Ex-coach sues Poly for $10 million

University allegedly violated the coach's rights, but officials aren't talking

By Paul J. Roberts

A week after former basketball coach Ernie Wheeler filed a $10 million claim against Cal Poly, no statement has been released by the university.

Wheeler filed the claim last Thursday against the university, President Warren Baker, Athletic Director Kendrick Lafranchise, former baseball coach Steve Beason, and the California State University.

Director of Public Affairs Stan Bernstein refused comment, and when asked if the university was going to release a statement, he said, "No, none at all."

Baker and Walker have deferred all comments to the CSU Office of General Counsel, CSU's legal office that will be handling the case. CSU Vice Chancellor and General Counsel Mayer Chapman was unavailable for comment. Current coach Beason wanted to comment, but would not on advice from his attorney. He did say he has no idea why his former assistant coach was named in the claim.

At a press conference last Thursday, Wheeler read a prepared statement outlining his claim, but refused to answer any questions. In his statement he charged that the university breached his contract, intentionally inflicted emotional distress, violated the state labor code, invaded his privacy and violated his civil rights. Wheeler has not been available for comment since the press conference.

He has just started a new job at Eastern Montana University as assistant basketball coach.

Wheeler's attorney Paul Lafranchise told The County Telegram-Tribune on Thursday that Wheeler was made a scapegoat for the investigation of the Cal Poly basketball program by the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Lafranchise has not been available for comment since the press conference.

The investigation was prompted by minor violations during Wheeler's 14 years as head coach. These infractions included illegal drafting procedures and beginning season practices too early. In May, the team was

See WHEELER, back page

New parking lot may be in place by fall quarter

By Stephanie Dias

Students' parking problems may soon be solved with the completion of a 632-space parking lot on Via Carta between the Beef Pavilion and the Farm Shop.

The parking lot will cost $94,000 to complete. It will be paid for by parking permit fees, which may be increased within a few months. Madonna Construction expects to complete the project by Sept. 15. The contract sets Oct. 2 as the deadline, but the beginning of fall quarter provides additional incentive for completing the task earlier.

"Madonna Construction is pushing just as hard as we are for early completion," said Dick Tartaglia, associate director of Plant Operations.

The parking lot originally was to be built where the rodeo arena now stands. The university, however, decided that removal of the arena was not feasible. Instead, an agreement was made between the university and the School of Agriculture to build on grazing land.

Lark Carter, dean of the School of Agriculture, said the land appropriated for the parking lot meets the need for student parking without harming the agriculture program.

"It's cheaper to develop by using present agriculture land than building a multi-level parking lot," he said.

Efforts are being made by the school to supply less-desirable land for future development. Both Tartaglia and Carter said they know cooperation between the university and the agriculture school is important. Carter said he realizes the land does not belong to the School of Agriculture and the needs of the university have to be met.

"Students would rather have a place to park than use the land for agriculture productivity," he said.

Two from Morro Bay show Nicaragua

Through slides they hope to reduce cultural bias

By April Karys

Curiosity about what is actually happening in Nicaragua spurred a Morro Bay couple to take a tour of that war-wearied country last June. With a free slide show, they attempted last week to give local citizens a personal view of life in Nicaragua.

The show, held Aug. 19 in the wedding chapel behind Coalesce bookstore in Morro Bay, was called "Window On Nicaragua." It was given by Richard and Cheryll McCarty, 20-year citizens of Morro Bay. The McCartys have, they say, a love affair with Central America.

"The main thing that we wanted was not to start a political campaign," said Cheryll. "We decided that we could be a window for people who can't go to Nicaragua. Not many do; it's not on the tourist maps at the moment. But whenever you get information from someone it is biased in some way. We want to encourage people to take their bias about Nicaragua, add it to ours and see if they can come up with something." Another reason the McCartys decided to show their slides was to encourage people in this country to take advantage of the participatory Democracy that we have, said Cheryll, who has a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's in education from Cal Poly.

"You don't have to march in Washington, D.C. to have an effect," she said, admitting to an abhorrence of confrontation. "It doesn't take a lot of energy to pick up a phone and call your congressman. And it does count."

The McCartys arrived in Nicaragua just at the See NICARAGUA, page 12
Athletics scores new funds

By Barbara Cunningham

For the first time in Cal Poly history, every one of the university's athletic teams will receive scholarship money as of this fall.

