Traci Bender introduces Archimedes, a great horned owl, to day camp students.

Student teaches kids about zoo

By Cindi Floyd

A liberal studies student is gaining valuable experience from her summer job by combining her expertise in zoo animals and her educational background to direct the summer youth day camp at the Charles Paddock Zoo.

Bender has been hired by the Atascadero Parks and Recreation Department to direct a summer youth day camp at the Charles Paddock Zoo. The Cal Poly senior is concentrating on achieving her bachelor's degree and two credentials in elementary teaching and life science. She is now using her expertise in zoo animals and her educational background to direct the Atascadero's Nature, Sun and Fun summer day camp.

"The one-week day camps are important resource that coordinates with the weekly themes. The camp is a combination of the parks and recreation department wanting to have a day camp and Bender wanting to develop an educational program for the zoo. Bender has some zoo training from attending Moorpark College in Centrepointe that has formally agreed to order books for the dissenting professors is Bookland.

The camp meets on the grass of the Atascadero Lake Park with about 30 students ranging from kindergarten to sixth grade.

The camp is a combination of the parks and recreation department wanting to have a day camp and Bender wanting to develop an educational program for the zoo. Bender has some zoo training from attending Moorpark College.

The camp is "birds that have feathers." At the end of the week there is a special activity that includes food. "This Friday we are going to cook potatoes in a fire. Last week we cooked hot dogs," Bender said.

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The camp has crafts and special activities that center on the weekly themes. This week's theme is "birds that have feathers." At the end of the week there is a special activity that includes food. "This Friday we are going to cook potatoes in a fire. Last week we cooked hot dogs," Bender said.

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El Corral profits will be target in textbook boycott

By Mary Eddy

A group of Cal Poly professors will order textbooks for fall quarter from off-campus bookstores such as El Corral Bookstore in a way of protesting the Foundation's decision not to divest from companies doing business in South Africa.

The Cal Poly Committee Against Apartheid, formerly called Concerned Cal Poly Faculty and Staff, has initiated the pilot program to decrease profits made at El Corral Bookstore in an effort to change the Foundation's decision not to divest.

The pilot program consists of at least three or four professors in various departments who will order textbooks from off-campus bookstores such as Bookland in downtown San Luis Obispo, instead of at the Foundation-owned El Corral Bookstore.

The program is designed to affect the profits the Foundation receives from the sale of textbooks, said Elie Axelroth, a counselor at the Counseling Center and spokesperson for the group. "Our intent is to place economic pressure on the Foundation to show this issue will not go away and that we're serious in our goal to see Cal Poly divest," said Axelroth.

Right now the only bookstore that has formally agreed to order books for the dissenting professors is Bookland.

The pilot program works and if it isn't effective, we will continue to act for as long as need be. We'll see how the pilot program works and if it isn't effective, we will continue to act for as long as need be. We'll see how the pilot program works and if it isn't effective, we will continue to act for as long as need be.

The group plans to expand its program and get more professors to order books off campus if the pilot is successful during fall quarter and if the Foundation still refuses to divest. "We will continue to act for as long as need be. We'll see how the pilot program works and if it isn't effective, we will continue to act for as long as need be.

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Stephanie Bautista

The Cal Poly Committee Against Apartheid believes students will save money by purchasing books off campus because, according to Axelroth, the Foundation prices books at El Corral above the standard list and profits at El Corral will be target in a textbook boycott.

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When smoke gets in your eyes

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE THERE'S FIRE — EXCEPT when you're trying to light the barbecue. Sometimes I get the feeling they're making briquettes out of asbestos. If your house was on fire the only thing that wouldn't be burning is the bag of charcoal in the garage. You figure it out. For two hours a weekend I have seemed of box matches unsuccessfully trying to get a fire going, and usually there's some guy's car backfires near a brush fire. What's the trick? It is apparent that the state of state has either changed his views or had not been sincere in the first place.

The value of the Goodwill Games is significant. At a time when President Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev have difficulties in deciding when and where to get together, let alone make progress, a U.S. Olympic Games has worked independently of the United States and the Soviet Union would be able to compete in a multisport competition for the first time in 10 years.

The decision to impose the ban, which also included two team handball players and one pentathlete, was made by Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger. The reason the Defense Department gave for imposing the ban is that regulations prohibit members of the military or its civilian employees from participating in "any activities determined to be political in nature or intended to benefit selectively, or profit any agency or commercial concern." This regulation evidently hopes that the best athletes from the United States and the Soviet Union would be able to compete in a multisport competition for the first time in 10 years.

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CFA reaches impasse in contract negotiations

By Vincent Aviani

The California Faculty Association has reached an impasse in their attempt to negotiate a new contract.

