It was just a short while ago that I was truckin' through the downtown area on my way to the college union. A student was walking in front of me, lost in his thoughts. He was staring at his phone, replaying a conversation he had a moment ago. I couldn't help but notice the way he paused, as if he was thinking of something important.

As I passed by, I heard him say, "I can't believe it..."

I couldn't help but wonder what was going on in his head. Was he upset? Excited? Or was he just in deep thought? I couldn't tell.

But then it hit me. The student had just received a notification on his phone. A notification that would change the course of his day.

I watched as he quickly replied, "I'm on my way..."

And with that, he was gone, leaving me to wonder what had just happened.

Sometimes, life is like that. One moment, everything is calm and quiet. And then, in a blink of an eye, the world changes around you.

You never know what's coming next. But one thing is for sure...it's going to be an interesting ride.
Brad closed his engineering book and turned away to see Sheila on her back. He absently left his studies on the shelf and headed for his nightly duties in the bathroom. Sheila placed her book on the shelf. She stretched and eased her fatigued body between the sheets on the tranquility water bed. Brad urged to slide in and away as he slipped beside Sheila.

The warm, flexible bed enhanced their sexual desires. The water looked as sea in stormy weather while Sheila and Brad touched upon their every erotic fantasy. The rocking motion slowed as they relaxed from their efforts.

The water bed is the latest rage in deep and love making comfort. The deep experts claim you gain perfect support from a water bed. It contours to the exact shape of your body, whether sleeping or making love.

A water bed is simply a plastic bag filled with water and encased in a frame of wood. The bag costs about $30. A tightly filled water bag is hard, unyielding, and does not lend to the feeling of floating on water. If the bag is slack, a hammock effect is created; the mid-body, which is the heaviest, sinks, with the head and feet rising to higher points.

If you sleep on a water bed that is cooler than the body there is a marked chilling effect. An overheating effect is created if the bed's temperature is above that of the body.

To regulate the temperature, a heater is advisable for about $30. One of the water bed's disadvantages is that if the electrically fails or the heater gets turned off, icicles may form on your body before morning! It takes heater at least two days to warm the bed to a comfortable sleeping temperature.

Lynn Burnell, a recent convert to a water bed said, "I fall asleep faster, wake up more refreshed and actually need less sleep. One of the best things," she continued, "is that my arms don't fall asleep during the night." Water beds prevent the concentration of pressure against the bony prominences of the body by evenly distributing the occupant's weight.

Physical therapist Kit Stamp explains, "Quadriceps use water beds to reduce ulcer pressure." Ulcers are external ulcers caused by a lack of circulation that patients have when lying in bed for extended periods of time. "If you have a low back problem it would not be good if you slept on your stomach," cautioned Kit. The body's mid-section sinks more on a water bed and this tends to increase the curvature of the low back area when lying on your stomach.

Forty bedspreads and water beds with fancy leather-bound frames are offered at the House of Water Beds at 1459 Monterey St. Beds there are priced from $229 to $419, including frames. The water beds come in twin, double, queen and king sizes, just like regular beds. Most students find it more feasible to make their own frames. The House of Water Beds offer a special dormitor water bed sheets from $59 to $96.

Before water beds were the love making rage, brass beds held many lovers. Brass beds were manufactured between 1880 and 1910. They were decorative and also hygienic. The bed bugs couldn't live in the brass fittings like they could in the wooden bed frames.

Brass beds now cost between $300 and $400. The price depends upon the condition, age, ornateness of the frame. The brass bed is now a sought after antique.

If you can't find an antique and a water bed is too expensive, try a used mattress. Peter Canvel's Used Furniture and Antiques at 1302 Doro St. has used mattresses costing from $25 to $45. Headboard and frame prices vary.

To test a second-hand mattress for firness Canvel suggested standing on the mattress on one end, then stretching out your arms and pressing in the middle. Canvel said, "Your hands shouldn't touch through the material. Most people don't know how to buy a second hand bed. They end up with a soppy bed."
"The buyer should be sure the springs on the box springs aren’t broken, especially the border on the underside,” emphasizes Canvel. A second-hand mattress must be sterilized before you buy it. A yellow tag means the mattress has been sterilized. And who knows, you may find someone’s forgotten treasure tucked away inside.

The Nearly New Furniture Store at 1301 Broad St. offers a variety of new and used beds. The innovation chest or captain’s bed has five drawers underneath the mattress in which to store your prized possessions. It’s almost as good as having your valuables under your pillow.

If you want to be on top of your studies, even while you sleep, here’s the bed for you; the bunk is on the top and underneath there is a desk. There are shelves located between the bunk and desk. The price is $40 at the Nearly New Furniture Store. The store also offers new and used mattresses beginning at $14.90.

