Poly teacher dies

Prof. Ratcliffe popular with students

By Barbara Courrain

Cal Poly music teacher and professional harpsichordist Ronald V. Ratcliffe died suddenly last Thursday of a cerebral hemorrhage at Sierra Vista Hospital. He was 55 years old.

According to Clifton Swanson, head of the music department, Ratcliffe came to Cal Poly 26 years ago and was currently teaching piano, music theory and a course in the history of keyboard instruments. He described Ratcliffe as a very popular professor who not only taught music, but was an active keyboard performer.

"We will all certainly miss him dearly," Swanson said. "One of his unique qualities was that he was a teacher who looked time to get to know the students.

— former student Joanna Winters"

He was also involved for many years with Cal Poly's London Study program. According to Swanson, Ratcliffe was the campus spearhead for the program. "I had Ratcliffe for a music class in London," said Joanna Winter, a student who went on the London Study last spring. "He was one of my favorite teachers at Cal Poly," she said. "I consider him a friend as well as a friendly and dynamic teacher."

Ratcliffe received his bachelor's degree in music at the University of Washington and earned his master's degree in harpsichord performance at the University of Southern California. He is survived by his wife and three married children.

There will be a short memorial harpsichord soloist.

Ratcliffe's local performances included the Mozart Festival and concerts at Cal Poly. Ratcliffe recently finished writing a book, "Steinway," about the history of the Steinway family and pianos, which will be sold internationally in bookstores within a few weeks.

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Ronald V. Ratcliffe

Holy Cow!

Cal Poly dairy ‘udderly’mmm!

By James Malloy

Suppose someone were to grasp your belly and start squeezing it like there’s no tomorrow? And you paid for it.
That would only happen if you were a cow.

But in other words, welcome to the world of the Cal Poly milk plant, part of the student-run dairy business on campus.

Students run the self-sufficient dairy producing a full range of dairy products that are sold on campus and in the community.

The process begins with raw milk obtained from Poly dairy farms. In time, with a lot of work from students, it emerges as products such as cottage cheese, butter, milk and ice cream.

The dairy makes a full range of ice creams—chocolate, vanilla, cookies 'n cream, strawberry swirl, chocolate chip, butter almond and mint chip—all staples for any connoisseur.

Search still on for a greek row

IFC-greek row chairman and the mayor say it's up to the greek alumni to get action

Is there a Walt Whitman in hiding here?

Cal Poly janitor Steve Wojcichowski takes second place and $10,000 in poetry contest

Federal credit union plans winter opening

By Nadya Williams

Students will soon be able to have full banking services without having to leave campus.

The SESLOC Federal Credit Union, previously open only to Cal Poly faculty and staff, will establish a satellite cash office this winter in the former Disabled Students office downstairs in the UU.

Students will also save money in fees and earn 5% percent interest on accounts over $100.

SESLOC Executive Manager Bertha Foxford said students will not only enjoy the convenience of on-campus banking, but will pay no monthly service charge for their checking accounts.

Financial counseling will also be offered at no charge, loan information will be provided and money orders and cashier's checks will be available for purchase, Foxford said.

An Automatic Teller Machine will also be installed, she said.

"We are very pleased that we will be able to service the needs of faculty, staff and now students in that area," Foxford said.

SESLOC School Employees of San Luis Obispo County Federal Credit Union is not new to Cal Poly, in fact, Foxford said, it started here on campus when it was chartered in 1942. Before the school was a state university.

In 1971, the credit union moved from a former agricultural building near the Business and Administration Building. The new location is now on Foothill Valley Road, opposite the Laguna Village Shopping Center.

Recent efforts to get SESLOC back on campus and open to students is uninitiated last year by former ASI President Tom LeBens. Foxford said.

LeBens was a credit union member through his parent's membership. He explained, and saw the need for students to be included in the non-profit organization. The return process has taken about one year to plan and negotiate, she said.

Like all federal credit unions, SESLOC is a cooperative, non-profit organization. Membership is open to all employees of the county's educational system, and recently has expanded to include employees of certain business groups.

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Opinion

Hey, students, get out town!

By Alison Skratt

Rental issue needs compromise

Cal Poly students could potentially find limited housing even harder to come by if a proposal by Residents for Quality Neighborhoods passes at the Oct. 3 City Council meeting. The regulations would require that the number of occupants in a residence be linked to the number of parking spaces available. Obviously, the proposal will directly affect students who often share rooms in single-family homes for financial reasons. The number of students on campus is about 90 percent occupied with new students this year, and many apartment complexes near campus are filled to capacity. If the proposal is passed, it may be time for students to start looking for better places to live.

