Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Cal Poly presidential candidate series: Dr. Steven R. Angle

Wright State University provost visits today

Jessica Barba
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Dr. Steven R. Angle is the last of the three candidates in consideration to fill the post of Cal Poly president. He is scheduled to visit today.

The three forums Angle will attend are designed for students, faculty, staff and community members to ask questions of him, respectively.

Angle is the provost of Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. Since beginning in 2007, his duties included overseeing the university's colleges and nationally-funded research centers. He also supervised the divisions of Business and Finance, Advancement, Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, Curriculum and Research.

At the time of his acceptance, administrators were very excited to have him join the university, said Wright State president David R. Hopkins in a press release in 2007.

"He has had great success as an administrator of a complex and multifaceted organization," Hopkins said. "He has demonstrated a personal commitment to diversity and a dedication to building quality and excellence in higher education."

Wright State University has more than 18,000 students, about 2,000 less than Cal Poly. It is also credited with establishing the National Center for Medical Readiness, a program intended to train medical personnel for large-scale emergencies such as natural disasters or military-related attacks.

Angle is known to have a good reputation amongst the campus community, said Jenna Ziegler, a Wright State University social science education senior. Since photographing multiple events as chief photographer for the college paper, the Guardian, Ziegler has become familiar with Angle while at the campus.

"He has a good presence amongst the students and has been a good asset at Wright," Ziegler said. "He really takes the time to get to know students and remembers them."

Before working at Wright State University, Angle was dean of the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences at the University of California, Riverside (UCR) for seven years. He oversaw 15 academic departments under this college and worked with more than 265 faculty members and 4,600 students. He also managed the college's daily operations, strategic planning, and $54-million annual budget.

Under this title, he worked with campus administration to secure state and private funding for seven major capital projects, began a geonics institute and presided over a 20 percent rise in freshman enrollment.

As an administrator, he lead several construction projects including Montemagno refers to the university's current plan for its future.

Montemagno answered questions and touched on subjects ranging from Cal Poly's success compared to the rest of the Cal State Universities, to campus diversity and students declaring a major before enrolling. He spoke several times about "shared governance," or shared decision-making between students and faculty.

Some attendees were interested in the candidate's plans to extend Cal Poly's reputation as a nationally-recognized institution. Chester Matkey, an industrial engineering senior and Poly Rep, asked Montemagno how he planned to make Cal Poly the premier university in the country.

Montemagno referred to the university's current plan for its future.

"The plan doesn't say what our objectives are yet," Montemagno said. "Through shared governance we need to figure out the methods of measuring ourselves to identify what our needs are." Through shared governance, members of Cal Poly's faculty and administration will be able to get a better grasp on what the university needs, he said.

Dave Christy, dean of the Orfale College of Business, was one of faculty members in attendance. He said Montemagno, as well as the other two candidates, Dr. Sona K. Andrews and Dr. Steven R. Angle, aren't at Cal Poly for students and faculty to interview them. The candidates are at Cal Poly in order to see if this would be a good fit for them, he said.

"What we want is for all three of the candidates to fall in love with Cal Poly," Christy said. "That way, when the Board of Trustees makes its decision, the best one will want to come to Cal Poly."
Angle

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construction of the Physical Sciences, Biological Sciences and Science Laboratory Buildings. He also helped secure funding for the Ma-

terials Science, Genomics and Geology Buildings, and the Boyce, Webber and Batchelor Halls.

Angle began his career in the education system when he became an assistant professor of chemistry in 1986 at UCR. He became a full-time professor in 1994 and received UCR's Distinguished Teaching Award in 1991. He was also selected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1999 and an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow in 1993. These awards granted him the funding and means to pursue new research on chemotherapy and experiment with the design of new anti-cancer compounds.

Prior to working at UCR, Angle was vice president of Angle and Behavior, a large Office Equipment, Inc. He received a bachelor's of science in organic chemistry from the University of California, Irvine (UCI) in 1978 and a master's in chemistry from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1981. In 1984, he received a Ph.D in organic chemistry from UCI.

His research interests have included organic synthesis, development of new synthesis methodologies and strategies, bioorganic chemistry and biomimetic synthesis.

Angle will visit the campus Wednesday to meet with students, staff and faculty. He will attend the Associated Students Inc. Student Open Forum from 10:50 to 11:30 a.m. in Chimera Auditorium, then meet with faculty and staff from 1:10 to 1:50 p.m. at Alex and Faye Spanos Theatre. A university and community open forum will also be held from 4:10 to 5:30 p.m. in the Advanced Technology Laboratories.

"Cal Poly is proud and Vice President for Academic Affairs Robert Koob said while all these candidates’ academic backgrounds and experience are important, he hopes to see more depth to their character so see how they will adapt to the campus.

"I am looking more for their value system," Koob said. "This is a growth position that they will have to grow into. College administration is a learn-by-doing job."

Koob said while all three candidates have backgrounds rich in math and science, he hopes to see them use their experience to think creatively to support Cal Poly’s programs in this difficult fiscal environment.

