Getting classes: when demand exceeds supply

This is the first of a three-part series on registration and scheduling difficulties. The series will cover problems and possible solutions to impacted classes, administrative policies and the difficulty of four-year graduation.

It is no secret that students at Cal Poly have been plagued with problems obtaining classes. Study lists arrive with few classes on them, and every quarter droves of students wait outside classrooms trying to add already-full courses.

Students and administrators say the lack of classes makes graduation in four years very difficult. Other problems voiced were the number of units required to graduate, archaic scheduling and CAR equipment, a slow add/drop policy and faculty understaffing.

In a Mustang Daily student survey, 89 percent polled say they have trouble getting classes. More than 52 of the 100 surveyed say the most difficult time to add classes is between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., while another 13 percent say they have difficulty during all time periods.

According to the survey, 58 percent of the students polled say general education classes are the most impacted, while 30 percent say they have trouble adding both general education and major courses.

Gerald Punches, Cal Poly registrar, says it is a problem of supply and demand. "We have the demand, where is the supply?"

The number of students trying to add general education courses is staggering. According to the Frank Lebens, director of operations in the Provost's Office, the backlog in the general education and breadth requirement area A courses could be as high as 5,500 students.

Area A courses include critical thinking, public speaking and argumentative writing.

In fall 1986, 1,400 students signed up for English Composition 114 while approximately 600 were accommodated, says Punches.

One of the problems is the delay in responding to the students' class demand. Executive Dean Doug Gerard says the Administration must request faculty and classrooms a year in advance.

Punches says CAR, Computer Assisted Registration, was installed in 1979 to register students and forecast class demand.

"We have the information available, the Administration could make a case and change the structure of the resources allotted to accommodate demand," says Punches.

Gerard says the state Department of Finance created a state formula to allocate resources such as classroom space and numbers of faculty for the entire California State University system.

However, with Cal Poly's impacted departments and emphasis on hands-on laboratory classes, the single state formula does not work to supply the proper amount of resources.

"The state treats all CSU's the same. Whether the formula is wrong is immaterial," says Gerard.

Even with the 12.4 new faculty positions scheduled for next year, the demand for classes will far exceed the supply. "Faculty allocation methods are not quickly responsive to change," Lebens says.

Mona Rosenman, English department head, says there is a two-year lag in responding to faculty needs. "Right now we are getting the faculty that statistics showed we needed in 1984," she says.

Problems of impacted classes are also augmented by the desire of students for classes at certain hours. Gerard says Friday registration, back page

Impacted Classes:
When will it end?
Staff writers Brad Curtis and Susan Harris take an in-depth look at the difficulties of scheduling and registering for classes.

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Sand-sational sand sculptures surround sunlovers Saturday

Cal Poly engineering students Marcus Von Engel and Sheldon Gen carefully chisel details on their hand-packed pyramid during the second annual sand sculpture contest Saturday. Avila Beach was transformed into a fanciful scene of pirate castles, Incan ruins, a giant octopus and a Porsche as a result of the event, sponsored by the Multicultural Center. See story on page 3.

IN A WORD

First glance
A proposed women's study program at Cal Poly would provide a forum for women's issues. See page 4.

WEATHER

Some early morning low clouds and fog Tuesday morning clearing to mostly sunny skies with highs in the mid to upper 70s.
Divestment: seen from both sides

By James L. Strom

The issue of divestment from companies doing business in South Africa has been the subject of heated debate on campus.

Divestment makes economic sense. A.J. Schuermann, Jr.

Opinion

Guest speaker mad over parking ticket

Editor — I am writing this letter in regard to the policies of the Cal Poly Campus Police. A member of the faculty asked me to come and bring my 18-month-old son to talk with a child development class on May 19. I was directed to the campus police office and obtained a visitor permit for the following day. The day of the class, because of the obvious parking problem at Cal Poly and in dealing with a small child who is too big to be carried but too small to walk a distance, the only place I could find to park nearby (other than handicapped) was a staff space. Upon returning to my car, I found a ticket charging me an unauthorized parking ($10) and without a ticket, I then returned to the police station with my child and went through the trouble of correcting the charge that I indeed had a visitor permit, and contested that I was a guest

Dear Editor — I would like to express my appreciation and amusement in reading the latest Void. If "Steve Johnson" changes his name again, I'll die. And speaking of dy­

Letters to the Editor

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Monday, June 2, 1986

BLOOM COUNTY

by Berke Breathed
Sand sculpture competition

By Julie Anne Lamer

Event boasts international flavor

"Sand is international ... it is found on every beach in the world"

— Paul Lewis

Across America designed by the Cal Poly Rose Float Committee, was the winner.

