A crossroads for Cal Poly

Students to vote whether to increase CBFs

Marlize van Romburgh

Almost seven years after implementing college based fees as a supplement to regular tuition, Cal Poly now finds itself in the midst of a state budget crisis, and is looking to you—the students—to further help foot the bill of your own education.

Students will have the opportunity to submit an advisory vote to Cal Poly President Warren Baker on March 11 and 12 on a proposal to increase college based fees to $362 per quarter for full-time students, effective fall 2009. If approved, the fee will increase an additional $100 for full-time students, effective fall 2009. If approved, the fee will increase an additional $100 per quarter in fall 2010 and another $100 in fall 2011 for full-time students. Part-time students face a $181 increase this fall quarter and $50 the two fall quarters following.

The university's current budget crisis stems from years of compounded shortfalls. Cal Poly has experienced significant budget shortfalls over the past several years, totaling approximately $25 million according to the fee proposal.

As a result, Cal Poly has experienced significant cutbacks in personnel and programs. The college will start considering faculty layoffs and operating expenses totaling approximately $6 million. As a result, Cal Poly has experienced significant cutbacks in personnel and programs. The college will start looking to cut curriculum, reduce class offerings, and cut faculty positions. The college will also be unable to invest in cutting-edge technology.

The issue with cutting labs is that Cal Poly is really a hands-on university and it could lose some of its distinctiveness. It's not a question of whether the school will close or not...The question is whether students want to keep the Cal Poly and the quality of education that they've enjoyed in the past.

If this does pass, it should still make the point that we need to reevaluate how we manage funds...poor budget decisions are what got us here.

—Angela Kramer
All President

If it

PASSES: ✔

College of Engineering

- First priority will be to stabilize budget and maintain current programs
- After several years, departments will gain flexibility to use funds for new programs and equipment, among other things
- College will maintain curriculum but nothing will be added and no new purchases will be made
- After several years, the money will allow the college to update equipment and labs

College of Science and Mathematics

- Class offerings will be reduced
- College will start considering faculty layoffs
- Money to maintain labs will decrease
- College will unable to invest in cutting-edge technology
- There will be no funds to purchase equipment, maintain labs or support student/faculty research
- The college will start looking to cut curriculum and operating expenses
- Remaining curriculum will likely become heavily lecture-based instead of lab-based

For other colleges see page 2

If it

DOESN'T PASS: ✗

IMPORTANT DATES

University Open Forum: Monday, March 9, from 3 to 4 p.m. in UU 220
State of the Student Address: Tuesday, March 10, 2009 from 7 to 9 p.m. in Chumash Auditorium
Voting: Online via Cal Poly Portal March 11-12. Ballot will pop-up on portal page from 7 a.m. March 11 to 10 p.m. March 12.
If it PASSES:

- College currently holds a $1 million deficit. If the university covers this, course offerings will be almost completely maintained next year.
- By the third year of the increase, the college will be able to guarantee students can get classes they need, assuming there are no more cuts.
- CLA students currently pay about $100 less than other colleges in CBFs per quarter. If passed, all colleges will pay $392.

College of Liberal Arts

If you're here even one quarter longer than you need to be, it will cost you more than all of these fee increases.

- Courses and times offered will be drastically reduced since majority of money pays for faculty.
- There will be minimal opportunities for students to double major or double concentrate.
- Part-time faculty will be reduced.

College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences

- Amount of courses offered will be maintained.
- Recruitment and retention of faculty and student access to faculty will increase.
- Student-faculty research and project-based learning will be maintained.
- College will be able to purchase new equipment.

College of Business

- College will be able to maintain current level of curriculum and faculty/lecturers.
- No significant reduction in number or quality of classes.
- College could rebuild its major's program in reading and curriculum.
- Could bring back some tenure-track faculty previously lost due to budget cuts.

College of Education

- Reduction in classes.
- An unnamed major program in graduate studies would be made inactive (not discontinued) but would possibly be reactivated in the future.
- Class sizes will grow to 20-30 students instead of the current 15-20.

College of Architecture and Environmental Design

- College would maintain current level of faculty and curriculum.
- Cost would potentially lead to a budget surplus in three years, which could improve the facilities and technology for labs and other items.

CBF’s continued from page 1

"The chancellor says that since we can grow, we should try what makes Cal Poly so appealing is historically small class sizes and individualized education," he said. "It doesn’t make sense. We’re dealing with very large political bureaucracies here."