He has a good presence amongst the students and has been a good asset at Wright.

— Jenna Ziegler

Wright State University’s social sciences education center

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I'm always very proud. It really reflects the quality of students that we have on campus. I think even if they didn't place, they represented Cal Poly very well.

— Susan Opava
Dean of Cal Poly Research and Graduate Programs

Research
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Trieu's diligence shows beyond first place accolades. Jim, who has been Trieu's master's program thesis adviser since 2007, said he has authored four papers and co-authored another five, while maintaining a 3.4 GPA in electrical engineering and business administration master's programs.

"Simson bears a high degree of curiosity and innovative approaches to problem-solving and has greatly contributed in (gallium nitride) LED research," Jim said. "He is an excellent example of Cal Poly graduate students."

They were first nominated by their respective colleges and then selected in a preliminary competition at Cal Poly. Final competitors submitted written papers and made oral presentations to judges of experts.

For Susan Opava, dean of Cal Poly Research and Graduate Programs, this year's event marked the 17th time she has watched Cal Poly students compete.

"I'm always very proud. It really reflects the quality of students that we have on campus. I think even if they didn't place, they represented Cal Poly very well."

Barley, who is hearing impaired, overcame challenges other students didn't.

"She's just a remarkable person, just terrific, you know. It's really wonderful to have her win," Opava said.

In addition, Kimberly Paterson, an English junior, received a second-place award in the humanities and letters undergraduate category for her critical discourse analysis on the gender issues that discourage participation of females in mass online role-playing games.

Paterson said her own experiences with video gaming led to a 26-page report. She penned examples of online discourse, through forums and blogs, about a particular group and then analyzed how the language illustrates certain stereotypes about that group.

Specifically, she looked at the negative stereotypes associated with interpretations of the term "female gamers."

"Because video games have traditionally been a masculine pastime, and since video game companies are starting to recognize women as a legitimate market, it's so important that people, especially gamers, become aware that female gamers are not all 'noobs' and that being female has nothing to do with your ability to play a game exceptionally," Paterson said.

"The harsh treatment of female gamers and the sexism that gets propagated in games is not acceptable. Yet, most of it flies under the radar."

Also recognized was biological sciences graduate student Sarah Johnson. She took first place in the biological and agricultural sciences graduate division for her research study using protomics to characterize the physiological response of fish exposed to the emerging environmental contaminant monophenol.

Students who didn't place first or second but represented Cal Poly were computer science master's student Jason Anderson, Dominic Camargo, Ben Davini and Brian Opava, and mechanical engineering undergraduate Andrew Sommer.

Cal Poly tied in total number of awards with four other campuses. It also tied with Fresno State for three first-place finishes.
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Stock

continued from page 7

showed quarterly price declines in 13 of 20 major markets. 

Housing demand is increasing because of an improving job mar-
ket and low interest rates. Supply, howev-
er, is also increasing because of foreclosures,” Patrick Newport, a
housing economist for IHS Global
Eights, warned in a note to inves-
tors, predicting no bottom in home
prices before next year.

Also weighing on consumer sent-
iment in a four-week stock market
slump, the Dow closed down 22.67
points at 10,043.90 on Tuesday, just
above the psychological threshold of
10,000.

While their investments and re-
demands plans may be losing value,
American consumers are seeing their
dollars go farther. Europe’s problems
have brought down oil prices, which
have reduced gasoline prices nation-
wide, and inflation, as measured by
the consumer price index, is sub-
due.

Inflation rose 2.2 percent over the
past 12 months and fell a tenth of
a percentage point from March to
April, the first such drop in a year.
Core inflation, which excludes the
volatile energy and food sectors,
posted a 12-month increase in April
of just 0.9 percent, the smallest gain
since 1966.

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(Hey, it’ll give you something to talk to Mom about.)
Elderly Chicago couple trapped under trash for weeks

Chicago Police conducting a well-being check on Jesse and Thelma Caston at the request of a neighbor about 6:30 p.m. Monday in the South Side's Grand Crossing neighborhood detected an overpowering odor and called the Fire Department to make a forced entry, police said.

A fire official on the scene said the couple had not been heard from for three weeks and the 75-year-old woman had injuries that resembled brain trauma. Both she and her 76-year-old husband were taken to Jackson Park Hospital in critical condition. A nurse said firefighters arrived even though they still were in intensive care.

The stench was so strong that the personnel had to don hazardous material suits to deal with the debris. Paramedics reported seeing rodents on the property.

Fire Department spokesman Kevin MacGregor said Thelma Caston may have fallen through the debris first and become trapped. When her husband tried to come to her aid, he apparently became trapped as well.

The couple apparently were the only residents in the building.

Grand Crossing District Police Lt. Dale Kingley said, "It (the residence) was packed from floor to ceiling."

"It just brought me to tears to see the condition they were found in," said next-door neighbor Reda Valerone, 59, who called 911 about 4 p.m. Monday to ask for the well-being check.

She said she didn't know the couple but had not seen the man mowing his lawn for quite some time and saw that his gray truck parked outside was accumulating parking tickets.

