



Rhythm and Passion showed the meaning of their group's name in this routine recently.

Arts association to bring dance group to Colby

The group Rhythm and Passion will appear at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Cultural Arts Center at Colby Community College, sponsored by the Western Plains Arts Association.

The group was founded by internationally acclaimed dancers Gloria and Claudio Otero

from Argentina.

The performance, in two acts, goes back in time to the origins of tango in the seedy bars of 1920s Buenos Aires, then whisks the audience to the streets and nightclubs of the 1950s Caribbean to experience the vibrant celebration of love and life that is salsa. The

second act conveys contemporary interpretations of these dances.

Admission is by Western Plains season ticket, or \$15 for adults and \$7 for students at the door.

Some wind generators use other fuels as well

Dear EarthTalk: I heard that some wind farms use fossil fuels to power their generators when the wind won't. Doesn't that defeat their whole renewable energy purpose? Why not let the wind power it or not? Also, I've heard that the low-frequency sounds generated by these turbines can harm people and animals. Is this true? — Ryan Lewis, Plainwell, Mich.

Indeed, one of the major drawbacks to wind power is the fact that, even in windy locations, the wind doesn't always blow. So the ability of turbines to generate power is intermittent at best. Many turbines can generate power only about 30 percent of the time, thanks to the inconsistency of their feedstock.

To overcome this Achilles' heel of intermittent production, some wind companies have back-up systems that spin turbines when the wind isn't blowing, thus optimizing and keeping consistent the power output. For example, Colorado-based Hybrid Turbines Inc. is selling wind farms systems that marry a natural gas generator to a

wind turbine. "Even if natural gas is used, the electricity produced ... is twice as environmentally clean as burning coal," reports the company. Better yet, if a user can power them with plant-derived biofuels, they can remain 100 percent renewable energy-based.

While some wind energy companies may invest in such technologies to wring the most production out of their investments, utilities aren't likely to suffer much from the intermittent output if they don't. Even the utilities that are most bullish on wind power still generate most of their electricity from more traditional sources. So, when wind energy output decreases, utilities simply draw more power from other sources — such as solar arrays, hydroelectric dams, nuclear reactors and coal-fired power plants — to maintain consistent electrical service. As such, reports the American Wind Energy Association, utilities act as "system operators" drawing power from where it's available and dispatching it to where it is needed in

tune with rising and falling power needs.

But just because generating wind power all day long isn't imperative doesn't mean that suppliers aren't doing all they can to maximize output. Turbine manufacturers are beginning to incorporate so-called Active Flow Control technology, which delays the occurrence of partial or complete stalls when the wind dies down, and also enables start-up and power generation at lower wind speeds than conventional turbines. These capabilities in turn can help system operators create a more reliable electric grid less dependent on fossil fuels.

As to whether or not noise from wind farms can harm people and wildlife, the jury is still out. New York-based pediatrician Nina Pierpont argues in her book, "Wind Turbine Syndrome," that turbines may produce sounds that can affect the mood or cause physiological problems like insomnia, vertigo, headaches and nausea. On the flip side, Renewable UK, a British wind energy trade group,

says that the noise measured 1,000 feet away from a wind farm is less than that of normal road traffic. A Texas jury denied a 2006 noise pollution suit against FPL Energy after FPL showed that noise readings from its wind farm maxed out at 44 decibels, roughly the same generated by a 10 mile-per-hour wind.

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE

Tuesday

10:42 a.m. — Assisted ambulance crew.

10:50 a.m. — Purse taken from vehicle at 545 W. Third.

12:57 p.m. — Walk through at Sacred Heart School.

2:42 p.m. — Pallet in road in the 700 block of E. College Dr. moved to ditch.

10:56 p.m. — Sexual harassment report filed.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF

Tuesday

10 a.m. — Suspicious vehicle

parked at 1360 First St. Annex. Spoke to reporting party on phone.

10:56 a.m. — Report filed on incident at Brewster.

2:16 p.m. — Responded to fire in ditch at U.S. 24 and Menlo Rd. Fire put out.

11:17 p.m. — Vehicle rear-ended at mile 57 on westbound I-70. Colby Dodge towed vehicle.

11:21 p.m. — Downed power lines in the 1200 block of County Rd. 3. Called Midwest Energy, helped with traffic control.

Public Notice

BID NOTICE

Sampson Construction is accepting bids for the Fillmore County Hospital Bid Package #1-Mass Excavation Package located in Geneva, Nebraska

Bid Date is Friday, September 24th at 2:00 p.m.

Pre-Bid Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21st at 10:30 a.m. at the jobsite.

Please mail proposals to: Sampson Construction 3730 South 14th Street Lincoln, NE 68502

or fax to: 402-434-7425 Phone: 402-434-5450

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