folk dancers and was largely devoid of the ideological content typical of most North Korean shows. Only the last number was overtly political: A woman dressed as guerrilla and brandishing a red scarf performed a dance dramatizing Korean resistance to Japan's colonial occupation before World War II.

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The entire dog unit will soon be equipped with blue plastic fiber optics to help police become more effective in their work in the dark.

"At the rate we're moving, we're never going to catch up," Superintendent Shawn McCollough told parents in an impassioned speech last week. "If we're going to take some steps, let's take some big steps."
"What one thing would you change about the Rec Center?"
Compiled and photographed by Dustin Stone

"People say air conditioning. But I don’t think it’s worth the energy costs. Anything we could do to maximize the natural air flow would be great."
- Dean Unger, environmental engineering junior

"More treadmills. Hands down."
- Monica Valdez, construction management sophomore

"More courts for volleyball and indoor soccer. Or maybe more free classes."
- Nicole Acosta, kinesiology sophomore

"I would say adding more cardio machines because it gets really crowded at certain points during the day."
- Shana Davis, nutrition freshman

POLICE BLOTTER

Feb. 21, 23:40 - Officers investigated a complaint that someone had urinated on the door at a tower apartment.

Feb. 21, 16:45 - Officer responded to a complaint of a possibly mentally ill subject at the Health Center. The subject was transported to the County Health Center for evaluation.

Feb. 21, 11:32 - Officers responded to complaints of a subject behaving strangely and in a threatening manner. The subject was identified and directed to leave campus.

Feb. 20, 12:30 - Officers investigated a complaint of theft at Mott Gym. Unknown suspect(s) removed a banner posted outside the building.

Feb. 20, 09:26 - Graffiti was reported at the Alex G. Spanos Stadium.

Feb. 20, 08:56 - Graffiti was reported at the Performing Arts Center ticket booth.

Feb. 19, 12:39 - A suspicious person at the bookstore was reported to the University Police Department. The subject was determined to be a transient and left campus.

Feb. 18, 13:46 - Officers contacted an individual concerned about somebody possibly following her.
If painting is a language, is this thinking or observation?

Squeak Carnwath’s Cuesta College exhibit begs the question

The collection is brimming with complexity. It’s hard to stand back and view the paintings from a distance. After taking in the image as a whole, it’s necessary to step closer and examine the finite details, some of which look accidental. It’s also hard not to focus on the paintings’ similarities as much as their differences.

Each piece, with the exception of one, appears earthy and stained from Carnwath’s application of hundreds of layers of paint and alkyd, a substance that assists in the building-up of glazes. On top of this, and in almost every piece, she paints symbols such as a black vase or urn, the bust of a sad man with shaggy hair and a stubble-beard, tree trunks, vinyl records and dashed lines that cordon off “Guilt Free Zones.” In an interview posted on UC Berkeley’s Web site, Carnwath said the guilt-free zone serves as a place to give herself a break from the emotions presented by the rest of the pieces.

Each painting challenges viewers to think, yet each makes statements in a plain, clear manner, often through the childish handwriting on binder paper that adorns some of Carnwath’s works. Some of these messages are humorous; others invoke an “oooh” or “hmmm.”

In “The Whole Truth,” a piece of binder paper reads, “Inside is outside. Is the handed-down world the world of the true? The whole truth?” On a piece called “Perfect” amongst paint drips and on the blotchy-beige background, Carnwath wrote a paragraph about a Russian schoolteacher who predicted in the eighteenth century that animals would be the first “space travel pioneers.” In the guilt-free zone of this piece are two vinyl records and a map of sorts.

The most intriguing statement of the exhibit is made by one of the simpler pieces in the collection (one of three selling for $55,000). The upper third of the painting is a dirty blue, mixed with grays and browns and greens, and the lower two-thirds are the usual hundreds of layers and paint drips. Where the blue meets the beige, Carnwath questions the validity of painting as a language. Her erratic words read, “If painting is a language, is this thinking or observation?” She then asks if above the words is a picture of the sky or a bluish patch of paint.