Over the last few weeks, she said, various people came to their door and, when their knocking went unanswered, frequently came to her to ask if she knew anything.

Hattie Fields, 83, who lives next door to the Castons' second-floor apartment Monday evening and found the elderly couple buried alive under mounds of trash, possibly for as long as three weeks.

"I was surprised. I wanted to come to Chicago as soon as possible," said O'Neal, who lives in the Seattle area.

"I love and care about her," he said of his sister.

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"I thought it was an abandoned building, actually," said another neighbor, Choppers Ingram, who said she has lived in the neighborhood for 15 years. "Someone should have checked on Jesse and Thelma Caston as soon as possible," said next-door neighbor Reda Valerone, 59, who called 911 about 4 p.m. Monday to ask for the well-being check.

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Stock volatility threatens quick economic recovery

Kevin G. Hall
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON — You wouldn’t know it from watching the stock market, but the U.S. economy recovered much of the ground it lost in the financial crisis. The Dow Jones industrial average, which had been picking up, and with net job growth in five of the past six months, Americans are getting back to work and those with jobs are breathing a bit more easily. Even the hard­headed state sector, he said, shows signs of life.

"I think at a minimum, both residents and commer­cial (real es­state) have bottomed," he said, referring to housing prices.

Adding to his bullish view, consumer confidence — as measured in a monthly release by the Conference Board — improved for the third consecutive month in May, along with consumers’ expectations about the economy.

"Consumers’ apprehension about current business conditions and the job market continues to slowly dis­sipate. Consumers’ expectations, however, on the other hand, have increased sharply over the past three months," Lynn Franco, the director of the group’s Consumer Research Center, said in the monthly report.

Consumers’ expectations for in­creased employment and income also rose for the third straight month.

"While the improvement in con­fidence is a welcome sign that the re­covery may be gathering pace, we do not view confidence as a significant driver of consumer spending," cautioned John Ryding and Conrad De­Quardo, who run forecaster RDQ Economics in New York.

"Although inventory levels are improving, they are still higher and prices have yet to pick up, however, other factors remain a drag against consumption," the National Association of Re­tailers said Monday that existing home sales rose 7.6 percent in April, on top of a 7.7 percent rise in March, but those jumps came as buyers tried to qualify for a tax credit that expired April 15. "Although the inventory levels remain above normal and much of the gain last month was seasonal, the housing price correction appears essentially over," Lawrence Yun, the chief economist for the Realtors’ group, said in a report annexed to the sales numbers.

On Tuesday, the Federal Housing Finance Agency released quarterly data that showed a 2.2 percent un­adjusted decline in home prices dur­ing the first three months of 2010 over the final three months of 2009. The same day, the closely watched S&P/Case-Shiller Home Price Index
Students choreograph dance for show at Spanos Theatre

Kelly Cooper
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Hip-hop, modern and ballet are just a few of the styles featured in the annual student-run spring dance concert held on May 27 and 28 in Spanos Theatre. Titled “Element,” the concert features 20 original dance pieces, each choreographed and performed by students. The spring dance show has been a place for those wishing to perform, but may not be a part of the Cal Poly dance department. This year’s student director, business administration senior Joni Fleischer, said auditions are open to anyone who has a passion to move.

“It’s really cool because you don’t have to be taking a dance class at Cal Poly, you don’t have to be a dance major, you don’t have to be in Orchesis — it’s all just students who like to dance,” Fleischer said.

Hopeful dancers and choreographers showed up to the first meeting in March, where choreographers demonstrated a few of their dance steps. Dancers then could sign up for as many dances as they wanted, depending on the skill-level required. Computer science senior Ryan Badilla, who choreographed a break dancing piece titled “Get Down Motown,” said he invited all levels of dancers to try out for his piece as long as they were willing to learn.

“What I did was open it up to whoever feels they’re confident to learn something like this. I know that break dancing is really specific, and not a lot of people do it. So I just opened it up to everybody. We can have all different levels,” Badilla said.

Other choreographers found that advanced dancers were attracted to their direction. Recreation, parks and tourism administration senior Meghan Hudson, a member of Cal Poly’s dance company Orchesis, said her modern piece “Cunning” has drawn mainly Orchesis dancers. Hudson drew inspiration from American dancer and choreographer Merce Cunningham, who is regarded as a father of American avant garde.

“My piece is a tribute or investigation of his technique,” Hudson said. “It’s really cool because you don’t have to be an Orchesis dancer, or you don’t have to be in Orchesis. Anybody can sign up, and I think it’s really cool because you don’t have to be in Orchesis, you can join the show, Fleischer said choreographers must demonstrate a certain level of experience.

“There’s no real requirements, but we do have certain standards as far as creativity and artistry,” Fleischer said.

“That’s something that I kind of have to keep an eye on.”

Fleischer began preparations more than two months ago and has been working closely with her assistant director, business administration sophomore Guinevere Chan. The two have put many hours into everything from scheduling to rehearsals. They both said the most difficult part was putting the 160 dancers into the dances they wanted.

