Teaching as career climbs in popularity

By John Grennan

Teaching has emerged as a popular career choice for many students and the professional studies and education department is being swamped with applications.

Dennis Nulman, associate dean for the School of Professional Studies and Education, said the recent interest in teaching is because of the availability of jobs in the field and a recent state-mandated minimum entry-level salary of about $20,000 a year.

"Both the teachers' union and the state itself anticipate a big shortage of teachers about five years down the road," said Nulman. "The baby boomers are having children which will create a need for more teachers. Even here in San Luis Obispo there's talk of reopening schools that have been closed down."

Nulman said his department received 1,200 applications for 400 incoming freshman spots in the undergraduate program and 255 applications for 113 spots in graduate studies. "We increased by 43 percent for fall 1986 from the year before," said Nulman.

"Teaching has gained in status and become more desirable," he added. "Two or three years ago you could just walk in and get a spot (in the department). It's more popular than ever before."

A positive result of the demand for spots in the program is that the quality of teachers will improve, said Nulman. "The old idea that anybody who wants to be a teacher can be is a bunch of baloney. Not everybody who wants to be a doctor becomes a doctor."

According to Nulman, the department received 270 applications for 39 spots in the liberal studies program for fall 1986, and the minimum GPA increased by 43 percent for fall 1986 from the year before."

See TEACHERS, page 3

IN QUOTES

Cal Poly teachers who endeavor to write textbooks may find the task is a lot more than they bargained for. See PULSE, page 5

Children benefit from practice on computers

By John Grennan

The wide eyes and squeals of excitement prove that learning can be exciting for children working with computers.

The program is called the educational technology lab and it's run through the psychology and human development department. Lab director Bob Blodget said children and parents alike are enthusiastic about the program.

"The kids don't want to leave," said Blodget, "and the parents want to extend their children's time on the computers."

This is the first year the program has been equipped with the new computers. Blodget said the program is fully enrolled and there is a waiting list. The lab has 12 terminals and offers two one-hour sessions Monday through Thursday. The lab is open to children ages five to 13 and costs $80 per quarter. The children have their own terminal and tutor, supplied by the psychology department.

"In a broad sense the goal is for the children to enjoy themselves and learn something," said Blodget. "But more specifically it's for the kids to familiarize themselves with computers and work on problem areas of school."

"Seventy percent of occupations now require work on a computer," he said, pointing out the long-range advantages of children familiarizing themselves with computers.

"We chose these computers because they have good graphics and sound capabilities," he added.

The children like the computers for a variety of reasons. Kim, 6, said she likes to type on the computer. "But my favorite part is Winnie the Pooh," she said, referring to the graphics.

"It helps me with my school work a lot," said Brock, 11.

Then Brock launched into a discussion with his tutor explaining why he agrees with Darwin's theory of natural selection.

Border Patrol lacks manpower

New law will make changes

By Rod Santos

Illegal aliens are a growing problem in San Luis Obispo County, and this growth has been neglected by the federal government, said a border patrol agent with 20 years experience.

However, a new immigration law passed by Congress could change the nature of the job. Currently, Congress has set a limit of four agents to work in the San Luis Obispo office of the U.S. Border Patrol, said Agent Ray Fuhrmann. The four are responsible for covering the area north to Monterey County, south to Buellton, and east to the San Luis
A blow for the rights of AIDS victims was struck Monday when a federal judge in Los Angeles ruled that 5-year-old Ryan Thomas should return to the Atascadero school that expelled him.

The Thomases fought long and hard to get their son into school. Not long after he was finally enrolled, the young Ryan was involved in an altercation at the school. He was then ordered to undergo psychiatric examinations to determine the reasons for the biting behavior. This was a ridiculous decision. Anyone who has worked with children of that age group can tell you that when a child is bullied he usually fights back. Biting is a common way for a handicapped child to retaliate.

The Atascadero School Board expelled Ryan for fear the virus would be transmitted to other students through saliva. Most researchers do not believe AIDS can be transmitted through saliva, though this is not a proven fact. U.S. District Judge Allicemarie Stotler said in her decision, "As well-meaning as the board has tried to be, the medical evidence is that there is nothing to fear from this child."