The previous CFA contract officially expired on June 30, making a void in the current obligations and practices of faculty members at Cal Poly and the remaining 18 campuses in the California State University system.

Negotiations for a new contract were scheduled to be completed by the first week of July. However, because of contract disagreements between the CFA and the CSU system, a settlement seems to be a long way off.

“There are really four questions in the big fight. These are the things that the faculty are looking for in a new contract,” said Adelaide T. Elliot, current CFA president.

According to Elliot, these four primary points of contention in the contract talks include:

- The CSU desire to separate rank and salary
- The proposed elimination by the CFA of the Faculty Early Retirement Program
- “There are really four questions in the big fight. These are the things that the faculty are looking for in a new contract,” said Elliot.

Still, the CSU is not in favor of binding arbitration. That is, when a situation becomes unsolvable at the bargaining table, an arbitrator must be hired to settle the problem. Once the conflict has been ruled on, it is the purpose of binding arbitration to force management or faculty to accept the decision.

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The CFA president said Adlaide T. Elliot, current CFA president.

The current rank and salary arrangement is unacceptable to the CSU. Instead of linking the amount of seniority with pay, as is now practiced, the CSU would like to uncouple the two.

“I don’t know if we’ll win this one or not, but I hope so,” said Elliot.

The second issue is more important to faculty than separating rank and salary. Under the current retirement program, faculty members are eligible for retirement at age 55, but may continue to work until they are 70 if they want. According to Elliot, a primary function of the program is that it allows faculty members who are in the “window” between 55 and 70 to work part-time at the university and do research or pursue private interests the rest of the year.

The program is beneficial for both the university and the faculty retirees, Elliot said. It allows the university to keep senior faculty members on staff and allows the administration time to find suitable replacements. In addition, the current program eases the trauma felt by many persons at retirement.

Still, the CSU is not in favor of this program because it has become too complicated to manage.

“It’s basically a management problem because they aren’t managing properly,” said Elliot.

The third area includes the need for a binding arbitration. That is, when the situation becomes unsolvable at the bargaining table, an arbitrator must be hired to settle the problem. Once the conflict has been ruled on, it is the purpose of binding arbitration to force management or faculty to accept the decision.

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Elliot said Adlaide T. Elliot, current CFA president.

“Those things are used as a criteria for promotion, so they should be the final decision in a dispute,” said Elliot.

Finally, a reduction in the class load taught by each faculty member is another goal of the CFA negotiators.

The current pay rate is based on a workload of 12 weighted teaching units per quarter, which includes three classes at three units each, plus three units for advising and other duties such as committee work and research.

“These things are used as a criteria for promotion, so they should be the final decision in a dispute,” said Elliot.

However, regardless of the impasse situation, the present CFA contract will continue unchanged throughout the duration of the bargaining process.
$78 million expected

Bond act could fund new facilities

By Pamela Varma

The California State University Board of Trustees is backing a Senate bill that is expected to generate $78 million for higher education facilities. If approved by voters on Nov. 4, the Higher Education Facilities Bond Act would allow the issuance of $700 million in bonds to fund the construction of facilities at University of California, CSU, California Maritime Academy and community college campuses.

According to Sheila Chaffin, assistant vice chancellor of physical planning and development, commissions from the bond sales are expected to total $78 million and should be available for distribution to schools by January 1987.

"The Board of Trustees is 100 percent in favor of the bill and always has been," Chaffin said.

New construction, remodeling of existing buildings and equipment purchases will be considered for a share in the bond sales, said Bill Whiteneck, consultant to the Senate Education Committee.

Specific guidelines for eligible projects are contained in the Budget Act of 1986 which was recently signed by Gov. George Deukmejian. Whiteneck said under the Budget Act, non-instructional projects such as student activities and dormitory improvements cannot receive bond revenues.

Whiteneck said funds will be distributed on a project-by-project basis and no school will be guaranteed a certain amount of money.

"This bill is supported by just about every higher education organization you can think of," Whiteneck said. He said he doesn't think any group is opposing the bill.

Cal Poly Executive Dean Douglas Gerard said the university has submitted requests for a total of $3 million in architectural drawings for a new dairy science instructional center to replace the old Dairy Unit.

In addition, 4.5 million has been requested for remodeling plans for Engineering East. Plans are to include the rehabilitation of 11 laboratory rooms that were designed in the 1950s. Gerard termed both the Engineering East labs and the old Dairy Unit "obsolete."

Because commissions from the bond sales will also be available for use on 1987-88 budgets, Gerard said funds will probably be requested for parts of the rec center construction.

Funds for capital outlays such as these were previously acquired from pipeline oil revenues. Whiteneck said this bill was devised when 1986 estimated oil revenues dropped from $425 million to $90 million because of the decrease in oil prices.