“Me and Joni spent 17 hours just trying to organize everyone,” Chan said. “I think that was the biggest challenge — trying to make as many people happy and trying to get everyone involved. We were sitting in the library going delirious — but in the end it’s worth it because everyone gets to do what they want to do.”

The team said they are both people-pleasers and that has proved difficult with a mass number of people to organize. Fleischer said making people happy has also been a challenge when looking at the big picture.

“Everybody in the show is an individual and has their own needs and schedule,” Fleischer said. “So just trying to make everybody happy has been difficult, and it’s helped me realize that I can’t make everybody happy."

Despite the preliminary stress of the directors, dancers seem excited to make their debut on stage. Mathematical sciences freshman Kelsey Latourette will be performing for the first time in the concert in both “The Dollhouse,” a ballet and jazz piece, and “You’ll Never Break Me,” a lyrical-driven dance. She said she saw the concert as an opportunity to explore the variety of students and dances should prove for a colorful two-hour concert, filled with energy and excitement of both first time and experienced dancers. Fleischer said that she feels the ti-ple “Element” positively ties the whole together.

“My idea was that elements in science are the bare bones — down to the core. They’re all really unique and have different traits. And when they come together in nature, they make beautiful things. My idea was that as dancers, we’re all our own elements and when we come together, we create masterpieces,” Fleischer said.

The concert begins at 8 p.m., with doors opening at 7:30 on both Thursday May 27 and Friday May 28. Tickets are available at the Christopher Cohan Performing Arts Center box office, online, over-the-phone at (805) 756-2787 or at the door for $5 for the public.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Students performing in “Element” will dance hip-hop, modern and jazz as participants of the spring dance show, which was choreographed by students.
'24' series finale draws lower than average viewer numbers Monday

Joe Flint
LOS ANGELES TIMES

About 8.9 million people watched Jack Bauer and Chloe O'Brian bid each other a tearful goodbye in the series finale of Fox's '24' on Monday night. This has not been the strongest season creatively for '24,' a show that made its debut in fall 2001 and chronicled the efforts of government agent Jack Bauer (Kiefer Sutherland) in the war against terror. While Bauer may be leaving the small screen, there are talks of a movie about the character he created.

The numbers for the finale were off from this season's average, another sign that Bauer is leaving at the right time. Leading up to Monday's two-hour finale, which saw Bauer step short of killing the Russian president in his quest to avenge the death of his lover Renee Walker, '24' had been averaging about 10.6 million viewers this season and a 5.4 rating among adults 18-49. Each rating point in that demographic equals 1.3 million people. Monday night's finale had a 2.7 rating in adults 18-49.

Interestingly, '24' was not a big hit right out of the gate. In its first season, which many fans (including this one) consider to be its best, the show averaged 8.6 million viewers. Its best year was Season 5, when it averaged almost 14 million viewers. Each season of '24' represented one day in Bauer's life, and each episode was an hour of that day. Although in early seasons, the show's creators tried hard to realistically stick to that idea, this season it was real time in name only. In one episode this season, Bauer made it from midtown Manhattan to Washington Heights, then back downtown in under an hour. That would be a day-long adventure for any native New Yorker.

Also, when Jack finally got intimate with Renee, it was over in 10 minutes. Let's hope for Bauer's sake that wasn't in real time.

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Crazy Jays Downtown SLO

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Joe Silvey is the former Mustang Daily sports editor and a journalism major. He spends most of his paycheck on beer and a lot of his time watching the Cubs lose on WGN.
‘American Idol’ loses excitement factor, slips in ratings

Scott Collins
LOS ANGELES TIMES

As it speeds toward its ninth season finale Wednesday, fans of “American Idol” may wonder, figuratively speaking: Does the show have its, er, pants on the ground?

Evidence abounds that Fox’s singing contest may be crooning its way to irrelevance. Although it’s still at percent in the ratings this year, “Idol” has slipped a worrying nine percent since its peak in 2006. Critics have spent much of this season harping on a crop of finalists that was widely deemed uninspiring, with few moments of spontaneity outside of would-be contestant Larry Platt’s rap, “Pants on the Ground,” which became the early audition sensation.

“I don’t get the sense it was as exciting a season as mine or as others have been,” Anoop Desai, a Season 8 finalist who just released his first album, said in an interview. “It’s lacking the oomph it’s had in seasons past.”

And there’s more trouble on the horizon. Lead judge Simon Cowell is flexing to bring Fox his own show next year, the British hit “The X Factor,” though rumors fly that producers are talking about Cowell’s retaining some sort of on-air role with the show. Although plenty of names have been bandied about — Harry Connick Jr., Jamie Foxx, Elton John — producers have been mum about who will replace him. And in maybe the unkindest cut, CBS announced on Monday that Paula Abdul, who exited “Idol” last year after failing to reach a renewal deal with producers, will be the lead judge, executive producer and mentor on her own new reality-contest show, “Go to Dance.” A CBS spokesman said no decision had been made yet about a time slot or premiere date for the Abdul show.

