Students find ‘meaning of life’ in proposed philosophy major

By Shee Roberts

Who are philosophers and what do they look like? Some people might say they are long-haired hippies that sit Indian-style searching for truth. Laurence Houlgate, Chair of the Philosophy Department, disagrees. "There is a strong emphasis on critical thinking," he said. "A philosophy class requires a lot of writing and argumentation, which is similar to the courtroom.

Houlgate said many students pursue a bachelor's degree in philosophy to prepare for graduate study in political science, economics, history, religious studies, English literature and many other fields. He also said that probably the largest percentage of philosophy majors go to law school.

Inquiries of travel to the South Pacific, Canada and Australia have not been reduced since war broke out in the Gulf. According to Elise Koczela, ASI travel adviser for the San Luis Obispo campus division, agrees that "domestic travel seems to be the largest percentage of philosophy major on campus."

Houlgate said a philosophy degree is basically a degree in communications, and said the Philosophy Department. Enough uses, he said, to warrant attempting to establish a philosophy major on campus.

Army recruiting office reports high interest in military enlistment

Military officials say testing for enlistment has risen 200 percent for the SLO area.

By Michelle Hertig

There is no lapse in business at the San Luis Obispo Army recruiting office, even with war underway in the Middle East.

Last week alone, the enlistment process for 12 potential soldiers began at the local office. The first stage of enlistment, testing, is up 200 percent for the San Luis Obispo area.

"We ordinarily test two to three people per week, and last week we tested 10 in one day," said 1st Sgt. Terence Ferrell, U.S. Army recruiter for San Luis Obispo.

Enlistment requirements have not been reduced since war in the Gulf broke out on Jan. 16. In fact, Ferrell said regulations to join the Army were tightened.

"We now require that everyone has a high school diploma," Ferrell said. "We are actually making it harder to get in the Army."

Enlisting in the armed forces is more difficult than many people may believe. It involves passing three strict testing stages: a mental exam, various physical tests and a moral background check.

Army statistics show 60 to 75 percent of men and women trying to enlist do not make it.

"We've sent seven people to Los Angeles for the physical tests," Ferrell said. "Out of those seven only one has made it in."

That individual is David Natividad, a 21-year-old Cuesta College student living in Templeton. Natividad walked into the San Luis Obispo recruiting office on Jan. 15 and, consequently, was sworn in as a member of the U.S. Army on Jan. 22.

"My motivation for joining the Army is financial," Natividad said. "Holding two jobs and trying to go to school was not working."

"I'm going in on the GI bill so when I come back I can get into Cal Poly," he said.

See ENLISTMENT, page 6

Army recruiting office reports high interest in military enlistment

School has no comment as faculty member is arrested for second time in 4 months.

Econ lecturer booked on drunk driving charge

By A. Mortimer Naughton

A Cal Poly economics lecturer awaiting trial for drug-related charges was arrested again January 20.

Michael Warren Johnson was stopped by the California Highway Patrol at 12:46 a.m. at Blarney Lane, located east of O'Connor Way off of Foothill Boulevard, said CHP officer Frank Strickler. He was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, resisting arrest, having an open container of alcohol in the vehicle and driving with a suspended license.

Johnson was booked into San Luis Obispo County Jail and released on his own recognizance later that day.

Johnson, 44, was arrested last October in his home by the San Luis Obispo County Narcotics Task Force and charged with possession of cocaine and possession of cocaine with intent to sell. That case is still ongoing.

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See JOHNSON, page 8
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Give a reason for this war

In response to the Friday, Jan. 25 Mustang Daily article "Strive to support Bush," I would like to bring forth a question to the writers of the article. The five of them, M. Manning, C. Newman, G. Germaine, T. Smith and L. Parks, claimed that the war protesters, those "long-haired, hippie, ignorant boneheads... have no idea what is really happening." In addition, you five "informed Americans" claim to truly know the REAL reason.