Students shouldn’t see this as a confrontation of us vs. them, because it’s likely that the residents’ fears have substance. But members of the community should also understand that not all students make rotten neighbors, and it seems unfair to punish all students because of a few bad ones. The initial thrust of the War started with smaller skirmishes throughout the community that led residents to form the Coalition for a Student-Free Neighborhoods Council, which insists that the dorms on campus are about 90 percent occupied with new students this year, and many apartment complexes near campus are filled to capacity. If the proposal is passed, it may be time for students to start looking for better places to live.

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Local alumni to form greek row committee

By Barbara Courlan

Cal Poly's greek alumni may be the core group needed to make a proposed greek row become a reality, said Inter-Fraternity Council member and new Greek Row Chairman Shawn Warren.

According to San Luis Obispo Mayor Ron Dunin, the problem in the past has been students who work on the greek row project, graduate and leave the area.

"This makes continuous progress difficult," Dunin said. "Eighteen months ago a local greek alumni committee was formed with the sole purpose of developing plans for a greek row."

Warren agreed that greek alumni are the solid, continuous group that can give the long-term commitment needed for a project like this.

"So far we have three core alumni to start the group," Warren said. "Our goal is to recruit three alumni from each of the 28 fraternity houses who will start a financial fund for the greek row."

On October 6, after the Homecoming football game, there will be a cocktail party for all local greek alumni interested in being a part of this committee.

As far as the location of the fraternity and sorority houses, the question is still unsettled.

"Each year greek row proposal is first proposed in the early 1970's and as Proposition II is still the most hopeful," Dunin said. "There have not been any official objections to this land so far."

But Warren said he wants to continue the search for obtaining land closer to Cal Poly.

"The airport land is too far away... we might as well be living in Atascadero," Warren said. "The greek community will not want to drive all the way to campus every day."

Warren said this next step is talking with private San Luis developers.

"Right now there is a developer from Stockton, Montebello, who has been working on a plan for a greek row in San Luis," Warren said. "But a local developer might be able to find land or have an outside person who would not have access to us."

Although California State University representatives in 1983 firm their position that they would not sell or lease land to student groups for the purpose of housing, Warren said he has not completely given up on the idea.

"I will try to get land on campus, although the chance is slim," he said. "Cal Poly has too much land, especially by the Dairy and Highway 1/4."

Warren said other areas that are also being taken into consideration are areas near Foothill Boulevard, Los Osos Valley Road and the Tank Farm Road/airport area.

The greek row was first proposed in the early 1970's and as it stands now, both Dunin and Warren are optimistic about seeing a greek row in the near future.

"It has been one of my dreams for the last 50 years to have a greek row and whether I win or lose in the November election, I will support the project," Dunin said.

"Each year greek row proposal is put on the ballot," said Warren. "I think I will break the ground to make this project possible."

Visitor center to open

Arson caused few delays

By Adrian Hodgson

Cal Poly's Visitor Information Center on the corner of Grand Avenue and Black Street will open in about three weeks.

Construction on the information booth, which began in late June, is near completion, said Peter Phillips, architectural coordinator for Cal Poly.

He said Plant Operations is waiting to install electrical cable, scheduled to arrive here within two weeks. After Plant Operations finishes its work, public affairs needs about a week to move their equipment into the booth, said Stan Bernstein, director of public affairs.

DAIRY

From page 1

All dairy items are processed with "quality control that exceeds industry standards," said Dennis Hall, plant manager.

Distribution for Cal Poly products is limited to the local areas, Hall said. Six Williams Brothers markets and the Campus Store receive products destined for the Community Foundation Food Service, as well as the University Dining Complex, the Aircraft and the Sandwich Plant.

Students involved with the program said it is impractical for them to produce massive quantities of dairy-related items because of the limits on time. Students also have to go to school.

Despite a somewhat limited production, output is competitive with the major companies in both price and quality, Hall said.

The "hands-on" experience that students gain from this operation gives them a valuable edge in the market place. As expected, virtually all students go on to work in the industry.

All Macintosh's now come with Apple HyperCard software package

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From page 1

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Special Education Pricing
CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Churches appealed for emergency donations of food, clothing and money Sunday for victims of Hurricane Hugo. Lines for hot meals were blocks long and people waited up to four hours to buy gas and other supplies.

National Guardsmen with M-16 rifles patrolled the streets of the battered city of 65,000 people, guarding against looters and keeping order at locations where residents lugged coolers and plastic jugs to get fresh water.

An emergency law enacted Saturday night sought to keep profiteers from charging $10 for a bag of ice and $50 for a chain saw.

