Poly’s problem: recruiting new faculty

BY REENIE CASHMAN

The sunny climate and relaxed atmosphere of the Central Coast cannot compensate for the inflation rate, poor housing market and low salary levels which hinder the recruitment effort of professors at Cal Poly.

In San Luis Obispo, housing problems have reached incredible heights.

“As a university, we are just now feeling the nationwide pinch of housing problems. This serious problem is statewide and nationwide,” said Walt Lambert, off campus housing coordinator.

“For the past six years, I’ve been doing this job and this is the tightest market for rentals ever,” he said.

Lambert blamed the problem on high interest rates and San Luis Obispo’s policy of limited growth.

Housingqueeze

According to Lambert, the 1981 fall listing of available housing fell drastically. And this has put a damper on faculty recruitment at Cal Poly.

For example, last spring three people from across the country were interviewed for a department head position by Jon Ericson, Dean of the School of Communicative Arts and Humanities.

According to Ericson, “One individual really liked the situation we offered but told us he had a very nice four bedroom home in New York that he could sell for $70,000. To replace that home here would take at least double that amount. Most people don’t have $75,000 to put out in order to make up for that. We would have to offer a whole lot more money to make the housing situation reasonable.”

Engineering instructors in particular find little financial incentive to come to Poly as well.

For Cal Poly Engineering graduates, starting salaries can run as high as $24,000. But the starting for a Ph.D. as an associate professor at Cal Poly is $21,000, according to William F. Horton, associate dean of the School of Engineering.

In the engineering field, 75 percent of Ph.D.s go into the industry, which leaves 25 percent to teach. Of that 25 percent, half don’t speak English as their native language, Horton said.

Outdated equipment

Electronics equipment becomes outdated within three years, yet the budget allows for an update every 20 years. But Horton doesn’t feel this is a disadvantage in recruiting. “This problem is so universal, it has no impact on recruitment,” he said. “If we were a research oriented institution it might hurt us, but we’re not. Our biggest problems are the cost of living and housing.”

Noncompetitive salaries

Don Shelton, director of personnel, agrees salary is a problem in recruiting and feels the number one problem is that the salary schedule is not competitive with other schools.

But even at Stanford professors are turning down jobs because of housing costs, according to Stanford President Donald Kennedy.

The average salary last year for an assistant professor at Stanford was $28,000 while a house in the university area in Palo Alto costs about $325,000.

Dan Pied of Cal Poly’s Art Department was hired in fall of 1980, and anticipated the problem of housing. But he said he felt the advantages of living in the area compensated for the high cost of housing.

“I’m very interested in buying a house in the area, but I simply can’t afford the interest rates,” said Pied. Unless changes are made soon, the housing market in California could damage the state university system throughout.
Prof. explains Vietnam War

BY TWYLA THOMAS
Staff Writer

America lost the Vietnam War because technological warfare cannot deal with the unusual dimension the conflict presented—lack of a negative objective, said Lloyd "Bud" Beecher, Cal Poly history professor.

Beecher spoke on the topic "Vietnam: The Limits of Technological Warfare" Tuesday in U.U. 304 as part of The Last Lecture Series sponsored by the Cardinal Key National Honor Society.

Beecher, who is currently teaching a course on the Vietnam War, specialized in 20th Century U.S. foreign relations while earning his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia.

In the past, said Beecher, wars had a specific negative feature about them, ensuring popular support and justifying military conflict.

"Everyone has agreed that the Vietnam War was, in fact, a defeat. It was a war the United States lost," asserted Beecher.

According to Beecher, we can't answer the questions about why there was a war in Vietnam and when it started because we had no reason for being there that would justify the U.S. armed force's heavy use of technology in warfare.

The Vietnam War had a positive objective for the United States, said Beecher. This was to create a functioning, non-communist government out of the Vietnam south of the 17th parallel.

This objective cannot be accomplished by technological warfare, but rather by political warfare, he said.

