California Energy Commission commends solar decathlon team

Holly Burke
MUSTANG STAFF

The Cal Poly Solar Decathlon team was recognized Jan. 18 by the California Energy Commission for its efforts in sustainable building and energy conservation.

The team took third place overall in the competition last fall in Washington, D.C. In subcategories, Cal Poly received first place in energy efficient appliances, first place in energy efficient lighting and also earned second place in architecture.

Eighteen colleges participated in the international competition including: University of Colorado, Denver and Boulder; Universidad de Puerto Rico; Cornell University; and Universidad Politecnica de Madrid. Cal Poly was the only university from California to participate.

The competition required the schools to build a house that was powered only by the sun. Students drove the partially constructed house in a truck to Washington, D.C. The first night they were allowed to begin building at midnight and the team continued working until 10 a.m.

see Decathlon, page 2

California assembly votes to limit fee increases

Alex Zaman
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (U.C.-BERKELEY)

BERKELEY, Calif. — The California State Assembly passed a bill Thursday requiring all public colleges in California to adhere to a mandatory student fee policy. The bill — proposed by Assemblymember Carol Liu, D-Los Angeles, Canada Flintridge — passed with a 45-10 vote last week, establishing a ceiling on student fee increases across the board by limiting hikes to 8 percent annually.

"Essentially, the bill is to get a predictable policy for student fees, so it can allow for families to better prepare for the cost of higher education," said Liu in a statement released Thursday. "In bad years, student enrollments decline and access is restricted."

Essentially, the bill is to get a predictable policy for student fees, so it can allow for families to better prepare for the cost of higher education.

— Candice Chung
spokesperson for Assemblymember Carol Liu

The legislation also suggests that budget decisions should be made in a timely fashion to give families enough time to prepare financially, without the threat of unexpected increases.

"We need to protect against wild fee hikes, so students and parents can estimate what they will be paying," Chung said. "I definitely think that we can afford it. Students should never be put in a position to have to pay the state’s portion of the education."

Some students said, however, that they oppose the bill because they feel that fee increases need to be completely eliminated rather than standardized.

"The UC Student Association is opposed in principle to any type of fee increase, and this bill suggests that there will be more hikes in the future," said ASUC External Affairs Vice President Sharon Han.

An analysis conducted earlier this month by the state assembly noted that the bill’s cap on fees may not withstand economic fluctuations every year.

see Fees, page 2
Decathlon continued from page 1

Awards were given in architecture, dwelling (how marketable the house is), comfort, appliances, hot water, energy balance and several other categories.

"(The Solar Decathlon) is a chance to promote solar energy," said Nicholas Holmes, an architecture senior who participated in the project. "Solar-powered houses can function well and be affordable."

The Solar Decathlon will be having its next competition at Cal Poly, along with the other universities that participated in last year's competition, will be receiving a $100,000 grant from the United States Department of Energy to help fund next year's efforts.

"It costs about $500,000, so they are only funding about 20 percent of the project," said Rob Pola, architecture professor and an advisor for the project.

The last competition was funded by "in kind" donations, fundraising and two large private donations, Pola said.

"It's a great experience, fantastic for any student who wants to get involved," said Austin Quig, a mechanical engineering senior who involved in the project. "It's not just the (United States), but offers a worldwide perspective and is forward-thinking."

"We get national exposure, which is huge," said Robert Johnson, an electrical engineering masters student who was the competition's strategy and the mechanical, electrical and electrical student lead.

"It's one of the very few ways to work on a solar project and actually see it come to bear," Johnson said. "We need to engage the students in design, engineering, in practice and design."

The house is now back at Cal Poly's Renewable Energy Lab. It is still completely functional but is not hooked up to water or a sewage system. In the near future the house may be used as a learning tool. Classes can go to the house to see solar methods in use.

A meeting to discuss the initial designs of the house for the competition in 2007 will be held Feb. 6 from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. in the Architecture Media Lab, room 3-314. For more information about the next competition, visit the Cal Poly Renewable Energy club at www.calpoly.edu/~recub.

Funding continued from page 1

We did this because we think quality matters in undergraduate education and this test can be an assessment tool that institutions use to improve teaching and improve learning.
—Roger Benjamin
The Council for Aid to Education

We've identified this as a breakthrough type of test," Miller said. With the possible introduction of standardized testing, many fear this test will mark a new era for higher education institutions, in which funding for colleges and universities could be affected.

Miller, however, said the connection to NCES is just a way for critics to avoid the key issues.

"There's not an ounce of likelihood in that," Miller said. Roger Benjamin, president of the Council for Aid to Education, which helped design the test, said the test was never intended to be used as a measure to allocate federal money to colleges and universities.

"That's the farthest thing from our minds," Benjamin said. "We did this because we think quality matters in undergraduate education and this test can be an assessment tool that institutions use to improve teaching and improve learning."