In such a case, can you please explain the mindsets of uninformed Americans, like myself, the ignorant for this war, so truly confused. If it is not for the oil, then is it for democracy and freedom, or is it for the annihilation of the possibility for nuclear warhead buildup in Iraq? Or could it be some other reason which President Bush and his politicians are not telling the public?

As soon as I and the remaining of the uninformed Americans know the truth behind this nonsensical war, I will give President Bush the support he so richly deserves.

Young Americans like myself are in the Middle East fighting for a war that we know nothing about. We must fight.

The true cause behind the war

In response to those who believe the Gulf War is not about oil, I ask why didn’t the United States send troops into Afghanistan when the Soviet invasion commenced. Also, why don’t we send troops to liberate Tibet from China?

Kevin Kinsella

Biology

We are at war. No doubt about it. The decision to begin this war has been made, and we no longer have the ability to end it before it begins. So many people believe our choices are limited—in essence, that we must fight. And these same people view peace activists as anti-Americans who do not care about our soldiers. Quite the opposite is true.

We believe in peace, love our country, and support our troops. Let our patriotism not be blind. We must support our troops, but this does not have to be at the expense of our beliefs. It’s not too late for peace, and I believe the best support for our troops would be to bring them home, alive and well, while we still can.

Godd Idea America (with peace).

Kevin Kinsella

Mathematics

Return troops alive and well

DATE RAPES: Sexual assualt against a woman comitted by someone the victim knows – a date, acquaintance, classmate, coworker, boss, ex-husband, family member, boyfriend.

That night, on her hands and knees, she pleaded for God’s forgiveness, "God forgive me," she said. "Please forgive me for letting it happen.”

She thought of the times before it happened—what would he ask her when they would make love. Make love? Have sex? she wasn’t sure of the difference yet. Whatever it was, she didn’t want to do it until she was sure. Until she was ready. She would always answer with something silly like, "When the moon turns to green cheese." Something to put him off.

But he always asked. He would whisper the question between classes. He’d ask at lunch. He’d corner her between the lockers after school and ask. Then he’d kiss her. She didn’t want to be kissed in front of her friends. But he wouldn’t let her go. So she’d kiss him to make him stop and because, well, he loved her. He cried the night she told him she wanted to break up. He started shaking, and he would kill himself without her.

PERSONALITY TYPES:


Two weeks after. Hanging from a tree. Crying. Scared. She was young. She didn’t know what was happening. She didn’t know what she was doing. She didn’t know what was going on. She didn’t know what was happening.

"Cyn? asked a worried voice.

She tried to push him away, but he was on top of her. All of his force was on her. Tears welled in her eyes and poured down her cheeks as she realized what was happening. It was happening. No. Stop. Crying. She can’t be stopped. No.

He finished.

She ran into the bathroom, crying. Crying. She looked at herself in the mirror. Her pink, ruffled dress off her shoulder, black mascarached her face. She knocked on the door.

What’s a matter Cyndi?"

No answer, tears down her cheeks.

"Cyn? asked a worried voice.

She wiped her dress and opened the door, crying. "Don’t cry, Cyndi, it was wonderful. It was good.”

She said nothing, wiped her tears and went downstairs. Eyes forward, seeing no one at the crowded party, she walked through the room and out the front door.
Allied planes destroy Iraqi military convoy

NORTHERN SAUDI ARABIA (AP) — Allied warplanes caught an Iraqi military convoy moving across the open desert in southern Iraq tonight and destroyed 24 tanks, armored personnel carriers and supply vehicles. The action, reported by a U.S. media pool on today, was visible to U.S. Marines across the border, he said.

Richard said the Iraqi column appeared to be on routine move and not on an attack route. The air attack was called in by a Marine reconnaissance unit on the Saudi side of the border, he said.