“But in a surprise twist, the program didn’t see its usual late-inning ratings bounce — in fact, after the Top 10 were selected, “Idol” sank to some of its lowest numbers in years. The May 4 performance show, dedicated to the music of Frank Sinatra, slumped to just 17.5 million viewers, far below the season average of 24.9 million.

This year’s top two finalists, Crystal Bowersox and Lee DeWyze, have relative­ly reserved on-camera per­formances, unlike, say, Adam Lambert, last season’s drama-loving runner-up. Bowersox and DeWyze also exude an alternative vibe that may be more commer­cial than the R&B, power-pop and country formats that have formerly proved “Idol” sweet spots.

Desai said this year’s lineup is just 17.5 million viewers, far below the season average of 24.9 million.

For their part, the show’s producers and Fox executives aren’t about to show their hands. A spokesman for Fremantle Media and 19 Entertain­ment, the companies behind the show, said a producer was unavail­able to comment for this story.

In a phone call with reporters last week before Fox’s unveiling of its fall schedule, Fox broadcasting chief Pe­ter Rice said that the network will soon begin discussing format changes with the show’s producers. But Rice hinted aside worries about “Idol’s” long-term viability. “The wonderful thing about the show is that we get a new cast every year,” he said.

Many viewers were less than thrilled with this year’s final­sists, Crystal Bowersox and Lee DeWyze, have relative­ly reserved on-camera per­formances, unlike, say, Adam Lambert, last season’s drama-loving runner-up. Bowersox and DeWyze also exude an alternative vibe that may be more commer­cial than the R&B, power-pop and country formats that have formerly proved “Idol” sweet spots.

Desai said this year’s lineup generally lacked the soaring, dramatic voices of years past. “Idol” in past seasons has always been a good thing, but at the same time it sacrifices a little of the ex-
U2 puts tour on hold, cite Bono’s back injury

Randall Roberts
Los Angeles Times

After hurting his back during concert rehearsals in Munich, Germany, Bono and U2 have been forced to postpone the 16 dates on the band’s summer American tour, the band announced Tuesday morning. The band also canceled its highly anticipated performance at the Glasgow music festival.

The band’s manager, Paul McGuinness, explained Bono’s decision via U2.com.

“Bono’s back has been irritable and we’ve all been devastated,” he said. “For a performer who lives to be on stage, this is more than a blow. He feels robbed of the chance to do what he does best and feels like he has badly let down the band and their audience. Which is of course nonsensical. His concerns about more than a million ticket buyers whose plans have been turned upside down, we all share, but the most important thing right now is that Bono make a full recovery. We’re working as fast as we can with Live Nation to reschedule these dates.”

Bono underwent emergency surgery on Friday, said the singer’s doctors. Dr. Muller Wohlforth: “Bono suffered severe compression of the sciatic nerve. On review of his MRI scan, I realized there was a serious tear in the ligament and a herniated disc, and that conservative treatment would not suffice. I recommended Bono have emergency spine surgery with Professor Tonn at Munich’s LMU University Hospital on Friday.”

The statement continues: “Professor Tonn, who carried out the operation, added, ‘Bono was referred to me by Dr. Muller Wohlforth last week with a sudden onset of disease. He was already in severe pain with partial paralysis in the lower leg. The ligament surrounding the disc had an 8mm tear and during surgery we discovered fragments of the disc had traveled into the spinal canal. This surgery was the only course of treatment for full recovery and to avoid further paralysis. Bono is now much better, with complete recovery of his motor deficit. The prognosis is excellent but to obtain a sustainable result, he must now enter a period of rehabilitation.’

Live Nation, which is promoting the band’s “U2 360°” tour, has confirmed that the Band will reschedule the tour’s 16 dates on the band’s summer American tour, the hand also canceled its highly anticipated performance at the Glasgow music festival.

Meanwhile, even fans of Ellen DeGeneres’ work elsewhere were generally underwhelmed with her performance on “Idol.”

“She played it very safe,” Sternberg said, “and then, like all shows, it’ll just start to fade away.”

DeGeneres also appeared to enjoy more “Pants on the Ground” moments. She was extra­ordinarily neutral ... I’m not sure whether Fox reaped the benefits of actual dislike and were rarely seen interacting at the judges’ table.

Picking a replacement for Cowell could give the producers a chance to reinvigorate the show — or hasten its decline. “His replacement will have to know the business, be brutally honest and snarky and preferably (have) a British accent, as Americans love snappy British judges,” Sternberg said. butt Anne Bell, an independent programming analyst, wrote in an e-mail.

But others say “Idol’s” biggest problem may be beyond fixing — even if the producers find many more “Pants on the Ground” moments. Simply put, the show’s novelty may be wearing off for millions of viewers.

