Armstrong calls for change after recent sexual assaults

Catherine Borgeson
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Cal Poly President Jeffrey Armstrong called a news conference yesterday to address a "change in culture" that he said is necessary after three reported rapes this month.

The task force assembled to bring about this change consists of Academic Senate Chair Rachel Fernflores, Vice President forStudent Affairs Cornel Morton and Associated Students Inc. President Sarah Storelli.

Armstrong said sexual assaults are underreported, and he wants to make sure that victims of sexual assault feel safe to report incidents so the crimes can be properly investigated.

"I do know that, as a campus that cares about each other, we need to take a hard look at ourselves, particularly (at) sexual violence, alcohol and drug abuse," Armstrong said.

The task force will review programs currently in place at Cal Poly, as well as other campuses.

"We need to take a hard look at ourselves, particularly (at) sexual violence, alcohol and drug abuse."

— Jeffrey Armstrong
Cal Poly President

Poly professor teaches storytelling

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Cal Poly professor Russell Swanagon doesn't teach English, literature, speech or theatre. Swanagon teaches storytelling — which requires all of the above. His office is filled with children's books, fairytales, ghost stories, mythologies and folklore from around the world, and he shows how these stories are still relevant in people's daily and personal lives.

"We can all, in some way, relate to these ancient stories, even if we can't tell our own story," Swanagon said. "We can use one of these ancient stories to speak our own truth."

Swanagon is a professional storyteller. He received a master's degree in storytelling from East Tennessee State University and teaches liberal studies storytelling classes and how to apply it in education.

"It's an extremely effective vehicle for transmitting information," Swanagon said. "Things that we learn in narrative form, we remember to a much greater degree than if we learn facts and skills in isolation."

But Swanagon's audience goes beyond Cal Poly. He also teaches people how to heal through stories. One such audience is the California Men's Colony, where a training program allows inmates to

Extreme Makeover: Poly House edition

Jessica Tam
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Move over, Ty Pennington, Cal Poly's bringing the house down.

The Poly House Program and industrial and manufacturing engineering department, will renovate the home of a local family for their disabled son. The group started off with absolutely no funding and has only six days to complete the project, which began May 13 and will resume Friday.

At the center of the project is 16-year-old Jacob Slattery from Shandon, Calif.

At a young age, Slattery was diagnosed with a severe form of spina bifida — a birth defect in which the neural tube does not develop or close properly, affecting the backbone and spinal cord.

Slattery is paralyzed from the mid-chest down and has been in a wheelchair since the age of 2.

Slattery has also undergone 12 major surgeries and suffered from hydrocephalus — known as water on the brain — and osteoporosis.

"We want to help him be more independent," Yip said.

This project would not have been possible without

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They do it to make a difference and to improve the quality of life for someone in the community.

— Raya Javapour
Poly House project founder

Storytelling
continued from page 1

volunteer at the prison's hospice to work with sick and dying prisoners. "I work with them in personal stories, healing stories and life review stories," Swanagon said. "The idea behind this particular hospice program, and I assume others, is that in order to help heal those that are dying, you (have) also got to heal yourself. And, probably one of the most effective ways to do that is through story."

Swanagon remembered one inmate with a life sentence who did just that, saying the Greek myth of Sisyphus was his own story. "He said that every day you get up in prison and it's the same thing," Swanagon said. "It's the same walls, the same bars, the same routine. The same, and I assume others, is that in order to help heal those that are dying, you (have) also got to heal yourself. And, probably one of the most effective ways to do that is through story."

Swanagon works in convalescent hospitals and long-term care facilities, such as Sydney Creek Alzheimer's and Demerita Care Community. His audience ranges from 80 to 100 years old and can be comatose, mute or non-communicative in some way, he said. He tells stories such as "The Peddler of Swaffham," and listens to the patients who can tell their own stories.

"They get excited and can, but the thing that is often lacking is the ability of an elder to share their stories, to share a narrative of what is important to them in this particular time in their lives," he said. "It's kind of reverse storytelling, very cathartic. It's providing a space in which the story can be held."

Swanagon's work has touched with repetition and routine, he could still choose how to approach it and find joy and creativity in just living.

"He may be within the walls, but he's involved in the very creative act of telling his own story differently every day that he opens his eyes," he said.

The elders of San Luis Obispo have also been impacted by Swanagon's storytelling.

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Poly House continued from page 1

the Poly House foundation. The participating class, Technological Project Management, was first started by Raya Javapour eight years ago as a way to teach and enhance Cal Poly's "Learn By Doing" mantra.

