Poly monster tractor wins World Ag Expo

Rhianmon Montgomerie

This isn't your quaint John Deere riding lawn mower. Poly Thunder looks more like a dragster going down the track with its front end a foot off the ground.

Cal Poly agriculture students drove the modified tractor to victory past dairy farmers and their own advisers in the West Coast Nationals held at the World Ag Expo in Tulare last week.

Poly Thunder has dominated tractor pulls around the state this year, taking first place in every event entered. Agricultural systems management senior Lind­sey Tulloch, said driving the dual 300 horsepower tractor is fun.

"It's the biggest adrenalin rush; at the end I'm shaking," Tulloch said.

Her teammates and fellow drivers, Alex Holland and Nick Darr, bioscience and agricultural engineering seniors, said they call her Cram-Legs because of her shak­ing when she climbs out at the end of a race. Darr said the 10-second tow seems to last forever. The tractors have to pull weight­ed sleds 300-feet down the track to attain a 'full pull' and place in competitions.

Darr said no one else in the Poly Thunder class was able to get a full pull at the West Coast competition, including club ad­visor Mark Zolliis. The tractor was donated to the school by Wada Farms in Idaho in 2002 and requires regular upkeep and a lot of money, Holland said.

The student club works to raise funds to keep the tractor racing and hosts events at Poly Ronald and Open House. Holland said they depend completely on sponsors to maintain the tractor. Tulloch said some of that money comes from their family members, some of whom were previously on the pull team at Cal Poly.

"They support our bad tractor habit," Tulloch said of the donors. Darr is also the president of the club and said it has a dedicated group of students working on the tractors this year. Drivers are chosen for their tractor pulling ability.

see Tractor, page 2

Alumnus speaks at cancer research lecture

Sean Hanrahan

A lecture on the causes of cancer attracted students to a healthy eating seminar in the Clyde P. Fisher scie­nee building on Friday.

The hour-long seminar includ­ed discussion on the myths about foods causing cancer, easy steps to eat healthy, ways to create a well­balanced diet when fighting cancer and real stories from survivor Ashley James, who battled Hodgkin’s lys­phoma, breast cancer, and leukemia.

Radiation oncologist, Dr. Sherrill Marquez of Santa Maria Radiation Oncology Medical Center, spoke along with Cal Poly alumnus and nutritionist Jamie Young, giving what both call "perspectives."

“Nutrition is only one compo­nent of the issue,” Young said. “There is no perfect diet, no perfect fruit or vegetable that prevents cancer.

Young highlighted four impor­tant guidelines for the collegiate demographic: maintain a healthy weight, be active, have a healthy diet and limit alcohol consumption.

“I like to ask people to name the five food groups and see if they can do it,” Young said. “Not many people can name them without mixing some foods up.”

Young stressed the importance of being active and compared usual ac­tivities to ‘intentional’ activities.

“Intuitive actions are the things that you do without really trying, like getting out of bed, brushing your teeth, the little movements which are technically exercise but don’t equate to anything substantial,” said Young. “Intuitive activities include exercise like running, swimming, hik­ing.”

The difference is paramount when battling cancer to maintain a healthy immune system to avoid be­ing a strong point in many of the at­tendants of the workshop said it was important for them to stop policing each other to fit into a certain mold. University of California, Berkeley sophomore Kay Hidayik said the pressure to be a certain way is felt from all directions.

“Feeling pressure was a key point in the discussion led by Reverend Caroline Hall in her discussion talk about breaking molds such as the idea that gay men don’t know how to work on cars or an hyper­sexual. In particular, many of the at­tendants of the workshop said it was important for them to stop policing each other to fit into a certain mold. University of California, Berkeley sophomore Kay Hidayik said the pressure to be a certain way is felt from all directions.