After lengthy consideration by the judges, "Arms Across the Beach," the happy octopus, designed and constructed by a group of architecture students, was determined the winner in the people category.

The entries were judged by four members of the Multicultural Center staff and were assessed on their application to the theme and category, originality, and the quality of craftsmanship, according to Juliet Hamburg, a staff member.

The purpose of the event was to get people to think about internationalism. "Sand is international ... it is found on every beach in the world," said Paul Lewis, one of the event organizers.

The event is also held to make people more aware of the Multicultural Center, according to Kinley Wong. Participants in the contest ranged from resident advisers of Yosemite Hall who tried to re-invent the wheel in honor of the Indianapolis 500.

According to John and Patricia Centre, of Las Vegas, they just stopped by to look at the sculptures and buy one of the T-shirts that were given to each of the contestants. Instead they decided to stay and have some fun.

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Recommendations made on funds for child care

By Taffy Renkowitz

Recommendations for university child care were submitted at the May meeting of the California State Students' Association. According to a report by the CSSA Child Care Task Force, recommendations were made to the Board of Trustees for a program change proposal to be developed in order to provide a stable base of funding for children's center director positions, as well as for teachers and support staff.

CSSA is an organization consisting of one student representative from each CSU campus. The representative is usually the student body president of the school. The Cal Poly representative, ASI President Mike Mendes, said he believes CSSA is the best vehicle to find outside sources of funding for the children's centers. Mendes said he, along with Doug Watanabe, ASI government relations officer, worked hard lobbying CSSA to make child care a number one priority for funding. With more money and use it on other organizations, Mendes said, which would help keep fees low.

Katherine Danaher, acting coordinator of the Cal Poly Children's Center, said these new funds would be very positive in respect to the center's budget. The center has had problems in the past because its needs are so great, she said.

Child care is in real demand at Cal Poly. There are more than 200 children's names on a waiting list to get into the center, Danaher said, and there is no room to expand at this time.

Danaher said, "The Cal Poly area is in a real need. There are more and more people utilizing child care centers. With these funds, we wouldn't have to ask ASI for as much subsidy and the money would also help us to fund a larger center." Mendes said ASI received more than 1,000 postcards from Cal Poly students to send to the state legislature in support of the center. "It's a lot like handi
capped when there are more and more people utilizing child care centers. With these funds, we wouldn't have to ask ASI for as much subsidy and the money would also help us to fund a larger center, and the money would still be going to child care," Mendes said.

According to the CSSA report, "The Task Force recommends that the existing limitations on General Fund expenditures for children's centers be removed and that each president be given authority to set up the curriculum, said Lant, because men and women faculty members will also gain new perspectives in the classrooms. "Women faculty have never really been permitted to study themselves academically and with a women's studies program they could take the time to study the women in literature, history, philosophy, science and all the other fields women tend to be overlooked in," said Lant. "With a women-centered perspective, the faculty in the male-dominated majors such as science and engineering would not ignore, but bring in more women speakers and learn to support the few women in these non-traditional majors." The proposed women's studies program at Cal Poly would involve a women's studies curriculum, faculty development and funding for women's week. One way to set up the curriculum, said Lant, would be to offer an interdisciplinary minor. This probable women's studies minor would include at least three core courses would be the center of the women's studies program. At the lower level in the division of courses, an introduction to women's studies class would provide a general education of women of the world, while a second course about women and creativity could become more specific, said Lant. In the upper division, a course on the theories of feminism could be incorporated to concentrate on women's issues.