In a way, this is the notion challenged by all of the paintings. You can look at them and say, “This is a piece of paper. A vinyl record. An urn. A dude. And is that a dog?” You can also simply take it in as the portrayal of complex human emotions through symbolism, humor, color and depth. Or you can just stare at the guilt-free zones.

Carnwath’s exhibit is showing in the Cuesta College Art Gallery (room 7170) through Wednesday, March 5.
Expanding your brain: read Miranda July

CAVEAT LECTOR [reader beware]

From filmmaker, musician and artist Miranda July comes "No One Belongs Here More Than You," a compilation of short stories, many of which were originally published individually in literary journals and magazines such as The New Yorker and The Paris Review.

While vastly different, all the stories focus on a different aspect of human connection. They revolve around shared patios and shared beds, kisses between friends and lovers, secret meetings and secret hugs, and dozens more quirky ways humans figure out how to connect. In the book, there are 16 stories and 16 different chances for the reader to resonate with July's beautiful and brilliant mind.

Many of the stories are painful to read, not only for their sometimes-graphic details but also for their poignant honesty. July transports the reader deep into each protagonist's complex psychology enough for us to understand, or at least somehow accept, the inexplicable (and often weird) things they do.

A lonely girl hosts weekly "swimming" lessons in her apartment for senior citizens in "The Swim Team," even though the lessons take place inside on the carpet with no pool at all. Another girl joins a peep show after her girlfriend dumps her in "Something That Needs Nothing." In a strange way, you don't feel hurt anybody.

Some of the stories are a bit long, which somewhat detracts from the show for you. If you're exerting your mind mid-summer, I'll leave it to you to match the name with the descriptions.

The deviant main characters often interact with their balding, vulgar neighbor, Carl. Additional bewildering characters add to stories just as peculiar in theme.

The story plots may not make sense, but that's OK; they're not meant to make much sense anyway.

If the endings leave you pondering all the unexplained and unanswered-for scenarios, this is probably not the show for you. If you're exerting your mind mid-show in an attempt to make sense of the synopsis, you're better off watching something else.

By the second course episode, I admit I considered breaking the DVD player due to how many times Shake promoted Boost Mobile in the 15-minute time slot. After calming down and reconciling with the show through the Hand Banana episode, I settled into a potential overdose of ATF and gave mental props to the creators they probably know what they were doing with Shake wearing gold chains and advertising for a cell phone company.

Season five consists of 13 episodes and a plethora of extras. Eleven special features integrate material often equal in quality to the show.

No, the deleted scenes aren't that great, but there is plenty to make up for it. The special feature titled "I like your booty but I'm not gay music video" speaks for itself. And the one titled "Aqua Teen Hunger Force responds to the critics" shows characters crudely reacting to and insulting critics of the movie "Aqua Teen Hunger Force Colon Movie Film for Theatres."

If witnessing Shake threaten the lives of critics' families and promising his return if his demands are not met sounds like a great time, season five is a great fit to kill a lot of time — and it doesn't require much thinking.

This heads-up of the DVD release in addition to any previous interest may not provoke you to buy it, but renting isn't a bad idea. A little dose of Meatwad never hurt anybody.

Emilie Egger is an English junior and Mustang Daily book columnist.

Veranda Cafe is located on campus up the stairs across from the Rec Center.
Proposed Rec Center sketches from top left: the lobby, the weight room, the multi-activity center and the leisure pool. The expansion plan includes another 14,000 square feet for the weight and exercise rooms.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Expansion

continued from page 1

but I think the additional $65 is a little expensive, especially if you don’t use the Rec Center or its facilities,” she said.

Other students feel the expansion is a good idea because it will shorten wait times and bring in new resources. Graphic communications freshman Jake Goble plans to vote yes on the issue.

“There will be a lot less waiting and they will have a lot more cardio machines,” he said. “I usually lift weights and I’m just recently getting into cardio, so I’m happy about that.”

Civil engineering junior Andrew Santos also supports the proposal.