In creating the 17th parallel as the political boundary between North and South Vietnam, the United States gave up "North" Vietnam as irretrievably lost to communism. Political warfare in the south proved a failure, and technological warfare stepped in, which lost the war for the United States, said Beecher.

Beecher said the technological failure of the war could be divided into two aspects. Please see page 4

Professor Bud Beecher expresses his views on the reasons for American defeat in Vietnam during his lecture Thursday.

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Tuesday - Sports section
Wednesday - Outdoors section
Friday - Review section.

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IN THE NETWORK MAIL SANTO LUIS CLEANERS

ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE
Student confident El Salvador will be liberated

BY MICHAEL WINTERS
Staff Writer

The following interview with Mauricio Duarte, a Salvadoran student in his fifth year of medical school, was conducted in San Luis Obispo on Nov. 5. Duarte, a Salvadoran student, is one of the founders of the General Association of University Students at the National University of El Salvador in San Salvador. The interview was translated from Spanish.

What is the role of your association in the struggle in El Salvador?

We intend to raise the consciousness of people, both in El Salvador and abroad, regarding the true nature of the civil war. Also, we hope to coordinate various concerned groups for effective action for the eventual liberation of our country from the military, which has ruled for 50 years, and from United States intervention, which only prolongs the suffering.

What is the group's relation to the Frente Democrático Revolucionario? (A Salvadoran coalition opposed to the government)

We are part of the FDR. It is composed of syndicates of various worker and peasant groups, and our student group. Our particular role is to educate the people, to raise consciousness, and to channel energies against those who would crush the FDR.

What is the nature of life on the campus in San Salvador?

Today there is no life. The campus was militarized on June 26, 1980, when troops came in and closed it. They left 30 students dead after what would have been a peaceful demonstration. There was $10 million worth of damage that day. I was there. I looked from among the crowd, but I couldn’t believe it was happening. Today there are no classes, and, strictly speaking, no Salvadoran students. Those who study go elsewhere, or the groups run classes outside the university. The United States government has been accused of being behind the coup.

In President Duarte’s own words, has he any power?

In reality, he has no more power than to talk. You have to understand the power of the military. It controls the real power—it is a military dictatorship. And the military speaks in the name of the oligarchy.

When we, students, were overthrown in 1979, Salvadoran student Mauricio Duarte accused the United States government of directing the war against the people of El Salvador in an interview Thursday.

to be replaced by Duarte was the United States itself?

The coup was helped and prompted by the United States. Previously, they had helped return, but as the popular (revolutionary) movement gained strength, a civil president was desired to gain the illusion that military rule had ended. They wished to gain by words what there was no intention of gaining by actions.

Is there support for your cause from Cuba and Nicaragua?

Let me put it this way. The war is being directed from the United States. That country is the primary outside interloper. There is a myth that the war is one of communism versus democracy. But there is no democracy in El Salvador, nor has there ever been. It should not be read this way. The war is the product of tremendous injustice, and we are fighting for justice, not for communism. Unfortunately, everyone wants to see it in a very simple light.

How do you view the Nicaraguan revolution?

We know of the good points of it—agrarian reform, the ability to vote, public health, literacy drives. El Salvador will find its own road to liberation, and it will be distinct from that of Nicaragua. But the power Nicaragua has given to the people we can identify with. The people live much better today.

What have been the effects of the Reagan administration’s policies on El Salvador?

During the Reagan administration we have seen an increase in military aid to the government and the simultaneous increase in repression. (U.S. Ambassador Dean) Hinton has assumed a larger role; he knows of the repression, the torture and raises not a word about it. To know and to do nothing is to ap­prove.

What has been the effect of the Mexican and French recognition of the guerrilla forces fighting the govern­ment? In the first place, it is a great blow against the United States and the junta. And secondly, it gives hope of meaning to the election (scheduled for March 1982). Without the participation of the FDR, elections would be completely invalid. It is, essentially, part of the humanization of the struggle.

What hope do you hold for the elections next March?