Soviet crisis, Gulf war may postpone summit

WASHINGTON (AP) — The deepening domestic crisis in the Soviet Union and the Persian Gulf war could complicate efforts to pick a new date for talks between President Bush and Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

The meeting that had been set for Moscow on Feb. 11-13 was put off “by mutual agreement” on Monday, although it was apparent the United States had sought the postponement largely due to its involvement in the gulf conflict.

Secretary of State James A. Baker III and the new Soviet foreign minister, Alexander A. Besemetykh, meet at the State Department today for a third day of discussions before Besemetykh returns to Moscow.

FACTS ABOUT YOUR PEERS

FACT: Over 50 California students managed their own business last summer.
FACT: Their average earnings for the summer of 1990 were $10,700.
FACT: These students all managed with Student Painters and gained valuable management experience.
FACT: Most territories will be filled by November.

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Once I witnessed a mutiny in the world of science.

Some of the men who made the atomic bomb at Los Alamos Gardens met at the California Institute of Technology. It was Autumn 1945. The Second World War was not yet cold.

These men were angry. They had believed that the atomic bomb would never be used on man. They said they had been told that it would be demonstrated only on the desert before Japanese officials and that surrender would then be demanded. Instead it had been used in actual war and a quarter of a million human beings were dead.

These men were angry. They advocated the overthrow of the U.S. government by force. They declared that each scientist be armed with a personal bomb and that on any attempt to arrest him, he should kill himself.

Dealing with the lasting impact of modern science

By L. Ron Hubbard

Mustang Daily Wednesday, January 30, 1991
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  - Carbon nylon and leather with moldable foam insole $29.99 each or pair $59.98
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**TUITION CLEARANCE**

**BASEBALL DOUGHBOURSTERS**

**Size**

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**TRAVELER CAST STREET CLIMBER**

**MID-WAY STONE MOUNTAIN**

**Appello and More**

**Yoplait Original Yogurt**

**or Cousard Style**

**Assorted Flavors-8 Ounce Container**

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<td>Laura Scudder’s Potato Chips</td>
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**Pepsi**

**Pepsi Regular or Diet**

**Assorted Varieties**

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**BASTARDS**

**BASTARDS**

**BRANDS**

**HI PERFORMANCE**

**Gloves:**

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**Bar and Belt**

**Bar and Belt**

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**SCIENCE**

From page 3 should set it off. The violent action never took place.

Since that time, 64 such men have been dismissed from the U.S. government. They included some of the most able brains in atomic and nuclear physics. They were dismissed because they believed science should be free, that science should help mankind and because they did not consider themselves bound to think and work in science alone but in the humanities as well. These men desired to take responsibility for the consequences of their developments.

Even the late and immortal Albert Einstein was of this opinion.

When one considers the birth and background of modern science, one can see easily that the true scientist inclines to be a revolutionary.

The first revolt that is widely known is that of Galileo. Condemned by the church to follow the doctrine of a flat Earth, held in close house arrest for all his final years, he yet remained un-bowed and said his immortal words, "and still it moves."

Scientists have suffered in prisons and at the stake to gain a freedom of truth.

The battles have not been spectacular hand-to-hand combats, but the warfare of a settled kind, the warfare of long years, of centuries. And that warfare was aimed against all forces which would seek to stultify the truth.

It is a natural thing for formidable men, profiting from the spread of a doctrine or the manufacture of a machine to resist change. Why, they ask, should change be so desirable? After all, they are happy with things as they are. Of course, it is the full stomach, the unassailable position which makes change so undesirable. But such men forget the many whose stomachs are not full, whose backs are covered with rags, whose bodies are sick and whose lives are not all right.

The scientist in his search for truth has notoriously neglected financial gain and personal security. He has always had an eye on the betterment of the lot of man whether he admitted it or not. And so, to the "comfortable man" whose profit depends on status quo, this thirst for betterment is incomprehensible.