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“Feeling pressure was a key point in the discussion led by Reverend Caroline Hall in her discussion talk about breaking molds such as the idea that gay men don’t know how to work on cars or an hyper.“I definitely understand that people feel pressure to be that way by out­side society, but I think there’s also pressure within our own community to not be that way,” Hidayik said.
Conference continued from page 1

about the Bible and sex. Hall, who is a pastor at St. Benedict's Episcopal Church in Los Osos, said she wanted to show that God's love is unconditional by giving examples of the stories in which sex is mentioned throughout the Bible. Hall argued that neither in the stories nor in the words of Jesus is there mention that God doesn't accept gay people.

More importantly, Hall wanted attendees to walk away from her discussion knowing that there are Christian churches available that accept gay and lesbian people. This, she says, is because of her experiences as a woman in her early-20s, during a time when there was no one to tell her it was OK to be a lesbian and a Christian.

“Religion and homophobia are tied together politically, so they used to really exclude me. So I think it's really important to understand other ways of understanding the material so that you can know for yourself that God does love us totally, unconditionally," Hall said. "There's just all this misinformation about gay people not being acceptable, and that's not OK with me."

Learning new things in general was just as important for many students who had never attended the conference before. This weekend was the first time UC Berkeley students Andy Albright and Anthony Lucas had ever been to the event; both said they enjoyed the variety of topics available. Albright said participating in a wide range of topics is important to becoming more knowledgeable about the LGBTQ+ community in general.

“I feel like it’s important because we know about the queer community but we don’t know everything, and there are some people who are uninformed on some issues, so it’s good to learn more,” Albright said.

Learning and making smart decisions concerning musical choices was the theme in Tomas Bell’s discussion, "Hip-Hop, Homophobia and the see LGBTQ+, page 3

Cancer continued from page 1

ing at risk.

In 1999, Marquez was the re-

cipient of the Resident of the Year award by the American Association for Women Radiologists. Marquez is committed to continued research and education, conducting regular speaking engagements and outreach to improve cancer care outcomes.

“One in eight women in this room will have breast cancer," said Marquez, "and one in two men and one in three women will develop cancer at some point in their lives, more often skin cancers.”

Marquez walked the group through yellow, orange and red food groups, comprised of t-killer cells that are designed to attack and mutate particles in blood cells that are bad for you. Apricots and carrots are

invaluable sources of carotenoids, such as beta-carotene, lutein and lycopene, antioxidants and anti-cancer agents, she said.

“Blue and purple foods, like beets, blackberries and purple cabbage support connective tissue regeneration and are anti-inflammatory; they promote blood flow and reduce cholesterol,” Marquez said.

Marquez made the audience laugh several times in the hour-long seminar, but certainly when she said, “Eat your broccoli ladies... it improves hormonal balance.”

“I try to balance the intense issue of cancer with humor," she said. "I have to... That’s how I cope.”

James, who battled through five months of chemotherapy and almost a month of radiation, sought the help and expertise of Marquez and makes a conscious effort to fit in exercise in

see Lecture, page 3

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A closer look at Obama’s health-care plan

Robert Schroeder
MANDATORY CREDIT

WASHINGTON — With a high-stakes bipartisan “summit” just four days away, President Barack Obama on Monday unveiled a de­tailed blueprint for overhauling the U.S. health-care system. Here is a look at how this election-year docu­ment would change that system in several key areas.

— Controlling costs. Obama made cost-containment a plank of his history-making presidential cam­paign, and his health-care blueprint follows through with that goal. For one thing, it boosts tax credits for middle-income Americans to buy insurance by greater amounts than did a bill that passed the Senate late last year.

A family of four with an income of between $66,000 and $77,000, for example, would pay no more than 9.5 percent of its income in insur­ance premiums thanks to subsidies proposed by Obama. Under the Sen­ate bill, that amount was 9.8 percent.

With news of Well Point Inc.’s plans for premium increases of 39 percent or more at its Anthem Blue Cross subsidiary in California still fresh in the minds of many, Obama is also proposing a new “Health Ins­urance Rate Authority.” The ent­ity could block increases deemed excessive. Under that proposal the administration will in conjunction with states develop a review process for “unreasonable premium increas­es,” Obama’s press secretary Robert Gibbs said Monday.

