Ag secretary speaks on Mexican education

By JAY ALLENI

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland said Tuesday that a Cal Poly Mexican-American Ag Training Program is worth repeating.

"In the United States, we too have long ignored our friends to the south," Bergland said to about 100 educators from Mexico and Cal Poly, who gathered at a campus banquet.

Excited Mexican teachers and educational administrators arrived at Cal Poly Poly-elective agriculture and teaching methodologies, said Mexican Consul General of Agriculture Education, Roberto de Leon. He said they received Cal Poly-like systems of teaching during their stay.

The Mexican educators—on the boards of the schools that want the programs—are attending a six-week seminar.

Bergland, who said then-Luis Obispo Congressman Leon Panetta asked him to speak to the group, said the agriculture department is re-evaluating its programs to include many joint international programs. He said the programs would be very beneficial to both countries involved.

Bergland's program for the Mexican visitors: "We do so help you help yourself," said Bergland to the Mexican visitors.

Bergland passed the Mexican students on to Mexico City to meet the education department head, who were at a conference in California.

The training program, which has been under development for two years, is designed to train Mexican agriculture educators methods of vocational-oriented agriculture, said Brown.

The program is set up for the Mexican teachers so they can provide improved farming conditions with vocational-oriented agriculture, said Brown.

Many of the young people are leaving the farms to go to the city, he said. With the improved farming techniques, Bergland said, they will be able to stay in the community to farm or possibly buy a farm for themselves.

The program is to follow the model established by the United States, with education cooperations here.

"Our emphasis is more in agriculture and technological programs of Mexico and the United States," said Panetta.

The training program idea was proposed by Panetta.

"I had introduced Cal Poly to the Mexican Ministry and I can't think of any other education program in the United States that is as great as this," said Panetta.

The educators are representatives of 11 model schools selected from about 120 schools that are equivalent to the high schools and community colleges in the United States.

The program development has been under the supervision of Rathbun and John Penney, president of the Inter-American Educational Foundation.

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**Foreign hellos**

In the past ten years the number of foreign students at Cal Poly has diminished markedly. In fall 1969 there were 448 foreign students attending school here. In fall 1978 there were only 300.

But summer is somewhat different. There are hundreds of Japanese students touring the streets of San Luis Obispo. These people come to Cal Poly to take advantage of the cultural facilities here to learn English and about our culture.

It is a refreshing change to see people who speak a different language and practice different customs. We are somewhat isolated at Cal Poly. Not only do we interact with people of the same age group day in and day out most of us have similar backgrounds.

Talking to these students from the other side of the world is a good way to learn, rather painlessly, of other lifestyles. It is an important part of education to be exposed to new things. The more we exercise this tool the more we will learn to be tolerant and open-minded about the world in general.

There are other people on campus this summer, including a group of Mexican agriculture teachers and students from South America. They come to Cal Poly to take advantage of the educational facilities here and we should in turn take advantage of the knowledge they bring with them.

Many of these people speak little English while others are fluent. In the language. We should all take some time out of our days and welcome them to the area.

Maybe we'll all learn something—about another country and ourselves too.

**Bailout blues**

America's number three automaker has lost over $607 million in the first quarter of this year. Chrysler, America's tenth biggest company, has now asked the US government for a $1 billion bailout.

The company is trying to blame the government for its troubles, with three main charges of pollution, safety and energy regulations.

Thousands of gas guzzling Chryslers sit on lots with little chance of being bought. Car drivers are trying to make ends meet, contending with the sudden skyrocketing of gas prices and buying cars with low gas mileage is not the answer.

In the past ten years domestic car manufacturers have been losing money, imports have risen sharply—about 70 percent. And it's no wonder, imports generally get better gas mileage and also seem to be built better. Rarely do you hear about Chryslers.

Chrysler should have seen this collapse coming and they probably did. The question is why didn't the company put more time and money into developing an economic small car? The answer is they were too busy devising advertising schemes to unload their big cars on consumers.

This fall Chrysler's line is the same it has been for years—big cars.

Chrysler is a private corporation. They reap the benefits of a bailout and now that the money is not coming in they want a bailout. No way Chrysler, you're on your own.

**Justifying failure**

"Oh, I flunked that class because the teacher didn't like me," that must be the most popular excuse of the year.

Grades, professors are people too, they're bound to have automatic dislikes for some students. Some students get by without justification. But after going through eight years of college and high school bearing the same old excuse for failure, I begin to get sceptical.