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By Gwen Dawkins

When Tye Conlan was asked to test machine efficiency at the Sonoma Pacific Company, he found out where the problems were, designed a program to increase efficiency and then produced the necessary mechanisms to make the program work.

When Cheryl Ann Reeves was hired by IBM to work in its programming department, she was whisked from sunny California to the dead of winter in Rochester, Minnesota, leaving behind her parents, boyfriend and friends.

These may seem like the activities of established career-oriented people on the upwardly mobile scale, but they're actually Cal Poly students who recently took part in the Cooperative Education Program.

The program is designed to give students on-the-job training before they graduate. Students who participate are given an edge over students without any experience because they have already learned on-the-job basics.

Assistant Director of Cooperative Education Pat Howard estimates there are about 1000 Cal Poly students currently involved in co-ops. Corporations such as IBM, Disneyland, Robinson's and McDonnell-Douglas are among hundreds of those who train students through the co-op program.

Howard said students gain a real sense of development and confidence through participation in the program. She said employers benefit as well because they are given control over students to train them and evaluate their abilities, which often leads to hiring students upon graduation.

Howard said that recently a student was hired by a company after six months on a co-op. If the company had advertised for the job, it would have required someone with at least two years experience. The company felt the student's extensive training gave her an advantageous edge, Howard said.

Reeves, a business senior, said she would recommend a co-op to anyone, particularly out-of-state co-ops. "You mature so much on a co-op. You not only learn how to develop skills, it will help you in your career, you also learn to rely on yourself. It's very valuable because mom and dad or your boyfriend aren't there to do things for you. You have to do it.

"The work I did for IBM was real work, not 'go-for' work. When I made a suggestion, they really listened. Several of my ideas were even implemented. And they really stressed to me that they wanted me to do valuable work and not just what someone else didn't want to do."

Conlan, an agricultural engineering major, arranged his own co-op. He was already familiar with the company he wanted to work for. He sent his resume and suggested the idea to the company and got the approval of the co-op office. Conlan said he had a lot of go-for work to do but didn't look at it as a negative aspect. "When you first start out on a job, your employer doesn't really care what you can or can't do. So one way to find out is to give you a variety of things to work on. The company I worked for was small, probably with less than 100 employees. Everyone that worked there had to do a certain amount of go-for work."

Conlan is glad he had the opportunity because it was highly educational and helpful. However, he regrets that his co-op paid substantially less than many that are available. Students are usually offered competitive wages, often beginning at $8 to $10 per hour.

Conlan plans to parlay in one or two more co-ops before graduating to see how other companies work and train their employees.
It seems unimaginable now, but almost a year ago to this day Cal Poly and much of San Luis Obispo County were surrounded by flames.

The Las Pilitas fire had virtually enveloped the city after firefighters had spent a week fighting the blaze, which investigators now say probably started when car exhaust ignited parched roadside grass.

Cal Poly was shut down and students watched from their dorms, apartments or the roofs of houses as the fire raced down the hills northeast of Johnson Avenue.

By the morning of the fire's eighth day, residents were given many reasons to be nervous. The air had become thickened with smoke and a steady rain of falling ash created a hazardous nuisance. The weather and the winds had conspired against the firefighters, who had hoped to stop the fire's advance with a 50-foot-wide firebreak in the hills northeast of town. Instead, the much-needed night fog hadn't moved in and winds had picked up to 60 mph.

Sections of San Luis Obispo were evacuated and radio stations played matchmaker for people offering shelter to homeless families, horses and farm animals displaced by the 45,000-acre blaze.

Helicopters carrying huge buckets of water and fire-retardant chemicals tried dousing the flames as they moved down the hill toward Marsh Street. At least 200 firefighters were at the bottom of the hill, a last vanguard between the flames and several homes. For a time, it seemed they were losing the battle. Students who had hiked past the Poly "P" to a ridge overlooking the fire muttered hope that the helicopters and men could prevent the flames from reaching the city or jumping Highway 101.

Somehow, their hopes became reality -- the flames were within 200 feet of an expensive ranch home when the wind shifted, blowing the fire back up the hill and extinguishing it amid already burned weeds.

The fight continued and reinforcements were called in to fight new fires caused by a lightning storm. Yosemite Hall was saved as lodging and command post for many of the 2,000 firefighters who came from throughout the state. Parking lots across from the dorms were filled with fire trucks from distant counties.

The firefighters were tired, having spent the early summer battling blazes in Big Sur and the Los Padres National Forest. They spoke of fighting the fire "for 48 hours straight. No sleep, just blinding smoke." They also said that the Las Pilitas was the biggest fire they'd ever seen, one that shifted and defied firebreaks "as if it had a mind of its own."

