Effect of ratings is varied

By Lynnette Ward

Published ratings of colleges and universities have become abundant in the past several years. But the importance of these ratings to prospective students is limited.

Cal Poly has been rated highly in a variety of surveys, but many students entering this fall probably paid little or no attention to college rankings.

A recent report by the Congressional Research Service sheds some light on the meaning and value of ratings for colleges.

Some colleges and universities boast ratings to prospective students.

In a classroom turned sound stage, with an ASI president turned producer-director and a student turned host, ASI Productions on Thursday filmed its first episode of "After Class," a weekly talk show to be broadcast on Sonic Cable Channel 6.

Hosted by speech communication major Jim Brosnahan, the show is very similar in format, if not in content and execution, to "Late Night with David Letterman." Including an opening monologue, audience participation and a live rock band.

According to ASI President Kevin Swanson, this similarity was intentional. In an interview before taping he said, "Everybody loves Letterman, right? We'll just be working towards a Letterman-type show. We realize this is going to be crazy. At first I was scared to death, but it's certainly exciting. It may work; it may not. But that's not going to discourage us from trying."

Slated for broadcast on 7 p.m., Sept. 30, the first show featured three students as guests including WOW Board President Lenny Davis, juggler Toby Goldman and student/comedian Mark Reichel as well as rock band Secret Service.

The first show had some obvious gaffs including missed cue cards, forgotten jokes and a trek into the audience without proper lighting in which Brosnahan mistakenly asked one of the show's crew members, "So, what brought you here today?"

After the taping Swanson said, "We were pleased. We expected more problems than we had."

One goal Swanson achieved was the completion of the show in one take. He said this was important to maintain spontaneity.

According to Swanson, goals for future broadcasts include consistent use of studio material, filming from different locations throughout campus, different hosts each week and getting enough people to compose a "studio audience."

The difficulty of getting spectators is one of the major stumbling blocks the fledgling production faces, he said. Although WOW groups were brought in for the first show, only the first three rows of the classroom in Agricultural Engineering Room 123 were filled.

It appears the problem may get worse before it gets better. Swanson said attempts will be made to book guests who can draw crowds, including fraternity members and club presidents.

For the first show, applause signs were used to coordinate audience reaction, and Swanson asked viewers to participate.

ASI produces for local cable first TV show

By Kenneth Dintzer

IN A WORD

eddy — a swirling mass of confusion; circular currents resembling smoke rings.

WEATHER

Tuesday will be sunny, with highs in the 70s and lows possibly dipping into the 50s. Afternoon will be breezy, with winds between 10 and 20 mph.
Knowledge is power

This is it: the first day of a new year. For most people the year starts Jan. 1, but for those of us at Cal Poly, the year begins today. There's a lot going on. It is a time to see old friends, and meet new ones. A time to scrutinize class schedules, get study lists in shape, and prepare for the academic year.

There's so much to do that it's convenient to slip into a lifestyle which is insulated by the collegiate atmosphere. Because of arduous academic demands, this insulation isn't necessarily destructive, and can in fact be beneficial to many students, particularly freshmen. Cal Poly isn't easy.

There is an awfully big world out there, however, and ignoring it will not make it go away. Simply forgetting about the forces which shape the world, your world, will not lessen their effects.

Many students fail to remember why they came to Cal Poly in the first place. Most were attracted by the practical nature of a Cal Poly degree. The university is well-known for its "learn by doing" philosophy.

In other words, most students come to Cal Poly to prepare for a career. What some students fail to realize is that every job involves working with all kinds of people, and the degree of isolation inherent in college life is not found in the "real world."

There is no getting around it. To be successful in the world, you're going to have to understand it. And to acquire even a minimal level of understanding takes a little time.

Pick up a newspaper and scan the headlines. Watch the evening news on television. Flip through a weekly news magazine. None of these endeavors require a great investment in time. Indeed, it is a wise and prudent investment. It would be difficult to find a successful person, a leader, who does not keep abreast of the news.

There are many important issues being debated right now which will affect your life. These issues range in scope from the international level to the campus level. Some topics, such as divestment in companies doing business in South Africa, have a direct impact on all levels. Yet there are many students at Cal Poly who cannot define the term apartheid.

Other important issues to be faced are: the proposed student fee increase to support athletic scholarships. Proposition 61, which could have a deleterious effect on the Cal Poly faculty, and the all-pervasive problem of drugs and drug testing.

Remember, keeping in touch with what's going on is not simply a matter of citizenship. Successful people make good decisions, and good decisions cannot be made without information.

Profiles of the political playmates

Between midterms and Moosehead, most students don't really have the time to keep up on current events. In an attempt to aid these underinformed kindred I have put together a full, in-depth report on some of today's most important newsmakers. For clarity I have used a standard "data sheet" format taken from one of America's most important periodicals.

DEFINITELY A FRESHMAN

Name: Ronald Reagan
Height: as a cowboy in third-rate movies. Weight: just two more years.
Birth date: between that of Jesus and Moses.
Turn-ons: ocean breezes, nuclear superiority and the American flag.
Turn-offs: Communists, journalists, intellectuals.

Name: William Rehnquist
Turn-ons: black robes, white-hooded robes, burning crosses and the Constitution.
Turn-offs: Jews, blacks, equal rights, Democrats.
Spiritual leader: Ronald Reagan.

Name: Pat Robertson
Turn-ons: God, fresh air, power and money (not necessarily in that order).
Favorite films: "Oh, God."

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The resignation, which is effective immediately, will allow Wheeler to work on special projects, programs and activities for the university.

