Vigil for Haiti draws 35 students

A Cal Poly Student Community Services program called Raise the Respect hosted a vigil on Dexter Lawn last night. The event was to educate students and raise money for the victims of the 7.0 magnitude earthquake in Haiti that occurred Jan. 12. Alcenat John Honorât, a native Haitian and civil engineering junior, spoke about his family and friends affected by the quake. Child development junior Molly Roach shared a reading on behalf of former Poly student Jack Strutner, who was present during the earthquake. Industrial engineering sophomore Ryan Darling goes from team manager to on-court contributor.

Polyratings back online

Polyratings.com, Cal Poly's unofficial teacher rating site, is back online after technical issues during fall quarter 2009. The site is an unrestricted tool for Cal Poly students to rate their teachers and make comments about them for their peers. Some students and faculty see it as a useful tool, while others see it as a flawed and biased forum that causes more harm than good.

The controversy over the site is not new. The site was first opened with archived HTML information from Polyratings.com, with the archived information from Polyratings. This site was probably opened with archived HTML information taken from the Internet, Reed said.

Reed said that he figured out who had opened the new site through e-mail. Jesse Courchaine, the operator of Polyratings, opened a new site, Calpolyratings.com, with the archived information from Polyratings. This site was probably opened with archived HTML information taken from the Internet, Reed said.

While Reed was working on fixing the issues, another person, unfazed with Cal Poly or Polyratings, opened a new site, Calpolyratings.com, with the archived information from Polyratings. This site was probably opened with archived HTML information taken from the Internet, Reed said.

Reed said that he figured out who had opened the new site through e-mail. Jesse Courchaine, the operator of Polyratings.com, since he and Forrest Lanning, another Poly graduate, revamped and took control of the site in 2001 as students. When the information from the old server was moved to the new one, the data was incompatible with the new technology. Reed had to go through and fix the broken data himself.

"It's kind of like whoa-a-mole," Reed said. "It's a process of kind of wading through all of the errors. As soon as you would get one page working, the next one would be broken."

The Associated Students Inc. (ASI) presidential elections begin Feb. 1, and staff are busy streamlining the application rules in preparation. The rules for running are essentially the same as in previous years, except for the implementation of a new bylaw regulating presiding officers. In accordance with the below passed this month by the ASI Board of Directors, anyone running for ASI presidency must have a minimum 2.3 GPA for winter quarter and an overall GPA of at least 2.0.

The bill "was really a clarification of something that has always been in practice," said Carl Payne, chair of the University Union Advising Board. "It's always been part of the election packet."

The GPA minimum requirement reflects the dual role of ASI presidents as campus leaders and students, he added.

"I think the ASI board is interested in being certain that students who aspire to leadership roles are academically-minded," said Vice President of Student Affairs Cornel Morton. "The requirement also highlights the responsibility inherent to the position. While some may consider the GPA requirement stringent, architecture sophomore Eric Ostberg said it seems fair."

"I think it's a good thing," Ostberg said, "because if they're going to apply for that sort of work, they should be able to handle at least their courses."

The applications are available on the ASI Web site starting Feb. 1 and are due by March 6. Campaigning is not allowed until April 26, so the candidates are still unknown. "By then, you'll be able to see who is actually running," said Kelley Reagan, chair of the ASI Board of Directors. "But as far as who's interested in running, it's still pretty early to tell."

The job description for ASI presidential elections is something like that of a corresponding, representing the student body to the state-run university.

"The primary role (of the president) is to represent the interests of students to the university administrators, to faculty and staff," Cornell Morton said. "I think that Cal Poly has been very fortunate to have some outstanding student leaders. That position has been very important in our university."