"The hard part of developing a women's studies program is to branch out the courses and faculty within the various majors, mainly because of the extra time involved," said Lant. "The commitment is probably out there and we don't even know it." "A great deal depends on the students and faculty and making the classes available. Right now, I'm just grateful for the support of my department and the prospects of a women's studies minor on this campus."
The rock band The Alarm performed the 119th concert of their 120-concert tour Friday night at the Cal Poly Main Gym to a crowd of enthusiastic students.

But long before The Alarm and warm-up band the 'Long Ryders took to the stage, there were hours of preparation that went into the concert, such as unloading equipment and setting up the stage. Students in ASI Concerts Committee also play a big part in that time before the fans ever see the performance.

Only when everything has been set up and the sound-check completed, then the band is ready to play...

Although band members were not available for comment Friday, The Alarm guitar technician Simon Bain was able to give some insight on the band before the concert.

The Alarm started its "Strength" tour in November and has been on the road practically non-stop. It has also been an extremely physical experience for band members and roadies alike. The roadies adopt shorts and tank tops, as sweat and sore muscles come with the job.

The Alarm has achieved the reputation of a band striving for close contact with the audience and with the ability to stir the listeners. "We don't like having security running around on stage. We like the wild audiences," said Bain.

Bain said this tour has been much more successful than the "Declaration" tour. During the "Declaration" tour the band was just starting out and attracting a small following. This tour they've increased the following "three-fold."

The band likes to change their set for every show. "It depends on the crowd," said Bain. "Before the show the band comes out to check out the crowd and then decides which songs to play."

"The stage show is basically the same tour as the last in the sense that they're still using acoustic guitars and harmonicas. The songs are just as political if not more so. But, the songs are more personal now. For example, 'The Spirit of '76' is about Mike's earlier days back in 1976."

Calling the Cal Poly audience "medium sized," The Alarm prefers to play large clubs. "It's a good atmosphere — the people are dancing and sweating and it's dark."

Top: Mike Peters, lead vocalist of The Alarm, belts out the band's hit "Knife Edge." Above: guitar technician Simon Bain meticulously checks equipment before the gig. Left: sound technician Andy Taylor listens to band members rehearsing during the sound check. Far left: a Cal Poly student helps a roadie unload the truck behind the Main Gym.

Photos by Tustin Ellison
By Joe Bissin
Inter-American

Free electives may be a thing of the past in many school departments following Academic Senate passage of a resolution on the topic last week.

Because of a divergence of opinion among departments on the necessity of maintaining the free elective requirement, the curriculum committee prepared two resolution drafts: one which removed the requirement, and one which would have precluded the Provost's Office from granting exceptions to the current Campus Administrative Manual policy. The senate opted for the resolution removing the strict requirement, leaving the decision to offer free electives to individual departments.

In the past, some departments with concentrated technical curriculums, such as mechanical engineering, had been granted exceptions from the Provost's Office to waive the nine-unit free elective requirement.

The number of exceptions requested has risen as additional General Education and Breadth (GE&B) requirements have been added in recent years, because departments have been reluctant to replace technical courses with GE&B courses in an attempt to remain under the total number of units required in a particular major.

Economics professor Tim Keruen explained his reasons for supporting the successful resolution: "It seemed reasonable to me to give the departments, who probably know what's best in their situations, the choice of what to do.

"I didn't see the point of making the departments jump through two or three extra hoops to get to the same point (getting an exception from the Provost's Office)," he said.

History Professor Barbara Hallman saw the issue differently. While acknowledging that departments were already able to get exceptions to the free elective requirement, Hallman preferred the extra barrier to remain in place.

"I'd rather have them get an exception every time," she said. 

Echoing the sentiments of other professors in the School of Communicative Arts and Humanities, Hallman said, "I personally would like the students to have some kind of choice about some of the classes they take."

Despite the debate, the resolution passed by more than a two-to-one margin, which was confirmed by a roll call vote.

Free elective requirement lifted

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By Stacie Ervico

A Cal Poly student has designed a device which may allow a motorist to have an economical car with a high-performance engine.

Jon Heim, an engineering technology major, calls his senior project the "Heim Engine." Heim designed a valve which controls intake and exhaust electronically, instead of mechanically.

