The Cartoon Man Talks About Cartoonland

Photo by Tony Hertz
Learning To Think

For students accustomed to a steady diet of one-page memorized course notes, handed out during the first week of each class each quarter, the idea of introducing innovative teaching techniques into the curriculum might seem a pointless exercise in the esoteric, but just judging by the reactions of students and administrators to the efforts of one faculty member to update the teaching process, you'd feel safe in saying, this is an idea whose time has come.

Innovation, in this instance, comes in the form of the unique teaching methods employed by a faculty member in the Chemistry Department, Dr. Venerable, in his general organic chemistry classes. The methods are based on the student assistant (usually advanced students who have taken the course in the past) to aid instruction; small group workshops to focus on particular problems and a combination group and individual approach to exam taking.

The key to Venerable's success, apart from the obvious structural changes to the traditional classroom approach, is his emphasis developing the thought process of his students, rather than concentrating on the strict "content" method of teaching. The latter involves emphasis of what "what" (what are the facts to be learned) by the teacher, the former, focuses on the "why." "Taken all together," the "Venerable Outline of Chemistry" seeks to develop the minds of the students through critical thinking. A noble goal if there ever was one. Although Venerable's methods have received mixed reactions from his colleagues — some criticize him for not covering enough factual material — and from his students — some find his concern for simple problems boring — there's no doubt his concern for making his students think is a refreshing and stimulating change from the norm. Too often in the "story-telling" mode of the lecture, teachers are more concerned with formulas, trade secrets, averages and grades than with the ultimate product of the educational process — the intellectual growth of the individual.

Venerable's innovations are all the more remarkable when one considers the environment in which chemistry exists.

Depending on the thought process rather than content, Venerable is forcing his students to use all the methods inquiry to search out the truth not just two. Of course, learning to think and learning a marketable skill are often distinctly different results of education. In these days of tight money and high unemployment, it is often the person with the obvious skill who is hired regardless of the hidden ability to think. In an educational institution which places high premium on learning to do something, learning to think may not be at the top of the university priority list, but the graduates are sure to get jobs...maybe.

It's sad to contemplate the fact that teaching students the art of thinking should be considered an "innovative" idea on this campus but it is. When thinking and the teaching of students to think are no longer innovations, then this institution will truly deserve the title, university.

Proposition 15

Editor: We are confused by comments quoted in a recent article about the attitude of Commerce taking a stand in opposition to Proposition 15. In the article, the comments by ANI Pres. Mike Hurtado and Cuesta Student Body President Richard Howell seem to infer that they were not properly notified of the meeting, didn't know that Proposition 15 would be discussed and that Commerce had ever involved itself in political matters.

Three years ago, the Chamber Board decided that the large student population of our community was not properly represented and asked the Cuesta and Cal Poly Student Newspapers to be full voting members of the Board. This was an historic opportunity for student input. At first, this proved very successful. ANI Pres. John Holley was even elected Vice President of the Chamber.

Unfortunately, the recent combination of the two previous meetings at our meetings has been very poor. In fact, Richard Howell was never notified. Mr. Hurtado has attended only four meetings (more this year). So it's not surprising that they aren't familiar with what business the Chamber conducts. However, they were notified of the meeting, and it's properly advertised in the ag day's newspaper.

The original motion on Proposition 15 was accepted for the specific purpose of properly notifying everyone that the matter would be discussed, to allow spokesmen for the opposing sides to appear and to allow more Board and member input. But, apparently neither Howell nor Hurtado thought the meeting important enough for their attendance.

For this reason, we find their implied criticism of our action highly inaccurate.

David L. Brown
David L. Earshe

Reagan's Panama

Editor: Ronald Reagan's impassioned speeches against Panamanian efforts to re-negotiate the Hay—Bunau-Varilla Treaty are an affront both to justice and to the Republic of Panama. If he, or any of his aids, were to actually contact any American history textbook, the good Governor would find that the Isthmus of Panama was "negotiated" from Columbia by, of all the people, the United States.

Bunau-Varilla was a French citizen who stood to gain control of the forty million dollar New Panama Canal Company, but only if the United States could secure the construction right on the Isthmus. To insure this, he personally invested one hundred thousand dollars in procuring a treaty revolutionary army (largely made up, by the way, of many of the Panamanian Fire Department). An intervention was instigated; the United States Navy physically denied the Colombian army permission to cross over onto the Isthmus; the Republic of Panama was "negotiated" out of Columbia by, of all people, the United States.

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KCPR Goes News For A Day

by JIM SWEENEY
Daily Associate Editor

It was hectic and trying, but at the half-way point yesterday Cal Poly radio station KCPR's 12-hour all news program was running much as planned—a success.

At 2 p.m. yesterday, there were a lot of tired heads, red glazed eyes and sour faces frantically trying to keep what little sleepers of the station claimed was the first college radio news day ever, on schedule.

The four organizers of "News 91," broadcast journalism majors Rick DeBruhl, John Rutgers, Mike McCusen and Joe Herting, had been at the station since 6 a.m. and were scheduled to stay at least until the 12 hours expired at 9 p.m.