From 1994 to 2007, total Cal Poly enrollment increased 38.3 percent from 14,292 students to a record 19,777. That high was a 5.6 percent increase over the previous year. In fall 2008, due to state budget cuts, Cal Poly was forced to decrease enrollment by 1.5 percent, with a total of 19,471 students enrolled.

Associated Students Inc. President Angela Kramer reiterated Koob’s statement that Cal Poly’s budget shortfall issue stems from cutting pressure from the state level to increase enrollment, without proportionate state funding.

As a result, college based fees are being looked at as a way to fill the budget gap, signaling a move towards the broad-based trend of public universities being increasingly funded by the students themselves, rather than by taxpayers through state subsidies.

You know, the state used to subsidize 90 percent of our education. Now that’s down to 62 percent," Kramer said. "It’s shocking.

"It’s my opinion that students shouldn’t have to be asked for this money," she said, although she acknowledged that given the current state budget crisis, expecting increased and continued taxpayer support isn’t particularly feasible.

"If this does pass, it should still make the point that we need to reevaluate how we manage funds... poorly budget decisions are what got us here," the president continued.

Broadly speaking, the passage of the fee increase will cushion the negative impact of the state-funding gap and generally allow Cal Poly to maintain its standard of education, Koob said.

"It’s not a question of whether the school will close or not, or if there will be a Cal Poly or not. The question is whether students want to keep the Cal Poly and the quality of education that they’ve enjoyed in the past," he said.

Should it not pass, the implication are harder to predict and vary by college, but will likely mean a massive reduction in classes offered and possible layoff of part-time and adjunct faculty, Koob said. Tenured faculty will be asked to teach more classes as a result, class sizes will be larger and less electives and non-required classes will be offered.

"I don’t have a single program that I can look at and say we don’t need," Koob said.

"What that means is that we have to start cutting classes within programs. Those that are not needed for graduation will go first."

College based fees, which are unique to the Cal Poly campus, were implemented in 2002 through a student referendum similar to the one now being proposed for the increase.

As the name indicates, and unlike regular tuition fees, college based fees are controlled and distributed within each college by the deans and department chairs and with mandatory student input provided through student fee advisory committees.

Yet unlike the original college based fees — which were intended to offer supplemental funding for each college for anything from additional classes to new faculty and lab equipment — the increase will act more as a filler to help the colleges balance their budgets and maintain the same standards of education currently offered, Koob said.

For fiscal year 2009-10, the fee increase is projected to generate about $6,900,000 in additional revenues for the university, according to the official proposal published by the university. Once fully implemented, it will represent a total of $20,600,000 in additional funding.

In the long term, Koob said the university is cutting costs where it can. Most significantly, a new registration system, which will be put in place for fall 2009 enrollment, looks to streamline the registration process and guarantee students that they can graduate in four or five years, depending on their degree program.

Yet despite efforts to operate Cal Poly on a leaner budget, Koob said the university can’t promise that college based fees won’t increase again in the future. "I can’t say we’ll never ask for another CBF increase because we don’t know what the state is going to do," he said.

Students vote next week through their My Cal Poly portals and will be asked whether or not they attended informational sessions regarding the proposed fee increase and whether or not they support the fee increase. Depending on their vote, they will then be asked a series of follow-up questions, including whether they think funding should be prioritized if the increase passes or a list of reasons to describe why they aren’t supportive of the increase. At least a 38 percent student turnout is required for the vote to even be considered valid.

The student vote will then be submitted to President Baker, who has the final say. Both Koob and Kramer said that the president is highly unlikely to go against student sentiment, but that it is possible that he could in some way further modify the proposal.
**WORD ON THE STREET**

"Do you think the Calif. Supreme Court will eventually overturn Prop. 8?"

"No, they try to do (this) every year, they're so persistent. We vote on it, we vote on it and it's the same outcome every time."

- Chris Woodard, biology junior

"Hopefully our society will change enough where (they) get it right like they did with slavery and women's rights."

- Kimberly Steigmeyer, English senior

"I think the majority of people want it (overturned). I don't know how it passed. I don't think it is even something that should (be) voted on. My choice shouldn't (take away) other people's choice to get married."

- Paulina Vespasiano, journalism junior

"I've heard a lot of arguments against it and I think eventually it will be overturned."

