Accreditation is important to the success of a university

By Craig Andrews

Accrediting associations have become synonymous with the role of setting standards for institutions and professional programs. But improving educational quality should not be the responsibility of these associations, said one Cal Poly school administrator.

"Accreditation is more of an assurance. Accrediting from an assurance standpoint is more realistic... it's easier to handle," said Dick Zwiefel, associate dean of the School of Architecture and Environmental Design.

Accreditation is important to the success of a university, said Walter R. Ding, dean of the School of Architecture and Environmental Design. "(Accreditation) is more of an assurance. Accrediting associations have become educators, the faculty in particular," said Ding.

The accrediting process can't be relied on to evaluate a program or university. "We have either annual evaluations of the performance of faculty or periodic peer evaluations," he said.

Self-evaluation is important to an institution, said Jon Ensminger, dean of the School of Communicative Arts and Humanities. "We have either annual evaluations of the performance of faculty or periodic peer evaluations," he said.

"The accrediting process can't be relied on to evaluate a program or university," said Ding, adding, "The accrediting process can't be relied on to improve or upgrade any programs, but it provides feedback and encouragement."

Accreditation plays a big part in the success of an institution, said Walter R. Mark, Cal Poly Academic program planner. "It's important that an institution has an accreditation. Degrees from non-accredited institutions are not recognized," he said. A $50,000 bond and a local bond issue in 1980 could establish a learning institution in Calaveras County that doesn't mean much unless you ACREDITATION."
Family Planning and the limits of good sense

It's one thing to try to argue the unacceptability of abortion based on religious, emotional and scientific grounds, but it is another thing altogether to argue for the cancellation of federal funding for Family Planning at the same time.

It has long been a fight of the conservative movement in this country to try to reverse the Supreme Court ruling concerning the legalization of abortion. The issue is a very complex one, with no completely acceptable answer for either side: pro-life or pro-choice.

Those on the pro-choice side decry the thought of legislation of our morality by a political movement that has long pledged less government intervention.

The Republican stance during the past several years has been one of a new federalism. The role of the federal government is to provide for the national defense and infrastructure.

The cutting back of social welfare oriented programs, shifting a larger share of the monetary burden to the states, has been rhetorical ammunion for some time.

It is no surprise that conservatives such as Jack Kemp (R-NY) are calling for the curtailment of funding for the national Family Planning Program.

They cry foul when it comes to abortion, but they are also pushing for the removal of the best preventative measures available: education and contraception.

They leave the often underaged, unwed with only two alternatives: abortion and abortion. Leaving out the moral issue, abortion is a premise unrealrsit hope.

Admittedly, the funding of Family Planning does not fit in with the current administration's goals of government. But neither does intervention into the private lives of individuals.

What is it to be? Understanding of human nature, or hypocrisy?
New plans for Dexter Building

By Check Buckley

The Dexter Building at Cal Poly will become the home of the art, city and regional planning and landscape architecture departments this spring, according to Cal Poly Executive Dean Douglas Gerard.

Of the 90,000 square foot building, only the ROTC section, book storage stacks, the presidents office, and the Cellar will remain the same.

Randy Deane, once a civil and mechanical engineering student at Cal Poly, is the project supervisor for Joseph B. Fratessa Architects of Monterey, the company hired to do the remodeling of the Dexter Building and the Sandwich Plant.

The remodeling began in February. Deane said an average of 25 to 30 workers have been involved in the project since then. Some of the unusual tasks completed include cutting through 2½ to 30 inches of concrete with large circular diamond tip blades to create doorways and splicing into live 20,000 volt electrical lines.

The Dexter Building is actually two buildings linked together. Deane said, "You can tell by looking at the difference in architectural style in the back," he said. The original building was built in 1947 and the addition came in 1961.

Formerly a library, the large rooms have since been sectioned off into 60-70 office spaces, bureaux rooms, classrooms, color and black and white darkrooms, 30 to 40 photographic processing rooms, photography studios, labs for airbrushing, matte cutting and an art gallery. The back of the building, where steel grinders now stand, will be rooms for jewelry making, glass blowing and clay work, Deane said.