The White House also says the health-insurance “exchanges” cre­ated under its plan will lower costs by increasing competition.

— Expanding coverage. The White House’s plan would require individuals to buy health insurance, and officials estimate that more than 31 million Americans will be cov­ered under the proposal.

In addition to extending tax cred­its to families to buy insurance, it also expands Medicaid coverage.

Obama’s plan also puts a burden on employers to offer coverage. Big companies that offer coverage would have to automatically enroll new eli­gible employees. But small compa­nies won’t be required to enroll em­ployees and would also get tax credits to offer coverage to their workers.

Obama still supports a govern­ment-run health-insurance option, White House officials said Monday, but it’s not included in the blueprint.

The Senate’s bill also omitted the so­called “public option.”

— Market reforms. As in the Sen­ate and House bills, the White House blueprint would deny insurance companies the ability to restrict cov­erage based on pre-existing medical conditions.

Moreover, the insurance ex­changes would give “tens of millions” of Americans the same insurance choices now enjoyed by members of Congress.

In a bid to attract Republican support for the proposal, Obama also

see Obama, page 4
Obama continued from page 3

included a number of policies aimed at cracking down on waste, fraud and abuse in the health-care market. Among those are expanded access for private plans to a data bank used in fighting fraud, and new registration of and background checks on entities that bill for Medicare on behalf of providers.

—How it’s paid for. Obama’s plan would cut the deficit by $100 billion over the next decade. The plan contains a tax on high-end (or “Cadillac”) health plans, but delays it for all workers until 2018. The Senate bill would have taxed plans worth $2,000 and above, but Obama wants to increase that amount to $27,500.

Individuals who don’t buy insurance would also be responsible for paying fines; so would businesses that do not offer coverage.

Another key revenue-raiser in the proposal is a 2.9 percent tax on income from interest, dividends and other unearned income for those households with income above $250,000. The tax revenues from the unearned income would go to the Medicare program’s Supplemental Medical Insurance trust fund.

Drug companies would also get hit with $33 billion in new fees to help pay for the plan.

Gibbs described the plan released Monday as a “starting point” for the Thursday summit, and officials signaled that the White House is prepared to use a budget process known as reconciliation to get the measure through Congress.

That may be the only option available to Obama. Republicans almost instantly dismissed the plan Monday.

“This plan is just another version of the same government takeover of health care that Americans have already stamped ‘reject,’” said House Republican Study Committee Chairman Tom Price, R-Ga.

“Because of the modified scope of the plan, the Senate Finance Committee will have an opportunity to shape a Senate version. The White House says that other unearned income would go to the Medicare program’s Supplemental Medical Insurance trust fund. Drug companies would also get hit with $33 billion in new fees to help pay for the plan.”

Chris Rodd

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ATTENDEES:


LGBTQ continued from page 2

‘bitches,’ are defined by their sexual position and feel the need to hold up a strong masculine image. Questioning the notions of race and sex was what made Bell’s workshop a favorite for University of California, Santa Barbara sophomore Chris Redd.

“It was excellent,” Redd said. “It’s topics like these that aren’t really discussed much in peer con­ferences with like race and stuff, so it’s good that this was done. I’m going to his next one, too.”

Overall, the conference was considered a success despite a last-minute influx of almost 200 attendants that had coordinators scrambling to accommodate with program packets.

“I think to take something on like this is really courageous, and if evidenced by nothing else but the success rate and the increased number of applicants and how many happy people there are run­ning around, I think Cal Poly’s done a really great job,” Lucas said.

Cancer continued from page 2

lieu of napping. “I try to be active five days a week,” James said. “I feel like it sort of took away years, and now I’m trying to up the scale. You only have one body and you de­serve to give it your best shot.”

James is one of several organiz­ers for the Relay for Life event at Cal Poly later in the spring.

“We have this great opportuni­ty to celebrate cancer survivors,” Relay for Life organizers said at the seminar.

“Relay for Life at Cal Poly takes place May 15-16. Teams can reg­ister now by going to www.relay­forall.org/calpolyca.”

