John McCullough

Stud s recognized for com munity service

Dr. Carlo Montemagno, a candidate for the position of Cal Poly president, is scheduled to visit campus today. Events include an open student forum from 10:50 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Chumash Auditorium and a community forum from 4:10 to 5:30 p.m. in the Advanced Technologies Laboratories.

What students do outside of the classroom is as important as what they do inside.

The event began with speeches from faculty involved in various programs devoted to community service, including Ken Barclay, the director of Student Life and Leadership; President Warren Baker and representatives of AmeriCorps.

Barclay introduced the event and the people involved. He discussed why it's so important for Cal Poly to provide students with an outlet for community service.

"President Baker and I both came to this school around the same time," he said. "We both saw the need for students to be able to give back to their community. Much of students' education comes from things they learn outside the classroom." Baker followed with the president's address. This will be his final award ceremony as he announced his retirement in December.

"What students do outside of the classroom is as important as what they do inside," Baker said. "Many of the students here have said that about half of what they learned at Cal Poly comes from those extracurriculars. We want to make sure we can provide a way for students to give back to the community."

Many of these out-of-the-classroom activities involve some sort of giving back to the community, and that deserves to be recognized, he said.

"Even in a time like this, it's important for us to recognize what we have and give back," Baker said.

Sona Andrews, one of the three candidates being considered for Cal Poly's presidential position, started off yesterday's public forum by noting her current university, Boise State, was ranked the third-up and coming university in the West, according to U.S. News and World Report. She then pointed out, despite her pride in the ranking, that she was disappointed it wasn't No. 1. That distinction is held by Cal Poly.

In the forum, Andrews briefly went over her academic priorities starting with "students come first." The majority of the time was spent answering audience members' questions. Most of the questions came from Cal Poly faculty, with the notable exception of Gil Stork, the president of
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Briefs

State

SAN LUIS OBISPO (MCT) — Habitat for Humanity says it should not have to pay $27,000 the county says it owes because of additional traffic it expects the nonprofit organization to generate at its improved facility in Templeton.

Habitat for Humanity, whose operation involves recycling materials from landfills, says it cannot afford the fee and hints in an appeal letter that the cost might delay or even kill its plans.

The county Department of Public Works says that according to formulas the tax is both fair and necessary.

... [continued]

CHINO (MCT) — A jury found a man guilty of four-degree murder this morning in the fatal shooting of his cousin, a prosecutor said.

Anil Kaushal, 39, of Chino, faces a prison term of 25 to life for first-degree murder plus an additional 25 to life for first-degree robbery.

The ruling was welcomed by John Ryan, president of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, who argued the case. The victory "goes well beyond the immediate results in Chicago. It should ensure that no other fire department or employer uses a discriminatory test," he said.

Chicago Mayor Richard Daley voiced some weariness with the years of litigation. "For decades we have been met with legal challenges from all sides," he said.

Since 2006, Daley said, the city has used a "pass-fail" approach so that all those who have passing scores are eligible for jobs.

National Briefs

WASHINGTON (MCT) — Four civilians and two Afghan army soldiers were among those killed in the latest incident of violence in strife-torn Afghanistan, officials said Sunday.

Many of the country's areas will have anti-personal mines left from Soviet Union era and civil war of the 1990s. Many Afghans are also killed in mine explosions caused by Taliban insurgents.

Two Afghan army troops were killed and five others were wounded when their patrol was hit by roadside bombs in southern provinces of Kandahar, Helmand and Zabol on Sunday, the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

Word on the Street

What are some things that you would like to see in the new president do?

"Spend money more wisely."

Ryan Fulton, bioresource and agricultural engineering freshman

"Listen to the student's voice because they are paying tuition."

Taylor Fecto, agricultural business junior

"Focus more on budget issues."

Julia Dean, chemistry freshman

"Try to relate to the student."

-Scott Carlisle, senior, Ag Sciences

"I like the sports section."

-Scott Swenson, earth science sophomore

COMPiled and Photographed by Jessica Barba

International Briefs

YEMEN (MCT) — Armed tribesmen kidnapped two American tourists on Monday in rugged territory about 45 miles outside the capital, Sana, according to news reports and Yemeni security officials.

The man and woman were traveling by car when they and their Yemeni driver and guide were abducted in Al-Hamdiyah district. The Yemeni Observer reported that gunmen brought the Americans, believed to be a man and his wife, to a village where they were offered food and qat leaves, a mild stimulant traditionally chewed by Yemenis.