- Joseph White, computer engineering freshman

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**Obama tax plan meets Democratic resistance**

Stephen Ohlemacher

President Barack Obama's proposal to limit itemized tax deductions for high earners is running into opposition from key Democrats in Congress who worry that charities and the housing market would be hurt.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus questioned Wednesday whether the proposal was viable, a day after his House counterpart also expressed reservations. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said tax increases on families making more than $250,000 a year are necessary to make a down payment on Democrats, page 4

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Democrats

continued from page 3

ment on health care reform and to limit future budget deficits. But, he said, he was willing to work with lawmakers on proposals they objected to.

"We recognize there are other ways to do this," Geithner told the Finance Committee.

Montana Democrat, said he thought the administration would be flexible on the proposal. "They want health care reform as much as I do," he told reporters.

Geithner and White House budget director Peter Orszag returned to Capitol Hill on Wednesday for a second day of hearings on Obama's $3.6 trillion tax and spending proposal. Both faced tough questions about the tax package.

Obama's budget calls for setting aside $250 billion over the next 10 years as a down payment on health care reform. Half the money would come from tax increases on upper-income earners; the other half from cuts to Medicare and Medicaid.

Obama's budget calls for two tax increases on couples making more than $250,000 and individuals making more than $200,000. He wants to increase the top tax rates from 35 percent to 39.6 percent by allowing a tax cut enacted under President George W. Bush to expire in 2011.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Wednesday before the Senate Finance Committee hearing on President Barack Obama's fiscal 2010 federal budget.

ICC grants war crime charge

Members of the Darfuri community react to news of an announce­ment by the International Criminal Court that an international arrest warrant had been issued Wednesday for Omar al-Bashir, the President of Sudan, on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity, as they gather outside the Sudanese Embassy in London.

State Briefs

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — A man accused of killing his girlfriend was shot to death in a Stock­ton courtroom Wednesday after he attacked the judge presiding over his murder trial, officials said.

David Paradiso, 28, was shot by a police detective after he left the witness stand and began attacking San Joaquin County Superior Court Judge Cindy Fox during a break in proceedings, said Dave Koneeny, a spokesman for the sheriff's department.

Paradiso had been testifying around 2 p.m. when his mother, in the audience, left the courtroom upset. Fox called a recess, and as jurors filed out, Paradiso left the stand and approached the judge from behind "with an unknown cutting instrument," Koneeny said.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Universal Music Group, the world's largest music recording company, is in talks with Google Inc.'s You Tube division to create a music video venture, according to people familiar with the matter.

Instead of just receiving licens­ing fees or a share of ad revenue from the online video site, Uni­versal is seeking an equity rela­tionship on an ad-supported site focused on high-quality music videos, separate fttmi the grainy user-generated faa'  common to YouTube's main site.

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif. (AP) — The city of Laguna Beach has repealed a ban on sleeping on the street in response to a law'suit. City Manager Ken Frank said Wednesday the City Council voted to repeal the ban after the American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit in December alleg­ing the rule was unconstitutional.

The ACLU accused the city of using the ban to harass the disabled homeless.

Frank says the city has also formed a task force to draft a plan to address homelessness in Laguna Beach. He says the city has about 30 to 60 homeless residents.

The ACLU commended the exclnsive coastal town for repeal­ing the ordinance but did not drop the lawsuit. The ACLU says attorneys will monitor the city's treatment of the homeless before deciding whether litigation is still needed.

MUSTANG DAILY NEWS

Thursday, March 5, 2009

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THE T-SHIRT GUY

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Neko Case will scare you with her strength

Neko Case is a dead-sexy indie supernova. She's nothing less than an all-country prima donna with a voice that levels cities. Every red-blooded man, woman and child wants to have sex with her. And she knows it.

Because these facts have been firmly established, she is now acting with a sense of self-assurance that rivals that of Led Zeppelin—she should mention that unlike Bonzo, Case has actual talent). In short, "Middle Cyclone" is proof that Neko Case has gotten balls.

How balls? She released a full record of love songs, a type she once claimed she was incapable of producing. She's covered a song from Harry Nilson (perhaps best known for writing "that one midnight cowboy song") and speaks on the same record, and fully owned both songs ("I Don't Forget Me," and "Never Turn Your Back on Mother Earth," respectively). And she has the whole record available for free listen on Napster's Web site. Ball! Hell, just glance at the record cover, which depicts a barefoot Case perched atop a '67 Cougar holding a longsword.