The elections will be an illusion, a show dressing without the participation of the FDR and other dissident groups. The election, at any rate, will only be meaningful if

Please see page 3

Counseling Services GROUPS AND WORKSHOPS
Winter 1982

For students interested in developing personal, interpersonal, and learning skills, and in realizing their career interest. The following groups and workshops are open for non-credit enrollment during the Winter 1982.

Typically, groups start the second week of the quarter and run for the remainder of that quarter. These are essentially personal-educational groups in which consistent participation and sharing add to the value of the experience. For information or to reserve a participant space, call or visit the COUNSELING CENTER by the end of the first week of the Winter Quarter: 546-2511/Administration Building, room 211.

* Held in the Health Center Conference Room
** Held in the Learning Assistance Center, Chase Hall
All other groups will meet in the Counseling Center/group room 3001

By Tony Cockey
Professor explains reasons for defeat in Vietnam

From page 2

The first reason the United States failed was because it fought a capital-intensive war, while the North Vietnamese dealt with American technological warfare with labor-intensive methods.

The Vietnamese in the north built 33 million bomb shelters, 31,000 miles of anti-bomb trenches and organized a road repair crew of 128,000 people. Only 2 percent of the North Vietnamese infiltrating the south from the Ho Chi Minh Trail were killed by the intense bombing from the United States.

The second reason the United States failed was due to its strange character of having a "positive objective" in which we tried to create the Republic of Vietnam.

Despite our positive intentions, we not only began to fight the Vietnamese north of the 17th parallel, but also those in the south, too.

Beecher touched on the four categories that have typically been used by the academic and public worlds to explain the loss of the Vietnam War.

First, people believe domestic opposition caused the United States to lose the war. The lesson supposedly learned from this was to neutralize those opposed to the war, he said.

Second, the war was lost due to the American press, since the reporters apped the moral fiber of war by bringing the moral chaos of the conflict home. The lesson claimed to be learned from this is press must be controlled.

The third reason given by some is that the soldier's primary goal was to get out of Vietnam once he was there. The lesson learned from this was to draft soldiers for the duration of the conflict.

The fourth reason people have claimed the United States lost the Vietnam War is the one Beecher focused on—the belief that the troops were not permitted to win because, instead of fighting an all-out war, we restrained our technology.

Beecher said this escalation of technological warfare did not help the United States gain a decisive edge in the conflict.

The infiltration rate of North Vietnamese troops into South Vietnam increased from 2,000 in 1964 to almost 100,000 in 1968, proving that increased application of explosives did not stop the enemy's momentum.

Beecher said this escalation of technological warfare did not help the United States gain a decisive edge in the conflict.

An infiltration rate of North Vietnamese troops into South Vietnam increased from 2,000 in 1964 to almost 100,000 in 1968, proving that increased application of explosives did not stop the enemy's momentum.

As an example of the extent of the use of technology, Beecher told the audience 315,000 tons of explosives were dropped on Vietnam in 1968. This increased to three million tons by 1968.

Beecher said that this escalation of technological warfare did not help the United States gain a decisive edge in the conflict.

The infiltration rate of North Vietnamese troops into South Vietnam increased from 2,000 in 1964 to almost 100,000 in 1968, proving that increased application of explosives did not stop the enemy's momentum.

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Anti-nuclear vigil tonight

People Generating Energy will hold a vigil tonight from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the death of Karen Silkwood, a nuclear worker who died under suspicious circumstances while trying to expose health and safety violations in the nuclear industry. The candlelight vigil will take place at 7 p.m. at the Pacific Gas and Electric Co. office at Monterey and Morro streets in San Luis Obispo. According to a press release issued by the anti-nuclear group, the vigil will recognize "the importance of the work that Ms. Silkwood started."

The public is invited. Those attending should bring a candle, a jar and a friend.

For more information, call Pacific Generating Energy at 543-8402.
Wheelchair basketball

The Fraternity All-Stars had just narrowly defeated their opponents as the buzzer ended the game.

But it was just the beginning for the SLO Motion Riders whose enthusiasm was the real name of the game.

Wheelchair basketball returned to Cal Poly on Saturday as part of the International Year of Disabled Persons, which along with the Interfraternity Council, sponsored a fiercely fought ballgame. The all-stars won 24-18.