Applicants have traditionally come from all six colleges, and every Poly student is permitted to run, so long as they have studied at Cal Poly for at least two quarters prior to running. While student government experience is not essential, "I would say that successful ASI presidents in the past seemed to be very active on campus, very involved in clubs and activities," Payne said.
Polyratings
continued from page 1

polyratings.com was "immediately taken
unnoticed, by Keed or by C'al Poly in
any domain name with C'al Poly in
money."

and I are adamant this is not about
tasks on the site are general mainte­
in spare time, and is reviewing inappropri­
his spare time. Although she is a
freshman year. Although she is a
people writing about a teacher. The type of students who are*

people have known that fraternity traditions
and self-esteem. Instructors generally agreed that
information. You can always tell when
C'al Poly can sift through the
teachers. It was a relief when it came
Kempbell said that she had used
high-quality teacher evaluations aren't posted
facilities. A more representative sample to
are posted on there
for the picture that paints of you
for the public to see.

The case was filed Sep. 22, 2009

by doing everything we can to

"I really hope someone that goes
to C'al Poly can sift through the
university has a copyright to
the and/or semesters. Instructors gener­ally agreed that
earned it." Kempbell said. For those Gov.: spots I felt more vulnerable to getting bad
to C'al Poly can sift through the

The type of students who are*

and serious injury.

any student posts a comment
about a teacher or when it's a
turning point. What that moment was
knew about the site, the tool, the
never go in knowing it isn't the
It's kind of like Wikipedia; as
keenly aware of the tool's potential to

the dangers of hazing, cause fun­
derstood the tool's potential to

"Some students are so afraid
about someone who has good insight
about a teacher or when it's a

Mysto Daily
NEWS

News editor: Kent McIlvrey
mustangdailynews@gmail.com
Thursday, January 28, 2010

Elections
continued from page 1

The position of president presents
the student with an effective means to
change the world around them.
They think that you have to want it
you want to be a part of an active change.\" Am board of
director member Kelsey Rice said
"And it's also for people who like
calls for action. The 2009-10 student
government leaders are asserting
their right to be heard.

The case was filed Sep. 22, 2009
to coincide with the beginning of the
school year, said Josh Labar, another
lawyer representing the Starkeys.
The amount of money the Starkeys
are suing for will be determined later.
"We will continue to honor Car-
son's request that we not

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Thursday, January 28, 2010

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama, making a new commitment to fiscal restraint while re­newing his bid for an overhaul of the nation's health-care system, called on Americans Wednesday night to re­pair "a deficit of trust." 

The president, addressing the nation and a joint session of Con­gress in his first State of the Union address, suggested that the nation's budgetary deficit is not only the problem confronting Americans. "We have to recognize that we face more than a deficit of dollars right now," the president said in his speech prepared in advance of a new call for health-care reform. "We face a deficit of trust," Obama said. "A deficit of hope, a deficit of common sense." 

Obama was promoting a government stimulus plan to help create jobs, bring economic recovery, and stave off another recession. "I want to kick off 2010 by introducing a truly radical and revolutionary new product," the president said. "The iPad, which is larger in size than a laptop and so much more than a laptop, is a 9.7-inch touch-screen com­puter, with an intuitive user interface and the power of a personal computer in a thin, portable, lightweight form factor."

The iPad has a 10-hour battery life, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and comes in versions that hold 16 gigabytes, 32 gigabytes and 64 gigabytes. They cost $499, $599 and $699, respectively. "We want to put this in the hands of lots of people," Jobs said. "We have met our cost goals." Separate versions that support AT&T's 3G wireless Internet cost $629, $729 and $829 for 16 gigabytes, 32 gigabytes and 64 gigabytes, respectively. Customers can sign up for AT&T's 3G without a contract. A 250-megabyte-per-month plan (that's not very much data) costs $14.99, and unlimited Internet access costs $29.99. Sub­scribers also get access to AT&T's Wi-Fi hotspots, including Star­bucks. A software development kit will see iPad, page 4

WHAT'S YOUR DEAL?

Apple bestows 'iPad' tablet on worshipers

Mark Milian

SAN FRAN­CISCO — Apple Chief Executive Officer Steve Jobs didn't need to stage a sporting a robe and full beard to announce the most anticipat­ed tablet since Moses'. But the crowd at the Ye­buah Jewish Center in San Francisco received the in­troduction of the iPad with a mood of thunderous ap­plause. Perhaps the most-kept secret since, well, the iPhone, the iPad is a 9.7-inch touch-screen com­puter, starting at $499 and avail­able in March. It resembles an oversized iPod touch.