But the real weapon here is Case's own larynx-mounted instrument. Her inflection and cadence have an intoxicating quality that seemingly renders every utterance infinitely compelling. Honestly, I think if anyone else even tried to deliver some of these verses, everything would just totally go to crap. Case to point the title track, which lamonte... "can't give up acting tough...can't scrape together quite enough... to ride the bus to the outskirts of the fact that I need love." You might not believe me, but this metaphor, as it's delivered and set to a gentle guitar melody and an always-creepy glottal stop,

see Case, page 7
"Gomorrah" a new type of mafia film

Director: Matteo Garrone
Written By: Roberto Saviano (Book)
Produced By: Martin Scorsese

The "Godfather," "Goodfellas," "Casino." Of the three films that are often considered to be the greatest mafia movies ever made, two of them were directed by one of the greatest filmmakers of all time, Martin Scorsese. Marty's latest project is "Gomorrah," an incredibly realistic adaptation of Roberto Saviano's best selling non-fiction novel, which Scorsese strongly supported.

The story revolves around the very real and very scary Gomorra, a powerful crime syndicate based in Naples, Italy that to this day is still more dangerous and more obscure than any mafia I have ever heard of. It is often reported to generate over $200 billion a year, which makes it hard to believe that the organization has remained unnoticed for as long as it has.

While the film has not found too much success in the states, it has become very popular in Europe (especially after winning the grand prize at Cannes). The film is so praised, in fact, that many (including myself) were shocked at the academy's complete ignorance of the film at this year's Oscars. This can possibly be attributed to the fact that the film marked by the virtual absence of any characters that would arouse a feeling of admiration or praise in an audience.

Instead, Matteo Garrone's epic tale seems to contain only two types of people, ruthless gangsters and victims; no heroes.

The difference between this film and so many others in the gangster genre is that it doesn't focus on the bosses or the hitmen, or even elaborate action sequences. This movie deals with the day laborers that finance and empower the Comorra. While these workers profit through the typical illegal activities we see in so many other crime films, like drugs and contract killing, they also gain revenue through the disposal of poisonous waste and selling rip-off designer clothing. While these endeavors are not as glamorous, they succeed in adding to the film's sense of realism. Garrone shot this movie in a documentary style that at times instills the feeling that a camera crew actually followed the real Comorra in all its escapades. The murders committed in this film are very gritty and at times surprising and disturbing. Also, the group's use of extremely young boys to aid and at times participate in a number of gruesome acts serves as one of the story's many unsettling aspects.

Robert Saviano went to great lengths in order to expose the Comorra to the rest of the world. He completed his novel by risking his life through undercover work and the use of informants. Following the initial success of...
Gomorrah

continued from page 5

his book, Saviano received numerous threats against his life from the organization that he had denounced. It even reached the point where he was forced to hire a personal bodyguard and subsequently leave Italy in order to lead a normal life.

The acting in "Gomorrah" is one of its most satisfying aspects because the actors succeed in seeming as if they are not acting at all. Whether it is the older members of the syndicate who constantly threaten and bully whoever stands in their way, or the younger participants who dislike "Scarfie" and fire their weapons without remorse in an attempt to imitate Tony Montana, these people again all seem like they are truly involved in the actions of the Comorras.

The film, much like the book, presents a sense of hopelessness. While many mafia movies like The Godfather (parts I and II) are classic examples of perfect film making, they are often historically inaccurate. Gomorrah refrains from using the romanticism present in so many other films that resemble it. Nostalgia on mob bosses like Al Capone and Frank Costello were feared, respected and adored in popular culture. The Comorras, on the other hand, is an imperceptible gang that is in essence unknown around the world and whose leaders demand obedience and loyalty, the latter of which is a trait they themselves often do not possess.

Alex Petrossian is a biological sciences freshman and the Mustang Daily's film reviewer.

Case

continued from page 3

becomes touchingly poignant (and not in the least awkwardly overemotional).

Similarly, "Magpie to the Morning" just somehow works, even though the presence of M. Ward on guitar and a choice line of Neko Case (or is it Neko Case?) would seem like a bit too much. Ditto with "Prison Girls," which grinds along to a sensual, driving beat, as Case seduces the Internet: "I love your long shadows and your gunpowder eyes." A country slow-jam? Sure. She pulled it off.

Basically, Neko Case has made an album full of love songs, sure, but it's done completely on her terms, namely fierce, female sexuality. In the lead track, "This Tornado Loves You," Case takes on the perspective of a scorned tornado/woman who has "...wanted with glaciers, patient / smashed every transformer with every trailer / 'til nothing was standing...still you were nowhere..." She later asserts, "the next time you say forever / I will punch you in your face" and declares "I'm a man-man-man-man-man-man, but still you're surprised, surprised when I eat you." Essentially, this delivers a type of sexual intrigue that is primal, raw and never seems altogether awkward.