Electric valves would allow drivers to easily change the motor behavior, whereas a mechanical valve is permanent, said Karl Lilje, an engineering technology professor. Heim said, "The ultimate plan is for the driver to be able to do this with the touch of a button."

Heim said that currently motorists must sacrifice good mileage for high performance. This valve system would allow drivers to have the best of both worlds.

Lilje said Volkswagen is designing a similar system that isn't nearly as advanced as Heim's. Engine manufacturers such as General Motors and Ford are also testing this same system, said Heim, but this is a new idea and there is not much information out on it yet.

James Ehrenberg, Heim's senior project adviser, said the reason for this may be that information is being kept secret. "He is tackling a complex problem that I've never seen done before. I think he has a good start on the approach."

Astronaut's remains returned home

KAILUA-KONA, Hawaii (AP) — The remains of astronaut Ellison Onizuka have arrived in his native Hawaii for burial.

Family members and friends met the plane carrying Onizuka's body as it arrived at the Kailua-Kona airport on the island of Hawaii on Saturday. The remains, in a flag-draped casket, were then carried to the Onizuka family store in Keopu.

Onizuka was killed in January along with the other six crew members when the shuttle Challenger exploded.

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Brick Oven Pizza
Computers planned to ease library research

By Craig Andrews

A computerized catalog at the Robert E. Kennedy Library will ease the finding of research materials, said Joseph R. Matthews, president of Matthews and Associate, a library management consultant.

Matthews said the University of California's computer systems are already crowded with users.

An on-line computer catalog would replace the cumbersome card catalog.

Matthews said there are about 100 on-line catalogs in use at corporate and public libraries in the United States.

He said the average time patrons spend at card catalogs is between 2.5 and 4.5 minutes. If library users search one area and the item they need isn't there, they walk away, he said.

Paul T. Adalian, head of the library reference department, expressed concern that there might not be enough terminals to serve library users — especially if people spend up to 10 minutes on a terminal.

Adalian said the computers in the reference department and at the periodicals desk are already crowded with users.

Matthews said he even advocated having misspelled entries cross-referenced in the system, so if a patron misspells an entry the computer will still retrieve it.

The system could also be used for circulation data processing, making it more cost effective.

Students adapt quickly to using the new technology, Matthews said. "The group that has problems adjusting are faculty and professional staff," he said.

For instance, faculty members of the library should assign library staff members to serve as "missionaries" for every department, Matthews said.

"The attitudes the staff haveget passed on and directly influence the patrons," he said.

Matthews said university systems have major up-front expenses, but they are fixed-price assets. That means the cost of the system does not rise with increased use.

However, when Matthews was asked what would happen if a system became obsolete too quickly, he replied that the library would simply have to get a new system. This implies that computerized catalogs can't be easily upgraded or expanded beyond their abilities at their inception.

Matthews, author of a book titled Public Access to On-Line Catalogs, said most people can learn to use on-line catalogs in less than 15 minutes with no assistance.

Indicating the terminals in the Reserve Room, Matthews said Cal Poly is automated more than many universities he's seen.

Cal Poly is expected to receive 100 on-line catalogs in use at the Universities in the 1987-88 budget.

David B. Welch, director of Cal Poly information systems, expects the system to cost more than $500,000. He said the system could possibly be in use as early as the fall of 1988.

CHILDREN

From page 4

the authority to allocate available General Fund monies to provide for more stable and quality child care programs."

Matthews also recommends that child care services be recognized by the Board of Trustees as an integral student support service of each campus and be administratively assisted.

"We would feel like the university would support us more in our efforts to help the student parents achieve their educational goals," Danaher said. She added that putting the centers under student services makes a lot of sense to her.

Suggestions were made for the CSU to conduct a study to determine the adequacy of current child care facilities. According to the task force document, "It is reported that the limited physical facilities of the existing child care facilities on most of the CSU campuses is one of the major hindrances in meeting student needs."

Each campus was asked to conduct an annual evaluation of child care facilities on most of the CSU campuses. This committee would most likely be composed of faculty, students, parents and administrative staff.