"We want to kick off 2010 by introducing a truly radical and revolutionary new product," Jobs said early on to ease the throngs of technology journalists and analysts who knew what was coming. After a brief on-stage run­through of its features, Jobs plopped down on a black leather couch to demonstrate how you might use the device at home. Grab the iPad off the kitchen table and browse the Web or buy movie tickets.

The iPad stands as the middle ground between a full-blown lap­top computer and an iPhone. "It's so much more intimate than a laptop and so much more capable than a smart phone," Jobs said.

The iPad contains Apple's App Store, so the 140,000 or so appli­cations already available for the i­phone and iPod Touch will run on the tablet — scaled up to fit the bigger screen.
"Cash Cab. mostly just to say I was on Cash Cab. The guy that runs it looks like a pretty legit dude."

Sean Ellenberg, political science and history junior

"Jeopardy! because that means I’m smart."

Cori Bellis, environmental engineering sophomore

"Who Wants to be a Millionaire, because if I get in trouble I feel like I have smart friends to get me out."

Mark Morinishi, landscape architecture sophomore

"Who Wants to be a Millionaire, because I love trivia."

Sean O’Brien, landscape architecture sophomore

"Card Sharks, it’s a pretty ridiculous show to watch and made me laugh."

Nick McConnell, biochemistry sophomore

"Wheel of Fortune, because whenever I watch it I feel like I’m pretty good at it."

Cierra Rawlings, mathematics sophomore

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iPad continued from page 3

be available immediately to software makers to design apps specifically for the iPad. Some developers have already begun revising their software for the larger screen and more powerful processor.

Apple has revised its own software that ships with the device. The iPad version of iTunes resembles a hybrid between the desktop version and the one on the iPhone. The calendar big big text and buttons. YouTube supports high-definition video.

Apple also showed off a version of its iWork software — a competitor to Microsoft Office — built for a touch-screen. It includes Keynote, Pages and Numbers — the Apple equivalents of PowerPoint, Word and Excel, respectively. Each costs $9.99 and can be downloaded from the App Store.

"Watching one is nothing like getting one in your hands," Jobs said after a demo.

The device is half-an-inch deep and 1.5 pounds — "that’s thinner and lighter than any netbook."

Earlier, Jobs lambasted netbooks, those tiny, inexpensive laptops that have become so popular recently.

"Is there room for a third device?" Jobs said before introducing the gadget. "Now, some people have thought, 'That's a netbook.' The problem is, netbooks aren't better at anything. ... They're slow. They have low-quality displays."

Like an iPhone, users input data by touching on-screen keyboard. A keyboard accessory with a dock turns the iPad into a sort of laptop. And a case that acts as a stand — to watch video without holding the device — will also be available.

Jobs says the iPad is better than laptops and phones for consuming video, music, Web browsing and reading e-books.

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"If you could be a contestant on any game show which one would you choose and why?"

"Cash Cab. mostly just to say I was on Cash Cab. The guy that runs it looks like a pretty legit dude."

Sean Ellenberg, political science and history junior

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What do you hope your students learn from you?

What is the funniest thing you have experienced as a teacher?

What are your goals in life?

What did you do before becoming a professor?

What do you hope your students learn from you?

What is the funniest thing you have experienced as a teacher?

What are your goals in life?

What did you do before becoming a professor?

What do you hope your students learn from you?
Students organize benefit concert to raise funds for Haiti

Miakaela Akuna

A benefit concert called “Hope for Haiti” is being held at Sally Loo’s Wholesome Cafe Friday between 4 and 10 p.m. to raise money for the relief effort in Haiti.

The concert will feature a variety of local artists. Proceeds from ticket sales, as well as some of the income from the cafe, will be donated to doctors who are currently in Haiti.

SLOCAL, a community service club from Cal Poly, is putting together the event along with SLO Ridge, the collegiate group affiliated with Hope for Haiti. Sally Loo’s owner, Jen and Brandon Manuele, Phelps, who helps manage Hope for Haiti, contacted the Manueles to see if they would be willing to host. (SLOCAL) has held concerts before and really wanted to help with the effort, so we contacted them Saturday, said Phelps.