Whether of Newton or Harvey or Einstein, the steady world of yesterday had press and excommunication today for those who would venture out for frontiers to make things better mankind.

We have, "I would rather be with Galen, than be right," says Albert Einstein. The Theory of Relativity is the greatest mathematical hoax of all time and Security and a 1,000 other reasons why Man should not ad

Today the scientist feels betrayed. He sees his fruits of truth used to enslave and murder men and to support overwhelming governments, the largest market for his wares. The scientist sees himself as a seeker after truth, a bringer of knowledge and therefore of better times for Man. He is the explorer who comes back from unknown horizons, bringing a precious bowl of sacred fire, only to see it used to burn babies.

Therefore the true scientist, born a revolutionary, continues as a revolutionary through all his days.

His head may be bowed over his returns, the spectators which hide his questing eyes yet catch fire in the vision of a better world.

The role of a scientist today is to do his job. And what is that job? To make a better world for man.

Whatever he builds for whom, however much he seems a slave, in the scientist those who would seek to enslave mankind have set an enemy into their camp.

The "mutiny that failed" at the California Institute of Technology in 1945 did not fail at all. Cooler heads took over. The revolution to overthrow the government by force was defeated.

And in its place? It was quietly decided that the best way to prevent a further war was to get mankind into space, get the attention of the lords of things as they are off this planet Earth and to the Moon, to Venus and to Mars.

Just yesterday a space probe came in the few thousand miles of Venus.

Reprinted with permission.

**NATION**

From page 3 A statement read Monday in English by Baker and in Russian by Bessmertnykh said, "The Gulf war makes it inappropriate for President Bush to be away from Washington."

The two officials added that work on a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, in which the leaders had hoped to sign at the upcoming summit in February, also "will require some additional time."

"Both presidents look forward to setting an exact summit date as soon as is feasible," Baker added. The end of June, Baker told reporters at the White House after the meeting with Bessmertnykh met with Presiden

Their statement made no mention of the Soviet crackdown in the Baltic republics that has caused at least 19 deaths.
Cal Poly takes action to fend off the fifth year of drought in California.

By Don Vrits

The headline in one of the popular supermarket tabloids would say something like, "School tries to make beef 'jerky' — from dehydrated cows!" or "Thirst for knowledge withers as school dries up."

The story is not that sensational, but it is becoming dramatic. Cal Poly, like San Luis Obispo and other Central Coast towns, is slowly running out of water.

The city started a tough water rationing policy, with much publicity, about two years ago. But four months before that, the university adopted its plan to try and cut down water use throughout the campus.

Conservation for most students has meant little more than brown lawns, but the plan is a little more comprehensive than that.

Norman Jacobson, head of plant operations, said his office looked at all aspects of water use and set goals to save water. He said the formal conservation plan is all-encompassing. It includes grounds, building operations, housing, public safety and agriculture.

Conserving water is increasingly important because the school's water supply is shrinking. Cal Poly's only significant source of water is Whale Rock Reservoir, in the hills above Cayucos. For five years of below-average rains have left the lake at its lowest mid-winter level.

Conserving water is more than just restricting use. It is trying to use it wisely and efficiently. There are ways to get the desired results without using as much water. Some ways are inexpensive and relatively easy to achieve. Others require a lot of money.

Jacobson said that water use for landscaping has been cut by using drought-resistant plants and adding mulched plant matter to retain moisture. The university is using more drip irrigation and computer-assisted watering in the campus core, he said. But even on a limited scale the materials needed become expensive. Using them throughout the grounds would be financially impossible.

"It becomes a question of economics," Jacobson said. "Implementing some programs have huge capital costs."

The cost of water, even with its scarcity, is still fairly cheap, Jacobson said. So conservation programs can only be taken so far before they become limited by their cost compared to that of the water.