With the exception of gymnastics, which has been eliminated as a sport, six men's and five women's teams will receive brand-new funds of an increase to existing scholarship money. Each team will receive two full rides, and a half-scholarship. It is up to coaches to divide the money among the players on their teams.

There are several important facts that every new investor should know.

First, the money is being set aside for a $4 increase in students' rent money is not a smart wager. However, the Division 1 teams had to comply with NCAA rules. The CSSA is trying to accomplish this by increasing library staff funding, we circulate 6,000 items a day.

You can't go to the library and just pick up a book, re-shelf it, and walk out. We have to do it in order, and to keep the state for the legislature. The CSSA is made up of student representatives from the 19 CSU campuses.

Representing Cal Poly at the California State Student Association meeting was student representative Andy Blair. "One of the main goals that the CSSA is trying to accomplish through increased staff funding is to keep the library open longer hours for the residents of the Library Center. Our staff is more than adequate to handle the work, but we need more staff to keep the books in order, and to keep the state for the legislature. The CSSA is made up of student representatives from the 19 CSU campuses."

Right now, there are 70 people working full time at the library, not including the staff. With an increased staff, the library would not only be able to assist students more, but it would also be able to keep up with the growing diversity and technological advances taking place on campus.

David Walsh, dean of library services, said that with the original decrease in funding in 1982, 11 percent of the library staff was cut. And as the library continues to computerize its services, three more people will lose their jobs.

"We now have automated (computerized) circulation and cataloging, and the state figure we could get along with fewer people," Walsh said.

This is not the case, however. "The staff is greatly needed," he said. "The library is a labor intensive process. On average, we circulate 6,000 items a day, and these items have to be picked, checked in or out, checked out and checked in. And there's always the question of seeking information and assistance," he said.

Walsh is pleased that the planning group has come up with a plan to increase staff funding for the library. "We have been able to come up with a plan to make things more accurate and more efficient, but it doesn't replace the need for personnel," he said.
New mall opens today, bringing town several benefits

The new Central Coast Plaza, which opens today, is expected to be the county's first covered mall, is located off Highway 101 and Madison Road. The mall is 6 percent occupied with a total of 300 jobs provided by the smaller retailers.

Central Coast Plaza is the county's first covered mall.

The sales tax generated by the new mall should increase the city's income. However, the amount of revenue to be generated for the city is confidential information, said Carol Dominguez, mall manager. This information has not yet been projected by the city's finance department.

The mall will also pay much more property tax to the city than was generated by the empty field it now occupies.

Another hoped-for benefit is that the plaza will prevent local shoppers from going to other areas to spend their money.

"The new mall will keep shoppers here who would have gone to Santa Maria in the past," said Dominguez. "Plus if the mall wasn't allowed to be built in San Luis Obispo it would have been built in Arroyo Grande." If the mall was built elsewhere, San Luis Obispo wouldn't have received the job or revenue benefits, she said.

The city also wanted to retain its retail advantage. Dave Garch, executive manager of the Chamber of Commerce, said, "The Chamber of Commerce supported the development from the beginning, because it'll preserve San Luis Obispo's role as the regional retail hub of the county."

Downtown businesses are also accepting the mall as a benefit to the city. Dodie Williams, director of the downtown Business Improvement Association, said, "We didn't support the mall at first, but anything that brings more money in helps the city. In the long run everyone will gain." A shuttle will be provided by the mall to tie the new shopping area to the downtown shopping circuit. It is hoped that the shuttle will help spread the benefits of more shoppers to the downtown area.

Youngest city council candidate

By Barbara Cunningham

The person who may have checked out your last batch of library books might be serving on the next city council.

Frederick Hunt, a 24-year-old Cal Poly finance major, is by far the youngest candidate on the ballot for this November's city council race. The only other Cal Poly student to run for the seat is Richard M. Anderson, 37-year-old biology major. Hunt, a resident of San Luis Obispo County for five years and a member of Cal Poly's Student Senate, feels he is qualified for the position. He was also a member of the city election board for the past five years and is looking to become more involved.

"It's like crawling before walking," Hunt said.

He admits he was originally interested in obtaining a smaller position as a stepping stone into the political arena but none were available.