All four had directed a "dry run" until 2 a.m. of the same morning.

Outside of a problem with a malfunction of television station KSHY's transmodulator which KCPR had planned to use, Herting said everything was following schedule. He attributed the success to three weeks of extensive training and a lot of help from almost 85 volunteers.

Hertings said the emphasis of the program was on local and regional news with only as much national news as necessary. He said the purpose of the effort was to show the journalism department that the radio station is a valuable educational medium.

"We are trying to show the department that KCPR can be used as a journalistic tool and that we don't just play records every day," Hertings said.

He said the station also would use the program as a springboard to expand news coverage next year.

At the halfway mark, Hertings said KCPR hadn't received any complaints or community response, largely because the station's phones were busy collecting news.

"We realize we are not cornering the market on ratings," said Hertings, "but we are accomplishing our goals."

Everyone is getting the feeling of pressure and what it is really like on a news station."

The idea for the program grew out of a broadcast journalism field trip to an all-news station in Los Angeles. KCPR, which broadcasts news 24 hours a day, KCPR's program was scheduled from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. yesterday, broken into 20-minute segments with alternating anchors.

KCPR's newsmen Rick Hester. (Daily photos by DeBruhl (left) and Dee Dan Courter)

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Conrad: Watchdog Of National Integrity

BY ELENA-MARIE KUSTER

Daily News

To keep the public from being robbed of their right to know, Paul Conrad, Pulitzer-winning editorial cartoonist for the Los Angeles Times suggests that journalists become the watchdogs for the American people.

"If the men at the top don't have the integrity to watch over the nation, who will? I know of one man, and his cartoons will appear in the L.A. Times tomorrow. Named Conrad," he told students and faculty in Chumash Auditorium yesterday.

Editorial cartoonists, Conrad said, are the idealists of the modern world.

"Our job is to care. To care deeply. I only draw what I feel is true and substantial to be correct. I will be the one to sign it. It will be the one to defend it," he said.

Conrad, has successfully defended his art in two libel cases amounting to $10 million charged in damages. The first case was with Newsday and the New York Times and the second most recently with Union Oil.

"If a Union Oil charged that the cartoon in question affected the company's profits, what would their profits have been if I hadn't drawn the cartoon?" he asked. That case is still pending.

For Conrad, being placed on the opinion page isn't an opportunity to express his own views, but to express his opinion about other people's opinions.

It also affords him the liberty of reporting the facts in the form of opinion.

"Background more than anything else is what a cartoonist needs. I don't need two sources before running my material like other reporters do, all I need is one. That is why cartoons often precede the news story," Conrad said.

Conrad enjoys his ability to predict. During his talk he displayed a cartoon he had drawn long before the final outcome of the Watergate scandal. It depicted Nixon's face in a spider web that included all the names of the men who were eventually involved in connection with the affair.

Conrad said new meanings to old American thoughts in a blander culture by Jefferson, Franklin and Adams.

"Does the man heard round the world refer to the Concord Bridge or someone taking a shot at the president? Does 'One if by land, two if by sea' mean offshore drilling, strip mining or both?" Would a new Beaton Tea Party towns school house into the ocean in lieu of real? If Patrick Henry were to speak today he would be says 'Give me liberty or an in-determinate sentence," he asked.

The just decade of American politics, according to Conrad, has been so longer than life that the illusions of Alice in Wonderland would have had trouble reviving it.

"Where are the watchdogs? The platforms of the candidates for the presidency are absent of any references to what has past. They are sitting as if it will all go away if no one speaks of it. Still there is a feisty recollection that something went terribly wrong.

"If it were not for Woodward and Bernstein and their book 'Final Days' and the recent movie 'All the Presidents Men' based on their earlier book, the memory would have been lost," Conrad said.

The answer, as Conrad sees it, is in the work of reportage as individuals to keep the public well informed. It is in the people of the country to keep informed and to inform others, he said.

For background, Conrad daily reads the L.A. Times and the New York Times and any other thing that will feed his mind.

"I don't attend editor conferences. They all fancy themselves as cartoonists," he said.

Conrad said he initially tried his ideas on the Times' staff. If the majority of the people in the newsroom can't be his meaning to one of his cartoonists, he warns it. He said he has the greatest job in the world," but, like the average American, he still works the standard 40-hour week.

"I work the typewriter nine to five. I forget my work at night and on weekends. Sometimes I can dream up an idea in a split second. I've drawn some as fast as 15 minutes, but don't tell Mr. Chandler," he said.

Conrad readily accepts the criticism that his readers give him.

"It's their privilege to comment on my work. I only take it when it comes in bad taste," he said.

Criticism Conrad has received include a two pound package of horse manure and a metallic box filled with dog feces. The latter was exploded in the parking lot of the L.A. Times.

"Our job is to care. To care deeply. I only draw what I feel in true conscious to be correct."

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Employment Seminar

All veterans of the U.S. military, particularly of the Viet Nam era, are invited to attend a free "Veterans Employment Seminar" at 1 p.m. today. The seminar will offer all interested veterans an opportunity to learn from business consultants and employment experts, how to make the job they want. The seminar will be held in the University Union Room 100.