Each campus was also encouraged to form a representative Child Care Advisory Committee, where one does not exist. This committee would most likely be composed of faculty, students, parents and administrative staff.

Danaher said Cal Poly will be starting a Child Care Task Force in June.

The CSSA Task Force also recommends that the Chancellor establish an ongoing Child Care Advisory Committee to examine information provided by the systemwide data base, provide continuity and to follow up on Task Force recommendations.

A final request by the Task Force was that each campus provide information in its outreach activities about the availability of child care services.

In his view, the next step is for the Trustees to see this area as a primary issue and then act on the recommendations.

Service held at nuclear test site

LAV VEGAS, Nev. (AP) -- About 45 anti-nuclear protesters gathered at the Nevada Test Site on Sunday and held a short religious service before departing on a government spokesman said.

There were no arrests on the second of a three-day protest dubbed the American Peace Test. said Jim Boyer, a Department of Energy spokesman.

More than 100 demonstrators were expected Monday.
Free busing
First year of free transportation called successful

By Chris Meri Burks

As the first year of free bus rides for students comes to an end, both Cal Poly and the San Luis Obispo Transit office are calling the program a tremendous success.

James Landreth, vice-president of business affairs at Cal Poly, said he and a member of the Student Senate came up with the idea of free rides during a brainstorming session on ways to use the pressure on the parking system on campus. There are two indications that the free busing program has been a positive step in that direction, Landreth said.

The first is that the sale of campus parking permits has dropped, said Landreth. For the first time in several years, permits for fall quarter were not sold out, he said. Although winter quarter permits did sell out, there was very little excess demand. "Typically, we would have had about 200 to 200 over-run requests after they sold out," he said. Landreth attributes this drop in the increased bus ridership by students commuting to campus. The other indication comes from parking surveys done by the public safety department, said Landreth. These surveys take into consideration several variables, including the time of day, the location of the parking lot, the weather and the day of the week. Landreth said this data indicates a significant increase in parking space vacancy rates over last year, and this, too, is seen as being directly connected to the increase of students riding the bus.

The transit manager for the city of San Luis Obispo, Nancy Knofla, said that during the past year, "We have had the possibility the highest ridership increase in the county." Knofla said that from July 1984 to April 1985, approximately 260,500 people rode the bus. From July 1985 to April 1986, that number jumped to 382,000, roughly a 50 percent increase. "Most cities jump up and down if they get a 5 percent increase," she said.

Cal Poly students have not been solely responsible for that increase, however, Knofla said. Before the free rides became available to Cal Poly students, faculty and staff, students made up a little less than half the total riders. Currently, the percentage of student ridership has risen to a bit more than half, Knofla said, which seems to be a ripping effect, because the general ridership has increased this year.

Increased student usage of the bus system is a result of convenience rather than the fact that rides are now free. "I think convenience is the main reason. You don't have to mess with the 50 cents or the token or the pass. You just have to get your card out," she said.

To provide students with the program, Cal Poly paid approximately $49,000. Landreth said this money came out of the "fines and forfeitures" fund. When someone gets a parking or other ticket on campus and pays the fine, there is specific universiy legislation and policy, said Landreth, as to how that money can be spent. Half of it goes to cover administrative costs, and the other half has historically been used to develop alternative transportation projects, said Landreth.

The cost of the program was arrived at by the Knofla office, by looking at student ridership for the previous year. Knofla said that during the fall quarter, demand for rides during the peak 8 a.m. hour was more than the existing system could handle, and some students were being left behind. To remedy this, another bus was added to handle the overflow.

"It's a situation where you can't get in the Main Gym. Paterson said the British and Japanese are also attempting to fly a man-powered helicopter. They were interested in sponsoring the Cal Poly AHS annual meeting in 1981, an engine team from Hugh's Aircraft came to talk about rotor blade dynamics. He was interested in flying the craft, and said Hughes would be interested in sponsoring the Cal Poly AHS chapter if they were interested. They were.

For five years, the group of student and faculty have been building, perfecting and attempting to fly the 140-pound aircraft. The group has tested the aircraft at whatever hours they could get in the Main Gym. Paterson said the gym is open 24 hours a day because they need windless conditions.

