Alcohol Awareness Week features sobriety checks

By Marianne Biasotti
Staff Writer

A highway patrol officer looked on mildly as students drank in the middle of the University Union Plaza Tuesday. No, it wasn't the year 2088, but a demonstration measuring blood-alcohol level before sitting behind the wheel of an automobile.

"Know Your Limits" is the theme of Alcohol Awareness Week, encouraging student awareness on the dangers of drinking and driving.

Tom Bongi, Interfraternity Council president, proceeded to get drunk in front of onlookers, periodically taking a sobriety test. After six drinks, he said he felt a little dizzy, but was able to balance, counted fairly well on his fingers and could mechanically walk a straight line.

"He's not drunk, but under the influence on the borderline — I'd bring him in if he were pulled over right now," said Highway Patrol Officer Frank Strieker, who facilitated the event.

Strieker said this would be a violation, costing a $515 fine in San Luis Obispo County. There would be an $8,000 fine if she were arrested for drunk driving.

Not only may a person have to pay an initial fine, he said, but raised insurance rates, towing and attorney fees averaging about $500 have to be taken into account when computing under the influence.

Besides the 10 blood-alcohol limit, there is a new law which sends drivers under 21 to juvenile hall who have between a .05 to a .01 blood-alcohol level.

Strieker said officers take nervousness into account when administering sobriety tests. Touching a finger to the nose is not really a valid predictor, while reciting the alphabet is one of the most popular.

"You'd be surprised how many letters the alphabet has after a 1.2 blood-alcohol level," Strieker said.

People can be drunk without a 10, he explained, as that's just the number legally agreed upon.

"I've seen people with a 10 who couldn't drive or talk," Strieker said. "One guy was smashed out of his mind."

Wreck serves warning

The crushed mass of metal lying on its side in the University Union used to be a running car, and through the smashed windshield there is a seat from where a living person used to drive.

After four years of towing cars from accidents, Dave Veazey says he's seen too many college-aged bodies lying in blood next to a car like this. Veazey, a recent Cal Poly graduate, said he wanted to bring this reality into the view of other students by towing the car on campus.

Out of the many accidents he has seen, Veazey says about 80 percent are alcohol-related.

"I've seen dead bodies on football and station wagons full of car scots get smashed — definitely some guilty stuff," Veazey said.

He said the blame of drinking and driving is being placed on today's young people.

"It's a bunch of garbage — drinking and driving is as old as booze and cars," he said. "This generation should be proud and feel good that they're standing up and doing something about a long-term problem."  

— Marianne Biasotti

New bus provides rides to far-flung students

By Jenny Lampman
Staff Writer

For those students who are tired of commuting to Cal Poly from the Five Cities area, SLOSCAT may be their answer.

SLOSCAT (San Luis Obispo/South County Area Transit), a new transit system running between the South County and the city of San Luis Obispo, began two and a half weeks ago running through Oceanic, Arroyo Grande, Grover City, Pismo Beach, Shell Beach and into San Luis Obispo.

Members of the Five Cities community have been trying for six years to get a transit system operating into San Luis Obispo. "It's people who work in San Luis Obispo, seniors, young mothers with children and some Cal Poly students, who have demanded the program," said Carole Harrison, manager for SCAT and SLO-SCAT.

SCAT runs the route through contract with Santa Barbara Transportation and is funded by the fares from riders, $1.25 one-way or $45 monthly, and by sales tax collected through the Cities' and County's share of the Transportation Development Act.

Since its implementation March 14, the program has had almost 750 riders. "We're really happy with the results so far. We're averaging about 45 riders a day," said Kerri James, regional rideshare manager for San Luis Obispo.

The bus makes three round trips a day from Arroyo Grande City Hall to Palm Street and Osoe Street in San Luis Obispo, looping through Cal Poly. SLOSCAT also interfaces with SLO Transit, SCAT and Central Coast Regional Transit Authority for those who need to transfer to other destinations.

For Cal Poly students, the campus stop is located in front of the new gym, with a riding time of about 54 minutes to Arroyo Grande.

"We're really hoping for more Cal Poly students to become aware of the program and start using it," said Harrison.
Reagan’s legacy begets hardships

By John Ly barger

In 1980 they warned me that if I voted for a Democrat, terrible things would happen by 1988. The national debt would explode and we would have to depend on foreigners to keep our economy afloat. Wild gyrations on Wall Street would reflect a grossly unbalanced economy and America would lose its competitive edge. If I voted for a Democrat, they warned, Iran would continue to take hostages. The Sandinistas would become entrenched in Nicaragua and armed thugs would threaten the Panama Canal’s security.

If I voted for a Democrat, they warned, drug lords would rule the streets of our cities and the Justice Department would be handed over to weak, corrupt political cronies.

And if I voted for a Democrat, America would risk losing its pride and confidence in the future.