Some of the artists include Matt Cross, Sierra Chavez and Crooked Wheel. Cross, who has been involved with Haiti benefit concerts, said that he was glad that many people are getting involved.

“It’s a great thing that it took such a disaster to really get people motivated, but I’m happy to be a part of it,” Cross said. "I was really honored that they contacted us, and we are so excited to see Haiti."

Indie musician Ingrid Michaelson to perform at Campus Market

Raquel Redding

Ingrid Michaelson, best known for her song “The Way I Am” and her contributions to the ABC program “Grey’s Anatomy,” is coming to Cal Poly Thursday to play for Music in the Market at 11 a.m.

Music in the Market is a concert series formed by Associated Students Inc. (ASI) that brings free music to the Via Carta Mall outside of Campus Market while the University Union is under construction. Musical entertainment student supervisor Dave Carlson, who is in charge of booking acts for Music in the Market, chose Michaelson because of her growing popularity.

“Michaelson has a very likable sound; all of Cal Poly students can wrap their ears around it,” Carlson said.

Students may like Michaelson, but non-students have also heard about her coming to Cal Poly to perform, and since the venue is so spacious, it is accessible to everyone.

“She’s an awesome singer that isn’t mainstream (with) that horrible bratty pop music; she has folk style,” Meredith Wolf, an employee at Barnes and Noble, said. "I’m taking my niece. It’s good for her to see strong female performers.”

Since the venue is outside, ASI Program Coordinator Missi Bullock said that she expects Michaelson’s name to bring more people than previous concerts, which have brought in as many as 700 people in the past.

“The concert is primarily for students, but there is no way to limit it,” Bullock said. "The area is completely open.”

A stage, provided by Ernie Ball, will make the performance seen and heard by everyone, especially since Michaelson will only be bringing her guitarist and her piano for an acoustic concert.

“The concert will be very stripped down, showing the music at its roots,” Carlson said.

Michaelson’s career in music started at a young age. According to her Web site, she started playing the piano when she was 4 years old and later transitioned to singing and song-writing. She is considered an indie-pop singer and songwriter, but her soft voice accompanied with a guitar or piano comes across more indie than pop. Michaelson directly influences indie music.

“Her name might not be as well-known, but her songs are,” Bullock said.

Her songs have been used in Old Navy commercials and episodes of “One Tree Hill,” but Michaelson’s fame really began when her song “Keep Breathing” played in the season finale of “Grey’s Anatomy.”

Stemming from “Grey’s Anatomy” popularity, she has performed on “Good Morning America,” and most recently on “The Ellen DeGeneres Show.” Carlson said that Cal Poly was lucky that her schedule worked out so well with the dates for Music in the Market. Michaelson happened to have time in her trip from a performance in San Francisco to a performance in San Antonio, so Carlson is just concerned about the weather.

“The weather has been bad lately, but Thursday has been said to be the sunniest day in the week,” he said. In case the weather is bad, Carlson said, there is a back up plan, but he is staying optimistic.

Other upcoming acts for Music in the Market include The Stone Foxes February 11, and Timmy Curran Feb. 18.
Ancient brews are not outdated

Guten Morgen Cal Poly. Und wenn Sie mich bis später nicht lesen, guten Tag, guten Abend und gute Nacht! Abh! Die Gärung ist all coming back to me now. More or less. Alright, what we’re gonna do right here is go back — way back — in time.

We’re going to sample two beers from the brewery that claims to be the oldest in the world. The world?

For those of you who have so diligently been keeping up with these past few weeks of extensive beer ramblings, today I will cut you a break, with a short, to the point (for the most part) and straightforward article.

I said, gehn vor! If you haven’t guessed it by now, today’s beer samplings are from a brewery located in Germany, or as some of you probably know it today, Die Bundesrepublik Deutschland. No, that is not an English “the” but rather a German “die.”