"This class illustrates exactly what Learn By Doing is, and it shows what we are so proud of," said Jose Macedo, the industrial and manufacturing engineering department chair.

And Macedo knows that following the university's motto doesn't come easy.

"It is all about project management, and to learn the principles and concepts of project management," Macedo said. "It makes more sense when you limit the resources available to execute the project."

The set limit of resources is slim for this particular class, about the limit of approximately 40 students start off with no money — they rely entirely on fund-raising and donations. Therefore, when supplies are low, the students need to carefully plan every step.

"Everything has to be planned," Macedo said. "If you're severely restricted, and the time constraint, it's the most challenging side of it. They need to know what needs to be done, or they will not be able to pull it off."

With only two weekends to complete the house renovation, Macedo stressed the importance of working quickly, but safely. He said the students have created their own safety plans as well as a "back-up" in case things don't go according to plan and what didn't work," Macedo said. "They learn a lot sometimes when things don't go exactly the way they plan (because) they have to use their back-up plan. If they had to do this in a lab, it wouldn't be as real."

Poly House project founder Javapour said she knows her students participate in this class to experience "just how real it's going to be, and to give back to the community they love."

"They don't do it just for class or for the grade," Javapour said. "They do it to make a difference and improve the quality of life for someone in the community. That's why they're here."

The students started working the beginning of the quarter to make sure the building renovation runs smoothly, and Javapour said she is eager to see the final product.

"We're very excited," Javapour said. "It's a lot of work, but I have no doubt that the students will deliver a great end product."

The students will stay in the Los Angeles area during the renovation — a gift donated by the Poly House.

Armstrong
continued from page 1

around the country. The members of the task force will report back to Armstrong by the end of spring quarter with recommendations for improving current resources and building additional programs that address these issues of sexual assault, Armstrong said.

He expects actions and recommendations from the task force as early as this week.

Task force member and philosophy professor Fernsfo said the task force will work in the context of the national task force set to have both short- and long-term goals. Corral, Sterilli and Fernsfo will have time to discuss accomplishing their goals of reducing sexual assault.

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Be creative and fill up this box!
Word on the Street

What do you think of the university's action after the recent sexual assaults?

"I actually don't know much besides the emails. I heard about the task force. I think it's probably a good idea to raise awareness. I haven't really read much about it and haven't heard what they're going to do. I know they're getting AIS to do something about this. I guess it's a good thing, generally speaking."
— Henri Cacal, chemistry senior

I don't feel like they haven't done anything about it. It's irritating that all these incidents happened within a week or two. I don't remember anything like this happening at Cal Poly before. I don't know what's exactly going on. It makes me wonder what they're telling us and what they're actually doing. I feel like things are covered. I wish they did update us a little more."
— Heed Kim, political science sophomore

I'm not entirely sure what's happened. I heard about the three incidents. but I haven't actually heard what steps the university has taken to prevent more incidents."
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Personally, I think the president's last letter was really strong. I'm glad he sent it out. I think everything's just going to keep spiraling. It's hard to say what needs to be done. But something has to happen."
— Amy Smith, Schwartz, psychology senior

The fact that the president sent a letter means it's serious. Cal Poly cares— it's not like the administration is Congress and nothing gets done. It's what they are saying as far as the police conducting an investigation and a suspect has been identified. If they're going to look into it, that's definitely the place to start."
— Jason Everado, physics sophomore

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**NEWS**

Obama says he wants peace between Isreal and Palestine

Michael Muskal
S AN  L U I S  O B I S P O

President Barack Obama on Tues­day called for progress in solving the conflict between Israel and the Palest­inians as part of the wave of change sweeping through the Middle East.

Speaking after a White House meeting with Jordan's King Abdullah II, Obama said resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was vital. Obama is scheduled to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyah on Friday, a day after he addresses the United States on Middle East policy, including the pro-democracy upris­ings and related issues.

"We discussed the situation with respect to the Israeli and the Palestinian conflict, and we both share the view that despite the many changes or perhaps because of the many changes that are taking place in the region, it is more vital than ever that both Israelis and Palestin­i ans find a way to get back to the table and begin negotiating a process whereby they can create two states that are living side by side in peace and security," Obama said.

"We will continue to ... encourage

 Peace efforts have been stalemated for months on questions including the construction of Israeli settle­ments, prompting the Palestinians to consider going to the United Na­tions in the fall to seek official recogni­tion of a future Palestinian homeland. Complicating the situa­tion is a recent agreement designed to heal the breach between Palestin­i ans running the West Bank and Gaza. The United States, Israel and the West consider Hamas, which runs Gaza, a terrorist group.