Robert Reynolds, chairman of the Cal Poly art department, said he is looking forward to the move. "It's the first time in 25 years we'll be consolidated under one roof," he said. "We'll finally have adequate facilities.

Reynolds said the art department has been shuffled around to temporary buildings for a long time. He said the new facilities will be just in time for the California State University Art Conference to be held at Cal Poly this summer.

"We plan on moving into the building in the last part of winter quarter," Gerard said. "Classes are already scheduled there for the spring quarter."

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C_MC growth discussed by state subcommittee

By Jan Sprague

The problems created by the increased population at the California Men's Colony were discussed Monday during a California State Senate subcommittee meeting.

Fears of water shortages and prison overcrowding and concern that San Luis Obispo is carrying the bulk of state prison problems were expressed by county officials and the public.

The committee was chaired by Sen. Robert Presley, who was joined by members Sen. Kenneth Maddy and Assemblyman Eric Seastrand. Both senators said they hoped the meeting would help find solutions to the problems that the increased prison population has brought to the county.

Assemblyman Eric Seastrand said he hoped the meeting would help remove fears that local people are feeling and find ways to improve communications between prison authorities and San Luis Obispo County.

The impact of CMC on the local community is positive economically, said Presley, but it has many negative impacts on the environment.

"Prison overcrowding is a statewide problem," said Presley. "The problem is no one prison in their backyard.

More efficient law enforcement has caused an ironic overcrowding of state prisons, said Presley.

"We can't afford to get too efficient in the legal system until we get more efficient in the prison system," said CMC Wardm Wayne Estelle testified that the facility was originally designed for 3,500 prisoners, but now holds 6,123.

"We've reduced daily water allocation from 180 gallons per prisoner to 143 gallons," said Estelle. CMC has also reduced prisoners into desert landscapes around the prison and changed laundering habits to conserve more water, said Estelle.

Morro Bay Mayor Pro-tem Bruce Risley read a statement to the committee on behalf of Morro Bay citizens. The statement expressed concern over the Morro Bay water crisis and citizens' concern about having the world's largest walled prison in their backyard.

"This prison is in a county that is based on tourism," said Risley. "Many of the people living here have moved from large cities to get away from this sort of thing."

San Luis Obispo Mayor Melanie Billig expressed appreciation for the subcommittee's attention to a problem that stems from what Billig termed a lack of communication.

Los Angeles needs to be more sensitive to problems of overcrowded prisons since they are responsible for putting people in them, said Billig. They can no longer look at San Luis Obispo County as a dumping ground, she said.

"We're bearing more of our fair share," Los Angeles does not have a state prison in its city. They have more legislative power by state numbers, said Billig.

Billig is also chairperson of the Whale Rock Reserve Committee. Water from the reservoir is shared by Cal Poly, CMC, Morro Bay and Cayucos. "We're in the second year of a drought," said Billig, and CMC is currently using 11 percent of the Whale Rock Reserve Water. They're cutting into Cal Poly's share.

"Has anyone asked the university to start conserving water?" asked Presley. Billig replied that conservation is helpful, but not a solution.

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Library show has photos by students

By Lynette Wong

The theme of spontaneity and diversity describe the photo exhibits on display at the current exhibit at the E. Kennedy Library through November.

The exhibition, "Eight Minutes," the exhibits feature the works of 11 applied art and design students whose concentration is in photography. It was coordinated by Mary Fullwood, an applied art and design major, and art professor Robert Howell, with help from Instructional Related Activities and the library.

The exhibit displays an array of photography styles ranging from fine art to commercial advertising. "It's nice to know that even though one photograph is different from the same program, we've established our own styles and are able to express them," Fullwood said.

Laura Martin, one of the photographers in the exhibit, said her photos explore the art photography and titles them by using the names of songs. "I want the viewer to take time to know what the feeling of the photograph is and think about it."