Agriculture at Cal Poly has responded to the drought conditions by taking water saving measures. Gary Ketcham, farm superintendent for field operations, said the drought began in 1982. That was the last year the school got adequate rainfall. He said reservoirs on campus were dredged more than five years ago to increase their capacity to hold winter runoff. Unfortunately, rains have not been sufficient to fill the reserves.

Ketcham said he started using drip irrigation on orchard trees and grape crops. "Where we used to lay out 3-inch pipe," he said, "we now use drip irrigation." Last year he cut back pasture land irrigation 60 percent. But that has an effect on the number of animals that can be raised.

"Cutting back on water ends up causing setbacks in the number of cattle, sheep and pigs," said Ketcham.

"It impacts the whole student project entity," he said. Students can not run the programs with the level of involvement the curriculum demands.

Water for agriculture at Cal Poly needs to be viewed a little differently than water used at most other farms, according to Charlie Crab of the crop science department.

"Cutting off water to a campus farm," he said, "is like cutting off water to a chemistry lab."

"It is not just a farm, it is a classroom," he said. Crab was associate dean of agriculture when the university formulated its conservation program in 1987. He said he asked the heads of each department to come up with plans for cutting water used by their departments.

The university Resource Management Report, August 1990, shows farm water use decreased only 1 percent compared to the base year 1987-88. But Crab said agriculture did not use much water in 1987-88 because of sufficient rain during growing seasons. He said that 1990 use is more than 30 percent less than 1989.

That puts agriculture's savings last year about even with those saved in the campus core. Jacobson said potable water (the water used in buildings and grounds around the school's core) has dropped 37 percent in the past two years. That is within the target numbers set by Cal Poly.

Executive Dean of Facilities Administration Douglas Gerard said the school looked to cut water use 35 to 50 percent.

"We took it upon ourselves to essentially copy the city's conservation plan," he said. The university instituted the plan before the city.

Cal Poly is committed to its conservation program because Whale Rock Reservoir is the only major source of water for the campus, Gerard said. Predictions say that Whale Rock has an 18-month supply of water.

Save INSIGHT, page 7
ENLISTMENT

Natividad will leave on Feb. 12 for Fort Knox, Ky., where he will be trained as a tank crewman.

“My training will only last 14 weeks. Then I get my permanent assignment,” Natividad said. “I want to go to Europe, but there is no guarantee that I will not be sent to Saudi Arabia.”

Natividad said his family supports him, but they are also worried.

“...I questioned what I was doing was when I was being sworn in,” he said. “I broke out in a cold sweat and thought, ‘what the hell am I doing?’ But that only lasted for a moment.”

Phan, 24, of Los Osos is just starting his enlistment process. He is scheduled to take the ASVAB test, Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, sometime this week.

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Panel Discussion with Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

Tomorrow, Thursday—University Union, Room 216, 7 pm–9 pm

Interviews: Tuesday, Feb. 12—Student Services Bldg., #124

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From page 5
water without additional rain. Eighteen months is the minimum time projected for creating a proposed desalination plant at Morro Bay. The plant would extract salt from ocean water to provide a reliable fresh water source.

San Luis Obispo is looking into building a facility that could produce up to 3,500 acre feet of water yearly. One acre foot approximately meets the annual needs of a single family residence of four.

Gerard said desalination is the quickest way to alleviate the drought. But he pointed out the enormity cost for desalinated water over reservoir water. Estimates are that it will cost anywhere from $1,300 to $3,800 per acre foot for ocean water versus $350 per acre foot for Whale Rock.

The largest part of the cost for desalting pays for the electricity used to remove the salt. Still, he thinks the university needs to be involved.

Gerard also advocates the city pursuing state water.

"The university has no entitlement to State Water Project," he said. But he hopes that if San Luis Obispo receives coastal water there will be less demand on Whale Rock.

This is not a grab for water by the school. Since the reservoir was completed in the mid-1960s, Cal Poly has typically used only 60 percent of its water allotment. It has entitlements to one-third of the lake.

Crabb said there is a chance that available water from the reservoir could be cut.

