A loaf of bread, a jug of wine...and food stamps

by WINA STURGEON

I’d gone to the supermarket to shop for dinner. Being short of cash that night, I lingered over various expensive foods, but avoided premium goods like chicken and fresh vegetables. At the checkout counter I was right behind a young couple dressed in trendy clothes, carrying expensive shopping bags. The man and woman were overweight.

I watched as they unloaded their cart: six packs of soft drinks, cookies, chewing gum, ice cream, sundae toppings, frozen fried chicken, fresh vegetables with butter sauce, expensive cheese. A sour and story thought came over me: “Are they paying their food stamps? How much more can they afford?”

The couple had been smiling, but no longer. They gave us a quick, sideways glance. The checker leaned toward me and confided, “It’s not the food stamps I mind. It’s when they buy king crab at $6 a pound.”

Leaving the store, I tried to summon guilt for what I’d done. After all, I told myself, I’m a liberal, right? Suddenly I remembered this quote:

“A liberal is someone who wants to do a lot of good for other people’s money.”

Why should I have felt ashamed about resenting someone who could buy a luxurious piece of cheese on other people’s money? It’s only natural to feel angry that someone can spend more freely than you on money you helped provide.

A store worker, a member of the defense budget; abuse is inevitable; there but for the grace of God...

The paint is, I’m not on food stamps, and no longer can I make all those liberal allowances.

We can’t help these feelings. America grew up on the work ethic. It taught us that the harder we worked, the better our standard of living. Now a new strain has been injected into our culture: the idea that those who can’t produce their own sustenance would not be the least deprived; that the same kind of housing and food should be available to workers and those supported by worker-subsidized anyone who feels otherwise should ashamed of themselves.

Giving welfare is a noble and humane act, so long as it goes to the right people. But the resources for it can’t be taken from the unwilling and administered by the uninvolved for the benefit of an unlimited number of people. As a country, we just don’t have the resources to keep on giving.

When I was a kid, I lived in a region of Pennsylvania that produced steel and coal. Whenever the mines or factories went on strike, many of my friends went on a kind of welfare. But even then, our food stamps went to the least needy,烛, helpfully, improvidently, hoping to help. As the checker said, “Yes, you can buy gum and anything else edible-ice cream, cookies, and so on.”

I watched the couple as they left the store. I felt ashamed of myself. It’s only natural to feel angry that someone can spend more freely than you on money you helped provide.

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Some students planning to keep in practice by skateboarding to and from class will find new school regulations keeping them out of the inner campus area. "Skateboards are not covered by existing codes," said Dave Clano, director of judicial affairs and member of the skateboard committee. "Officially, skateboards don't qualify as vehicles, but when you're on one you are not officially a pedestrian."

Over the summer a 24-hour seven-day-a-week ban on skateboards was set for the most frequented campus walkways. Skateboarding is prohibited in any area inside the horseshoe shape of the North and South Perimeter Road and closed off at College Avenue.

The campus police will not be enforcing the regulations immediately. "We always give them a change in hostile," said a police officer. Other students have found themselves on foot in a new ruling prohibiting skateboards from the academic area.

(Daily photo by Tony Harris)

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Teaching talk:
The Unitarian-Universal Fellowship of San Luis Obispo will sponsor Cal Poly instructor Del Venerable at their next meeting. He will speak on "Innovations in Education" on Sunday at 1 p.m. in the fellowship building of the Methodist Church, 1313 Fredericks Street.

This program will contain Del's conclusions on the success of his unique and controversial teaching methods for chemistry.

Student trustee
Applications are now being accepted by the California State University and Colleges Student Presidents Association for the position of student Trustee of the California State University and Colleges Board of Trustees.

Gov. Jerry Brown, will appoint the student trustee from a list of applicants furnished by student representatives.

Applications will be available Oct. 4 in the ASI office in the University Union and must be turned in no later than Nov. 18.

ASI position
There is a position open in the student government hierarchy for an executive assistant for external affairs to the ASI president. The assistant will be responsible for establishing and maintaining a working relationship with San Luis Obispo city and county government leaders and assisting the ASI president in state affairs.

Applications for the position are available in the ASI office in the University Union and all students are eligible.

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Copeland's CLOTHES MADONNA PLAZA
Northern front promises relief from state's worst drought

Wet weather arrived with a vengeance yesterday, above, a student battles to escape the wetness of the September shower. Below, the rain is taken in stride as the dampness fails to affect the pleasures of an ice cream lover. (Daily photo by Ellen Reeser and Tony Hart.)

When you looked outside at the downpour of rain yesterday you probably turned and did a double-take at the calendar to make sure it read—September 19—not February 15.

In fact the weather was anything but the warm, dry Indian summer conditions that are supposed to prevail this time of year.

The downpour, which lasted the already unusually high rainfall total of 8.83 inches for the season, was caused by a frontal system parallel to the Northern California coast.

The storm moved northward Tuesday morning and according to the National Weather Service in Santa Maria will continue to move inland today, leaving in its wake clear skies by tonight. The long range forecast calls for a brief shower with a 10 percent chance of rain today giving way to clear skies Thursday, continuing through Saturday.

The storm caused nothing more than a few damp feet and some assorted grumblings from students caught unprepared by the storms sudden downpours.

"Besides the normal drain clogging and back up due to debris and fallen leaves, we had some damage," said Dick Yarragia, Cal Poly plant operations chief.

The continuation of the unusual rainfall for this date was welcomed with mixed emotions.

Firefighters, faced with the prospect of a hot, dry fall increasing the already hazardous fire conditions existing because of below normal rainfall last year, are resting easier following the storm.

But the weather continues to play the devil's advocate on county farmers.

After suffering thousands of dollars in crop loss or damage during summer harvests due to the lack of rain, county seed and garbanzo farmers are now faced with further profit cuts due to this latest storm.

The county's bean harvest was in full operation when the storm struck Monday night, but will now be delayed until the ground and weather conditions permit harvesting to resume. The moisture could lower the quality of the roughly 15,000 acres of beans being harvested in the San Luis, Edna, Nipomo and Los Osos Valley areas.

"We hope we don't get too much," farm adviser Will Crewdson said. "It's rain everywhere that's left."

Crewdson said that with the average rainfall of the typical three years of the season, the county will likely suffer a 50 percent reduction in its bean acreage.

"The kids have made it. Now we're behind on our lettuce, that's the real loser here."

The front is just one of several storms, similar to the typical winter weather pattern that brings the state its rainy season, that have moved through the Central Coast in the last month. So far most of them have been too weak to bring rain.

Yesterday's heavy rains may be signaling the end to what has been called possibly the worst drought in California's recorded history.

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Baseball to start full winter schedule

by MIKE MCCLEANABAN
CITY STAFF WRITER

Falling leaves, colder days in the World Series usually denotes the end of another baseball season. But despite the early winter weather, the Mustang baseball team plus a number of other sports are looking forward to an exciting winter ball. Under Coach Barry, the players who return this winter are involved in what Coach Barry calls "doing parallel training for football.

The baseball program this quarter will include regular practices on the first two days of the week, with intragame scrimmage scheduled for the rest of each week. The first games start at 5 p.m. today at Palm Field. "We have a very exciting group of new prospects this year," said Coach Barry, "including several outstanding junior college transfers."

There are four returning players, including Dave Grau, who returned from Taiwan, where he participated in the International Games for the United States All-Star team. Grau played outfield last year and is described by Barry as very quick, fine defensively and a complete ball player. Martinez had covered second base for the Mustang last season, and in his coach's words, "is out of the best we have ever had." He was drafted by the United States All-Star team.

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