Do professors worry that much hatred surrounds them? Do they enjoy routinely flunking one or two students a quarter to satisfy some sadistic urge? I doubt it.

Many students don't even know their students. They've got from 23 to 100 people in several classes each quarter. Unless students constantly ask obnoxious questions, talk while the professor is lecturing or never leave early and come to class late, professors probably wouldn't want their energy draining them.

I can only blame my failure slightly more to do with individual students' achievements than they like to admit. Maybe a few more "hard students" should buy textbooks and take an occasional exam as what's inside. Most people in college are capable of doing passable college work.

**A Universal pain**

"Oh, you'll survive the Universal Studios tour alright, but you won't be able to watch another movie without wondering where the trash was filmed.

For $7.25 you can spend an amazing hour in your very own Riviera with real air conditioning. I guess you're supposed to think Bob just left—

you save the room for a modeling assignment.

When you leave the dressing room and are ready to tour the tour you're shown the price guide tells you, "None of them aren't really Robert Wagner's dressing rooms," and I am not sure how much of the fantasy remains fiction and reality is dead.

The first stop is Robert Wagner's dressing room, but the only tour guide is a young white female Riviera remains fiction and reality is dead.

When you leave the dressing room and are ready to tour you're shown the price guide tells you, "None of these aren't really Robert Wagner's dressing rooms," and I am not sure how much of the fantasy remains fiction and reality is dead.

"Where do you suppose the trash ended up?"

Everyone nodded their agreement.

"All right, tell us how they disposed of the trash. When we met the first guy on the tour he said the street where Beaver Cleaver lived our guide told us about the imaginary minds who burns trash over the trash beach in the middle of the street.

Jimmy Carter might breathe before using beanbags. "Mom!" he cried, he thought it was a beanbag..."...he's bite the dog..."

Several years ago, I was sitting in a sitting room in a house owned by a friend of the family. He was driving me from Pomona to Los Angeles.

"In the sitting room, a conversation he said: "You know, when we moved out here, all out brown furniture always looked like it is new and, well, hell, we didn't call it smog back then." I managed to shake back my laugh, but after some thoughts, what he had said became more likely. I soon discovered a way of eliminating all the world's ills, using the smog that is the destruction Central Coast every summer to learn English and about our culture.

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Amphitheater to stage summer concert

BY PEGGY DEWANE

The Music featured at Cal Poly Summer Band Concert, Friday, August 10, will be fun 15 minutes to end fun to play, according to one band member.

"It's light music," Lori Hamilton, a two-year veteran of the Cal Poly marching and symphonic bands said. The concert will be held in the Cal Poly amphitheater at 8 p.m.

Program highlights include music from the play "Piddler on the Roof," "Light Cavalry Overture" and selections from Switzerland.

Pelti Hauworisch, a band conductor from Switzerland, will accompany the Cal Poly Band Conductor William Johnson. The concert is modeled after the old-fashioned American band concerts in the park, said Johnson.

"Bring lawn chairs and picnics benches and sit out on the laws," Johnson said. The concert is going to be relaxing for both the audience and the band according to Hamilton. "That's a really nice concert for the players to do." She said the band members are more relaxed because the concert is so casual.

The band has about 50 members and, according to Hamilton, is "filled out in the right places." The band has people playing every instrument needed to balance and to too many band members playing one instrument.
Music students, teachers pushing for recognition

BY JILL HENDRICKSON
News Editor 

Outstanding Science Achievement Award winner and music student Robert Rust has taken 25 units of music at Cal Poly during his nine years there. "I spend nearly 20 hours every week practicing for my music," he says. During the regular school year he accompanies the University Singers and Chamber Singers.

At another institution, 21-year-old Rust might qualify for a music minor. But at Cal Poly his academic record does not appear on his academic record as an elective credit. "Ability speaks for itself," says Rust, who plans a career in fine arts management or music publishing. "But I definitely think if I had something on paper to show for it, it would remove some of my anonymity."

Rust shares his love of music and lack of documented expertise with other students drawn to the music department. He is a prime example of why department head Bessie Swanson wants a music minor established at Cal Poly.

"This is the only campus in a 19-campus system that doesn't have a music major," she says, "and here we're struggling to get a music minor." Official recognition would increase opportunities for students who want to work in the music industry, Swanson says. Credit units on a college transcript are helpful to employers, but a music certificate shows a degree of competence.

"If you call it a university you must have the breadth and depth," she says, "and here we've ignored the music minor." I 

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