“A lot of times when I come to the Rec Center, it’s really hard to get onto the basketball courts and play. I think it’s a good idea to expand the number of courts so there’s less waiting,” he said.

Still, others feel the proposed facilities will do very little to ease congestion and meet students’ needs. Biology senior Blythe Nye has given up on the Rec Center altogether and now uses a gym off campus.

“It’ll be cool for the people who use it, but it makes me kind of wonder about what other things they could be doing with that money,” she said. “I don’t think that making the place bigger will help that much; it will just be a larger space that gets even more crowded than before.”

With so many differing opinions, this week’s vote will be the determining factor as to whether the Rec Center expands. According to Souza, ASI is not pushing for the verdict to go either way but is rather hoping to bring the best amenities to campus that will see Expansion, page 7
Students decide if Recreation Center will LEED the way

Kory Harbeck
MUSTANG DAILY

Students voting on the Recreation Center expansion will be asked to answer an exit opinion poll as to whether the construction should be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified.

In the planned version of the poll, only students who voted yes were permitted to participate in the exit poll. Associated Students Inc. recently altered the voting structure to allow all voting students to voice their opinion.

"Everyone should be able to share their opinion on LEED certification regardless of their stance on expansion," environmental management senior Antoine McGrath said.

If the expansion referendum passes, the student opinion poll will be used as a guiding light for the design process. LEED is a building rating system of the United States Green Building Council created to encourage green design and implementation.

Current California State University policy is that new construction projects adhere to LEED equivalency standards, but the Green Campus program and Empower Poly Coalition are encouraging students to push for certification.

"Third-party accreditation will hold Poly to the highest standard. Certification enforces accountability, making sure construction companies can't cut corners. Accreditation enforcement ensures the standards are met," said industrial engineering senior and Empower Poly Coalition President Chad Worth.

The program awards silver, gold and platinum certification based on six categories: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality and innovation, and design process.

"With the Rec Center, students have the opportunity to implement what the university failed to do," Worth said. "In essence, students can LEED the way.

"If the entire student body is polled, I'm confident there would be overwhelming support for LEED certification," McGrath said.

If the Rec Center were to be LEED certified, it would not alter the proposed $65 increase in student fees or any of the other items planned in the expansion referendum. Sustainability would also offer long-term cost benefits for the campus and ASI. 

Capers continued from page 1

by hand.

"We're here to initiate what the students want," Broom said. "If they say that they don't want a Rec Center expansion, then we'll continue doing what we do — bringing in concerts, running the Craft Center, and perhaps at a later date we'll get a new Rec Center in for them."

The online voting will be open to all Cal Poly students Wednesday and Thursday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and can be accessed through my.calpoly.edu.

Expansion continued from page 6

meet students' wants and needs. As an avid user of the Rec Center, however, he thinks the plan presents numerous benefits.

"We have a significant amount of students who have gone elsewhere and we're hoping to bring them back on campus," he said. "Rec Centers of the future are geared to a whole wellness aspect. It's definitely not just barbells and treadmills anymore. It's a lot more.

If the idea doesn't pass, ASI plans to continue offering the same resources and activities for students as it always has.

"We're here to initiate what the students want," Broom said. "If they say that they don't want a Rec Center expansion, then we'll continue doing what we do — bringing in concerts, running the Craft Center, and perhaps at a later date we'll get a new Rec Center in for them."

Café Cristiano and the neighboring Photography 101 shop aren't the only businesses to face retrofitting problems, but they are unique in the sense of urgency surrounding their move.

Following the San Simeon quake, the city moved deadlines for reinforcing masonry buildings from 2012 to 2010. However, even though that deadline is still nearly two years away, "the recent court case seems to be driving a greater interest in retrofitting on the part of owners," Clark said.

Join us every Wednesday evening at 6 o'clock for free Espresso, snacks, great music, plus inspiring discussions and conversations with members of the Cal Poly and Cuesta communities.

We call it Café Cristiano and it's held in the Fellowship Hall at Zion Lutheran Church on Foothill at Santa Rosa — walking distance from Cal Poly.