Last week, former Sen. George Mitchell, the president's special envoy to the Middle East, abruptly re­signed. Violence, a constant threat in the region, picked up over the week­end.

In his speech Thursday, Obama is expected to discuss issues that have marked the recent turmoil in the region where pro-democracy groups have toppled governments in Tunisia and Egypt, shaken rulers in Syria, Bahrain and Yemen and have led to civil war-like conditions in Libya. Led by the United States and Europe, the United Nations authorized a "no-fly" zone in Libya to protect civil­ians. That zone is being enforced by NATO. Obama is also likely to touch on Iran's ongoing nuclear ambitions and the recent raid in Pakistan in which terrorist leader Osama bin Laden was killed earlier this month.

The president told reporters that Tuesday's meeting with King Abdul­lah was "an opportunity for us to share our views on the extraordinary changes taking place throughout the region."

Noting that King Abdullah has pushed for reforms in his country, Obama praised the effort, adding that economic improvement was needed as well as political change. Obama announced a plan to use Overseas Private Investment Corpo­ration money to leverage $1 billion of development in Jordan. He also announced a plan to send 50,000 metric tons of wheat to Jordan to help stabilize the daily cost of living.

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Government agrees on $150 billion cut

Lisa Mascaro
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

A top Republican said on Tuesday that as much as $150 billion in spending reductions has been identified as potential common ground between the White House and congressional negotiators seeking an agreement on deficit-reduction measures in exchange for raising the nation's debt limit.

"You first look at the things where there might be some overlap between our budgets and their budgets," said Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., the Senate Republicans' chief negotiator in budget talks. He said that initially about $100 billion in cuts were identified, and then subsequent areas of agreement were noted. "We're discussing in the magnitude of $130 billion in cuts," he said.

Finding possible agreement on $150 billion in budget cuts is a start, but far from the more than $2 trillion in budget reforms that would be needed over the next several years to meet House Speaker John A. Boehner's demand that spending reductions be greater than the amount of additional borrowing authority needed to keep the country from default.

The nation hit its nearly $14.3 trillion debt limit this week, but Treasury Department officials have indicated that they can maneuver resources to avoid defaulting on the nation's obligations until Aug. 2.

With the national debt accumulating at a rate of $125 billion a month, estimates are a $2 trillion increase would be needed to avoid hitting the statutory debt limit again until late 2012.

Kyl declined to discuss specific areas of agreement from the last meeting of congressional negotiators and Vice President Joe Biden, who has been leading the closed-door talks.

Both sides have also indicated privately that changes to the Medicaid health program for low-income Americans, seniors and the disabled are also an area for consideration, though Kyl said that health-care reforms have not yet been addressed in the talks.

Meanwhile, Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., said Tuesday that he is taking a break from the "gang of six" senators that has been trying to develop bipartisan deficit reduction legislation after talks hit an impasse.

Coburn "is disappointed the group has not been able to bridge the gap between what needs to happen and what senators will support," said a statement from the senator's spokesman. "He has decided to take a break from the talks."
New bill in Sacramento mirrors debate over universal health coverage

Yesenia Amaro
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Supporters of state Senate Bill 810 say the legislation would be the only way to provide medical coverage for every resident of California.

Opponents deride the measure as "socialized medicine."

"The California Universal Health-care Act was introduced by Democratic state Sen. Mark Leno. The bill would initiate a single-payer universal health care reform for the state of California," Leno said. "What that means in short is Medicare for all," he explained.

Supporter Keith Ensminger, a Merced resident and owner of Kreamer Translation, said the largest benefit of the legislation would probably be that it would include everyone.

"Everybody would have insurance, regardless of their income and regardless of their position in life," he said.

There are other positive effects from the bill, Ensminger said. It would lower the cost of insurance for most people, everybody would be covered with an insurance plan and it would allow people to have their medical condition treated early rather than waiting.

In addition, it would prevent medical bankruptcies, he said.

Dr. Bill Skeen, executive director of California's chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program, said the organization supports the legislation because it's the only way of providing coverage for everyone and controlling the high costs of the health care system.

The organization advocates for a universal, comprehensive single-payer national health program. "I think it would be a win-win situation for almost everyone," he said.

Providers would also see gains from the single-payer system, Skeen said.

"One of them is with a single-payer, there would be a simplified electronic billing system," he said. That would help providers cut costs by not needing as many medical records clerks.