Student volunteers helped feed the weary men; others manned the communication network which linked men and machines. On Cuesta Grade near Santa Margarita, the night sky was still brightly lit. Highway 101 north of the Marsh Street exit was closed and soon another fire was to close Highway 1.

San Luis Obispo had become an isolated Cinder-strewn outpost, surrounded by orange light, smoke and flaming embers.

Firemen raced up and down the deserted highway with flamethrowers and water tanks, trying to either burn or douse the fire's fuel before it could use the dried underbrush to jump the highway. Highway patrolmen watched with amazement as crew leaders in asbestos suits literally walked into the flames in order to reach strategic ridges where they could view the damage and direction of the fire. Aerial fireballs were floating southwest on the wind, crossing the highway and causing another contingent of men to peer nervously into the darkness on the Cal Poly side of the road. They knew that Highway 101 was their only firebreak. "If it had crossed the road, there would have been no stopping it. We could have easily lost another 50,000 acres," a fireman said later.

Many students fled Cal Poly, pleased with the unscheduled vacation but unhappy with the confusion which pervaded the situation. Students were not sure until late one night that school would be canceled the next day, and resident managers in the dorms responded with an unassuring "who knows?" when asked about evacuation plans. Students were also worried by rumors that Cal Poly President Warren Baker might declare summer quarter academically canceled if too many classes were forfeited to the emergency. However, many students chose to simply forget such concerns by going to Avila Beach or holding "evacuation parties."

Finally, the weather helped firemen control and conquer the Las Pilitas fire, which was officially declared extinguished almost two weeks after it began. Millions of dollars in damages were estimated, and some officials said $1 million was spent fighting the inferno. Miraculously no one had died as a direct result of the blaze.

San Luis Obispo residents breathed a sigh of relief as the smoke cleared enough to actually see just how close the fire had come. For weeks after, almost every shop and office building displayed a banner saying "Thank-you Firemen" and souvenir T-shirts proclaiming such sentiments as "I survived the Las Pilitas fire." were hot items.

Government officials say they've learned a lesson from the fire and have instituted several laws and procedures which they hope will decrease the possibility of such a fire ever occurring again.

Dry roadside grass is cut down more often or sprayed with herbicide. Crews work to maintain firebreaks and improve water availability. Laws requiring non-flammable roofing material on homes have been passed.

Still, gazing at the barren brown hills now surrounding San Luis Obispo, it's not hard for those who were here to remember the glowing orange flames of one year ago.

The Las Pilitas fire
Blaze that threatened SLO is remembered

BY PETE BRADY
Professor wants squash at Poly

By Suzanne Carson

Upon hearing the word "squash," some people may conjure up images of members of the competitive family. But not electrical and electronic engineering department head Jim Harris.

He is an avid squash enthusiast and participant of the game, that is. And Harris hopes to provoke enough interest across campus to establish squash courts in the future Cal Poly rec facility.

"My goal is two-fold," Harris said. "I hope to educate faculty and students about the game, and I hope to present squash as an alternative to racquetball." By creating enough support Harris hopes to establish at least two squash courts. He is also involved in the possible conversion of racquetball courts to squash courts. "Several companies have been consulted about this matter," he said. "We won't emigrate if we did not bring up the issue and discuss it. The issue should be raised so students know whether or not they want squash courts."

Harris was introduced to squash while pursuing his Ph.D. at Syracuse University. "The game of squash is an exciting game, and it offers a variety of advantages," Harris said. "It is social, coeducational and it is a good workout." Currently there are no facilities in San Luis Obispo to play squash. "In the past, squash was an exclusive game reserved for those who had the money to join private clubs," he said. "However, if courts were made available, squash would catch on quickly."

"People play squash in private clubs in Los Angeles and San Francisco. It does open up some social doors..." Harris recognizes the value of the game for students and the community. "UC San Diego has a squash club, and we should also," he added. "We should compete in squash with other schools."

Harris described squash as a fast game requiring more skill than racquetball. "Squash is to racquetball as chess is to checkers," he said.

"Strategy is the name of the game in squash. It is even more important than physical prowess, which makes for fun for both men and women," Harris added.

Squash was first played in 1850 in the Fleet Prison in England. Until about 1882 it was played almost entirely in the public and private schools of England. In 1882, St. Paul's School in New Hampshire was the first to play squash in the U.S.

Squash continued to grow in popularity in the U.S., but it was not until the 1960s that squash popularity ignited.

Today squash is one of the most popular participatory sports in the U.S., Great Britain, Australia and Mexico.

Squash is similar to the four-wall game of handball, with the addition of the raquet. The ball used is made of India rubber, and is the source of the name of the game: the ball makes a "squashy" sound as it hits the wall.