Wheeler will work under the direction of James Strom, vice president for University Relations, and Malcolm Wilson, vice president for Academic Affairs. According to Strom, Wheeler is likely to work in athletic promotion and alumni services. He said that Wheeler's background in athletics will benefit University Relations.

"We use these people where they can make the biggest contribution," said Strom.

Wheeler resigns as head coach, Beason projects, programs and activities for the upcoming season.

The 30-year-old coach has had previous experience at the high school level where he coached Quivira High School of Butchton, Kan. to a 22-2 record in 1983. In 1985 he coached Whitrier High School in Whitter, Calif. to a 6-6 record and its first playoff berth in seven years.

In his 14 years as coach, Wheeler had taken Cal Poly teams to NCAA post-season competition five times, and in 1980-81 he coached Cal Poly to a third place finish in the NCAA Division II Championships.

### Mustangs earn split of first two games

By Dan Ruthemeyer

Cal Poly head basketball coach Ernie Wheeler resigned Thursday after 14 years of coaching the men's basketball team. He was replaced by former assistant coach Steve Beason.

Wheeler leaves the Cal Poly coaching ranks with a record of 249-139 in his 14 years as coach. With a record of 3-6 in his 14 years as coach, Beason projects, programs and activities for the upcoming season.

The 30-year-old coach has had previous experience at the high school level where he coached Quivira High School of Butchton, Kan. to a 22-2 record in 1983. In 1985 he coached Whitrier High School in Whitter, Calif. to a 6-6 record and its first playoff berth in seven years.

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RATINGS

From page 1

...are the best ambassadors..." Jean Fetter

were offered at which universities, he said.

Students planning to eventually attend graduate school were concerned about quality, Morrow added.

Stanford is ranked number one among national universities as a major research university and leading grantor of doctoral degrees, according to a U.S. News and World Report survey. This ranking is based on a nationwide survey of college presidents. In describing the institutions in this particular category, the U.S. News and World Report article stated: "Degrees from these schools also unlock doors to positions of leadership in the United States."

Fetter said, "I don't know how much weight one can attach to a survey by presidents who don't have much knowledge of the university. It is a compliment to the administration though."

Presidents gather on a regular basis, and Fetter suspects the rankings respect for the quality of the management of the university.

David Fulton, director of communications in the development office, said: "We get gifts because we're perceived favorably. Most of the people who donate to Stanford have long-term relationships with Stanford and their perceptions come from that relationship."

According to the report from the Congressional Research Service, there are six major varieties of college and university rating schemes. These are accreditation, selectivity in approval of applicants, polling of students and administrators regarding their own institution and regarding other institutions, multi-faceted surveys of graduate and professional schools and reports on undergraduate, graduate and professional programs.

Our own undergrads are often the best ambassadors."

Jean Fetter

FOOTBALL

From page 3

quarter when Poly punter Kevin Langford cuffed the ball in from eight yards out. His third quarter touchdown capped a 72-yard, 10-play drive.

The Wildcats came within two points of the Mustangs in the fourth quarter when quarterback Craig Wallis found running back John Oglesby open for a 5-yard touchdown pass. The conversion failed, however, and the Mustangs retained their lead.

Cal Poly picked up insurance points when Williams broke loose for a 4-yard touchdown run. Robinson's kick was blocked, however, and the Wildcats were given a last-minute reprieve.

Chico State had two attempts at tying Cal Poly, but both times the Mustang defense held strong.

SHOW

From page 1

...laugh at jokes "even if they're not very funny." If necessary, a laugh and applause track will be added to the tape.

The second show, which is scheduled to be filmed at 3 p.m. Sept. 29 in University Union Room 220, will have Swansea as host.

With the many time demands Swansea faces as ASI president he said he plans to put the show on its feet and then back away from the day-to-day work, although he will keep the title of producer.

Swanson said the show is designed to change, but "at this point in time there's no turning back."

Prop failure may be cause of accident

CASTAIC, Calif. (AP) — A prop failure is the suspected cause of the accident that killed champion drag boat racer Billy Todd when his boat flipped out of the water and crashed onto his family's property, Todd's spokesman said Sunday.

"We just got the boat out of the water this morning and are now going through the boat to find out what happened," said Frank Barilla, a coordinator for the Sundance Sports Dragboat Nationals on Castaic Lake, about 45 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles.

"We do believe that we had a failure in a piece of equipment, which may have been the prop," Todd's spokesman said. "We have not located the prop shaft or the prop yet."

Todd, 48, of Auburn, died of multiple injuries at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Holy Cross Hospital in Los Angeles' Mission Hills section, nursing supervisor Pam Anderson said.

Todd held the world's dragboat racing record by having completed a 1-mile course in 4.9 seconds at 226 mph, according to Barilla.

The accident occurred about 1:30 p.m. Saturday after Todd sped his boat a quarter mile in 5.46 seconds at 205 mph.

IMPORTANT NOTICE to Readers of Mustang Daily

An advertisement for Osos Street Subs in the Mustang Daily Week of Welcome Issue (which is included as a supplement to this issue) contains an error which is wholly the fault of Mustang Daily:

Coupons reading "50% Off" Sandwiches should read:
50 Cents Off Any Osos Street Subs Sandwich

Mustang Daily apologizes to Osos Street Subs and our readers for this error and urges readers to understand Osos Street Subs should not be expected to honor these coupons for more than 50 Cents Off each sandwich (one coupon per sandwich).

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1060 Osos St.
SLO 541-0955