This brewery is called Weihenstephaner. That’s right, Weihenstephaner. Wow. The two beers to be sampled from here are the Hefeweiser and Korbinian.

But first, about how a little more on the “oldest brewery in the world”?
The Weihenstephaner Brewery can trace its roots all the way back to 1040 C.E. (yes, back to 1040 C.E.), where the brewery was licensed by the city of Freising. During this time it was on the property of an abbey that had previously been a monastery under various different churchs. Tons of history there, right? Right.

Gut, denn Sie haben noch nicht mehr auf dem Magen, es ist ein unfiltered, wheat beer. What this flavor that accompanies it. The Hefeweiser is your typical unfiltered, wheat beer. This means that it is brewed using yeast that is suspended in the beer, rather than filtered out as it is in most beers. This leaves it rather cloudy, and full of that delicious, yeasty flavor — if you’re into that sort of thing. Light and refreshing. Just not a lot of happiness, this is a smooth, tasty, relatively sweet beer. This is a classic Bavarian style beer, sure to delight any hefeweiser fan. It is not for those who don’t enjoy the unique full-flavor that accompanies it.

The Korbinian, a doppelbock (double beer), is a very strong, dark lager. When I used to think of lagers, I would think of Budweiser and Coors. The Korbinian is a completely different kind of lager. It is dark, thick and flavorful. With hints of caramel, this is another sweet, malty, none-too-hoppoy, tasty delight. Possibly named after Saint Corbinian, the founder of the monastery that eventually came to be Weygenstephaner, the Korbinian is not only full of flavor, but also full of history.

But wait, there’s more! So, you like beer. Me too! Crazy. And on top of that, I also like food. Thus the combination of the two would be, to put it least, desirable.

From my informant at Central Coast Brew Club, I discovered that Morro Bay Chamber of Commerce is having a Chili Cook-Off and Beer Fest in March. Still, this is something for us food eaters and beer drinkers to see. Beer, page 8

Beer column

Ancient brews are not outdated

The Hefeweiser is your typical unfiltered, wheat beer. What this means is that the yeast used for fermentation is left suspended in the beer, rather than filtered out as it is in most beers. This leaves it rather cloudy, and full of that delicious, yeasty flavor — if you’re into that sort of thing. Light and refreshing. Just not a lot of happiness, this is a smooth, tasty, relatively sweet beer. This is a classic Bavarian style beer, sure to delight any hefeweiser fan. It is not for those who don’t enjoy the unique full-flavor that accompanies it.
Haiti

Continued from page 6

ed me to play, I feel like I'm out of my realm compared to some of the other groups."

The line-up promises to have something for all concert-goers, from indie rock, to pop covers, to the M-half hour event.

I could not be reached for an interview, but did issue a short letter that can be seen on the concert's blog. The note said that Nelson is currently stationed in Cap-Haitien, about 80 miles north of Port-au-Prince, where the quake was centered. Nelson described the quake as intense and fun. Although Chen didn't choreograph this year she hopes to for the student-run Spring Show held the last week of May.

"Orchesis and the Spring Show are great opportunities for students to choreograph," Chen said. "A lot of places won't let you do that."

The students who are part of Orchesis take that opportunity very seriously. Dancers and Stanton agreed that the level of professionalism and maturity is more evident in choreography this year. Darren Bridges and Rebecca Jensen put together a contemporary piece entitled "ME" getting its name from an artistic approach to selflessness. Aside from his piece, Bridges says a piece entitled "VII" depicting the seven deadly sins. The piece is a play on "Cool" and never-ending phrases.

"It's fun to be evil for seven or more minutes," Hudson said. "I tried to portray that with flowing movements and never-ending phrases. I didn't think about what I was first started, but the title 'Continuum' definitely plays into my piece, especially with everything about the concept of generations. The process keeps replenishing and people are always stepping into new roles."

There's a lot of work that goes into putting such socially in-depth concepts into movement. Hudson explained how the choreographic process isn't always easy. Starting everything is the hardest part. I choreographed for Orchesis, Helm got the idea for her dance while studying abroad in Thailand where she saw an art exhibit on the seven deadly sins. Those sins represented in art for a lot, but I've never seen it performed," Helm said.

