The Selling of Diablo Canyon

Commentary and photo by Kent Promeniski

A selling job to end all selling jobs has begun in San Luis Obispo. The task is to turn to the dark images of nuclear power and its biggest proponent, Pacific Gas and Electric.

PG&E’s number one reactor is almost complete and is expected to start releasing in June. But before they can get on their 900 million dollar electric plant, PG&E must convince the federal government and the citizens of San Luis Obispo County that they, PG&E, actually know what they are doing and are not merely making another multimillion dollar mistake that we may have to pay for with our lives.

The utility company has been plagued with safety mistakes and San Luis Obispo County could be of great use to PG&E’s struggle for credibility as well as nuclear power. Public hearings will take place here and the residents of San Luis Obispo County will have a responsibility that upon them that they may not wish to accept. This attitude should leave an atmosphere of suspicion that may easily be translated into an endorsement of PG&E and nuclear power.

PG&E has already begun a media campaign in San Luis Obispo County and has spent tens of thousands of dollars to slowly slip pre-Diablo Canyon propaganda to country residents. The pecking order of local news media to pro-nuclear gatherings and the seemingly worthless public opinion poll commissioned for and released by PG&E are two examples of manipulative public relations tactics.

August is a time when Cal Poly students leave the area for much needed vacations and is also the time PG&E chose to take a 32 thousand dollar public opinion survey on nuclear power. Doubtless, on the surface the results seem to show overwhelming support for the opening of the Diablo Canyon plant. Any one taking a closer look would see that the stunted and confusing questions leave little room for any other answers than the ones of support to the PG&E position.

Signed affidavits from the Fields Research Corporation’s poll takers report the countless problems with the wording and limited possibilities for answers. Many charge that untruthful answers were given, and because of the format for the answers, no place was left for unsure answers, when qualified answers were given, as one affidavit states, “I was forced to take down unqualified specific replies.”

Another affidavit states, “It was my observation that even while interviewing many people who expressed their disapproval of the Diablo plant they were still duped into answering certain questions with responses contrary to their actual feeling.”

Question number 13 of the survey is an excellent example of this “duplicating effect” of the survey. After some length (the question is 200 words long) question 13 states, “...the plant should be allowed to start operations as soon as the government says it is ready?...” However, in the results the question there was no mention of government approval included. Instead it shows 70 per cent of those surveyed picked the answer “allow to start operations.” The only other answers listed were “hold up for further testing” and “no opinion, don’t know.”

PG&E claims no part in the make-up of the questions, however, when asked if there was any input from PG&E, Mr. Fields, of the Fields Research Corporation, immediately started to ramble on about the importance of objectivity and their astronomical interest in it. Fields was then asked for a yes or no answer to this question and he proceeded to talk to another person in the room ignoring the question.

The Fields Research Corporation also states on page 66 of the released copies of the survey that, “starting points for interviewing clusters of households were selected by a systematic random procedure from the latest telephone directory.” Signed affidavits by polltakers dispute this fact.

When one interviewer, according to affidavit, reached his starting point in Morro Bay, he discovered it was a vacant lot with no phone. The same interviewer went to Cambria and found some key addresses did not exist and according to nearby homeowners, the addresses never had existed.

It would then seem the survey is a near farce and an insult to the intelligience of the people whose opinions supposedly are contained within the 32 thousand dollar project.

It is interesting to note that according to another affidavit, researchers fees rang from 12 thousand to 19 thousand dollars for the work in San Luis Obispo (continued on page two)
The Selling of Diablo Canyon

(continued from page one)

County and the total fee paid by PG&E was 32 thousand dollars. That is approximately 15 thousand dollars that PG&E paid the Field Research Corporation to design the survey.

PG&E officials, in the disguise of public information, may even, it appears, give misleading data to those who ask. Outpost asked Dick DeVin, information officer of PG&E, how long our supply of uranium would last. He told us 70 years. According to the United States energy research and development administration (ERDA), the government agency PG&E claims it gets its nuclear information from, the supply of uranium may not last 20 years. Who do we believe?

Lately its getting harder and harder to believe PG&E and evidently if they want something, they obviously don't mind lying to get it. Playing in court recently lost the company another eight million dollars after they tried to “get” the documentary maker on their project. The documentary maker sued PG&E for its campaign against him. PG&E's defense centered around the alleged doctoring of film in which a PG&E engineer was interviewed. The jury was easily shown, by running the original film, that the alleged doctoring never took place. The engineer and PG&E had lied to US Senators and the Federal Communications Commission to get what they wanted. They wanted to get the documentary made. Luckily for him, he got them but only after PG&E's tactics lost him some reputation and money.