Bring a friend and explore the Bible with a contemporary edge. It's a perfect retreat for you and others. So join us this week.

Café Cristiano
Wednesdays at 6 o'clock
The Fellowship Hall
Foothill & Santa Rosa

For more information, visit www.zionslo.com or call 543-8327.
**EDITORIAL**

**Something’s rotten at Cal Poly**

It’s a familiar scene. You go to the Cal Poly Recreation Center in hopes of fitting a 30-minute workout into your day, but surprise — once you get there, you find that you’re not the only one with this plan. It’s you versus the mass of exercise-craving hopefuls and, unless you’re willing to wait, it’s not worth your time.

Wednesday and Thursday will mark the first steps toward amending this ongoing problem. Students will have the opportunity to vote on their my.calpoly.edu portal on not only whether the Rec Center should be expanded, but also whether it should be a more environmentally friendly, LEED-certified building. But there still remain some inherent problems behind this referendum.

As it is, Cal Poly students pay a total of $42 each quarter to Associated Students Inc. $35 each quarter for the Rec Center’s facilities and programs and $7 to use and maintain the Sports Complex, which includes Daggert Stadium and the upper and lower sports fields off of Highland Drive and Via Carta Road. Now the proposed referendum would tack on an additional $65 to that — bringing it to a total of $107 per quarter.

What this means is that 10 years from now, any given student will be paying at least $3,100 more than what we’re paying now for four years of Rec Center usage, summers not included. In fact, none of us will ever be able to fully accommodate the completed building except for this year’s freshman class — and that’s assuming they’ll stay for a fifth year.

As it is, there are students now who don’t use the Rec Center and there will always be students like this. Who is to tell them that they should fork over an additional $1,300 for a service they don’t even use?

Then there are the students who fulfill their exercise needs at an alternative local gym. Club 24 charges $35 a month in addition to $135 when a customer first enrolls.

Kennedy Club Fitness representatives said that most Cal Poly students pay about $30 each month, while Gold’s Gym estimated that the average membership is priced at $39 to $49 per month, which does not include a significant discount for Cal Poly students. Either way, all three options end up being comparable to what students will pay if and when the Rec Center is expanded.

Given what these future students would be obligated to pay for the Rec Center alone should the referendum pass, it would be incredibly unwise to even think about joining another gym when it costs so much just to use the one on campus.

There’s no doubt that there is a problem at the Rec Center. At an ASI University Union Advisory Board meeting on Oct. 9, it was reported that an average of 200 members entered the Rec Center between 5 a.m. and 9 a.m., and it’s given that the enrollment at Cal Poly is only going to increase. Just look at 14 years ago when the Rec Center was first built — 16,330 students were enrolled at Cal Poly as opposed to the 19,777 students enrolled as of fall 2007. Naturally, Cal Poly as a whole is going to have to accommodate expansions in various forms over the next 30 years.

For a project that will cost approximately $71 million, this still leaves ASI with a nice chunk of change. When 20,000 students are charged $65 for 12 quarters, that accumulates $117 million — a far greater number than the $71 million needed. And this number doesn’t include summer fees and future enrollment increases.

But let’s look at what is necessary here. Gym-goers would certainly benefit from a completely renovated and improved gym. But do we really need a leisure pool? Sure, it looks pretty, but Cal Poly is a university — not a resort. And don’t forget that泊 Canyon Village, which is opening in fall 2008, will house its own swimming pool.

So needless to say, if Cal Poly is going to increase the gym’s capacity to accommodate more than 3,000 members, it should be done right.

Something’s rotten at Cal Poly. As it is, there are students now who don’t use the Rec Center and there will always be students like this. Who is to tell them that they should fork over an additional $1,300 for a service they don’t even use?

As for the pool, records from the Oct. 9 UOAB meeting show that more than 9,000 people used the pool in September, comprising a significant portion of campus.

The total amount students will be forced to pay per quarter if the referendum passes.

The increased amount students will pay for four years (summers not included) if the referendum passes.

The cost of the proposed Rec Center expansion if the referendum passes.

