Women On The Rise
In previous issues, we've rated or surveyed every subject from hamburgers to health centers. Well, maybe not everything because this issue features another survey. This time we decided to comply with President Ford's plea and join in his fight of inflation. (Outpost has finally gone political.)

No, we didn't find a way to make money (if we did, we'd be in Washington right now advising Ford.) But we did do a lot of checking around, a lot of research, a lot of talking and came up with a handy chart advising you on banking your money most efficiently in town. It'll be the first in a series of clip out and save articles which are designed to help you, the student, survive.

And speaking of survival. Did you see the TV program about the adopted girl who didn't think she could survive any longer without knowing the true identity of her parents? It was a very touching story and got us wondering if adoptees here on campus suffered the same problems. An ad placed in MUSTANG DAILY early this quarter gravitated a lot of interest. A flood of anxious students were willing to relate their similar experiences. The full story is in this issue.

And also in this issue, we have the ultimate in women's lib stories. Remember when there were no girls on campus at all? Well, now there are so many that it's hard to get into the girls' bathroom, at least that's what one reporter thinks. So, read on.

That wraps up this issue. But, don't forget there's a lot more to come. Our next issue is an extra special one. We've come up with some surefire ways to beat the high cost of living right here in San Luis. Maybe we should send a copy to President Ford. In case he's having problems getting any imaginative ideas. Outpost came up with some.

And if you have any good ones, stop by the Outpost office in GRC 226 and tell us about them, leave a note in the Outpost box or see me during my office hours Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 1:00.

Ellen Panket, Editor
Was Chosen....
by Corinne Bayless
Illustration by Paul Karlen
Find out if adopted students really want to probe into their past.

Women On The Rise
by Sue Hagen
Females at Cal Poly in numbers too big to ignore.

Banking Your Bucks
researched & written by
Diane Booth
chart by Scott Smpkin
A report on what your banking dollar will buy in San Luis Obispo.

Cover photo by Kasra Keeler
These coeds are not lined up for the Homecoming Queen Contest, but are evidence of the increasing number of women on campus. From left to right are Leslie Mehrana, Jessie Brownne, Linda Buchacq, Sue Millard, and Jeanie Van Housen.
I Was Chosen ....

by Corinne Bayless
Illustration by Paul Karten

The turnstile clicks behind Peggy as she leaves the library. She doesn’t realize she has pushed through it. As the bright sunlight hits her face she almost stumbles. All the fibers in her body, all the cells of her brain are intensely studying the girl walking toward the library entrance. The oncoming girl has red hair, high cheekbones, and a pointed chin, like the face Peggy sees in the mirror each morning.

On the second time she ponders the ever present question as she has done a thousand times; her mind wanders to her unknown past. That past is the pathway to Peggy’s future. She is adopted.

This tall redhead’s life is a constant scan of faces in the crowd, hoping to find a resemblance to her own. Peggy has attained security, love, and money from her adoptive parents, yet her identity suffers from an unknown beginning.

Peggy is one of the estimated eight million adopted people in the United States today. More and more adoptees are seeking to learn about their origins. In their search they are raising legal, constitutional, moral, and emotional questions.

Their quest has been aided by the Adoptees’ Liberty Movement Association (ALMA). This is an organization dedicated to changing the laws and opening the sealed records that prevent adoptees from finding their natural parents.

Adoptee liberation is the new movement of the seventies. And like most movements there are many and varied feelings and reactions amongst people regarding the adoptee liberation.

ALMA’s targets are the “sealed records” that by law and custom are kept under court-enforced padlocks. ALMA has been denounced by the Child Welfare League of America and the National Council of Adoptive Parents Organizations as a danger to millions of women who have built new lives after giving up a baby for adoption.

The act of transferring that precious possession, a human being, from the custody of the woman who bore him to those who will raise him is a situation of intense emotional pain and conflict.

The belief that natural mothers can yield their babies for adoption, then forget the incident and fashion a new way of life is mistaken. In fact, Dr. Arthur Sorosky of the Adoption Research Project at the University of California, Los Angeles, found more mothers looking for their children than children seeking their natural mothers. Dr. Sorosky is currently conducting more studies regarding this myth.