PG&E wants nuclear power badly and goes after it with such fervor that countless mistakes are not even noticed until they cause the problems that should have been foreseen. Diablo has cost 1000 million dollars so far, has millions of dollars worth of mistakes and is years behind schedule. The originally projected cost of Diablo Canyon according to PG&E was 500 million dollars less than the 900 million price tag of today.

The question seems not to be whether or not nuclear power is a valid alternative to our current fuel problem, but rather, does PG&E really know what they are doing and can they be trusted with such a large responsibility? At one point PG&E tried to build an nuclear power plant directly on the San Andreas Fault in Bodega. That venture cost the company four million dollars before the government talked them out of building their plant on California's most famous fault line.

Whether it's our support, our behavior during the public hearings, our land, our lives, or whatever, PG&E needs San Luis Obispo County to help them on their way. Our question might then be what do we need them for? Maybe Thermal Pollution? Radioactive wastes? Poisoning? Jobs?

Not power. Regardless of what San Luis Obispo County residents believe, according to Dick DeVin of PG&E, power from Diablo is not needed here and the power plant in Morro Bay gives us more power than we need. As a matter of fact, according to DeVin, the only place in the country that is connected to Diablo Canyon is the Morro Bay power plant. That is the now delivers power to Diablo Canyon. Mr. DeVin said that the power from Diablo will go directly to the Bakersfield area.

Jobs? Presently Diablo employs around 2000 people. But, with the end of construction and the beginning of Diablo operation, the total number of employees will drop to 180. This will mean layoffs over 1800 people hired for the Diablo project. Do we need that?

Maybe it's time for all of us to take a long, hard look at Diablo Canyon, and decide once and for all whether or not it's all worth it.

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New Hope For Dope:

How The New Marijuana Law Will Affect You

by Debbie Millsap

photo by Chris Van Ry

Rights flash across the disguised face of a young man spread-sage against a price car. Found in possession are two joints, a roach clip and a half-eaten cream sandwich.

The young man was charged with possession of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia for smoking marijuana. But in less than one month, similar cases like this will become obsolete, and getting busted for a lid or less of pot will be asautomatic as getting a speeding ticket.

California's new marijuana law will go into effect January 1, 1978. The law, Senate Bill 96, will have a substantial impact on all of California. The measure calls for a traffic citation and maximum fine of $100 for possession of one ounce (one lid) of marijuana or less.

If you've been busted three times in two years for simple possession, you must be diverted and no fine will be assessed. If diversion is not possible, then the fine must be paid.

Possession of more than an ounce of marijuana would be punishable by six months in county jail, a $600 fine or both.

Cal Poly University Detective Ed Salas has said, "Cal Poly hasn't had a lot of problems with marijuana users. Last year, there were eight Cal Poly students charged with possession on campus. So far this year only two have been charged with possession and are pending conviction in court." Salas feels that the drug culture is on its way out and alcohol is becoming a more widespread problem.

The bill gives the pot toker who has been busted before a clean record so he won't be "scarred for life." However, stringent felony penalties are still retained for the friendly neighborhood pusher, the agriculturally inclined grower and anyone else who transports or furnishes any form of the infamous devil weed.

Under the current law, anyone busted for any amount of pot can be charged with either a misdemeanor or a felony with a maximum penalty of ten years in state prison depending on the court's discretion.

Supporters of the bill argue that existing penalties are too harsh and should be reduced to fit the crime and free law enforcement officers for more important work.

Opponents reply that reducing penalties will encourage increased pot smoking, and its ultimate legalization and experimentation with other drugs would also increase, particularly among the young people.

For many marijuana users, things promise to get easier. Being stoned is no longer a reason for paranoia. You can display your beat roach clip on your key chain and you can carry papers in your shirt pockets, and if you get busted for a lid or less, the worst you can get is a $100 fine, in the words of the infamous television commercial: "You've got your own cigarette now, Baby...you've come a long, long way."
It you are a student at Cal Poly, the Foundation has control over you. It cashes your checks, supplies your meal tickets and the food you eat on campus. Handles all on-campus housing, sells all of the books needed for your classes, furnishes all on-campus health services and funds your senior project.

The Foundation, according to Director Al Amaral, is a non-profit public corporation whose primary purpose is the education of this University. In an audit report for the year ending in June of 1978, the Foundation was shown to have made a gross profit of over $3 million. Out of this, salaries are paid, and other operating expenses are met. However, this still leaves approximately $200,000 in net profit which went towards what Amaral terms, "building adequate reserves." Just what and how much adequate reserves are, Amaral would not say.