Media reports said the kidnapers were demanding the release of a classroom arrested in a land dispute.

... [continued]

WASHINGTON (MCT) — The Pentagon said Monday it plans to participate in new military exercises with South Korea, the first direct military response from the United States to the sinking of a South Korean torpede.

Pentagon spokesman Bryan G. Whitman said U.S. forces will participate in the "anti-submarine warfare" in "the near future." In a second planned exercise, U.S. units along with South Korea and possibly other regional allies will work to improve their ability to interdict cargo ships carrying arms or other prohibited materials out of North Korea.

Supreme Court rules on discrimination suit for black firefighters

David G. Savage

TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court made a discrimination ruling Monday in favor of 6,000 black applicants for Chicago firefighting jobs in the 1990s, leaving public employers in a pickle if they are required by law to use tests for deciding who should be hired or promoted.

After two Supreme Court decisions with very different results in the past year, they can be used for tests that screen out most blacks and other minorities, and they also can be used by high-scoring white applicants if the test scores go unused.

The apparent conflict is built in the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the justices said Monday. "It is a problem for Congress, not one federal courts can fix," said Justice Antonin Scalia.

The decision dealt a potentially costly defeat to the city of Chicago.

Earlier this year, a lawyer for black applicants estimated the total damages in the case could reach $100 million.

The ruling was welcomed by John Payner, president of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, who argued the case. "This victory goes well beyond the immediate results in Chicago. It should ensure that no other fire department or employer uses a discriminatory test," he said.

Chicago Mayor Richard Daley voiced some weariness with the years of litigation. "For decades we have tried to diversify the Chicago Fire Department. But at every turn, like most cities, we have been met with legal challenges from all sides," he said.

Since 2006, Daley said, the city has used a "pass-fail" approach so that all those who have passing scores are eligible for jobs.

ers were victims of discrimination by city officials in New Haven, Conn., which had dropped a promotion test after they learned no black candidates were among the top scorers. In a 5-4 ruling, the justices said this amounted to illegal racial bias against the white firefighters.

Nationwide, about 20 million em­ployees work for city and state govern­ments. And in many of these agencies, tests are used to hire and promote em­ployees.

That in turn has led to years of litiga­tion on whether the tests are fair. The Chicago case decided Monday turned on a narrow issue of timing.

The U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals had thrown out the suit by the black applicants on the grounds they had waited too long to sue. But the justices reversed that ruling in Lewis v. Chicago.

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McChrystal calls Marjah a ‘bleeding ulcer’ in Afghan campaign

Dion Nissenbaum
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

MARJAH, Afghanistan — Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top allied commander here, said Thursday that the Taliban are facing a “bleeding ulcer” in the city of Marjah that is forcing them to move a company back into the city from a longtime stronghold in southern Afghanistan.

"This is a bleeding ulcer right now," McChrystal said. "This is a concern that is both immediate and long-term."

McChrystal calls Marjah an "area of concern," one that McChrystal had hoped would bring security and stability to Marjah and begin capturing the "sense of momentum" in the U.S.-led campaign in Afghanistan.

Instead, a tour last week of Marjah around the city’s main police district, which McClatchy Newspapers had rare access to meetings between McChrystal and Western strategy analysts, drove home the hard fact that President Barack Obama’s plan to begin pulling American troops out of Afghanistan in July 2011 is colliding with the Taliban offensive.

There aren’t enough U.S. and Afghan forces to provide the security needed to clear the Marjah district and begin setting up local governance in Marjah. Officials have been concerned that the Taliban might try to set up a governing council in Marjah or other cities, using the same model that they’ve used to set up local governing councils in other provinces.

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Poly Paws raises money for local animal shelters with Furry 5K Walk

Erin Hurley

The Poly Paws program held its inaugural Furry 5K Walk at Laguna Lake Park to raise money for several San Luis Obispo animal shelters Saturday. Poly Paws is a program in Cal Poly's Student Community Services that supports neglected animals and emphasizes the importance of the relationships between owners and their pets. Every dollar donated by the participants at registration gave them raffle tickets to win prizes provided by San Luis Obispo businesses.

About 20 Cal Poly students and Central Coast residents participated; the event raised more than $300. The money collected will go to three shelters: the Humane Society of San Luis Obispo, the Woods Humane Society and the Animal Shelter Adoption Services of San Luis Obispo County.