Helm represented the deadly sin of gluttony in Helm's haunting piece.

"It's not like I can go out there and say 50% of this is a pineapple turnover. Love, Andy"

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Helm represented the deadly sin of gluttony in Helm's haunting piece.

"It's not like I can go out there and say 50% of this is a pineapple turnover. Love, Andy"
Obama needs to stop passing the football to Republicans

President Obama, has become desperate to regain his image of bipartisanship. Instead of maintaining his composure and making forward progress on a health care bill including the public option and hard-hitting reforms, he has thrown the Republicans the ball. The Democrats are behaving as though they’re the party with 41 votes, not the Republicans. If President Obama maintains this passive attitude, he will regret it well after he has retired from politics — just like Favre will regret another fourth-quarter interception.

And who was there to advocate against Bush’s touchdowns? In football, the ref determines the rulings on the plays. But in politics, there’s a chance to argue and debate. The health care initiative is the touchdown for the Democrat. It matters who wins that debate.

Obama just needs to stay on track and not give concessions to Republicans simply because the media reports that the tide is turning in America, and the Republicans won Massachusetts. The Vikings will have another shot at the Super Bowl. He won’t have another shot at health care.

Stephanie England is an English senior and Mustang Daily political columnist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The fact of the matter is our government has become so burdened by political corruption with laws passed to maintain the status quo that even those who are elected and truly seek to affect change from within are quickly rendered powerless through the unified, two-party system.

We won’t see democracy again until we begin to recognize the failures of our government and demand representation “of the people.” What ever happened to democracy?” Our representatives sold it long ago, and the media helps them keep us from realizing it.

Anonymous

In response to “Health Care Reform: Where’s the Fire?”

Using lies, wealth, and misdirection to promote religion (or any set of ideas) is dishonest, disrespectful, and should be offensive to anybody who believes people have a right to think for themselves. Last quarter, people were handing out copies of The Origin of Species with religious annotations and a 70-page introduction attempting to disprove the theory of Evolution. This quarter, the Veritas forum posed itself as an unbiased forum, only to show its true nature and eliminate any dissenting opinions through ‘accidents’ and ‘misunderstandings.’ When do we get to think for ourselves?

— Guy Shani

biochemical sciences senior

NOTES: The Mustang Daily features select comments that are written in response to articles posted online. Though not all the responses are printed, the Mustang Daily prints comments that are coherent and foster intelligent discussion on a given subject. No sensationalization, please.
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It's the best thing since sliced bread.
Darling continued from page 12

actually be on the team," Darling said. "But I walked into the locker room and found my own set of practice gear."

Darling held up a green and white practice jersey with the words "Cal Poly" and the number 31 embroidered on the back — he had made the team.

"I believed I could (make the team)," he said. "I've always thought I've had the drive, ability, drive and athleticism," Shelton said.

Darling redshirted his junior year and then found limited playing time in his next season.

When former Seattle University head coach Joe Callero took over the reins of the Mustangs, Darling had no need to prove himself again — Callero knew all about Darling.

"He was pretty athletic and pretty active, but he was very raw," Callero said. "He hadn't played very many minutes of really competitive college basketball, and he wasn't really comfortable with a lot of things we were implementing."

As the lights in Mott Gym turned on for another season, Callero had been around Darling for less than a year, but he immediately noticed Darling's main addition to the team — energy.

"He has such a positive energy about him," Callero said. "Every team needs to have an emotional leader — and (Ryan) certainly has emerged as a positive energy leader — and (Ryan) Darling is that."

Darling's work ethic wasn't only seen in the eyes of the coaches; the players saw it too.

"Biggest thing (Ryan) brought to the team is energy," Lorenzo Keeler said. "I mean, we know whenever he gets on the court he is going to play his butt off. He is going to play 100 percent and leave everything on the court — to the bench."

Darling racked up 22 minutes through the team's first 10 games of this season. He was used mainly as a utility man. Filling in for players with foul trouble and injuries, Darling trotted on the court and did what he was asked to do. Halfway through the season, ineligibility struck starting center and second-leading scorer Will Donahue. Ryan Darling saw his minutes skyrocket.

