Viet vet battles with VA in war against red tape

by CANDY IRVING

For one Vietnam veteran, the war is not over. Ed Berger is still fighting hard in the battle of bureaucracy.

Berger, 32, has been forced to drop out of Cal Poly twice because he has not received his assistance checks from the Veterans Administration.

While many veterans are fighting the same battle, Berger's story is unique. Most veterans have trouble in obtaining their first check. Berger received his first check but isn't receiving any further disbursements.

The skirmish began in January, 1972, when Berger started making plans to enroll at Cal Poly to major in business administration.

Working through the Educational Opportunity Program, Berger received a letter from the VA in March that he was eligible for assistance. He was admitted to the program, paid the registration fee from the VA and was given the right to pursue the program of education or training as specified in the letter.

Peace seemed to be at hand.

Deaf people meet June 6 to set goals

Members of a newly-formed club for people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing will try to achieve goals at their next meeting.

According to Ray Hansen, a retired Cal Poly counselor and member of the club, the group will be working on a budget during the meeting. Hansen, who is deaf and has been an educator in the field of hearing impaired, will be the main speaker.

Hansen also wants to get more people who are interested in the club. "I think people don't realize they can help people like themselves," he said.

Crime hints for lady loners

— list only last name and initials in the telephone directory and on mailboxes.

— change locks when moving into a new house or apartment in the event previous tenants still have keys to the dwelling.

— request identification from salesmen and repairmen before letting them come into the house.
Letters

Editor:

This letter is written in reply to an article published in the Mustang Daily on May 31, in which Emily Wilkins, Cal Poly's Affective Action Coordinator, stated that a good faith effort has been made by the University to comply with the law governing the hiring of minorities. In spite of the University's assurances to the contrary, there is no available proof that any good faith effort has been made to comply with the above-mentioned guidelines calling for hiring a percentage of women and minority group members with their representation in the general population. The only meaningful kind of statistical profile that could show whether progress has been made in this area would be a chronological summary of minority employment for the past five years, broken down by year, ethnic group, school or division, capacity in which they are employed, salaries that go with each position and number of hours worked, all this information presented in conjunction with the total employment picture for the University as a whole. Although the University has been required by law to have an Affective Action Coordinator since 1971, no meaningful profile of the type described has yet been prepared.

Choice of Reagan defended

Editor:

I would like this opportunity to explain the real nature of my position with regard to Gov. Reagan as the 1984 Commencement speaker. A May 30 letter by Randy Neel suggested that Gov. Reagan was invited by Pres. Kennedy and that there was no consultation with the speaker-choice committee. He further suggested that there was some form of collusion taking place between the president and Gov. Reagan.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Gov. Reagan was the choice of the Student Week Activities committee—be it a student or a student at any level in the University. Also, the president has ultimate responsibility for securing a commencement speaker, and he made it a personal policy to solicit student input wherever and whenever possible. Each year the Senior Week Activities committee is asked to compile a list of suggested speakers. The president then attempts to contact the individuals in the priority suggested. In five years as advisor to the Senior Week Activities committee, the president has never claimed to have successfully contacted a single speaker from the list compiled by the committee.

I am encouraged at the prospect of being part of such a committee that would be involved in the selection of the commencement speaker. While Gov. Reagan is a politician, he is not a political rally speaker. To disagree with a political rally speaker is only to shoulder a variety of responsibilities. The possibility of the commencement speaker is only a small part of the Commission's total activity. June 11 will culminate nearly five months of planning and organizing. Not only has this committee suggested that the commencement speaker be asked to plan the annual graduation ceremony, but it has planned the annual commencement barbeque that will be attended by more than 1100 people. It has planned for the oldest student tradition—a campus-wide planting ceremony, and it has planned for the annual senior class gift to the corporation. In all, this committee will handle a budget of more than $26,000 and when it is all said and done, each event will culminate in a perfect ceremony with a unique graduation experience.