"The reservoir is so low, there may have to be cutbacks in the water provided," he said.

Less water would force even tougher conservation measures. Jacobson is not sure a lot of students would adhere to budgeting while still adhering to budget cuts.

Measures he instituted to save water include cutting window washing 50 percent, eliminating hoses down of drives and patios, trimming water use in all food service and campus buildings, and still maintaining health standards and cutting vehicle washing by 50 percent.

The university is going along with its building and expansion plans, Jacobson said. All school projects must comply with state water and energy guidelines. But because Cal Poly is experiencing a drought, Jacobson said the university has upgraded to better water saving fixtures.

Both Jacobson and Ketcham said they are prepared for deeper cuts if the drought prevails.

Jacobson said if conditions get worse, "we could shut down the pool, lose the tennis courts, lose some trees too."
JOHNSON

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over by other instructors.

Johnson is now on special
assignment at Kennedy Library,
Perlick said. There he is doing an
accreditation check for the
School of Business to guarantee
there are minimum holdings of
the Harvard Core, a list of books
needed for a school's legitimacy.

Johnson began teaching at
Cal Poly in 1980 but left after
three years when he was not
awarded tenure. He was retired
in 1985 as a part-time lecturer.

PHILOSOPHY

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proposed curriculum includes
courses in bioethics, social ethics,
professional ethics and the
philosophy of science.

"The major will allow the stu-
dents to analyze the complex
ethical issues in technology and
science," said Sidney Ribeau,
dean of the School of Liberal
Arts. He said this is important
because students often do not
look at the philosophy of their
chosen field.

The current proposal to create
the major was a result of a
philosophy department meeting
with Cal Poly President Warren
Baker. Houlgate recreated the
two-hour afternoon gathering
and said it was productive.

Houlgate said, "The president
entered the meeting rather skep-
tical and left very enthusiastic
about the idea of a philosophy
major that would relate well to
the technological emphasis of the
university, but also had a lot of
ethics."

Houlgate said that the
department has one of the
strongest faculties in the state
and certainly one of the best in the
CSU system.

"(By) having a major on cam-
pus, you attract the best facult-
ity," said Ribeau. He believes
that this will help enhance the
instruction to an even higher
level for the students.

Some concern has been
generated by other department
heads over the possibility that
establishing a new major in
philosophy would force budget
cuts back on other departments.

Ribeau, however, said that it
will not affect other depart-
ments.

"It will be a small program,
and the School of Liberal Arts
has the resources right now," said
Ribeau. "At the dean's council
meeting with all of the
department heads in the School
(of Liberal Arts), we passed a
resolution unconditionally sup-
porting the philosophy major,"
Ribeau said.

The major proposal has been
approved by the Curriculum
Committee, and it was discussed
at the Jan. 23 Academic Senate
meeting. It must be approved by
the Academic Senate, Senior
Vice President Robert Roob,
Baker and the CSU Board of
Trustees.

Houlgate said, "We are the
last university in the CSU
system to have a philosophy ma-
jor. Even Cal Poly Pomona has
had a major for 15 years. I think
it's embarrassing."

Houlgate hopes this will be the
tip of the iceberg for the School
of Liberal Arts. "I hope it will
open the door to other possible
majors," he said.

This movement is not the first
at creating a philosophy major.
Efforts to establish a philosophy
major began in the 1970s, said Houlgate, but ad-
dvocates were actively discourag-
ed by the former university ad-
mnistration.

In 1987 the department made
another try. The Academic Senate
almost unanimously passed the proposal, but then "it
was simply mothballed," said Houlgate.

"Malcolm Wilson was the Vice
President at the time, and he
simply did not want a philosophy
major, to put it bluntly," Houlgate
claimed that Wilson believed Cal Poly should be a
 technological university, and that liberal arts should maintain
a supporting role.

...not something
with which to
wrap the fish."