Against in-state rival UC Davis, Darling saw the court for 23 minutes, just six fewer in that one game than in the whole 2008-09 season. Darling finished with 10 points and 12 rebounds — a career-high double-double.

"He is a good example of perseverance in sports as I have seen in 23 years of coaching," Callero said.

In the game, Keeler hit Darling under the basket with a dish on a drive. Darling jumped up in between numerous defenders and finished emphatically with a two-point play. The moment was the image that Darling had once dreamed about when he sat at the end of the bench. He was no longer the one starting at the players, he was the one playing.

"It's a good priceless opportunity," Darling said. "Someone could offer me a billion dollars to not play out this year, and I honestly don't think I would take it."

Gasol continued from page 12

Bryant had sprained his right thumb that night and still scored 31 points. Odom, though, missed a tying 3-point shot with 41 seconds left off Bryant's pass and then undermined that last play, which wound up in a Bryant turnover.

Moved into a bench role by Jackson last season, Odom has never measured up to all that Bryant wanted for him and from him. Yet it has worked out just fine because of Gasol, whose 25 points Tuesday night mirrored Bryant's 26, with Odom contributing, too.


Odom is satisfied with Gasol having gotten the Lakers to be defending champions. Bryant still is not.

"I just think he can get better," Bryant said of Gasol, whom Bryant gave a brief talking-to Tuesday night in the fourth quarter upon sensing a late-game turnover. "I get on him a lot because he's a great player already, but I don't want him to be comfortable just being a great player. I want to see him take another step."

The Mustangs are rolling off their best start in conference play since they joined the Big West during the 1996-97 season. The winner of tonight's matchup will hold sole possession of second place in the conference. Cal Poly women's basketball team (12-6, 5-2 Big West) will take on UC Santa Barbara (6-2, 3-3) in Mott Gym tonight.

Junior forward Kristina Santiago will continue her run at the record books as she is 21 points away from becoming the fourth leading scorer in school history. Senior guard Brittany Lange will add to the Mustangs scoring, averaging 14 points through two games last week.
Ryan Darling turns rags to swishes

Brian De Los Santos

"I don't think anyone knows this, but I was once a player at Cal Poly's men's basketball forward Ryan Darling said. "It was a dream come true... I was a real 6-foot-7-inch player."

Three years ago, Darling was cleaning up after Cal Poly's men's basketball team. His official title with the Mustangs was team manager. Darling handed players water, wiped sweat off the court and helped with practices. When he wasn't cleaning, he would sit on the bench and nervously watch Division 1 basketball games.

"As a team manager on the bench, seeing these players make plays, you're just sitting there thinking, 'I wish that could be me,'" Darling said. "I knew I could do it, it was just a matter of time."

He played basketball in high school, but got all sports off his whole life. Despite coming from a family of swimmers, Darling dove into a path that combined burst brown leather and white nylon nets as his favorite way to pass time.

"Wherever you step on the court, you get this energy running through your body, coursing through your veins," "The Lakers! There is nothing like it, you just feel you're on top of the world!"

When his dream was to someday play on the hardwood. He often fantasized about holding up a green and gold jersey adored with his last name. He would daydream of receiving a pass under the basket and dunking on surprised adults. "I thought I would be the next Kobe Bryant," Darling said.

Not only did he make the team, but he started to think that he could be the next Kobe Bryant. He would sit on the bench in green and gold, and he was scaring, dunking and rebounding against the West Conference opponents.

Not many can say they are bringing out their childhood fantasy, but Darling is one of the few exceptions.

"Darling has amazing work ethic," Tim Sheldon said. Sheldon was a teammate of Darling's on Cal Poly's basketball team. "He is eager and willing to learn and do what it takes to be the best he can be at what he sets himself to do."

Someone could offer me a billion dollars to not play out this year, and I honestly don't think I would take it.

