Prof fights rapid decline of endangered kangaroo rat

By Robert Gross

The Morro Bay kangaroo rat, a rodent indigenous to the Morro Bay/Montana de Oro area, is endangered, and a Cal Poly biology professor is trying to do something about it.

Biology professor Roger Oambs has been studying the habitat and the kangaroo rat itself since 1982, and before he began studying the Morro Bay kangaroo rat, Biology professor Aryan Roost studied it. In fact, the first extensive trapping study was conducted in 1918.

Roost became involved in the studies in the late 1950s and has been involved in studying the rat ever since. Oambs became involved in the 1980s, and is concerned with the rapid dwindling of the animal.

"If you were to rank from one to 10 in California, the endangered mammals," said Oambs, "the rat would be at the very top of the list, in terms of numbers of them. There are so few of them it is ridiculous."

The number of rats has been dwindling since 1987, when they numbered 8,000. By 1994, the total number of Morro Bay kangaroo rats in the area was estimated at 21. Although that number had increased to an estimated 50 in 1986, there is still reason for concern.

"What we have done is try to look at the current ecological status of the rat," said Oambs. "That's what this whole report is about. And then from that, we try to develop management recommendations, and research recommendations, as well as trying to describe what the status of the animal in the area is.

Oambs said along with the estimated 50 animals in the wild now, about 23 to 30 are in captivity at San Simeon fish and wildlife lab.

The reasons for the dwindling numbers are many. The study cites the direct loss of habitat due to development, the change of vegetation in the area, predation and losses caused by vehicles, competition with other species of rodents, and the reduction of the population into several small sub-populations, and inbreeding.

Oambs has come up with a number of recommendations to help increase the population of the rat.

"We don't think that the (controlled) burn is the best way to manage habitat for rats," said Oambs. "One of our recommendations is to try some different habitat management other than what has been done. They (Fish and Wildlife service) have burned, they have cleared an area by hand with brush axes. The situation there was better than in the burned area, but it was really extensive. It took them about two months to do. We were going to recommend that they go out with bulldozers and tear up a small parcel of land."

The reason the habitat is altered in such a manner is that, according to Oambs, the Morro Bay kangaroo rats seem to thrive in disturbed habitats.

"If burns are all we have to work with, then that may be OK. But post-burns is not as similar to the rat's natural habitat as after a man-made clearing is established."

In the meantime, however, Oambs is monitoring the protected habitat into which they released four rats in 1987, he said. "Of the two females still remaining, one male has escaped but Gombs believes he will be recovered, and one has probably died."

"They don't breed like rabbits, so it's a very difficult," said Oambs. "It would be best to release them in stages back into the wild."

Research group to focus on greater dairy-good use

By Elizabeth Gillis

Centered in Cal Poly's new Agricultural Sciences Building, one of six U.S. dairy foods research centers, is a group dedicated to the maximum use of America's surplus dairy products.

The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), a government agency, buys surplus dairy products and makes cheese and butter to give away, often in the form of foreign aid.

In June 1987, funds from California's Dairy Industry helped establish the Dairy Products Technology Center. Funds were also received from Gov. George Deukmejian, to create the Cal Poly Bill 2339.

This bill, signed in 1986, supported the creation of the DPTC. A total of $400,000 was given to Cal Poly to develop a research group.

In 1987, the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board selected Cal Poly and UC Davis to work together as one of the six California Dairy Research Centers.

Wayne Geilman, research scientist with DPTC, said the Cal Poly/UC Davis team will receive $2 million over the next five years to conduct research.

"We're a new thing for the campus," Geilman said. "Part of our mission is to help find ways to utilize surplus dairy products in the market."

UC Davis does more basic research, and Cal Poly does more applied research, said Geilman. Cal Poly does dairy research, so all eight members of the DPTC staff do mostly research, and little instruction, Geilman said.

He said one cow can produce 60 pounds of milk every day. The American public consume about seven gallons every day and about 1,600 gallons per year.

America's dairy researchers have been doing a good job so far. The California Dairy Information Bulletin said the production and consumption levels of butter, cheese, and milk have been increasing every year.