This ruling is important for AIDS victims for two reasons. First, they can no longer be discriminated against because of their condition — the same right other handicapped people have. Second, it may help alleviate many irrational fears people have about AIDS. We applaud Judge Stotler's rational ruling on this emotional issue.

A dream becomes a nightmare

Jeff Kelly
DOWN TO EARTH

Embrace both sides of the conflict, and in so doing it has fractured along ideological lines. Questions have been raised about its morality, its effect on the army and this must be feared.

Tensions have built to the point where Enrile and his supporters are said to be planning a military coup. General Fidel Ramos, Aquino's chief of staff, met with Enrile and other commanders in an effort to discourage any coup attempt.

Then, last Thursday, the Philippines' most prominent leftist labor leader, Rolando Oftalia, was brutally murdered in Manila. The leftist have blamed his murder on the military and vowed to carry out a series of nationwide strikes. A nearly completed cease-fire agreement between the rebels and the army has been broken.

Mao Zedong once said that power comes out of the barrel of a gun, and the world has seen little to dispute this claim. In the Philippines, the greedy guns of the left and right are poised to steal power from a vast majority of innocent people. Communist and fascism are different in theory, but similar in practice. Under both ideologies, people cannot be trusted with freedom. The communists feed on poverty. Their track record in Southeast Asia leaves much to be desired; the Khmer Rouge simply wiped out 3 million Cambodians, and Vietnam and North Korea have been transformed into two giant concentration camps. It is not likely that a Philippine communist state would be any different. Could Enrile do any better? If the military were to take control, conditions would not necessarily improve. Military men are notoriously bad at running a national economy. Pakistan is a good example of this.

How would Enrile rid the Philippines of the Communist infiltration? It's much more difficult than saying it is. Any disobedient peasant is a potential communist, and it's not as if all communists have red spots on their foreheads. Enrile would likely replace the Philippinates in a prolonged Argentina-style "dirty war" complete with death squads and thousands of disappearances.

In the midst of this crisis, the Philippines most prominent left-wing labor leader, Rolando Oftalia, was brutally murdered in Manila. The leftist have blamed his murder on the military and vowed to carry out a series of nationwide strikes. A nearly completed cease-fire agreement between the rebels and the army has been broken.

Justice is served

Wally George's visit to Pola called disturbing

Editor — I find it very disturbing that a pathetic man like Wally George has become a cult hero among young college-aged males. I suppose there is potential humor to be found in his performance on a certain conservative caricature level, sort of like Ronald Reagan meets Nick Rock, if that sort of thing appeals to you.

But there is nothing funny in vicious attacks on AIDS victims and minority groups, no matter how strong your feelings might be politically. The aura of hate and intolerance that surrounds this man is simply sick. It's unfortunate and disappointing to see so much intellectual regression on a university campus. What's next, a Ku Klux Klan rally?

Wally George is a dream become a nightmare.
Women suspected of killing industrialist

PARIS (AP) — Police said Tuesday they believe two women from the terrorist group Direct Action killed industrialist Georges Besse, who was gunned down on the street outside his home.

The president of the state-owned Renault automobile company was shot at about 8 p.m. Monday a few steps from his house in the city's 14th district near the Montparnasse railway station.

Witnesses said the assailants approached Besse, 58, on foot and escaped the same way.

Pamphlets found in a Paris subway station claimed responsibility in the name of Direct Action, a terrorist group of the extreme left that has carried out numerous other attacks, authorities said.

A police spokesman said the printed statements "appeared authentic" and carried the organization's symbol, a five-pointed star. The same spokesman said earlier that the source of the attack "is un-

TEACHERS

From page 1

was 3.53. Though students used to enter college as liberal studies majors until they decided on another major, Nulman said they now have an internal waiting list for openings, but it will be a gradual increase.

The colleges can't generate teachers quickly enough to meet the demand, Nulman said, so the districts are hiring teachers from out of state and out of the country, as well as people without their credentials on an intern basis. He added this is quite common in urban areas, where the shortage has the greatest impact.

"I'm real positive about opportunities for teachers in coming years," said Nulman, "especially for high school level science teachers. They can write their own tickets."

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Wednesday 19

•Sigma Chi Fraternity will sponsor the First Annual Sigma Chi Derby Days, a week-long event that will continue through Saturday. Proceeds from the philanthropic event, which will involve all seven Cal Poly sororities, will go to The Community Interaction Program and Wallace Village for Children.