Poly Paws coordinators Megan March and Christinda Condon said the event was a way to make a animal abuse and neglect — problems that are more pressing than most people realize.

"Most people think that supporting animal shelters is important when they're often misinformed about the fact that problems are not getting any better," Condon, an animal science senior, said. "I hope this event shows people that every person can make a difference and every little bit helps."

Several coordinators put up flyers around San Luis Obispo, sent out e-mails, contacted local businesses for support and held fundraisers at Laguna Grill and California Pizza Kitchen. Several local businesses, including Subway, Jamba Juice and The Hemp Shack donated raffle prizes such as movies, charms, truffles and gift certificates.

Groups on campus also supported the Poly Paws' Furry 5K Walk at Laguna Lake Park. The Poly Paws program on campus is a program that was begun as a senior project in 1992 to domesticate stray cats on campus and find homes for them. Many supporters of Poly Paws are also involved with the Cal Poly Cat Program. Staff member Edie Griffin-Shaw said the Furry 5K walk is a way for students to "Learn by doing."

"This event is great because it really does give students a chance to be directly involved with the support animals," Griffin-Shaw said. "Our relationship with Poly Paws is great, and I hope the event keeps going in the future so we can be more involved.

The club also rallied support beyond San Luis Obispo. The Central Coast Parkour group set up a booth at the walk, selling water and snacks and donated all the proceeds to Poly Paws. A local member of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) also set up an informational booth with flyers on topics such as animal abuse and the danger of puppy mills.

Some of the participants in Saturday's walk were Central Coast residents who have experience racing for a cause. Bill and Patty Huff, along with their daughter Holl-Lee, a first-year psychology student at Cal Poly, said, "We thought this would be a great thing for us because we love to participate in these kind of races as a family, but we usually have to leave Buddy home. It's great that the whole family could be a part of this walk." Holl-Lee said.

Other participants were attracted to the walk to support a cause. Amy Monroe is a San Luis Obispo resident who saw the flyer for the walk at Laguna Grill and came to participate with her fiancé.

"When we heard about it, we knew we had to be here. We're both passionate about this cause; it really strikes a chord for us," Monroe said. "I think it's the innocence factor — these animals really can't speak for themselves."

Condon and Monroe were pleased with the turnout of the walk, but they hope the event will be even better next year.

"We were so happy with the response we received, but we hope to get more attention next year," March, an architecture junior said. "This kind of event really bridges the gap between the students and the community, and it's for a great cause."

Texas taxpayers upset over new Robert Rodriguez film, 'Machete'

Aman Batheja

Should Texas taxpayers provide financial support for a violence-packed movie that plays off the tensions gripping the state and the nation in the raging debate over illegal immigration?

That's an emerging question as a new movie from Austin filmmaker Robert Rodriguez generates controversy that's reaching all the way to the Texas Capitol. At the same time when the state faces massive financial problems and is embroiled in the immigration debate, Rodriguez is finishing up his latest film, "Machete," about a former Arizona cop from Mexico working as a day laborer in Texas and battling a Mexican drug lord, as well as politicians opposed to illegal immigration. He says the controversy is overblown.

"This movie, which uses the Texas Capitol as a backdrop in at least one scene, is generating plenty of buzz, just not for the immigration controversy but also for a star-studded cast that includes Robert De Niro, Lindsay Lohan, Jessica Alba, Don Johnson, Cheech Marin and Steven Seagal," said Question Time's assistant producer, the producer of the movie, set to hit theaters Sept. 3.

Several conservative bloggers have called the film inflammatory in light of growing tension over an immigration bill in the state and national legislature. Some are outraged that the Texas Film Commission may grant Rodriguez's Troublemaker Studios tax incentives for shooting the film in the state.

"We need to get the funding at the state level stripped out of the film commission if they do not stop this," conservative radio host Alex Jones said.

Austin-based Troublemaker Studios applied for the tax incentives before the start of shooting. Under a state law passed in 2009, the Texas Film Commission can deny the incentives if a film incorporates content that's inappropriate or portrays Texas as a populate of throwing up all over the president and not even remembering the sex at all (and the worst sex is that you don't remember) might make you reconsider what the "cougar" you gained was worth.