However, part of the bill that could be criticized is that everyone would be a part of the same plan, Ensminger said. Organizations such as the California Chamber of Commerce and the Child and Family Protection Association (CPFA) strongly oppose the bill. The CPFA calls it socialized medicine. "SB810 would destroy our choices in health care and force us to pay for and exclusively use a government-controlled socialist health care system - regardless of what the courts or Congress do with the Obamacare," the organization said on its website.

Mari Fisher, a policy advocate with the California Chamber of Commerce, wasn't available for comment.

In a letter she sent to members of the state Senate Health Committee on behalf of the chamber, the said the chamber opposes the bill because it creates a new government-run, multibillion-dollar socialized health care system that would conflict with the single-payer system. However, Leno said the bill wouldn't conflict with federal health care law. In 2017, the federal law would let states apply for federal waivers, which would allow California to use federal dollars on health care in the state for a single-payer system, he said.

The idea is that states would provide broader coverage without increasing the federal deficit.

Leno said the single-payer system in California would cover everyone, while the federal law would leave about 3 million without coverage. "The single-payer would cover everyone and will reduce the cost and the growth in health care costs," he said.

In California, there are about 12 million people without coverage at any given time, he said.

In the letter to the state Senate committee, Fisher said the bill would establish a premium commission to impose a premium for all employers, which is essentially a tax.

The state would use the same money it now uses to pay for the single-payer system. However, Leno said the money would be spent more efficiently.

The legislation is a two-year bill, Leno said, and the hope is to have it on the governor's desk in the summer of 2012.

The single-payer would cover everyone and will reduce the cost and the growth in health care costs.

— Sen. Mark Leno
(06. CA)

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Cal Poly alumna brings back spirit of ’60s with book

Victoria Billings
victoriabillings.wd@GMAIL.COM

Sex, drugs and the Vietnam War come to life in Cal Poly alumna and local author Sherry Shahan's new novel, "Purple Daze." The book focuses on characters Mickey, Cheryll, Don, Nancy, Ziggy and Phil, whose lives are affected by turbulent events in 1965. When one teen is drafted and another enlists in the Navy, the friendship of a group of six friends is torn apart.

Shahan based the characters on her and her high school friends' lives in the ’60s, she said. In fact, she was inspired to write "Purple Daze" after discovering a shoebox in her closet full of letters from a friend she was inspired to write "Purple Daze." Shehan said she "Absolutely, it's about the characters." The characters often proved to provide more historical detail themselves since the novel contains stories about life in the military, taken from the experiences of real veterans.

Shahan turned to local Vietnam War veteran Phillip Marler to help her get accurate accounts, and in turn, he gave her details of what

"I didn't want the history to overtake the story of the characters," Shahan said. "I just wanted to see Alumna, page 8"
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serving in Vietnam was like for him.

"He’s the one who told me they put condoms over the muzzle of their rifle because there was so much humidity in Vietnam that they didn’t want them to rust,” Shahan said.

Shahan in turn loosely based the character of Phil on Manor. Throughout the book, Phil, who has been drafted into service, writes letters to his friends recounting how dangerous and dirty his life in Vietnam really is.

“Vietnam was the real deal,” Manor said. “It wasn’t spit and polish. There wasn’t any of that because it was war.”

Aside from correcting a few inaccuracies, Manor said he didn’t have to change “Purple Daze” much when Shahan first asked him to read over it. The novel was almost finished, and he was impressed by the depth and realism of each character.

“I’ve seen so many people I’ve known in my life, all different ages, in these characters — in these six characters,” Manor said.

Anyone who reads “Purple Daze” can find a character they identify with, Manor said, even if the action is set more than 40 years ago.

This is exactly what Shahan intended when writing “Purple Daze.” She said she wanted modern teens to easily relate to the characters, even though she drew upon her high school friends from the ‘60s to write about.

“I’d like to think that there’s a universal quality about the characters,” Shahan said. “They still have issues with parents, with relationships, with school.”

— Joel Orth
American history professor
FCC and Comcast: too close for comfort

Ryan Biehn is editorial-page editor of the Seattle Times.

The incestuous relationship between Congress and lobbyists is well documented. A congressman or senator loses re-election or retire then moves over to K Street for a well-paying lobbying gig.

The revolving door between those making law and those paid to influence law is disturbing. Yet it has become common practice in Washington. The bounds of this cozy arrangement were stretched last week and raised the eyebrows of even the most cynical D.C. watchers when Meredith Atwell Baker announced she was leaving the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to head up lobbying at NBC Universal.