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WORD ON THE STREET

"Will you attend the magic show at Chumash?"

Compiled and photographed by Jessica Barba

"Yes, I do like magic my broth­er used to do tricks when I was younger."

- Krys Wood, animal science junior

"Probably, seems like it would be fun. I had a magic kit when I was younger."

-Camry Masking, political science sophomore

"I have a lot of homework this week, but it does sound interesting."

-Camry Masking, political science sophomore

"I would totally love to go. I was definitely into the fantasy stuff when I was younger."

-Brigit Howley, civil engineering sophomore

"I would but I have class."

-Jason Coontz, environmental engineering junior

"I have a lot of homework this quarter so I don’t think I can, but it does sound interesting."

-Camry Masking, political science sophomore

"Maybe well see how tired I am. I really enjoy the magic stuff on Arrested Development."

-Jason Coontz, environmental engineering junior

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(HEY, IT’LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO TALK TO MOM ABOUT.)
Soup and Substance discusses alternative career choices

Daniel Triassi
Student Coordinator for Soup and Substance

Two Cal Poly staff members and an alumna will share their views on alternative careers as a part of the Soup and Substance series today.

The event "Not Your Typical 9-5," will feature presentations about career paths followed by a question period, said Michelle Fox, student coordinator for Soup and Substance and social sciences major.

Many students aren't aware of the opportunities in their field after graduation, Fox said.

"For an engineer, sometimes they don't realize there is more out there, like Engineers Without Borders, to help use their skills to put their communities more resilient," she said.

Fox expects around 30 to 40 people to attend and the event will offer warm bowls of vegetarian chili and a baked potato bar.

This is the third Soup and Substance event of winter quarter and seventh of the school year.

Eric Veniamin, an industrial engineering alumnus, will be one of the speakers. He will talk about his involvement with Transition California, a group trying to shape the future through localized food, sustainable energy sources and resilient local economies.

"In the next 10 years, the world as we live in will look dramatically different," he said. "The work I will be talking about is the work I do not about new products, but about looking at how we make our communities more resilient."

Veniamin also stressed the importance of how many diverse jobs and companies are out there, and how much students can do.

"An attitude at Cal Poly is the jobs you can get are the ones at the career fair," Veniamin said.

Jesse Torrey, AmeriCorps coordinator for Cal Poly, will discuss AmeriCorps as another avenue to find their career paths. Torrey said.

"In this economy, it's difficult to find your dream job right away," she said. "AmeriCorps is an opportunity to get your feet wet in the real world, you can feel you are making a difference without having to commit long-term to something."

Charlotte Rinaldi, a career counselor, is the third speaker. She plans to discuss the difference between looking for a job and looking for a life.

"I want people to know there's someone who can help them sift through (finding a job) and find a unique fit, not your typical cookie-cutter job," she said.

Rinaldi will also speak about resumes and show effective examples.

The Soup and Substance presentation is free and will start at 11 a.m. in University Union Room 220.

Magician Daniel Martin to mystify in Chumash

Erin Hurley
Section Editor

Magician Daniel Martin will bring magic, escapes and comedy to Chumash Auditorium from 8 to 10 tonight.

Martin is a nationally known magician who blends impressive magic with a humorous and sarcastic attitude. Martin's illusions have been featured on major news channels like CBS, NBC and ESPN. In 2009, Martin won the title of Best Live Magician at a national magic convention and was nominated for Best Male Performer, Best Rising Star, Best Live Variety Performer and Entertainer of the Year for Campus Activities Magazine, a national publication dedicated to campus entertainment.

Many colleges have been delighted by Martin's performances according to the Web site for Bass Schuler Entertainment, an agency that provides entertainment to college campuses and the agency that handles Martin's national college tour.

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Martin to mystify in Chumash, page 8
"Just Jazz" keeps audience clappin' and toes tappin'

The four jazz ensembles combined to entertain 400 audience members in Harmon Hall Saturday night.

