Students recognized for community service

John McCullough

Facade students and community members convened at the president's house on campus for the 24th annual Community Service Awards Thursday afternoon. Individuals and groups received awards for their contributions to the quality of life in San Luis Obispo and their "spirit of civic engagement."

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

— Warren Baker

Cal Poly President

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 presidential address. This will be his last 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 outside-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 realize what we have and to give back," Baker said.

Sona Alptekin, faculty liaison for service learning at Cal Poly, was another faculty member to speak. Through service learning, students are able to gain knowledge about their community and the groups they volunteer with, she said.

Alptekin is also one of the members of the President's Community Service panel. Choosing the recipients of the awards is based on how the individual or group recognizes a need and finds a way to meet it, she said.

"Service learning links course content to the community through organized service activities, which enhance the academic experience and encourage participation in the community," she said.

Alptekin said all of the recipients work very hard for their community and recognize their ability to serve those less fortunate. She asked Baker to designate a bigger portion of Cal Poly's budget to service learning. The crowd laughed; according to Cal Poly's website, university officials are still trying to deal with the state's $24 billion shortfall.

The awards were given out in four different categories with multiple recipients in each. Each category is designed to highlight specific achievements in service.

The awards are competitive and selected on the basis of the written nominations submitted by faculty, staff and students.

"The award for Significant Contribution was given to Hunter Francis, Freshman Mitch Haniger is one of the Mustangs' leading contributors.

IN SPORTS, P. 12
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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 fine 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 its formulas the tax is both fair and necessary.

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

Deputy District Attorney Anil Kaushal said the defendant received a sentence of 50 years to life, which he will begin to serve immediately because Ramos used a gun.

The apparent conflict is built into 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 Monday. 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 Payton, 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 any other public 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 both 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.

Supreme Court rules on discrimination suit for black firefighters

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 shown 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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Entrepreneurship

Even though he's been making the rounds of such early presidential primary and caucus states as New Hampshire, Iowa and South Caro­olina, former U.S. Sen. Rick Santor­um, R-Pa., said Monday he's still a "long way" from making up his mind about a 2012 bid for the White House.

"I can make a difference in the short term," Santorum said of his appearance on the rubber chicken circuit and fundraisers in those criti­cal states. "We'll wait and see what happens beyond that."

Santorum predicted electoral success for Romney, denying Sena­tor as a loyalist for President Barack Obama.

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

Many of the country's areas still 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 Zabul on Sunday, the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

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

• • •

"Listen to the students' voice because they are paying tuition." — Taylor Fiestos, agricultural business junior

"Know the culture of Cal Poly and maybe have gone to the school." —Erik Johnson, agricultural business junior

"Focus more on budget issues." —Julia Dean, chemistry freshman

"Talk to students more about where the money goes." —Rebecca Tortorich, agricultural business junior

"Try to relate to the students." —Scott Swenson, earth science sophomore

"Spend money more wisely." —Ryan Fulton, bioresource and agricultural engineering freshman

"Try to relate to the students." —Scott Carlisle, Senior, Ag Sciences

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McCrystal calls Marjah a ‘bleeding ulcer’ in Afghan campaign

Dion Nissenbaum
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

MARJAH, Afghanistan — Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal called Marjah a ‘bleeding ulcer’ in an Afghan campaign that needs to ensure there is not a Taliban presence.

"How many days do you think we have before we run out of support by the Marjah community?" McChrystal replied.

A charged silence settled in the stuffy, crowded chamber until the top U.S. Marine general asked his commanders how long it will take to oust Taliban forces from a longtime stronghold in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province.

"That's a very, very patterns," Lt. Col. Brian Christmas told McChrystal. "We've been here for 10 days, and..."

"...there are still 4,500 Taliban fighters," McChrystal said in one meeting. "We said: 'We're going to have a little bit more than a few thousand...""

"...and when do you think we're going to make..."

"...there will be a hard decision country, who said the time line is out.”

McChrystal said a group of Afghan officials, international commanders and insurgent leaders ordered the effort to combat the Taliban fighters from Helmand.

"Now do it feel like," he said, describing the front-line strategy, "I'll tell you, it's a bleeding ulcer outside."

McChrystal expressed impatience with the mounting pressure he's under from his civilian bosses in Washington and Europe to start reducing combat forces in Afghanistan.