"It was a test to see how we could do," said Ernie Lee, a member of the Riders who had been practicing weekly since June. The group hopes to play several more games this year, according to Lee, who was happily surprised at the support and the turn out for the event.

Photos by Vince Bucci
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And that means unprecedented opportunities for you.
Stray SLO pets living in limbo

BY TRACY JACKSON

The best thing an owner can do for his or her pet is to have it spayed or neutered, said Boatwright.

"If people want to help, tell them to get their pets fixed," said Boatwright. "This will curb all of the unnecessary animal births that occur."

"Three agencies will do this," she said, but the price varies with a pet's age.

The three agencies in San Luis Obispo are Action for Animals Rights, Wood's Humane Society, and the San Luis Obispo Veterinary Clinic.

"Another thing you can do for your pet is to have him licensed and named," said Boatwright. "We get many animals that have collars but do not have a license or name tag, so we can't find the owners. These animals are obviously someone's pet. They feed them and take care of them, so why don't they license and name them?" she asked.

By law, all dogs over the age of four months are required to be licensed. Before March of each year, licensing costs $5 for spayed or neutered dogs, and $10 for non-spayed or neutered dogs. After March, this price doubles.

"This fee isn't very much to pay to stop overpopulation," said Boatwright. "And whenever people move, they change their mailing address, so why not change the name tag?"

Animals which are picked up by Animal Regulation are held for 72 hours. If they are not claimed within that time, they are put to sleep by sodium pentobarbital.

"From here the animals are taken to the rendering plant where they end up as fertilizer. It's so sad to see animals in here that you know are going to be destroyed," said Boatwright. "If a person loses a pet, this is the first place they should check, and so many people don't. We had a Dobberman here that was here for the 72 hours and was put to sleep. About an hour later, the owner came to see if it was here. All I could tell her was that she should have checked the very first day her dog was missing," said Boatwright.

"What we need is help in letting people know about what a problem this is," said Boatwright. "We have adoption volunteers and information volunteers to help us get the word out and find these animals a home," she said.

"I do have a Poly student, Kim Armstrong, who is an adoption volunteer and spends her off hours trying to find homes for these animals. What we need is more like her that care enough to do something about it," said Boatwright.

"I came here five years ago, and knew that this was a cause where I could make a difference. I've been here ever since," she said. "You never become numb to the death of these living, breathing creatures, but I stay here because I love them."

Vicki Boatwright, an employee at the county Animal Regulation Center, points to some of the leashes that were attached to animals who met their doom within the building.
Fraternity fund-raiser bounces into action

BY TRACY JACKSON
Staff Writer

The ping-pong balls are bouncing this week to benefit handicapped children in Delta Tau fraternity's third annual ping-pong marathon.

Active members, pledges and little sisters of the fraternity began the marathon Nov. 6 and will play 168 hours, or seven days, of ping pong. Funds will be raised through hourly pledges and some of the money will be donated to Loma Vista, a school for severely mentally and physically handicapped children. "We're hoping to raise a total of $4,000 this year," said Robert Woolery, director of money-making for Delta Tau. "Loma Vista will receive 60 percent of all proceeds made from the pong-a-thon, and the fraternity will keep the other 40 percent. This year we're striving to give Loma Vista $2,000," he added. In the previous years, Delta Tau donated checks to Loma Vista for over $1,800, all proceeds from pong-a-thons. "We've really been surprised and impressed with the amount of money Delta Tau has raised for our school," said Loma Vista Supervising Head Teacher Rayann Creuse. "Money for education is tight, especially in the area of special ed, and when Delta Tau chose us as their annual project three years ago, we were ecstatic," she said.

While Loma Vista and its staff of four are all Fund-raised by San Luis Obispo County, parents of the handicapped children are not required to pay any tuition to have their child attend the school. The money received this year from Delta Tau will be used to purchase special teaching aid equipment and T-shirts for the Special Olympics program. Delta Tau has earmarked their earnings for "remodeling and running the fraternity house," said Woolery.