For questions pertaining to the seminar telephone 541-1141.

Candidates Forum

The League of Women Voters of San Luis Obispo will sponsor a candidates forum throughout the coming week. Today and Monday at 6:00 p.m. on KVIE radio, the third Supervisorial district candidates will be featured. Candidates of the 29th Assembly district will appear on Channel 8 public TV on Thursday, May 28 at 12:30 p.m. The candidates from the 17th Senatorial district will be featured on Saturday at 4 p.m. on KSBY TV channel 6.

Jazz is Back

The '50's jazz music is back with trumpeter Louis Bellson. Tonight at 8 p.m. Bellson will perform in the Gustav College Auditorium with the Gustav Jazz Ensemble. The concert will benefit the Jazz Ensemble's fund to perform in the Montreux, Switzerland International Jazz Festival in July, 1976.

According to Warren Kallour, director of the Gustav Jazz Ensemble, Bellson, a profile composer, sent his music arrangements across the country.

Hurtado Vows To Veto

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Asian Budget At SAC Tonight

by STEVEN CHURM

Daily Asain Editor

Associated Students, Inc.

Pres Mike Hurtado in a late Wednesday's Finance Committee Monday said a 16.7 percent cut in the AIS Children's Center budget by the Student Affairs Council is unacceptable and he will veto the 1976-77 budget because of it at tomorrow's SAC meeting.

SAC last week slashed $1950 out of the Children's Center proposed budget of $5155 before approving the budget by a vote of 16-7.

But in his memo Hurtado said he talked with the Center's directors following the meeting and they told him that budget cut would be "detrimental" to the Center's future. The $1950, plus the $560 SAC trimmed from AIS Tutoring Program's, budget added up to a budget increase of $2600 for Women's Intercollegiate Athletics (WRA).

Hurtado, however, in his memo said the WRA budget increase is not "justified." He added he will urge SACC to give the $2600 back to the Children's Center and the Tutoring Program.

Dr. Evelyn Prilaion, head of the Women's Physical Education department said she was just "sick" when she heard about Hurtado's intentions.

"I don't think he understood that the money will be spent," Prilaion said.

The money, according to Prilaion is needed to fund pre-season housing and meals for the Women's volleyball team in September.

But according to a high ranking AIS source the intent of Hurtado's memo was "to inform Finance Committee he plans to veto the budget. The source added the Men's Athletics Budget, not WRA's, may be cut to reimburse the Children's Center depleted budget.

Hurtado was in Los Angeles yesterday and was unavailable for a comment at 7:15 p.m. in U.U.220.
Women Will Use Budget Increase For Scholarships

Rodeo Team Makes Finals

Cal Poly and Cal State Fresno have been selected by the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association as Western Region representatives at the NIRA National Finals in Bozeman, Montana June 14-19.

The Cal Poly men’s rodeo team entered the season with 2,120.5 points, based on the five best scores it tallied in rodeos during the season, and was named as the regional champion.

Fresno made a strong drive at the Mustangs, and finished a close second with 2,089.5 points.

Joe Parkins of Central Arizona College was named the all-around cowboy for the region — a title also determined by the five best scores in the season’s rodeos.

Cal Poly’s John McDonald was the runner-up.

McDonald is still in contention for the national all-around title, since points earned at Fresno are added to those already earned in determining the national champion.

National team championships are determined on the basis of scores earned in the finals only. Individual championships are based on the aggregate of the season scores and national finals scores.

Poly Shortstop Smith Makes All-CCAA Team

After taking its first ever California Collegiate Athletic Association baseball championship, Cal Poly Pomona has landed five players on the all-CCAA first team.

Second place Norridge also placed five players on the team, while the third place Mustangs landed only one — shortstop Chris Smith. Last place UC Riverside placed a total of players on the team.

Smith, the brightest star on the 50-22-1 Mustang squad, led Poly in hitting with a .308 average and set a new conference base stealing record with 44 thefts.

This is the first time the Mustang Boosters have assisted women’s athletics.

Dr. Evelyn Peilston, Women’s Athletic Director, said the method of distributing the scholarships has not been decided on as yet.

“The kids that are here now haven’t had the opportunity to try for a scholarship on their athletic ability. That is not to say that we aren’t recruiting players now. But that decision is only fair. I think that’s a healthy move. It won’t prevent athletics from coming here,” Peilston said.

The AIAW limits Cal Poly to 18 scholarships in basketball, 18 in softball, 12 in track and field, 12 in volleyball, and 8 in tennis. To grant that many scholarships Cal Poly would need $11,200 annually.

For Scholarships

women allows for a limited amount of scholarships for tuition and fees beginning next year.

In the recent budget hearings the Student Affairs Council allotted $200 in scholarship money for female athletics. The Mustang Booster Club is contributing about $600 dollars more, giving a total which will allow three scholarships per sport.

In a coach’s meeting we unanimously agreed that the money would be issued to those students presently enrolled at Cal Poly. Most of the schools starting new programs like ours have been doing that,” she said.

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