Cal Poly students who know about the Foundation generally term it a "rip-off." They complain that the bookstore charges too much for their goods and that the food service is generally lousy.

Housing is another gripe. As one student said, "The housing is too restrictive. You should have the privacy you would have in a house or apartment. Also, they shouldn't dictate standards to us. Like telling us what's right or wrong. State laws should apply to dorms just as they would living in your own place."

Other students phrase it differently. They complain that they are constantly being policed in the dorms. "Like living in a concentration camp or prison."

The Foundation Health Service is the only operation which receives generally favorable comments from students. It is also one of only two operations which loses money.

Out of all of the operations of the Foundation, the bookstore and food service are the biggest sore spots with students. The most common complaint? They are ripping off the students and that students are not getting close to what they pay for.

**Food Service**

"We in the Food Service strive to put out the highest quality food possible," says Amaral. "We are always trying to improve it."

Not so, say Cal Poly students.

The food in the cafeteria is unfit for human consumption," says Russ Myers, a freshman journalism major. "To say it stinks would be a compliment. It becomes obviously evident what they do with left overs every breakfast and lunch when they serve dinner."

The Foundation Food Service offers Cal Poly students nine places to eat on campus, three of which are open to meal ticket users. There is the Dining Hall, Snack Bar, Vista Grande Canteen, Vista Grande Restaurant, Burger Bar, sandwich shop, donut shop, ice cream shop and a vending machine study area near the library.

At the present time, meal tickets may be used only at the Dining Hall, Vista Grande Canteen and the Snack Bar and Vista Grande Restaurant during late evening hours.

"Trying to please everyone is really hard," says Pauline Shaffer, dietitian and nutritionist for the Food Service. "We invite suggestions. However, it is difficult to satisfy everyone."

At Smith, administrative manager for the Foundation Food Service, it is obvious what he means. "We have a definite open door policy. Comments and ideas, funds your senior project."

Amaral agrees. "Go right to the manager or director and let him know what's going on. We are receptive to any suggestions as to how we can improve our food services."

"We're trying to do a good job, the best we know how with the constraints we have. At the same time, we try to be responsive to the students and I think we are," Don Lash, a junior in natural resources management, disagrees. "I don't really think they care about the students, really," he says. "It's not at all like the little brochure we got telling about the yummy meals and good, nutritious food. I'd like to invite all of the people in charge of food services to eat with us everyday."

Students seem to complain about the Dining Hall food more than the Vista Grande and Snack Bar food.

"Food? You mean it's food?" asked Lee Cohen, a Poly freshman. "It's screwed. It's hard, too. The meatballs actually boil! And even I can boil rice—they can't even do that."

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Shaffer and Everett Dorrrough, director of the Food Service, admit that the food is sometimes undercooked or overdone. "But," said Shaffer, "if you just tell someone about it, they'll see what they can do."

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John Allen, a freshman electronic engineering major, was more descriptive in his comments about the Dining Hall. "The Dining Hall was the big one," he says. "Vista Grande is okay, but the lines are always too long. If there's anyone at Cal Poly who likes the Dining Hall food, they can eat their shorts and give me the money."

Alfredo Bercenas, a crop science major, put it another way. "It stinks. A doctor over at the Health Center told me that my stomach ache was from eating in the Dining Hall."
ill Rocha

Meat tickets can be used at the Dining Hall for unlimited amounts of food and at Vista Grande and the Snack Bar on a cash-against-basis

"The Food Service is convenient, but overpriced," says Tom Shaw, a computer science major. The food's not bad, it could be worse. I just don't like finding ants and flies in my food."

"We in the Food Service strive to put out the highest quality food possible."

Another complaint voiced by Poly students is that there is no choice of meal ticket holders from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays for late eaters and those with late classes. "Student trends are changing away from the mass feedings to a more individualized type of service," says Dorrough. "We feel that we should give the students what they want."

With that in mind, the Food Service is planning to convert the east wing of the Dining Hall into a snack-bar-type operation.

"It will be more attractive and have a more comfortable atmosphere—lots of plants," says Shaffer.

The new snack bar will serve deli-sandwiches, cheeses, ssews and French-style soups and breads. Also planned are more natural and health-food-type selections.

Hopefully, says Dorrough, this will help to calm students' complaints about the Food Service and show them that the Food Service is receptive to their suggestions. "We do listen," she says.

"Food? You mean it's food?"

The Food Service may be trying to improve their quality and service, but it is a slow process. As Mike Devorich, a graphic communications major, said, "If the food gets any worse, the Foundation will have to go into undertaking, too."

