Ag secretary speaks on Mexican education

BY JAY ALLING

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

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

Eight Mexican teachers and educational administrators arrived at Cal Poly last week to study programs at agricultural schools. Bergland said the tour would do much to improve Mexican agricultural education.

"We have a great deal to gain in this relationship," Bergland said.

As a press conference Tuesday afternoon, Bergland said the Department of Agriculture is studying whether large corporation or family farms are more productive.

He also said that they are finding out the extent of foreign land ownership in the country. Currently, the United States contains about 1.4 billion acres in agricultural land, of which 15 million are foreign owned.

Bergland said he would like to reverse the trend of cities building on agricultural land. Some of the most productive land in the country is being used for construction.

On energy, Bergland said the government is sponsoring programs for biomass plants. These consume farm waste on their own.

"We are doing our best to help you help yourself," said Bergland to the Mexican visitors. "We

Mexican educators observing ag training program at Poly

BY CAROLYN GOULING

Cal Poly’s cooperative-education program has drawn Mexican educators to the United States to observe the training program at Cal Poly.

Director General Rodolfo de la Luna and Sub-Director Juan Muñiz of the Mexican government arrived at Cal Poly from Mexico to observe the Cal Poly-Mexico Training Program in agricultural education.

The program was developed with the cooperation of the Mexican government and Cal Poly agriculture faculty members, according to Larry Rathbun, Director of the Department of Agriculture.

Assemblywoman Carol Haltas and Acting President Robert Steiner, who arrived in Mexico last week, were among the leaders in the tour led by Howard C. Brown, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

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

The training program is set up for the Mexican teachers so that they can provide improved farming conditions with vocational-oriented agriculture, said Brown. The Mexican teachers should be able to try to structure their school programs after Cal Poly’s “learn-by-doing” program.

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

The program was held Tuesday night in the auditorium.

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**Bailout blues**

America's three automakers have lost over $307 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 too. It is a good way to learn, rather painlessly, of other lifestyles. 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.

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**Justifying failure**

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

Grades, professors are people too—they're bound to have automatic dislikes for some people new and then without justification. But after going through eight years of college and high school bearing the same old curse for failure, I begin to get suspicious.

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

Most students don't even know their students. They've got from 23 to 100 people in several classes and quarter. Unless students constantly ask obnoxious questions, talk while the professor is lecturing or repeatedly leave early and come to class late, professors probably wouldn't want their energy disliking them.

If I flunk a class, slightly more to do with individual students' achievements than deep like to admit. Maybe a few more "hated students" should buy textbooks or at least take an occasional glance at what's going on. 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 when the shooting was filmed."

For $7.25 you can spend an amazing hour in those initials. Helene remains fiction and reality is dead.

The first stop is Robert Wagner's dressing room. A walk through the plush three room set-up you see a tiny dressing room—no flash pictures please. I guess you're supposed to think Jeff just left— you scan the room for a modeling magazine.

When you leave the dressing room and are ready to leave the whole world behind the guide tells you, "Mark that was really Robert Wagner's dressing room. It would be rather inconvenient for him to be there with people walking through all day.

Everyone nodded their agreement.

At the ride you are told to sit in the street where Colonel Cleaver lived our guide told us about the impression minds who started the war.

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**Classifying Culture**

Several years ago, I was sitting in a restaurant and turned to a friend of the family; he was driving me from Pomona to Los Angeles. Put his conversation he said:

"You know, when we moved our base in LA lunch and dinner menus are all the same. It used to be that way in the mid eighties with the same thing, we don't call it smog back then.

I managed to choke back my laughter, but after some thought, what he had said became more laughable. I soon discovered a way of eliminating all the world's life, using national identification central. I put every summer 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 integrate with people of the same age group, in and out, but we 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. I hope we exercise this tool more as 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.

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**Summer Mustang**

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**Summer Mustang**

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The Mutic featured at Cal Poly Summer’s on- cart, Friday, August 10, will be fun to watch and fun to play, according to an marching band mam b ter.

"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 6:00 p.m.

Program highlights include music from the play "Fiddler on the Roof," "Light Cavalry Overture" and selections marches from Switzerland. Felix Hauswirth, a band conductor from Switzerland, will accompany 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 picnic baskets and sit out on the lawn," Johnson said. The concert is going to be relaxed 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 said, according to Hamilton, is "filled out in the right places." The band has people playing every instrument needed to balance and to make band members playing one instrument.

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Music students, teachers pushing for recognition

BY JILL HENDRICKSON

Thursday, August 9, 1979

President Kennedy approved the concept of free-standing minors at Cal Poly last year, and the music department faculty submitted a proposal. But by the time Kennedy's approval came through, the catalog was suddenly concentrated in the Music Department. It could cause courses to be dropped, he says.

These relationships and factors for considering minor programs are now being considered. Wilson says he supports the idea of granting music minors at Cal Poly, but when the idea was under consideration by the Academic Affairs last year, he and other staff members recommended its request.

"I'm not opposed to a music minor as long as I know the parameters," he says. Wilson questions the impact on other departments if student credit normally generated throughout the campus are suddenly concentrated in the Music Department. It could cause courses to be dropped, he says.

"We're confident of the product we can offer. Ultimately the right thing will prevail," she says. "Music should be considered a basic program in any university."