Progress in Marjah has been slow, however, in part because no one who's been through previous efforts on the ground had told them to be convinced that they could trust representatives of an Afghan government that had sent them corrupt police and inept leaders ahead of the planned offensive.

A hundred days after U.S.-Led forces launched the offensive, Marjah still is in the grip of the local总计 population, and locals have begun to act like that in Marjah.

"How many days do you think we have before we run out of support by the Marjah community?"

"...and we have to be a little bit credible," McChrystal said in one meeting. "We're taking it back. We came in to take it back. And we haven't been completely convincing.

"We want the president to move more in the direction of interdisciplinary studies," he said.

"I want the next president to move more in the direction of interdisciplinary studies," he said.

"We have a great service, while simultaneously meeting a community need. Wins in the Service Learning category included Lynne Slivorsky, Aydin Nazmi, Grace Yeh, David Gillette and Thomas Fowler.

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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 Marsh and Christine Condon said the event aims to make aanimal abuse and neglect — problems that are more pressing than most people realize.

"Most people think that supporting animals is important; they're often misinformed about the fact that problems are not getting 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."

Participators 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 gift certificates, t-shirts and gift cards. Groups on campus also supported the cause. The Cal Poly Cat Program 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 growing in the future so we can be more involved."

The club also rallied support from 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 Huffer of Arroyo Grande have wanted to have sex anyway. Even if everything's working fine. Sex has given the world of alcohol and sex a new meaning. Drink sex on the Beach, Orge, Blowjob, Slippery Nipple, Dirty White Match and many more. Although I haven't had any of those and by had, I mean drunk, I have had bad many opportunities to observe the complicated relationship between alcohol and sex. Far from the idyllic, peanut butter and chocolate, this combo is more like batteries and a campfire; powerful, but potentially destructive. The first time I got drunk, I remember being amazed at how simple life became. When an idea came into my head, instead of pondering pros and cons and logically deciding whether it was a good idea, I just did it. Luckily, that night I only talked the cats off my friends, saying pretty much whatever came to mind. But, that same mental state makes it easy to see sexual situations as simple, when they are, in fact, very complicated.

One of the most basic prerequisites for sex is that the people involved want to have sex. This sounds very obvious, but rarely does sex start with the couple intending "I want to have sex" to each other. This is unnecessary because (usually) a combination of subtle and not-so-subtle clues. These can be quite hard to accurately interpret when you aren’t operating at 100 percent. The “hook” in someone’s eye can be found, even if it does not actually exist. Even when both people would have wanted to have sex anyway and were just benefiting from “liquor courage,” sex while drunk is not exactly magical. Although low doses can make one feel sexy and more relaxed, larger doses of alcohol may increase the possibility of throwing up all over the person and not ever remembering the sex at all (and the worst sex is that you don't remember) might make you reconsider what the “courage” you gained was worth.

Of course, because of its power to impair judgment and cause black outs, 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 was not wise to allow yourself to get drunk enough that sex could 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 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; it should only be used when this is not a concern. Fertility awareness should only be used by properly trained individuals.

Anthony Rust is a biological sciences major and Mustang Daily sex columnist.
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 gowns.

"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 riff.

After six seasons on HBO, last-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字母 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 starring... guys. It's one chic, cinematic Sherman tank, driven by four women who range in age from 44 (Nixon) to 53 (Cattrall). Just picture all those Hollywood execs shrugging their shoulders, saying, "Go figure."

"No other book, movie, TV show or music group has gone as far defining — and expanding — the relationship between female attractiveness and age," says Caroline Webber, 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, saucy, 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 boasts the usual SATC fare: sassy dialogue, fun cameos (Lisa Minnelli, Miles Cyrus), crazy designer wardrobes. Yep, even in a recession. Like the first film, it was with fresh, new shots in the serious (touching on gay marriage, menopause, motherhood woes). Yet the sequel was decidedly more to-ward romp than realism.

"Like they did in the Great Depression," says King, referring to glamorous 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 shots were mobbed by devoted fans and paparazzi last year. A zoomed-in photo of Carrie Bradshaw 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, (no) paparazzi," King says. "When we arrived, they had music playing, "I Want to Break Free." The girls were singing along."