One of her photos shows a man walking into a room, his face backlit with light shining through. She said the title "the stilled" is made up, "It's Christ" because the way the man is walking looks like Christ hanging on the cross.

Fullwood said other photos express an Illumination of commercial flavor. "Commercial photography's always very attractive to generate sales," she said. One depicts a picture at a beach by showing the legs of a lady sitting next to a bowl of oranges set against a picnic blanket.

Others incorporate more abstract ideas into the commercial style, such as one photograph with a group of pictures that close-up of the bellows of a camera.

Submission to the exhibit is free.
Student caretakers live in Poly Canyon

Front page 1

Life in the canyon also means becoming accustomed to the animal population. "Keeping the cattle out of my living room is a constant struggle for Johnson," he said. "I have tried all sorts of ways to keep the pesky animals away. I think they see the game going on my lawn and go crazy," Johnson said.

Other members of the canyon menagerie include numerous deer, two roadrunners, a skunk, a dog named Shannon, four cats and lots of insects. "One thing I wish were not up here are the tarantulas — I'm not a spider person," Johnson said.

Other canyon creatures don't pose as many problems for Johnson. "I like to sit on the porch in the morning, have a cup of coffee and watch the deer. It's a good way to start the day," Johnson said.

While living in a canyon may sound idyllic, there are problems to contend with, such as the limited water supply. Johnson said it took him three and a half days to fill his water bed and last summer, when water was needed for a project, they had to haul it into the canyon in 55-gallon drums on a tractor.

However, the two are hopeful that their water problems will soon be solved. They recently tapped into a spring and are currently awaiting test results to make sure the water is safe. Positive results could mean an end to showers that are little more than a trickle during the dry summer months or when someone accidentally leaves the water on in the canyon restrooms.

With the winter weather approaching, water can cause other problems for the two students. Rain can make the dirt road leading to their houses a muddy mess and, while the structures are innovative, they are not always watertight. When it rained for the first time this year, Jackson said he quickly found out where all the leaks in his roof were located. His current project includes painting a sealant on his roof before the rainy season hits with full force.

Johnson is working on a wall unit in his home which will create more storage space. He doesn't think of it as a chore, but rather something he'll enjoy doing. "Some people like to sit down on a Sunday afternoon and drink a beer and watch football, but I like to build things," Johnson said.

Both agree that it takes a lot of time just to keep their places inhabitable. Each caretaker is required to spend 13 hours a week on various canyon projects and repair work, but basically, it's an honor system, Zwiefel said. "I know they work a lot more than we expect them to."

The caretakers must also stagger their vacations so someone is in the canyon at all times, said Zwiefel.

Johnson estimates he spends close to 21-22 hours a week as canyon caretaker. "There is definitely a lot to do out here — there is always something. A lot of people come up and say it looks like a construction site. That's exactly what it is," said Johnson.

Jackson said he figures that just about the time he gets everything working in his house, his two-year stay will be over and he'll have to leave.

Despite the hard work, both Johnson and Jackson said the benefits of canyon living far outweigh the minor inconveniences. They both think the experience gained in repairing the structures will prove very valuable after graduation. "I've learned more up here than I have in half my classes," said Johnson.

Jackson said that while it can get lonely at times, one of the major advantages is not having to deal with landlords or neighbors. "You don't have to worry about the guy next door. I can play my stereo as loud as I want," said Jackson.

He also lists the peace and quiet of the canyon as a major advantage. "There else can you sit on your porch, watch the stream dribble by and watch the deer?" said Johnson.
**Sports**

**Women runners race into regionals**

**By Andy Frojek**

- Even the most cautious gamblers would be tempted to bet their money on the Mustang's cross country team this Saturday at the Division II Western Regional meet.

The betting form will note the Mustangs are running in a meet they have never lost, on a course they have never been beaten on, and with a perfect record against their Division II opponents this year. So it's a safe bet the Mustangs will be in the winner's circle again this weekend.

Even though Cal Poly has won five regional meets in a row, don't think the Mustangs are taking this one lightly. Coach Lance Harter drove his team all the way to Sacramento two weeks ago just to check out the course.