Rebel victory termed 'a given'

From page 3: To keep the structural change that is necessary to transform Salvadoran society. How do you find North American students? They are more or less uniformed. The contrast is profound between students here and down there. We have been politized by the environment. We cannot avoid it when we see the reality of workers that earn all day what North Americans earn in two hours. You play 168 hours, or seven days, of ping pong. Funds will be raised through hourly pledges and some of the money will be donated to Loma Vista, a school for severely mentally and physically handicapped children. "We're hoping to raise a total of $4,000 this year," said Robert Woolery, director of money-making for Delta Tau. "Loma Vista will receive 60 percent of all proceeds made from the pong-a-thon, and the fraternity will keep the other 40 percent. This year we're striving to give Loma Vista $2,000," he added. In the previous years, Delta Tau donated checks to Loma Vista for over $1,800, all proceeds from pong-a-thons. "We've really been surprised and impressed with the amount of money Delta Tau has raised for our school," said Loma Vista Supervising Head Teacher Rayann Creuse. "Money for education is tight, especially in the area of special ed, and when Delta Tau chose us as their annual project three years ago, we were ecstatic," she said.

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Major contributors to this year's event that have been Critchfield Mechanical Inc., which has donated $500, J.B. Dewar, Exxon, which has donated $300, and San Luis Obispo, who has pledged $250 for the play-a-thon. Spuds' Place has also donated many air spots on KSLL radio.

In conjunction with the pong-a-thon event, Delta Tau will also host a Community Relations Day Nov. 11, for city and school administrators, local politicians, members of the media, fraternity and sorority presidents, as well as members of the business community and the Loma Vista staff and present 23 students.

"We have sent out 500 invitations and the feedback has been positive," said Doug Schubert, public relations director for Delta Tau. "This is a fund-raising project, but it is also an effort on our part to get them up to the house to see us and see what we're all about," said Schubert.

In attendance will be Mayor Melanie Billig, Cal Poly Dean of Students Russell Snow, City Councilman Dennis Hawk, all fraternity and sorority presidents and members of both the San Luis Obispo City Council and the ASI Student Senate. Radio station KSLL and television station KSBY will also have representatives attending.

"WE'VE GOT A DATE NOV. 19th."

"That's when the American Cancer Society asks every smoker to give up cigarettes for a day. Maybe you might find you can quit foreverr"

THE GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT
American Cancer Society
Professor calls U.S. hunger policies ‘ineffective’

BY JIM WITTY

U.S. policies in dealing with world hunger are becoming a subject of close scrutiny, even on the Cal Poly campus.

George Suchand, instructor of Geography of World Hunger (Geog 320), said he believes United States food aid to Third World countries has been ineffective. Suchand explained that much of the aid is limited to political allies of the United States.

"It’s not entirely humanitarian," said Suchand.

Dave Chapel, president of the Hunger Coalition, agrees.

"The U.S. aid projects need a complete restructuring," said Chapel. "They provide aid only to countries that are politically necessary."

According to Suchand, some of the food aid given to Third World countries actually becomes a disincentive. The food producers of developing countries come to rely on help from the United States. Often food aid is given even when it is not needed. When a disaster takes place that doesn’t affect food production, the United States has still been known to send food, he added.

"We should re-examine our priorities," said Suchand. "If we’re giving aid for political expediency, then we should admit it."

Suchand cited the inflexibility of government agencies as a major reason for the current policies. He felt that all bureaucratic operations are self-perpetuating," said Suchand.

Both Chapel and Suchand believe food aid should be given where it is needed, regardless of the political system.

"Emergency, food aid should go to all people regardless of political boundaries," said Suchand.

Chapel added, "I think that aid programs should be continued especially in the case of emergencies. We should give food aid regardless of political leanings."

"Geography 320 looks at the world food problem with respect to population in the geographic context," said Suchand. "We look at both sides of the issue."

