The Kennedy Interview

President Announces His Retirement Plans: Tells Of College Drinking Days: 'I'm A ... Democrat'

The following questions were raised by the Board. I had little reason to believe that I would be successful candidate. Until that time, the Board had never appointed a president who was a product of the system, and on that basis alone it had been clear that the Board would prefer a candidate from outside the system. A chancellorship, perhaps.

The President that I might be a candidate for the chancellorship in this system or any other is unfounded. I am not looking for the position. When Mrs. Kennedy and I do consult our family, might we be considered for the Board's help in starting of new careers. We have made no commitments either to what activities we may engage in after I retire from the Cal Poly presidency. As an ex-politician and a one-time time-lance writer I might occasionally be in the limelight, not to take up golf, instead.

Do you regards as an important decisions affecting the university? I suppose that they have, as part of my personal goals and interests, a family responsibility for the success of my children. I am hoping that a candidate for the presidency will not only have a family, but also a family with children.
About This Issue

When you ain't got nothin', you got nothing to lose—Bob Dylan

We had nothing to lose when we set out on a journey to find the man named Robert E. Kennedy, president of Cal Poly.

For years we had tried to find him—covering his speeches, his official decisions, his political battles—and failed. We, and most of you, knew nothing about The Man. Under the mass of officialdom he had been buried somewhere. This simply won't do. The decisions he makes affect us all—whether you are an instructor, an English major or a San Luis city official. Maria Muldaur in her earthy tune says "It's not the meat, it's the motion." In our case, it goes one step further—it's not the motion, but the man who makes it.

So we set out to catch this character: hunt the man down; direct him; inspect him; learn all we could about him. It wasn't an easy task. We had to talk to his wife, his friends, his enemies and, most important, to Kennedy himself before we were able to put together the package we wanted to present to you.

We learned a lot. And not just history either, we already knew a bit of that—we know he was born on Halloween in 1918, went to high school in San Diego, majored in journalism in college, married Mary Paxton at the age of 22, had four children. No, what we learned this week goes deeper than names and dates. It addresses the man's character; and some of his thinking on the major issues facing San Luis and the university. Some of it had been said before, some of it hadn't.

We think the copyrighted interview we had with the man is the most complete and candid piece ever published about Robert E. Kennedy. Because of its size, impact and importance, you will be reading it for the next week. We do believe, however, that the quality justifies the quantity. When the week is over you may know no more about the man than he wants you to know. We also will be printing in these columns looks at Kennedy through the eyes of others—some who hate his actions, some who love him.


PE

Look To Him For Direction

The Campus Radical
Kennedy: They never forced me to attend Sunday school or church and I did not.
Housing Bill Aborted by SAC

A bill which would have resulted in an investigation of the housing problem in San Luis Obispo suffered a form of parliamentary "abortion" Wednesday night at the hands of the Student Affairs Council.

The Housing and Rent Control Bill 76-1, was ruled "out of order" by SAC Chairman Phil Bishop prior to the second reading of the bill. Bishop's ruling in effect means that the bill is legislatively dead.

"Out of order" by SAC Chairman R. Michael Bishop's ruling in effect means that the bill is legislatively dead.

SAC attorney R. Michael Bishop, acting in his role as SAC chairman, gave eight specific grounds for his decision ruling the bill out of order. Bishop cited ASI by-laws and procedural provisions in the SAC Code in his arguments.

Bishop emphasised he agreed with the concept of the bill, but that a simple motion adopted by SAC to establish an ad hoc committee would be sufficient action.

Despite the housing bill's legislative death, the student housing crunch remained the major topic of discussion before the Council Wednesday night.

City Councilman T. Keith Gurnee spoke to the council members about his efforts to control the growth of Cal Poly which he labeled "the primary engine and generator of growth in San Luis Obispo.

Gurnee, so-called leader of the "no-growth" advocates in the city, came armed with an impressive array of statistical evidence that supported his demand that University officials file an Environmental Impact Report with the state. Who has the right to plan the future of a community," asked Gurnee. "The community itself, or some outside entity, like Cal Poly?"

Housed in this manner, the bill would have looked further into the rent-control referendum proposal.

Bill 76-1 would have studied the constitutionality of rent control in the city focusing in on the issues of construction, eminent discrimination and high rent prices.

Going a step further, the bill also would have looked into the feasibility of placing a rent-control referendum on the June 6th primary election ballot.

ASI Vice-President Phil Rafferty, acting in his role as SAC chairman, gave eight specific grounds for his decision ruling the bill out of order. Bishop cited ASI by-laws and procedural provisions in the SAC Code in his arguments.

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Kennedy: A Candid Look

(continued from page 3)

My first job after I graduated from college (San Diego State in 1938) was as a part-time worker in a political campaign for a man who was a Democratic candidate for California governor. That led me into a similar position for a local San Diego city campaign, handling the publicity, business affairs, and money-raising activities for the Civic Affairs Conference, which sponsored candidates for city council.

I have never been a candidate for political office, but many years ago, the San Luis Obispo Central Council of the Democratic Party asked Julian McPhee to give me a leave of absence so I could run against a Republican candidate for the state assembly. I had not been consulted, and did not know I was being considered. President McPhee was agreed to approving a leave but advised me that politics and education did not mix as a dual career. I agreed and told the committee no. I have never since considered running for public office.