"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." Cattrall says. "(They) keeping 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'll 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 unapologetically 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 it's just that letting Samantha loose 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 fears, given the daw 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 vernacular 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."
Machete
continued from page 6
as or Texas negatively. The com-
mission is part of Perry's office.
"No film/production company
can receive any state funding un-
til we have reviewed the final product,"
said Allison Castle, a spokeswoman
for Perry's office, in an e-mail. "At
this time, no funds have been re-
leased to Troublemaker Studios."
Rodriguez helped draw more
scrutiny to "Machete" on May 5
when he released a fake trailer that
said Allison Castle, a spokeswoman
for Troublemaker Studios, "is reserving
judgment on 'Machete' on May 5..."
Rodriguez later said the trailer
was a joke.
"The movie is very over-the-top
satirical, and it's only because of
what's happened in Arizona that
some scenes actually feel at all
grounded in reality, which is pretty
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Evidence overwhelming of N. Korea torpedo attack

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 blast caused by a North Korean homing torpedo tore the Cheonan patrol vessel in two in waters west of the Korean Peninsula. In a swift reaction to the release of the report, Pyongyang called the conclusions "a fabrication," warning that any retaliation would prompt it to "respond with various forceful actions, including all-out war.

If circumstances take a turn for the worse, North Korea might resort to further flagrant provocations. Japan, the United States and South Korea must work together closely to prevent the reclusive state from behaving recklessly. China and Russia should also act in concert with the three nations.

The team of investigators included specialists from the United States, Britain, Australia and Sweden.

Frames recovered from the waters where the Cheonan went down — components of a torpedo propulsion device, including a propeller — provided all the evidence needed to determine what happened. The fragments in question matched the schematics of a torpedo included in introductory brochures provided to foreign countries by North Korea for export purposes.

The investigative team's conclusion, supported by these pieces of material evidence, is convincing. North Korea continues to deny the Cheonan's sinking to the U.N. 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.

Attention will be focused on whether China will choose to condemn North Korea in response to the release of the latest report. We hope the Chinese government will take a firm stance against North Korea.

Participants in the six-party talks aimed at having North Korea dismantle its nuclear weapons will probably have to postpone a resumption of their negotiations for some time to come. However, doing so will help Pyongyang gain time to further advance its nuclear weapons development program, as it has been unwilling to return to the negotiating table.

North Korea's nuclear weapons program — a direct threat to our national security — must not be left unchecked. With this in mind, Japan needs to look for ways to open a new round of six-nation talks at an early date.

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"

NOTE: 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 Molina Hernandez

Send your letter, in 250 words or less, to mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com. Or submit it at mustangdaily.com

Write a letter to the editor!
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 else'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 Amare 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 Ken-drick Perkins and the Boston Celtics and history."

Sit him down. Take the chance. 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."

Since when does he have a head? "I just need to play better," Bynum said Sunday night, 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 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." He wants to be on the court. He's 22 years old and still seeking 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 hard wood.

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

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."

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"I just need to play better."

"I'm ready. I'm all right. I feel fine."
Freshman Mitch Haniger chooses college over the bigs

Alex Kacik
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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 flooded with zeros.

When high school standout Mitch Haniger graduated high school, he was faced with this same decision. 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. "They are pressuring you to tell them how much money you want but "it wouldn't be the same," he said."

Haniger famously has hit .317 with 12 doubles and six home runs this season. Haniger, a third-round selection by the San Diego Padres in 2009, led the Mustangs in batting average for weeks before being sidelined by an injury.

But how much money was going to be the deciding factor in Haniger's decision? Haniger hinted at this question, but "it wouldn't be the same," he said.

Haniger's decision was a "no-brainer." He wanted to go to college, but he didn't think it would have been different if he was drafted high.

"He has always carried the offensiveness through every team we've been on, through high school and travel ball when we were 13," Stewart said. "He had high standards for himself and coach Lee and everybody else did for him too."

Haniger was a "true student of the game." He described as a "true student of the game." He described as a "true student of the game." He described as a "true student of the game." He described as a "true student of the game." He described as a "true student of the game." He described as a "true student of the game." He described as a "true student of the game." He described as a "true student of the game." He described as a "true student of the game." He described as a "true student of the game." He described as a "true student of the game." He described as a "true student of the game." He described as a "true student of the game.

"He has much more money (Haniger) for-" the big opportunity that presents itself in a game," he said. "(There are) other players that send to the offensiveness in that environment."

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

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. Many highly-recruited high school players opt to forgo a college education for a shot at a paycheck flooded with zeros.

Haniger was one of the top two draft choices for the New York Mets in 2009, led the Mustangs in batting average for weeks before being sidelined by an injury.

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

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."

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