The amount of and the amount of these products sold to the CCC have gone down. This means the industry is finding ways to use milk products the American public might not buy.

The DPTC is working on many projects to figure out ways to use all this milk.

Ultrafiltration is one of the methods being tested. It is a mechanical process whereby different components of a mixture are separated, said Geilman.

Milk is sieved and certain elements of it are removed or concentrated.

See DAIRY, back page

Nuclear power poll reports half fear another accident

By Richard Horsley

NEW YORK (AP) — Nearly a decade after the Three Mile Island accident, half those polled believe another serious nuclear power accident is likely, in eight in 10 people favor stricter safety standards.

An Associated Press-National Media General survey found support for continued use of nuclear power, now operating. But most opposed building new plants or setting up completed plants that are not yet in operation.

Overall, 55 percent said they supported use of nuclear power to generate electricity. But 56 percent of the 1,162 adults polled said it is impossible to store radioactive waste in nuclear plants safely. While most said the plants are safer now than a decade ago, 50 percent called it an accident likely. The national poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

The survey was conducted Jan. 14-12 in anticipation of the 10th anniversary of the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident. The Three Mile Island accident, which began March 28, 1979, decreased public support for nuclear power at the Mid­dletown, Pa., plant.

Considerably tighter federal regulations on the nuclear power industry followed the accident, and a solid 43 percent in the poll said they believed U.S. nuclear plants are safer than they were 10 years ago. Nonetheless, an overwhelming
Editor — it irritates me to witness fellow students cheating. What happened to these students' values? Has the letter grade become more important than the knowledge they acquired? Students! I believe these students are cheating for the pure purpose of getting a higher grade. Students! If you are forced to cheat, then you are forced to cheat.

Deborah Rogers
Business

An obstacle to real equality

Editor — Ironically, the last half of the last sentence of Peggy Lant's Feb. 17 letter printed Feb. 22 reads: "...and, in finding themselves, they shall come to love the land they've glorified." This love that dared not speak its name, now speaks it out; now can speak it freely. It imagine, it's incredibly stupid!

Shannon Ford
Computer Science

Bookstores not 'gutless swine'

Editor — We are Waldenbooks employees and we believe in our freedom of speech; we are also human beings. No, our feelings are not polarized. As bookellers we are taking the heat for the company decision to pull the novel "Satanic Verses" from our shelves. We are amazed that people do not realize Waldenbooks cannot stop Khomeini by itself. What it can do is protect itself. What it can do is protect itself with Koranic verses, it can do is protect itself with the band's music and too much light: punishment for not being a "gutless swine". It is not unprecedented for a company to pull a novel after a contract out on the author. We are stating our opinions, impossibly as it may appear.

Suzanne Ricca
Applied Art and Design
Dami An Jones
Business Administration

Is the end of islam nearing?

Editor — Will the uproar over "Universal Graphics Systems: Laura Silberg; General Mgr Bill Kennedy, Laura Silberg; Production Manager: J. Schuermann Jr.

Reporters Notebook

By Rob Lorenz

Overzealous ticket givers

As I turned onto Kentucky from Hathaway on my bike, I was greeted by a sign that read "Stop sign runners. I thought, then who was keeping the police officers in my town were doing more than coming doughnuts, drinking coffee and sitt­

Mustang Daily is published daily by the Cal Poly journalism department. Unsolicited editorials reflect the majority view of the staff. Other opinions are the personal beliefs of the author and do not represent the views of the editors or the university. Opinions Editor: A. J. Schuermann Jr.
Commentary

A Brown by any other name...

By Saró Giuliano Rizzo

A little over two weeks ago, Ronald Brown was elected chairman of the Democratic National Committee. With this victory he became the first black to head one of the country's two major political parties.

His new position came as the latest step in a career that has evolved from the streets of Harlem, through the ranks of the Urban League and into the power world of Capitol Hill lobbying.