Without electricity for a third day, residents were unable to cook, boil water for drinking or get cash from bank machines. At stores that managed to reopen, people waited in lines for up to four hours.

The Red Cross dished out hot meals from lunch wagons. At the Citadel Square Baptist Church, the line stretched for three blocks, spokesman Brian Ruberry said.

As a cold rain fell Sunday morning, bells pealed above the hum of generators and the buzz of chain saws. Hugo clobbered Charleston for six hours late Thursday and early Friday with 135 mph winds and a storm surge of 17 feet of water. It was among the 12 fiercest hurricanes to strike the United States in this century, based on internal pressure, which gives winds their strength, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

Hugo was the worst storm to hit the U.S. mainland since Hurricane Camille killed 256 people 20 years ago.

At least 775,000 people in the Carolinas remained without power. Sections of Charleston County may be groping with refrigerators for a month or more.

In Charlotte, N.C., which is 200 miles inland, 150,000 of the 375,000 residents were without power and some could be without electricity for two weeks.

North Carolina Gov. Jim Martin has asked for a federal disaster declaration. The National Guard was sent to Charlotte on Saturday to help the police.

More than half the homes on the Isle of Palms, a barrier island that took the brunt of the killer storm, are structurally unsafe, and many stood one just one or two stilts. Propane gas leaked and power lines, trees and debris cluttered roads.

The Charleston City Council Saturday night approved an emergency order prohibiting price gouging. Violators face 30-day jail terms and fines.

Sporadic reports of price gouging Sunday included $600 for a $150 chain saw, $10 for a bag of ice and $1,000 for a $300 generator.
Soccer opens CCAA with win

Hire, Henry score in 2-0 victory over Cal Poly Pomona

By Adrian Hodgson

Mustang head coach Wolfgang Gartner said that Pomona's defense is difficult to penetrate because they hang back, making fast breaks and counterattacks a rarity for the offensive team. "We had to use our speed by playing balls over the top (of Pomona's defense)," Gartner said. "Overall, we played well enough and deserved to win."

The Mustangs opened the scoring 15 minutes into the game when Tim Hire hit a corner kick with his left foot that curled toward the near post. The Pomona defender at the post seemed surprised to see the ball and couldn't react quickly enough to stop the ball as it grazed off his head and into the net. Hire raised his goal total to six for the season.

Pomona's best scoring opportunity came in the 33rd minute, when forward Graham Vernon worked his way free of two defenders on the right side. He then looped a shot over goalkeeper Harry Crouch's head only to have his apparent game-tying goal voided off the goal line by Cal Poly defender Jim Murphy.

The Mustangs had three excellent scoring opportunities near the end of the first half, but failed to convert on any. Senior midfielder Poe Allan beat two Pomona defenders, to set up Hire for a break that ended with Allan's shot missing the target. Hire raised his goal total to six for the season.

Senior defender Mark Compton scored from the edge of the box in the 59th minute. Hire raised his goal total to six for the season.

The Mustangs return home this week for a CCAA match against San Diego State. Pomona played SDSU earlier this season and lost, 2-1.

Mama’s boy wins by TKO

Battered boxer bailed out by shoe-packin’ mum

LONDON (AP) — A mother did what her son could not and beat up his opponent in the ring on Saturday night.

It happened Thursday night at the Guildhall in the southern English town of Maidstone.

Tony Wilson was on the ropes when Steve McCarthy knocked him out and pounded his face. He then stood up and walked off. It was a winnable match, he said. "If we could have won one of those first three things might have been different," Wilson added.

Wilson added that the team came into Saturday's match a little flat after playing so well at Long Beach State, and the loss really got to them.

"I had stationed bouncers all around the ring but the deficit was so huge we had to pull the plug."

Michelle Hansen and Anja Kjensøe played well for the Mustangs in both matches, but said they were not up to the standard of the other teams.

Overall, Wilson is pleased with his young team and said their record isn't indicative of their play.

"These guys play as exciting volleyball as I've ever seen," he said. "We're 6-5, but we don't play a winny schedule."

Women win at Humboldt invite

Poly takes 5 of top 8 spots, beats Division I Oregon

By Jay Garner

The Division I cross country coaches voted this year not to include Cal Poly in their national poll, but after the Mustangs' performance on Saturday it doesn't matter.

The Division II Cal Poly women's cross country team established itself as one of the top teams in the country at any level after beating the University of Oregon, second at the Division I nationals last year, at the Humboldt Invitational. Humboldt will be the site of this year's Western Regional.

"It's sad (that we're no longer in the Division I poll) because this is one of the best years we've had in a long time," said Assistant Coach Ed Crawford.