Raquel Redding

The Cal Poly jazz ensemble reimagined old jazz music with improvisation and new sound at their concert in Harmon Hall at the Performing Arts Center Saturday night.

The two-hour concert had both entertainment and humor from forgotten music.

Paul Rinder, director of "Just Jazz," said the concert was a fresh approach to jazz. Rinder is also the director of the jazz studies department.

"The concert has been this generation's look at America's greatest musical form," Rinder said. "A combination of the new generation's look and the previous generation's and what they already accomplished."

The concert was split into four ensembles, all parts playing some form of jazz to entertain the 400 people in the audience.

"If someone's clapping, it means they appreciate you, and that is never a bad thing," he said. "I could tell from the beginning of the night when the audience clapped that they were getting into the music."

The second ensemble performed four songs that ranged from a "Harlem Fight Song" to a different play on the classic "Bye Bye Blackbird."

Next, the Friday Combo came on the stage consisting of five males. Aerospace engineering senior Bill Sorenson introduced each song and informed the audience he was stalling while chemical engineering senior Bret Bailey found his music. After a little while, he gave up on locating the music while Sorenson told the crowd, "What the hell, we're going to try it!" That performance went on without any noticeable hitch as Bailey read Sorenson's music.

When the Friday Combo came to their last song, "Not Yet," the people, especially growing up in a sort of Christian society. We tend to think, 'What did God mean by this?' and that's our role," he said. "What she wants to do is stabilize that. She wants to say, 'What could God mean by this? What are all the different meanings that God could entail?'

In her argument for the respect of different perspectives, Mendel gave her own creation story that included Adam and Eve, but was different from the one found in Genesis. Mendel presented it as though human kind made progress due to Eve's curiosity, intuition and ultimately her decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit. From the traditional perspective, Mendel said the female gender has been unfairly victimized by Eve's decision to eat the forbidden fruit.
Societal norms affect sexual urges

Slaty behavior is pretty normal for us. Human beings are animals and our animal nature compels us to make as many damn babies as possible. Whether or not having a baby with that particular Ortiz is possible doesn’t matter much to us, as long as it feels good. And yet most of my classes are uninterrupted by spontaneity.

It’s not because we don’t feel like having sex; it’s because we don’t want to have sex as front of people. Although most of us recognize that sex is great, it is still seen as a shame.

Professor Robert F. Nye taught that there were parts of their sex that is great, it is still seen as a shame.

Sex-ed classes are less important because we shouldn’t talk about, so it probably isn’t very healthy to rub it on outside of you, but it’s still very private. We could get through elementary school without knowing what sex is.

Savage has watched Martin’s promotional videos and said that tonight’s show is specifically geared toward entertaining college-level students.

“It’s not your usual pull-a-rabbit-out-of-the-hat show,” she said. “He does a lot of stand-up comedy as well and really interacts with the audience.” Students are also excited about the upcoming show.

“When I first heard about a magician coming to campus, I wasn’t too excited, but he really sounds cool,” child development sophomore Lexi Hriniko said. “I think he’ll be really entertaining, even for college students.”


Magician

continued from page 6

special events student supervisor organized the event.

“We had another magician, Julian Credible; here last year and it went really well, so we really wanted to have a similar show this year,” she said.

Savage said that tonight’s show is specifically geared toward entertaining college-

level students.

“Sex.”

Speaker

continued from page 7

story that people don’t get to hear a lot, and it offered a kind of feminist approach that a lot of people aren’t open very much. So I’m glad people got the chance to hear that perspective,” she said.

Lloyd-Moffett said the way she explained her theology in a story that included spirituality and meaning resonates with our culture.

“It’s great, because in the West we tend to think in stories. We want things broken down into logical progressions,” she said. “What she just did was tell a whole story that had an entire theology behind it that made us think.”

Mendel said change can start with a new perception on gender roles.

“(It’s) time to put men in touch with the intimate sides of themselves, with that unadorned line that’s within them as well as women,” she said. “For men to become more gentle, for women to become more powerful, for women to take a stand as to who they are, not to accept being put down by learning about all the things that we have. To stop worrying about the differences between men and women.”