**Mustang Daily**

**Let us hear it.**

**have something to say?**
Hello Sarah,

It seems that I've always had a problem keeping myself hydrated. But when I think about it, I do have a significant amount of liquids in my daily life. However, in your most recent article, you stated that one should drink eight glasses a day. From my standpoint, that sounds ridiculous! So I have a couple of questions: Can any form of water go into consideration for my daily quantity (i.e. ice from smoothies, soda and juices)? In what way can I get more water into my diet without making it feel like a homework assignment?

Thanks for the help,
Zachary Rosenthal
Computer engineering sophomore

Although there are many theories about the amount to drink, a safe bet is to drink at least eight cups of water each day to make sure you are properly hydrated. If you're working out regularly, you should ideally drink even more than eight cups. According to the American Dietetic Association, the average adult loses about two-and-a-half quarts, or about 10 cups of water, daily. To maintain your body's fluid balance, you need to replace it each day.

Next to air, water is the element most necessary for survival. A normal adult needs at least 70 percent water. We can go without food for almost two months, but only a few days without water. Yet most people have no idea how much water they should drink. In fact, many live in a dehydrated state.

It's hard to figure out what counts toward your recommended daily intake of water with so many conflicting opinions out there. Coffee and tea do not contribute to keeping you hydrated; caffeine acts as a diuretic, causing you to excrete excess fluids and important vitamins and minerals. Carbonated drinks won't help because it takes more water to digest the carbonation than you are consuming with the beverage; so you end up losing water. Juice can contribute to your fluid needs, but because it contains some water and energy stores to metabolize all that sugar within your body, you're better off with just plain water. Ice doesn't hydrate you either because it takes your body energy to melt the ice to 98.6 degrees, causing you to lose more fluids than you actually gain.

Sports drinks contain electrolytes and may be beneficial just to help add sugar and calories that you don't need. The minimum for a healthy person is eight to 10 eight-ounce glasses a day. A good estimate is to take your body weight in pounds and divide that number by half. That gives you the number of ounces of water per day that you need to drink. For example, if you weigh 160 pounds, you should drink at least 80 ounces of water per day. If you exercise, you should drink another eight-ounce glass of water for every 20 minutes you are active. If you drink alcohol, you should drink at least an equal amount of water.

When you are traveling on an airplane, it is good to drink eight ounces of water for every hour you are above the plane. If you live in an arid climate, you should add another two servings per day. As you can see, your daily need for water can add up to quite a lot.

By not drinking enough water, many people incur excess body fat, poor muscle tone and size, decreased digestive efficiency and organ function, headaches, lower back pain, increased tension in the body, joint and muscle soreness, and water retention. It seems a little ironic, but fluid retention can sometimes be eliminated by drinking more water.

It may be difficult to drink enough water on a busy day. Be sure you have water handy at all times by keeping a bottle of water with you when you are working, traveling, or exercising. One thing I do is always keep a glass of water next to me as I study. The bathroom breaks are a good reason to get up and get the blood flowing every now and then.

If you get bored with plain water, add a bit of lemon or lime for a touch of flavor. There are some brands of flavored water available, but watch for extra calories.

Your intake should be spread throughout the day. Don't just chug down all your water at once. "If I drink this much, won't I constantly be running to the bathroom?" Yes. But after a few weeks, your bladder tends to adjust and you urinate less frequently, but in larger amounts. By consuming about 10 glasses of water throughout the day, you could be on your way to a healthier, more hydrated you.