ALMA has found support among Dr. Sorosky’s Adoption Research Project. The Adoption Research Project has drawn up a six-point platform calling for the abolition of the sealed-records doctrine in cases where the adoptee has reached adulthood. However, if the laws were changed and the records opened, it would threaten the traditional secretive system of adoption.

Pro or con, laws or no laws, there are those adoptees who will forever scan the faces in the crowd and others who will not. If Leslie Cheever, a mechanical engineering major, could find one of her natural parents, she would like to know how her mother and father felt about one another. “But we lead separate lives. If I was to seek them out it could hurt their private lives,” Leslie explained.

Leslie was adopted in San Francisco when she was one month old. She and a brother were adopted through a private organization connected with the national Child Welfare League of America. The league believes opening the adoption records at any time would violate the trust of young mothers who gave up their children on the premise that their names would remain secret. “A woman who has put the matter behind her and found a new life is entitled to be free from the fear of a knock on the door,” declares Joseph Reid, executive director.

Blond-haired Dan McQuinn, a history major, is very positive in his feeling toward his adoptive parents. “My adoptive parents cared enough and I always felt loved. If my natural parents tried to find me they would just be strangers in the crowd,” Dan emphatically replied. When asked about the adoptee liberation movement Dan said, “It’s hogwash, if the natural parents seek the children they gave away, it’s because of a guilt complex. This whole movement will die away within one year.”

Noel Harris, a freshman majoring in home economics, Her...
olive skin and dark brown hair reflect her Italian parentage. Noel was adopted when she was 10 days old. She has one adopted brother. She recalled running down the street after the neighbor children as a young girl and yelling, "I was chosen, you just happened."

When Noel was 16 she had an illegitimate child that she put up for adoption. "Because I was adopted and had a nice home life, it was easier for me to give up my baby than for some of the other girls in the maternity home who really knew nothing about adoption." Noel's voice broke for a moment and she said, "I would like to see my child, to have him come to find me, I wish the laws would change so that a natural mother could put the true information down, and later on, if the child wished, he could contact her."

Noel has been on both sides of the adoptees' struggle for openness. As an adopted child and as a mother, who gave up a child for adoption she wishes for the day of the unsealed records.

Ron Nelson's natural parents could not afford him. At the age of three he was put in an orphanage in his native Germany. His adoptive parents were connected with the service and adopted him shortly thereafter in Germany.

This 22-year-old Cal Poly engineering major feels fortunate. Ron knows his natural mother's name and the town in which he was born. He's planning a trip to Europe after graduation, but he feels qualms about trying to find his mother. "I'll definitely return to the town where I was born and do some inquiring. I don't know how earnest I'll be until I get there," said Ron.

Ron was very serious as he explained, "The people who adopted me are my real parents, everything I have is due to them. My mother has a favorite saying that I came from her heart but not below it," said Ron. Ron feels his main reasons for seeking his natural mother are curiosity and to obtain genetic information.

If adoptees search for their natural parents it can cause intense conflict with their adoptive parents. Adoptive parents are more than caretakers of their chosen children. Yet, it seems as
though an adoptee has a right to seek his natural parents if he wishes to satisfy his curiosity, or obtain important family history information. The natural parents must be considered too. They have their private lives just as the adoptees have lives of their own.

There are laws in most states that keep the adoptees’ records sealed. In spite of this, ALMA is now responsible for two reunions per week—reunions that occur because both children and parents came to ALMA for help in their search.

The questions, the laws, the identities, and the answers are as many-sided as the individuals concerned. But the adoptees have one thing in common—they were chosen and they should have the right to choose to probe their past, or leave it unknown.

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Your Student Representative is: Marlene Heinrich
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Women On The Rise

by Sue Hagen

It was on a Wednesday, I think, when I first realized what was happening. With only two minutes left to dart clear across campus to my astronomy class, I dashed madly through the doorway of the ladies' rest room and screeched to a dead stop.

I couldn't believe what I saw. The three-stall rest room was stuffed with girls powdering, scrubbing, brushing and primping. It had never been like this before.

I stood in awe for a moment, trying to catch my breath. A redhead shoved me against the wall and insisted that I go to the end of the line. I never did make it to my astronomy class.

