Family, friends mourn loss of Poly students

Air accident victims often flew together

By Sharon Sherman

Two Cal Poly students who "lived their lives to the fullest" are being remembered by friends and family after they died in a plane crash Friday night.

Thomas Laughlin, 24, a Delta Tau fraternity member, and John Arbuckle, 21, a member of Alpha Gamma Rio, were killed when their plane crashed into a hillside near Port San Luis Obispo.

Kendy Hooper, a Cal Poly student and friend of both victims, said, "They're both two of the finest individuals, they really lived their lives to the fullest."

Laughlin was piloting the two-seater plane when the crash occurred. He had obtained his pilot's license about 1 1/2 years ago and was an avid flyer, according to friends.

Frank Leonard, Delta Tau president, said, "Anytime you wanted to go home, guys who live in Sacramento, Los Angeles or Monterey, he would always say, 'Hey, I'll fly you there.' Any excuse to get up in the air."

The single-engine Cessna was owned by Cal Coast Flyers of San Luis Obispo. As a member, Laughlin was able to take a 20 percent discount for drivers who were agricultural management majors and were close to graduating.

Don Llorente, investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board said Tuesday.

Thomas Laughlin, 24, and John Arbuckle, 21, were both killed in the crash Friday. Both were agricultural management majors and were close to graduating.

Don Llorente, investigator from the NTSB's field office in Los Angeles, said the on-scene investigation is complete, but the overall investigation will continue until a cause of the crash is determined, a process that may take as long as eight months.

The accident occurred May 5 at 9:20 p.m. in the hilly area near Port San Luis Obispo, about eight miles southwest of San Luis Obispo Airport. Llorente said the plane hit the hillside about 100 feet above sea level.

Reports that a harbor patrol officer heard the engine stall prior to the crash were misinterpreted, Llorente said. The officer heard the motor of the single-engine Cessna 152 at full throttle, and then heard it "cut off."

Llorente said the engine stopped abruptly when the plane hit the hillside, not prior to the crash. Reports from another witness confirmed this, Llorente said.

NTSB finds no equipment failure in plane disaster

By Sharon Sherman

The on-site investigation of a plane crash that left two Cal Poly students dead has shown there to be "no pre-existing mechanical malfunctions or failures," an investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board said Tuesday.

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INSIDE

With Diablo Canyon in SLO's backyard, a concerned group wants to make sure no one forgets about the dangers of nuclear power.

See INSIGHT, page 5.
Confections of an addict

By Stewart McKenzie

Hello. My name is Stewart M. I'm a drug addict. I never thought I could possibly be addicted. I always "just said no" and avoided the pleadings of my friends.

"NO!" I'd say. "That stuffs for losers. Let's go do something more interesting, like having a riot at Cedar Creek!" My friends, of course, were always up for a riot over taking drugs, so temporarily I could avoid the peer pressure.

But finally, I gave in. I let my defenses down and decided to try it. Then I wanted more. And more. Within the space of months, I had progressed from ingesting a few snifts of the controlled substance to a crazed, primitive craving for the magic tonic. Now, whenever I need to go from a tired, worn out soul to a person full of vim and vigor, I can do it instantly. It's easy.

All was well for a while, as it "picked me up while soothed my down. I was always up-and-at-'em, ready to bleed over my notebook in the name of good grades. My sleep patterns went down. I started bench-pressing close to 400 pounds. I took up panning highways as a hobby. And all my roommates could do was to scratch their heads, seeing I had actually done my dishes. Truly an accomplishment.

But Camelot didn't last forever. I'd wake up jittery and strung out in the morning. People would call and I would scream at them for a few hours to wake up. I couldn't sleep when I tried, and invariably I'd take my frustrations out on neighborhood animals. In the last month, I have mauled 29 cats, 14 dogs and a Williams Bros. employee. On behalf of the Humane Society, I apologize.