"...waited with glaciers, patient...still you were nowhere..." She later asserts, "the next time you say forever / I will punch you in your face" and declares "I'm a man-man-man-man-man-man, but still you're surprised, surprised when I eat you." Essentially, this delivers a type of sexual intrigue that is primal, raw and never seems altogether awkward.

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What’s worse: the fool or the fools who follow him?

As I watch the media discuss Limbaugh’s pessimistic obstructionism, I can’t help but wonder why it’s such a big deal.

This has been the week of Rush Limbaugh. The radio talk show host has been a vociferous defender of the Republican Party’s ideas for many, many moons — and at times, he has been the torch bearer of their policies. However, his ideas resonate only with the base of the Republican Party, isolating himself and his followers from any real political debate. Despite his vitriolic partisan ideology, Limbaugh has 13.5 million regular listeners.

Limbaugh has recently attracted much media attention (and publicity) for saying, “I would be honored if the drive-by media headlined me all day long.” Limbaugh? I hope Obama fails. ‘Somebody’s gotta say it.’ He made the statement on his radio show in January the week before Barack Obama was inaugurated, and he has been defending it ever since.

On Saturday, Limbaugh spoke at an important conservative convention. He echoed his controversial statement, saying, “What is so strange about being honest and saying, ‘I want Barack Obama to fail if his mission is to resurrect and reform this country so that capitalists and individual liberty are not in foundation? I want him to succeed!’”

Limbaugh: I Hope Obama Fails. Someday I’ll use his h.is been the week of Limbaugh. The liberal Lens has usd Emanuel’s statement. Last weekend, I was burdened with a horse over criticizing him.

Thus, the political ana­lyst is left with those Rep­ublican voices that label any idea that doesn’t look liberal as racist or the hands that carry out its policy. I can’t help but say worse things about Limbaugh.

I’m not sure what’s worse: being the voice of obstructionism or the hands that carry it out.

I’ve come to this conclusion: It wouldn’t be a big deal if Republicans were not carrying out the idea behind Limbaugh’s statement. If Republicans wanted the president to succeed, they would dis­cuss his economic policies intelligently, and they would be open to new ideas about fixing this broken economy.

I’m not sure what’s worse: being the voice of obstructionism or the hands that carry it out.

Stephanie England is an English junior and a Mustang Daily political columnist.

**winter 2009 columnist schedule**

**mondays**

| by members of the Empower Poly Coalition |
| by Jeremy Hicks |
| by Stephanie England |
| by Colin McMahan |

**fridays**

| by Marc McPhee |

**That’s What She Said**

by Rachel Newman

**the Liberal Lens**

by Stephanie England

**The Conservative Constitutionalist**

by Colin McMahan

**March’s Word of the Week**

by Marco Palta

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**letters to the editor**

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**corrections**

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**noticed**

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The Mustang Daily is a free newspaper; however, the removal of more than one copy of the page per issue, subject to a cost of 50 cents per issue.
Proposed assault weapons ban threatens a fundamental right

The ban would seek to ban firearms based mostly on non-functional aspects such as stock shape when unable to identify the gun by name.

Gun control advocates interpret the amendment’s wording so that the right of arms only applies to government-sponsored armed forces, but this interpretation falls on several points. The Second Amendment only affirms a pre-existing right retained by the people; it does not provide for anything new such as a specific armed force. The Ninth Amendment provides for the basic right affirmed by the Second. The Founding Fathers acknowledged many times their belief of individual arms ownership as a basic human right, and now the right is affirmed through case law in Heller. US Code defines the militia as both organized in the form of the National Guard and unorganized in the form of able-bodied males between the ages of 17 and 45. This implies that these groups must arm themselves to adequately serve their function as militia. American patriot Patrick Henry said of this, “Everyone who is able may have a gun.”