Melanie Hiatt led the Mustangs to victory at Humboldt in dump, foggy conditions with a time of 18:06, good for third overall.

Freshman sensation Jamie Park, who finished first for the Mustangs last week at Sonoma, finished right behind Hiatt in 18:09.

"For a freshman to come in and do as well as she has been just phenomenal," Crawford said.

Senior Jill Hoffman finished sixth overall in 18:25.

"She ran one of the finest races of her Cal Poly career," Crawford said. "She's improved a lot from last year, even though she was an All-American."

The Mustangs also captured places seventh, eighth, 13th, 19th and 20th in a field of over 90 runners.

Cal Poly's ability to place so many runners so high in races is what makes the team so dominant, said Crawford. The top five Mustang runners at Humboldt were separated by only 28 seconds.

"That small a gap is just phenomenal in cross country," said Crawford. "Most teams are really afraid of us because of our depth."

The Men's Cross Country team also won at Humboldt with Jim Eremson finishing first overall. Unfortunately, Coach Tom Henderson wasn't available for comment at press time. Please see tomorrow's paper for a full story.

Stone Mountain

Mustangs open Big West play with two tough losses

Poly falls to Long Beach, UC Irvine

By Jay Garner

The volleyball team's record slipped to 3-6 after two tough Big West Conference losses at Long Beach State and UC Irvine over the weekend, but Coach Wilson isn't worried. "We're real proud of our effort," Wilson said. "We fought tough and that's a key."

On Friday night, the Mustangs fell to heavily favored Long Beach State 15-11, 15-9, 15-16. The Mustangs held leads in all three games, but couldn't convert.

"Long Beach is physically one of the best teams in America," Wilson said. "It was a real fine performance for us."

Saturday night's defeat to UC Irvine, 15-13, 16-14, 16-14, was tougher for the team to take. Wilson said, "I was a winnable match," he said. "If we could have won one of those first three things might have been different."

Wilson added that the team
Stewart posts third straight 20-win season

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Dave Stewart was so excited about his third straight 20-win season that he almost forgot about an accomplishment that only 3½ years ago seemed impossible.

"One hundred wins. Wow," the Oakland Athletics' ace righthander said after beating the Minnesota Twins 5-2 Friday, becoming the only pitcher in the 1980s to post three consecutive 20-win seasons.

Baltimore's Jim Palmer was the last to do it, winning 20 four straight times from 1975-78. The Oakland record is four in a row by Carlsfeld Hunter from 1971-74 and the A's record is seven straight by Lefty Grove of the Philadelphia A's from 1927-33.

Stewart accepted postgame congratulations from his teammates and plaudits from his manager. He answered questions from the media and nominated himself for the American League Cy Young Award. And then he remembered that he had done more than win 20 games again.

"A hundred wins, when I think about guys like Don Sutton, Sandy Koufax, Bob Gibson and Tom Seaver, doesn't seem like that many," Stewart said. "But four years ago, 100 seemed like a whole lot of wins."

Four years ago, he was a minor footnote in baseball history, traded Sept. 13, 1985, from the Texas Rangers to the Philadelphia Phillies for a guy named Rich Surhoff.

He made four undistinguished relief appearances with the Phillies that year and then eight more in 1986 before they released him. Oakland claimed him off the scrap heap on May 23, 1986.

Dave Stewart became more than just a footnote.

On July 1, 1986, Tony LaRussa became Oakland's manager. Six days later, in LaRussa's first home game, Stewart beat Boston star Roger Clemens.

He has been what LaRussa calls "the horse" of the rotation ever since.

"You can't help but win ballgames (with Oakland)," Stewart said. "What happened is that when I was traded I had a chance to get by with second-rate things. But you can't do that here. It's a much more difficult job."

"It is tougher for us to score runs," Stewart said. "It is tougher for us to score runs, and the whole style of play rubs off on the pitching."

"You can't help but win games with LaRussa in there," Stewart said.

"When you're allowed to make mistakes without worrying about your job, you can learn from your mistakes. It makes all the difference in the world."
By Leslie Morris

Receiving $10,000 for a poem he had written was not exactly what Cal Poly custodian Steve Wojciechowski had in mind.

But on Sept. 10, before an audience of several thousand in Washington D.C., Entertainer Bob Hope awarded Wojciechowski second place in a national competition for the Golden Poetry Award. Hope, representing the World Poetry Organization, presented Wojciechowski with the award for a poem Wojciechowski wrote in 1975 about his experiences as a medic in the Vietnam War.

Without telling his son, Wojciechowski's parents submitted the poem to the organization last summer.

"When I received notice that I'd been chosen as a finalist, I almost threw the letter away," Wojciechowski said. "I thought it had to be a scam because I didn't even know how they received my poems."