That was the day when I realized what was happening at Cal Poly. Slowly, but surely, the enrollment of women students is increasing. And it has finally reached the point where those tiny, three-stall rest rooms are just plain inadequate.

I nearly died of claustrophobia before I finally got outside and underway again. Where had all these girls come from? I was worried—no only were they taking MY spot in MY rest room, but I was afraid that they were drawing the male-to-female ratio at Cal Poly perilously close to 50-50. I decided to check into this year's enrollment and make sure I still had a fighting chance with the aggies, archies and miscellaneous enhancing members of the opposite gender.

I think it was paranoia that prompted me to dig up the statistics, and when I had I trembled as I scanned the chart. A red snake representing yearly female enrollment slithered across the graph at a steep angle upward, indicating that we single Cal Poly girls are nearing the danger zone. I must have lost ten pounds from shock when I read that there are 631 more threatening female students on campus this year than there were last year! (The rest rooms speak the truth.)
My breath came in short gasps when I learned that there are almost 3,400 more girls here now than there were only ten years ago.

To the guys, this is heaven—but what about the masses of girls who came to Poly expecting to be overwhelmed by swarms of electronically-minded Ryan O’Nelles? Instead they’re all standing around in little bevies, envying the girls who walk arm-in-arm with football players, and following one poor eggie after another, until they manage to duck into some obscure corner.

Take me, for example: I have four roommates—all female, unfortunately. No man in his right mind would venture into our house alone. It really wouldn’t be safe. It’s bad enough having four rivals at home, but walking into a computer science class and battling 30 other girls for the envied seat next to the only guy in the class is just too much. And it’s always my luck—when I come out of the scorching, clawing mess a visitor, the only figure the guy has eyes for are purely mathematical.

It wasn’t always like this. When Poly first opened its doors in 1903, half of the students were female. But the ranks weren’t nearly as massive then as now—Poly began with only ten students.

Here’s another little gossipy tidbit of info I found while digging around in dusty files and asking a lot of questions: Cal Poly was the “forerunner” of coed living. Yes, that’s right, you heard it—“conservative” Cal Poly had a coed dormitory in 1903, and those ten students (half of them were female, remember), the faculty and the college president’s family all lived in, and held classes in that one building. This dormitory located near Orndal gym before it was demolished in the late 1930’s, was Poly’s first building.

The coed system at Poly only lasted for some 25 years. Cal Poly became an all-men’s college in 1926—paradise for any girl who could sneak onto the campus without getting caught. For the next 28 years Poly remained an all-male institution.

It wasn’t until 1966 that women were again admitted to Poly—287 of them. As unbelievable as it may seem, the faculty and many students were opposed to restoring the coeducational system; women on campus would be distracting and the male students wouldn’t be able to study.

University President Robert E. Kennedy, who came to Poly in 1940, disagreed with this attitude, (thank goodness!) and advocated the return to coeducation. He believed it was unrealistic to bring up a student in an environment where there were no women. Unrealistic is right!

And so, Cal Poly is now realistic with 36 per cent of its 14,488 students female. But we man-watchers are not licked yet—not until the percentage of female students reaches 50 per cent. That’s when we’ll REALLY have to start worrying about meeting one of the other 50 per cent!

Females are infiltrating the administration, too, and for the first time in Poly’s history, a woman academic vice president has taken over academic duties. Dr. Hazel Jones, who came to Poly in August of this year, is the highest positioned female employee in the California State system, with the exception of those at Sonoma State University.

It must have taken an awful lot of nerve to apply for the job at Poly, but Dr. Jones earned the title over 180 male applicants. She was the only woman to apply for the job. President Kennedy was emphatic in
pointing out that her selection had nothing to do with the fact that she is a woman, only with the fact that she is qualified beyond any of the other applicants.

I found this quite fascinating, so I made an appointment to talk with the new vice president and find out her own reactions to working at a university finally losing its male-oriented atmosphere.

I was greeted by a friendly, sincere person and the butterflies in my stomach instantly disappeared out the third story window. Dr. Jones struck me as the type of person I could talk all my troubles to, academic or otherwise, and not have to worry about being ridiculed. And yet, on the other hand, she seemed terribly efficient and businesslike, with an outstanding knowledge of her job.