“I think it’s at least another good couple of seasons in it,” Sternberg said. “and then, like all shows, it’ll just start to fade away.”
New president should learn from Baker’s blunders

As three candidates fight for Cal Poly’s top position, we should address the tasks facing our next leader. For the last 50-plus years, Warren Baker has seen Cal Poly climb to national recognition and subsequently plummet in overall “excellence.” Statewide education can have made a significant dent in Cal Poly’s ability to achieve such excellence, but wasteful spending and other preventable factors have plagued this campus throughout the past three decades as well. Cal Poly needs a fresh face in the administration — one willing to steer the university back in the right direction.

As such, here are a few thoughts and questions that should be considered by our three final candidates:

Free Speech

Recently, Cal Poly has had a spotty record of First Amendment protection. From the Steve Hinkle case of 2002 to the Smile and Nod poster incident of 2007, Cal Poly has fumbled when it comes to free speech. This has cost us national embarrassment (Lou Dobbs of CNN called President Baker “coward and a fool”) and over $40,000 in attorney fees (FIRE).

What will you do to preserve free speech on campus, and how will you deal with the pressures of special interest groups or other offices unconventionally demanding punishment? Do you think the crop house incident was handled correctly? How will you manage administrators that demand punishment? And finally, do you think free speech should ever be compromised on a college campus?

The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) has ranked Cal Poly a “yellow-light” campus in matters of free speech, inferring that the current regulations of our campus produce a “chilling effect” for students wishing to express their First Amendment rights.

What will you do to change this tide of ignorance toward the First Amendment, and bring Cal Poly to “green-light” status?

Administrative-Faculty Relations and Transparency

The only time we seem to hear anything from our current president is when he announces a new costly construction project or the assignment of another unnecessary vice president. The current president has destroyed any chance of a relationship with the faculty after increasing his own salary once again in 2007. He currently earns, or rather “takes,” over $300,000 a year in salary and benefits, and has increased the salaries of our many vice presidents and administrators. Just to give you an idea, Calla’s estimate that the average full-time professor (with 25 years experience) receives $87,715 a year. When you consider all the professors and professors whose jobs could have been saved throughout the years, this is absolutely sickening. Goudreau has created a tremendous impasse in the relationship between administration and faculty.

What will you do to increase your visibility on campus and create a better relationship with students and faculty? Would you be willing to reduce your own salary or consolidate the excessive number of vice presidents and administrators? How do you plan on creating a more pleasant work environment for current and future faculty?

Additionally, transparency on campus is just short of being opaque. In our CSU system, millions in expenditures remain undisclosed, and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has vetoed Senator Van Vicker’s recent bill demanding transparency from the university system, the Fresno Bee reported. Contributing to this theme of shadieness, Cal Coast News stated that our current president has realistically taken a $12.15 million line of credit from the ever-so-shady Cal Poly Corporation to fund recent construction projects. It seems as though the president’s legacy has come to be more important than the financial stability of our university.

How will you reassure the public about Cal Poly’s overall honesty and lawfulness with regards to the legality of funds? How will you ascertain that the university exercises complete fiscal accountability?

Diversity-Based Curriculum

Lastly, the current inclusive Excellence movement has taken a turn from the original outcomes of the Cal Poly curriculum. According to the American Association of Universities and Colleges, the ultimate goal is to promote a curriculum that emphasises the diversity of perspective. Well, a quarter is only so long, which means that other valuable curriculum would need to be included in this attempt to promote diversity awareness. Moreover, they attribute the decline of “higher education rates” among Americans to the “collective failure to educate students of color and those from lower socioeconomic groups.” Diversity students should be able to get accepted based on their merit. Their decrease in education level is not Cal Poly’s failure. Do you think diversity awareness is more important as a workplace asset than depth of knowledge in a particular field? How will you prevent the slippery slope of affirmative action as the university attempts to bring more diversity to campus?

Cal Poly needs a “sustainable” president — one that is less concerned with building a legacy, and more concerned with preserving this fine institution. If you’re in it for the perks and the glory — go away. Cal Poly doesn’t need another 31 years of wastefulness and corruption.

Brendan Pringle is an English sophomore and Mustang Daily political columnist.

THE CONSERVATIVE CALL
BRENDA PRINGLE

Please include your name, year and major!
Leonard Pitts Jr.
McClatchy Newspapers

"I abhor racism, I think it's a bad business decision to ever exclude anybody from your restaurant, but at the same time, I do believe in private ownership," Rand Paul said.

If you notice, they have never been on our side.

"They" meaning social conservatives. "Our" meaning African-American people.

They were not there in the century after the Civil War, as conservative Southern Democrats violently repressed would be black voters, made a shadow government of the Ku Klux Klan, turned a deaf ear to the howling of lynching mobs and lynching victims. They have not been there in the half century since, as conservative Southern Republicans fought affirmative action, poverty programs, and attempts to ban the American swastika, i.e., the Confederate battle flag, from public lands.

They have never been on our side and always, they have claimed "principle" to justify it. So remarks like the one above that got Kentucky senatorial candidate Rand Paul in trouble last week are surprising only in the sense that one is surprised to hear an oldie on the radio one hasn't heard in a while. He first told the editorial board of the Louisville Courier-Journal, then reiterated in last week's interview with MSNBC's Rachel Maddow, that he thinks the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 overreached in telling private businesses they could not discriminate against black people. Paul, a Republican, is a tea-party favorite and an apostle of tiny government, considers private ownership sacrosanct.