A call to his parents cleared the confusion, and two weeks later Wojciechowski was on his way to Washington D.C. to receive the award.

Wojciechowski started writing at age 10 and has since enjoyed writing poems about love, business, contemporary politics and death. He recently finished writing a novel and plans to submit it to publishers. Despite all this, Wojciechowski claims "English was my worst subject."

Growing up in a strict Catholic family, Wojciechowski found writing to be a release.

"Writing seemed to be a sin. I didn't know what reality was, I wrote to put fantasy in the place of reality," Wojciechowski said he often writes to himself.

I looked at my poem and said 'This is my combat badge.' I just felt bad for the ones who died who never did get their badge.

— Steve Wojciechowski

"I can look at my work and determine what is real and what is not," he said.

Despite the prestigious recognition, Wojciechowski hopes the award will not affect his lifestyle dramatically.

"The poem was depressing and written in anger," he said. "I don't want to become famous for it. It's like bringing up a bad experience or a bad relationship."

Wojciechowski said he would prefer to be known for his more current poems and novels.

More than the award and the money, Wojciechowski said he is mostly moved by the significance of the award.

"I felt proud of the fact that I was getting an award for being a Vietnam veteran. I felt like I was a representative of all those who never received recognition from the American people."

After writing the poem in 1975, "I looked at my poem and said 'This is my combat badge.' I just felt bad for the ones who died who never did get their badge."

Wojciechowski said he is glad his poem will be published in the next issue of the local chapter's Vietnam Veteran's of America magazine. "That means a lot to me," he said.

Wojciechowski said that the $10,000 award was not as important as the significance of the award. He gave half of the money to his parents, and invested the rest.

Wojciechowski, a Cal Poly graduate in biochemistry, has worked for the Foundation Food Service Department for seven years. He plans to stay on as a custodian, and wants to continue his education at Cal Poly with a master's degree in chemistry and a Ph.D. in bioluminescence.

The award-winning poem

C.M.B.

by Steve Wojciechowski

Listening for the sound - of a blast Blasting all around - pulling particles of ground into an orange-bursted air...

Knowing soon I'll be - running quickly - to mend a torn body with death in its stare...

I AM NO GOD, but on the street, searching in the sun's heat, is a body of defeat - waiting to be blessed...

I AM NO GOD, but on the ground, frightened by the sound is a body burned and bound - waiting to be blessed...

Trying to heal the dying - while others still are crying with pain only God could heal...

Stopping to see my stain - knowing there's pain I don't have time to feel...

I AM NO GOD, hands I have too, miracles are very few, and I say a silent prayer...

I AM NO GOD, and some die, "heal me" others sigh, glassy becomes the eye, and I say a silent prayer...

I hear - puffing sounds of fired rounds hitting wood and soil Puffing sounds of fired rounds hitting flesh it boils...

I AM NO GOD, but in this world of right, Misters a war of might, making the "right" mighty, mighty wrong...

I AM NO GOD, I'm just a man, I heal best I can, still they'll suffer very, very long...

I AM NO GOD, I'm just a medic, with morphine as an anesthetic, I say a silent prayer.
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Short Takes

Baker chosen for technology panel

Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker has been named a founding member of a state panel that will examine urgent public policy issues related to science and technology in California.

The council was formed by the University of California in response to a 1988 state Assembly resolution partially aimed at promoting economic development in the science and technology industries.

SLO Arts Council to list local artists

The San Luis Obispo County Arts Council needs the help of all county artists in compiling and publishing a comprehensive directory of local artists, arts organizations and services for artists.

Craftsmakers, visual artists, literary artists, performing artists and arts service businesses are encouraged to list themselves in the directory. The cost is $10 to cover the compilation, publishing and promotion of the directory, which will be available in November.

Poly students win national awards

Four students in Cal Poly’s metallurgical and materials engineering program have won national awards. The American Society for Metals awarded Tim Porter a $1,000 and first place for optical fractography; Lance Dohman, a first place for microscopy; Sean Brcadmorc, first place for scanning electron microscopy; and Chris Haver, a third place for optical microscopy. Winners received a cash award and a Metals Handbook.

Sign-up deadline Sept. 29 for GWR

Students planning to take the Graduation Writing Requirement by passing the Writing Proficiency Examination have until Friday, Sept. 29, to sign up for the fall exam. The exam is scheduled for Sat., Oct. 7. A $15 fee is required.

The Graduating Writing Requirement must be met before bachelor's and master's degrees are conferred.