Of course, because of its power to impair judgment and cause blackouts, alcohol is often used when someone doesn't want to have sex. In fact, around 75 percent of people involved in sexual assault have been drinking, making alcohol the most commonly used date-rape drug. Although it not wise to allow yourself to get drunk enough that you would happen against your will, rape is never the victim's fault. Legally, a drunk person can't consent to sex, so if you wake up the next morning the drunk person feels that the sex was against their will, they can prosecute.

Alcohol, like sex, permeates our cultures, affecting people's thoughts and actions. Drinking can affect one's sex life positively or negatively, and the line between the two is extremely fine. The loss of self-control is a powerful thing, especially in a sexual context, and therefore alcohol should be treated with the caution that it deserves.

In response to the comments made about my last article concerning free pregnancy prevention: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov), Fertility Awareness methods are 78 percent to 99 percent effective at preventing pregnancy, which is comparable to the 85 percent to 98 percent effectiveness of male condoms. These methods can be combined for even more protection. Fertility awareness does not prevent the transmission of HIV, and it should only be used when this is not a concern. Fertility awareness should only be used by properly trained individuals.

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Sex and the City returns with that same 'Sex' appeal

Joseph V. Amadio

NEW YORK — Last week outside Manhattan's Bergdorf Goodman, a white-haired woman with sensible shoes gestured to a window display featuring four female mannequins decked out in designer glitter.

"I bet those are the dresses from that movie," she says to her companion.

She's right.

"That movie" is the highly anticipated Sex and the City 2, and little does she know that its stars — Sarah Jessica Parker, Cynthia Nixon, Kristin Davis and Kim Cattrall (along with Chris Noth and writer-director Michael Patrick King) are inside the store, having just wrapped up a news conference for the film, which opens Thursday.

To say there's buzz about this film is a bit like saying Lady Gaga has something of a following. Or Tiger Woods and his wife had a crush.

After six seasons on HBO, late-night reruns in syndication and a blockbuster transition to the big screen two years ago (which earned $415 million worldwide, thanks to droves of women who showed up — dressed up — at multiplexes), the four letters "SATC" spell a juggernaut franchise. Which is quite a feat, given that it's not an action-adventure flick. Or based on a comic book. Or starting... guys. It's one chic, cinematic Sherman tank, driven by four women who range in age from 44 (Nixon) to 53 (Cattrall). Just picture those Hollywood execs shrugging their shoulders, saying, "Go figure."

"No other book, movie, TV show or music group has gone as far redefining — and expanding — the relationship between female attractiveness and age," says Caroline Weber, a fashion historian and associate professor at Barnard College and Columbia University. Basically, she says, "SATC" has "made it permissible for women past 40 to present themselves as sexy. It's a huge milestone in American popular culture."

Leading that charge is Parker, the brand's star and producer, whose buoyant, eyebrow-arched portrayal of Carrie Bradshaw gives the franchise both haute currency and heart. She speaks at the news conference in a smart, savvy, articulate manner, all the while perched in a short Elle Saab suit atop sky-high heels.

"I think women of a certain generation aren't even conscious of the fact that... we are in the process of redefining our roles all the time," she says. "It's the great gift our mothers gave us."

The sequel bounces the usual SATC fare: sassy dialogue, fun cameos (Lisa Minnelli, Miley Cyrus), crazy designer wardrobes. Yep, even in a recession. Like the first film, it wars with fashion, then sneaks in the serious (touching on gay marriage, menopause, motherhood woes). Yet the sequel veers decidedly more toward romp than realism.

"Like they did in the Great Depression," says King, referring to glam 1930s flicks. "I thought Hol­lywood should take people on a big vacation that maybe they couldn't afford themselves."

That means ditching The City for a road trip to Abu Dhabi. Sort of. The Manhattan shoots were mobbed by devoted fans and paparazzi last year. A zoomed-in photo of Car­trall, holding a script (inadvertently revealing a snippet of dialogue) was overanalyzed by bloggers.

Morocco — where they actually shot the "Abu Dhabi" scenes — was a welcome relief.

"In the middle of the Sahara Desert, not a sound, (too) paparazzi," King says.

"When we arrived, they had music playing..." Nixon says. "And scarves," Davis adds.

"And scarves, that we were then taught... to tie into turbans to help keep you cool," Nixon says.

"Yet even there, they were known. That was kind of surprising," Car­trall says. "(They) kept calling us by our characters' names."