Why does Baker's move raise the level of bile more than the garden-variety congressman not wanting to go back to Bald Knob, Ark.? As one of five FCC commissioners, Baker voted to approve Comcast's takeover of NBC Universal four short months ago — a bad deal that further consolidates U.S. media.

So much for ethics and public service, it's time to get paid.

Unseemly does not begin to describe Baker's actions. Even the most jaundiced critic of the FCC should be taken aback by the Republican commissioner's new job and the blink of time between her vote and her announcement. Factor in the time consumed by the hiring process, which apparently began last month, and it's even worse.

It is actions like Baker's that turn people against government. Even supporters of megamergers have to worry about this. The integration of regulators and industry envelopes is best for democracy and the public good. The commission has consistently approved mergers that are bad for consumers and the public good. The commission also has not been able to find the backbone to push through meaningful rules and regulations for the Internet, media ownership and broadcast licensing.

In the case of Comcast's acquisition of NBC Universal, the FCC has violated its own rules. Baker, for example, recused herself from deciding the fate of NBC when Meredith Atwell Baker was previously going to attend.

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FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski and Baker have done nothing to tamp down the legitimate concerns about NBC Universal's new lobby boss. Baker skipped a congressional hearing Friday she was previously going to attend. Genachowski should release details of what she has been working on since Comcast began courting her.

The damage has been done but at least Genachowski can demonstrate that his commission is taking the situation seriously. The public deserves a clean accounting of what happened.

---

Ryan Biehn

Editorial-page editor of the Seattle Times

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Charlie Brown's barber was half right.

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I'd pay a million dollars if someone would find a way to fuse these two monochromes together.

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Cahn continued from page 12

"I think (Cahn) and I have had a bond over the last couple years, her being a pitcher, me being a catcher," Correia said. "I think we stuck it out together, and it's nice having that other person on the other side of your battery saying, 'We can get through this. We can get through anything if we have each other.' And that is what they did.

Cahn walked out to the circle for the seventh inning with the Mustangs leading by one and fought back tears as she focused on the next batters. Unfortunately, she surrendered a run, and Cal Poly could not score in its half of the inning.

For the third straight game, the Mustangs were headed for extras, but a resilient Cahn, nursing an injury to her leg, returned to pitch a scoreless eighth inning.

"Then (in the bottom of the eighth) Steph went up to bat, I was on deck," Cahn said. "She got that (RBI) hit, and the tears just started streaming down my face. I was crying my eyes out."

Cahn finally helped her coach grab her 200th victory on the final out of her final game.

"It was just really emotional going from being a freshman and not knowing what to expect and saying, 'Hey I got four more years,' then going into my last game, my last inning and winning our last game," Cahn said. "It was really, really a great way to end."

"It was really, really a great way to end."

Men's basketball coach Jim Haye said he would prefer only a one-day break after Sunday's series opener, but had potential benefit from the extra time in the gym.

"The nature of this team, all season long, since the first day of training camp, is to fix the things that don't go our way and do it with sweat and hitting and doing it on the practice court," he said before Tuesday's session at the University of Illinois Chicago.

Spoelstra stressed Tuesday that gains made in Game 2 have to come from within.

"There is no cavalry and what I told the guys is, 'The cavalry is our mentality,'" he said of outside discussion of lineup change or a change to the active roster. "We have to come out with a much tougher, aggressive disposition, regardless of who plays in the game."

Wade admitted he didn't get the "cavalry" comparison at first.

"My kids went to Cavalry Christian School in Chicago," he said with a smile.

While much has been made of the Heat's 45-33 rebounding deficit in Game 1, including a 31-8 Chicago edge in second-chance scoring, James said there is more he and Wade can contribute on that end. James closed Game 1 with six rebounds, Wade with three.

"Me and D-Wade go to do a better job of rebounding in Game 2," he said. "It's the fourth straight game we've been outrebounded by this team if you include the regular season. That's where they're very dominant.

"Me and D-Wade are athletic enough, we're aware enough to see where the ball is going off the rim or if it's coming off or wherever it's going to go get it. So we've got to be more assertive, also."

The Miami Heat lost to the Chicago Bulls 103-82 in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference Finals Sunday night.
Baseball’s game against Santa Clara postponed

Cal Poly baseball fans will have a bit longer to wait to watch the Mustangs play their final home game. Cal Poly’s matchup scheduled against Santa Clara last night was postponed due to weather conditions. No makeup date has been arranged, but the Mustangs will still play three games at Pacific this weekend.