Jazz

continued from page 7

The audience was informed that it was composed by the pianist, music senior Steve Carlton. Rinzler had asked Carlton if the piece was done, to which he replied, “Not yet.” Carlton said that the performance was great, even though he admitted he couldn’t hear the band most of the time.

The concert picked up again with Wednesday. Combo after a 15-minute intermission. Carlton

said the names Wednesday and Fri-

day are given merely because those are the days when the bands meet Wednesday and Friday both had five male members, but this time instead of a trumpet there was a gitar.

After the three songs, the Wednesday combo ended the stage as the first ensemble came on. The group began to sit down when one of the saxophone players, electrical engineering senior Chris Nguyen quickly left his seat to run back-stage. After all 16 performers sat down, Nguyen came running out only to drop his sheet music all over the stage. Giving a bow, he grabbed his music and sat down in his seat while the audience clapped. Rinzler noticed Nguyen was gone from his seat and said later that although it wasn’t the best thing to forget music, it turned out fine. “I was proud that he then turned it into something funny when he took that bow,” Rinzler said. “That’s what happens when you improvise. If you make a mistake, you have to make something out of it somehow. He’s got that improvisatory spirit in him.”

Nguyen went on to have a solo battle with the other tenor saxo-

phor, showing both of their improvisational skills.

The concert ended with a quick song called “Chicago.” The band took an upbeat arrangement by Matt Har-

ris. Concert-goers and parents of the emerging singer Rachel Malmowski, Carol and Mark Mal-

mowski said that their favorite number was “Rombe Cabelas,” be-

cause it was different.

“It made me want to dance,” Carol Malmowski said.

Dance-ability is a big part of the jazz ensemble’s performances since they regularly play for swing dance-

ers according to the jazband.com Web site.

One of the house managers for the Performing Arts Center, Nan Hamilton, said that she was surprised that more people didn’t come, since the bands are so talented.

“They have the best energy. The town doesn’t know what they are missing in these concerts,” she said. “I am amazed that people are not music majors who can play this quality of music.”

Wednesday, February 23, 2010

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Winter Olympics struggle to capture public attention

On Feb. 12, the 2010 Winter Olympics kicked off in Vancouver. For an event that draws around every four years, these Olympics are missing a major buzz due to a lack of noticeable headliners and other sports grabbing attention away from the games. With no major stars such as Michael Phelps, the Winter Olympics struggle to capture Americans' attention.

In fact, the Winter Olympics are using Phelps to help promote the games by showing him swimming to Vancouver in a Subway commercial. I mean, the Vancouver games cannot even find their own stars to help showcase the event.

Instead, the American public is grabbed by the NFL and NBA where the recent Super Bowl or LeBron James draws thousands of fans and brings in millions of dollars for the respective leagues.

Also compounding the problems is very few people know about the athletes competing this year. The "Flying Tomato" Shaun White and Apolo Ohno are probably the most recognizable names, but cannot carry the games by themselves.

So, what does one have to want to watch after night of NBC's coverage, which always seems to drag on? According to a Los Angeles Times article by Meg James, General Electric Corporation, which owns NBC Universal who broadcasts the games, said the corporation will lose a projected $250 million on the Winter Olympics this year.

Vancouver will see a boost in tourism with around 350,000 visitors expected at the games according to NBC. Most Canadians are proud to host the games and want to showcase their country and athletes.

Sure, there are always a couple of feel-good stories that emerge from every Olympics, but those stories are not enough to consistently draw fans back night after night. Today, people can watch highlights on ESPN or other networks that recap all the day's events without having to sit through the full coverage. Who wants to watch night after night of NBC's coverage, which always seems to drag on?

Also, the Winter Olympics should benefit from the increased popularity of the Winter X-Games, which lasted from Jan. 28 through Jan. 31, attracted more than 43 million viewers for the event according to an ESPN article. Perhaps the same viewership will tune in to witness skating sensation Lindsey Vonn fly through the air during the Olympics.