"The course I saw two years ago and what I saw two weeks ago are completely different," Harter said. "It has basically the same layout, but every time it rains the course changes."

Located at Sierra College in Rocklin, the course starts and finishes on the same football field the San Francisco 49ers use for summer workouts. But once the runners proceded into a nearby oak forest, the straight layout and good footing disappear.

"The best description I've heard is that it is a moat course," Harter said. "It has a lot of dips and quick turns. It's challenging, especially the second mile."

"It's a narrow course. It's not open enough so you can attack at will. You have to set up behind."

The Mustangs plan to run the first half mile cautiously but plant to be in position to control the field from that point on, Harter said.

"We don't want to expend too much energy to get to the front," said Harter.

From there, the Mustangs will try to control the pace of the race until the two mile mark, where they hope to use their superior speed to run away from the field.

"If people want to run with us on leg speed they're at a serious disadvantage," said Harter.

While the Mustang pack may succeed in pulling away from the field, they're sure to get a battle along the way. The meet is almost a preview of the national championships with four of the top six ranked teams competing. Besides the Mustang runners, at least eight runners of all-American caliber will be present at the starting line.

"Not only does the Western region have a lot of depth behind, individually it has a lot of depth too," said Harter. "The front pack is going to be very large and everybody's going to be after a piece of the pie."

The main competition for the number one Mustang should come from second-ranked UC Davis and fourth-ranked Cal State Northridge.

"The course is in Davis' backyard. They are very familiar with it," said Harter. "Norridge has been the team that's been the closest to us in scoring, but you have to remember our second team has beaten them."

Paly's Jill Ellington outpoints Houston's Jackie Lee. In the Cal Poly meet, Poly heads for regionals on Saturday.

Harter said he considers his top four runners — Lori Lopez, Katy Manning, Jennifer Dunn, and Jill Ellington — to be solid contenders for the individual title. Manning finished second in last year's meet with Ellington taking fourth, followed by Dunn in fifth and Lopez in eighth.

"We have seven people capable of running in the top 15. If we could do that we would be awesome," Harter said.

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ACCREDITATION

From page 1

the institution is accredited, Mark said.

Accreditation is largely an American phenomenon, according to Richard M. Millard, president of the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation. In an article in the May 1983 issue of Change, Millard states, "In most other countries quality assessment is a governmental regulatory function. The self-regulatory character of accreditation in the United States reflects the diversity... of higher education in this country."

Accreditation is generally carried out by peers in the education field. These include public and professional representatives. Ding said, while accreditation must provide a policing role in some professional programs, it would not be appropriate for the government to intervene in the process. "Accreditation should reside with the educators; we are the policemen," he said.

"Reputation matters more than accreditation," said John Culver, political science department head. "You can have accreditation and have a poor reputation. And you cannot have accreditation but have a good reputation. Of the two, reputation is much more important than accreditation. At Stanford, they're not worried about the school of business not being accredited; it's their reputation that draws students," Culver said.

"Reputation is one thing to think about. You have to think about the reputation of the alumni," said Dick Morrow, a counselor at San Luis Obispo Senior High School.

But for high school students, "Reputation is financial cost, and majors are the biggest determinant in selecting a college," said Morrow. "A lot of students have a lot of pressure put on them by their parents as to where to go. They also decide whether to leave the area or stay and go to Cuesta and Cal Poly," he added.

University accreditation differs from specific program accreditation. While it is not always imperative for a department to seek accredited status, its mother institution is almost compelled to seek this status.

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University accreditation differs from specific program accreditation. While it is not always imperative for a department to seek accredited status, its mother institution is almost compelled to seek this status.

According to an article by Robert A. Scott in the May 1983 issue of Change, "Accrediting bodies have advertised their equivalent of the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval so widely that most institutions must seek the status even if they are uncertain of its value."

At Cal Poly, there are 80 academic programs but only 24 are accredited by their own professional accrediting boards.

Tomorrow, part three will examine why some departments are accredited and others are not.

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