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 official.

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

"It should be the responsibility of professional educators. Accrediting themselves," he said. Zwiefel has served on accrediting teams for the University of Tennessee and the University of Nebraska.

Self-evaluation is important to an institution, said Jon Ericson, 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.

Accreditation and self-evaluation are both important to the evaluation of a program or university, Ding said, adding: "The accrediting process can't be relied on by educators 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 a university have accreditation. Degrees from non-accredited institutions are often not transferable," he said. A $50,000 bond and a local vote are required to establish a learning institution in Califorina that doesn't mean much unless we accredit it," he added.

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Mustang Daily
California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo

Tarantulas and students share home

By Rebecca Berener

Leaky roofs, a limited water supply and a thriving tarantula population may sound like a renter's nightmare, but they are all part of day-to-day life for two Cal Poly students.

Four-year architecture major Philip Johnson and second-year construction major Tom Jackson are student caretakers for 12 acres of land in Poly Canyon.

The pair live in two student-built experimental structures. Instead of paying rent, the students work as caretakers grading roads and repairing plumbing and water lines. They are also responsible for general maintenance of the eight major existing structures and numerous smaller projects in the canyon such as bridges, sundials and an amphitheater.

"The caretaker position involves a fair amount of physical labor. They're expected to repair plumbing and buildings, and they definitely need handy-person experience," said Dick Zwiefel, associate dean of the School of Architecture and Environmental Design and coordinator for canyon activities.

Caretakers are selected from the School of Architecture and Environmental Design for a two-year period. Their stay is staggered so that one experienced person remains and a new person is chosen each year.

Zwiefel said Johnson is beginning his second year as caretaker, but Johnson just moved in at the beginning of the quarter.

In return for their labor, the caretakers live rent-free in two of the most unusual houses in town. Johnson lives in a modular building that can be taken apart in sections while Johnson calls a giant shell-shaped structure his home.

Because the structures are so unusual, giving impromptu tours to curious passersby has become part of the caretakers' daily routines.

"On a nice day we'll have a constant stream of people visiting. Joggers or students who want to show their parents the canyon will come by," Johnson said.

Dunin is mayor by big margin

By Susan Harris

Ron Dunin defeated Melanie Billy in an election for the office of mayor of San Luis Obispo, while Allen Neff and Penny Rappa captured the two City Council seats up for election.

With 100 percent of city precincts reporting, Dunin received 4,667 votes or 55.6 percent, while Billy received 3,994 votes or 44 percent.

Neff, who led the City Council race by a comfortable margin all evening, received 3,944 votes or 48.8 percent, while Rappa kept a consistent second place with 3,093 votes or 39.2 percent.

"My key to victory was running a low key campaign," said Dunin. "I attacked nobody. He said he wasn't necessarily surprised he wasn't surprised he won, but he was surprised at his large margin of victory."

"I promise to form a kitchen cabinet," Dunin said. Student representation on the cabinet is a top priority, he added.

In the city council race, Hubbard and Beace were neck and neck for third throughout the evening, but in the end Beace captured 2,736 votes or 17.3 percent for third, while Hubbard got 2,730 or 17.1 percent.

In fifth place was Gary Bowler, who received 1,993 votes or 12.4 percent, followed by Cal Poly student Paul Lewis, who received 1,032 votes or 4.5 percent. In last place was Paul Ayres, with 601 votes or 4.2 percent.

After looking at the results, Lewis, the only student to run for a seat, said he would run again in the next City Council election.

Rappa said, "I intend to follow through with my campaign promises of student housing and continued relations with Cal Poly."

"We are looking forward to working with the new mayor," Dunin, she replied. "I'm open to everyone."}

Prison problems

The Cal Poly women's cross country team gets set to head for its sixth straight regional victory. Page 6.
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 all together 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.

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Gorbachev prepares for summit

MOSCOW (AP) — Secretary of State George P. Shultz wound up 14 hours of "vigorous discussion" with Soviet Leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev and other Kremlin officials Tuesday, saying the talks failed to narrow the superpowers' differences on arms control.

Shultz said that despite "serious disagreements, the two sides had pledged to work hard" in preparing the Nov. 19-20 summit meeting between President Reagan and Gorbachev in Geneva.

"Basically, we have a lot to do," Shultz said.

In a news conference before departing for an overnight refueling stop in Iceland, Shultz tempered his downbeat appraisal of arms control.

"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."

Authorities question KGB agent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union has agreed to permit U.S. authorities to interview Vitaly Yurchenko, a KGB official who came to the United States three months ago, to determine if he truly wants to return to the Soviet Union, a State Department official said Tuesday.

The official, speaking on condition he not be identified, said the interview would take place at the department later Tuesday.

New plans for Dexter Building

By Chuck 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 E. Douglas Gerard.

Of the 40,000 square foot building, only the ROTC section, book storage stacks, the counselors office, and The Cellar will remain the same.

Randy Deane, a civil and mechanical engineering student at Cal Poly, in the project supervisor for Joseph B. Frateschi, architect 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 23 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 90-30 office spaces, beverage rooms, classrooms, color and black and white darkrooms, 30 to 40 photographic processing rooms, photography studios, labs for airbrushing, macro cutting, and an art gallery. The back of the building, where seed 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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CMC growth discussed by state subcommittee

By Jan Sprague

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

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

The committee was chaired by Sen. Robert Presley, who was joined by committee 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 about prison inmates and San Luis Obispo.

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 has a prison in their backyard.

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

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

"We've reduced daily water allocation down from 180 gallons per prisoner to 143 gallons," said Estelle. CMC has also reduced paper use and desert landscapes around the prison are changed to other more water conserving habits, said Estelle.

"We improved marketing budget of over $800 million to $700 million," saidPresley. "If more efficient in the legal system until we 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 the problems of overcrowded prisons because 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.

"A city like San Luis Obispo does not have the political clout that a city like Los Angeles has," said Billig.

"We're bearing more than our fair share." Los Angeles does not have a state prison in its county. They have more legislative power by sheer 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 Whole Whale Rock Reserve. 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.

Largest water pumped in by committee members

"The problem is no one wants a prison in their backyard." — Sen. Robert Presley

Library show has photos by students

By Lynette Wong

The display features 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.

"It's nice to know that even though we have all one concentration, we have all one style, we have all one medium," said Fullwood.

Laurie Martin, one of the photographers in the exhibit, said she enjoys making commercial art photography and titles them by using the names of songs.

Martin said she enjoys taking pictures that leave the viewer in question.

"I like a lot of mystery in my photography. 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 with a lamp shining light through. She said it is titled "Light of the World" because the way the man stands looks like Christ hanging on the cross.

Fullwood said other photos depict an imaginative commercial style. "Commercial photography is not to be attractive to generate sales," she said.

She added that photographers can be more humanistic in their approach.

"Others incorporate more abstract ideas into the commercial style, such as one photograph which is a close-up of the bellows of a camera.

Admission 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, who has tried all sorts of homemade devices to keep the pesky animals away. "I think they see the game game of 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."

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, Johnson 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. The truth of the matter 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. "Where else can you sit on your porch, watch the deer dribble by and watch the stream?" said Johnson.

A glimpse into the living room of Johnson's shell-shaped home.

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**Sports**

**Women runners race into regionals**

By Andy Frojek

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

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

"Not only does the western region have a lot of depth on the course, but you have to remember our second team has beaten them," Harter said.

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

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

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-time top four runners — Lori Lopez, Jill Ellingson, DeBettencourt and Sherri Minkler — to follow closely behind.

"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

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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 deciding on a financial aid package, 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. 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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