Peanut Butter, Bananas, and Food Stamps
From the Editor

It’s hamburger judging time again. The second annual Outpost hamburger contest is underway and the Outpost judging team has been busily consuming patties, buns and various relishes for the past two weeks. Entries have almost doubled this year despite the fact that a hamburger shortage swept the city after last year’s contest. The American burger is at its peak moment. While some of us look at it as a way to fill our stomachs, others in town see it as a way of life.

Many restaurant and hamburger stand owners requested a chance to enter our second contest. Now that we’ve answered all calls and taken new entries only two weeks remain until we publish the results. But the Outpost burger raters have not yet terminated their search for the best burgers in town. In a few days, all judging will stop and the results tabulated.

If you’re a hamburger lover I suggest you read Outpost in two weeks. Our team is rating burgers on a variety of things ranging from taste and freshness of the burger to the atmosphere in and out of the establishment.

Look for the giant hamburger . . . on the cover of the Outpost.

You may have noticed that Outpost has a new appearance this year. Brown ink and varied lay-out through the use of white space have contributed to our new look. We want to appear more like a magazine though we remain in newspaper clothing.

Many of the changes found in Outpost are the result of innovative ideas by our art director, Pat O’Connell. Pat is a design specialist in the Graphico Communications Department and a great asset to our staff.

We obviously don’t charge for the magazine and rely strictly upon advertising to publish. If you buy from one of our advertisers tell them Outpost sent you.
To Park or Not To Park

by John Dudeck

Parking? Mention the word and a Poly student will react. First, he'll complain about how he can never find a space in the student lots while the staff parking lots are practically empty. Then he'll tell how the administration is deceiving the students by setting up over 6000 parking stickers while there are only about 3600 parking spaces available.

Next he'll tell about how a student parking lot was converted to staff parking without warning and 179 students got losses for parking in it. It sounds like a faculty and administration conspiracy against the students.

The parking problem is an upsetting situation which directly affects more than a third of the students population. It is especially irritating when appearances suggest fault on the part of the administration. Why does somebody do something about it? Certainly, efforts have been made, but what is that has kept the parking problem from being corrected? The

main problem at Cal Poly is not in finding places to put parking lots. With 500 acres of land, there is space to park. What is in short supply, of course, is prime parking space.

Out of 9868 available parking spaces, 820 are given to faculty parking, and these are usually the areas within the perimeter of campus buildings. The 3245 student spaces are all outside of the main portion of the campus. (There are also 23 visitor spaces near the administration building.)

Motorcycle parking seems to present the least problems this quarter. Although motorcycles are not allowed within the inner perimeter area and bicycles, it is still easier to find good motorcycle parking than good automobile parking.

Bicycles may seem to have overcrowded parking, but reality has not reached a saturated condition. A quick survey of the computer science area at 10 a.m. on a Wednesday showed that out of 48 available bike rack spaces, 6 were unused, although several bicycles were not parked in the racks.

Who should have the right to park in the good places? Students feel that since teachers generally must spend the whole day on campus, while students don't do so, it is only fair that students deserve the prime spots. But on the other hand, teachers have more responsibility to be at their classes when students aren't in school.

People have seen the parking problem coming for a long time, and a lot of discussion and thought has gone into search for solutions. Why then hasn't the problem been solved?

It is interesting that the average Poly student has the idea of parking always being a problem. They wonder why something can't be done to alleviate it, and we need only give the problem to the engineers to find a way to fit 6000 cars into 500 prime parking spaces.

There are four approaches which are being considered as possible solutions to the parking squeeze. Each of these promise to reduce the demand on the center-campus parking lots but each solution has its associated costs.

Multi-level parking structures. If built, a large parking garage would provide good parking for everyone. But such a structure would be expensive to construct, and there are no funds. Fees from parking stickers and violation fines, which currently amount to over $100000 per year, go into a 19-school wide trust fund for parking facilities, and Cal Poly has not received its share of those funds.

President Kennedy is reportedly in favor of state legislation which would be required in order to funnel those fees into a fund for Cal Poly parking, but currently there is no possibility of obtaining such needed money. In addition, a parking garage is not the master plan for the campus, and it seems out of keeping with the grandiose feeling of Cal Poly.