"I was interested in a district position like in the Avila Beach water district or on the local school board, but none of those positions are opening up," he said. "The city council was actually the smallest opening I could find."

"I'm running for the same reasons I ran for student senate. I like to make decisions myself," he said. "I don't like to wait for people to make them for me."

Last year Hunt introduced and wrote two resolutions for the senate. One was a request that the athletic department and university administration review the policy allowing athletes second priority during registration. The other was an AIDS resolution which called for the creation of a method for distributing condoms on campus. In terms of San Luis Obispo County, Hunt favors long-term planning. He also agrees with the present council's position on maintaining the downtown area and preserving San Luis Obispo's individuality.

Hunt also favors expansion and economic growth of San Luis Obispo as long as a balance is maintained. He is also interested in rent control for the elderly and for some living complexes in the city. Hunt feels there is a strain on the relations between students and the community. Through his work to bridge that gap, Hunt feels he can capture student support.

Hunt plans to graduate in spring 1988, and feels he has as good a chance as anyone else in securing one of the two available seats on the council.

"There are no incumbents running," Hunt said. "I also think I have the support of many senior citizens and I think I can get Cal Poly as well."

And Hunt doesn't feel his relative youth will hurt his chances.

"It may be a hindrance, but there are mayors in major cities who are younger than I am," Hunt replied. "I am capable of doing a good job."

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The city’s homeless

The city controversy between tourism and humanitarianism has kept them between a bench and a hard place.

By Paul J. Roberts
Staff Writer

Homeless people in San Luis Obispo are finding this town no place to call home.

A controversy over more aid to homeless people has become a very sensitive issue in recent months between the Chamber of Commerce and members of the Human Relations Commission.

The chamber adopted an official stand against the issue in May which essentially states that the chamber is discriminating against a group of citizens.

"The chamber is intentionally discriminating against (the homeless). They feel they are bad for business. Well maybe we should discourage farm workers or those who make under $30,000 a year because they don't spend enough money," said Steve Henderson, assistant to the city administrator and an HRC staff member.

Informal research collected from the Visitor's Center shows that tourists are afraid of transients in Mission Plaza. Tourists are big business in San Luis Obispo and scaring them away is like sacrificing away millions of dollars, so the chamber wants to discourage any programs that will attract more transients.

The chamber has stated that it believes the city should not have to provide for such a small minority of the population. The chamber does not want to cut existing social programs, but also does not want to attract transients from out-of-town by offering more free services. Existing homeless aid is provided by two organizations.

The Salvation Army offers meal and transportation vouchers to anyone who is eligible. Applicants for vouchers must first fill out information cards to confirm their eligibility. The city donated $5,000 to this program this year.

People's Kitchen, an organization that offers free hot lunches to anybody who shows up, receives no aid from the city. The structure, which is 30 by 90 feet, would be split into a male and female side. "We wouldn't want a battered wife to be sheltered with a man that has beaten women," Henderson said. He said other groups also don't mix well, so plans will have to be carefully thought out.

Although the chamber's policy does not compel the council to adopt it, it does represent the business community which brings money into San Luis Obispo.

The chamber has stated it probably would not oppose shelter for the homeless as long as it isn't public funded, though they have not taken an official stand on such a plan. So far, it has been difficult to find volunteers to run a shelter.

Steve Henderson, assistant to the city administrator and an HRC staff member, said he will probably recommend that a site on Prado Road be used as a shelter during the colder months, November through April.

The shelter would be run by volunteers and probably some paid staff. Henderson is proposing that $10,000, which has been set aside for this type of social program, be used for this shelter. The $10,000 is separate from other funds homeless programs receive.

The homeless in San Luis Obispo appear to have very diversified backgrounds, and do not fit exclusively into stereotypical image. Henderson said stereotypes make homeless people hard to accept and hard to help.

"The homeless situation needs to be understood," he said. "It's not just one group of older men who beg money from people to buy a drink. There's a wide variety of different groups and they all have to be handled differently."

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— Steve Henderson

Photos by Daryl Shoptaugh
Comforting and consoling the unaccepted
Poly counselors help applicants understand why they were rejected

By Brooks Watson
Staff Writer

So far this year, Cal Poly processed over 18,000 applications for approximately 5,000 openings. Of the rejected applicants, 3,000 to 4,000 seek counseling from the university to learn why they were turned down.