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The farrowing barn is the student "massacre" ward, and sows are placed in special pens designed to protect the piglets from being lain on by their mothers. It is common to have piglets stillborn yet it is uncommon for a sow to stand during farrowing unless they are in pain. It is unfortunate that Ms. McGrew and others saw fit to enter this area without permission since they or some other well-meaning but uninformed person may have startled the sow and may well have led to the piglets being crushed. The student staff and faculty involved at the unit were on the shelf at the supermarket. They were competing against students who grew up where milk­

Piglet deaths are result of hazardous styrofoam cups at the Snack Bar. My hair started falling out in clumps. My throat was dry, except when I was dry heaving on the floor. People regarded with a tone, except to borrow money. I was fat, smelly and generally out of it. I was always up-and-at-'em, ready to bleed over my notebook in the name of good grades. My sleep patterns went down. I started bench-pressing close to 400 pounds. I took up panning highways as a hobby. And all my roommates could do was to scratch their heads, seeing I had actually done my dishes. Truly an accomplishment.

Now, as a naive freshman sent there straight from suburbia, I have to admit that I was particularly close-minded in this area. In my first year here, I suffered from what I now refer to as my "anti-ag attitude." Its characteristics included: inability to stand in the library vicinity when the wind was blowing from anyone wearing Wranglers and cowboy boots and complete denial that places like the swine and sheep units even existed on campus.

I am not really sure where the origins of this attitude evolved. I suppose being raised in an area particularly close-minded in this area. In my first year here, I suffered from what I now refer to as my "anti-ag attitude." Its characteristics included: inability to stand in the library vicinity when the wind was blowing from anyone wearing Wranglers and cowboy boots and complete denial that places like the swine and sheep units even existed on campus.

Sooner or later, I was bound to wake up jittery and strung out in the morning. People would call and I would scream at them for a few hours to wake up. I couldn't sleep when I tried, and invariably I'd take my frustrations out on neighborhood animals. In the last month, I have mauled 29 cats, 14 dogs and a Williams Bros. employee. On behalf of the Humane Society, I apologize.

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I was amazed at the technological advances made in the agriculture industry as well, and Cal Poly's involvement in the challenge to develop a better product for the consumer. I have gained complete respect for the agriculture department here and all those involved in it. I guess I can thank Cal Poly for opening my eyes and making me realize that California is an agricultural state. And just because no one was a farmer or rancher where I grew up, doesn't mean they don't exist.

Since my "agricultural illiteracy" course, I have ventured out to the sheep and horse units on campus without any symptoms of asthmatization, and I attended my first rodeo this past Poly Royal. I am more of a farmhand than a cowhand though I by no means consider myself an ag expert, I'd say I've come a long way.

Letters to the Editor

Sow pen is safe

Editor — In response to the letter "Piglet deaths are result of neglect" (May 2), I would like to clarify some of the statements that have caused misconceptions that have been created.

The farrowing barn is the student "massacre" ward, and sows are placed in special pens designed to protect the piglets from being lain on by their mothers. It is common to have piglets stillborn yet it is uncommon for a sow to stand during farrowing unless they are in pain. It is unfortunate that Ms. McGrew and others saw fit to enter this area without permission since they or some other well-meaning but uninformed person may have startled the sow and may well have led to the piglets being crushed. The student staff and faculty involved at the unit were on the shelf at the supermarket. They were competing against students who grew up where milk-cows and riding horses were part of the daily routine. However, much to my surprise and relief the class was mostly made up of fellow "agricultural illiterates." In the process of memorizing the different types of dairy cows and cuts of beef, I found that the class was really interesting. It was as if I had discovered a whole new world, learning what happens before the food gets placed on the shelf at the supermarket.

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We invite anyone that is interested in agriculture to come up. We will be happy to either show you around or give you a list of classes that would better educate you in swine production.
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Atlantis returns in ‘excellent’ condition

Edward's Air Force Base, Calif. (AP) — The space shuttle Atlantis returned from a 12-day mission to Earth in excellent shape, with only about 100 nicks in its thermal tiles and scarred areas from a crosswind landing, a NASA official said Tuesday. Gusty winds up to 25 mph were encountered across Rogers Dry Lake as technicians worked on Atlantis a day after landing. But work was on or ahead of schedule and the shuttle was expected to be flown back to Florida on Saturday.

"The spaceship looks really good," said Atlantis Flow Director Nagel, who is in overall charge of processing the shuttle. "Only 12 of the shuttle's protective thermal tiles were likely to need replacement, Nagel said.

In comparison, after Atlantis' previous mission in December 1988, there were 1,000 nicks and 162 tiles needed to be replaced.

"We feel like we're in very, very good shape," Nagel said.

One window was found to have a nick measuring .08 inch in diameter. It was studied to determine if it could be polished out or would require more extensive repair.