The essay-formatted test measures critical thinking, analytic reasoning, problem solving and written communication skills — similar to changes in other tests, like the GRE.

"It would be given to freshmen and graduating seniors to measure student progress," Penn State spokesman Kenwood said. "You can't use any single indicator."

Kendig said he thought the test was a valuable tool to mark student progress, but he questioned its use beyond that.

He said using the Collegiate Learning Assessment to determine federal funding for public universities is not something he would support.

"We have seen it before at the K through 12 level," he said. "Any time you put a high-stakes test in place, you get people teaching for the test as opposed to meeting the needs of individual students — that's never a good thing.

"The approved increases are of a risk," he said. "Thois is not something for the government to do."
**WHO SAID THAT?**

I had an epiphany a few years ago where I was out at a celebrity party and it suddenly dawned on me that I had yet to meet a celebrity who is as smart and interesting as any of my friends.

— Moby

The purpose of life is to live it, to taste experience to the utmost, to reach out eagerly and without fear for newer and richer experience.

— Eleanor Roosevelt (1884 - 1962)

**Wordly Wise**

**Interregnum:** The interval between two reigns; also, any breach of continuity in an order.

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**Breaking News**

**Updated at the Speed of College Life**

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ABC News co-anchor Woodruff, cameraman seriously injured in Iraq explosion

David Bander
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — ABC News anchor Bob Woodruff, seriously hurt by a roadside bomb in Iraq, has shown signs of improvement and may be airlifted to the United States this week, the network's news president said Monday.

A hospital official said body armor likely saved the journalist's life. Cameraman Doug Vogt, also hurt in the explosion, is in better shape than Woodruff but doctors were pleased with how both handled the transfer to a U.S. military base in Germany, said ABC News President David Westin.

"We have a long way to go," Westin said. "But it appears that we may have some distance from yesterday." Vogt was filming a stand-up report with Woodruff and both were standing in the open hatch of an Iraqi military vehicle when the bomb went off. They underwent surgery in Iraq before being flown to Germany.

"They were both very seriously injured, but stable," said Col. Bryan Gamble, commander of the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in western Germany. He said both men were heavily sedated and under the care of the hospital's trauma team.

Their body armor likely saved them, "otherwise these would have been fatal wounds," Gamble said.

Woodruff, the East Coast anchor of "World News Tonight," had serious head wounds and broken bones, and

In this TV image released by ABC, news anchor Bob Woodruff, center, talks with U.S. soldiers Sunday in Iraq.

Vogt also suffered head injuries, ABC News said. The network said the men's wives were at the hospital and talking with doctors Monday.

"Doug was conscious, and I was able to reassure him we were getting them home," Westin said, adding that he turned to his producer and said "Am I alive?" and "Don't tell Lee," and then he began to cry out in excruciating pain," Brokaw said.

"Woodruff and Vogt, an award-winning cameraman, were embedded with the 4th Infantry Division and traveling in a convoy with U.S. and Iraqi troops near Taji, about 12 miles north of Baghdad when the device exploded. An Iraqi soldier also was hurt.

"Immediately after the explosion he turned to his producer and said "Am I alive?" and "Don't tell Lee," and then he began to cry out in excruciating pain," Brokaw said.

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"Doug was conscious, and I was able to reassure him we were getting them home, I spoke to Bob and walked with them to the helicopter," said ABC senior producer Ken Fekete, who had been working with Woodruff for the past two weeks.

Rice wants other countries to cut off aid to Hamas government

Anne Garie
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — The United States and its European allies have similar views about aid for a Hamas-led Palestinian government, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Monday as she tried to persuade other nations to cut off assistance to a government led by the hard-line group.

"Everybody is saying exactly the same thing," Rice said amid meetings with other diplomats on Hamas' startling election victory last week and its impact on Middle East peacemaking efforts. "There has got to be a peaceable road ahead. You cannot be on one hand dedicated to peace and on the other dedicated to violence. Those two things are irreconcilable.

"Rice was meeting other members of the so-called Quartet of would-be Middle peacemakers Monday. The group, which includes the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations, is already on record as saying "there is a fundamental contradiction between armed group and militia activities and the building of a democratic state."

"To say a Palestinian government must be committed to peace with Israel is at the core," Rice said. "You have to recognize Israel's right to exist."

"Rice said that a Palestinian government must be committed to peace with Israel is at the core," Rice said. "You have to recognize Israel's right to exist."

"Rice has ruled out any U.S. financial assistance to a government led by Hamas, which has carried out terrorist attacks against Israel and does not recognize its right to exist.