Squash is a game in which shot-making and mobility are vital. It has most of the elements of the other racquet sports: the forehand and backhand strokes, serves and volleys and racquet strategies. The first player to get 15 points (with a few exceptions) wins. Courtesy to opponents is essential and adds to the enjoyment of the game.

Challenge, fun, action, squash seems to have it all. The editors of Sports Illustrated magazine describe it as a quick, pleasant workout for beginner and expert alike. Harris agreed with this view of squash, and he hopes that Cal Poly students will have the chance to agree also.

Squash is one of the most popular sports in the US.
Cal Poly graduates hold the third highest hiring position with Lockheed behind Cal State Berkeley and San Jose State.

success with Cal Poly graduates, "said Scott Gardner, a personnel manager for Rockwell International. "We feel that from an engineering and computer science standpoint, Cal Poly graduates are some of the best in the state and the country.

" We attribute the hands-on training before graduation as a strong indication as to why Cal Poly students are consistently hired and retained with our company," Gardner said.

Lockheed, IBM, Hewlett-Packard and others can be added to the list with Rockwell International. "We have over 500 companies recruiting on campus each year, and most are repeaters," said Shel Burrell, associate director of the Placement Center. "All of these companies have Cal Poly graduates at the top of their hiring lists."

Burrell discovered from a Hewlett-Packard representative that places importance on the high level of training Cal Poly graduates receive. Cal Poly graduates rank among the third highest hiring position with Lockheed behind Cal State Berkeley and San Jose State.

Technical degree holders are not the only graduates who are at an advantage because of practical training. "We have representatives from almost every field of employment recruiting Cal Poly students for their education and experience," Burrell said.

"Mary's Blooms, Bullocks and Traveller's Insurance Co. are some additional companies that frequently return to recruit Cal Poly students. "These companies emphasize some sort of work experience which makes Cal Poly graduates very employable," Burrell said. "Because Cal Poly students have previously performed in a practical capacity, they have the hiring advantage."

Lab classes are another factor which Burrell attributes to the success of Cal Poly graduates. "Employers recognize that students are required within all majors to take lab classes which are held to small sizes which affords greater training," Burrell said.

Burrell also encourages additional work experiences. "Co-op, part-time work and summer jobs are all valuable for listing on a resume," Burrell said.

"Employers often cite senior projects as work experience contributing to the hiring decision," Burrell said. "It would be advantageous for students to thoughtfully choose and complete a senior project related to the field in which they hope to pursue."
Horseshoe tossing is for everyone

By Pamela Varma
Staff Writer

Contrary to popular belief, pitching horseshoes is not just for senior citizens or company picnics. It is a game of accuracy and concentration. And it's exciting.

So says Bill Harris, who will be competing in the 1986 World Championship in Nebraska at the end of this month. Harris is also president of the San Luis Obispo Horseshoe Pitchers Club.

"Horseshoes is for any and everybody, but it's not as easy as it looks," he said. In fact, he said, some doctors on the East Coast have selected the game as one of the best exercises for people recovering from heart transplants.

"You have to use your head, really concentrate," he said. "You're walking back and forth; you're bending and stooping and using your back muscles."

But are there really rules and strategies to follow? Indeed there are. A ringer, when the horseshoe lands within six inches of the peg, is awarded three points. One point is awarded after it is thrown what is considered for scoring. For this reason, professional pits are filled with potter's clay which keeps the shoe from sliding. Public picnic areas usually have dirt pits in which the shoes can slip, reducing accuracy.

Practice makes all the difference in pitching horseshoes. Harris was able to throw ringers about 28 percent of the time in May, when he began pitching nearly 300 shoes a night to practice for the upcoming world championships. He now hits ringers almost 50 percent of the time.

How much time does it take to become proficient? "Ask my wife," Harris joked. More seriously he said, "Horseshoes are always on my mind, especially now that the tournament is coming up. I want to get in as much practice as I can. It's just like bowling: if you bowl one night a week it really doesn't do you any good."

The San Luis Obispo Horseshoe Pitchers Club is currently 38 members strong and boasts class B world champion Jesse Gonzales as a member. The club meets every Thursday night at the horseshoe pits in Santa Rosa Park. Harris and Gonzales began the club in 1968. Harris has been in five state-sanctioned tournaments, all held at Santa Rosa Park. He has won his division each time except last year when he took third place. The next competition in San Luis Obispo will be held in October.

Harris has been pitching horseshoes since the early 1950s when the then-current world champion gave a demonstration at his high school. The blindfolded champion struck matches strapped around the peg from 40 feet away.

"After the show it was luncheon and he was teaching all of us kids how to pitch," he said. "I've been pitching them ever since."