•Alexander Astin, director of the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA, will deliver a keynote address on “Making the Grade: Involvement to Excellence” at 10:30 a.m. in the University Union. The speech is part of a student development program sponsored by the university’s Student Affairs Division.

•The Society of Flight Test Engineers will present Yvonne Des Lauriers from the Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards Air Force Base, at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Fisher Science Building Room 286. She will speak on “The Role of the Flight Test Engineer in Flight Testing.”

•The Cal Poly Jewish Cultural Exchange will present Sam Shube at 7 p.m. Wednesday in University Union Room 216. He will speak on “The Challenge of Zionist Fulfillment in the 1980s.”

•A meeting for those interested in going on a New York City trip during spring break will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Science North Building Room 202.

Thursday 20

•Bennett Ramberg, a political science professor at UCLA, will speak on “The Changing Meaning of Arms Control” at 11 a.m. Thursday in University Union Room 220.

Submissions contributed for consideration for publication in Calendar must be received by noon two days prior to the event.

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Penning a text

Textbooks may be tough to read, but they're even tougher to write

By Julie A. Williams and Kenneth Dintzer

M any Cal Poly teacher-authors say writing textbooks is a demanding, often thankless job that holds little promise of financial reward. Still, when interviewed, most smiled and admitted that they would probably do it again.

Public administration professors Alan Settle and Carl Lutrin co-authored a book, against the many warnings they received. Lutrin said, "A lot of publishers told us that writing a book together is worse than being married, but our partnership works because each of us holds up our end." Dividing up the chapters equally, the two teachers felt that working as a team would make the project more interesting. Lutrin said, "There's a lot of truth to the notion of loneliness and silence in writing — there's only the typewriter."

The joint effort offered the attractions of both company and feedback. Settle explained the reasons behind the writing of "American Public Administration and Concepts," which is now in its third edition. "I could put the concepts I enjoy teaching in public administration and distribute them all over the country."

Another reason was name recognition for the author, which brings prestige to the university and helps students who ask the teacher for letters of recommendation.

William Francois, journalism professor and writer of four textbooks, said that in the case of his mass media law textbook, he felt he could offer a unique perspective. "I can take legal ideas and concepts and work them into more readable prose than, perhaps, a lawyer could. That's long been an advantage of the textbook." Often satisfaction is the only reward a textbook writer receives for the hundreds of hours of effort that go into the project. Although John Devore's first writing effort is one of the best selling statistics books in the country, he estimates that the payoff comes to less than $30 an hour. He said, "You have to go into it thinking more than just money; most of the textbooks are written because teachers have pride in the subject, or perhaps for reasons of ego." Whatever the motivating force, a great deal of effort goes into making a first-rate book. Devore estimates he put more than 3,000 hours into his writing effort that went into the project. Although John Devore's first writing effort is one of the best selling statistics books in the country, he estimates that the payoff comes to less than $30 an hour. He said, "The teacher should have input to what book is chosen. But for the sake of appearances and to avoid putting pressure on others, it's better if they're not involved in the final choice ... there could be a conflict of interest. One reason they write books is to sell them." He admitted that in 15 years at Cal Poly, he has never seen the teachers in his department reject a co-worker's textbook. He said, "I think most faculty feel if they respect the person, that they'll at least give the book a chance, if there are no major problems."

Francois explained why he chooses to use his own book: "I know my textbook better than any other textbook in the field, and I know how to present that information."

Lutrin added, "It's not an ego thing ... I can't sell if the book is good unless I use it in class. I could read the book 40 times (but) the only thing that matters is how the students respond to it."

Daniel Stubbs, head of the computer science department and co-author of two textbooks, pointed out a conflict of interest is not the only pitfall that may await textbook authors. He said, "When you teach out of your own textbook, you're not being exposed to someone else's ideas on the subject. You keep up with them on the outside. But when someone writes a textbook on a subject, then you can be pretty sure they know it."

One student in Lutrin's class said he disapproved of teachers using their own textbooks. He said, "They are able to pick out minute details in the reading because they wrote it. Or they don't go over something in class because it's in the book."

Another student disagreed, saying, "The lectures pertain directly to text material, making it easier to follow. The teacher and the text work well together."

Settle said that he uses the textbook to augment what he is learned in class. He said, "My lectures do not replicate my book. I use the book as a point of departure to much more updated details."