Sara Bailey is a nutrition se­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­…
Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

Last Ditch Effort by John Kroes

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz  No. 0115

The New York Times Crossword

Across
1. Some charity fund-raisers
2. Outpower
11. O.K., with a code
14. Singer Davis with the 1998 hit "2 Flavors"
15. Airplane seat choice
16. O.K....., London
17. Joie de vivre
18. Racetracks
19. Lab eggs
20. Accomplish
21. Star-related
22. Bout decision
23. Highway toll unit
25. Kerfuffles
26. "South Park" kid
27. Part of M.I.T.
28. Highway toll unit
29. Pre-owned
30. Some E.R.
31. Prepaid
32. ___vez (again, in Spanish)
33. Book in which "32 Flavors" occurred
34. Prepaid
35. Castle protector
36. Middle-earth means
37. Singer McEntire
38. Promoted
39. Teacher's choice
40. In ___ot
41. Colder and windy
42. Fantastically
43. "___a Tramp"
44. Singer Pinza
45. "___a Tramp"
46. Popular setting
47. Fantastically
48. Feeling of loss
49. Significant
50. ___ of
51. Newsman
52. Petter of "M"
53. Arctic bird
54. Tuba
55. Arctic bird
56. ___-la-la
57. Diner sign filler
58. ___-a-Tramp"
59. Tuba
60. To Spring Training
61. Wraps (up)
62. ___ la la
63. Speaking manner
64. Snare
65. Prefix with "under"
66. Go wrong
67. Proficient
68. Newsman
69. Newsman
70. Fix, as laces
71. This puzzle's theme
72. ___-a-Tramp"
73. ___-a-Tramp"

Down
1. Step (much-talked-over area)
2. British P.M.
3. Whisp
4. Prefix with matter
5. Like wearing a seat belt, e.g.
6. Lombardy province or its capital
7. De-squeak
8. CBS Vooroo drama
9. "Our Gang" kid
10. Famous Virginia family
11. Lofty place for an academic
12. Peeps vis-à-vis Coke
13. Symbol of justice
14. Racecar
15. Board decision
16. Didn't stay on Blackstones
17. Part of M.I.T.
18. ___-a-Tramp"
19. ___-a-Tramp"
20. ___-la-la
21. ___-la-la
22. ___-la-la
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Edited by Will Shortz  No. 0115
Mendes continued from page 12

"It doesn't really bother me too much," Mendes said. "I've always been really close to being at the top, but just have never been quite there. I'm actually just being in the moment, taking this all in and liking it."

A Pac-10 champion in 2006, Mendes cited Cal State Fullerton junior Todd Anogia, Arizona State freshman Chris Drouin and Boise State freshman Eli Hutchinson among those who might give him the most trouble at the conference championships.

"We’ve been training to win the Pac-10," Mendes said of his Mustangs (5-8, 4-4 Pac-10), who figure to also be led by sophomore Chase Pani (21-4), now No. 11 at 157. "If everyone does a little better than expected to do in rankings, we can win this, and a lot of the guys on the team are starting to know it, and it's starting to show."

Following the Pac-10 finals, held in Eugene, Ore, beginning at 11 a.m. Sunday and going through Monday, Mendes will turn his attention to the NCAA Championships, held in St. Louis March 20 to 22.

"There are guys out there I haven't wrestled," Mendes said. "I sometimes wonder about that, but it's not something I worry about. I've just got to keep my eyes on the title. I can't let that kind of stuff hold me back or scare me."

Azevedo doesn't seem worried, either.

"Some kids, if they lose early in the season, it sometimes infers or releases the pressure of being undefeated," he said. "I've seen that, where, 'OK, I've lost and I'm not thinking about that anymore,' but I think as far as Chad is concerned, and we're concerned, the goal is to go undefeated and be a national champion."

Regardless of what transpires at the end of his pursuit of perfection, Mendes likely won't forget the simplest reason for his commitment to the sport: the fun of it.

"It's all fun to me," said Anogia. "Some people keep asking, 'Is it going to get to you?' and that kind of stuff, but it doesn't bug me. This thing is fun and it doesn't get to me."

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94
The amount of seconds it took Mendes to pin Minnesotan's Manual Rivera, then No. 3 in the country, on Dec. 8

1980
The last time a Cal Poly wrestler was ranked No. 1 in the nation

22-0
Mendes' dual record this season heading into the Pac-10 Conference Championships at Oregon

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Junior shortstop named in preseason as one of the country's 50 best players stayed focused in leading Cal Poly's attempt to return to the NCAA Tournament

Raiza Canedo

Melissa Pura has always thought of herself as somewhat of a tomboy. Starting at 5 years old, she began to play baseball with boys until she was about 12, when her dad coaxed her into playing for softball clubs in her hometown of Salinas.