The audience is broad. Even straight men, says Parker, are "fessing up. Just a couple years ago, 'at the luggage carousel, I'd get...' " then she whispers... "I watch your show."

"They say, 'My wife, my girlfriend forced me,'" she recalls. "Now they volunteer more freely the fact that occasionally they even watch it on their own."

The film will surely spark controversy. The poster has caused a stir, with print and online media noting the women's ruthless Photoshopped images. "They look like they've been molded out of wax," Weber says. "SATC" may insist women are beautiful at any age, but apparently War­ner Bros. isn't so sure.

Whether a recessionary audience views the romp as refreshing or way over-the-top is yet to be seen. And let's just say that letting Samantha lose in a souk (an Arabian marketplace) with shorts and attitude may not grow the brand in more conservative parts of the Muslim world. (At press time, it was unclear if United Arab Emirates censors would let the movie be shown in Abu Dhabi.)

But one thing that's clear, Parker says, is "SATC" commitment to women. Which may be needed more than ever, she says, given the dawning of so-called reality shows and their rude, crude female cast members.

"There's this beacon we seem to be moving toward where women are really unkind to one another, and call each other horrible names, and there's a veracious our ears have adapted to, which I find really objectionable," she says. "When I look at a lot of what's available on television, and see how women react to each other, it's stunning to me — it's ar­resting."

The success of SATC," she says, gives her hope that there's still a place "to illustrate that women would much rather be allies than... adversaries."

"Like they did in the Great Depres­sion," says King, referring to glam 1930s flicks. "I thought Hol­lywood should take people on a big vacation that maybe they couldn't afford themselves."

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https://www.mustangdaily.net/articles/sex-and-the-city-returns-with-that-same-sex-appeal
Randy Lewis

LOS ANGELES — Singer and songwriter Sam Phillips displayed a small-scale show at Hollywood's Hotel Cafe for an intimate audience of several dozen. She was testing on a live audience new material she has been working on in her home recording studio.

For a select few regular visitors to her website, the new songs weren't so new — they'd been able to hear them weeks or months earlier as subscribers to her "Long Play" music and art project, an innovative way she's generating financial and emotional support for new music.

With Long Play, a website within her main site, Phillips has thrown open a virtual door to her creative world, inviting in fans to watch and participate as she writes and records a new album that she plans to release in the fall. She's not alone. As the traditional record business has turned topsy-turvy, artists as well as startup companies are developing ways to finance the making of music today. A couple of European websites, Sellaband.com and Sheerhype.com, act as revenue-generating conduits between musicians and fans.

A few years ago, this "patronage model" was viewed as a potential replacement to the beleaguered major-label system. But with Sellahand on the rebound after filling for bankruptcy earlier this year, the tactic is no longer viewed as the savior. Rather, it's one weapon in an ever-expanding arsenal. During a couple of decades as a major-label recording artist, Phillips got used to a ritual in which a record company would put up the money to record new songs she'd written. She'd then wait for weeks, months, sometimes even years for those recordings to be released to the public.

Phillips, named one of the 25 best-reviewed artists of the recently concluded decade by the review-aggregate website Metacritic.com, spent 13 years in the '80s and '90s with Virgin Records, before shifting over a decade ago to the boutique Nonesuch label. Recently, however, her Nonesuch contract came to an end. With the music business in disarray, she decided the time was right to launch an Internet-based forum for her back-alley cabaret pop songs and art. Visitors to her website can subscribe for $52 which gives them access for one year to new music as it makes its way, as well as a slew of official audio and visual content.

"We did it exactly the opposite from iTunes," Phillips, 48, said. "We put no music up and asked for $52 for the year. And people responded, which is great."

Since going live with Long Play last fall, Phillips has pulled in about 1,000 subscribers who have provided her the budget she's using to keep working on the new album. But that's just the culmination of the year-long project. She's also letting subscribers download a series of five EPs, each containing four or five new songs that she has recorded since the previous one.

"That I'm not sure I like," she said with a laugh, "but they've been happy so far."

"I couldn't be happier," said subscriber Jill Lorenz of Clayton, Calif., in the Bay Area. "I'm a big supporter of artists in general ... and usually wanted to know more about their creative process: what books they read and what they thought about. The Long Play gives us this rare access and insight into Nono's world, and I'm grateful that she's willing to share that with us. The $52 subscription price is a steal when you think about the price of one concert ticket to see a much less gifted musician."

Jill Lorenz
Clayton, Calif.