Suchand claims that world population growth is one of the biggest problems facing the globe in the future. The opening paragraphs of a San Francisco Chronicle article Suchand circulates to Geog 320 class pinpoint the dilemma.

"On Connecticut Avenue six blocks northwest of the White House, you can see the most startling electric sign in Washington—or maybe anywhere..."

Under the words 'World Population' there is a ten-digit figure, with the last number flashing by so quickly you can hardly read it. At the instant I first saw the sign, the figure read 4,411,832,501. Fifty seconds later, the last three digits had changed to 673. Below the figure are the words: Every Minute Another 172 Persons."

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SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 20 Interviews are scheduled for November 20. Additional interviews are being scheduled. Early sign-up suggested.

If interviews are not convenient, please forward your resume to Pamela Thome, Employment Supervisor, HARRIS CORPORATION, Digital Telephone Systems Division, P.O. Box 1136, Novato, CA 94947. Salaries and benefits are most attractive. We are an equal opportunity employer.

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TAKING A CLOSER LOOK... ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 18

Dysan Corporation, Personnel Dept., 5201 Patrick Henry Drive, Santa Clara, CA 95050. An equal opportunity employer.
Coach of the Year

Cross country mentor no part-time coach

BY TOM CONLON
Sports Editor

Cal Poly women's cross country and track coach Lance Lasorda is familiar with the big-money, high-pressure world of major college athletics.

Recruited by several colleges for his running skills, Harter chose Texas Tech University where he captained both the cross country and track teams in his senior year. Harter was quick to find, however, that scholarships and a massive budget are not the only necessary ingredients in preparing athletes for competition.

"We were paid to perform," he said. "...the coach could care less about the individual."

Lured to a particular school by the promise of a full ride, many former high school standouts find themselves yet another name and number on a roster surrounded by inseminates of equal or superior ability.

"The most humiliating experience in my life was being treated like a number," said Harter.

Because of his experience as a college athlete, Harter now patterns his coaching techniques to insure none of his runners go through a similar ordeal.

"It's a job in which you can't internalize," Harter said. "...It's a job in which you can't monitor times," he said. "It gets exhausting at times."

While Harter's coaching techniques are being tested, his runners are going through a similar ordeal. "...Training-wise everything is going great." / He said. "...The individual attention women's cross country coach Lance Harter gives to his runners has undoubtedly been a factor in his success story.

Lasorda: Manager of the Year

NEW YORK (AP) - Tommy Laasorda, the good-humor man who managed the Cinderella Los Angeles Dodgers to their first world championship in 16 years, was named National League Manager of the Year by The Associated Press Tuesday.

Lasorda, the spirited leader of the huggingest team in baseball, was an easy winner in nationwide balloting by sports writers and broadcasters who watched him rally the Dodgers from the edge of elimination three times during postseason play.

He received 215 votes, outdistancing Whitey Herzog of the St. Louis Card­inals, who finished second with 163 votes. John McNamara of the Cincin­nati Reds was third, with 51 votes.

A consummate company man who continuously sings the praises of "Dodger Blue," Lasorda has been part of the organization as player, scout, coach and manager for 32 years.

He faced his most difficult challenge in 1981 with an aging team that some baseball people thought had passed its peak. But he enjoyed the Dodgers to their first world championship since 1965, and he did it in two languages.

Lasorda started the season boldly, turning over the Opening Day pitching assignment to a rookie left-hander who had never won a major league game.

"I was bold and I thought we'd get beat up," Lasorda said. "I was wrong, but that's baseball." He said his boldest move of the season was to start right-hander Bob Forsch in Game 1 of the World Series against Kansas City.

Forsch pitched seven scoreless innings and allowed only two hits in the Dodgers' 1-0 victory over the Royals in Game 1.

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Lasorda's managerial skills were doubtless in evidence in Game 2 of the series, when he used five pitchers in five innings to beat Kansas City, 9-1.

"It gets exhausting at times," he said. "I've never been a manager who was afraid of a young pitcher." He said even the Los Angeles Dodgers management was amazed when he named Forsch to start Game 6 of the World Series.