Devore put it a little more bluntly. "I've never had a single evaluation that said, 'Why did I bother coming to class?'" More often teachers are asking, "Why did I bother writing a textbook?"

After a book has been available for several years, and if it has been received well in its market, the author will often be asked to revise it. John Kimmel, sponsoring editor for Devore's first book, explained why second and third editions are necessary. "When you write a book the first time, people read it, but no one teaches from it. You can really improve it going from first to second editions."

He admitted that another reason for revision is to combat the ever-growing used textbook market in which national distribution companies have a profitable field. This money comes out of both the publisher and author's pocket and can account for the poor return off of books as successful as Devore's and Stubbs'. Kimmel summed up his problem: "A bookstore makes more money on sales of a used book than on the sale of a new one."

Lutrin echoed this sentiment. He said everyone is making money off the used textbook, including the bookstore, except for the author. According to Kimmel, college textbooks bring in more money for the publisher than other type of publications.

Court Warren, El Corral Bookstore director for more than a year, said the store is not getting rich off of used texts; new and used books bring in the same sized profits. He said, "In books are strictly for students."

According to him, the only reason Cal Poly buys back used textbooks is to keep costs down for students. "Whether the cause is used books, declining enrollment or just esoteric subject matter, Kimmel said it is not uncommon for a writer to spend
Grapes pampered by coastal weather and soil

By Matt Weiser

Everyone knows that the Central Coast offers a great climate for sun-worshiping humans, but many may not realize that another organism benefits equally from the warming rays of the sun: the grape.

The valleys and foothills surrounding San Luis Obispo provide a premier climate for raising certain wine grapes. Some 27 wineries in the immediate area and others throughout the state use Central Coast grapes to create a wide assortment of varietal wines.

Joseph Montecalvo, food science and nutrition professor, said the combination of consistent warm days and cool nights is an ideal climate for certain types of grapes. "It's a beautiful climate for the production of Zinfandels, Chardonnay, Cabernet, Pinot Noir," he said. "All of these are very high quality that are produced here."

One of the most important aspects of a wine grape, according to Montecalvo and crop science professor Paul Fountain, is the balance between sugar and acid levels. A certain sugar content is necessary for proper fermentation of the wine, and acid level relates directly to the actual flavor of the wine.

Fountain said a relatively mild climate, consisting of warm, dry days and cool nights, allows a proper balance between sugar and acid levels to develop.

"Acidity stays higher in this climate," said Fountain. "It wouldn't hold under a hot climate."

Clay Thompson, winemaker for both Chumash Vineyards and for his own brand, Claiborne and Churchill, said that a lot of the climate characteristics can be attributed to the ocean breezes. "It's the cool ocean air that comes down from Morro Bay and blows right down across the Los Osos Valley into the Edna Valley," he said. "It makes a long, cool growing season, which is good for the Chardonnay."

Just on the other side of Cuesta Ridge and in the San Joaquin Valley, said Thompson, the climate is too hot in the summer for the types of grapes grown in Central Coast regions. Victor Roberts, winemaker for Creston Manor Vineyards and Winery, said the soil also plays an important role. "What we're looking for is clay and sandy loam, a lack of underlying hardpan, and land that accepts water very well," he said. "You have to have soil that resists compaction."

Roberts said the owners of Creston Manor spent almost two years looking throughout California for good vineyard land. The combination of climate and soil conditions on the Central Coast is what they were looking for to create a good balance of sugar and acid levels in the grapes.

But Fountain mentioned other incentives that made local valleys attractive. In the early 1970s, he said, increased grape production was needed to meet a predicted increase in wine consumption. The land at that time was comparatively very cheap on the Central Coast, and banks were willing to loan a lot of money to help growers get started, said Fountain.

Now, Fountain said, land values are even higher than for the well-known and long-established Napa Valley vineyards north of San Francisco. "Vines need to be at least 10 years old to get the full flavors of the varietals," said Fountain. "The vineyards are just now maturing." He said many local vineyards are just now starting to produce the best quality grapes in their history.

But many of the wines from these grapes are meeting rather difficult competition. "There's no doubt that they can compete with any Chardonnays around the state," said Thompson. They simply haven't been around long enough to establish a name for themselves, he said.