Next suggests that Gov. Reagan has nothing to say to the black community. This is not true. This is not to say that the black students share Neel's feelings, obviously what Gov. Reagan says and does in the next few years will be extremely important to every American who is concerned with our political viewpoint or philosophy is one thing, to refuse to listen by responding to Neel personally is another. I am not suggesting that Gov. Reagan is not a person of great significance. It is just that his actions are not as important as we would like us to believe. Neel augments that Gov. Reagan was expected to speak at our commencement ceremonies a few years ago. While Gov. Reagan is a politician, he is not a political rally speaker. To disagree with a political rally speaker is only to shoulder a variety of responsibilities. The possibility of the commencement speaker is only a small part of the Commission's total activity. June 11 will culminate nearly five months of planning and organizing. Not only has this committee suggested that the commencement speaker be asked to plan the annual graduation ceremony, but it has planned the annual commencement barbeque that will be attended by more than 1100 people. It has planned for the oldest student tradition—a campus-wide planting ceremony, and it has planned for the annual senior class gift to the corporation. In all, this committee will handle a budget of more than $26,000 and when it is all said and done, each event will culminate in a perfect ceremony with a unique graduation experience.

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Politico rips radio station, student paper

Locked doors to dance floor irks students

Student’s kin desire news, thank friends

Letters

The Texas Instruments electronic calculator:
It lets you add, subtract, multiply, divide and graduate.

Conquers every problem in your daily arithmetic, instantly. Accurately. Electronically. And, above all, easily.

It’s built by Texas Instruments — and it adds new precision and confidence to all your personal calculations.

In its own carrying case it fits in purse, briefcase — or just pocket it. And it’s completely rechargeable.

The Datamath electronic calculator from Texas Instruments.
Veteran wages war with VA for checks ...

(continued from page 1) when his checks arrived. In a brilliant move of legal contortion, the VA awarded Berger by sending him a letter saying his checks were on the way.

He received his letter of award which confirmed his eligibility and continued In a attempt to get a card of endorsement from the VA. The letter stated in part, "if you register and continue In school, monthly payments will be mailed directly to you at the end of each month for which payment is due."

Burger felt the battle was over, the war was won—until his May check failed to arrive.

"These checks are released automatically by machines. I should have received my May check around the first of the month, Burger claimed. Another long distance call to Los Angeles provided nothing but excuses to Burger. The first thing the VA told Burger was that in May, they were expiring some four million checks for them to receive his money, which they called an emergency check until the first of the month. Burger called the VA because ho hadn't received his check. Burger told them, "you guys didn't send me one." The VA explained that he must get a card from the local veteran's office and return it to the regional office.

Going to the Veteran's Clerk for assistance, Berger was told "the card they requested wasn't necessary. Because his enrollment was already certified."

Digging a little deeper, Berger referred to his letter of award. In the letter he found the statement: "during the last full month of your enrollment (the end of the quarter) we (the VA) will send you a certificate of attendance card to verify your attendance for the entire enrollment period."

With this information, Berger again called the VA. The VA changed his strategy again.

The new story ran—"the May check must be lost or stolen and the VA refused to issue a second check until the first one was found."

The tale of what happens with a lost or stolen check is long and arduous, but in essence it goes something like this: the treasurer in Kansas City sends a notice to the records office located somewhere in Missouri. The records office in turn notifies Berger, who notifies the local office, who in turn notify the regional office. With this process underway, Berger decided to lead his counter-attack from the top. Around May 1, he wrote a letter to Congressman Burt Talcott, who handles veteran's problems.

While waiting for a reply from Talcott, Berger tried in use a number the VA gave him to which they called an emergency number, to be used in hardship cases. The emergency number was no longer in service.

On May 5 Berger received a letter from R. B. information, the Veteran's Service Officer for this region. The letter informed Berger that the trouble had been found, his case had been resubmitted and he could expect to receive his check sometimes in May. Berger knew from past experiences that it would take 10-14 days from the date of the letter to receive his money.