Orchesis tryouts set for Sept. 26

Auditions for the Orchesis Dance Company's 20th anniversary concert will be held Tuesday, Sept. 26, at 2:40 p.m. in the Cal Poly Crandall Dance Studio.

Those attending the audition should bring their own dance attire.

Recycle
So far, so good: Lebanese marvel as Beirut airport opens in truce's 6th month

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Beirut's airport opened for business Sunday and a cargo ship sailed unscathed into a Christian port, raising hopes that a truce was holding after six months of fighting between Christians and Syrians.

"It's music to our ears," said resident Randa Mairi after a commercial freight plane circled overhead, one of three aircraft to land Sunday as the newly re-opened Beirut International Airport.

Beirut residents stopped in the streets and rushed to balconies, craning their necks to look at the plane.

A security committee made up of officials from the warring factions and headed by Lakhdar al-Ibrahim, an assistant secretary-general of the Arab League, met for the second time Sunday to discuss how to solidify the cease-fire and implement a peace plan.

The committee had met for the first time Saturday as some of the most ferocious artillery battles in Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war came to an end.

Officials announced the lifting of seaport blockades, the opening of the airport and the daytime opening of all crossings between Christian east Beirut and Moslem west Beirut. Only one crossing had been open sporadically during the latest outbreak of fighting.

By police count, 929 people have been killed and 2,741 wounded, nearly all of them civilians, since the bombardments began March 8 between Gen. Michel Aoun's mostly Christian army units and Syrian troops joined by allied Lebanese Moslem militias.

The airport, port and crossing reopenings prompted Sunni Moslem cleric Sheikh Mohammed Rashid Khalibani to say they were "the first step on the road to resolving the Lebanese crisis."

Carrying a cargo of clothing, the Trans Mediterranean Airlines freight plane was the first aircraft to land at the airport since it was closed March 12. It was the longest shutdown for the nation's only civil aviation facility since Lebanon's civil war broke out in 1975.

Later, a passenger plane belonging to Middle East Airlines, Lebanon's national carrier, landed on a flight from the Saudi Arabian port city of Jiddah with eight passengers aboard.

They were greeted by several hundred airport and airline employees.

Another Middle East Airlines jetliner landed in the afternoon carrying 57 passengers from Larnaca, Cyprus, said an official of the airline in Larnaca.

Ibrahim arrived at the airport after the first two planes landed and met briefly with the airport's general manager, Khaled Saab. After the meeting, Ibrahim told reporters he would ask other Arab airlines to resume flights to Beirut.

Police said a cargo ship cruised into Beirut port in Christian east Beirut without being targeted by Syrian fire. They had no information about the ship's flag or cargo.

Two more ships were expected to dock soon, Beirut port authorities said.

A police spokesman said Syrian troops in west Beirut, the eastern mountains and the north obtained from their daily ritual of shelling the Christian coastline north of Beirut to maintain a sea blockade.

Gorbachev may meet Pope

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican has confirmed that a Roman Catholic Church official met with the Soviet ambassador to Italy to discuss a possible meeting of Pope John Paul II and Premier Mikhail Gorbachev.

Such a meeting would be the first between the leader of the world's 850 million Roman Catholics and the head of the officially atheist Soviet Union. Joaquin Navarro, the Vatican spokesman, Friday confirmed a newspaper report that Archbishop Angelo Sodano of the Vatican's Secretariat of State had gone to the Soviet Embassy in Rome to meet Ambassador Nikolai Lukin.

The spokesman told reporters the meeting involved "preparation for a possible visit by President Gorbachev to the Vatican."

Navarro gave no dates for such a meeting. Gorbachev is expected to visit Italy sometime in November, however.

Drug gang enters rival village; kills 11 in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Thirty heavily armed drug traffickers entered an impoverished slum on Rio's outskirts and massacred 11 men from a rival gang, a police detective said Sunday.

The detective said the traffickers carried machine guns and revolvers when they invaded three adjoining hillsides known as "tyoonsaws in the Penha neighborhood early Saturday.

They first kidnapped a rival gang leader who led them to the houses of 10 others involved in the area's drug trade, and the men were dragged from their homes, beaten and then executed by machine guns, a police detective said Sunday.

The detective said the traffickers carried machine guns and revolvers when they invaded three adjoining hillsides known as "tyoonsaws in the Penha neighborhood early Saturday.

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Young Chinese painter visits SF

San Francisco (AP) — Wang Yani, who first took up a paintbrush when she was 2 and had her own exhibitions at museums in China by age 6, gave the city her latest painting: a flock of flamingos she admired at the zoo.

The Chinese prodigy, now 14, renowned for her bold paintings of animals, signed "Impressions of the Zoo" for Mayor Art Agnos on Friday.