The $52 subscription price is a steal when you think about the price of one concert ticket to see a much less gifted musician.

**Phone Booth.** She writes a blog accessible only to subscribers, posts her art collages and short films, various ways of giving those who are most interested in closely monitoring her career a window into how she creates. "This isn't for everybody," said the woman who also scored the music for the long-running USA Network series "The Gilmore Girls" and who starred as a mute terrorist opposite Bruce Willis in the 1995 thriller "Die Hard With a Vengeance." "I don't feel this is the new business model — whatever that may turn out to be. To me, it's more of an art-and-music installation on the Web." Secure financing directly from fans has provided Phillips with a newfound sense of freedom to pursue her artistic impulses without artistic second-guessing that can come from corporate overseers.

By reporting to subscriber-investors, with whom she has a greater sense of direct connection, "I feel more pressurized to do something for them. It's not a ficklest model to company and people out there that you don't know; it's Jill, it's Bruce, it's all these people who have seen the music and gone, 'I've got to get something going for them, and I hope they like it.'"

"That I'm not sure I like," she said with a laugh, "but they've been happy so far."

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**Evidence overwhelming of N. Korea torpedo attack**

MOON-CHUL PARK, Associated Press

A multinational investigation has determined that the sinking on March 26 of a South Korean naval warship in the Yellow Sea was caused by a North Korean torpedo.

On Thursday, South Korea’s Joint Civilian-Military Investigation Group released the results of its investigation into the incident, concluding that the underwater explosion that sank the Cheonan was caused by a North Korean homing torpedo near the Cheonan patrol vessel in two waters west of the Korean Peninsula.

In a swift reaction to the release of the report, Pyongyang called the sinking of the Cheonan “outrageous” and a “slanderous accuses of the best.”

The sinkings in waters where repeated clashes between warships from the South and North have occurred. In November, a North Korean warship was damaged in an exchange of fire between South and North Korean ships in the Yellow Sea. Some South Koreans view the torpedo attack as retaliation by North Korea for this exchange of fire.

South Korea is fundamentally a small part — not most of — the Security Council. The team of investigators include specialists from the United States, Britain, Australia and Sweden.

Participants in the six-party talks aimed at having North Korea放弃 nuclear weapons would be remembered, however, only if North Korea is fundamentally a small part — not most of — the Security Council.

In separate telephone conversations with South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak, Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama and U.S. President Barack Obama pledged to support South Korea in addressing the issue at the Security Council. Japan and the United States should strive to ensure the council adopts a document that raises harsh questions about North Korea’s responsibility for the sinking of the Cheonan.

Participants in the six-party talks aimed at having North Korea放弃 nuclear weapons would be remembered, however, only if North Korea is fundamentally a small part — not most of — the Security Council.

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**Civil Rights Act**

OK, Yes Rand Paul wants to protect the Constitution and he probably isn’t even racist, but he is ignorant to the fact that his views affect minorities negatively, and he’s happily ready to let those people suffer, even though he said in his interview he wouldn’t support a private business that discriminates. He is supporting them in the end because he supports the cause and is doing nothing about it. This is the 21st Century and we need to evolve, instead of sticking to some bullshit.

**Anonymous**

In response to "Rand Paul revisits Civil Rights Act"

Not the Mustang Daily features select comments that are written in response to articles, posted online. Though not all the responses are printed, the Mustang Daily prints comments that are coherent and foster intelligent discussion on a given subject. No overcapitalization, please.

PABLO MALINA SCHOEFA

**Write a letter to the editor!**

Send your letter, in 250 words or less, to mustangdailynopinions@gmail.com. Or submit it at mustangdaily.com
Lakers’ Andrew Bynum needs a seat to rest his knee

Bill Plaschke
LOS ANGELES TIMES

PHOENIX — How much more can the Lakers endure? The tear in Andrew Bynum’s knee has officially become a pain in everyone’s neck.

End the charade. Begin his rest. From this point, he will have at least a week off before the start of the NBA Finals. Time won’t heal the torn meniscus, but perhaps it will strengthen everything around it, including his spirit, and better prepare him for more important battles ahead.

It’s a longshot. But it’s the only shot the Lakers have. They can’t continue showing their big man on to a court where he grows smaller and smaller. They can’t continue allowing him to stumble through a plodding, painful effort of barely seven minutes, which is what happened Sunday here during the Lakers’ 118-109 loss to the Phoenix Suns in Game 3 of the Western Conference finals.