Regrouping his forces, Berger made another attack by phone. Berger called the VA because he couldn't wait 14 days. The VA told him they were doing all they could. Burger informed them that he had no money, he had to pay rent, he had to pay bills, and he had no food. The person at the VA told Berger he was sorry but he didn't have Berger's file and couldn't do anything for him.

Maintaining his perseverance, Berger said he would wait while the file was fetched. The VA representative said that he couldn't get it because the file was in the education department 'upstairs.' Berger asked in be connected with the department by phone but the representative said, "They have no phone."

Despite seemed imminent.

In the meantime, Congressman Burt Talcott had initiated an inquiry into Burger's case. Trying to keep his spirit, Berger began looking for a job. While seeking employment, Berger went to the Welfare Office for assistance. He was informed that since he was a student, they couldn't help him unless he was a veteran's service during the entire enrollment period. "I couldn't go back to the Financial Aid Office at Poly for another loan," said Burger. "I didn't think it was right, and I didn't want the embarrassment." Berger went on to explain that he had failed. Berger officially withdrew from school on May 3 and applied for welfare. He hadn't found a job, and he had received nothing from the VA.

A day or two after he withdrew, Berger received a letter from Talcott. The letter said, "The VA informed me, that there is no error in the claim number given them. Somewhere along the line an eight had been changed to a three."

Burger confronted the VA again, the same thing happened. Berger diligently went through his case file and found that there was an error in the claim number. Berger officially withdrew from school because the number was correct on all the material. The error must have been made in the department of VA. An inquiry had been reached.

That's where Burger's battle with bureaucracy stands today. He doesn't know what to do. He's got two jobs, but has been laid off both. He is still looking for employment.

He can't apply for summer Quarter because he doesn't have the money. He doesn't even have the money for next month's rent. He's used his savings and has no reserve. He can't think of continuing his education until his bills are paid and he has a meal to eat. Berger wants to depend on the VA.

Maintaining his undying patience, Berger feels that it may turn out that there are good reasons why he hasn't received his check. Berger served for three years in Vietnam. He was honorably discharged for his service, he has fulfilled his duty.

"I don't have my check and they owe me," Berger said in desperation.
"And All That
...Jazz"

The Collegians brought swinging sounds to an enthusiastic audience in the Poly Theater last Friday night.

Graydon Williams directs Collegian, Steve Lether.

The overflow crowd was not sorry when the Cal Poly Dixieland Band played, "Who's Sorry Now."
Go-a very logical game

"The oldest, greatest, most unusual and most fascinating of all board games"—Go—is played regularly by a group of enthusiasts in Montaig Leungs. Sponsored by the unique chess club, the informal Go Group meets from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. every Tuesday.

According to Dave Silver, group organizer, Go is just catching on in the United States. "In Japan, it's practically a national pastime. In fact, some schools there have incorporated one hour per week of Go into their curriculum."

A modern war game, Go is much more complex than chess. "It has been compared to playing five simultaneous games of checkers," said Silver. "But it's more than just a game. It takes a lifetime to master."

The objectives of Go is to obtain more territory on the board than your opponent. Its unique handicap system balances any two players regardless of age, skill or experience. One basic, easily-learned theme generates and governs every event on the board.

Standard game equipment consists of a wooden board roughly it inches square, which is inscribed with a grid of 41 by 41 lines and bowls of light and dark stones.

"You always learn something when you play the game. It is educational process. You really do learn logic," Silver said.

Anyone interested in learning to play Go can contact Silver at M-1233 or Don Phillips at St.

Lid kept on Navy cheating scandal

Annapolis, Md. (UPI) - Naval Academy officials said Friday they would not provide a status by status account of an investigation into what may be the worst cheating scandal in the academy's 138-year history.

Cmdr. Robert Lewis, academy spokesman, refused specific comment on reports that midshipman honor boards had completed hearings against 30 sophomore, recommending that as many as 20 be expelled for cheating on a navigation exam May 11.

"I'm not going to give you a stage by stage description of the investigation," Lewis said. "All I will tell you is that we have no confirmation of what has been reported and we are not going to comment.