"I collect photographs of famous people who visit, and Yani is the youngest famous person I've had here," Agnos said during her visit to his office.

The city youngster was here to give a demonstration of her work in the Chinese "xieyi," or idea writing, style — characterized by bold, spontaneous strokes.

An exhibits of her work will open at the Asian Art Museum in March as part of a three-city tour.

During the past few years, the youngster from Guangxi province has had exhibits of her work in Britain, West Germany and Japan.

Yani's earliest efforts at painting were of animals, including a "winnower "Kitty," painted at age 3.

But her work most often has depicted monkeys. Monkeys were all she painted from the ages of 3 to 6, and one of her most famous works is a long panel entitled "A Hundred Monkeys," painted when she was 9.

"She uses monkeys to express her feelings. The monkeys are a reflection of Yani herself," said her father, Wang Shiqiang.

Wang, himself a painter who put his own brush down for fear of influencing his daughter's style, said he didn't understand much about painting and asked her to explain.

"I saw then she was full of feeling and emotion. I saw the talent. She has the ability to take things and put them into her imagination and express it through painting," he said through an interpreter.

He said that when Yani's work was done, she will take his brush again, so the two of them can paint together.

"Yani, meanwhile, was inspired by the city.

"San Francisco is beautiful," she said. "The hills... go up and down like the notes of music."

Leukemia victim gets special wish

Anaheim, Calif. (AP) — Everybody knows firefighters do menial tasks like fill trees, perform rescues, offer lifefirst aid and in a pinch can get a set of prints.

To that list of accomplishments, Anaheim Fire Station 6 can add perhaps one of the more emotionally taxing efforts: known to man, assembling a swing set.

But for the firefighters, the two-hour job was a labor of love. They put the swings together as a surprise birthday gift for their 5-year-old leukemia victim Sergio Paniagua.

"We like doing stuff for kids," Fire Capt. Scott Roberts said. "This kid's a great kid, you feel good," said firefighter Matt Banks.

For months, Sergio has asked for a swing set, but his parents were unable to afford one.

The Make A Wish Foundation, a nonprofit organization that fulfills the wishes of children with potentially terminal illnesses, donated the swings and also tickets to Knott's Berry Farm, which Sergio's parents used to get him out of the house one recent day.

While he was gone, the nine firefighters went to work.

A short time later, Sergio and his parents arrived to see he set — complete with slide, climbers and a swing set.

"Happy Birthday, Sergio," — his eyes grew big, his face flushed and he grew momentarily quiet.

"You see? You see? They told me he would come," he finally whispered to his mother, Lorena Paniagua.

Mrs. Paniagua expressed her gratitude to all "for this kind of sick. It's hard. The finances," she said. "They make it easier."

Paperback Verses due in winter


More than 1 million hardback copies of Salman Rushdie's novel have been sold since it was published a year ago this week. It is among the most successful ever to have been published in the same period.

Nine stores have been bombed and 25 service centers have beenébranched by coin collectors in the United States and Canada, in the past seven months. More than a dozen have been killed in attacks.

But for the firefighters, the set — complete with slide, climbers and a swing set.

The words, size and color of each coin would not change. And portraits — although not the same ones — of Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Washington and John F. Kennedy — would still adorn the obverse or "heads" sides of the penny, nickel, dime, quarter and half dollar.

But the eagle now emblazoned on the reverse or "tails" side of the coin is a different design. The eagle no longer has the wings of a falcon, but now has a 10-winged feathers and looks more like a bald eagle.

The new eagle's design was chosen by competitive bidding. New coins of all denominations will be on display at the Smithsonian Institution for a month.

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United States plans to keep SDI and bombers

Classified

JACKSON HOLE, Wyo. (AP) — Secretary of State James A. Baker III said Sunday that the United States will continue to press the Soviet foreign minister should ultimately agree to eliminate and dismantle their strategic, conventional and chemical weapons and the signing of six accords Saturday, Baker said the Soviet Union still was "a military threat."

"I think it would be quite

naive for the United States next spring or summer. It will be the first meeting be­tween the new Bush administration and the soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev since their talks at Malta, although the two met in New York be­tween Bush’s election and his inauguration.

In the course of the Baker-Gorbachev talks, the Soviets also said they would withdraw a demand that the United States agree to a curtail work on "Star Wars" before conclusion of a

Strategic Arms Reduction Trea­ty (START).

Baker told a news conference Saturday the Soviet decision could save a potential START, which would cut long­range strategic arms by 30 to 50 percent.