Harris said he is considering allowing Cal Poly students join the club at the park one evening free of charge. If they wish to return, students could then pay the annual $5 dues. He said there is great hope for beginning a chapter of the club at Cal Poly.

As for getting horseshoe pitching in something as large as the Olympics or Goodwill Games, Harris said he sees the chance but it depends on how well the game is promoted on the local level.

"This is an old sport that's coming back to life and we're trying to regenerate interest," he said. "Horseshoes is for the public."

Bill Harris demonstrates his winning style. KENNETH DINTZER/Summer Mustang
Local immigrants remember voyage to America

By Gwen Dawkins

Friendly sailors, cramped sleeping quarters and endless seasickness are among the memories still very much alive in the minds of two Central Coast residents who passed through Ellis Island on their way to America.

Cal Poly English professor Gordon Curzon is one such immigrant. Curzon came to America from England with his mother and uncle aboard the S.S. President Adams on Sept. 22, 1922. Their 10-day voyage across the Atlantic landed them in New York City, the first foothold on "the land of opportunity."

They were steerage class, the section of the ship occupied by passengers paying the lowest fare. Their quarters, well below the ship's decks, were equipped with two small bunks. A wash basin was located down the hall for passengers to share. There were no porches to brighten the darkness or to offer fresh air to relieve the concentrated stench.

But perhaps because Curzon was only four at the time, he remembers mostly the good times of his voyage and early years in the United States. In an attempt to recall those times with others who shared the experience, Curzon held a party at his home on the Fourth of July. He invited everyone now living on the Central Coast who had passed through Ellis Island.

"The reason I had the party was because I wanted to recognize the people that brought us over — our parents," said Curzon. "I can't take the credit. But I hope and say I brought my parents over at age four."

Curzon said those who emigrated to the United States were the young adults because they were the ones with the courage to make a new life in a new land.

Elsie Claycomb, 90, of Avila Beach, was the only Central Coast resident who was able to attend the affair. She was nine years old when she and her mother set sail from England to America. Her father had recently died and her mother decided the move was just what they needed.

In January 1903 they began a long, rough six-week voyage. "I don't really remember much about the trip," she said. "I was very young at the time and I didn't really pay much attention to what was going on around me. The sea was very rough and I was seasick almost the entire trip. My mother said the only thing I could keep down was ginger ale."

"I do remember seeing the Statue of Liberty. It was so thrilling. Everyone rushed to the side of the ship to see the statue. I thought it was a very beautiful and an unusual thing to be in the harbor. I'm sure I would have appreciated it much more if I had been older. But at that age I didn't think there was any reason to pay special attention."

Curzon agreed. "I remember seeing the statue, but at that time I didn't think I was going to like it very much in me." Curzon remembers things such as sailors hoisting him up to his mother and decided the side of the ship as dolphins raced by below. His first recollection once arriving in America is of a little purple canel with a gold handle given to him by his mother. "I don't know why she gave me a cane of all things, but I'll always remember that little purple cane," said Curzon.

Much of what Curzon knows about his mother and through a large collection of photographs taken during the voyage. One of the saddest stories he was told was about his mother just before the ship docked. "My mother saved a beautiful organza dress and a big party hat to wear when we departed the ship. But there were headlice on the ship and the passengers had to take forced showers. We had to put our clothes in bags and hand them over to the crew so they could be fumigated. The men went to one shower and the women to the other. It was a huge room with water coming down. You couldn't get out; it was almost like a car wash. After our showers we got our clothes back and my mother's hat and dress were ruined, drooping from being steamed. She was in tears because she wanted to look beautiful. So, that was her first experience with America."

Curzon passed through Ellis Island in a short time and boarded a train to Cleveland to live with relatives. Claycomb said she doesn't think about those days very much anymore, except during the Fourth of July. Curzon, however, wants to keep those memories alive to pass on to his children.

Gordon Curzon and Elsie Claycomb share memories of their first experiences in America.

"I have mixed feelings about the past. We can't live in the past. So, we tend to remember the happy times. Our present life is really the sum of all our experiences. It's all part of our make-up.

He sees the Statue of Liberty, or "Miss Liberty" as he calls her, as a symbol of America's make-up. "I won't call America the 'melting pot,' but rather a 'mixed stew.' If it weren't for the mixture of people, it wouldn't be the great country it is today."
Group formed to improve county planning

By Kristin Roncarati
Staff Writer

City and county leaders are working together to better the living and working conditions for Central Coast residents.

At a press conference held Monday morning, city and county officials met to formalize an organization which hopes to bring about changes needed in the area.

VISION 2000 Associates, the formal title of the organization, has been in the planning stages for the past 14 months. The group is an incorporated nonprofit, public interest organization.