Naturally, I am interested in politics on a state and national level because political decisions have such a great effect upon the resources available to higher education. The five years I served on the national board of directors of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities involved me to a considerable degree in close observation of the national political scene as it affected education. As you must suspect from the previous comments, I am a registered Democrat. How I vote varies with the issues and the candidates. I consider myself a "moderate" and my voting record, if it were made known, probably would classify me as a "Middle of the Road Democrat."

Do things like big salary, or worries of life interest you? Have you turned down better paying jobs to remain in the education field?

I never concerned myself with the process of making money. From the first job I held until this moment, I have never asked for a pay increase, never my salary was applied for, and never sought a different job because of the salary possibility. Since Mrs. Kennedy has never placed high priority on money, either, it has been mutually advantageous to work in things we liked, structuring our lifestyle to accommodate to the amount of money available.

Yes, I have turned down five job offers in my work at Cal Poly which would have taken me away from education or San Luis Obispo and which would have provided immediate salary improvement and possible long-term potential exceed the position as president of Cal Poly. One was in advertising, two in public relations, and two were for managing editors of daily newspapers. Since that time, I have frequently been asked to become a candidate for university administrative positions at a level above what I then held at Cal Poly, including in recent years presidencies of universities outside of California. I stayed at Cal Poly off a number of offers, mostly compelling, I believe, in that I believe thoroughly in the educational philosophy of the institution as it has matured over the years from the first simple "learn by doing" morion of its founders in 1901. We love San Luis Obispo area and were not willing to trade for other opportunities, although some offers would have taken us to areas that are on the environmental par of the Central California coast.

Mary Kennedy
The Women Behind The Man

If you were planning your career all over again, where would you change it?

Since I never "planned" my career, the first place, I find I had it hard to imagine how I might do it if I had the chance to do it over again. I presume it is not very humble to be completely self-satisfied with the way things worked out. But it was the way they worked out and I don't regret any of the experiences which I have had in my life. I have had students ask me how they could set out to become a university president. I doubt that I could prescribe either an educational course of study or a series of internships which would specifically lead to such an appointment. A person needs to be prepared too, available, and willing to accept new opportunities when the opportunity occurs. I can give no better advice.

In the next issue of Mustang Daily President Kennedy will explain what the benefits and problems are that go along with his job; specifically to such an appointment. A person needs to be prepared too, available, and willing to accept new opportunities when the opportunity occurs. I can give no better advice.

SAC: Abort

(continued from page 6)

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Mary Kennedy: Confidant

(continued from page 6)

The issue Mrs. Kennedy discussed with her husband was the controversy about having alcohol on campus. She candidly admits she opposes allowing alcoholic beverages of any kind sold, served or consumed at Cal Poly.

She goes on to say around that Mrs. Kennedy must be an A type, and has to present a smiling face to the corner of her mouth. "I personally feel alcohol doesn't do anyone any good. I feel there are so many other ways to socialize."

According to Mrs. Kennedy, she and her husband do not keep, nor serve alcoholic beverages in their home. When they are guests with cocktail parties, they order non alcoholic drinks.

"They occasionally, their attitude toward alcoholic causes me the problem and taken action. She says he told her the story gave people some facts they needed to know. Today, Kennedy still is a man of action.

Mrs. Kennedy describes him as an energetic man with a quick mind and a rare ability to type and pay close attention to detail. 

She attributes Kennedy's success to these traits and his "tremendous perseverance and willingness to give a thing everything he's got."

Her initial impression was a hit different. The first time she met Robert Kennedy at a friend's home, she thought he looked "clean and neat and bright."

She also recalls, "I thought he was a very brash, egotistical individual."

Four years later she became his wife.

Several times during their courtship, the couple considered getting married prior to Kennedy's graduation from college. But, "it was Depression times and the important thing was to get a college degree."

"We were married the morning after he graduated," she continues as she laughs. "At 8 Sunday morning."

They have come a long way, since their marriage nearly 60 years ago. Now, Kennedy is getting ready to retire.

Mrs. Kennedy dismisses claims that her husband is seeking a chancellorship saying, "He most certainly is not! He is within five years of retirement.

"When I read that," she says, "referring to a chancellorhip question submitted to Kennedy by Daily Co-Editor Pete King, "I smiled and asked my husband, 'Are you?'"

"He has held a unique position in the California education system," she says. He has, from one position, observed a tremendous growth."

Kennedy has worked for the State of California nearly 36 years. All the time was spent on the San Luis Obispo or Pomona Cal Poly campuses.

He became a journalism historian nearly 60 years ago. Now, Obispo campus in 1940, seven years later, he was given the first sabbatical leave ever granted by the college to complete his master's degree at Stanford University and his interest in journalism.

For his master's thesis he designed a model which eventually became the agricultural curriculum within the Journalism Department.

Twelve years later, he went back to college to complete his doctoral degree. Perhaps Kennedy's personal struggle to get an education has made him more able to identify with student problems.

According to his wife, Kennedy will go to almost any lengths to help students, once they get to know him.
**FALL CLEARANCE SALE**

This is a run of a previous ad, some items may be sold out.

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