Book Store

The average Cal Poly student will spend over $354 this year at the El Corral Bookstore. Textbooks will account for only half of this amount. The remainder will be spent on school supplies, general goods, T-shirts and other Cal Poly triva.

To the average student, the bookstore seems to be a "rip-off" organization. For a bookstore that professes to be an non-profit organization, many students feel that they are grossly overcharged.

"The prices are so high in the bookstore," says junior Cathy Ulmer, "that in order to get some suggestions heard, one must stand naked in the bookstore than in town."

Many students believe their comments are never heard. "I get the impression that in order to get some suggestion heard, one must stand naked in the University Union square and scream at the top of his lungs," says Russ Myers, a freshman journalism major.

However, there are other ways. Each month there is an open public meeting of the Bookstore Advisory Committee where students are encouraged to present their suggestions. Four students who were appointed by ASI Pres. Hurtado to represent the student body are members of this committee.

"Come and see me," she says. "The more students I talk to, the better rapport we will have. I don't care if all 16,000 students come into my office. I will have to find time to run the store after seeing them."
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FOOD ENOUGH TO EAT

A Saturday Nighthawk

by the Nighthlyer

Tom Waits is a strange person to be writing about — not because he's a space case or anything like that, but trying to convey what this music is like to people who have never heard of him is damn near impossible. Oh well, I have never been one to shrink away from monumental tasks, so the best I can do is try.

I guess every city or region of the country has its very own street poet, New York had the Fugs and now has Patti Smith. The Jersey Shore has Bruce Springsteen. The San Francisco has the Tubes and Los Angeles is in the very capable hands of Tom Waits. Tom is not a very popular artists in terms of record sales to the general public. He is quite well respected by his peers. Tom's cult following is small but devoted and I hereby declare in this public forum of the printed word that my editor and myself are unabashed Tom Waits cult members.

Back to my train of thought... Tom Waits is not very popular with the general public. He has three albums out now and I'll bet none of you have ever seen them displayed on the front racks of record stores, let alone know the titles. Anonymity does not seem to have hurt Tom much. His songs are pure dynamite (on a quaint and odd sort of way) — the nearest comparison I can make is to Randy Newman. Tom's voice sounds like a cement mixer in heat; he plays a limited guitar; and he plays piano somewhat.

Why do I like him so much? A lot of it is cultural — I grew up in Los Angeles — but his songs have their own appeal because we've all sung them to ourselves at one time or another. Whether the situation be the abundance or lack of love or a ghost story about the phantom truck driver on a lonely road late at night — we've all been there in reality or fantasy.

I mentioned love songs a bit ago. Tom has some dedications to his name — most of them are on his first album Closing Time. His love songs come from irony, sentiment, and that little bit of schmaltz that is all of us. I think my favorite is "Hope That I Don't Fall in Love With You." There are some fleeting images of the big city on Closing Time also — pure LA, right down to the topless bars and porno moviehouses. Closing Time is the most lyrical of the three albums and it is fast becoming my favorite. In case you're wondering — "Ol' B" is on this album and rightfully so, Waits wrote it.

Tom's second album is called The Heart of Saturday Night and it finds Tom leaving his love songs somewhat for some bluesy ballads about what life is like in LA — I'd say about the corner of 8th and Los Angeles Streets. Most of the songs on Saturday Night are little vignettes of life on skid row. His love songs are to waitresses in all night coffee shops and to Saturday Night herself. Tom doesn't condemn or condone — he just reports; and does a damn good job of it. The cast of characters is all there — the winos, the cops, the junkies, the hookers — all the denizens of LA's skid row culture. And once again, that growling voice makes it all the more believable.

The latest album, called Nighthawks at the Diner, is a two-record set of live recordings that were done at the Record Plant in Los Angeles. What little bit of lyrical-nase there is on Saturday Night vanishes in a stream of Joycean images of skid row after the bars close. Once again, there's the love song to the waitress in the all night coffee shop but there are also some other really great things on it. "Emotional Weather Forecast" is the leadoff track and it is exactly what the title says. There's an ode to bachelorhood, and the phantom truck driver on the lonely road passes by in "Big Joe and Phantom 308." Nighthawks at the Diner is sarcastic, pathetic, funny, sad and most of all honest. Waits delivers some incredible raps on anything and the lines of the songs are almost indistinguishable from the raps — which makes the album all the more intense. Nighthawks is for the quiet times when you feel like the only friend you've got is that bottle of Johnny Walker to your left.