Carl Hysen, member of the San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors and member of the VISION 2000 steering committee, summed up the idea behind forming the group: to collect socioeconomic data for use in making public policy decisions affecting the Central Coast, such as jobs, transportation, industry and use of natural resources.

The idea for the program originated in a 1985 study titled, "A Study of the Job Generation Process in San Luis Obispo County," which concluded that several areas need attention, such as below average wages, an old and small Barn and a lack of countywide planning.

The study was conducted by TEM Associates for the Private Industry Council, a non-profit group which implements on-the-job training programs for local businesses. Following the study, the Private Industry Council gave a report to city organizational affected by the study, including the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce.

Roger Eklein, executive director for Private Industry Council and also a member of VISION 2000 steering committee, said the report concluded there was a lack of decision making in certain areas. In January, 160 leads from business, the community and government attended a VISION 2000 conference to discuss problems addressed in the report.

Eklein said that following the conference, the steering committee began forming a non-profit organization which would develop accurate, up-to-date and ongoing information for use in making countywide strategies. The organization would want a broad overview of what is going on in the county," said Eklein.

If VISION 2000 is successful, committee members would eventually like to see an annual Central Coast conference for the discussion of other problems areas.

The organization stressed enthusiasm for the project at both the city and county level. "This is the first time there has been cooperation on this scale," said Hysen, calling the press conference "a truly historic day."

The press conference was held at TRW. Company executive Gerald Cross explained the name of the group represents looking toward the 20th century together.

"We are bringing together private and public sectors to meet and see where our common interests are," said Cross.

The group plans to install a detailed database system to collect and store demographic, economic and land use information.

Robert Griffin, a member of both the steering committee and the San Luis Obispo County Council, said later in an interview that the committee has not yet decided where the database system will be housed. However, it might be possible to use the Cal Poly School of Business as the home base for the system.

Griffin said that having the system housed at Cal Poly would be beneficial to the school. If the School of Business was chosen as the home for the system, its job would be to "collect and manage" the information. Griffin stressed that the idea of having Cal Poly as the home base was strictly conceptual and other possibilities will be discussed.

Eklein said it would be important for the organization to utilize educational resources such as Cal Poly and Cuesta College.

Eklein said VISION 2000 is an "assertive step of where we want to be in the future."

Griffin summed up the purpose of VISION 2000 Associates in this way: "It represents the first coordinated effort by private and public sectors to solve some of our problems by building trends, sharing information and sharing options...It is a hope that better public and private decisions will come about as a result of VISION 2000."
Court ruling affects Cal Poly military veterans

By Pete Brady
Staff Writer

Although the Supreme Court this week declared a key provi­sion of the Gramm-Rudman law unconstitutional, funding cuts enacted under the controversial bill have already affected some Cal Poly students.

The law requires Congress to gradually lower government spending to match government revenue or face automatic spending cuts every year until the federal budget is balanced.

Some of the first people to be directly affected by these con­straints are military veterans attending Cal Poly under the "old" G.I. bill, who've found their monthly benefits decreased by up to 14 percent.

"They gave us no advance notification. They didn't even tell the vets so we were unprepared with phone calls. What's worse, the biggest cuts will be from checks which go to disabled veterans," said Esther McIlwain, who has been veteran's coordinator at Cal Poly for 10 years. McIlwain said some veterans had written lengthy protests or threatened to bring a class action suit against the government.

Many veterans were surprised and dismayed to find their benefits cut. "I saw my check had gone from $33 to $33 a month. I just found out that they've increased tuition fees to pay for some building I'll never use and then my benefits dropped. The only reason I went was because they were phasing out the old G.I. bill and I wanted to get those benefits before it happened. So just in college and my benefits were cut. If you take the cut and multiply over the three years of benefits I had left, I'll lose about $1,200," said Navy veteran Ken Kirkeby.

Kirkeby's sentiments were echoed by other Cal Poly veterans who said the promise of educational benefits was one of the primary reasons they joined the military.

"The contractual agreement I made with the military was for the benefits," explained William Benjamin, a liberal studies senior who spent four years in the Navy. "It was pure hedonism that drove me to enlist and there's really no way I could have gone to school except with the old G.I. bill. I work during the week and on the weekends too but that government check pays the mortgage," Kirkeby said.

McIlwain said that although many veterans expressed more anger at the way the cuts were carried out than at the actual monetary decrease, she was not surprised at the way the V.A. handled the matter.