Along with invaluable knowledge of internal Democratic Party strategies gained from years as deputy chair, Brown also brings to the position practical campaign experience acquired from working on both Senator Edward Kennedy and Jesse Jackson's presidential bids.

Besides excellent credentials, his integrity is impeccable. As Lanny Davis, a white Democratic activist and a law partner of Brown said, "Ron is a good friend, a straight hitter, loyal and as a Democrat, I can think of no other man who fits that role so well..."

As chair, Brown stated that he will develop strategies to both extend the Democratic base amongst poor minorities and to strengthen the party's appeals to white voters. However, this task will not be easy.

Brown comes to the party at a crucial time.

The party is still plagued with the factionalism within it, which to their credit, the Democrats are committed to changing. It is around those issues that the Democrats must work through a transition process, to come up with a winning political strategy.

The selection of Ron Brown as chairman of the Democratic National Committee is a historic 1968 Chicago convention.

Burris said, "Each person has to make his bed. By upbringing, education and temperament, Mr. Brown is well suited to work through a transition process, to come up with the best people with the best skills. I'm not going to rush it."

Saró Giuliano Rizzo is a philosophy minor.

The New York Times

Democrats and Republicans alike can welcome the return of Jerry Brown to the national stage—this time as chairman of the Democratic National Committee. The choice of a black man to head a major political party marks another milestone on the way to racial equality.

Still, racism persists, and that makes some people wonder if the Democrats risk damage to their image because their most prominent figures, Mr. Brown and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, are black. The suggestion is unfair to Mr. Brown, because two of their most prominent figures, Mr. Brown and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, are black. The suggestion is unfair to Mr. Brown, because two of their most prominent figures.

Mr. Brown is a straight hitter, loyal and as Lanny Davis, a white Democratic activist and law partner of Brown said, "Ron is a good friend, a straight hitter, loyal to black, black, black. He has committed his eggs to coalition politics."

Brown has yet to outline his strategies. With tactful and cautious way, he said "I will work through a transition process, to come up with the best people with the best skills. I'm not going to rush it."

The New York Times

The return of Jerry Brown

'Brilliant idealist' has visions state needs

By Ilona Eng

The media has renewed its love affair in Jerry Brown. The Los Angeles Times described him as the "Dream Merchant." Newsweek called him a "California Comeback," while biographer Robert Pact coined him "the philosopher prince."

No matter what you call him, Californians are fascinated by Edmund G. Brown, Jr. Two weeks ago, state Democrats gathered in Sacramento to elect the new party chairman. In a state as unpredictable as California, and in a time of great uncertainty for Democratic political strategists who are reevaluating the party's liberal image, grassroots activists cast the darling of Liberalism and counterculture into what has up until now been a cameo role on the political stage.

The unpaid position of state party chairman has only been a supporting role to the more powerful elected officials, but the passage of campaign reform Proposition 73 has given political parties greater clout.

Twelve books and hundreds of articles have been written about Brown as an enigma. As the young bachelor governor of the most populous state, Brown was blessed with the good fortune of name and breeding. He was called the champion of "quality-of-life" issues. His moral order of social justice called for subsidizing the poor while giving corporations tax breaks in the form of the abolition of California inventory tax.

Unfortunately, California's middle-class, who were expected to support the Brown administration did not play well with Californians of the 70s who were trying to find the good life rather than appreciate the quality of life.

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IRVING, Texas (AP) — Tom Landry was retired, somehow relieved as he cleaned out his office. If he was bitter over being fired after 29 years as the Cowboys' head coach he never showed it. The only emotion he displayed Sunday was a smile.

He looked a little tired, like he had lost some sleep in the hectic last 48 hours.

In Landry's first interview since he was replaced by new owner Jerry Jones, he told The Associated Press he will probably not coach again.

"It would be hard, not being in the Cowboys' blue," he said.

And even though he was the only coach the Cowboys had in their 29 years, Landry said, "People will forget me pretty quick."

Landry was fired after Arkansas' Jim Landry was announced as the new owner.

"No one had to tell me. I would have had to be pretty stupid not to know when they got on the airplane to come see me," Landry said.