—Ryan Darling
Cal Poly forward

It didn't come easy to Darling. With only two years of experience in high school, he was not recruited. He came to Cal Poly for an education, not to become a basketball player.

Despite his doubts, Darling found himself inside Mott Gym when open tryouts began his freshman year.

"I realized that if I didn't take advantage of (trying out), it was something that I was going to regret for the rest of my life," Darling said.

Competing against upperclassmen with scholarships, Darling struggled to keep up with the other players. When the final roster was cut, Darling's name didn't make the cut.

"Ryan was not one to lay down and give up; he is a competitor," Sheldon said. "If there was something he needed to do or work on, he found out and worked on it." Darling never set his sights on giving up. He didn't see being cut as a failure.

"I think failing is when you truly want something and give up," Darling said. "This is something deep down that I know that I do want to do. Thinking that this is going to be hard was no reason I shouldn't try again."

As his freshman year drew on, Darling befriended some of the players he played against in tryout and started playing pick-up games with some of them. Anytime the team had an open gym shoot around, Darling was always there.

"After playing with the team for a while, I started to think that I actually had a shot at making the team, so I decided to put my mind to it and give it everything I had," Darling said.

Darling was motivated to wash out the taste of defeat he had left over from his previous tryout. He hit the gym to build on the 6-foot-7-inch, 250-pound frame he had when he graduated high school. By the time tryouts came the second time around, Darling recalled tipping the scales 25 pounds heavier than freshman year. But, another tryout was filled with more disappointment as Darling failed to make the team once again.

"To my knowledge, the team was full. I thought I did well in tryouts so the coaching staff said I could stick around and be a team manager if I wanted."

Being burdened with rejection twice, Darling still had no inclination to hang up his shoes. To show his commitment to his dream, Darling took the position. When the team was on the court practicing, Darling was there serving as a team manager. When the team wasn't, he hit the gym.

"I came into (my junior year) with the mentality that I am going to play," Darling said. "I don't care what it takes, I had come this far. I wasn't ready to turn back."

When the first day of official team practice came his junior year, three weeks before tryouts, Darling headed to Mott Gym. For him, it was just another day.

"I wanted to see if maybe (coach Bromley) wanted to see me in some of the drills, but I wouldn't see Darling, page 11

Some day in Washington.

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Lakers' Pau Gasol keeps his priorities on winning teamwork

Kevin Ding

WASHINGTON — The Lakers were in Washington on a trip when Gasol joined the team after the Feb. 1 trade with Memphis. He arrived into Washington late at night and met with a group of reporters in a suite at the Lakers' team hotel.

Some first impressions of Gasol that first night in the hotel suite still hold true. He was the nicest in the considerate, polite way that few look-at-me NBA players understand. Gasol, who is from Spain, comes across as a regular guy who is eager to please, and even in his second language of English, his intelligence comes across just as much.

Bryant referred to him the other night as "so intelligent" and then followed up with "very intelligent" and "highly intelligent." Jackson mentions that the key thing is that Gasol was "a very willing student" upon joining the team.

But what was most memorable about talking to Gasol that first night was his earnestness about just how sick he was of being a loser in Memphis.

"You get into a mindset that is not really positive," Gasol said that night. "You kind of sink."

And right after that session, Gasol went to have a much more important sit-down with Bryant, when that particular topic of needing to win was further emphasized. It has turned out that Gasol's drive to win has been greater than could be understood under years ago.

"Pau is underrated," Lamar Odom said Tuesday, "for his aggressiveness and his will to win, his ability to do anything to make the team better."

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Let's go further to another day in Washington.

The Los Angeles Lakers acquired forward Pau Gasol from the Memphis Grizzlies last February. Gasol helped fuel a second-half run that led to a NBA Finals victory over the Orlando Magic last season.

Four years ago, the Lakers blew a 16-point lead and lost by three points to the Wizards. It was Bryant's second season with Odom. Odom lined up on the wrong side of the court for the final play, costing the Lakers and Bryant a shot at a tying 3-pointer. Bryant was enraged. He berated Odom the entire time they walked off the court, all the way to the locker room, and later Odom rushed out of there.

see Gasol, page 11

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