Today’s beds are a great improvement over the ancient Roman mattresses stuffed with reeds, hay, wool, or feathers. Roy Platt, manager at Baker Brothers Furniture Store in downtown San Luis Obispo said, “The cost of a bed is determined by the quality of construction.” This includes ticking, which is the outside covering, and the thickness of the foam over the springs. “The bottom mattress is for support. You get your comfort there,” said Platt.

Prices range as high as $600 for a bed with a 20-year guarantee. Platt explained that most students come in for the new twin or regular bed which costs about $100.

So you can invest in a bed like the Beautyrest that offers the overnight vacation or take your overnight vacation in the boudoir under the stars in a sleeping bag. Some brands of sleeping bags are even designed to be zippered together for even more comfort.

Better yet, forget the sleeping bags and do as the ancient Germans did. Lie on the ground on beds of leaves covered with skins or in a shallow chest filled with leaves and moss.

Whatever your desires for a new or used bed and however limited by your pocketbook take heed, relax, and get into bed.

SALE
up to 50% OFF
THE BRIDLE & SADDLE SHOP
WESTERN & ENGLISH WEAR
Jan. 23, 24, 25
For you and your horse
BOOTs — Laramie - Tony Lama - Nocona - Acme
JEANS — Lee - Wrangler - Tem Tex - Lasso Prior - Trailridge
Custom made silver buckles, bridles etc.
PHONE 544-3454
806 FOOTHILL BLVD
UNIVERSITY SQUARE
SAN LOUIS OBIPO
The ring on Jim's left hand was special. He took great care to wear it all times. It was a symbol of affection given to him by his lover — Steve.

"After all, everyone is looking for a lover"

So, the gay students have resorted to other ways of meeting each other and forming relationships. The most popular alternative are permanent one-to-one homosexual relationships. According to Steve, there is a great number of them in this area.

"It's called doing a thing together," explains Steve, "and when other gays think there is a thing starting—it's a hand off. No one will talk to the new couple because they want everything to work so much. They want these relationships to form; there is no jealousy."
Steve remembers the first time he was with Jim. "I thought the other guy hated me, but it was just because they wanted things to work out so much for both of us," he added. And so far it has. "I love Steve," states Jim flatly. "I want to always be near him!"

For most of us in socially acceptable heterosexual relationships, Jim's feelings are touching. Isn't love wonderful? It's simple and meaningful. But it's not that simple or wonderful for Steve and Jim and others like them. Their relationship undermines the history of experimentation and even a marriage for Steve was never quite sure what he wanted either.

"If they look you in the eyes they're either gay, have a lot of self-confidence, or are Jesus Freaks." 

When he was younger, he said he was never a girl, but he found he just couldn't play their games. He expected total honesty in a relationship and couldn't find it with women. He did, however, find it in his relationships with men. Relationships that began when he was in the sixth grade.

"But the first time I ever really fell in love was when I was in the Navy," related Jim. By that time he was somewhat aware of my desires and I found myself totally in love with this particular man. I told him how I felt. He was sight and admitted that he liked me as a friend but didn't want any lover-type relationship. I called and wrote him and never got an answer... it was a long time before I got over him.

Later Jim enrolled at Cal Poly and joined the GSBU looking for someone else to fall in love with. But like other homosexual brothers, Jim still had trouble accepting himself.

"I knew I was interested in men," says Jim, "but I didn't want to be one of those faggots," Jim is one of the type of people who dressed Weird and acted Weird, which is the type of people I thought I found at the GSBU meetings. I stayed away.

Probably loneliness and desperation helped Jim join the GSBU and then he attended the meetings, but it was entirely new territory. He found he could escape this part of himself he'd accepted himself.

Jim explains, "It's easy now if people call me gay. I accept what I am and I even enjoy some of the emotions and personality that I was bothered by recently, when he was still trying to escape his..."

There are more members of the school of Agriculture in the GSU than in any other school.

"Of course, I still like girls, but not like girls," he explains. "I've learned a lot about sexual identity within the last year. I didn't like playing little games with girls. I didn't like trying to talk someone into going to bed with me. I had to be perfectly honest.

And he has been. In the past year, Jim has let all of his friends know where he stands. "Now that they all know, I can have a lot of different relationships and feel comfortable and enjoy myself," he says.

Some of my friends were really surprised and others were confused and surprised and said they already knew. Others have told me their lots of teachers were surprised. And my parents? They accepted it now but they pray that God will guide me the right way. I hope all of these people will come to see me as myself.