What kind of guns people buy is the chief point of the previous and proposed ban on the sale of assault weapons. The mere definition of what constitutes an assault weapon is purely a matter of perspective of the gun control advocates. Firearm capable of continuous automatic fire are not covered in the ban, as they are tightly regulated by the National Firearms Act of 1934. Rather, the ban would seek to oppose firearms based mostly on non-functional aspects such as stock shape when unable to identify the gun by name. Gun aficionados have a tongue-in-cheek name for these types of guns so abhorred by the anti-gun lobby: “evil black guns.” Really, many of the firearms are targeted based upon appearances and the modern materials and techniques of arms construction. The quality of arms available to the militia must be on par with those of a standing army for tyrants to feel truly threatened. Limits upon the modernity of weapons available for people to purchase effectively weakens the strength of the militia to defend against tyrants both foreign and domestic, and therefore weakens the intent of the Second Amendment, which serves as the safeguard to all the others.

In the event that the Republic becomes an oligarchy, the right to keep and bear arms enables the people to overthrow the oppression of a non-representative government. Even Mahatma Gandhi recognized the importance of an armed populace had upon a government that served the will of its people. In “An Autobiography,” Gandhi stated, “Among the many manifestasures of British rule in India, history will look upon the Act of depriving a whole nation of arms as the blackest.” The mere state of armament deters violence by both parties.

If America truly believes we will never need to assert our right to keep and bear arms and that arms cause more harm than good, gun control advocates should work for repeal of the Second Amendment, rather than chisel away at the Bill of Rights. Such dilution of rights only sets a precedent for nullification of other ensured rights. Yet the Second Amendment will not fall easily. America has a history steeped in the tradition of gun ownership, and many of our representatives recognize this right as important to their constituents. The belief in this right transcends party lines. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) has declared opposition to reinstating the assault weapons ban, as have several other prominent Democratic senators and congressmen. In response to Holder’s statements, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) said, “I think we need to enforce the laws we have right now.” Should a new assault weapons ban proposal come up in Congress, please join me in opposing this needless and unconstitutional regulation. Congress has more pressing concerns at the moment than limiting our fundamental rights.

Colin McKim is an environmental management and protection juror and a Mustang Daily political columnist.
Across
1. Suffe with society's stress (15)
4. Best in mental illness (4)
10. Some rain gear (7)
14. Hold one's breath (10)
15. Time magazine's Person of the Year (10)
16. Riga resident (6)
17. See 66-Across (6)
20. Cockpit datum (9)
21. Bridge declaration (7)
22. They're inserted in locks (9)
23. City on the Nile (10)
35. See 66-Across (7)
36. Pet sounds (7)
38. Cold northerly winds of southern France (10)
42. An arm or a leg (7)
44. "Drop the gun!" (10)
45. See 66-Across (7)
46. Crude letters? (7)
50. Riga resident (6)
52. Salad veggie (6)
53. Queen (6)
55. An arm or a leg (5)
56. Ringo Starr's drummer (7)
57. Humdinger (7)
58. See 66-Across (7)
59. Fitting (5)
60. 66-Across topic (7)
61. Big film shower (15)
62. Soldiers may be related (6)
64. TV heroine who pitched by U2 (6)
65. Sixth graders (6)
66. Word defined by 17, 25, 36, 44 and 58-Across (10)

Down
1. Start of Caesar's declaration (10)
2. An arm or a leg (9)
3. 1962 - 1969 (7)
4. 34th Street (11)
5. "Sky's the Limit" (15)
6. "Should I Stay or Should I Go?" (15)
7. "London Calling" (15)
8. "Here Comes the Sun" (15)
9. "Rhiannon" (15)
10. "Hotel California" (15)
11. "Ain't No Mountains High Enough" (15)
12. "Bitter Sweet Symphony" (15)
13. "Killing in the Name" (15)
14. "Hair of the Dog" (15)
15. "Sherry Avenue" (15)
16. "Hotel California" (15)
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Edited by Wil Shortz  No. 0129

SOLUTION TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

Across
1. Suffe with society's stress (15)
4. Best in mental illness (4)
10. Some rain gear (7)
14. Hold one's breath (10)
15. Time magazine's Person of the Year (10)
16. Riga resident (6)
17. See 66-Across (6)
20. Cockpit datum (9)
21. Bridge declaration (7)
22. They're inserted in locks (9)
23. City on the Nile (10)
35. See 66-Across (7)
36. Pet sounds (7)
38. Cold northerly winds of southern France (10)
42. An arm or a leg (7)
44. "Drop the gun!" (10)
45. See 66-Across (7)
46. Crude letters? (7)
50. Riga resident (6)
52. Salad veggie (6)
53. Queen (6)
55. An arm or a leg (5)
56. Ringo Starr's drummer (7)
57. Humdinger (7)
58. See 66-Across (7)
59. Fitting (5)
60. 66-Across topic (7)

Down
1. Start of Caesar's declaration (10)
2. An arm or a leg (9)
3. 1962 - 1969 (7)
4. 34th Street (11)
5. "Sky's the Limit" (15)
6. "Should I Stay or Should I Go?" (15)
7. "London Calling" (15)
8. "Here Comes the Sun" (15)
9. "Rhiannon" (15)
10. "Hotel California" (15)
11. "Ain't No Mountains High Enough" (15)
12. "Hair of the Dog" (15)
13. "Killing in the Name" (15)
14. "Hair of the Dog" (15)
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commitment to the Dodgers Dream Foundation as part of the deal.