According to the Admissions and Relations with Schools offices, handling questions of the unaccommodated applicants is a very tough job.

"I've had people either come into my office crying or break down crying while they were explaining to me what it is that's happened to them," said Jean Pfeffer, accounting assistant director. "It can sometimes get very depressing, especially when it's the applicant applying to Cal Poly again."

Pfeffer said children of Cal Poly alumni are always the hardest to deal with, because the parents usually cannot understand why their children cannot be part of the university, especially with such popular months for rejected applicants to either call or come in for counseling. Rejection letters are sent out just prior to these months.

"It seems like all you do is keep switching from one line to the next to talk with disappointed people," said admissions counselor Madolyn Journey-Lynn. "It can sometimes get very hectic and tiring between the phone ringing and people walking up to your desk with a very distressed look on their face."

"I've had people either come into my office crying or break down crying while they were explaining to me what it is that's happened to them," said Pfeffer.

Process in relation to the other people that were applying for their same major," said Journey-Lynn. "I use these tools to aid myself in explaining to each unaccommodated applicant exactly what's happened."

If the students are still not satisfied after speaking to an admissions counselor, an appointment can be scheduled with the Relations with Schools office. That office draws up a worksheet to thoroughly investigate each individual situation in order to deal with, because the parents usually cannot understand why their children cannot be part of what they experienced.

"We are a very competitive university, especially with such schools as UCLA and UC Berkeley," said Cindee Ben- net-Triola, second director of Relations with Schools. "Some of our programs here are even competitive with Stanford in their admissions requirements so you can see why it is that so many people are turned away each quarter."

Cal Poly only accepts California residents because the demand for admission is so high. Thousands of letters from throughout the country and the world come through the Relations with Schools office, but the replies are often grim.

"We state right out front to out-of-state applicants that if they're serious about coming to Cal Poly they can come to California and establish residency," said clerical assistant Ruth Escheveria. "That takes two years to do. If they're serious about coming to school here, however, then usually they'll do that."

In dealing with unaccommodated applicants it is frequently necessary for counselors to thoroughly investigate each individual situation in order to offer sound and serious advice, a job that each counselor takes seriously.

"I'm a little nervous about dealing with some of these unaccommodated applicants, especially the ones that are in tears and cry," said Merlene Hicks of the admissions office. "It's just one of those things you have to deal with when it happens. As soon as the big rush comes this winter and spring I'm confident I'll be ready."

Counseling, said Hicks, requires a great deal of tact, empathy, patience and a positive attitude. With application numbers continuing to rise, the workload for counselors will increase as more people will need to know why Cal Poly is sending them away.
SLO airport gets a new identity

By Scott Sarno
Staff Writer

The name of the San Luis Obispo County Airport just got longer. In a ceremony last week, the name was amended to "San Luis Obispo County Airport—McChesney Field," in honor and memory of Leroy E. McChesney.

McChesney was a long-time member of the California Aviation Council and was respected by pilots and residents in the San Luis Obispo area, where he was a strong leader in aviation and agriculture.

McChesney moved to San Luis Obispo in 1920, graduated from Cal Poly in 1931 and held a pilot's license since 1949.

Greg Beck, farm bureau president, said McChesney was a quiet, friendly man who was dedicated to aviation and agriculture in San Luis Obispo County.

The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors honored McChesney for his leadership and dedication to the field of aviation, and therefore dedicated the airport in his honor.

Along with the new name, a ceremonial plaque will hang in the airport terminal with an official resolution written by the board of supervisors.

McChesney's wife, Grace, said her husband would be embarrassed by all the attention being paid him, but said she is happy for the honor.

McChesney died in May of 1986.

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NEW ASI POSITION RAISES CORPORATE INVOLVEMENT

By Brooks Watson
Staff Writer

A new position has been created on the ASI executive board, bringing the president's council up to twelve members.

The new position deals with marketing research and is designed to attract corporations to Cal Poly who can generate money for ASI organizations and programs that may be in financial need.

Senior agriculture business management major Sam Chuck will be heading the program and will be joined winter quarter by Lisa Cork. Cork is also a senior in agricultural business management.

"I'm really excited about this position and very enthusiastic to lay some of the groundwork for years to come," said Chuck. The university could really benefit from a position like this and if we do it correctly we can generate some money for our programs as well."