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WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union most likely has resumed operation of some nuclear plants without making the safety improvements promised in the wake of the Chernobyl accident, Energy Secretary James E. Herrington said Tuesday.

"Our best estimate is that Chernobyl up probably too soon to do all that," Herrington said they were going to testify at a Senate hearing. "We are reasonably sure they are operating reactors today without the upgrades they promised." 

Herrington said the promised improvements are "major installations" that couldn't have been completed at Chernobyl facility started up again Sept. 29 — just five months after a fire and explosion ripped through one of four reactors and sent a cloud of radiation across the globe.

Herrington also said the United States is having trouble getting information about two reactors the Soviet Union is building near Cloenfigor, Cuba, 180 miles from Key West. He said the Soviets were reluctant to discuss the plants in Augus at a meeting in Vienna.

"The typical response was, you will be reading about this in our technical journal. And that is not good enough in this situation," Herrington said. The secretary said he expects the reactors will not be of the same design as the graphite-moderated reactor at Chernobyl. But he said the United States has no details about the construction of the Cuban plants, their safety systems and who will be operating them.
From page 1

Obispo County line. "With four face," said Fuhrmann.

President Reagan signed a bill which grants amnesty to illegal country since 1982, and allows them to apply for legal immigration. Applicants will have six months to get proof of their residence, and 12 months to file for the immigration process.

For the moment, said Fuhrmann, the border patrol is awaiting directions from Washington, D.C., before apprehending any further suspects.

Fortunately, he said, the new bill carries provisions for an increase in manpower, because the patrol needs to accommodate amnesty applicants. However, he added, "If it's a token number, it won't do us any good." In any case, concluded Fuhrmann, "our work is going to change drastically."

The San Luis Obispo office, which began operation in 1968, is located on the west side of Highway 101 between Los Osos Valley and Madonna Roads. Fuhrmann has been working at the office since 1970, and had previously spent five years patrolling the Texas-Mexican border.

The local border patrol is a federal agency under the U.S. Justice Department, and is one of several backup stations in California which pick up illegal aliens who slip past stations at the Mexican border and in San Clemente. Some of these aliens work in town in restaurants and factories, said Fuhrmann, but "the majority are in labor-intensive agricultural areas, such as Santa Maria Valley."

In general, the border patrol checks out calls and complaints about alleged illegal aliens by driving right to a job site in marked cars and uniforms, and talking to suspects. "We get a lot of information from disgruntled or layed-off employees," explained Fuhrmann. Most of these employees have been replaced by illegals who are happy to earn in an hour here what they would work all day for in Mexico.

Once at a job site, agents ask suspected illegals for identification or immigration documents, and arrest those 10 to 15 a day who are without them, said Fuhrmann. They can also make customs and drug enforcement arrests, he added.

Some of the illegal aliens try to run and hide, Fuhrmann said, "but the majority, once apprehended, are jovial and say, 'we will be back.'" In arrest reports, suspects tell border patrol agents of their citizenship, their method of getting here, and some biographical background.

After the report is filed, the aliens can either fight deportation by presenting immigrant documentation in a hearing before an immigration judge, or request voluntary departure from the country, according to Fuhrmann, 90 percent of the aliens choose voluntary departure and return the border via federally-funded bus rides.

Once the illegal aliens return to Mexico, some move down the border a few miles, then hire "coyotes," smugglers who set up guides to escort groups back across to the United States. Fuhrmann said that smuggling is a multi-million-dollar, felonious business which thrives on the thousands of people who enter the United States illegally every day.

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TEXTBOOKS

From page 5

several years working on a book and be rewarded with 3 to 5 cents an hour.

For this and other reasons, some writers have said "Never again." Devore is one of these. He said, "They (the two books) have taken big chunks out of both my professional and personal lives. The thing is just with you constantly; with the teaching load it just becomes too much."

Lutrin reached the same conclusion, but for a different reason. "We were offered a contract to do another book for general edition of American government, but I couldn't convince myself that it was really needed. In (my) office alone there are 20 books on government that are really good."

Regardless of the negative aspects, both Francois and Settle plan to write again and Stubbs has already signed a contract for another text. The computer science professor said he enjoyed the experience that writing brought, but he could sympathize with a statement that Jimmy Carter made after working on his memoirs: "I thought being president was hard, but that was before I tried to write a book."