If anything I've written here intrigues you, I urge you very strongly to buy any or all of Tom Waits' albums. I think you will be glad; I know I will be glad.
wishes you and yours
Happy Holiday Season

by Steven Seybold

X-Rated

Like a doting father, Cal Poly has sought to instruct its pupils in the responsibility of making knowledgeable decisions while refusing them the freedom, the authority to exercise that power in their own affairs.

The recent vetoing of an X-rated film chosen by the ASI Film Committee may demonstrate the power, or rather lack of it, that students have in directing their own affairs. The film, "Emmanuelle," was voted in to be shown next quarter with other such shockers as "Alice in Wonderland," "Monty Python and the Holy Grail," "Blazing Saddles," and "Funny Lady," to name a few.

The Film Committee reviewed "Emmanuelle" on December 2, and decided to override the Film Committee advisor's veto. Now the bureaucratic machinery will begin to roll, and the decision lands on the lap of the Review Board. The procedure will be like that of the 1973 Film Committee-Administration confrontation.

The first test of power of the ASI Film Committee rose in 1973 when the committee booked, "The Best of the First Annual New York Erotic Film Festival." This choice was vetoed by the Film Committee advisor, Randy Donant. The Film Committee overrode the veto and, at the time Dean Chandler scheduled a pre-review board to decide if the movie was suitable for the campus. The board approved the film with one exception.

President Kennedy was out of the country at the time, so the decision rested with Vice President Dale Andrews, who decided to hold a full review board on the movie.

The board vetoed in two that the film should not be shown on campus. President Kennedy accepted the recommendation saying, "The creative arts are, by nature subjective and personal, but our duties are to be objective, or to base subjective decisions upon informed opinion and to consider not personal issues but the public trust as educators hold."

Thus the scope of "creative arts" here at Cal Poly is only as wide as the combined opinion of the Cal Poly administration. The voice and choice of the students here is directing their own affairs is only dimly reflected through the cloudy masses of the administration-omnipresent policy.

In 1968 the Motion Picture Industry of America began the rating plan which informed the potential viewers what kind of picture to expect. Thus the responsibility of censorship is placed upon the audience. However, as students at Cal Poly the responsibility to choose for ourselves has been denied us and delegated to a Review Board which, theoretically, represents the college community.

The Review Board is a "jury" of 12 members, four from the faculty, four from the administration, and four from the student body, those to whom the college President delegates the authority to make decisions as to the acceptability of what may be described as the "creative arts activities..." at Cal Poly. The Review Board decides what is and what is not acceptable on this campus.

The bureaucratic Bible, otherwise known as the Campus Administrative Manual (CAM) states "The College President will make clear to the members of the Review Board all relevant factors relating to their responsibility and authority to make such a judgment."

The "relevant factors" are discussed in a 1972 memorandum from the office of John D. Lawton, Director of the Activities Planning Center. These factors consider such things as the nebulous idea of "redeeming social values."

Perhaps the administration is right. Perhaps we should continue to book such unoffensive socially redeeming films as "Magnum Force," "The Godfather," "Alice in Wonderland," "Animal Crackers," and "Young Frankenstein." Films where murder, corruption, fantasy, and idiocy reflect society as it truly exists.

The absence of X-rated films here is simply one more assurance that Cal Poly is a "safe" school where students, sheltered beneath the administrative wing, will not be confronted with the responsibility of self-direction. Under the paternal guidance of President Kennedy, Cal Poly students may take their rightful place in society as the silent majority.

The automatic vetoing of "Emmanuelle" and the X-rated film of 1973 are representative of the students lack of freedom to direct their own affairs. Student Government and ASI Committees are powerless without the sanction of the administration.

In his approval of the Review Board's censure of "The Best of the First Annual New York Erotic Film Festival," in 1973, President Kennedy expressed his view of the University. It is not the function of a university to mirror society in all of its aspects, but it is our obligation to provide as best we can a model toward which society should aspire.

Look out Walt Disney, here we come.

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With a Stenner Glen meal plan that doesn't bite back. We have plans to fit any appetite from 5 to 19 meals a week and a 40 punch for 30 bucks meal card. Your per meal cost can be as low as $1.20! This is one case where better costs less.

There's variety, quality, lots of tasty choices everyday, and everyday is different. Good music, special surprise treats, nice people and going back for as much as you want.

We're right next to campus, so when hunger strikes you can pop in for a quick bite or a full on feast.

Stop by soon and see how you can put less money where your tummy is this quarter. It's one of the few times it's polite to talk with your mouth full. See you soon.

Stenner Glen

STUDENT RESIDENCE AT 1050 FOOTHILL BLVD., SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401 544-4540
Foundation

Are you really getting what you paid for?