"We are thrilled that Manny wants to be a Dodger and that he has made such a tremendous commitment to the Los Angeles community," McCourt said in a statement. "We witnessed something very special last year in the way that our fans connected with him and the manner in which the team came together. Now, we focus on our primary goal, winning a world championship."

Ramirez helped Los Angeles win the division by hitting .320 with four homers, 10 RIs, nine walks and 11 walks in eight games.

"We all wanted the same thing," said Dodgers manager Joe Torre. "As Ned said, you talk on the phone and to different people, you need to get face-to-face. It was a real good meeting. There was a lot of comfortable conversation." Torre described Ramirez as "chooping at the bit" to rejoined the Dodgers.

Ramirez hoped to gain on the free-agent market. Colletti initially tried to re-sign Ramirez, offering a two-year, $43 million deal with a buyout or a club option that was ignored by Boras and later withdrawn by the team.

The Dodgers' second attempt involved salary arbitration in December, but Ramirez said no to that, too.

Besides his hitting, he made a huge impact on the Dodgers' bottom line, leaving the sides about $3 million apart in present-day value.

At the time the Dodgers acquired him from Boston, Ramirez' contract was amended to eliminate the $30 million team options it included for 2009 and 2010. The new agreement leaves him with a small increase in salary, but likely fill short of what Ramirez had hoped to sign on the free-agent market.

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Chaz Thomas: Born for basketball

Omar Sanchez
Mustang Daily

Three days out of the womb, Chaz Thomas found himself in a gymnasium doing what babies do—best sleeping. He napped in his mother’s arms while his father coached a basketball game until a buzzer woke him, and like most babies, he cried and made a scene.

But Thomas quickly adapted to his noisy environment and never again cried when the buzzer sounded. Until age 3, he sat court side, even having a mini-hoop to play with during practice and halftime. It didn’t take long before he started imitating players.

A player named Eric Fisher, who was one of the best three-point shooters during the time and he was left-handed, "Chaz came to me and said ‘Thad I want to shoot like Eric’. I told him ‘You can’t shoot like Eric, you’re right-handed and he said ‘I’m going to show you left-handed’. So he switched to a left-handed shooter from a distance, which is incredible," his father recalled.

For the rest of his life, Thomas chose to challenge himself. During high school he opted for a more competitive league when he transferred from Junior High School to San Mateo, a school with notable alumni such as former San Francisco Giants infielder Bobby壊 and New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady.

In high school he was particularly touched for Thomas. His parents divorced. That alone was a challenge for him. Also he lost two people, a coach who died of a heart attack and a friend whom he considered a brother. He needed to learn and start over.

But in high school he also found success. Playing varsity all four years, he was the starting small forward on the league title team as a junior and senior and all county as a sophomore. His senior year, the team advanced to the Northern California final.

After high school he had opportuni ties to go elsewhere but chose Cal Poly because he wanted to have an impact and stay close to his mother. All grown up, 6-foot-1 and 175 pounds, the senior guard has been dishing out more points with the help of his left-handed arsenal. Averaging 12.4 per game and shooting 35 percent from the outside, 43 percent from the floor and 73 from the line along with 2.2 assist and 3 rebounds per game.

But being a coach’s son (his father was head coach of men’s basketball at San Francisco State from ’98 to ’05) leaves him susceptible to criticism.

"I want to see Chaz pump fake and drive to the basket more because it opens up the off side shooters," his father said.

"He’s kind of an extreme guy," Cal Poly head coach Kevin Bromley said. "He’ll take 18 shots one game, then take two shots. I want to find that medium ground where he’s showcasing his abilities. I want to see more consistency."