Barkley calls Miami Heat ‘a whiny bunch’ on air

Ira Winderman
Sun Sentinel

CHICAGO — Forget “Big Three” when it comes to describing the Miami Heat. Charles Barkley seemingly prefers to go with “whiny bunch.”

In Chicago for TNT’s coverage of the Eastern Conference finals series between the Heat and Chicago Bulls that resumes with Wednesday’s Game 2 at the United Center, Barkley offered his thoughts on the Heat during an appearance Tuesday on the local ESPN Radio affiliate.

“Those guys are actually a whiny bunch,” Barkley said.

Barkley said his view is the Heat have proven to be a thin-skinned group.

“They never take any personal responsibility to why people take shots at them,” he said.

He noted the Heat’s reaction to criticism of how LeBron James announced his free-agent decision to leave the Cleveland Cavaliers, as well as James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh talking about multiple championships before playing their first game together.

“I love, ‘The Miami Heat is losing, the world is happy,’” Barkley said of a comment Wade offered amid the Heat’s uneven play at midseason. “First of all, nobody is thinking about the Miami Heat. You guys are good guys. You’re the guys who came out and said, ‘We’re not (only) going to win one, two, three, four, five, six, seven championships. We’re like, ‘Really!’”

Barkley was courtside for the Heat’s 103-82 Game 1 loss Sunday and will be back at Wednesday’s Game 2. He has predicted the Bulls would win the best-of-seven series. He will travel with the TNT studio team for the games in South Florida, as well, beginning with Sunday’s Game 3 at AmericanAirlines Arena.

“Nobody dislikes Dwyane and LeBron and Chris Bosh,” he said.

The team will honor Wade Sunday and will be back at Wednesday’s Game 2. He has predicted the Bulls would win the best-of-seven series. He will travel with the TNT studio team for the games in South Florida, as well, beginning with Sunday’s Game 3 at AmericanAirlines Arena.

“Nobody dislikes Dwyane and LeBron and Chris Bosh,” he said.

“Three are good guys and terrific players.”

Anna Cahn makes softball history

J.J. Jenkins
Jenkins.Morgan@gmail.com

Pitcher Anna Cahn walked into the softball locker room before her final game as a Mustang on Saturday afternoon against Pacific. She looked in her locker to find a note from head coach Jenny Condon congratulating her for completing four years at Cal Poly and expressing gratitude for her service.

That was the first of many tears shed that day as Cahn walked over to thank her coach.

“Then (Condon) looked at me and she said, ‘Do you want to pitch today?’” Cahn said. “I said, ‘Of course I do.’”

That day marked the end of Cahn’s career, maybe one of the most prolific in Cal Poly softball history.

On Tuesday, she received All-Big West first-team honors — becoming the first player in program history to be selected to an All-Big West team in each of her four seasons. She’s come a long way since the beginning of her first season with the Mustangs. Her career, star-studded with awards and accolades, started off a bit slow.

Batter up

Cahn’s first appearance as a Mustang was in 2008 as a freshman designated player against No. 2 Texas A&M. On TV a year earlier, she watched the very same opposing pitcher strike out batters, and now she had her chance to play on the same field.

Cahn went 0-for-2 and left two runners on base, but the Mustangs defeated the Aggies in a 5-1 upset.

By the end of the season, Cahn emerged as one of Cal Poly’s most potent hitters, with the second-highest batting average on a team full of upperclassmen, in addition to having the second lowest ERA with 2.1. (Cahn) came in and swung the bat, which was a bonus,” Condon said. “We didn’t really know what we were going to get from her freshman year. We thought she might be a project, but she settled in well her freshman year. Then her sophomore year she was lights out.”

In her second season, Cahn led the team to a 41-win season and a NCAA Regional bid by posting 28 wins and helping six home runs.

One of her favorite memories at Cal Poly was during this time. It was the trip to Palo Alto, Calif., for the Regionals where the Mustangs picked up their first ever Division I postseason victories against Portland State and Nevada.

Anna Cahn was lights out.”

Condon’s initial skepticism about Cahn’s ability to hit seems almost comical now. When runners are on base and Cahn steps up to the plate, the bright yellow ball usually stays far away from the strike zone. This year alone, Cahn was subjected to 38 pitches on balls, almost a third of the team’s total.

End of the road

All four years came to a head Saturday afternoon against Pacific, where the lone seniors, Cahn and catcher Stephanie Correia were honored.

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