City Bus Service. One way to reduce parking congestion is to reduce the number of people who must drive to campus. The city council passed an ordinance this summer enabling bids to be taken from companies interested in running a bus system, but no bids have been taken as yet. Running a bus line usually is not a profitable business, and most city bus lines are subsidized by taxes.

Cal Poly-run bus service. This would be similar to a high school bus system. Federal funds are sometimes available for such operational expenses. But in order to get the bus, the locals must be purchased. And that's not economically feasible.

Shuttle service from an existing parking lot. A shuttle service appears to be the most sensible way of improving use of the available parking which is too far from center campus to be otherwise desirable. One difficulty in setting up a shuttle service is that to be useful, the service would have to be provided for an extended part of the day, not only during the busy hours. This would somewhat reduce the economic appeal of such a system. Currently all efforts to implement a shuttle system have been abandoned.

Probably the future will see some substantial efforts made towards solving the parking problem. Many people are engaged in studying the situation. The Student Affairs Council has been very active in researching possible solutions. But no miracles should be expected, and shortages will continue to become more acute as the population explodes. If you have problems at Poly, you should try to solve the problem yourself.

Whether or not the administrative powers are able to produce any notable improvements in the parking situation at Poly, the students must assume their own responsibilities towards maintaining the best possible parking environment. Students should not park on campus unless absolutely necessary. Those who live close enough to walk or ride a bike should do so. It is good to get away from the hubbub of just "hopping in the car to run over to class.

Forming car pools is an important means of saving parking space. Roundhouse is willing to match up students who need or have rides in the various areas. Car pool drivers are allowed special parking stickers and a prime parking area on campus.

The BAC Transportation Committee is the student's primary voice in determining how the decisions about parking are made. For those interested in participating in these decisions, there are always positions available for students to help maintain our small campus.

Students who must drive to school should, if possible, park in an outlying lot. The population is growing so fast that one student who parks on campus during the semester, will probably park on campus at some point during the term. In addition, parking is so expensive that students who cannot afford to do so, may as well take the bus. As population increases, the student must learn to adapt to what he cannot change.

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Students have many things in common, as a "categorically homogeneous mass", within the framework of our society, from their common desire for education to the very nature of their common needs of existence, such as housing and food. Living differs from area to area. Existence within each is dependent upon how well the population is able to support itself.

Living in Southern California, working at a part-time job, and going to school never seemed to be much of a problem. There were always jobs and places to live that the paycheck could afford.

But gone are those good old days and now I live in San Luis Obispo. Upon moving here earlier this year, I wasn't long before I discovered the scarcity of jobs, especially for students who can only work on a part-time basis.

I also was quick to discover that money doesn't last long if you eat your meals at hamburger stands and pizza parlors. So, buying from the local supermarkets seemed to be the cheapest way to go, short of growing food yourself.

Standing in the check-out counter line one day with my usual assortment of goodies—peanut butter, 27-cent loaf of bread and a couple of bananas—I couldn't help but notice this lady ahead of me who was about to take home about $16.00 worth of groceries that she paid for with food stamps. My curiosity being the better part of me...I finally persuaded myself to ask what she had to do to be able to collect food stamps. She replied rather scathingly, "Try being poor!"

Being more encouraged than distraught, I asked her, "Where does the bearer of these good tidings reside?"

With a look of pure astonishment, she retorted, "Try the Department of Welfare," and left.

So within the next couple of days I made it down to the Welfare Department on Johnson Avenue to investigate alternatives to my slender, stricken state.

I walked up to the desk and asked the woman behind the counter if I could see someone to find out some information about the food stamp program. She told me if I would be seated for a few minutes, she would have someone talk to me.

I sat down and started thumbing through a magazine and was being engrossed with an article about rice shortages in Vietnam when she called my name. I was given a wooden card with the number five on it and told to go to that room.

The room was a tiny wood paneled cubicle divided by a counter that looked like a door someone had tipped over and wedged between the narrow walls not as a table. I was thinking how wonderful it was to have claustrophobia, when in walked Mrs. Curtis.

We introduced ourselves and I told her that I had never collected welfare and wondered if I was eligible, being a full-time student.

She responded, saying that the food stamps are not part of the Welfare program, but a program developed through the Department of Agriculture in an attempt to up-grade the quality of diet for people in the low income categories. She said that most people in the older generations have the idea that food stamps are part of welfare. The stigma that goes with it is a carry-over from the days of depression when so many were on Relief. Because of this, many people, particularly in the older generations, refuse to come in and see about the program when they are eligible for public assistance.