The requirements of Chuck's position involve researching companies he feels fit well with Cal Poly's image and then inviting them to sponsor some type of promotional event on campus. Money generated from such programs will then be put into a special fund to be drawn upon by ASI's organizations and programs in need.

"I'll be trying to find corporations that I feel have a niche here at Cal Poly," said Chuck. "Once I've established who that particular company will be, I'll put together a presentation and try to sell them on coming to the university."

For his presentations, Chuck said a lot of his time is spent researching the event he's trying to promote, looking at what types of target audiences that particular company could reach, doing a cost analysis and laying out the overall plan. He is hoping to soon have a promotional video completed in which he can show prospective sponsors the environment Cal Poly offers and the benefits a corporation could receive by sponsoring an event on campus.

Should Chuck make a successful sale, the company he's contacted will usually respond by sending him a letter of intent.

See ASI, page 9

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Orton could play defense at any level right now, Smith said, and he has been hitting well. In his first 39 games as a pro, Orton batted .276 and struck out 47 times. His seven home runs and 31 runs batted placed him second in the Northwest League as of last week.

Smith said Orton will definitely end up in the major leagues. "Johnny will play in the big leagues soon," said Smith. "It just depends on how fast they want to move him up.

Orton said his goal is to move up a step a year — double- and triple-A ball lead to the majors — and make it to the big leagues in three or four years. The competition is tough in the Northwest League and within the Angels organization, Orton said, but he is looking ahead and working hard to try to beat out the players ahead of him.

Smith said Orton's best tool is his attitude. "His attitude won't let him not move up," Smith said. "He works too hard. His makeup is as good as anyone's. He is dedicated, he works hard, he treats baseball like a job, he's ready every night to play and he works hard in practice. The great thing for me is with a lot of kids, if they pick you see great ability and tools, but he really plays hard.

Orton led the Mustangs in batting last season with a .348 average and stolen bases with eight. He was second in home runs with 11 and third in runs batted in with 30.

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From page 7

From the money for the event while ASI provides the facilities and the audience. Profits made through such events are then either split into some type of percentages or donated entirely to ASI.

So far, such corporations as General Motors and Coors have been able to generate funds for some of ASI's programs. GM currently sponsors Rec. Sports and ASI Films, while Coors came to campus last spring to host a comedy show.

"It's administration policy to keep alcohol and tobacco companies off our campus due to the image the university is trying to maintain," said Chuck. "Coors was an exception because they offered a unique program and promised to keep all large promotional ploys away from campus. The logo they used on their posters was rather small." 

Currently Chuck has been negotiating with Pace Picante, a popular Saha manufacturer, for a sponsored activity sometime this fall. Other prospects include

Adidas sportswear, Nike and Carnation Foods.

"My main goal for this year is to strictly outline the policy for this position and to really just get the ball rolling," said Chuck.

"The more money we can pull together from corporate-sponsored events, the less students may have to pay." — Stan Van Vleck

ASI President Stan Van Vleck said he is positive Chuck will do a fine job with the new position.

"When I was looking for someone to fill this position last year, I went to marketing clubs and professors on campus and asked for someone they could recommend to handle a position such as this," said Van Vleck. "Stan Chuck's name kept coming up in the conversations I was having so I decided to give him a call and see if he was interested."

Van Vleck said there is a need for this position on his executive staff because he feels there is a large resource out there in which to generate funds for some of his programs.

"The more money we can pull together from such corporate sponsored events then the less money students have to pay for any of ASI's programs," said Van Vleck.

Companies that do decide to participate in ASI's new program receive something in return for their efforts. General Motors, for example, will supply films for the ASI films series each quarter and the university in return will allow them to display their vehicles in the University Union.

Over the summer months Chuck has been hard at work trying to attract new corporations and program ideas to Cal Poly to sponsor such things as the Laugh Olympics and Homecoming. Announcements for some of the year's upcoming special events will be made sometime during fall quarter.

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Entrance booth may cut hassles and look good

By Brooks Watson

Cal Poly’s Grand Avenue entrance has recently undergone a serious makeover in order to make it more appealing.

The re-designing of the area is part of Cal Poly’s master plan for improvement and includes the entire front entrance and areas adjacent to Grand Avenue.