"I wanted to go with the guys I thought were the best," Laasorda said. "...The running game helped, too."

Lasorda's baseball acumen is well known. He began his career as a minor league catcher.

In 1969, in his first major league season, Lasorda hit .309 for the Giants.

In 1973, he was named manager of the Dodgers after the firing of former manager Walt Alston.

Lasorda's coaching staff included a number of former major league players, including Steve Garvey, Ron Cey and Steve Yeager.

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**Poloists lose two; gear up for CCAA**

Coach Russ Hafkerksen's water polo team is gearing up for the season's final meets with Air Force Academy and Fresno State, both held at Fresno on Saturday, Nov. 14, with the intentions of gaining for the California Collegiate Athletic Association Championship.

Cal Poly will likely be the No. 2 seed in the CCAA meet, held at UC Riverside on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 20-21, behind front-running San Diego. The Mustangs are 8-11 overall and 3-1 in conference action following last weekend's three matches.

The polists opened last weekend with a tough 16-9 loss to No. 3 ranked UC Santa Barbara. Dave Wilson scored four goals for Poly, with Bill Cawdallader adding three.

Facing the team in scoring this season are Cawdallader (35 goals), Kirk Sampson (24), Dave Wilson (18), Birney Birnbaum (13), and Chris Loisue (11).

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Opinion

Haunting ‘Z’ lab

Like a prolonged, stubborn illness, the decision by Executive Dean Doug Gerard to demolish the Architecture ‘Z’ lab six weeks ago continues to haunt the Cal Poly Administration.

Over 400 architecture students demonstrated last week that the issue of the lab’s swiftness, seemingly secretive destruction is far from dead, when a petition bearing their names was presented to the ASI Student Senate. What these students want are some reasonable explanations from the administration concerning the fate of the ‘Z’ lab.

What their petition seeks, most importantly, is a clear explanation behind the reasoning and processes that led up to the lab’s Sept. 26 destruction.

Such an explanation is the least these students should expect from the administration. Unfortunately, the administration has a poor record so far of showing cooperation in this case.

For his part, Gerard has repeatedly said the lab was demolished for safety and aesthetic reasons, and because it stood in the way of the future construction of the proposed Engineering South Building, as well as the planned extension of California Boulevard.

However, Gerard’s explanation continues to ignore many legitimate questions raised by students and faculty: Why was a mistake.

Frawls

By Mark Lawler

Wasted effort

A group of wealthy, conservative businessmen is preparing to launch an ideological juggernaut to do battle for the hearts and minds of all San Luis Obispo residents in the name of Capitalism, Mom and Apple Pie.

These businessmen have banded together to start FREED—the clever acronym for The Foundation for Responsible Environmental and Economic Development. Like most acronyms, it is hard to argue with the noble yet vague sentiments it suggests.

The group, however, is dedicated to changing the slow-growth, environmentally-aware posture assumed by the City Council, Mayor Melanie Billig and the county’s master plan for growth and development.

The members of FREED, such as developer Alex Madonna and realtors Bert Polin and Lynn Cooper, claim that government intrusion into the economy has stifled healthy growth and hindered the beneficial workings of laissez faire capitalism.

As a solution, they intend to raise $100,000 for political lobbying efforts for Jan. 1. A hard core of the group, known as the “Committee of 100,” is in charge of collecting the money from the well-off who fear for their chances to get well-off. Their first fund raiser alone drew $50,000.

The fact remains, though unseen by FREED, that residents of the city and county don’t need advice on how to think on questions of growth and the environment. Nor do their representatives need reminding of where their interests lie.

A slate of moderate growth, environmentally-aware candidates were voted into office in San Luis Obispo last November, many by a wide margin. The strongest, best-based efforts by developers and land speculators could not turn the tide. The votes of the citizens could not be bought then, and will not be bought now. Sick, costly media campaigns will surely lose momentum. They will tout the interests of the few, while ostentatiously concerned with the welfare of all. Sophisticated voters will consider the nation’s source.

Author Michael Winters is a senior journalism major and Mustang Daily staff writer.