That's what the GSBU is all about--helping people understand. Most students see gays stereotyped as weird, soft-spoken, and effeminate, and think that's a sure sign of a fag. But that's not true. Some do play that part, so others will know them as a fag.

"But," explains Jim, "It's easy to tell a gay guy. It's in the eyes. Straight people usually look away from you when they talk.

"If they look you in the eyes," continues Steve, "they're either gay, have a lot of self-confidence, or are Jesus Freaks.

These are facts most students don't know and don't take the trouble to find out.

"Some," says Steve, "especially the aggies, don't want to accept the gays--they don't try to understand us. They say they're not like that and more should."

Yet, he points out the aggies would be surprised to know that there are more members of the school of Agriculture in the GSBU than any other school.

It still comes back to the concept of understanding and acceptance. Steve and Jim have begun to tell other students themselves, they just need a little understanding from us. All they're saying is, "please accept me, I'm a friend."

It's about time we did.

STEVE AND JIM

by Ellen Penak

photo by Kesha Kessler
One wonders how many of us have come to college believing it would be a four-year trek, only to find the institution a permanent residence for some five to ten years. Think of the heart-rending cases of lovers who vow to marry as soon as they've finished college, and then have to be married to the air in whatever room they're adjusting their hearing aids all the way to the aisle.

And then there is the parental pressure. Those parents who are waiting for their "child's" college education expect it to be a four-year investment. Afterall, it's a general assumption that college is a four-year study program. This is a four-year college, isn't it? Who ever heard of a six-year college? Or a nine-and-a-half-year college?

When the folks down at the green benches tell you that Junior must attend school for a few extra quarters, they are discarded. Junior is immediately laced a slothful, lazy, no-good college hippie. He doesn't work. He doesn't study. He doesn't even try. Mom smirks nervously when her friends in the beauty shop inquire about him; she tells them he's doing some "special research."

Dad wears his sunglasses around town, hoping none of the fellows will point out that "there goes Fred. His son has to repeat college." And little girls ask and tell their friends that big brother flunked.

Michael fought back a yawn, ran a hand through his tousled black hair and tried to focus on the drawing in front of him. As the clock ticked away the minutes past three a.m., the weary graphic communications major struggled over his design project, trying desperately to finish it before it would be called for in his eight o'clock class.

At dawn, the fingers of a bright sun drew them service across Michael's drawing table, where he was just adding his name to the finished project. He glanced at the clock and noted that he had just enough time to shower, gulp down a few cups of coffee and pour his disdained Volkswagen to school in time for that eight o'clock class.

Michael has been pulling all-nighters through college for six years and he's no out yet. After spending two years at San Mateo Junior College, another at San Francisco State University (B.F. Bates) and coming to Poly in the spring of 1972, Michael will have the rest of this year and another full year of college ahead of him. Seven years, that's what they tell you in the high school counselling offices. But then, they never give you the whole picture anyway.

Michael's seven-year stint in college has been brought about by many factors. After completing four years of study in psychology, he decided to change majors. Because the graphic communications major has a reputation as a three-year design project, he has had to tack another three years of schooling onto the four already put behind him. The change of major and schools and what Michael considers "with guidance and counseling," at B.F. Bates were what cost him the extra time in school.

"Students forget to live while they're students," maintains Dr. George Mulder, Director of Counseling and Testing at Cal Poly. This is the minor fault, she adds. The major fault is that college students, when they arrive, have no idea what they want to do or they'll satisfy a requirement in their major. But plans to get all can get out of college, learning a little about a lot of things.

"It's an established fact that college is NOT the basic four-year extension of high school that many people believe it to be. There are a great many reasons for added quarters and years. True, in a few cases the reasons may be laziness and lack of motivation, but that's not the main factor at all.

"The students expect many of their problems to be solved," Mulder explains. A student chooses his own schedule, his work load, his working hours and activities. Then the pressure becomes so great that they feel that it is necessary to slack off. The students lack of understanding. She will be ten units short of graduation this June, so she must finish her education this summer. To her parents, this is tragic. But Janet feels she is lucky to need only one more quarter to finish her four-year college plan.

Sue's parents are more understanding. After seeing him off, walk away from a junior standing, Mom and Dad have already told her to enjoy school and to take the classes she wants to take, as well as those that her major requires. She is not so worried about how long it takes her to earn her degree.

"Their 'you-only-go-to-college-once' attitude has put Sue in a relaxed, yet enthusiastic situation. A relationship major, she combats the boredom of secretarial classes by pulling an occasional art, music or journalism class, never worrying about whether or not they'll satisfy a requirement in her major. Sue plans to get all she can get out of college, learning a little about a lot of things.