Slow on defense, slower to the basket, Bynum scored but once while picking up four fouls before being mercifully removed after playing only 34 seconds in the closing minutes of a tense fourth quarter.

Was he the reason Amar’e Stoudemire emerged from underneath his big mouth to score 32 points while grabbing 11 rebounds? Of course not, but Stoudemire also got started early when he hit a jumper in Bynum’s face while being fouled, resulting in a three-point play, more bellowing and balloon rattling.

The Lakers do not need Bynum to beat the quick Suns. He only slows them down. They can beat them with Lamar Odom, assuming Odom can find his head again after his own Sunday night horror show. It says here the Lakers can shut down Bynum and still win a series they lead two games to one.

“We adjust,” said Kele Bryant. “If the Lakers can’t beat the Suns without Bynum, then they don’t deserve to go to the NBA Finals anyway. This is not about the last week in May. This is about the first week in June. This is about a run at Kendrick Perkins and the Boston Celtics and history.

‘Get him down. Take the chances. There’s no other choice.

This is not a new idea. When coach Phil Jackson was asked afterward whether he had thought about resting Bynum for a game, he said, “Yes.”

When asked to elaborate, he said, “I’ll talk to him to see ... how he feels about it. I think he was ineffective.”

Ineffective, or incapable? The numbers say that Bynum can no longer snuff out opponents on a knee that is killing him.

In the first five games of the postseason, he had three double-doubles. He tore his knee in the sixth game. He managed to play through the pain for a couple of games, but it’s finally dragging him down.

In his last five postseason games, Bynum has averaged five points and five rebounds, and how is this kid going to stop? Fans have wondered whether Bynum should have had arthroscopic surgery immediately after his April 30 injury, thus giving him a chance to be ready for the Finals. But folks around the Lakers are saying that with this particular injury, recovery time would have been longer than a month, so it wasn’t worth it.

So Bynum has had to grin and bear it.

“I’m ready. I’m all right. I feel fine,” he claimed Sunday night, shaking his head above the media crowd that grows larger around him every game. “It doesn’t look to me like I’m hobbling.

“I’m the same every single day,” he said. “I feel pain, then it goes away ... I feel pain, then it goes away ... I just need to play better.”

He wants to be on the court. He’s 22 years old and still searching for locker room credibility. He will never admit that his knee needs to be propped up on an ottoman instead of being banged around on a hardwood.

“Rest is not going to do anything,” Bynum said. “Surgery is the only thing that will do something.”

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Freshman Mitch Haniger chooses college over the bigs

by Alex Kacik

Many highly-recruited high school baseball stars often face a tough decision upon graduation. Often persuaded by the allure of a professional contract, some talented players opt to forgo a college education for a shot at a paycheck filled with zeros.

When high school standout Mitch Haniger graduated high school, he was faced with this same debacle. Books or bills?

With the New York Mets in one hand — Cal Poly Mustangs in the other — Haniger chose to stay in school.

"I kind of knew I wanted to go to college," the Cal Poly freshman right fielder and designated hitter said. "It's a one-time opportunity. It's something people talk about the rest of their lives and I didn't want to regret missing that."

Yes, he could come back to school, but "it wouldn't be the same," he said. The most stressful part of the process was a week before the draft when the Mets pressed Haniger to commit.

"They are pressuring you to tell them how much money you want and how much you will sign for ... (Scouts) will question you before so you know where you stand before the draft," he said.

Money, injuries and development were factors that came into play. The Mets drafted Haniger in the third round, which he said made his choice easier. The organization told him they would make him an offer after summer, which Haniger spent playing for the San Luis Obispo Rattlers.

By the end of summer, Haniger wasn't a priority. The Mets were focused on their top two draft choices they had yet to sign. At that point, Haniger's decision was a "no-brainer."

"My parents told me to do whatever I want," he said. "They wanted me to go to college, but I think it wouldn't have been different if I was drafted high." He added that Haniger's decision was a "no-brainer."

The Archbishop Mitty High School graduate hit .364, knocked in 25 runs and nailed 12 home runs. But he didn't just excel in baseball.

Haniger set a league record with 42 receptions (75 overall for 789 yards and five touchdowns) in possibly the toughest football league in California — the West Catholic Athletic League. Football helped fortify his competitive nature.