Atlantis blasted off Thursday from Kennedy Space Center in Florida and delivered the Magellan probe into orbit. The probe was then fired on an 800 million-mile trajectory to Venus.

TRADEY

From page 1

cesna 152 out whenever he wanted. According to the company's records, the plane was fueled at 8:01 Friday night.

Laughlin was born and grew up in La Jolla, Calif. He came to Cal Poly in spring 1984.

"He's one of those guys that's just a good guy," Leonard said. "He liked everybody." Leonard said a memorial service for Laughlin is scheduled for 1:30 this Saturday afternoon at Presbyterian Church of San Luis Obispo; a wake will follow.

Laughlin and Arbuckle, who had been taking flying lessons since early February, flew together frequently, Leonard said. "Arbuckle grew up in Courtland, Calif., near Sacramento. He came to San Luis Obispo four years ago."

Kimmelshue said Arbuckle enjoyed hunting, skeet shooting and skydiving.

"He was a happy-go-lucky guy, pretty much on top of things all the time."

A memorial service was held for Arbuckle Sunday night at Sutcliffe Lawn Memorial Mausoleum. About 150 to 200 people attended.

Hooper said, "So many people showed up, so many people. There's just so many people who loved both those guys."

A memorial service will also be held Thursday in Walnut Grove, Calif., where his parents live.

Kimmelshue said Arbuckle's parents are considering setting up a trust fund in John's name to provide scholarships to future Alpha Gamma Rho members.

Hooper said he, his roommates and some of the members of the two fraternities have talked about establishing a memorial on campus.

"After the services are over, our ultimate goal is to put up a plaque and plant a tree at the ag circle,"

Arbuckle's older brother, Joe, said, "They were two young men that enjoyed life, beyond the campus. They're friends for eternity now."

Hooper said, "They were really tight friends, really close friends. In a way it's nice they're with each other, but it's a terrible tragedy for all of us who knew them."

For information regarding the memorial services, call 546-4149.
Despite its elusiveness it exists. R Interstate 5 just south of downtown San Luis Obispo, is the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. Hidden within its massive concrete monolith, electricity is being generated to supply the needs of 2 million people. Yet, surrounding the nuclear industry is overt public concern assailing both private operators and its Herculean big-brother, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

On the platforms of protest, critics doubt the industries regard for safety and its efficient regulation.

On Thursday, March 27, a handful of protesters pulled their way through the crowded downtown streets of Farmer's Market. Some gripped banners if their hands protesting the use of nuclear power plants in their community, while others held small white candles with flickering flames in silent acknowledgment.

The demonstration marked the third anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

"We want to remind people to stop and think, to be responsible and think about the consequences of nuclear technology," said William Miller, an Abalone Alliance member whose organization brought the demonstration together. "There are a lot of issues still alive with Diablo Canyon. We want to be speaking up for the community, have the community aware what is going on and bring pressure to bear.

Since the serious accidents at Three Mile Island in 1979 and the Chernobyl disaster at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station in the Soviet Union in 1986, the safety of nuclear energy and its environmental track record of the industry has been tarnished. "PG&E was forced time and again to upgrade their safety procedures at the plant and upgrade evacuation plans," said Abalone Alliance activist Jeff Olson. "With this tremendous technology is a tremendous danger. Only a handful of people keep believing the technology will not bring the danger. I think it will be a miracle for Diablo Canyon, ever shut down without a major crisis of radiation."

Buried in the back pages of newspapers are isolated in-vidences of negligent management, safety procedures being broken and employees sleeping on the job. And while the NRC has imposed fines on such violators, sometimes halting operations, the public remains largely ignorant of the terms.

"The NRC could better be called the nuclear industry's public relations arm," said Richard Kranzdorf, a political scientist professor at Cal Poly. "I don't think anyone believes the NRC listens to the public. They are there to further the interest of the nuclear industry. Many of the people employed by the agency were at one time likely to have been working within the industry, he said.

Jon Kepeck, a spokesman for the public affairs division of the NRC in Washington, D.C. recirculated the criticism. "We get it from all sides," Kepeck said. "The utilities say from time to time we are too tough with our standards and our regulations (while) the critics say we are too easy on the industry.