Taking on domestic critics Sunday, Baker said "there was a lot of criticism in advance of this ministerial (meeting) that I hope is absolutely gone now because we have made some real­ly fundamental progress." The most influential critic, Senator Majority Leader George Mitchell, tempered his remarks about the START after the Bush administration’s defense program, but did not recant.

"The events of the last 24 hours have been positive ... but I still think there are a number of steps that should be taken, should have been taken previously," the Maine Democrat said on ABC’s "This Week With David Brinkley."
Pro-choice forces appear to have the upper hand in most of the nation's renewed battle over abortion. Agreement among anti-abortion activists say they expect the tide to turn to state and federal legislation — the Supreme Court's decision this fall and winter.

So far, a half-dozen states have emerged as early legislative battlegrounds, but most lawmakers appear willing to go the distance that was unlocked by the Supreme Court in July.

"I would say it's basically a standoff," said Lydia Neumann, a spokeswoman for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, which favors access to abortion.

In the nation's two governor races this fall, pro-choice candidates have used their strength to political advantage, while anti-abortion candidates have sought to shift attention away from the issue.

In New Jersey, Republican James Courter moderated his strong anti-abortion views and is widely perceived to have been hurt — either by his views or by his waffling. Democrat James Hughes strengthened his pro-choice stance.

In Virginia, Democrat Douglas Wilder is aggressively advancing his pro-choice position in hopes of giving his campaign a boost. Republican Marshall Coleman, an anti-abortion candidate who is considered the front-runner.

Burke Balch, state legislative coordinator for the National Right to Life Committee, insisted that a strong anti-abortion position was not a political liability. But in general, he conceded that pro-choice forces have had the upper hand in the 10 months since the Supreme Court upheld abortion.

Both legislative leaders in Florida and Minnesota doubt that they'll take votes on abortion during the special sessions, and an abortion rights lobbyist in Illinois describes the issue as "up for grabs.

"I may get a few more gray hairs on that one," said Illinois state Sen. Judy Baar Topinka, a Republican who hasn't made up her mind on the abortion proposals.

The Wisconsin legislature is likely to approve changes in its abortion law, but only to remove obsolete penalties that became null after the Supreme Court legalized abortion in 1973. More restrictive abortion bills remain stalled in committees.

Many more states will take up the abortion issue in January, when most legislatures return for their 1990 sessions.

An Associated Press survey of the 50 legislatures suggests that abortion will be a major issue in at least 23 states.

Both sides agree that the most likely states to enact further abortion restrictions next year are Missouri and Louisiana.

Balch said he considers the 13 states that offer publicly funded abortions to be the least likely to enact restrictions.

The coming abortion battles are likely to be fought along several fronts. In many states, anti-abortion forces are preparing legislation that mimics the Missouri law that was upheld by the Supreme Court on July 3.

That law banned abortions in public hospitals and stopped public employees from counseling women about abortions.

It also required doctors performing abortions to first test any fetus over 20 weeks old to determine if it could live outside the womb.

Next year's anti-abortion drive also is likely to include bills to ban abortions that are performed because the parents are dissatisfied with the gender of the fetus, and those that are performed in lieu of birth control.

One of the most contentious issues will be laws that require minors to inform their parents or get parental consent before having abortions.

About 30 states have parental consent laws, but most are tied up in court and aren't in force.

A slightly smaller number of states continue to consider no- notification laws, almost all of which are in legal limbo.

Canadian crosses Catalina channel
Every 15 hours, said Lori Pyne, a spokesperson for Variety Children's Charities of Southern California.

Ms. Keith cracked jokes about sharks and dodged ship traffic Saturday during her marathon swim from Santa Catalina Island to the mainland, using only the butterfly stroke.

"I'm just watching the ships go by, actually," Ms. Keith shouted from the water nine miles from Sedgewick, about 11 miles into her 22-mile trek.

The seas were calm as she sought to become the first person ever to make the crossing using the butterfly stroke.

Saturday's attempt was the last in a series of swims to raise money for Variety Children's Charities. Those swims included a 31-hour trek across Lake Ontario on Sept. 4.

"It's a lot saltier and not as long," Ms. Keith quipped as she compared the channel swim to her Lake Ontario crossing.

The swimmer left Santa Catalina Island at 1:33 a.m. and was on her British run of 29 strokes per minute. By 11 a.m., she was averaging 27 strokes, stopping every two hours or so to take in food.

"It's amazing. She treads water IS long enough to drink some chocolate milk and water and coconut water," Bill Smith, a physician friend of Variety Children's Charities of Southern California, said.

On July 28, she called it quits about six miles from Cabriello Beach after gaining less than a mile in eight hours in a powerful current. Ms. Keith, who was bitten by a shark in the water, had begun hallucinating.

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