He trains 11 months of the year for 12 games, it really makes you love winning or hate losing because you practice five days a week so hard for one game and don't play again till next week," Haniger said. "With baseball you play so often, like four games a week, that it's easy to accept losing, but football taught me to love winning and get over it: I hate to lose."

Haniger was on ESPN's High School Players Watch List and named to the CBS/Esports All-State First Team.

"He's pretty much known (Haniger) forever," Haniger said. "He has always carried the offense through every team we've been on. through high school and travel ball."

"He has high standards for himself and coach Lee and everybody else did for him too. He kind of carries the team as a young guy, which is nice."

On paper, his stats jumped off the page. In person, he was more impressive.

A .317 average overall and six home runs this season. Haniger, a third-round selection by the New York Mets in 2009, led the Mustangs in batting average for weeks before being sidelined by an injury.

But head coach Larry Lee said the intangibles he has are even bigger.

"He has always carried the offense in a game," he said. "(There are) other players that send to the table. We found out early that Mitch relishes in that environment."

Lee referenced Cal Poly's first conference series against UC Riverside April 2.

Cal Poly was down to its final out, down 2-1 in the top of the ninth. Da vid Van Oosten forced a walk after a 10-pitch at bat. Jono Grayson pinch ran and stole second to set the stage for the composed freshman.

Each time Haniger steps to the plate he has a routine. He retires his gloves and holds his helmet as he takes the corner of the plate. His back foot enters the box first as the righty points his front foot up the third base line. Haniger takes an open stance as he steps to the mound. Three half practice swings later, he takes an even stance and waits as his bat slightly wags up and down just above his shoulder.

Focused and ready, he zoned in. He looked at two pitches; one ball, one strike. When the third pitch came, he was sitting dead red.

"He threw me a fastball right down the plate and I smashed it over left field," Haniger said.

Although his two-run blast put the Mustangs up, Riverside scored a run in the bottom half of the inning. Cal Poly won in 10 innings.

"He's pretty competitive," Lee said. "He has prepared his whole life for this opportunity that presents itself in a game," he said. "There are other players that send to the table. We found out early that Mitch relishes in that environment."

Haniger has definitely held his own. He is clearly one of the funniest guys I have ever met," Spencer said. "He's pretty superstitious, that's for sure. He does his own thing; he knows what he is doing. I know he puts his shirts on in a separate order and under everything, the same way. (Haniger) cuts his hair every Thursday, he knows what he is doing. He does his own thing; he knows what he is doing.orage doesn't hurt."

Preparation is the key. Haniger's work ethic, professionalism and mental stability is uncanny for a freshman, senior outfielder Adam Melker said.

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"Age-wise he is a freshman, but mentally there isn't a gap between him and I," he said. "It's a unique case that you really can't tell his young."

But head coach Larry Lee said Haniger has been great at the plate. Haniger's teammates in the dugout get an edge on the opposing pitcher. He tries to stay as relaxed as possible because rigidity doesn't help in a reactionary game, said Haniger, who takes deep breaths while visualizing his at-bat in the on-deck circle. Being a bit superstitious doesn't hurt.

"He's pretty easy, one of the funniest guys I have ever met," Spencer said. "He's pretty superstitious, that's for sure. He does his own thing; he knows what he is doing. I know he puts his shirts on in a separate order and under everything, the same way. (Haniger) cuts his hair every Thursday, before a series. He has his same schedule every week. He has to have his way," he said.

With regard to his decision to coming to Cal Poly, Haniger has no regrets.

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"He wants to be the player that lives for the big opportunity that presents itself in a game," he said. "There are other players that send to the table. We found out early that Mitch relishes in that environment."

Haniger has definitely held his own, especially when the team needed him. As of late, the Mustangs have caught fire at the plate. His poise has led to a .364 average with the bases loaded, a .317 average overall and six home runs. His confidence has earned respect from his teammates.

"He has given us our offense a big boost, he has that confidence with him," senior catcher Ross Brayton said. "We watched him and thought, 'Yes this kid is going to be good ...' He's one of our consistent hitters, always good for two or three hits a game."

Lee said many players he recruits to Cal Poly need developing, but occasionally he gets the guy he wants or "starts them away from bigger schools."

Haniger is a steal. Lee said he needs to be the player that steps up when the older players graduate this year.

"He will be able to pass every test," Lee said. "I think he's going to be a really talented player for us."