The best way of responding to that type of criticism is there has been any deaths or injuries of the public or workers involved in operating nuclear power plants." Ignited by last week's episode regarding a Texas nuclear plant, the NRC has been awakened by the concern of buy-out sham within the industry. Senate investigators discovered at least two such sham's from the PG&E employees who received payments for dropping allegations of safety hazards and failing to report them to the NRC.

"We have put our letters to all the utilities notifying this won't be tolerated by the NRC, " Kepeck said. "We are asking the utilities to review their agreements, if they have any, and get back to us.

The NRC has set July 31 as a deadline to receive any agreements that may exist to silence safety allegations by employees. "It's our job to make sure the public health and safety is protected, not the regulators, that's simple," he said.

Clearly a goal of the nuclear power industry is to protect plant personnel, the public and the environment from the hazards of radiation. Therefore, compliance to establish safety standards is a worthy investment. But there is another side — that of profitability.

The rate scale, a measurement to determine expected revenue of a utility company, is based on electrical output of the plant. This was seen in PG&E's recent 5 percent increase. When the plant performs, the rate scale goes up and the plant gets more money.

"We feel that (PG&E) will try to make the plant perform even though they may have some safety concerns because the amount they get for the plant is tied right into how many hours it runs, " Miller said.

PG&E spokesman George Sarksian justified the rate hikes as necessary to cover current and projected operating costs. The premise of thwarting safety measures to increase electrical output is a political activation, he said.

"Safety is the paramount concern," Sarkisian said. "If the plant runs well you automatically generate electricity.

Consumer groups have been involved in proposals regarding Diablo Canyon and they believe the rate scale is to be in the best interest of all the customers, he said.

Diablo Canyon has been producing electricity since operation began in the Unit 3 reactor in April, 1985 and increased capacity with the Unit 2 reactor starting in March 1986. The plant generate 2.2 million kilowatts of electricity, serving nearly 20 percent of California's electric needs to meet the demands of Northern and Central California.

But the original chartering of the plant, encompassing nearly 500 federal, state and county permits and licenses, met force opposition through heated protest spurred by the Abalone Alliance.

In 1981, thousands of protesters tried to prevent construction workers and PG&E employees from entering the plant gates near Port San Luis. New recruits were constantly being trained by the Abalone Alliance in an obligatory six-hour non-violence training seminar.

A record of 1,493 people were arrested by local and neighboring county police. The National Guard was called out to help disperse the crowd.

"We are one of the few groups locally that condones non-violent civil disobedience. It is one of the differences between ourselves and other groups," Miller said. The Abalone Alliance is now concentrating on public education campaigns.

Less than one week after the demonstrations at Diablo Canyon in 1981, a constructional error was found within a safety system that heightened the public's concern for safety at the plant.

During engineering checks of safety reinforcements, the cooling pipes within the containment structure of the Unit 2 reactor when coolants and a diagram were mirror images of those used on the Unit 1 reactor. The straps used to hold the cooling pipes in place were located in the wrong areas.

The discovery led the NRC to determine the safety system incapable and halted further testing. The NRC then ordered the plant to stop and take a few moments and then asked, 'Is it safe?'

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While the March 27 protest was comparatively less impactful than those of 1981, it aroused both community support and spectator dissent. As the demonstration moved slowly through the active streets, a group of students huddled on a street corner in front of a liquor store. As the protesters passed they scolded them with comments of biting opinion, "It's like the '80s going into the '90s, this is all over with."

"A protestor turned to us and said, 'Chernobyl's not!'"
INSURANCE

From page 1

kept the business they had, but

decided not to accept any new

policies. "For a while we had only

one company that would accept

any new business at all," she

said.

Now, with the Supreme Court's

decision, that final company has

also decided not to take any new

business.

"We no longer have any com­

panies who will take a new per­

son, walking off the street, who

wants insurance," Coon said.

She predicts that, in light of the
decision, it may be tem­

torarily difficult for uninsured

to obtain new policies,

particularly for automobiles and

motorcycles.

"If anything, it's affecting the

people who don't have insurance

or who let their insurance lapse," she

said. "It is going to be hard

for them to find insurance and at

a reasonable rate."

However, she added, the deci­

sion by many companies to
discontinue business is only "a

temporary moratorium until they

get the law straightened out and

the rates changed." She expects
to recover lost business once all

the provisions of the initiative
arc completely worked out.

--- KEPR! ---

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