The group affectionately calls the craft the Da Vinci Project. Its rotor blades are 16 feet long. See HELICOPTER, back page

MILK CARTON
From page 6
may go wrong: a person could fall off a dock, there could be an accident while a boat is sinking, or some freak incident could injure one of the spectators or participants.

Lack of time was also a factor in the cancellation. "We had the dairy classic sale at the time we usually have the boat race, so we had to choose," said Bank and Commerce. "We might have planned to have the boat race in May (May 31st), and I think it was a bad time for a lot of clubs," said boat race team vice captain Tony Kollins.

About 39 clubs participated last year, but this year there seems to be a threat of less participation than in previous years, he said.

Rickard hopes by next year ASI will have the necessary Imagine the cover art, or new说法 that there will be less of a need for such coverage.

Gerry Bradley and Julie Anne Lauer
Cyclists blaze through downtown

The streets of San Luis Obispo took a beating Sunday as more than 300 riders barrelled through downtown during the annual San Luis Obispo Criterium.

Eric Heiden, Davis Phinney, Alex Steida and other world-class cyclists graced the streets of downtown yesterday during the race as more than 10,000 gawking spectators cheered them on.

The criterium was one of 23 stops on the nationwide 7-11 Cup circuit and unlike years past, a road race was run Saturday on Pozo Road before the criterium.

Both races were divided into four categories: Men's 4; Men's 3 and Vet; Women; and Men's 1, 2 and professional. Mark Fletcher won the 32-mile Men's 4 road race in 1:17:37.11. The Cal Poly Wheelmen were represented by Mike Bennett in third place and Jeb Thornburg, also of the Wheelmen finished fifth.


The criterium began Sunday with the Men's 4 event and Mike Delange navigated the .64-mile course in 24 laps to win it in 33:20. James Fisher from the Wheelmen placed 12th and Greg Letendre and Jeb Thornburg both picked up prime laps, where racers earn money on designated laps.

Berglund came back from her second-place finish in the road race to win the 39-lap women's criterium in 1:01:31.6 and Karl Weber won the men's 3 race.

And in the 63-lap pro-am race, Alex Steida edged out Davis Phinney to win his second straight San Luis Obispo Criterium. Steida, who is a member of the 7-11 team and a two-time member of the Canadian Olympic team, will get a chunk of the $7,000 prize money.

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they have trouble getting classes after 5 p.m. Lebents says Cal Poly has one of the highest classroom utilization ratios in the CSU system. He said Cal Poly is not too far off standard space, although the university does have a classroom shortage which increases the classroom utilization statistic.

"It's a vicious circle," Gerard says. If there are too many students in a class, the faculty allocations from the state decrease. If a class has too few students, as in a lab, the standard space, although the state has a classroom shortage which increases the classroom utilization statistic.

Lebents says Cal Poly is above the national average in number of students per class. In fact, the national average for college-level English classes is 24 people. Cal Poly classrooms average is 28 students, says Lebents. He says the optimum number is 20 students per classroom.

According to Punique, labs cause problems in overcrowding because they take up two- or three-hour blocks of time. "Right now we are playing catch-up," says Gerard. Facilities have been and will continue to be expanded with the new Engineering 11 Building, the renovation of the Dexter Building and the new agriculture building.

Gerard says, however, the problem is not getting worse. It seems that each year students will be added to the Cal Poly population by 1991.

Donald Coats, associate dean of Educational Services, "Everyone likes the peacky-keen hours."

Only 2 percent of students surveyed by Mustang Daily say they have trouble getting classes at night and night classes are scheduled at night," he said. Only 6 percent of all our classes day afternoon and night classes have been or will be added to the Cal Poly population by 1991. Coats says many class are operated on a course classification system. The system determines, among other things, the minimum number of students allowed in a classroom. Coats says the system is used mostly for English, math and laboratory classes in which individual instruction and teacher workload is a factor.

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"We work like a dedicated team," says Gerard. "Each issue affects another." Coats says many class are operated on a course classification system. The system determines, among other things, the minimum number of students allowed in a classroom. Coats says the system is used mostly for English, math and laboratory classes in which individual instruction and teacher workload is a factor.

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