"European Union foreign ministers on Monday called on Hamas to recognize the state of Israel, renounce violence and dismantle. While EU officials are barred from contact with the Islamic militant group on the European Union'sDeclared list of terrorist organisations, the EU statement made clear that the EU would keep diplomatic channels open with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, who is not a member of Hamas.

On Sunday, Rice said humanitarian help to the Palestinians, many of whom are poor and unemployed, is likely on a "case-by-case basis. She indicated that the administration would follow through on aid promised to the current, U.S.-backed Palestinian government led by Abbas. In Gaza, a Hamas leader, Hamadi Hamad, called on the international community to continue funding the Palestinian Authority.

"We assure you all that the revenue sharing will be spent on salaries, daily life and infrastructure," he said at a news conference, addressing international concerns that aid would be used to fund violence.

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through my evolving studies in art
with the camera as my medium. I
have found that visually document-
ing people of diverse cultures to be the most
rewarding aspect.

With my vast interest in anthropology and
my surface photography talent some years
ago, it wasn't long before I naturally began to
evolve into a photojournalist. I started to real-
ize that my camera could be used for some-
thing more than just capturing images; it could
be used as an instrument to convey the untold
stories of life outside our borders. I find it truly
fascinating the access my camera gains me
into the lives of people who I otherwise
would have no con-
nection with. I feel
emotionally privileged to be accepted by my
subjects feeling my
passion.

It's this artistic quest for capturing culture
that has led me on my next "WIDE angle"
assignment. With the beginning of the twen-
thy-week celebration of the Chinese Lunar New
Year, I realized I had the opportunity to doc-
ument the largest celebration of a very
intriguing culture.

While avoiding cliches in my pho-
tography, I am con-
stantly in pursuit of
visual innovation. For
this project I knew
right away a photo of a
dragon or fireworks
just wasn't going to work for me. I was look-
-ing for something different, a unique perspec-
tive.

After a good deal of research and prepara-
tion, I journeyed to northern California, deep
in the heart of San Francisco. For three days I
ventured through the streets of Chinatown,
documenting and learning about the Chinese
culture. The eve of the celebration landed on
a Saturday, which happened to be the day all
the locals do their shopping. People filled the
streets and lines formed outside several mar-
kets while workers raced to prepare seasonal
chickens and other traditional meals in high
demand. Red banners were draped from bal-
conies and the sound of firecrackers and
shooting matches over bok choi echoed in the
dense avenues. The rain came down but their
spirits never did. Positive vibes radiated
through the neighborhood as time transi-
tioned into the Year of The Dog.

For the entire photo-essay, visit www.must-
angdaily.net.
P O L I T I C A L  C O L U M N

POLITICAL CONVICTION WITHOUT POLITICAL LABELS

Regardless, the point is that I found myself asking a deeper question: What exactly does it mean to be a liberal or a conservative? 

Truth is my motivation: for ideological questions, the question is simple: Now that I’ve got a “conservative” pitching bag, I mean, column, I despise conformity, especially dead-end conformity. My goal with this column is not to conform to normative labels; it is to be unconventional — to present issues in a raw form, and other forms of media politicking.

Given our immensely diverse society, I feel that this political “spectrum” consists of only two colors: black or white — Republicans or Democrats, right or left. Bulsh! I can choose 31 f---ing flavors, but my only choice for President is Tweedle Dum or Tweedle Dee. And all know Tweedle Dee didn’t win. I digress. Since I’m skeptical how well my label fits, it would be unethical and atypical to represent myself as something without first evaluating exactly what was a great scientist and Thurgood Marshall’s greatest president, or this black guy Thurgood Marshall was a great Supreme Court justice. I wouldn’t want to be remembered solely with what group I belonged to, nor would anyone else.

When Black History Month began, blacks were seldom mentioned in our history books or classes, but times have changed. Just look at Cal Poly’s history department — we have courses that focus on American cultures, on struggles for equality, even whole classes that are specific to African American history. When Black History Month began, good in was incorporated into the overall picture of American history. I think that this goal has been accomplished. I believe that if we want to find that step forward toward equality Black History Month has to end. Simply put, black history like Irish history, Italian history, Asian American history, Latino history, Indian history, Jewish history, Mormon history or, any history you can come up with, it is all American history. I don’t think there should be a Black History Month just as I don’t think there should be a month set aside for any other group.

Brian Eller is a materials engineering sophomore and Mustang Daily columnist.
Danielle Ayers-Stamper led the Mustangs at the Washington Invitational Saturday, winning the women's Pentathlon with a final score of 4040 to lead Oregon to a first place win. Ayers-Stamper for the NCAA Indoor Championships, March 10-11 in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Ayers-Stamper, fresh off winning the 35-meter hurdle event at the "Run for the Dream" meet in Fresno, topped that performance by topping a field of some of the best athletes in the West Coast in the women’s pentathlon.