If that sounds familiar, it's because it was also the reasoning of segregationists in '63 and '64.

The civil rights bill "would dictate to private businesses who they must do business with," said ex-Mississippi Gov. J.P. Coleman.

It "would further impinge on the right of private property in this country," said Georgia Sen. Richard Russell.

It represents a "threat to the fundamental right of private property ownership," said the Jackson (Miss.) Daily News.

With an obtuseness that can only be called stunning, Paul repeated that reasoning to Maddow, then dismissed the whole thing as "abstract," and "obscure."

"They" meaning African-Americans, have "never" been on our side. No, they would have been on the side of the Confederate flag-wavers, the church bombers and cross burners, piously decrying those people's excesses but providing the intellectual cover that allowed the excesses to continue. Faced with people crying to be free, they'd have retreated behind dry legalisms to explain why freedoms could not be had. That's what social conservatives did 46 years ago.

Apparently, they are doing it still.

Rand is posing a legitimate question.

A government does not have the right to interfere with an individual's personal rights.

The right to take drugs.

The right to solicit prostitutes.

The right to have an abortion.

The right to view child pornography.

The right to do whatever you want with your private property.

The right to burn your US flag.

The right to work, have sex, drink, smoke, get married, sign contracts at whatever age you decide ... not the government.

Libertarians like Rand Paul believe the government should stay out of our lives and quit telling us how to live.

Rand is posing a legitimate question. A government does not have the right to interfere with an individual's personal rights. The right to take drugs. The right to solicit prostitutes. The right to have an abortion. The right to view child pornography. The right to do whatever you want with your private property. The right to burn your US flag. The right to work, have sex, drink, smoke, get married, sign contracts at whatever age you decide ... not the government.

Libertarians like Rand Paul believe the government should stay out of our lives and quit telling us how to live.

The Civil Rights Act of 1968 may have been necessary even from a Libertarian perspective (or at least a majority of it) as every American must have the right to vote unstructured and to life liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

From our current perspective it is ridiculous that someone would not be able to eat at a lunch counter due to their race.

Do you think that if the Civil Rights Act was appealed that we would return to the 1960s? I don't think so. There seems so be quite a few people that want to encourage the perspective that Americans are dominantly racist. I don't think that is true.

What is true is that a whole industry has been created using the Civil Rights Act. I know several small business owners that almost went out of business due to frivolous discrimination lawsuits. It wouldn't surprise me if African Americans would have an easier time finding work if the law was appealed.

Personally, I am sick of all the race bating that is going on. It's as if our government and media wants to encourage racial divisiveness, not quell it. It is time to move on. I think that the American people are ready for it. We are not going to overcome racism by constantly reminding people to think of themselves as being from one group or another. Every law, as serious unintended consequences and should have to be renewed periodically. I wish the Civil Rights Act would expire. I believe that the American people would do the right thing. Let's just all be American.

Spoken like a man whose forebears never suffered the special humiliation of arriving in a strange town and having to ask around for a hotel that would take them or a restaurant that would serve them.

And frankly, if anyone had shown such tender concern for American principles from the beginning, they'd never have been a need for a Civil Rights Act in the first place.

What part of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth amendments did they not get? What part of "all men are created equal" confused them? As poet Gil Scott-Heron once observed, "I have become a special amendment for what I included me all along."

Paul, under fire for his extremist views, has now recanted them. And held like you to know he would have marched with Martin Luther King if he'd had the chance.

Because, ironically enough, he came of age in the world the act created, he probably even believes that. "Everyone" thinks they would've marched with King — "now," when having done so is a badge of honor. But Paul would "no" have marched with Martin Luther King in 1964, when doing so was an act of courage. Nor, by definition, would Sarah Palin, Rush Limbaugh, Glenn Beck or any other social conservative.

They have "never" been on our side. No, they would have been on the side of the Confederate flag-wavers, the church bombers and cross burners, piously decrying those people's excesses but providing the intellectual cover that allowed the excesses to continue. Faced with people crying to be free, they'd have retreated behind dry legalisms to explain why freedoms could not be had. That's what social conservatives did 46 years ago.

Apparently, they are doing it still.

It all starts at the top and this guy has the credentials and the academic experience within and outside California's system of higher education to hit the ground running. Additionally, where he's worked and the education worldwide and in political circles.

Cal Poly students, alumni and faculty must a president with "chops" to ensure the university and its graduates are highly regarded. This will translate into better jobs, higher salaries and elevated alumni and private donations. UC Davis recently made an excellent choice by periodically. I wish the Civil Rights Act would expire. I believe that the American people would do the right thing. Let's just all be American.