On the other hand, Bromley also recognized that Thomas is critically acclaimed for trying to do too much. "He’s an extra pressure on his shoulders to try to produce, without a doubt," thenley explained. "An outsider watching the game might construe that as being selfish. But he’s really the probably the most unselfish young man. He’s really competitive and he’s got enough confidence to where he feels he has to make something happen in a good way to help the team. He’s one of those players that just get in the game.

Senior forward Tisana Shelton has been a teammate since the two came in on the same recruiting class at Cal Poly and became close friends.

In Thomas’ case, friends eventually become more than that. So where UC Santa Barbara player insured a teammate during a game last month, it took him personally.

“We were all like family, I could have just stood around and did nothing, but I’m a different person," Thomas said. "The dude said, what he said, I did agreed with him so I pushed him."

Those that know Thomas said he was just protecting a friend.

“Chaz is very hard and he takes that to heart. He showed that heart for his teammate. Or that I liked that he showed the heart, but it shows Chaz is loyal. Unfortunately he got his temper from me.”

Bromley saw that act as a sign of loyalty, but admits that Thomas did more harm to the team’s chances of winning.

"From a coach’s standpoint, part of me liked it. Bec­ause part of me likes the territo­rial thing, the intensity, pro­tecting your teammate; ‘No one comes into our house and does that.’ You need it all the time, but he brings a lot of emotion to the game and when it comes down to times, he’s made a lot of big shots for us this year," Shel­ton said.

Thomas is not only recognized for his offense, his teammates also rely on him for leadership and guidance.

"He helps me a lot personally on defense. He tells me ‘stay here’ or if my man is coming back behind me. It’s very helpful," sophomore guard Shawn Lewin said.

In fact, Thomas is having one of the best years of his college career. Some credit the improvement to the dismissal of senior guard Trae Clark, whom he shared a lot of playing time with past year.

"Chaz is a rhythm player. If he’s in a game and get in a rhythm, then he can really play," his father said. "But if he goes in, plays for a couple minutes, comes out and plays again, he never gets into a rhythm. He needs time on the floor. Nothing against Trae and Bromley but both (Thomas and Clark) would share a lot of playing time and it wasn’t good for either of them, he added.

Clark was released after becoming academically ineligible early in the season. Thomas, junior Lorenzo Keeler and freshman Justin Brown have emerged as leaders at point guard since then.

“A big piece of the puzzle was taking away from us and we all stepped up” Thomas said.

So when Clark departed, Thomas took that as a friend. Chaz and Clark were once cross-town rivals in high school. Clark being from Newport Municipal High School in Newark. Both were in the same recruiting class at Cal Poly and became close friends.

In Thomas’ case, friends eventually become more than that. So where UC Santa Barbara player insured a teammate during a game last month, it took him personally.

Regardless of what happens against the 49ers, or when the Mustangs play at Big West co-lead UC Riverside, Cal Poly will begin the Big West Tournament on March 12 when they play the lowest seed remaining from the first round games.

Dreaded locked: Ramirez to stay in Los Angeles

Beth Harris
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The winter of discontent in Maywood is over.

Manny Ramirez and the Los Angeles Dodgers officially agreed Wednesday on a $45 million, two-year contract that keeps him with the NL West champions. The slug­ ger can said the second season of the deal and again become a free agent.

The stalemate was broken during a 6 a.m. meeting that brought the sides face-to-face at owner Frank McCourt’s Malibu home. The gath­ ering came after weeks of protracted negotiations that led to a stop, steps, offers and subsequent rejections. At times, McCourt’s frustration with Ramirez’s agent Scott Boras surfaced, with the owner describing the agent as “challenging to work with.”

All that was forgotten on a rainy late-winter morning when Ramirez surfaced in the Malibu mist to re­ join the team and city that embraced him after he left Boston at the July 31 trade deadline.

“We got a great meeting,” Ramirez told KCAL-TC, as he emerged from a mandatory physical in suburban Inglewood. “I’m happy to be here. We got some key unfinished business, and that’s why I’m here.”

The Dodgers confirmed the deal shortly after Ramirez went through the physical. He is set to meet with the media Thursday morning in Phoe­ nix.

Los Angeles’ $10 million this season and $13 million in deferred money with interest, payable in $5 million installments each Jan. 15, from 2010 through 2013 and another $27 million paid in three pay­ ments of $8,333,333 each Jan. 15 from 2011-13.

Los Angeles’ original offer was for $45 million in guaranteed money, including a $4 million buyout of a 2013 option, and the Dodgers would have fired McCourt’s ability to control Ramirez through 2012. It also did not include the needed physical.

Ramirez will make a $1 million