Ayers-Stamper won the 60 meter hurdle event with a time of 8.86 as well as finishing near the top in the high jump (1.67 m), shot put (13.87m), long jump (5.75m), and the discus (2.23.96).

With Ayers-Stamper’s score of 4040, she easily qualified for the NCAA Championships, surpassing the required score of 3700 by 256 points and just missing the automatic qualifying score of 4000 by 96 points.

Ayers-Stamper closest competition was Kalinda McFadden of Oregon who finished over 100 points behind Ayers-Stamper, but got a score strong enough to qualify for the NCAA Championships as well.

Other Mustangs with strong performances included Deidre Byrne, making an NCAA Championship qualifying time of 4.45.28 in the one-mile run. Byrne’s time was good for fifth place in the meet. Lauren Milkey ran well in the one-mile as well, running a personal-best indoor time of 4:53.16.

Markita Berry finished fifth in the long jump, with her best mark at 5.62m.

Sunday’s results

The Mustangs competed at the University of Washington Open on Sunday and came away with a number of strong showings, led by the one, two, three finish in the 800 meter run at Deidre Byrne, Bridgette Sexton and Lauren Milkey qualifying for NCAA Championships as well. Other Mustangs with strong performances included Kalinda McFadden of Oregon who finished over 100 points behind Ayers-Stamper, but got a score strong enough to qualify for the NCAA Championships as well.

Ayers-Stamper qualified for the NCAA Championships with a time of 5:13.48, narrowly edging out Hawaii’s Chantelle Lai who finished with a time of 5:13.96. Ayers-Stamper won the event two miles ahead of the Mustangs, finishing second with a mark of 11.01 meters. Brittany Smith, who was unattached, won the event with a jump of 11.12. Berry performed well in the 60 meter dash as well, finishing in sixth with a time of 6.14.

Nikki Chase took third in the 400m, finishing with a time of 58.93, just missing Shannon Williams of S.E.T.A. who finished with a time of 58.89 Also competing in the 400m for the Mustangs was Lindsey McMannis who finished with a time of 1:00.47.

Catch the Mustangs will return to track Feb. 3, visiting New York to compete in the Millrose Games.

The Mustang Daily® is now accepting guest commentaries to run every Monday! Submit an article, limited to 550 words, by e-mail to mustangdaily@mail.com

Subject: Guest Commentary

*Editors reserve the right to edit for grammar, proficiency and length.
The Mustangs, who had the 18th toughest schedule in college baseball last season, will have a schedule of similar caliber for the 2006 season. Not only will Cal Poly face defending national champions Cal State Fullerton and perennially powerful Long Beach State, but San Diego State and World Series participants Oregon State have been added to this season’s schedule.

“Every weekend is tough to come by, both conference and non-conference,” Mustang coach Larry Lee said. “Big West baseball is ranked the fifth toughest conference in the country.”

Lee will begin his fourth season at the helm of Cal Poly baseball. Last season he accumulated his 200th win while guiding the Mustangs to their best finish since joining Division I play. Cal Poly ended the season at 36-20 overall and 14-7 in the Big West, which put them at a tie for second place. Last year’s team broke five all-time school records and produced three top 10 leaders in individual statistics.

Although Lee will be fielding a vastly different lineup, he is optimistic about this team’s stronger throughout the lineup,” Lee said. “Defensively, we should be comparable to last season.”

However, after losing their No. 1 and 2 pitchers from last season, “the big question is can we match our pitching staff from last year?” Lee said.

Lee said junior pitcher Gary Daily should be one of the best pitchers on the West Coast and should be a high draft pick into the professional ranks. “(We) look for big things out of him and he sets the tone for the weekend,” Lee said.

The coach also mentioned Rocky Roquet as playing a strong role on the pitching staff.

“The makeup of the team is very good,” Lee added. “They’re very hard working. Now they have to create their own identity.”

Key returning players will be Jimmy Van Ostrand, who will be switching to first base from the outfield, Brent Walker at second, Matt Cooper in the outfield and Lansford at third. Last season, Van Ostrand batted .345 with four home runs and 25 stolen bases, earning him honorable mention Big West honors.

“It’s going to be a different look, obviously, but I’m looking forward to it,” Van Ostrand said about making the switch to first base. “I’ve been working there all fall, and I’m feeling fairly comfortable over there.”

Solid newcomers to the Mustangs roster are junior Jacob Luque, from Cypress College; sophomore Grant Dinsen, from San Diego State; and junior Matt Leyers, from College of Mateo.

“They’re going to be asked to step in right away and fill some pretty big shoes,” Lee said. “They should do extremely well.”

“We have a bunch of guys who are going to be good players,” Van Ostrand said. “So we all just have to do what we can do individually and then our team will be all right.”

And, yes, Cal Poly fans, beer will be sold at this season’s games.