— Anonymous

In response to "Rand Paul revisits Civil Rights Act"

"We are not going to overcome racism by constantly reminding people to think of themselves as being from one group or another. Every law, as serious unintended consequences and should have to be renewed periodically. I wish the Civil Rights Act would expire. I believe that the American people would do the right thing. Let's just all be American."
Tennis

continued from page 16

"We're both really pumped and we've both been training really hard," Blalock said. "We're going to get there and get a couple of days to acclimate with the different time zone, location and courts. That will help us relax and get used to it so when we go and play that first match it's going to be all business."

No matter what the result at the championships, Bream said he is proud of what Blalock and Matzenauer have achieved in their years at Cal Poly both on and off the court.

"I'm really going to miss them and there's going to be some sadness — but more pride in how they committed to their sport and their school over their time here," Bream said. "I'm really excited to see where they are going to go from here, after their college experience at Cal Poly."

RYAN SIDARTO MUSTANG DAILY

Senior Brittany Blalock went 15-6 in dual matches this season. Along with doubles partner Suzy Matzenauer, the duo recorded a 17-3 record.
At the beginning of the 2010 women's tennis season, senior co-captain Brittany Blalock and Suzie Matzenauer had one goal in mind: compete in the NCAA Championships as a doubles pair. The duo, ranked first in the Big West and 48th in the country, did just that as they secured one of 32 spots in the NCAA Championships, which begin on Thursday in Athens, Georgia.

From the beginning of the season, head coach Hugh Bream said he knew that Blalock and Matzenauer were capable of competing against anybody. Their relationship throughout this year as friends and doubles partners has helped bring about success. "They both have a lot of self-confidence and they both believe in their individual abilities and in themselves as a team," Bream said. "They are both experienced enough to know that this is a really difficult process to get down to the final 32 teams out of 3,000, and if you cut any corners, you aren't going to be one of those teams."

A big key for both players is having the other one there to lean on when things are tough. Matzenauer said it would have been much tougher to keep training by herself. "It's hard to motivate yourself when you're doing it on your own, but when you have a partner you can create that bond together during those tough days and practices," Matzenauer said. "Brittany is right there with a smile on her face and encouraging me, so it motivates me to work even harder."

For both players, this year was a culmination of four years of hard work and dedication to the women's tennis program. Matzenauer said they were successful this year because they were able to put the distractions off the court behind them and concentrate on just playing tennis.

"We put our heart into this year," Matzenauer said. "Even if we had a midterm or a final or were stressed, we came out on the court and put it behind us and focused solely on tennis."

Blalock and Matzenauer said they are not just satisfied with making it into the tournament. "It's the place you want to be at the end of the season," Blalock said. "We're happy to be here, but we want to do as well as we can there and we aren't going to be satisfied unless we accomplish our goals."

Blalock and Matzenauer are ready to show people that they can play at the highest level. Bream said the duo can compete against anyone in the country. "Whether you're in a program that has all the bells and whistles and a big stadium or you're in a great medium-sized school like Cal Poly in a beautiful area, we feel like we can accomplish every bit as much as the top programs," Bream said.

For Matzenauer, she is excited to be able to represent Cal Poly on the biggest stage. "It's an honor to represent Cal Poly and I'm just looking forward to playing with Brittany and competing against the best girls in the nation," Matzenauer said. "The coolest thing about it is showing them that even a small school can do really well and compete against the biggest names in tennis."

The pair has been successful this year because they balance each other out on the court. Bream said Matzenauer is the aggressor and more fiery as a competitor, while Blalock is more even-keeled — the two are the perfect combination. "Brittany is really level-headed and every day she is there with the same mindset working very hard," Blalock said. "Suzie's really enthusiastic and she can get really emotional in a positive way. Suzie's fire combined with Brittany's ice really helped us to do a doubles team a lot."

Blalock had similar comments when asked about what Matzenauer brings to their team. "Suzie's definitely very fiery and very competitive," Blalock said. "She has a huge serve and big volleys and has a very aggressive game style that's intimidating to our opponents."

Matzenauer said Blalock's consistency has carried the team and allowed them to remain in every match. "Brittany is just so solid on the baseline and her returns are phenomenal," Matzenauer said. "She's got a huge serve, and I can always count on her to get that ball back and deep into our opponents. I know Brittany is going to be there."

Throughout their time at Cal Poly, Bream has served as more than a coach for Blalock and Matzenauer. They both said he has been a mentor and has allowed them to grow as people. "He believes in us a hundred percent and gives us all the tools to train and become the best players we can be going into the tournament," Blalock said. "I couldn't see that with anybody else."

Matzenauer said Bream is a friend who is always there cheering them on and helping them develop. "He's very competitive, just like us, and he gives us 24/7 of his time to help us get better," Matzenauer said. "He's an amazing coach but really just someone that I respect with everything that I have."

Bream loves the competition and is glad he can be with the two of them as they go for the national championship. "I just think it's a great way to go out with the two of them, and they are certainly one of the teams that are capable of winning the national championship," Bream said. "They're done everything they can to do well and they are going to play well."

With the championships fast approaching, Blalock and Matzenauer are both excited for play to commence. "We put our heart into this year," Matzenauer said. "Even if we had a mid-term or a final or were stressed, we came out on the court and put it behind us and focused solely on tennis."