"I own all of my success in softball to my dad," Pura says. "He really believed in me."

Pura, 21, is a marketing junior at Cal Poly, and she's also minor- ning in wine and viticulture.

Her true passion, though, is softball, and it's paid off.

After being named in January (along with 49 others across the country) to the USA Softball Watch List for the National Collegiate Player of the Year award, the shortstop has hit .310 through 13 games this season. She leads the Mustangs (5-8) in triples (one), home runs (two), slugging percentage (.621), walks drawn (12), on-base percentage (.556) and stolen bases (two, on two attempts).

Of course, such leadership shouldn't come as a surprise. A year ago she set a single-season Division I Cal Poly record with 48 RBI and led the Big West with 18 doubles, while also finishing in its top 10 in batting average (.364), hits (60), runs (34), home runs (10), total bases (110), and both slugging (.667) and on-base (.412) percentage.

As a freshman in 2006, she paced the Mustangs with 11 home runs while playing every inning at first base and on Cal Poly's 50 games.

Pura has come a long way since her childhood days playing baseball with the boys, but remains modest, due in large part to her family; made up of accomplished athletes in their own rights.

Her older sister Megan played volleyball at Santa Clara, while her little sister Canyon plays softball as well and hopes to attend Cal Poly to follow in her big sister's footsteps.

Pura's love of the game grew even more at Notre Dame High in Salinas, an all-girls school where she was a four-year letterwinner in Salinas and viticulture.

"I love playing so much — it's been my thing for a long time," she says. "Baseball is our country's national pastime. I love watching and playing — it takes real dedication."

Although a standout, Pura emphasizes the necessity of commitment on a team level, exemplified by the Mustangs' Big West Conference title last season, and acknowledged by Big West coaches, who voted Cal Poly as the conference favorite heading into this campaign.

"How much you're going to put in is how much you'll get out of it," Pura says. "We work out all year and it's frustrating that our games don't start until February. As in any sport, you have to be committed to the team, the coaches, the program — every individual has to come together."

Pura says one of her most important strengths on the field is being vocal, involved in every play, relaying what the captains are yelling, checking in with infielders and making sure everyone stays on their toes.

"Melissa has many strengths," says Jenny Condon, head coach of the Cal Poly softball team. "She is extremely talented and athletic. She is a great leader and a hard worker. She is super competitive and loves to compete."

In spite of her laurels so far, Pura, who could be looking forward to a pending professional career, stays grounded in the present.

"I would consider a career in the pro league if women's softball was equal with men's Major League Baseball, but unfortunately it's not, so I am really concentrating on my studies and getting a good career," she explains.

The 2007 All-Big West First Team selection says she wants to study abroad, possibly through viticulture classes in another country like Australia or Italy at some point before graduating.

"I would love to continue playing, but I am going to be ready to start my career," she says. "Who knows? I would love to be involved in my sister's game, helping her out, or even coming back to Cal Poly to give pointers. That would be a cool thing.

"Condon espouses all the confidence in the world regarding Pura's future, whatever it may hold in store.

"She has the opportunity to play as long as she wants," Condon added. "And she definitely runs the pace of the game."

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Top-ranked Mendes still striving for perfect season

Senior 141-pounder leads Cal Poly into Pac-10 Conference Championships this weekend

Donovan Aird

More than 1,500 screaming fans heard the announcement they'd been waiting for: No. 1 vs. No. 2.

"At Oklahoma State, it was intense," said John Azevedo, head coach of the Cal Poly wrestling team. "They make the announcement, 'No. 1 and 2,' and their fans are going wild."

But neither his second-ranked counterpart nor the rabid throng of onlookers in Stillwater, Okla., on Feb. 16 could phase Cal Poly's Chad Mendes, the top-ranked 141-pounder in the country.

After twice trailing, at 2-1 and then 3-2, Mendes took down Na-