"We were lucky to find out at all. We still haven't been officially notified that these cuts are taking place. In fact, I got the word from a friend who works for the V.A. regional office in Los Angeles. There's a rumor that the checks will go back up in October, but nobody can confirm it. It's like the last year was the first time in seven years that benefits were reduced; this year they're lowered. We were told that because of Gramm-Rudman cutbacks, they would have to cut their benefits for veterans when they returned to school in September. So we wrote to them about those plans so they might have money at the beginning of school. Then we found out from another school that there were going to be September advance payments. So I called the L.A. office to make sure. They said no. I called again and they said yes. So I had to reconnect over 500 veterans," McIlwain explained.

Current problems aside, McIlwain said times have changed for veterans attending Cal Poly.

"Veterans going to school 10 years ago were better off regarding the attitude of the V.A. They used to have a federal representative on campus and then they recalled him. So the vets don't get as good service. I'm a state employee and when a vet has a problem I just don't have the clout with the feds. I don't have the power. I'm just trying to administer five different programs each with different paperwork and less manpower," she said.

Veterans themselves have mixed feelings about the cuts. Some say they're angry while others say they reluctantly agree with cutting benefits in order to reduce the deficit. "On the one hand, I don't believe that once the government gives you benefits they should take them away easily — that's like renegeing on a contract. Yet, I believe the U.S. should have a balanced budget. So if I have to give up some money to do my part that's what I'll do," Benjamin said.

Kirkeby doesn't view the V.A.'s actions with equal charity, however.

"One thing I don't understand is they spend all this money on 'Star Wars' and ships, but where do they make the cuts? On people, on things they promised. If they make cuts, make them across the board," he said.

An engineering student who views his veteran's benefits as very important, Kirkeby said the difficulty of his military service justifies his anger at their reduction.

"You're on a ship 372 feet long, with 200 people for months at a time. There's limited water, food, recreation. It taxes you mentally. I gave up a lot. Now I feel the same way as the Indians do. Like the government can make contracts of convenience and then change them whenever they want to," he explained.

But Army veteran and electronic engineering major William Proctor had different feelings.

"The way I see it, I've been collecting free money for more than five years, and I think I've gotten more than my fair share. Everybody's got to tighten their belt to help balance the budget. Really, the $40 a month didn't make much impact on me, although to guys with families the cuts might make a big difference," Proctor said.

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HOUSING
From page 1
and wished they had been told sooner of the possible conversion.
Until recently a banner on the outside wall of Centrepointe was posted that read, "Now leasing for fall" and gave a phone number.
As for the summer, Centrepointe is in its usual mode, Kennedy said. "We are in the process of getting ready for the Japanese students who will be living here for a month and a half," said Kennedy. Each summer students from Japan come to San Luis Obispo for about a month on a cultural exchange program.
After the summer residents are moved out, Centrepointe will begin the conversion to the senior citizen community.
"The city has been behind the announcement of the change from the start," said Kennedy, citing a need for senior citizen housing in San Luis Obispo. By the end of summer plans for the new senior community will be more defined, Kennedy said.

ZOO
From page 1
Santa Barbara for six months where she was in the exotic animal training and management program.
The daily tours are an "educational resource for the students to handle zoo animals," said Alan Metzler, the zoo's curator. This program is also a prototype educational program that the zoological society of the area would like to develop if the zoo can get the funds allocated and having public support is the problem," said Bender.
Bender said children don't have enough experience or knowledge about animals. "I teach them about conservation, ecology and diversity," she said. An important talk is on the conservation of wild animals, such as what to do if a baby bird fell out of its nest.
Bender is also the educational chairman of the Central Coast Wildlife Rehabilitation Guild in San Luis Obispo. She said she has gained a lot of experience from the local chapter and its animals. Bender has lectured for the past five years to grade school students about being aware of animals. She stresses the importance of rehabilitating injured wildlife so they are able to return to their natural surroundings.
Bender's future goals are to help establish the educational program at the zoo through this summer camp. She sees the job as a stepping stone to becoming a zoo educational director. She would like to see this type of program continue to allow more children to learn about exotic animals and how to take care of their animals at home.

BOOKS
From page 1
price. "The extra benefit to students buying books at Bookland is that they will be charging list price," she said.
The group hopes students will view the extra effort required to purchase books off campus as a positive way to change the Foundation decision about divestment. "We recognize that some students won't be happy about going elsewhere to buy books but we also think that some students will be pleased to help out and their social consciousness will be raised by their professors' decision to order their books elsewhere," said Axelroth.

Wallet reported stolen in library
A library staff member's wallet containing $195 and several credit cards was stolen from the third floor of the Robert E. Kennedy Library Monday at about 5 p.m., according to campus police.
The wallet was removed from Cathleen Matthews' purse which was under a typewriter. The wallet contained other valuable items besides the credit cards and money, such as her staff identification card and important papers. The campus police department has no suspects at this time.

— Mary Eddy

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