At opening ceremonies, the world claimed to be united through the games, but how many people will tune in and care what happens afterward?

Patrick Leitsa is a junior and Mustang Daily reporter.

Soy milk should be free

When I drink milk, I get the runs. It's always been that way. But I'm not the only one — lactose intolerance affects a lot of people. So when we gastronomically challenged folks get our morning coffee, many of us put soy milk in it. However, Julian's and Campus Market both charge extra for soy milk — even if it's just the tablespoon or so I stir into my Fair Trade coffee as we see fit without paying through the nose for it.

Jonathan Barten
University Writing Lab

Soy milk...
Angels

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who is in the Hall of Fame, or the
next guy who sweeps the floors
days ago, but there was no closed-
door session, no hint of expecta-
tions or even a discussion of what
it will take to fill Figgins' shoes.

"I didn't expect a phone call
this off-season, nor any meeting
to talk about it," Wood says. "I know
where I stand. I know what Scioscia
stands for, how he thinks and what
he wants. I just have to play good,
play hard and stay focused. We'll see
what that brings."

Scioscia says, "We're real com-
fortable that Brandon is going to
do what we've seen him do in the
minor leagues and be a big part of
our team this year. If nothing else,
Wood has a home-court advantage at
Tempe's spring camp. He grew up in
Scottsdale and lives nearby, as do
his parents, Terry and Jill, and his
sister, Lindsey. Huff, mother of
Grace, age 3.

"Ah, Grace. Talk about a fire-
baby," Wood says.

They'll all be there, rooting and
hoping, as will dozens of old high
school friends.

"Those guys will be there, every
day, boozing me, no matter what I
do," Wood says, laughing.

He says he is ready, is grateful
for the chance, even though he will
miss Figgins and what he brought
to the Angels, as both a player and
teammate. He says he has been
around long enough, and been in
even enough major league games, for
things to be slowing down now for
him to the point where he can act,
rather than just react.

"This is a real process, and
sometimes you don't appreciate
or understand that when you are
younger," Wood says. "When I
hit those 43 homers in '03, it was
a level where I'd just go up there
and hit home runs."

"I don't think I ever saw a two-
scamer until double-A and a cutter
until triple-A."

Now, if things go as Scioscia
and the Angels expect, Wood will
be seeing, on a daily basis, the likes
of John Lackey, CC Sabathia and
Mariano Rivera.

Wood says he's ready. The An-
gels are hoping.

It's time.

Anna Cahn Named
Pitcher of the Week

Three games into the season,
junior left-hander Anna Cahn is
in midseason form.

Cahn (2-0) recorded a 0.47 ag-
gregate ERA in three appearances
and held opposing batters to a .160 batting average on her way
to earning Big West Conference
Pitcher of the Week honors on
Monday afternoon.

The Cal Poly softball team
(2-1) followed Cahn to a pair of
victories at the UCLA-hosted
Stacy Winsberg Memorial Invita-
tional this weekend.

During Cal Poly's season-
opening contest against Portland
State, Cahn -- the reigning Big
West Pitcher of the Year -- struck
out five batters, yielded three hits
and allowed just one Viking past
the plate as the Mustangs cruised
to a 10-0 victory.

The following afternoon,
Cahn tossed a complete-game four-hit
shutout, yielding just one Viking
batter to reach base as the Mustangs
crushed Portland State, 10-0.

Cahn, who capped Cal Poly's
scoring with a bases-loaded single
in the seventh, struck out six Vikings
and faced just one hitter over the
minimum through the initial three
innings.

Offensively, Cal Poly paced Cal Poly
at the Winsberg Invitational with a
.625 batting average, a 1.000 slugging
percentage, a .667 on-base per-
centage and eight total bases.

Monday's honor was the sixth of
Cahn's career and the first weekly
award for a Mustang this season.

The Mustangs continue action
on Friday, at the Cathedral City
Classic, hosted by Oregon State.
Wrestling strives for Pac-10 Championship at Davis

Jessica Barba

Cal Poly men's wrestling team focuses on winning as a team rather than winning individual titles.