We talked for a long time, the University Vice President and myself, about many things. I had imagined that she would have encountered many prejudices andills while filling a position held only by males; I found her story to be quite to the contrary. It seems Dr. Jones has met with nothing but understanding in her new job, and all is going well. I left her comfortable office feeling enriched with having met her.

It took courage for Dr. Jones to apply for her position here, the courage that many women equally qualified lack. We students were lucky Dr. Jones had the stamina to go through the interviews and inquisitions, because we came out with a darned good Vice President to head up our academic affairs.

Even though I was surprised to find that Poly has opened its doors to a women administrator, I was shocked to see a woman parking officer cruising around the campus in her little go-cart, ticketing traffic violators and other nasty folks who park on the curbs and in the red zones. Was this only my imagination, or did Poly really have a woman cop? I found out soon enough— I found a ticket on my car!

Even seen from a distance, there's no mistaking the fact that Officer Fleming is a woman. With high heels and an elaborate hairdo there's no hiding the facts; it's certainly not just...
another male cop inside that uniform. When I finally talked to her on the phone, her voice confirmed my suspicions.

When she’s hassled by a student, Officer Fleming says, it’s not because she’s a woman, but because she’s the cop who gave the ticket. She can handle the harassing. She’s been in police work for seven years, and she’s used to being the minority on a squad. She doesn’t even think about it anymore.

I wonder if the male security officers do? Or do they?

And then I found out about Lisa.
The women are really getting into the “men’s” work at Poly these days. Lisa is a tiny, feminine, 21-year-old firefighter. Yeah, I mean it! Lisa Chouinard joined the Poly fire crew last summer. She was the first female volunteer, and remained the only girl on the crew all summer. She battled forest fires along with men, and built fire lines with hand tools. Even with all the ruggedness, and fatigue she had to contend with, Lisa found only one disadvantage—not that she is a girl, but that she is so short!

By the time I had learned about Dr. Jones, Officer Fleming and Lisa, I didn’t know what to think. I was worried about the 974 girls enrolled in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources. (There go my chances with the aggies.) I was frantic when I thought about the girls in the motorcycle club, ruining my hopes for a good Harley man. And how can I sob pitifully and bat my eyelashes at a policeman about to ticket my car when the officer is a woman?

Is nothing sacred? Must I stand in line to wash my hands? What happened to the good old days when agirl in the ag building was worth two on the street?

Cal Poly is certainly changing, with women in men’s jobs and female students increasing in each of the seven schools on campus. There’s only one solution to this dire problem, and it’ll take a lot of effort. I’ll just have to break down and leave for astronomy class a few minutes earlier next time, and beat the “rest room rush.”

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Banking Your Bucks

Editor's note:
This is the first in a series of clip-out-and-save articles designed to help you, the student consumer, survive your college days. Keep your sole scars handy and your eyes open for future helpful articles.

Chart by Scott Simpkin
researched and written by Diane Booth

Stealing your cash between your mattress and box springs for safekeeping? Housing those greenbacks in a hollowed-out book, album cover or coffee can?
Here's the low-down on what San

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Bank of America is the only institution to design a checking plan exclusively for the student’s needs. This seems curious, considering the abundance of business Poly students bring to the local banks.

Great Western, Imperial, Mission Federal and San Lulio Oblepo Savings and Loan Companies all pay the highest rates of interest offered on regular passbook accounts, 8¼ percent.

Some lending institutions make it more difficult than others to obtain a loan. For instance Crocker National will only consider loans applicants who have maintained a checking account with them for a year; Great Western is only accepting applications for loans from those who have previously procured loans from them.

Enduring school long enough to achieve junior status entitles you to various advantages, such as a loan of an additional $2000 over the standard $1,000 available yearly at Bank of America, United California Bank and Crocker National. Being a junior also brings with it the privilege of securing a Mastercharge Card without having already accrued credit—all you need is a source of income, either from a job or from Mom and Dad.

Now you can cease thinking of places to hide your wed. Just clip out this handy chart and stash it in a cupboard or drawer for future reference. It will not only assist you in finding a home for your bucks—it may help you save money too!

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