"For years the federal government paid subsidies to farmers not to grow food and leave the land fallow," she said. "The food stamp program now allows the farmer to use his land as the food surpluses are being depleted. It opens up new markets for him and, at the same time, benefits the low income families."

"Why is the food stamp program located within the Welfare Department, if it isn't a welfare program?" I inquired.

"We are located here in the Department of Welfare," she replied, "because it is here you are most apt to find persons of the low income levels.

"If you have anyone in your family who pays taxes in the United States, regardless of whether they are citizens or not, they are eligible because they pay taxes on their income, sales items, etc.)"

"How do you know whether the information you give is correct and don't have a goose that lays golden eggs attached away somewhere?"

"We have a thriving fraud investigating unit," she told me.

"And we are located here in the Department of Welfare," she replied, "because it is here you are most apt to find persons of the low income levels. We are not part of the welfare program," she quickly added.

"But then on to tell me that the Constitution of the United States makes it a 'right' of every taxpayer to be able to apply for food stamps. And that means anybody who pays taxes in the United States, regardless of whether they are a citizen or not, are citizens are eligible because they pay taxes on their income, sales items, etc.

"Once a person has applied, it is up to them to furnish the needed information to determine their eligibility for the program," she stated. "It takes from a week to a month to process an application and verify that all the information given by the applicant is correct."

"How do you know whether the information you give is correct and don't have a goose that lays golden eggs attached away somewhere?"
"Sometimes we receive a call from a neighbor informing us of something we should investigate. Often a person will inadvertently tip his hand by expressing himself during the interview. Also, it is the Department's Eligibility Workers' job to check and verify all information and to use common sense and good judgment."

"How do you determine whether I am eligible or not?" I queried.

"Basically, we take all your assets in income and subtract that sum from your allowable deductions. The money you have left is used to determine the amount you must pay for your stamps," said Mrs. Curtiss.

"What if I don't have an income?" I asked. "What is the lesser I can pay for my stamps?"

"Being one person and eligible," replied Mrs. Curtiss, "you could find yourself paying anywhere from $0 to $38.00 in order to receive $38.00 worth of stamps.

"What information do you need in determining how much I will pay? That is, if I am eligible. And I'm sure I am," I added.

"We need to see your paycheck from your savings account, and your checkbook and have you list all your liquid assets," answered Mrs. Curtiss.

"I've got some wine in the refrigerator," I said.

"Yes, yes. In addition, you must list all income and present your pay check stubs. We also want to know all stocks, bonds and securities you may own. Also, a list of all major items of real property such as buildings, land, etc.—that you receive income from. And we need a list of all personal property such as a car, boat or camper not used as a house," said Mrs. Curtiss.

"What deductions will you subtract from these assets of mine?"

"Allowable deductions are such items as a portion of rent and utilities, school tuition, which is prorated by the month, and some medical, dental expenses and health insurance premiums are deductible," explained Mrs. Curtiss.

"When I have furnished you with all of this information, do I get my food stamps?" I asked somewhat pleasedly.

"You must meet certain criteria to be eligible, such as being in an established residence and have cooking facilities available. Also, we need to know how many people are living in your household. If there are more than yourself and all the members are eligible you can apply as a household. Otherwise you must verify that you are separate from them and do your own cooking," stated Mrs. Curtiss.

"Well, you see, I have a dog and..."

"She continued... "Food stamps can only be used to buy food for human consumption and cannot be used to purchase pet food, tobacco or alcoholic beverages, toiletries, soap or other items of this nature. Until recently you were restricted to only purchasing food items that were grown or manufactured in the United States. The only imported items you could buy were coffee, cocoa and bananas. But now this has been changed and you can buy imported foods. The reason is because the U.S. is importing beef now and it is almost impossible for the markets to separate the imported beef from the domestic stock."

"I began worrying again, "If the stamps can only be used to purchase food items, how am I supposed to be able to buy soap and take a bath? It's nice to have a healthy body and all, but I would hate to lose all my friends because of it."

"The idea behind this is that with the money you save on food purchases, you will be able to purchase the other items you need, such as soap, detergent or whatever else you need," she said.

"I remembered a time when after you bought your food, the store would refund you up to 49 cents in change and the balance in food stamp currency. "Is this still in effect?" I asked.