After coming close to the Pac-10 Conference Championship the past two years, the Mustangs (8-4, 2-2 Pac-10) look to complete the final step of their season goal — winning a conference championship.

The team has been ranked as one of the top 20 teams in the nation for various weeks this season. Currently three Mustangs are nationally ranked. Assistant coach Mark Perry said that the team feels no outside pressure and remains focused as the competition nears.

"We are a program that is sneak­ ing up on people because we have been under the radar. We have never won the Pac-10 championship, and (we) can make history in the next eight days," Perry said.

Azevedo said he can empathize with his players' mentality. As a member of the Olympic 1988 freestyle wrestling team, he said he can understand their emotions just before a championship match. He plans to support his team no matter the outcome of the Pac-10 championship.

"It is way harder to be a coach then a competitor. As a player, you tend to focus on yourself and your own personal wins. Now as a coach, every win and every loss you feel in your bones, and it is intense," Azevedo said.

Wrestling strives for Pac-10 Championship at Davis

Angels’ infielder Brandon Wood gets his opportunity

Bill Dwyre

The power-hitting infielder Brandon Wood for the Angels will turn 25 in seven days. He begins spring training Tuesday with a new beginning, not merely a new season. Chone Figgins is gone, off to the Seattle Mariners with his career contract as he is a career. Figgins’ third-base spot is open and Wood gets to be first in line.

His approach to this opportunity will be music to the ears of Manager Mike Scioscia, the Angels’ master of the blue-collar approach to life and baseball. Work hard, think about team first, be patient and your name will turn up every day on Scioscia’s lineup card. It also helps if you bat .300 and hit 20 home runs.

The mentalty of the team also changed this season as they focused on dual meets building up to the championship. They have helped the wrestlers build the confidence they need before getting on the mat. Azevedo said. The Mustangs’ win against then No.8 Missouri was monumental for the team.

"Beating Missouri set the tone for the season; we were in their place and beating them. It was a huge team bonding moment for the team especially when you win when it seems like you’re not supposed to," Azevedo said.

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But Wood's chances have been stymied by an Angels team so good not to mention hard-core Angels fans. Wood was mostly a shortstop in the past three seasons. Infielder Brandon Wood recorded a .286 batting average in seven seasons in the Angels' farm system. He also hit 160 home runs and 540 RBIs. Wood saw limited playing time for the Angels in the past three seasons.

Angels’ infielder Brandon Wood gets his opportunity

"I know, on the Angels, no job is just given to you," Wood says. Scioscia says the same thing, just in different words.

"Every young player has to have a sense of urgency," he says, "and apply himself and get after it and know that it's his window."

It’s not exactly new or never for Wood, but with the Angels, you can see it from there. Wood is out of options, so he isn't coming to spring training in Tempe, Ariz., with a fall-back plan, namely triple-A Salt Lake City. He has been there, done that. Matter of fact, he has done the minor leagues since 2003, always in the Angels organization.

"Nice time. Had fun. Time to move up."

The nicest time for Wood was 2005, when he hit 43 home runs at Rancho Cucamonga and shared minor league player-of-the-year honors with Rancho teammate and current Angels second baseman Howie Kendrick. Kendrick hit .384 that year and Wood, in addition to his 43 homers, batted .321. They played for the Class-A Quakes, at a stadium named the Epicenter, and they were twin telemers.

That year was enough to whet the appetite of hard-core Angels fans, not to mention hard-core Angels brass. Wood was mostly a shortstop then, and the thought of a shortstop with that kind of power made lots of people around Anaheim giddy.

But Wood's chances have been stymied by an Angels team so good for so long that opportunity didn't knock. To date, he has played only 86 major league games, batted 224 times and hit seven home runs. His most consistent big-league success has been to get the team to go back and forth between Anaheim and Salt Lake, as part Scioscia’s game-by-game needs.

To date, the Angels and their fans have seen just enough of Wood to know they need to see more Wood might be the next Mike Schmidt, see Angels, page 11