Well, they must have been right. I did vote for a Democrat — and it all came true.

This, then, is the Reagan legacy.

We find ourselves disadvantaged by amnesia — computer — high-tech culture idolizing the rich and famous. We are being engulfed in economic injustice, a careless privatization of our natural resources and heritage.

When General Electric, with a $10 billion income, pays no taxes and is rewarded with a $10 million rebate, while a displaced worker pays taxes on meager unemployment insurance, there is economic violence.

The Reagan legacy has fostered an arrogant materialistic stance as being desirable and acceptable. Complacent self-satisfaction overrides any concern for the less fortunate or deprived.

Glossy reports showing a drop in unemployment are based on counting as employed anyone having worked one hour during the period and those having worked part time.

A lack of concern for morality or ethics in government, rampant in the Nixon administration, has burgeoned in Reagan’s Administration.

The top 1 percent of wage earners in the past eight years now pay 20 percent less taxes.

Our nation stands threatened by drugs, crime, disease, poverty and moral decay. The supposed great crime fighters themselves are being indicted for crimes upon the very nation they were supposed to serve.

We needed a legacy that provided a common ground, a legacy which has been taken away from farmers and handed to large corporations. No matter what the skill or what the service, no matter what the level of professional competency attained at this fine university, it is worth nothing without those who will demand your goods or services. Your best self-interest lies with the realization that the best legacy you might profit from would be one that gives all Americans open doors and chances to utilize those goods and services.

Obviously, you highly skilled future graduates will need more than technological wizardry to handle the massive Reagan-inspired debt that threatens to engulf you with economic shambles.

The Reagan legacy is a mighty misnomer — it should be called the Reagan burden.

John Ly barger is chair of the San Luis Obispo County Democratic Central Committee.
Women's tennis dominates Westmont, 8-1

By John Alexiou

The Cal Poly women's tennis team overpowered Westmont College, 8-1, to win its 21st consecutive match Tuesday.

Cal Poly head coach Miguel Phelps, who played his entire lower squad with the exception of Wendy Elliott and Vicki Kanter, Cal Poly's No. 1 and 2 players, was pleased with his team's performance.

"I thought Westmont would've given us a little more trouble since they were the only two starters on my whole team who played," said Phelps.

"We just have a lot of depth," he added. "If anyone gets hurt of anything, at least we have the confidence our players can go in and have the experience to play a particular match."

Elliott and Kanter, who didn't compete for a week, played with a hunger against Westmont.

Elliott easily defeated Carolyn Clayton, 6-0, 6-2. Kanter, who's been competing with a foot injury, didn't allow it to interfere with her play against the Warriors. Kanter won, 6-4, 6-2.

Cal Poly's Wendy Elliot was the first off the court after defeating the Warriors' Raquel Phillips, 6-1, 6-1.

Cal Poly's No. 3 player for Cal Poly, Danica Armstrong, over powered Heidi Miller, 6-2, 6-4.

CiCi Barbe, No. 4 on the Mustangs' ladder, faced stiffer competition from Westmont's Jacqueline Johnson. Barbe, who eventually won, 7-5, 6-4, said it was a good match, but wished she had played closer to her ability level.

"I was a little more tentative — I should've come in (to the net) and put the ball away more," she said.

However, the reverse was true for Cal Poly's No. 5 player. Maria Prieto was the first off the court after defeating the Warriors' Anne Marie Pises, 6-1, 6-1.

Mustang Barbara Cunningham also had no problem defeating Kristi LaVanway, quickly winning, 6-0, 6-3.

In doubles competition, Cal Poly's No. 1 team of Amy Lansford and Elliott came out on top, defeating Clayton and Phillips, 6-2, 6-1.

The No. 2 team of Kanter and Armstrong defeated Westmont's Miller and Pises, 6-4, 6-3.

Cal Poly's No. 3 team of Barbe and Amy Gorman posted the only loss for the Mustangs, as Johnson and LaVanway dominated the pair, 5-7, 1-6.

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ALCOHOL

From page 1

If a driver refuses to take a sobriety test, his license will immediately be taken away, said Strieker, although that doesn’t deter some people from driving. However, through “implied consent” an officer can automatically take the blood sample of an unconscious driver at the scene of an accident.

Test results may vary, but usually are accurate as they stay within 2 points, generally differing from a .12 to a .13, explained Strieker.

He added that driving under the influence is illegal, even if it is on private property.

CSU

From page 1

college; they must do more than the minimum requirements," Honnell said.

College bound students who have met the CSU requirements usually do above and beyond the minimum requirements because they are naturally interested in learning, said Herrera.

"We are in the middle of an academic boom," said Herrera. "We have a student who is taking four different languages because she enjoys it. Most students would rather take academic courses for their electives instead of study hall."

Even though CSU admission standards are tougher, "I don’t foresee any students who want to get in to CSU who won’t get in because of the new requirements," said Herrera.

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