"No. What the stores do now is issue you 'shelter' sheets in change. They act the same as money in that store. But it is there that some people have complained that the 'shelter' sheet change can only be redeemed in the store you made the initial purchase. Thus, if you are to redeem them you are required to go back again. It is this way that the store gets you to do most of your shopping with them instead of being able to drive around and pick up all the sale items of every store," said Mrs. Curtiss.

"With that, she had pretty well answered all my questions. Our appointment was over and another wild-eyed, hungry-looking dude was waiting in the wings."

"With a minimum amount of effort I discovered that I don't have to starve myself to be able to go to school. The food stamp program is there for students and people who live on supplementary income, and are not getting the quality of diet that everyone in the country is entitled to."

"It's rather nice to be able to have fresh fruit and vegetables, milk, meat and eggs, and potatoes, along with my peanut butter and bananas."
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“Little darlin’ it’s been a long, cold, lonely winter. Little darlin’ it seems like years since it’s been here. Here comes the sun. Here comes the sun and I say it’s all right.” The Beatles

Winter need not be a time of cold any more. With the development of Bay Therm, a new type of natural heating and cooling system that uses the earth’s main energy source, the sun, a house can stay comfortable year round without the heating bill.

On Santa Rosa Road in Anacacadero, a house was built that uses such a system. It has a flat roof on which there are eight long transparent bags filled with water (similar to water beds) placed between the roof beams.

An aluminum trackway slop these beams allows 2-inch thick insulated panels to move back and forth over the bags, acting as a thermal valve to control heat flow into or out of the house through the bags.

The roof of the house is made from corrugated metal deck, much like the ceiling in the University Union, and the water bags and roof are in direct contact, making it easier for heat flow.

When the bags are exposed to the sun they heat up the house. When exposed to colder air the water temperature decreases, causing cooling in the house.

Generally, in the winter months the bags are exposed to the sun in the daytime and are covered at night by the panels. Thus “keeping” the house heated.

In the warmer months the bags are exposed only at night when the air is cool and are covered during the day. Thus keeping the house air conditioned.

The bags work automatically much like a thermostat. They are never heated above 88 degrees, or cooled lower than 68 degrees, keeping the house at a stable temperature of about 78 degrees all year round. Although the panels do open and close automatically at certain temperatures, the panels can be moved manually as well.

A concrete floor slab and parallel block walls, filled with sand, supplement the thermal storage. Because of the large volume of water, approximately 8,000 gallons, the house can remain heated from three to four days in case of fog or cloud cover.

Some weeks the heat storage in the bags and walls will equalize day and night temperatures and provide full comfort without moving the insulation.

The house was designed to sit naturally in the community. Although it is quite modern, it has a simple interior. There are three bedrooms, a bathroom and a living, dining and kitchen combination area.

Walking into the house on a hot day is like walking into a cave. It is very quiet, cool, and comfortable. There are few rugs on the floor, partly for aa-
The house was designed by two Poly professors, Kenneth L. Haggard and John W. Kemliten, who believe that an energy-efficient house need not look bad.

While Hay was Building Materials Advisor to the Government of India 20 years ago he first conceived the idea, and proved the effectiveness of the principle of movable insulation. His idea didn't catch on because underdeveloped countries wanted to adapt high-energy consuming thermal comfort devices such as air conditioners, and the U.S. was not facing an energy crisis.

In 1968 Hay and his wife moved to Phoenix, Arizona to develop his ideas. It was proved that the Bay Therm water bags could maintain a test room between 61 degrees and 82 degrees Fahrenheit throughout a normal Phoenix year without supplementary heating or cooling. Outdoor temperatures in Phoenix range from subzero to 116 degrees Fahrenheit.

Before commercial development of the system, it was necessary for Hay to test a prototype. This was how the two Poly professors got involved.

Philip Niles, an Environmental Engineering professor, says that the house is easy to build. He said the idea of the house is to adapt architectural design to climate factors in order to minimize conventional power-consuming devices for space heating and cooling.

In the Bay Therm system the air-conditioning, solar water heating and solar distillation units are modular and interchangeable; they can be installed on flat rooftops at minimal cost. Artchitectural freedom is limited by the climate—especially in the arid and tropical climates of the Mediterranean region, where buildings are now being built to work with the climate instead of against it.
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