“We’ve been trying to do something with that entrance for quite some time,” said head grounds worker Tom May. “It’s been in the university’s master plan for years and now we’ve finally gotten the money.”

Approximately $6,000 was spent on landscaping the entrance, which included new trees, shrubs, flowers and ground covering. Another $1,000 was invested in floodlights to highlight the ‘California Polytechnic State University’ concrete entrance sign.

“The lights enhance the sign quite nicely in the evenings making it a really beautiful thing to see,” said manager of architectural trades Gerry Gentileucci.

“Now that we’ve completed these beginning steps, we’re going to begin ripping out the old wood future site of the information booth.

plans for that area include a manned information booth in which visitors can buy parking permits, get maps and ask about university activities. The island is expected to be completed sometime next year.

The new information booth has been designed in part to help cut back the number of people coming to the switchboard window in the university’s Administration building lobby.

Campus telecommunications services supervisor Barbara Ciesielski said the new information booth will ease the workload of her department, since her switchboard operators are trained to answer phones, not hand out maps, parking permits and tour information.

According to one switchboard operator, “It’s hard to give good service to someone needing help while the phones keep ringing.”

The entrance redesigning began in the spring of 1984 with the construction of the large concrete sign by seniors Dave Boyle and Brian McCosker. Both were architectural design students and constructed the sign to fulfill senior project requirements.

Executive Dean of campus facilities Doug Gerard said the remainder of the Grand Avenue plan entails relandscaping and repainting the rest of the roadside, because “the old stuff we have is really outdated.”

Funding for the project was drawn from Cal Poly’s grounds and housing department budgets. Housing donated money since part of dorm recreation areas were included in the improvement.

Other projects in Cal Poly’s master plan include more landscaping designs, increased parking areas and some new buildings. No completion dates for any new projects have been set.

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"It won't be a punitive system," Sullivan said. The National Collegiate Athletic Association has not ruled or officially commented on Nebraska's action, said Frank Uryasz, director of sports medicine for the NCAA.

"There really hasn't been a reaction by the NCAA," Uryasz said. But the NCAA, he said, has received a number of inquiries from schools curious about Nebraska's action.

Uryasz said the NCAA will not officially deal with the issue until it hears from a special committee next February. However, Uryasz said he isn't surprised by Nebraska's move. "You have to deal with what's best for your institution," he said.
WHEELER

From page 1

plagued on one year probation by the NCAA because of the violations. Wheeler says that he was forced to resign during the investigation.

"We feel he was forced to resign as head coach (and) there was no good reason to terminate him," Lafranchise said.

"Our intent here is to point out that Wheeler was coerced into resigning because of basketball program." Lafranchise added that Wheeler was coerced into resigning because of the investigation and that "Cal Poly had a contract of employment with him, and breached it, and breached it unfairly."

Wheeler said that Cal Poly broke an agreement he had made the university has maintained tenure because he was an "at will" employee. Robert Negranti, staff personnel officer, said that "at will" employees are hired with no possibility of official tenure. He said "It is pretty much the standard in the industry that the coaches are hired at will and are not tenured."

Wheeler said in his statement on Thursday, "I was assured my duties."

Cal Poly has 45 days to respond to the claim. After 45 days, Wheeler can file suit.

NICARAGUA

From page 1

end of the rainy season, so the area had just started to green. The country was once almost completely rainforest, though it is largely deforested now.

"Nicaragua is an absolutely gorgeous country," said Cheryll. "Anything that represents what like our Navajos — six miles from everywhere," said Richard. "There are problems with getting the food produced by these families out to market, and supplies in to the people who need them."

Typical dwellings have four rooms — two bedrooms, a kitchen, and one room left open on three sides to serve as a porch. This room is often fenced to prevent the entrance of farm animals. The kitchen consists of a fire pit, allowing the smoke to drift where it will — a practice that results in cataracts for many women by the time they are 40, Cheryll said.

The couple also visited "MADRE," a support group for mothers who have lost husbands or children in the war.

"There is one woman who comes to all the meetings, but does not speak," said Cheryll. "It is because she had lost her husband and six children."

Cheryll McCarty said they were well-treated by the local citizens of Nicaragua.

"They are happy to have Americans down there," she said. "They want us to come there so that they can tell us to go back home and tell our government to close off."