"I'm not upset over what happened. I've never been one to get upset, because I accept people as they are. Sure, the firing could have been handled better, but I won't get upset over it."

Landry said it might have been best if he had stepped down three years ago, but that he felt an obligation to bring Dallas back to one more Super Bowl. The Cowboys went 3-13 last year, the second worst season in their history.

"I probably should have gotten out, but I really enjoyed the challenge of bringing a team to that game. In fact, I probably enjoy the challenge of it more than the actual game," he said.

"It was a new challenge, but sometimes it's not what you know as much as in this case, who you don't know. And I didn't know Jerry Jones."

And he didn't seem to be feeling sorry for Schramm.

"Tex has really showed a lot of emotion, to me it looks like he's going to have a smile on his face. He's smiling a lot."

The first 20 minutes of the game were dominated by Visalia, who controlled play and took a 10-6 lead. They knocked the bewildered Cal Poly ruggers at will, a thrashing the team did not expect. Regrouping after the half, Cal Poly rejuvenated to overcome the deficit, and at game's end, Poly had won 18-10. Player of the game was presented to Eric Muckley for his all-around performance. For the Mustangs throughout the second half of play, Cal Poly will play to host Long Beach this Saturday at 1 p.m. at Biddle Park.

**Ruggers avoid upset against Visalia club**

By Rob Fraser

An overconfident Cal Poly Rugby Club was almost knocked into a loss by a club of lesser ability, Visalia Rugby Club. This non-league match, which was played mostly for pride, turned into a loss by a club of lesser ability.

Freshman Lori Phillips had a personal best in the high jump at 5 foot-6 inches and finished 3rd in the 200-meter and 100-meter high hurdle plus and anchored the 800-meter relay in a first place win.

**Amount in Boggs' suit cut to $11.5 million**

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — An appeals court reduced the amount a California woman claimed she was owed by slugger Wade Boggs by $10 million.

Jennifer King has argued that if such a contract existed, it would have included sex. A contract for sex is illegal, in"
WASHINGTON (AP) — John Tower, angling for Democratic support in his confirmation battle, says he will swear off alcohol if he is approved as defense secretary, though he could be "obliged to resign" if he broke the vow.

As Tower made his extraor-
dinary promise Sunday in television interviews, a White House spokesman, Nunn, D-Ga., said he might recommend to President Bush the Defense Department's General Accounting Office. Nunn stressed that domestic stability is more important now than the former senator's drinking habits.

The committee chairman coupled his statement with a complaint that the White House was leaking information from the FBI's background report on Tower to a bid to rescue the nomination.

Nunn's Democratic-controlled committee voted 11-9 along party lines last Thursday to recommend that the full Senate reject Tower's nomination, with the chairman citing allegations of excessive drinking by the nominee.

The comments by Tower and Nunn were a prelude to an in-
tense week of political maneuver-
ing over the nomination, which the Senate is expected to debate beginning at midweek. President Bush intends to take personal charge of the lobbying campaign for Tower, and has in-
vited several Democrats to the White House to discuss the issue later in the week.

But Tower wasn't waiting for Bush to return home from his Asian trip. "I see the principal concern of Senator Nunn and other members of the Senate relative to my confirmation as secretary of defense, namely the extent to which I may engage in excessive use of beverage alcohol, let me state that I have never been an alcoholic nor dependent on alcohol," Tower said in a state-
ment he read on ABC-TV's "This Week With David Brinkley" and Cable News Network's "Newsmaker Sunday."

"I hereby swear and undertake that if confirmed, during the course of my tenure as secretary of defense, I will not consume beverage alcohol of any type or form, including wine, beer or spirits of any kind," he said.

Tower also vowed that if he broke his pledge not to drink, he would step down. "I think I'd be obligated to resign if I broke the pledge. I've never broken a pledge in my life," said the former senator.

Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole called Tower's pledge "very, very significant" and urged Democrats and Republicans to reassert the nomination.

"My view is it ought to be a new ball game. We ought to sit down and try to work it out and spare any hard feelings," Dole said.

Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, said Tower's pledge "is another factor to be considered" as he agreed to a meeting with Dole today.

Sen. Howard Heflin, D-Ala., an undecided senator whom the Bush administration hopes it can convince, said Tower's vow is important. "He has a reputation as a man of his word," Heflin said.

Nunn had no comment on Tower's pledge, according to Ar-

Amanda Parisano, a member of the Armed Services Committee staff.

President Bush begins cour-
ting undecided Democrats on Tuesday in hopes of capturing enough votes for Tower to win confirmation. Democrats hold a 55-45 majority in the Senate, meaning Bush must pick up at least five Democrats to assure Tower's confirmation.

Tower's pledge, according to Ar-

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AIDS

From page 1

AIDS cases in Los Angeles County. The Office of AIDS is part of the department. The report cautions that predictions about the future of AIDS cases in the United States. Of those who chose "highly likely," 39 percent said an accident was likely, and 21 percent said governors should be even tougher. By Kathryn Brunello

Overall, only a third said more nuclear plants should be built in the United States. Of those who favored more plants, thirty-six percent said they would accept one within ten miles of their home. Thirty-two percent in 1992; a total of 15,000 AIDS cases for Los Angeles County. The initial epicenters of Los Angeles and San Francisco were about January to about 57,000 cases in California. The report said that the United States' epidemic of AIDS cases diagnosed in California through September 1988.

MUSTANG DAILY CLASSIFIED

For Sale

EMPLOYEE SHORTAGE didn't doom mailroom board.

"I hope that these temporary positions will become permanent once we hear from the board," said Diaz. "We hired two new temporary positions, things are getting better. Personnel will soon be at full strength again in my old position as mail sort or.

Diaz pointed out that one of the biggest problems with the mailroom is that there were very few formal procedures before he took over as supervisor.

Two temporary full-time employees were hired through June 30 when the department expects to hear from the board.

"I've been talking with the people at the post office to learn some of their procedures so that we can implement them," said Diaz.

"We're working with equipment and procedures that are 30 years old," said Diaz. "We're expecting a total remodeling job that's supposed to begin construction in the middle of March and that should allow us to completely re-organize."
LONDON STUDY PROGRAM
Summer Quarter 1989
From: June 28, 1989
To: August 19, 1989
INFORMATION MEETING
11:00 a.m.
Thurs., Mar 2nd Sci B-5
Students from all majors welcome.

DAIRY
From page 1
Lactose is one element the DPTC is working to remove from dairy products.

Often people are lactose intolerant, Geilman said. "By removing lactose to produce a dairy product, then those people can get the benefit of the protein and calcium without the discomfort of lactose."

The dairy industry has been using enzymes to do this, but Geilman said this process changes milk's flavor. The ultrafiltration process would not.

They are also working on ways to "concentrate proteins to make frozen desserts that are smoother or lower in fat."

The DPTC is looking at ways to keep the protein content high in certain cheeses. Twenty percent of the protein leaves when the whey is removed in the cheese-making process.

Microwavable cheese is another possible product the American population may be interested in.

The production of hispanic cheeses is another project that is being worked on. This is a challenge, Geilman said, because there are certain bacteria that can cause death in certain hispanic cheeses.

"We want to help develop a procedure to ensure the problems with this cheese," he said. The possibility of a drink like Gatoraid is being investigated as well. The by-products of milk — sugar, water, and minerals — could be used for this type of a product.

The DPTC is also doing research into why the consumption of different products are decreasing. "Cottage cheese is a low-calorie product," Geilman said, but consumption of this product is down.

A fake fat product is being considered. This product will have the flavor and texture of butter or fat, but will really be a type of protein from milk by-products.

Geilman said the ultimate goal of DPTC is to "make dairy products more acceptable to what consumers are looking for."

The DPTC will probably be expanding in the future, Geilman said. Using the campus population for taste tests is a possibility.

Undergraduates and graduate students are also involved in the research process. The research labs are located in the Food Processing Building.

Information Meeting
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Students from all majors welcome.

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