"The students expect many of their problems to be solved," Mulder explains. A student chooses his own schedule, his work load, his working hours and activities. Then the pressure becomes so great that they feel that it is necessary to slack off. The students lack of understanding. She will be ten units short of graduation this June, so she must finish her education this summer. To her parents, this is tragic. But Janet feels she is lucky to need only one more quarter to finish her four-year college plan.

Sue's parents are more understanding. After seeing him off, walk away from a junior standing, Mom and Dad have already told her to enjoy school and to take the classes she wants to take, as well as those that her major requires. She is not so worried about how long it takes her to earn her degree.

"Their 'you-only-go-to-college-once' attitude has put Sue in a relaxed, yet enthusiastic situation. A relationship major, she combats the boredom of secretarial classes by pulling an occasional art, music or journalism class, never worrying about whether or not they'll satisfy a requirement in her major. Sue plans to get all she can get out of college, learning a little about a lot of things.

"It's an established fact that college is NOT the basic four-year extension of high school that many people believe it to be. There are a great many reasons for added quarters and years. True, in a few cases the reasons may be laziness and lack of motivation, but that's not the main factor at all.

"The students expect many of their problems to be solved," Mulder explains. A student chooses his own schedule, his work load, his working hours and activities. Then the pressure becomes so great that they feel that it is necessary to slack off. The students lack of understanding. She will be ten units short of graduation this June, so she must finish her education this summer. To her parents, this is tragic. But Janet feels she is lucky to need only one more quarter to finish her four-year college plan.
Another problem that may be a big one to many students is poor guidance within the school system. This is where Michael and Ron were stranded. Although some students feel that counseling has ruined their plans, many others feel that they haven’t made it through school without the advice they sought from some unqualified counselors.

Joe is still at Poly after beginning school here in 1967. Although he graduated in December of 1973 with a baccalaureate degree in communications, he had to return to raise his GPA in order to qualify for the student teaching program.

During the quarter break after his graduation, Joe was determined to get started in his job. He decided to begin his student teaching, and then go to school during the next quarter. Shortly after his job was in full swing, he was called back to Poly because of his GPA.

Joe is furious with the counseling bodies here, calling it a “misleadership.” Not only did he waste his time by beginning his student teaching while he was unknowingly ineligible, but he also upset the school in Lompoc. He is not, as he now needed a technique which, arriving for a few more As, might have been a better four years. His GPA was only a grade point deficient.

Anyone who doesn’t know Joe’s story, or Michael’s or Ron’s, should consider them “professional” students, clinging to a college to avoid having to make career decisions in real life. But most of the students in their positions are here for a purpose. School is a training pad, not a secret hideaway lurking them away from the big cruel world of pseudo-society.

The students who DO make it out of here in four years or less deserve to be highly commended for their ability to overlap semesters and jump pitfalls. I will even go so far as to say that unless they are in the Natural Resource Management or Education programs, they are uneducable.

It may be comforting for all concerned to know that only 18 percent of all full time college students earn their degree through a four-year endeavor, according to Tom Dunigan, director of institutional research here. Maybe you are one of them:

Students who choose a major like Michael or Ron. Maybe your junior college until didn’t apply to your field of study. Maybe you’re carrying light until last in order to keep a job, or you can’t get the classes you need.

Whatever the case, you’re not alone. Meet the Need.

So if you’ve got it figured that your degree is as the size of the ten-year plan, cancel the fact. At least you’ll get that degree in child development in time to rear your grandchildren.

It may be comforting for all concerned to know that only 18 percent of all full time college students earn their degree through a four-year endeavor, according to Tom Dunigan, director of institutional research here. Maybe you are one of them:

Students who choose a major like Michael or Ron. Maybe your junior college until didn’t apply to your field of study. Maybe you’re carrying light until last in order to keep a job, or you can’t get the classes you need.

Whatever the case, you’re not alone. Meet the Need.

So if you’ve got it figured that your degree is as the size of the ten-year plan, cancel the fact. At least you’ll get that degree in child development in time to rear your grandchildren.
Amplifiers
Fender-Vega-Acoustic
Randall-EMC
GMT
Complete sales
Service
Rentals
Authorized Repair
Station
Full Line of Special
Effects devices
Premier Music
986 Monterey SLO

KCP R PRESENTS:
THE
ELTON JOHN
STORY
Includes all of Elton's Music
through Caribou, plus interviews with
Elton himself, Bernie Taupin, producers,
managers, and others who helped Elton John's
rise to stardom.
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26
6:00-10:00 P.M.
PUBLIC RADIO FROM CAL POLY
KCPX 81.3 FM