"But I will tell you the honor committee hearings are continuing and we will do so for the next several days.

The Navy announced last week that a final exam in celestial navigation was compromised when answers were leaked to some midshipmen in advance. The results of the test were voided and the entire 94-member sophomore class took a second exam last Wednesday.

While the honor boards have been hearing evidence, Navy officers have been searching independently for the source of the leak, believed to have been an instructor who "just liked to see the guys pass" and who did not do it for money.

Vice Admiral William P. Hargis, the academy superintendent, has said the man's motive would be a factor in his punishment.

The honor boards' recommendations will be forwarded to the academy commandant.

Improvements on house paid for by Agnew

Washington (UPI) - The government has quietly agreed to accept payment of $1,130 by former Vice President Spiro T. Agnew for nearly $400,000 in improvements made to his Washington home at government expense, it was learned Monday.

Under the agreement, Agnew agreed to pay $59,000 for installation of a new air conditioning unit and $170 for installation of a new air conditioning unit. The agreement also called for removal by the government at some items with "recoverable value" of about $15,000.

Moss questioned the agreement and said the government should accept any profit Agnew made on the sale of the property.
The sport in question now seems to be sinecure roping complete with inlets, cowboy hats and the whole shooting match. But if the noose throwing takes too same route of countless after sports, it will soon be phased out. Interests will turn elsewhere, to perhaps high jumping over stacks of furniture. The rest of characters is the same as it has been in countless dorms since they started letting in red brick walls.

There's the stocky little fighter, who can rattle off the home run leader since IMS, and the baseball tarn since IMS, and the baseball tarn since IMS, and the baseball tarn since IMS. The chubby archie, the atat major who never losa. And the big alow Ivy grow on red brick walla.

The second floor on Yosemite Hall’s Tower Four is where high-powered study, in fields like architecture and mechanical engineering it is no surprise to produce the wildest managerie and weirdest variations of sports imaginable. There is perhaps the ugliest, most odious, nastiest part of the student body that does not fit into the academic framework, the myriad of characters that do not fit into the academic framework, the myriad of characters that do not fit into the academic framework.

In the Intramural hoop game, the big bean of the stocky little fighter is on the court, the baseball tarn since IMS, and the baseball tarn since IMS, and the baseball tarn since IMS. And the chubby archie, the atat major who never losa. And the big alow Ivy grow on red brick walla.

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Spikers miss by an inch

Just 3 points were missing in crown bid

The Mustang track team came close and a spread of 3 points away from winning the NCAA Division II and III national championship.

The narrow miss at the national crown was of the hidden variety that will probably make coach Steve Kimmens' work and the 4x400-meter relay team's hard work stand out even more.

If pole-vaulter Ken Haagen hadn't barely nicked the bar with his last attempt, the team would have gained for him.

If he had a try for 6-8, the team would have gained the second place finish and provided the Mustangs with the much-needed margin.

Roberts 4-6 was good for a sixth place in the high jump. Every place but first was accomplished with a 6-6 jump, but Roberts had a third attempt. The winner cleared 6-9.5 feet. Cal Poly's mile relay team also saved its best performance for the meet.

Women's tennis team ends year

It took the final set of the final match to decide the outcome.

Hitchcock, who was named the coach of the year by the Pacific West Conference.

An AAU matmen will be coached by Hitchcock.

The second year in a row Cal Poly's highly successful wrestling coach, Virginia Hitchcock, has been named to a key coaching position by the Amateur Athletic Union.

Hitchcock has been announced as the coach-manager of the U.S. and World Cup wrestling teams.

The team will be led in Istanbul, Turkey.

Last year Hitchcock was coach-manager of the U.S. Freestyle team which competed in the World Championships.

Hitchcock will help operate a training camp for the World Cup team which will be held in Brookport, N.Y.

Ruth Gilstrap and Kathy Gredy will end their career this season as they defeated Osman's No. 1 doubles team 8-6, 6-4.

It was the only match that Cal Poly didn't win, 8-1.